

# Pukalani Baptist Church

WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!

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

**Sunday, June 28, 2020**

## **Pastor's Pen by Pastor Paul Kaneshiro**

These words written by **Johnson Oatman, Jr.** in 1897. His Father was a great singer, but he was not. He was a Pastor for a time, then went into the world of business. But he is best known as a writer of Hymns, like “**COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS**”. In all, he wrote over 5,000 Hymns about JESUS.

COUNT YOUR MANY  
BLESSINGS  
NAME THEM  
ONE BY ONE  
COUNT YOUR MANY  
BLESSINGS SEE WHAT  
GOD HAS  
DONE

Early in his career, he made this Dedication

**Let others sing of rights or wrongs,  
Sing anything that pleases;  
But while they're singing other songs,  
I'll sing a song for Jesus.**

There are so many things that are important! So many things that demand our attention. I was surprised and moved by an online Conference on “**Anti-Human Trafficking Conference**” by the Waterhouse Lecture Series, a Ministry of the Waiialae Baptist Church in Honolulu. It was held on Friday night and Saturday. This was specifically about the problem in Hawaii. Christians presented this excellent Conference and I was amazed at the extent of the problem and at how our Lord is moving among His People to Minister to these Victims.

But then I realized that as God has called those People and their Churches to this unique Ministry, the main thing is for all of us to keep our eyes focused on **JESUS** and to obey HIM wherever He leads us to Minister. For HE does call **each of us** to Follow Him!

In JESUS' Love,  
Pastor Paul

### **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 6/28/20).

Sermons may take about a week to be posted to [www.pukalanibaptist.com](http://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](mailto:pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com) or call (808) 572-7968

## **GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND**

**By Laura Newell**

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that (grace/faith) is not from yourself; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them". Ephesians 2:10

Whether I'm in Zambia, China, or Pukalani, I encourage women to memorize this foundational truth of our faith. Ephesians 2 is the perfect place to begin understanding God and His plan. Ruby memorized these verses many long years ago. This week before our Tuesday morning Bible class we were sharing prayer requests and those included Ruby, of course.

June K shared with us that when she thinks of Ruby, she remembers Tabatha (aka Dorcas) in Acts 9; I was surprised because that similarity had come to my mind as well. Luke informs us that "At Joppa (now called Jaffa, about 38 miles NW of Jerusalem) there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died... The disciples heard that Peter was there, so they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them, and when he had come, they brought him to the upper room. All the widows stood by him, weeping and showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, 'Tabitha, arise.' She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive."

Can you imagine that? Granted, the details are not identical; however, there are definitely similarities between Tabitha and Ruby. No, God did not raise Ruby from the dead, but He surely spared her life and is slowly but surely bringing her back to life! Instead of sewing clothing for many at PBC, Ruby searched Maui stores as only a woman can do, buying blouses, vests, slacks, slippers, and other garments for us. She has the uncanny knack of knowing just what size each woman is!

Some of you may recall the mega garage sale we had years ago in the then empty lot next to Ray and June Yamamoto's home. Garret put up a huge tent for us, brought cold drinks, and our ladies worked for hours, prepping and selling items to raise money for Chinese orphans. Who was our fearless leader? None other than Ruby, and God blessed us with \$1500.

How many garage sales did Ruby host in order to send her neighbor kids to summer camp? Plenty!

Believe it or not, there's a spare bedroom at the Yip's that stores various goods to be given away. In fact, just a couple years ago one of our ladies was in financial stress. What did Ruby

do? Plan a garage sale and an amazing amount of money was raised that day. We jokingly call her our "Garage Sale Queen." I know many of you can tell a "Ruby story."

The first year we took a team of women to Zambia, Ruby and Jade were on that team, and Ruby saw how the children in the slums loved "sugar." Each time we partnered with Seeds of Hope, Ruby sent big bags of candies for the kids, and they came from everywhere to get her candies.

One day Ruby dropped by the church office to give our former church secretary a lovely lacey vest which she enjoyed so much that she wore it often. One day in Costco, June ran into Ruby and her sister; they looked at one another and all three burst out laughing because Ruby's sister had given the vest to Ruby who turned around and gave it to June.

Just this week I received an e-mail from Dr. Sheena Lee in Papua New Guinea, thanking Ruby for encouraging her when she was low. Leaving Maui to begin ministry on the other side of the world, Sheena was feeling like Abraham leaving Ur except with no family going along to help. Ruby unexpectedly showed up at Maui Airport with a hug, a prayer, and a lovely lei. Sheena's heart was so blessed to be reminded that she, in fact, was not alone.

