

Pukalani Baptist Church

WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!

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

Sunday, June 7, 2020

Pastor's Pen by Pastor Paul Kaneshiro

Lynn Becker's Husband, **HANS**, passed away on Wednesday evening, June 3rd. He had just returned home from the Hospital that morning. We are lifting up Lynn and her Family to our Lord asking for His Peace and Comfort to rest upon them.

We have been praying for **Ruby Yip** for the past few days and she is improving! Praise be to our Living God! But she is still in need of our Prayer Support. Pray also for **Garrett, Jenson, Jadelyn & Jared**, who are all home now so her Family is together. Many Family Members and Friends from various churches are also joining together in prayer for her Healing. Let us continue to Pray for her complete Healing.

It has been a tough 3 months as we have experienced Separation because of the Covid-19 virus. We have experienced serious illnesses and deaths within our Fellowship. Job losses and financial turmoil touch many that we know. Anxiety & multiple concerns bring pressure to all of us. Yet, we have remained close to our Heavenly Father.

Sunday Morning Worship just restarted last Sunday under unusual & awkward circumstances in order to protect our People. We all long to be set free from these safety restrictions so we can Reunite as we all desire and be able to hug and freely join together in Fellowship. But we do not know when that will be.

But during these days of uncertainty, we have Important Truths that are always Certain:

1. **GOD'S WORD** stands Forever
Isaiah 40:8 (NASV) "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the **Word of our God stands forever.**"
2. **JESUS CHRIST** never Changes
Hebrews 13:8 (NASV) "**Jesus Christ** is the same yesterday and today and **forever.**"

Of this we can be **CERTAIN**. HE Loves Us and will NEVER Abandon Us

IN HIS 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 6/7/20).

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

A Thank You Note By Laura Newell

A few days ago I heard from one of the women I met at MCCC; I'll call her Lani. She contacted me to thank me for pointing her to the Lord Jesus Christ, for giving her a Recovery Bible, for caring for her when she felt all alone. She wasn't at the correction center because she was a drug addict or a bad mom; in fact, she just had to serve weekends because her crime wasn't as serious as most of the other women.

However, Lani was so very embarrassed by her circumstances that she lied to her husband, children, and parents about her weekend arrangement. She told them she had to take classes on Oahu for the graduate degree on which she was working, and she felt even guiltier because they believed her.

She walked into Bible class one morning, sat down next to me and introduced herself. After some small talk she looked at me and asked, "Laura, how does a person become a Christian?" I could hardly believe my ears!

Usually classes were a bit more rough and tumble. Two or three women might be talking at the same time, or someone didn't like what the Bible says about a particular topic and they'd stand up and walk out, often with some very choice words to say about it. But not that day: there was dead silence.

I had the joy of opening my Bible and taking her to Romans 3 and 6, reading that we've all sinned and come short of God's glory, that the wages of sin is death, a capital crime, in fact, and a capital crime that deserves capital punishment! Then we went on to the prophets where we read that "all my righteousness is filthy rags." Wow, that's pretty explicit!

We continued to discuss why Paul writes in Ephesians 2: 1 that everyone is spiritually dead in their trespasses and sin. How can a dead man or woman do anything at all to gain God's good grace? According to God's Word, they cannot! Moving on in that chapter, Paul tells us in verses 8-10 that salvation is a gift from God; it's not by any good works. In other words, our best is not good enough for God because His standard is perfection. Whew, that's heavy stuff.

Lani was tracking and I could tell the Holy Spirit was speaking to her. She'd gone to church all her life, but her family went to a church that didn't really teach God's thoughts which are higher

than man's thoughts. She needed to think about what she'd heard, and I was glad for that because Scripture tells us to "count the cost."

The Hound of Heaven was onto Lani and by the following week she shared that God had brought her to repentance and faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross. She now believed that when Jesus cried out, "It is finished," He was more than able to pay for all her sins, past, present, and future. Tears came to her eyes as she realized Christ paid for her sins in full.

That was why she contacted me to say, "Thank you." I rejoice that "salvation belongs to the Lord" and that "He who began a good work is faithful to complete it." Lani told her husband, three kids, and parents the real story of why she disappeared on weekends, and it became a delight to look up and see her smiling face in Bible class.

