

Pukalani Baptist Church

WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!

*"...He Hath Said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5b*

Saturday, October 10, 2020

Pastor's Pen by Pastor Paul Kaneshiro

Pukalani Baptist Church is a member of the **Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)**. We are a Conservative Church, meaning that we believe that the **BIBLE** is God's **Inerrant** (without error) and **Infallible** (always True) Word to all of us. Because it is from God, the Bible is True. This TRUTH is being doubted today in our Society. In fact, we Christians are being told that our Faith should not affect our politics. That our Christian Beliefs should not affect our Public Policies. That our Personal Relationship with our Living God should not affect what we believe and how we vote.

A major example is that we KNOW that GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE reveals that Life is Sacred to GOD from Conception. There are many verses proving this including

Psalm 139:13-16 = 13 For You formed my inward parts; **You wove me in my mother's womb.** **14** I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. **15** My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; **16** Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

As everyone can see, **God's Word is very clear on when Life begins.** Yet we are bullied into thinking that we should not defend innocent lives because of the Constitution that says that there is a "**separation of Church & State**". That Churches (religious beliefs) should not try to influence Laws. That personal beliefs (unless they are secular) should be separated from public life. Then how are these decisions to be made? By "***impersonal beliefs***" & "***ungodly beliefs***"???

Next week, I will reveal TRUTH that "**separation of Church & State**" IS NOT in the Constitution!!! But I will share the event that causes Thomas Jefferson to write this statement in a letter to Baptists who had written a letter to him, protesting about the Federal & State governments interfering with their personal religious beliefs. We will see what happens then.

But **most important** to our SBC, to PBC, and to ALL OF US is the Revelation of **GOD'S SALVATION**. That is, How do you become a Christian and receive God's Salvation? Here is the link to the SBC website on "**HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN**". <https://www.sbc.net/knowjesus/theplan/>

In Jesus' Love,
Pastor Paul

Instructions to Accessing the Sermons on our PBC website:

1. Log on to www.pukalanibaptist.com;
2. Click on Messages;
3. Click on 2020 Messages; and
4. Choose the Sermon of the Day (i.e. for today's sermon, click on the 10/4/20).

Sermons may take about a week to be posted to www.pukalanibaptist.com. Thank you for your patience as we continue to provide this ministry to the church.

For assistance, please email the church office at pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 572-7968

The Life of the Party By Laura Newell

My boss, Professor Meng, was the life of the party: quick to chat you up, first to dance at a department celebration, eager to sing when most had a few too many and even if they had none at all, excellent teacher to his students, great dad to his son, and a real friend to me. He had lived in the States while doing graduate studies, so he understood the "foreign teachers" better than most of my Chinese colleagues. Like many in Nei Mongol, his family had been banished to our province for being on the wrong side of the political spectrum.

Before that, when Meng was growing up south of the capital, his family owned a store that was their livelihood. Over the years, however, my boss' dad smoked opium and before too long, all their profits were up in smoke. Although illegal in Britain, opium had been introduced to the Chinese, successfully serving to numb and stupefy those who succumbed to this addictive drug. I had more than one student who mentioned that opium poppies were part of the landscape in their villages.

You can imagine the shame Prof. Meng's family experienced, going from all that a stable income afforded, to one that left them wanting in many ways. It was a financial crisis that could have been avoided. Part of the fallout included bad feelings, even hatred, toward the patriarch of their family.

This family tragedy marked Meng's adolescent years and followed him into the national tragedy of the Cultural Revolution.

During his teens, Meng and his older sister were out one night, having returned late from school. They heard the sounds of an army truck approaching and it frightened them both, scared them enough to hide in the bushes alongside the dirt road they were traveling. It seemed like hours before the monster lumbered by, and afterward Xiao Meng's sister whispered to him.

"Do you know what I almost did?"

"What?"

"I wanted to jump in front of that truck and kill myself!"

"Oh, no... Nooooo."

His sister's pain was never discussed because her younger brother understood and shared her distress. Years later, that same young man went to college, got a grad degree and became head of our English Department. We became good friends and he often confided in me. He loved to sing all the verses of "Aloha Oe" which amazed me because I only knew the chorus. I enjoyed team-teaching with him; I learned some Chinese teaching methods from him and he gained some American ones from me.

One day I was sitting with the students in class, taking notes while Professor Meng taught the lesson of the day. Something in the text triggered a long-forgotten memory and he grew silent for a moment, then burst into tears. You could have heard two pins drop as an embarrassed silence followed. Regaining control of his emotions, he blew his nose and then told us the story from his youth when his beloved sister nearly committed suicide.

Fast forward several years. My friend's son was in college and he and his wife were forced to care for that father of his, now elderly and unable to care for himself; Meng was the oldest son and that was his duty. What a struggle! Imagine what it took to change the diapers and bedding of the father he still hated. He shared his struggle with me and together we bemoaned the fact that there were no Depends in China.

