

# **Pukalani Baptist Church**

*WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!*

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

**Sunday, July 19, 2020**

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

Today, I'd like to express my Appreciation for all Pastors who serve our Lord JESUS, His Churches, and me. Like many of you, I really appreciate Pastor Jim Wellsand being in our Fellowship. He and Lynn have been a Blessing to all of us. He has been an encourager to me as well as being willing to provide any Ministry to anyone at anytime. Thank you Pastor Jim.

I had the privilege on being in several online conferences with various Pastors this week. They all blessed me so much as we shared what was happening in our various Ministries along with how we and our Families were doing. My admiration and awe of my Brothers increases every time I have the privilege to be with them. Today, on Saturday, I've been following up on the phone with some of them, intending to minister to them. But once again, they ministered to me. How amazing is our God.

My Brother, Steve, has always been there for me. Yes, this is the Brother that I joke with, make fun of, and generally give him a hard time. Isn't that what Big Brothers are for??? But he really is my confidante and I trust him implicitly. I thank God that we are blessed to serve in neighboring Churches and also as Police Chaplains on Maui.

I Praise God that in the midst of the Covid Crisis in our Nation & the World, He has Blessed me with the Pastoral Fellowship here on Maui and with Pukalani Baptist Church for 33 years! You are so amazing in how you have Loved my Family & me all these years and the things I have been privileged to witness in your lives and your walk with JESUS.

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 7/19/20).

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

## **Pandora's Box**

### **By Laura Newell**

Some years ago a woman from our Friday night Bible study group died suddenly; she was a classmate of Ruby's. We gathered for Lani's funeral and just as it ended, Pastor Paul leaned over and asked, "Laura, will you get a group of ladies together to help a woman in need? It's urgent; in fact, she needs to be on a plane leaving Maui in two days."

I got busy, explained the circumstances to a handful of our PBC women, and we headed for Haiku early the next morning. We learned quickly that this woman in need, called Pandora, had mental health issues and had been off her meds for too long.

When we arrived at her cottage the door was closed but not locked. No one responded to our knocks or verbal greetings. What to do? One of our group, a bold woman who had some experience dealing with mental health, said to me, "I'm going in." Talk about feeling double-minded! Immediately I wondered if we'd be guilty of breaking and entering or trespassing on private property, or what if...

She was sure, however, about going in, so we stood on the porch and prayed. Then we slowly and quietly began to enter the dark, cluttered cottage. Every square inch of wall space was filled with paintings, paintings, and more paintings, most framed but not all of them. Ah, an artist.

It took a while but we finally located Pandora under a pile of towels and rugs. When she heard strange voices, she locked herself in the nearby bathroom. Our bold teammate spoke kindly through the door, explaining who we were and why we'd come. In the meantime, chores were agreed upon, and we began to clean the kitchen, take paintings down from the walls, and pile clothing in stacks. Whew, what a job!

Our prayers were answered when Pandora came out of the bathroom and shyly looked from one face to another and smiled ever so slightly. "Last night," she explained, "I felt so overwhelmed with all I had to do, so I went outside and walked up and down the road, praying for some angels to come and rescue me."

We assured her that we weren't angels, but God had sent us to help in any possible way. She began to show us how to take canvases out of frames and where the pliers were to remove huge tacks from the canvases. Then Pandora fearfully explained that she couldn't locate her passport which she would need to return to her own country. We prayed for God's leading and direction.

A couple women searched with her while the rest of us continued to clean and pack. Honestly, we all felt rather overwhelmed by the prospects, but after praying, that peace that passes understanding began to descend upon our hearts and minds.

God answered prayer again as Pandora's strong box was located in the attic; she wore the key to it around her neck at all times. She and I walked outside and sat down in order to look through the paperwork together. We came across a small black and white photo of a beautiful little girl with long hair and a smile on her face. "That was me at four years old. It was before my uncle began molesting me."

With a sad smile, she dug deeper into the box and lifted out her passport. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry as I realized that there was the treasure we needed in Pandora's box.

She looked so tired and weary as said she needed to go lay down and rest. I returned to pulling out tacks from canvases and rolling them up for shipping. My heart felt so sad.

We continued to work through the afternoon with some of us returning a second day to finish up. How God blessed the work of our hands! How He had blessed us by getting to meet a stranger in need, someone we were delighted to assist in her overwhelming task. It wasn't until later that it hit me: "We are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus, to do the good works He prepared beforehand for us to do."

Pandora caught her flight out of Hawaii and all the way to Sweden, and months later we got word from her sister that Pandora had gone through rehab and was back on her meds. The two sisters were happily reunited and doing well. God answers prayer indeed.

### **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>
3	Glenn, Gary, Rick	Saturday, July 25, 2020
1	Jason, Thomas, Jim	Saturday, August 8, 2020
2	Shane, Duane, Kaipō	Saturday, August 22, 2020

### **"Who would have ever thought?" By June Kaneshiro**

After returning home from a Pastors' Wives Retreat, I shared an especially memorable moment. It was the first words from my former pastor's wife as she walked towards me, smiling and shaking her head, side to side: "Who would have ever thought you would become a pastor's wife?!" My girls were surprised and took offense for me, but I remember replying, "No, she was right."

Back in the day, there was nothing special or memorable about me, except maybe when a friend and I were caught hiding in the bathroom during worship service (my idea), or bossing the many boys on our dead end street where we lived and played.

We lived on the foothill of a valley on Oahu. My dad had built our home and we moved in when I was 3. He talked to our neighbors and together they built sturdy rock walls that separated our properties. Those retaining walls were the quickest way to church. It saved us from walking 2-3 blocks, and of course, it was more fun!

