

# Pukalani Baptist Church

WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!

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

Sunday, April 5, 2020

## Pastor's Pen by Pastor Paul Kaneshiro

Are you REJOICING today? Did you know that if we are not, we are disobeying our Lord's Commands through the Apostle Paul when he says, "**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!**" in **Philippians 4:4**.

How can we rejoice in what is happening because of the Covid-19 virus???

Have you seen this article from a Believer in Zurich? Dominga Abe passed it on to me. Something to think about!

"Hey all, I just want to share somethings that God is doing now :

- 1) due to the virus, now in Netherlands -no more prostitution, the red light districts are closed.
- 2) because the borders are closed, its much harder for human trafficking
- 3) due to medical shortage, no more abortions allowed in hospitals, God is saving babies!
- 4) revival is coming, normal church will not be able to hold this many people but now we are all covered because everything is online now;
- 5) the Catholic Churches are encouraging Catholics to pray and confess directly to God as their Father due to isolation, this will strengthen their relationship with God.
- 6) persecuted Christians were set free from prison because no more capacity to keep them contained.
- 7) families have the opportunity to get closer as they need to interact more at home
- 8) people are really thinking about the true meaning of life
- 9) we're giving a break to the planet maybe the environment is getting better
- 10) people are being nicer with elderly and empathetic by their limitations
- 11) technology is not distancing people but rather connecting on a meaningful way...

So many blessings to count if we shift our mindset during this crisis period and think Christ-like. God is at work and He has the full control of what's happening."

Amen! What are the Hidden Blessings in your life during this time of Covid-19???

Pastor Paul

### James 1:2-4

**2** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

## Pukalani Baptist Church

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Church  
Newsletter

## Instructions to Accessing the Sermons on our PBC website:

1. Log on to [www.pukalanibaptist.com](http://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 4/5/20).

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

## Testimonies

### Message from Gary Fitt

I was raised in the Mormon church until I was around 12 years old, at which time my family moved to a rural area in California, and the nearest congregation was too far for us to attend. My last official connection to them was when I was 13 or 14, I took a trip to the Oakland Mormon temple in a bus with several other young kids to be baptized for the dead! Fast forward.

In February of 1979 I was 21, married and the proud father of a one-month old baby boy. About four months prior to that time I quit a pack-a-day smoking habit that had gone on for three years. I didn't want a house full of smoke once the newborn arrived. Even so, the desire for cigarettes was still pretty strong. Another habit I had was speech like a drunken sailor, which included taking God's name in vain. It never even dawned on me at the time that that habit was worse than the cigarettes for my household. In any case, God was, and had been, working in my life. From the time I was a small child God sent many a stranger or friend into my life to share the gospel; a seed here and a seed there. Later as a teen it was in the form of true Christians picking me up as I hitchhiked up and down California and preaching to a captive audience while I thought, "Oh no, not again!" But in those previous several months before my son was born, mostly at night before going to sleep, I was reading a NASB bible that was given to me by my wife's parents; there were no notes, cross-references, or other additions in it, just the scriptures. I especially recall reading the miracles of Jesus and thinking, "How could these be true?" But I was captivated by his life and words, and like the men sent by the Pharisees to trap Jesus in something he said, my other thoughts were, "No one ever spoke like Jesus" and "How could these things not be true?" Then one day while I was sitting on the edge of my bed, there was a T.V. on, and it happened to be on the station of a televangelist! (Why, I can't say, because up to that time I despised preachers; for telling me the truth about my soul, no doubt!). Well this preacher was speaking right into the camera and boldly proclaiming, "God loves you and He sent His Son to die for your sins!" Though I had heard that same message at least a dozen times before, this time, my heart was ready to receive it, and to receive Christ. I remember saying loudly to no one in particular, "That's right!" Then a message came on the screen to invite anyone watching to call the number on the screen and someone would pray with you to receive Jesus. Well I made the call and prayed the prayer, even though I was certain Jesus had already come in. One thing the Lord did immediately was to clean up my speech and my desire to smoke or do other things I knew were not pleasing to Him. He also gave me a voracious appetite for his Word. A few years into my new life, Mormon missionaries came calling at my door. I had learned much about the Mormon church, and knew my bible pretty well. I preached to them the way of salvation; faith in Christ's work plus nothing. After three visits, they brought the bishop of their ward, who told me he would have to proceed with excommunication if I denied that Joseph Smith was a prophet; which I did. An interesting side note, the name of the bishop had the same name as the evangelist that led me to Christ, first and last! Over the years my love for the Lord has waxed and waned, but I know that I know that I know that my redeemer lives, and lives in me. To him that works not, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness. Now it is God who is at work in me both to will and to do His good pleasure. By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. To God be the glory!