I realize that it's only because PBC purchases dozens and dozens of Recovery Bibles that I can make them available for women in jail. Lani thanks you and many others have said the same thing, so I want to say "THANKS" to my church for making God's Word available to the least of these. Keep up the good work, PBC!

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

Team:	Members of the Team:	Week of:
3	Glenn, Gary, Rick	Saturday, June 13, 2020
1	Jason, Thomas, Jim	Saturday, June 27, 2020
2	Shane, Duane, Kaipo	Saturday, July 11, 2020

Today's Scripture

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (New International Version) NIV

Reynelle Murayama's Testimony

I was raised in the church. My grandfather was the Kahu of a Hawaiian church in Wailuku. My family, including my extended family on my father's side, attended this church and this was all I ever knew growing up. The prayers and hymns were all in Hawaiian which I neither spoke or understood. The language was a barrier but the love my grandfather exhibited managed to keep us bonded there. He had a gentle and humble spirit that was evident to all who met him.

As children, we never had a choice in the matter of attending. Nevertheless, I looked forward to Sundays and going to church only because it meant, lunch at Wing Sing Restaurant after the service and play time with my cousins at the dried-up fountain out in the back.

I was baptized at 12 years old not truly grasping the importance of my decision but it's what you do when you become that age as I understood it. As a teen, with a little more freedom granted, and a driver's license in hand, I'd find any excuse not to attend. While my friends were at the beach, gallivanting around the island, to say "I have to go to church first" was embarrassing. I went as far as to seek a part-time job to avoid attending on Sundays, all the while referring to myself as a Christian when asked.

The years passed and the Lord took my grandfather home. While I dearly missed his presence on earth, I felt relieved and no longer tied to the church. With no accountability or guilt, I was free to pursue my own interests. I was in this world and certainly of this world!

After some years of wild living, I married Shane and soon after Noah was born. I was ready to return to the church I was raised in with a little more seriousness and a commitment. After all, this is what upstanding families do, they attend church every Sunday. With a steady church attendance, occasional church meetings, fundraisers, and annual church conventions, I sincerely thought I was on that path of righteousness.

Our church held corporate fasting every year in January. It was a partial fast starting at 12 am-12 noon with a service every night for 3 weeks. I had done this probably a few times before in all the years attending there. At the end of 2008, I decided to start the new year in fasting. I thought my life was going pretty well and had no complaints. I knew I was living a hypocritical lifestyle but the god I grew up with and knew was a forgiving and loving god who knew my faults and weaknesses and accepted my lifestyle the way it was. My view of the bible was a suggestion of how to live life through wisdom rather than His command to live as Christ did. Of course, I thought that way because while I spoke to God in prayer, I never bothered to listen to Him by reading His word. It certainly was a one-sided relationship.

It was during this fast of 2009, that I asked the Lord to help me to know Him better. Again, like everything else my belief was based on, I did not understand the depth of what I asked. I did however, truly mean what I had asked for and was not prepared for how He would answer.

A couple of months later, while sitting in a church during a service, mind wandering off the message being preached, the Lord prompted me to open to Galatians. I read the book before the hour was over. Now at this point, I hadn't completed reading a single chapter of anything in the bible. This time was different, it was interesting so I continued on to Ephesians, Philippians, the gospels, Genesis, and on. It honestly felt like God turned on a switch one day. There was a stirring in my heart followed by conviction. I started to realize that the bible wasn't just suggestions for living a blessed life, but that this was the truth, and real, and a command to live holy as He is. Stemming from love for Him by getting to know Him. We really are called to live these truths out and be a light

so we can bring Him glory. I learned so much more about God's character through reading his word. I no longer just knew of Him, I started to know HIM!

In October of that year I joined a small group, the first time I ever had as our church prohibited these meetings outside of the church. And within a year of that, we left my family's church in search for somewhere we could understand the teaching better (in English). It was one of many difficult decisions I made that year. We visited many churches. I learned to submit and trust God to place our family where He felt we would grow at and serve. During our search, the Lord continued to work on me because of my complete reliance on Him, even without a church to call home. It wasn't about church attendance and fundraising; it was about the relationship and obedience. I've read Matthew 7:22 and pictured myself as the 'many', standing in disbelief saying to Him, "but Lord, did I not go to church all those years and sell lau lau tickets and wash all those cars in your name?" It still pains me to think His response to me could have been the following verse 23.

