

August 13, 2020

Pukalani Baptist Church

Pastor Paul Kaneshiro

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## HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

### **From Maui to Inner Mongolia**

**By Laura Newell**

Out of the blue one day I received a letter from a group I'd never heard of (English Language Institute of China), asking me to consider teaching English in China. My first thought was "How in the world did they ever get my name and address?" I'm still not sure.

Because I'd been in a near fatal car wreck a few years prior to that and still hadn't fully recovered, I didn't really think that invitation was for me. However, instead of tossing it into file 13, I put it into my classroom filing cabinet and forgot about it. A year later I received a second invitation and my interest was piqued.

My paternal grandfather and his three siblings were born and raised in Japan; his parents had ministered in both Korea and Japan but mostly in Japan. Can you imagine a red-headed, blue eyed American missionary fluent in Japanese back in the late eighteenth century? That was my great-grandpa.

I grew up with quite a few reminders: twin rocking chairs that folded up, a large Korean brass chest (my brother and I were taught exactly how to shine), as well as various pictures on the wall.

In getting that second invitation I flashed on all that, and the Lord gave me a strong desire to teach English in China. So, I contacted ELIC and they asked me what province I'd prefer. Really? I didn't even know China had provinces.

So, I responded, "Wherever I'm needed." That's how I ended up in the belly of the beast: Inner Mongolia. That province is to China what Siberia is to Russia; it's where political

enemies of the state end up. Of course, I didn't know that before I left Maui. In fact, there wasn't much I did know, so I got information to contact a woman who had taught at the school where I was headed. My, oh, my, what an earful I got!

I learned from her about the impossible year she and a colleague had, the first year ELIC had foreign teachers there; in fact, the two of them were not invited to return. She informed me that the head of the Foreign Experts Department was a most unsavory fellow. They nicknamed him 'the snake.' And his wife? She was certifiably crazy. On and on 'til I wondered why in the world the Lord was sending me there.

Maybe the whole thing was a huge mistake. As I wrestled with God in prayer, I came away with just two words: love and respect. Sounded pretty simple, but that was my assignment from my Father. I knew that message was from Him, so I left Maui for Nei Mongol. I went and they were some of the best years of my life, learning how to depend on God's Spirit. I'm still learning.

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JOHN 12:32

AND I, WHEN I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL PEOPLE  
TO MYSELF.”

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## **What PBC Means to Me By Pastor Paul Kaneshiro**

On February 1, 1987, I became the Pastor of Pukalani Baptist Church (PBC). For me, at that time, PBC meant “A Second Chance”. I had resigned as Pastor of the Waiialae Baptist Church on November 30, 1986. I had resigned because I believed that I had failed as Pastor there and I stated that in my Letter of Resignation. Of course, I was in despair, not knowing how I would support my family, because I thought that no Church would want a “failure” for their Pastor.

Amazingly, PBC's Pastor Search Committee, wanted to interview me. It is miraculous that PBC later voted to bring our Family to Maui as their new Pastor. PBC voted to give me “A Second Chance” as your Pastor.

God has brought so many changes to my life and character. HE has Blessed me by allowing me to stay here at PBC for 33 years! My Children have grown up here and have also been Blessed by the People of PBC. We have been so loved and supported by PBC especially through the deaths of My Mom & Dad and the death of June's Mom.

PBC has been Servants to the people of Maui by sharing their Pastor with the Maui Police Department Chaplaincy program. Also, a number of PBC's Fellowship have reached out to be trained and deployed to assist traumatized and grieving people through the Crisis Care Ministry. Following the example of the Good Samaritan has been a difficult but rewarding Ministry and I thank each of you.

This is an Awesome group of Followers of JESUS gathered at PBC. Many have found "A Second Chance" in JESUS here. I have heard many outstanding testimonies of how Jesus came into their lives and led them to this Loving Fellowship of Believers at PBC. Thank you, Heavenly Father for bringing me here.

### **Announcements for August 13, 2020**

1. On August 16, August 23 & August 30 a table will be set up outside after church service for pickup of devotionals & Women's Sunday School materials for the fall quarter. If you would like a copy of the Daily Bread and/or the Open Windows devotional, please contact Niki at [pbcmahui@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pbcmahui@hawaii.rr.com). Your reserved copy of the devotional will have your name place on them for quick & easy pick up. When you pick up your materials, please continue to practice social distancing rules & wear your mask to keep everyone safe & healthy. If you are unable to pick up your devotionals during the times given, and would like a copy, please let Niki know so other arrangements can be made to get the devotionals to you in a safe manner.
2. Feed My Sheep: If you would like to support the Feed My Sheep Ministry, please bring nonperishable foods & place them in the red bin in the foyer.