

# **Pukalani Baptist Church**

*WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!*

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

**Sunday, May 10, 2020**

**Happy Mother's Day!**

## **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 5/10/20).

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

## **The Brother and The Plumber By Laura Newell**

Many of you know Mrs. Mabel Todd, or least have heard her name around our church. She was born Mary Mabel Todd, but since her mom's first name was Mary, everyone called her Mabel or "Mabs" (which rhymes with babes). She first arrived on Maui back in 1957, coming as a missionary from Canada to serve as a teacher at Doris Todd Christian School in Paia.

You may have heard me say about Mabel, "I want to be just like her when I grow up," and that's still true. She runs circles around me, whether it's in Beijing or Kunming or Maui, and serves the Lord with gladness wherever she goes. However, after all those years of wear and tear, she recently needed to have her right knee replaced.

A couple months ago her brother came to Maui for six weeks to nurse his dear sister through her surgery and subsequent physical therapy. He decided to be her driver, cook, personal shopper, and fixer upper. Although he'd come for six weeks, Mabel's brother decided to stay for seven because of the corona virus.

The morning he left to return home, he sat Mabel down at the kitchen table and said, "Last night I turned my life over to Jesus Christ. If I hadn't stayed here an extra week with you, I don't think I would have done this 'cause I wasn't ready a week ago."

"Remember when I was trying to repair your disposal in the kitchen? Well, I couldn't do it, so you called your friend's husband, right? He came and as we worked together 'the plumber' told me he sings with the worship team at his church and tonight they had practice. When I asked him where he played, he gave me directions and invited me to his church. I went and heard a sermon on families, then began listening to other online sermons, and when I get home I plan to find a church of my own."

Can you imagine Mabel's joy? She had been praying for her brother for years, had taken him to church, had introduced him to all her Christian friends on Maui, asking us to pray for him. Now here he was, to her great surprise, a new man, pointed to Christ by a plumber! That new man is now back in British Columbia, a growing believer who is taking part in a 15 week series called "Alpha." So, God introduced the brother to the plumber and now both are part of His forever family. Who but God could do all that?

## **My Journey with Jesus**

### **By Warren Aihara**

I try to convince myself that I had a pretty normal childhood - middle child of five. An older brother, and older sister; a younger brother, and younger sister with me, wedged in the middle. I grew up in a home where we were taught and practiced Buddhist traditions - we attended church every Sunday and were heavily involved in our church. I became quite versed in the Buddhist scriptures, and started learning more and venturing deeper into the cultural beauty and richness attached to my Japanese heritage. This is the baseline that framed my world, and from where I got all my bearings headed into adulthood.

So my particular story starts in my senior year of high school, when I noticed some really stark and peculiar changes in my older sister - this remarkably rude, selfish, and just plain rotten sibling became an individual that started caring, and evolving into a pleasant person. I grew concerned as she started doing genuinely nice things for me! I finally stopped my sister to ask about what I've been seeing ... what's going on? She smiled, and said, "I'm a Christian now."

Wait ...Whaaaaat?!

I had heard about Christianity from some of my friends, even attended a few rallies put on by Youth for Christ, but never paid attention to what they were talking about. But now, I see this transformation in the life of my sister up close ... it threw me for all kinds of loops. Oh no! This Christianity - is she in some kind of a cult - should i be alarmed? Should I tell mom and dad? DOES SHE REALIZE HOW HACKED MOM AND DAD ARE GONNA BE? No ... she seemed fine and in control, even at peace. So I asked her what the deal was - why this change and abandon our family and cultural tradition as Buddhists? "Jesus is changing me from the inside out ..." she said.

My sister hands me a "Four Spiritual Laws" booklet (gospel tract) and tells me that if I want to become a Christian, I could read this little booklet and find out for myself. You think I would leave our roots? I could never betray what our family is centered around and finds its identity in... I got upset and said WAY more than I should have. I was indignant. I stonewalled my sister for quite a while after this, simply ignoring or avoiding her.

A few months later, that tract showed up again ... and I felt a strange prompting to read it. I ended up reading it several times through. I cannot describe the weird sensation that came over me. This information somehow made sense, and a simple thought came to me ... what do I have to lose? Maybe it was a combination of the things I was going through at the time ...I was confused, kinda excited, but then I felt like I was betraying who I was ... Could I have a genuine life-change like my sister? Can there REALLY be a God that loved me, would forgive ... me? I jumped in and decided to

take the chance ... I prayed the prayer at the end of the booklet ... and told no one. Hmph - no fireworks, no heavenly fanfare or trumpets - whatever. But slowly over the next few weeks and months ...

WOW. Little did I know that the God of the Universe heard my feeble prayer, and He began messing with my priorities and heart. The best I can describe it - it felt as though the crust and shell around my heart was stripped away to give way to things I had never felt or experienced before. I realized that I WANTED to be kind; I felt as though I needed to care for those around me. Where I NEVER cared before, I wanted now, to do the right thing. And though I already knew the answer, the questions still surfaced - "What's happening to me? What's going on inside of me?" Short answer: God Himself had taken up residence in my life, and boy, was He "cleaning house!"

I finally ended up telling my sister of my decision - she went NUTS! She cried and hugged me. (In my "samurai" family, we NEVER hugged...) She went and bought me a Bible and explained to me that being a Christian is all about living out our lives with Jesus as our Master. She wrote this verse in my Bible and shared it with me out of Colossians: "As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

This is where my life REALLY started, when I stepped into an eternity-changing relationship with the One True God. A lot has happened since then. There's college, marriage, kids, personal loss, job changes ... through it all, the One stabilizing my life has been Jesus.