Lest you misunderstand, we don't put Ruby on any pedestal. God gets all the glory because Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are God's masterpiece created in Christ Jesus to do the good works which God prepared beforehand for us to do." Isn't that amazing? God created us, drew us with cords of love, saved our souls, and planned those good deeds He wanted us to do, and that's just what Ruby does, day by day, week by week, month by month. How I praise God for my sister Ruby!

### **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](mailto:gnfitt@live.com).

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

<b>Team:</b>	<b>Members of the Team:</b>	<b>Week of:</b>
2	Shane, Duane, Kaipo	Saturday, July 11, 2020
3	Glenn, Gary, Rick	Saturday, July 25, 2020
1	Jason, Thomas, Jim	Saturday, August 8, 2020

## Today's Scripture

<sup>3</sup> You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. <sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.

Isaiah 26:3-4 (New International Version) NIV

### Layne Morgan's Testimony



“ A friend loves at all times” Proverbs 17:17

Upon my very first visit to Pukalani Baptist Church with my young family, I heard a cheery voice call out, “Welcome!! I am Naomi Ashman and this is my husband Michael...come join us!!” Thus began my journey to where I am today....

The Lord had been calling me to a relationship with Him for a while. I had many excuses, but nothing could quiet His small, still voice in my heart and head. He gently kept after me. It soon became apparent that the “God-Shaped Void” in my life could only be filled by Him.

After several months of attending PBC, I had that life changing urge to take that joyful/ terrifying walk to the front of church to meet and pray with Pastor Paul. I happily gave my life to the Lord that morning! I had tried to ignore His call and “fasten my seatbelt” in the pew, to no avail.

On that day, my life changed forever in many ways. My (then) husband and I and all 3 of our children gave our lives to the Lord and were eventually baptized. Soon after, my new friend Peggy Kuia walked me through “Survival Kit for New Christians”. She continues to pray for and inspire me to this day!

Around that time, an announcement was made in church by another special new friend and Director Lisa Ward that the Preschool was looking for a Teacher's Aide.

I felt called to apply and was soon hired, and this began my life work and main ministry for more than 20 years. Deb Gonsalves became a spiritual co-worker and mentor, guiding me throughout the years. Two of my kids attended and graduated from PBPS, thus grounding them in the Lord...what a JOY!

It became apparent as I grew and also struggled in my walk with the Lord and my marriage that I really needed Christian women friends. Ones to walk beside me, support me and show me what it meant to be a Woman of Faith. The Lord has so graciously and faithfully provided me with solid role models over the years! One story comes to mind...shortly after joining the church, we had a fellowship lunch. I was new and shy and rather uncomfortable. Marje Sado pulled up a chair and asked me if I wanted to join her at the WMU House Party on Oahu. I quickly said “SURE!!”, and then had to ask her what WMU meant. We have been friends since that day.

As time went on, the Lord brought so many incredible women into my life, and they have become lifelong friends. When my marriage dissolved, I was shattered. Laurie, Beth and so many others would come over to chat and make sure I was ok. My years as a single Mom and my meeting and

dating Steve were all supported by strong, kind women who lifted me up in prayer. My wedding to Steve and marriage of 18 years were never without strong connections to my Sisters in Christ.

4 years ago when Steve was unexpectedly called Home to be with the Lord, these women literally held me up, physically, emotionally and spiritually. They showed up, listened to me, prayed for and with me. Those who have walked the challenging road of widowhood have been my lifelines to me, and continue to be so. They are a true life example of "When Friends Become Family". I am blessed.

"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin...but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" Proverbs 18:24

## **Prayer Chain**

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

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

6/24/2020: John Yamamoto: Tomorrow Betty will be taking a CT scan at 1130 am to see of any changes. Please pray for a favorable outcome, that the cancer has not spread. Thank you for the prayers.

6/24/2020: Update from Laura Newell: Here's an update from Jade: Mom is doing excellent, lots of progress! During PT today they helped transfer Mom out of bed into a wheelchair. Her strength is slowly improving, although she requires a lot of assistance; she was out of bed for an hour. She still has to maintain a pureed diet for swallowing safety. I played some of her favorite hymns today: Blessed Assurance, Great is Thy Faithfulness, Amazing Grace. We sang along together and she said, "Thank you. What a wonderful way to worship."