Within a year of that fast, the Lord Almighty opened my eyes and brought me to my knees. He showed me the reality of my destitute state and that my life wasn't going as well as I thought. He broadened my mind to what sin means to Him and taught me confession, repentance, forgiveness, obedience, and submission and continues to teach me every day. I'm a slow learner as you can probably tell. However, I believe it was the prayers of those before me, like my papa, that God heard and poured His grace upon me and I am grateful! It encourages me to keep praying for the unsaved and to trust His timing with it.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain email list, please contact the church office at pbhmaui@hawaii.rr.com

Ernie Shield's Testimony

God is Faithful and Patient. I was born into a very loving and God fearing family and I had a Father, Mother and Grandparents that were faithful in their prayers for me. I grew up going to church and midweek prayer meetings. I knew all the right things to say and do to look like I was a follower of Christ but I was far from that. I walked the church aisle a couple of times and signed the back of a bible stating I had turned my life over to Christ but it never changed my life. I lived a very frustrated and sin filled life and if it hadn't been for the unwavering Grace and Mercy of God I should have been killed or I would have unintentionally killed someone else.

At the age of 21, God started working through circumstances in my life by getting my attention that I was on a path to destruction if I didn't change my lifestyle. I knew what I had to do and because of my upbringing and the Holy Spirit's work in bringing me to the point of allowing God to regenerate my life in Him. A couple of years later, I went to Bible School for one year and also got married to my wonderful wife Deb of 36 years. We moved to the United States with our 2 daughters and started a roofing business. During that time, I was more concerned with my business and making money than growing in my walk with the Lord. I took my family to church and hung out with Christian friends but God was just an add-on and not the one that I was completely in love with or following.

At that time, I picked up a book by John Piper entitled Future Grace and God used that book to take me on the journey of loving Him more than anything. I also read Piper's book Desiring God, these books were huge in how my relationship with God changed. A dear friend also introduced me to the series by John MacArthur on the Doctrines of Grace. God came alive and His plan of salvation and His Holiness began to be revealed to me like never before. I love digging deep into His word and searching for the nuggets that He promises to show us if I'm willing to search and ask the Holy Spirit to teach me. I love talking about, reading and sharing the deep doctrines of Christ because that just makes me realize how great and awesome our God is.

I thank God that once He justified me He didn't quit at that but continues to sanctify me through His word, His Spirit living in me and brothers and sisters in Christ. I want to thank my church family at PBC for helping me grow in the last five years and I will miss you all very much as God is moving Deb and I to a new adventure in our lives back on the mainland. May you all continue to serve Christ and each other in all that comes your way. I will leave you with this quote from John Piper "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." That is my prayer for you all and myself that we would always be satisfied in our sovereign and Holy God that loves more than we can ever imagine and living for Him is the only way you will fill an empty soul.

Prayer Requests for the Week

Update from Pastor Paul for Lynn Becker: Lynn Becker just called. HANS passed away last night around 10:30pm. Please be in prayer for Lynn & her Family

Lovena Love: My Dad is recovering pretty good. His Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist are very Happy with him moving along. Gaining upper and lower body strength. Were in the stages of getting measurements for his prosthetic leg. My Dad is patient and excited. Thank you all for your prayers and Aloha.

John Yamamoto: Betty is getting her first radiation treatment on her brain. Please pray for a favorable outcome. She has 10 treatments scheduled starting today.

Here is an update from Laura Newell. Ruby is in the ICU. She is unconscious. They will do surgery when she is stable. Please uplift Ruby and her family in prayer. Thank you for praying.

Here is a Urgent Prayer Update from Pastor Paul: 9:20am= just received word that they will be taking a brain scan sometime in next 2 hrs to see what is happening. Let's Pray for Ruby & Drs, Technicians, Nurses. Jared is with Garrett beside Ruby. Let's pray for God's Miracle.

Update from Garrett Yip: A lot happening here now. So much progress on Ruby's part. She's fighting hard and with all the prayers we're witnessing a miracle. Kids are here and trying to get an exemption to enter the hospital.