In retrospect, there is no such thing as a normal childhood. As children growing up, we never consider what should be normal or what is odd; we only know what are in the middle of; we experience and learn from our parents, and the environment we grow up in. There are many who endure more pain and loss than others; there are those who are fortunate to have happier years growing up. I've had my fair share on both. I'm also finding out that the longer I live, there's more "stuff" to drag along with us ... "baggage."

If you have followed my story to this point, I thank you for indulging me with your patience, and I leave you with this. God wants a life with you and me, and He breaks into our lives to bring us an option - a choice to change how we live out our days moving forward. We can choose to live it constantly looking back, even laying blame on others, and paralyzed in our pain ... or we can join together with others in our "race" to the prize of finding our Jesus in all that we do.

***"... let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"*** - Hebrews 12:1

It's REALLY hard to run the race of life looking backward, right? Find people to run with!

## Today's Scripture

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Isaiah 61:10-11 (New International Version) NIV

## **Prayer Requests & Praises for the Week**

Update from Pastor Paul for Lynn Becker: Lynn Becker called to ask for prayers for Hans. He's back in the Hospital since Friday night. He will be having surgery tomorrow (Monday) to remove blockage in his stomach/intestine. Pray also for healing of his kidney infection. She also said that he smiles when she tells him that our Church is praying for him. He said to thank our Church for our prayers for him.

Update from Pastor Paul for Lynn Becker: Hans is coming home today but still has problems. Please continue to pray for him.

Prayer Request from Pastor Paul for Lynn Becker: Lynn Becker just called & asked for our Church to pray for HANS. They just got word that he has cancer in his bones. They asked that we pray for his healing. Please pray for our Lord to touch him physically & especially Spiritually.

Lovena Love: My Dad is settled in (Kihei with his Sister, his 2nd home). His only leg is healing slowly and getting better. He had his first home healthcare physical therapy visit today. He did very well. He stood up on his right leg for the first time. Thank you for all your continued prayers.

Lovena Love: Can you please add me to our prayer chain? My blood pressure has been very high. Thank you, Lovena Love

Pastor Paul: Please pray for my nephew Chad. He's in the ER in Critical Condition.

Update from Pastor Paul: Thank you for your prayers for my Nephew, Chad. He is in the ICU. He made an attempt on his own life yesterday afternoon. Our family appreciates your Prayers.

Iris Ginoza: Please pray for Alton. He is having some difficulty with his stomach.

## **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 9:00 AM. Logging on before 9:00 AM is helpful if possible. If you would like to join in, please email Gary Fitt at [gnfitt@live.com](mailto:gnfitt@live.com).

## **Prayer Chain**

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

## Message from Debbie Gonsalves

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean NOT on your OWN understanding. In ALL your ways ACKNOWLEDGE Him and He will direct your path,"

Phil. 4:19 "My God shall supply all you need..."

When the decision to close the Preschool was made, in my mind, I continually questioned the wisdom in that decision. I know that Pastor Paul spent many hours, days, weeks, wrestling with God, I still was not on board but still saying, okay Lord, You know what you're doing!!...But does He?

Wendell had just retired! We had bills to pay, a mortgage to meet! One in college and another in a private school! Unemployment for a while. But that ran out quickly. Depleted our savings! Lord, now what? Did you really think this thru'??

"Be still! Be still! Reminder, I am God!!"

Okay...a few days later, I get a job offer from Clearview Christian Girls' School. Tuition is taken care of!! I was still. He provided. He does know what He's doing.

During this time, my mom and dad were in a different season of their lives. Therefore, a change in season for me. The job that God provided allowed me the time to leave and take care of their needs. How awesome is He!!

Wendell became the Mr. Mom. He being retired allowed me time to spend with my folks. Again He knows!!

He also provided my brother, Jeff, the time to care for mom and dad. You know even if there was nothing to be done, just to be physically present provided comfort and reassurance that all was well. He knew what He was doing!

My dad went home to his heavenly Father in August of 2013. Sad day, but I knew he was once again whole in the presence of our Most High God, singing How Great Thou Art!!

At the ending of 2013, I was diagnosed with cancer! What?! Lord?!

"Be still. Be still. I am God!"

He provided me with comfort and a surety that He was in control of the situation. Throughout my radiation and chemotherapy I did not have the nausea and general sickness that usually accompanies chemotherapy. Just very tired, exhausted. He provided me with prayer warriors that interceded on my behalf. He knew what He was doing!

He brought me to a closer walk with Him and showed my family of His provisions and faithfulness. What a Father!

During this time my mom also needed more care. But I was again offered a job. A well paying job. I

struggled with this and asked my Lord to help me. He provided me with my boss saying, "I regret not being able to take care of my mom when she was alive." What a direct answer to prayer! Thank you God, You know what You're doing. My mom went home to be with her Lord on Feb.2015. Another sad day. She's caring for all the little ones in heaven.

Back to the closing of the preschool. His timing was perfect, is perfect. Most of my sisters in Christ also had situations that would have been difficult to take care of if the preschool were still running. (I miss them so much. What we had cannot be matched!) He provided jobs for everyone.

Upon closing, I witnessed a coming together of our fellowship. The facility and the work that needed to be done. The leadership, the programs developed. God knew what He was doing.

It's been 10 years since then and I am totally blessed in being able to care for my family; my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; He knows what He is doing!!

I thank Him for giving me a content and yielded spirit. Working in my life. Tho' still with a little objection, yet He knows what He's doing. I am in awe!

### **PBC's Yard Ministry**

| <b>Team:</b> | <b>Members of the Team:</b> | <b>Week of:</b>         |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1            | Jason, Thomas, Jim          | Saturday, May 16, 2020  |
| 2            | Shane, Duane, Kaipo         | Saturday, May 30, 2020  |
| 3            | Glenn, Gary, Rick           | Saturday, June 13, 2020 |