## Message from Faith Fitt

I grew up in a home centered on Christ and His kingdom. My earliest years were spent on First Nations reservations in the US and Canada. I learned to walk in the dirt. Next my family moved to Southern Mexico, where my parents worked as oral translators among tribes like the Zapotec, Mixtec, and Aztec. We lived in a class-C style camper truck and trailer that my dad built, all seven kids and two parents! My mom homeschooled my five brothers, one sister, and me.

It is not always easy growing up in a ministry family, but eventually I learned to be deeply thankful for the lifestyle my parents chose for us. It embedded in me a firm belief that God can do anything—move any mountain, meet any need, and protect through any circumstance. When I was 16 we moved to England, where I spent the rest of my childhood.

Although I can't remember a time when I didn't know about God, I also knew that no one enters His kingdom just by growing up Christian. You have to choose for yourself whether you will trust and follow Jesus. When I was 14 I had what felt like my first personal encounter with God. I began to read and memorize Scripture like it was food for my hungry heart.

A Bible passage that has come to be central to my life is Jeremiah 17:7-8. It says that someone who trusts in God will become like a tree, “planted by water, that ends out its roots by the stream, and has no fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.” I love the richness of that imagery! This tree is a shady, restful, restorative place that attracts the weary. It doesn't easily snap or break; it is supple, flexible, and strong. It is constantly blooming with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22). It is unafraid when the heat of trials and tribulations come, and it is not anxious even in years of dry circumstances. I have a long way to go in my journey with Jesus, but I am thankful that He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it (Phil. 1:6).

## Today's Scripture

So, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

Isaiah 28:16 (New International Version) NIV

## PBC's Yard Ministry

Team:	Members of the Team:	Week of:
2	Shane, Duane, Kaipō	Saturday, April 18, 2020
3	Glenn, Gary, Rick	Saturday, May 2, 2020
1	Jason, Thomas, Jim	Saturday, May 16, 2020

## Prayer Requests & Praises for the Week

Victoria Bennett: Please put my dear friend Sharon on the prayer chain. She has been battling leukemia now for nearly 2 years. Her original hematologist gave her bad medicine that compromised her heart and her kidneys and her immune system and now she has been battling an upper respiratory infection for the past month that just won't go away. Worst part is she is losing (or has lost) her faith in God. It sounds as if she's never reconciled His supremacy in her heart even though she and her husband have been faithful Church goers and consider themselves Christians. Please pray our Father will show us how best to pray for Sharon and her husband Eugene.

John Yamamoto: Betty will be doing her 3rd chemotherapy tomorrow (Tuesday). It will be the 7 hour one then hour half on Wednesday and Thursday. Prayers she will do ok. Prayers that her body makes it through. She has been pretty strong throughout these trials and holding her faith steadfast in the Lord. Praise God..

Helen Fukagawa: A friend of mine, Jean, has requested prayers for her brother, Emory, who lives in California, and his wife, Andrea, who's caring for him. He has shingles and he's unable to get in touch with his doctor who is not answering his phone. The shingles started in his back, wrapping around his side and onto his chest. He is in a lot of pain. He's hoping to see a doctor today (Monday). Thank you for your prayers for them.

Iris Ginoza: PTL, negative COVID19 tests.

Please be in prayer for Lovena Love's dad. Lovena Love: My Dad's left foot will be amputated today (Tuesday).

Debbie Gonsalves: Update on Amy. She is feeling great. It's been over 14 days since her exposure to the COVID 19 virus. Her family is also doing great. Thank you for all your prayers. Praying for our church families. Aloha to all!

Glenda Chong: Could you please be in prayer for Jelina? She has a cough, fever and shortness of breath. I've been on the phone with her doctor this morning (Thursday) and may take her in.

Update from Lovena Love: I spoke to my dad this morning (Wednesday). He was alert and aware. He is in complete understanding of what happened to him. He is aware that he had surgery. He is aware what happened to his leg and he's looking forward to healing. Getting better and moving forward. Thank you all for your loving thoughts and prayers. Love and Arruiza Ohana

### Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain email list, please contact the church office at [pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com).