

Pukalani Baptist Church

WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!

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

Sunday, August 9, 2020

Pastor's Pen by Pastor Paul Kaneshiro

Do you feel burdened by your Cross? If you are a Christian, a Believer in Jesus Christ, then you have a Cross according to JESUS in **Matthew 16:24** "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" Today in our Morning Worship, this will be the focus of my sermon.

I've felt burdened by my Cross. The specific calling of our Loving Lord and Savior JESUS. For me He's called me to Care for those in Crisis. Many of us have that specific Calling upon us as individuals. All of us are called to Care for those in Crisis generally as a Believer. But some of us are called into this Crisis Care Ministry specifically.

The last couple of weeks have been filled with people in crisis, more than usual. Especially as I've been called out by the Police and as I've activated our MPD Chaplains & Peers a number of times. Truthfully, there have been times when I want to stop responding when I'm tired and frustrated. But then **Matthew 16:24** brings a smile to me and a lift in my heart, when I focus on the Biblical Truth that I'm obeying His Command in His Verse and it is NOT my Burden, but His because I am choosing to Obey Him.

Then I experience His Joy when I focus back on Him rather than on whatever Problem is facing me at that time. Wow! From Disturbance to Delight because of JESUS!

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 8/9/20).

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 pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 572-7968

Message from Laura Newell

This week I received news from our friend, Dr. Sheena Lee, a dental surgeon who has been ministering in one of the outermost parts of the world. Some of our women will remember Sheena as our keynote speaker at a PBC women's seminar a few years ago. I want to share this with you in hopes you will join me in prayer for Sheena.

"I sat down on a resting place on the hilltop above my house where the staff and students frequently pass on their way home from campus. A 13 year- old boy came from behind and wrapped a mud-laden cloth bag around my head and covered my face, then tied the handle of the bag around my neck, attempting to suffocate me. I yelled in pidgin but before I could finish my sentence, I couldn't breathe, but I fought to loosen the rope. After some struggle, he ran away.

I was shaken up, but after a few minutes I felt complete peace, knowing God was right there with me. I realized it could have been much worse. Security identified the boy (I'll call him "K") very quickly as one of the guards saw him run down the hill and remove his mask; he had used a market bag to try and disguise his face.

Last night we had a community meeting about the incident. Now the investigation is on its way to tribal leaders and leaders of my missionary group. Early this morning a lot of local people from the campus came to say "sorry" and bring me food from their gardens.

After much prayer I communicated my thoughts to the community and its leaders. Please pray with me for the ongoing dialogue. In this culture it's common to take revenge by beating the offender or threatening to kill him. However, I am not pressing charges or asking for compensation. Instead, I ask them, "Do not lay a hand on K or his family."

Instead, I do want him to be held accountable by providing opportunities for him to understand the harm done by his behavior. I'm asking for him to make amends to me, his family, and community through disciplinary action or community service or other ways deemed appropriate. In my mind, the focus is on repair rather than putting K behind bars, to help him and other at-risk teens get off their paths of destruction. I pray that a friend of mine can share his testimony during one of the youth events on campus.

I am asking for an opportunity to directly speak with K at some point about how his crime has violated people and relationships, but he also needs to hear he is forgiven. Lord willing, I plan to return to this region in October, so part of K's community service would be to come with our team to attend an outreach at a temporary holding jail, so he can see and smell the horrific conditions inmates are placed in and realize why he should not end up there."

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21

Will you pray with us for Sheena, for K and his family, and for the community that God's plan will be accomplished, for His glory and the good of God's people in this faraway place? There is an ongoing investigation, so please do not pass this on.

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, Kaipo	Saturday, August 22, 2020
3	Glenn, Gary, Rick	Saturday, September 5, 2020
1	Jason, Thomas, Jim	Saturday, September 19, 2020

Emi Abe's Testimony

I began attending Pukalani Baptist Church in 2000 when I was a baby. I consider myself blessed because for as long as I can remember, I was able to attend church every Sunday with my family. I have vague memories of my mom carrying me while singing during the worship service, where I would shyly wave at Mr. and Mrs. Murray who sat behind us. Some of you may even remember me walking up the middle aisle to wave at my dad as he was playing the bass. In addition, PBC was my preschool where Pastor Paul gave me my first diploma! I guess you could say, PBC was my second home. I grew up learning about the Bible and the many stories that fill it; I could answer all the Sunday School, Children's Camp, and VBS questions that were thrown at me. I loved learning, but I also loved being right. Even at that young age, I knew I valued knowledge and where it could take me, and that's exactly what it was, just knowledge.

It wasn't until the 7th grade when I went to youth camp that it finally "clicked." The sermon was on Ephesians 2:8, but I decided to read the whole passage. It emphasizes that God is kind, gracious, merciful and loves you! It was great that I knew the Bible, but at the time the knowledge I gained didn't seem to affect me and I started to question if I actually understood what I was learning. If you had asked me before "What is the difference between grace and mercy?" I would have responded "Is there a big difference?" To put it simply, I learned that grace is getting something that you do not deserve, and mercy is not getting something you deserve. When it finally sunk in, I was a mess. I couldn't comprehend that the God that I had been trivializing my whole life (I understand that I was only 12), loved me with a greater love than anyone else had or ever will. It blew my mind that someone who I could not see, would care enough about me to pursue me no matter how sinful I was or how far away I ran. As a child, I didn't always have a reliable friend and it was hard for me to believe that someone would sacrifice their only son for me when I had nothing to offer them in return.

