

Pukalani Baptist Church

WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!

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

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Pastor's Pen by Pastor Paul Kaneshiro



Occasionally, we see Mongoose running across our roads, especially the country roads of Upcountry. I enjoy seeing them running around. But do you know the story of how they came to Hawaii???

They are not native to Hawaii, although they've been here for about 137 years. In the 1800s & 1900s Sugar Cane was King. It

provided many Jobs and was a mainstay for our Economy. But rats were a huge problem because they ate much of it. Then in 1872, Big Island Sugar Growers discovered an article about Jamaica's success controlling rats by importing mongoose from India. Therefore, in 1883, 72 small Asian mongooses (not mongeese) from Jamaica were imported to the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island and released in the Sugar Plantations. They also bred these mongoose and the descendants were shipped to the other plantations throughout the islands, except for Kauai, but that's another story.

Problem was that the mongoose were daytime animals and the rats were nighttime animals. So the rat problem was not resolved. In fact the mongoose nearly wiped out the Hawaiian Nene Goose by eating the eggs. They did wipe out the Newell's Shearwater birds wherever the mongoose lived.

It seems that so often our ideas of solving our problems result in making the problem much worse. Therefore, pay attention to **Proverbs 3:5-6, "5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."** We would do well to follow our Lord's Instructions in these verses for every area of our lives.

In Jesus' 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 7/5/20).

Sermons may take about a week to be posted to 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 pbcmahui@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 572-7968

I Can Only Imagine **by Laura Newell**

My friend, Jeremiah Riffe, was born in Texas, went to college at UCLA where he came to Christ, and was discipled by Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ. He then went on to serve as a youth pastor for 50 years.

He ministered first with Tim LaHaye and later with David Jeremiah at Shadow Mt. Community Church outside of San Diego. I never met Pastor Jerry (or PJ as the youth called him) while I was in college, but he was well known for his youth ministry which included a large group of Summer Servants.

Pastor Jeremiah married his girlfriend Edith, also called "Edie the Sweetie," and together they raised their four daughters. It wasn't 'til years later that I got to know the Riffes, and we bonded over our common desire to share Christ in the uttermost parts of the world.

Edie was one of our first keynote speakers at our yearly women's seminar; I still recall some of what she shared those many long years ago. The Riffes were invited to partner with us as we served one summer in Inner Mongolia. I still remember that on the flight from Beijing to Hohhot, one of Pastor Jeremiah's suitcases was lost. "Oh, no! It's got all my underwear in it!"

Now there's a dilemma we never shared in our returning report to our churches. But it was Dennis Shiroma to the rescue who offered some of his extra clean underwear to the brother he'd only recently met. Talk about sacrifice! I also recall sitting in the Beijing airport and watching our San Diego friend whip out a bag from his carry-on backpack: fresh fruit from his yard in So Cal. My jaw dropped and I asked, "How in the world did that pass customs in HI and Japan?" Pastor Jerry shrugged and smiled. Wow, that fresh fruit was tasty!

Intending to return to China one year, SARS rerouted us to Rome, and once again Jeremiah and Edie joined us in our outreach to North African and Middle Eastern immigrants. Some of you may recall PJ speaking the Sunday morning before we flew out. I still remember parts of his sermon. What a character!

Most of us know you cannot serve the Lord without some distractions from the world, the flesh, and the enemy of our souls. God takes us through the fires to purify our faith, to sanctify us, and make us more like Jesus who was made complete through His sufferings (Heb. 2).

One year during Christmas break from school, dozens and dozens of teenagers filled the buses from Shadow Mountain, headed to Mexico to help at an orphanage and assist in building a church. Imagine the excitement on the bus that PJ was driving: teenage energy released by shouting, gabbing, singing, changing seats to be closer to a boyfriend. Whew!

Pastor Jeremiah was tired that morning from all the preparations and his keen sense of responsibility for so many young lives. They were running a bit behind schedule, but that didn't

really matter as they prayed together and then set out for their destination. "Mexico, here we come!"

About an hour into the trip, PJ could feel himself relax, but the happy noise and singing helped him concentrate on his driving. Soon afterward, however, his exhaustion came to a head and he nodded off for just a few seconds. In that amount of time, the right front tire went off the road and that big yellow school bus rolled over. Yelling and screaming ensued while confusion reigned.

The following moments were filled with attempts to account for each one on the bus, and by then the other buses had pulled off as they realized what happened. Assessing bruises and bumps, it seemed there were no broken bones, but there were lots of tears. One of the girls shouted, "Where's Shelly?"