A decade or so later I was back on Maui and Meng was returning from a conference he attended in Atlanta. He called to ask if he could stop and visit me on Maui and I looked forward to his visit. We spent a few days catching up and seeing the sights of the island. I had shared Christ with him from time to time but he always concluded our discussions with his reason for being an atheist: "I'm an evolutionist, so that settles it for me." However, when we returned from Hana one afternoon and hearing him marvel over the beauty of the island, I quoted Wolfgang Goethe: "Nature is the visible garment of God." I watched sadness fall over his face as my friend smiled and said, "I can see why you believe in God. I respect your faith, but that faith will never be mine." I still pray for my friend Meng.

Men's Sunday School Class

John Henry is leading a series through the book of Revelation for the Men's Sunday School Class. This virtual class starts at 8:30 AM. Logging on before 8:30 AM is helpful if possible. If you would like to join in, please email Gary Fitt at gnfitt@live.com.

PBC's Yard Ministry: Volunteers are needed for this ministry at PBC. Besides completing yard work, those who help with this ministry will also have a time of fellowship. If you are interested, please contact Jim Moriyasu directly.

PBC's Yard Ministry

| Team: | Members of the Team: | Week of: |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 | Gary, Rick | Saturday, October 17, 2020 |
| 1 | Jim, Glenn, John Y. | Saturday, October 31, 2020 |
| 2 | Shane, Duane, Kaipo | Saturday, November 14, 2020 |

Operation Christmas Child 2020

Shoeboxes are for children ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14.

Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) has delivered gift filled shoeboxes to over 168 million children in more than 100 countries.

Once again this year Samaritan's Purse will be collecting shoeboxes for OCC. However, this year due to COVID 19 restrictions, PBC will not be hosting a shoebox packing event.

If you would like to participate in OCC this year you may:

- go online at samaritanspurse.org/occ and donate or fill a shoebox
- pick up a free shoebox (12 x 7 x 4 3/8 inches) and label from the PBC church office, filling the shoebox with items from the suggested list below.

Also available for pickup are some supplies that have been donated to PBC that can be used in the shoeboxes, especially for the older kids. However, if you plan to pack a box for the 2-4 age group please let the church office know and there are some supplies that we have which are appropriate for that age group.

You may take your packed and labeled shoebox directly to Grace Bible Church, 635 Hina Ave, Kahului, during National Shoebox Collection Week November 16-23. The shoeboxes may be dropped off at Grace Bible Church during collection week only, NO other times will be available. Or, if you need assistance to take your shoeboxes to the collection site, please let the church office know so arrangements can be made for your boxes to be delivered.

Shipping is \$9.00 per box and PBC will send the money for shipping directly to Samaritan's Purse. You may make checks payable to PBC and designate OCC shipping on the memo line.

Today's Scripture

³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.

John 3:30 (New International Version) NIV

Prayer Requests & Praises for the Week

10/5/20: Prayer Request from Byron Shimabukuro: I was in a pretty bad accident last night. Both cars looked totaled. No serious injuries. Please pray for a successful settlement with the insurance company, peace and wisdom. Aloha, Byron <><

10/6/20: Prayer Request from John Yamamoto: Great news, Betty's MRI Brain scan came back. No new spread of the cancer. On 10-15-20 she will be getting a CT scan for her lungs. Please keep her in your prayers for a good outcome. God has been so gracious to her and I.. Thank You.

10/8/20: Prayer Request from Dyan Hashizaki. Dyan shared that George has Covid-19. He has no symptoms but just tested positive yesterday. She's asking for our prayers.

10/8/20: Update from Dyan Hashizaki. Dyan called him and he is doing well. He wants to leave but he cannot. He doesn't feel sick. Please continue to uplift George in prayer.

10/8/20: Ruby Yip: Please pray for Garret's mom. She is 94 years old and in the hospital due to a mild stroke Sunday night. They may transfer her to Hale Makua Rehab soon for PT. Our family appreciates your prayers.

10/8/20: Please uplift Lyric in prayer. Update from Lovena Love: Lyric has her surgery at 7am tomorrow morning.

10/9/20: Update from Lovena Love: Just heard from the doctor, surgery went really well he said! Bigger tear than what they thought so had to take out a big part of her meniscus but won't affect her short term. Just arthritis later on down the road but will have that with having ACL surgery. Said her ACL looks really good! So that's a plus!!! Will get back in the room with her soon and can update you more.

10/9/20: Byron Shimabukuro: Asking for prayers for a safe and full recovery from heart surgery for my good friend. Please also pray for his salvation.

10/9/20: Update from Jim Wellsand: The days for Lynn are short. She has stopped eating and can only drink thickened fluids. She is still pain free and comfortable, for which I am thankful. Thank you all for your prayers and encouragements. God has blessed us each step of the way.

10/10/20: Update from Dyan Hashizaki: Please continue to pray for my father in law. His oxygen level was a little low and he has pneumonia so he was admitted to the hospital early this morning. Colleen said he's in good spirits and still has a hearty appetite. Thank you, Dyan