From then on, my focus changed from knowing about God, to getting to know God. This is when my relationship with God really began, and I could see him working in my life. Even when I didn't understand why things happened or why things were taken away, I knew that He had something better in store. During high school, I lost a lot of friends and as a teenager, it hurt, but God was still faithful. I held so tightly to His word which reminded me that I am loved and wanted (Isaiah 43:1)

and that He is my strength (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). It was also through those losses that I met Alenette Ballesteros and Whitney Blando, some of my best friends. And again, I was blessed through PBC because I had many Godly mentors like Jaclyn Fukagawa, Nicole Marburger, and Joanna Kaneshiro. They have poured into me and helped me grow in Christ through middle school, high school, and college.

However, when I moved out of the house, my faith was tested. I was no longer living under my parent's roof and it became more apparent that it would be solely my choice if I continued to walk with Christ. This was the first time that I felt really challenged by the world; I met so many new people, all of whom had different ideas about everything. I also struggled with my classes. Being in a new environment and learning at a college level pushed me more than I thought it would. In high school I was the top of my class, but now my grades were average, which was very difficult and discouraging for me. I was lost. Thankfully, I made good friends in the dorms, my classes, intramurals, and even reconnected with old friends who encouraged me to continue in my relationship with Christ. I once again was reminded of God's faithfulness and I realized how intimate my relationship with Him could be. It was in those lowest moments that God became the most apparent to me and now, no matter what stage of life I am in, I can see God's hand at work in everything.

Today's Scripture

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2 (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

Prayer Requests & Praises for the Week

8/3/20: Duane Hayashi: Please pray for safe travel. I am going to Oregon with my son to take his dog. We are leaving Wednesday. Thank you.

8/4/20: Kathy Bauer: Thank you to everyone who is praying for my brother, Robert and his daughter, Malinda who both remain positive for COVID 19. My brother is getting a 5-day course of Remdesivir and the Drs anticipate his discharge from the hospital on Wednesday evening or Thursday. The conjunctivitis is under control, but Malinda has lost the vision of one eye and the Dr. has diagnosed it as acute narrow angle glaucoma. They will take another pressure reading tomorrow. If the pressure is not decreased by medication then she will have to have laser surgery, and they are not guaranteeing that her vision will return. So I ask everyone to continue in prayer that my brother will continue to respond to his treatment, and that the pressure in my niece's eye will decrease and she will not have to have surgery AND that her vision will be restored. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for lifting up my family in prayer! Kathy

Kathy Bauer: My brother was released from the hospital today! His COVID19 journey is not over, but we are praising God because we realize with his underlying health conditions it could have been much worse. My niece, Malinda, has been diagnosed with cataracts and glaucoma with optic nerve damage. She will be scheduled for cataract surgery next week. The Dr.s do not believe that the glaucoma or cataracts are related to her having COVID 19. Thank you for your prayers for their health and I ask that you would pray these crises will bring them to a closer relationship with their Savior and their God. Thank you, Kathy

8/5/20: Laura Newell: Wow! Good news: Ruby is looking at an Aug 15 release to return home to Maui. Please keep her in your prayers for full healing. THANKS to all who pray for her.

8/6/20: Kathy Bauer: My niece, Malinda, is having emergency eye surgery today at 9 am our time. Please be in prayer for wisdom for the surgeon as he removes scar tissue and that this will relieve her eye pressure. We are praying for a miracle regarding the damage to her optic nerve. We are praying that her sight will be restored. We are also praying that this ordeal will bring her into a closer relationship with God. Thank you church family for your prayers!

8/6/20: Prayer Updates from Lovena Love: We would like to ask for your continued prayers for my Sister and her Husband as they are trying to conceive a baby (with the help of science). Rose and her Boyfriend will be moving back to Las Vegas August 17th. Please pray for a safe journey and new beginnings. Lyric will be heading back to Odessa on August 31st for College. Please pray for continued protection and safety. My Dad is doing pretty good. He turned 75 on August 1st. This Saturday he is getting a casting to get the exact measurements for his prosthetic leg. It's a long process and we're all being patient as his right leg & ankle is still healing. Thank y'all for uplifting my Family. We Feel your prayers. Rose has been a much nicer and respectful Daughter. Blessings and Love, Earl & Lovena Love

8/6/20: Kathy Bauer: Dear Church Family, Thank you for your prayers today for my niece, Malinda. Her surgery was delayed about 1.5 hrs, but she is now out of surgery and recovering! She is in alot of pain, but can only take Tylenol as other pain meds would dilate the eye which they do not want. She returns to the Dr. tomorrow when a 2nd surgery will be discussed. Thank you for your prayers!
Kathy