Minutes later her body was discovered just off the road. It was Pastor Jeremiah's youngest daughter, his dearly beloved daughter and her body was lifeless. It wasn't too long before the Mexican police showed up on the scene. Details of the crash were explained, and the leader of their youth group, Pastor Jerry, was hauled off to jail on a charge of vehicular manslaughter.

That first night in jail was torture and a hard question plagued PJ. "How can I tell my wife that I've killed our Shelly?" That one question played over and over in his mind as shock kicked in and sleep fled. Hot tears fell like rain as he thought of Edie and his family. Feeling so alone, the Holy Spirit whispered part of a Psalm he'd memorized years earlier: "Hear my cry, O God, attend unto my prayer. From the ends of the earth will I cry unto You. When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I..."

Slowly his heart rate slowed and that divine Comforter, the God of all comfort, began to ease his mind. He stretched out on the cold cement floor and poured out his heart to Almighty God. In the meantime, news of the crash filtered back to Shadow Mountain and the church began to intercede for their precious youth pastor. A group of men volunteered to drive down to Mexico and bail PJ out.

The Mexican officials insisted on a citation, a sizable amount of money, and a sound lecture, and then they released the tall man from California. Life, however, would never be quite the same for him. His love for God was stretched and enlarged, his wife forgave him as they were finally able to embrace and weep together.

This testimony was shared widely and it was always called "Asleep at the Wheel." It was first spoken at Shelly's funeral where hundreds and hundreds of people packed into the church. Copious tears were shed, God was worshiped, teenagers rededicated themselves to the Lord, and some committed their lives to their Maker for the first time.

Years later as we spoke on the phone, PJ told me he wanted his favorite song to be sung as his funeral: "I Can Only Imagine." Last year scores of Christ followers crowded the church once again to praise and thank God for His good and faithful servant, singing "I Can Only Imagine."

I can only imagine what it will be like
When I walk by Your side.
I can only imagine what my eyes will see,
When Your face is before me.
I can only imagine,
I can only imagine.

Surrounded by Your glory,
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You, Jesus,
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence,
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah,
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine,
I can only imagine.

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:
2	Shane, Duane, Kaipō	Saturday, July 11, 2020
3	Glenn, Gary, Rick	Saturday, July 25, 2020
1	Jason, Thomas, Jim	Saturday, August 8, 2020

Today's Scripture

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39 (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 pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com

Prayer Requests & Praises for the Week

6/30/20: Prayer Request from Linda Javier: Arkadia (Linda's Granddaughter) had to be medivac late last night to Kapiolani due to severe stomach pains, frequent vomiting and weakness —Mikioi

called from Kapiolani early this morning and said that the doctors found an obstruction in her small intestine and doing further work up. Please pray for Arkadia and the family; Mikioi's husband is home with the 2 boys and feels so helpless and shaken-up. With Covid restrictions in travel and hospital visitations it's even harder. We are waiting and praying to see what we can do. Thank you very much

7/1/20: Shawn Racoma: Can you put my friend Edgar on the prayer chain? He has cancer. Pray for him and his family to draw close to Jesus and each other. Also pray for GOD's grace and mercies to be revealed to him.

7/2/20: Here is a prayer request from Pastor Paul. Please pray for Arza Brown's wife, Ruth. She is having problems with her eyesight. Ruth will be having a series of tests on her eyes next week.

7/2/20: Prayer Request from Lovena Love. Please pray for her relationship with her daughter, Rose. They are going through hard times & spiritual warfare. Thank you, The Love Ohana

Update from Lovena Love: My Dad is doing better. His leg is completely healed. No open wounds. We're helping him with range of motion; especially around his ankle. It is still a little stiff, trying to get it loose so he can use his ankle that will help him when he gets his prosthetic. Overall AMAZING recovery. Lovena thanks everyone for their prayers.

7/2/20: Byron Shimabukuro: I need prayers for a safe and uneventful flight home. Also, that there will be no problems with the COVID-19 checks. Aloha, Byron <><

7/3/20: Update from Linda Javier: Arkadia is home!! Praise God for His healing on her young, little body. Thank you church for your faithful prayers, supportive and kind words. Thank you Lord for the wisdom given to your doctors on how to proceed and approach this rare medical condition. Thank you Lord for helping and keeping the family dependent on you - our only hope! Amen

7/3/20: Here is an update from Laura Newell: "Mom's speech and mobility are both improving well. Today she practiced moving her legs while trying to hold herself up on the parallel bars. She has a bit more range on her left side now, her weak side. She moved to the fourth floor, but unfortunately the hospital admin will no longer allow us to visit, so family is doing face time. Please do NOT call or text until we get permission." Many thanks for your prayers!