Mom took my brother and I to church and I attended Sunbeams and then GA's (Girl's Auxiliary), which was designed for school-aged girls. Work included scripture memorization, knowledge of Southern Baptist Convention life, mission study, and mission action. GA's had levels of achievements that rose to queen-regent-in-service. I never made it to the first level, but I enjoyed going to church.

One summer my Mom sent me to GA camp at the Puu Kahea Baptist Campgrounds in distant Waianae. The huge, loud bell clanged for all the meals and gathering times. The days were full and by evening worship, we were dead tired. I remember well that last evening, I fell asleep during the service, but awoke to stand for the last song. While standing my heart began to beat so hard! The young college volunteer who had preached while I slept, now asked us girls to come to the front as a public expression of our accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. I felt God Himself was trying to get my attention, and I loosed my grip on the chair to walk towards the man. Those of us who wanted to follow Christ were led out onto the spacious veranda of the old plantation house. So many were crying... but not me. Upon returning home I was baptized, but for years I looked back and wondering: "Did I understand? Did I confess my sins? Was I sincere in my decision to follow Christ?"

I continued to attend church. Then in 9th grade, Mom (and God) enrolled me in Hawaii Baptist Academy. Not a scholar, that first year I studied late, and cried a lot because it was hard work. Mom assured me I could return to public school, if I'd just finish the school year. She must have earnestly prayed because I stayed, and met an especially nice, young man named Paul. The summer after graduating from the University of Hawaii at Manoa,

Paul and I were married and moved to the mainland. During his first year of seminary we attended a week-long seminar, later called, The Institute in Basic Life Principles (IBLP). IBLP would forever change our lives and how we lived for Christ.

But the last evening of the seminar the speaker addressed my doubts of salvation. He told the story of a man who committed his life to Jesus and wrote the date on a stake and drove that stake into the ground. Whenever Satan sent doubts, he'd walk around his barn to that stake as a reminder. That night I asked God to forgive me of my sins and committed myself to Christ, and then, wrote that date in my notebook.

Looking back, I remember a shy, awkward girl, slow to learn, and scared silly of public speaking. But when I asked Jesus to save me, He guided me, answered my prayers (His way), protected and kept my heart towards Him, especially during times of uncertainty. He changed me and continues to change me...and one day,...because I asked Him to forgive my sins and be my Lord and Savior, I have a hope and certainty of being with Him in heaven for eternity.

"Who would have ever thought...?" Indeed, only Jesus!

- - -

**"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord,  
"plans for welfare and not for calamity  
to give you a future and a hope."**

**Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)**

## Today's Scripture

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (New International Version) NIV

## 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

7/12/20: Update from Laura Newell: Ruby's family was able to drop off her food request, actually for her, her roomie, and her nurse. Is that like Ruby or what? She's walking up to 46 feet with her walker - on the move! Please pray with us that God will make a way for Ruby to get her hair cut and fixed ASAP. We women are so blessed when we can get our hair done. Strength, stamina, and a hairdo for Ruby this week. Thank you ever so much for your prayer support (reminder: no texting yet).

7/14/20: Debbie Gonsavles: Please pray for David. He's in ER now. Throwing up in the a.m. Much pain in the abdomen and back. He's calmed down now. Had a CT scan and doing other tests. Shannon cannot be with him because of COVID restrictions. Pray wisdom for doctors and for continued calm.

7/16/20: John Yamamoto: Just got results from the MRI for Betty. Results show stability. No change in this scan from her last scan results. Praise the Lord!! All glory to him. Want to send a thank you to everyone for all the prayers. God has blessed Betty during her Battle with her cancer. It has not been easy but he has truly shown us his true healing power. All glory to him..

7/16/20: Prayer Request for Gladys Saenz: Please pray for Gladys. She went for her appointment this afternoon & her BP was elevated so she ended up in the hospital again for observation. They decided to keep her overnight to make sure her BP got under control. They just recently decided that they're going to induce labor tonight. She said it will be awhile before she's able to deliver. Her husband Mark said that if the inducing doesn't work then they will probably end up doing a C-section to deliver the baby tonight or tomorrow. She asked for prayer that all goes well & according to God's perfect will. & that her BP behaves since it's seeming not to respond. And to please pray specifically against seizure or stroke for her since her BP is so high (those are the risks with high BP). And of course safe delivery of her baby boy. She also thanks everyone for their prayers!

7/17/20: Kathy Bauer: My brother does not have a fever today! I am giving thanks to God, and to my church family for praying! He doesn't feel good and is extremely fatigued. I covet your continued prayers as God brings him to your mind. This is a terrible virus, and we will take one day at a time. Thank you, Kathy

7/17/20: Update from Gladys Saenz: My BP is finally "behaving"...PTL! They will start pitocin around 9:30-ish this morning. Please pray for a healthy and safe labor and delivery today. He is 35

weeks and 2 days today. Please pray that his lungs are strong and that he doesn't need to go to NICU (as that would mean he would be medevaced to Oahu). Thank you for praying.

7/17/20: Update from Gladys Saenz: Well...God's got this all planned. The pediatrician was concerned that I (we) may have to be separated from baby at 35 weeks. Since my BP is stable we are going to be medevac-ed to Moanalua on the off chance that he will need NICU care. Better to be prepared and not need it as MMMC is not equipped with a NICU. Thankful that God has made a way for this to happen. Please pray for all the details. Thank you for your love prayers and support.

7/18/20: Gladys Saenz: Good morning! Last night was a rough night. Doctor just came by on rounds and we are getting prepped for a C-section. Thank you for your continued prayers. We are going to meet our precious miracle that God has given us soon!

7/18/20: Update from Gladys Saenz: Say hello to... Micah Aaron Saenz. Mommy and baby are both doing well! Please welcome him as as part of the ohana, and more importantly giving thanks to God for this miracle blessing.