

Views of the Vision

The Ministry of Gay and Andrew Hongo

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MISSIONS TRIP TO ASIA: SUMMER 2020



In 2012, Kalihi Union Church's missions team did a luau outreach for the people of Kesennuma. Paul Suzuki and his family drove eight hours to join in. First row, left to right: Liliko Iizuka, Stephen Suzuki, Krista Suzuki, Andrew. Second row, left to right: Pastor Yoshitaka Fujinami, Paul, Carol, and Jessie Suzuki, Dennis Kawamura.



In 2013, the Hongos joined another KUC team for ministry in Kesennuma, pictured here with members of Kesennuma First Bible Baptist Church. This is the last church Randy ministered at in Japan, and we'll be returning next summer.



Kesennuma First Bible Baptist Church was located in "Hongo District" -- our same last name, even written with the same kanji (Chinese characters). So we felt we were meant to be there.

Right after the earthquake and tsunami hit Tohoku, Japan in 2011, missionary Paul Suzuki flew from Chicago to Japan to ask pastors in that area what they needed. They told him, "We don't need preachers, we don't need carpenters. What we need is Hawaiian music to encourage the people." Paul thought, "Who better than Randy and Gay to go up and down the coast to bring hope to the people through their music?" Paul reached out to us, and we said that of course, we'd love to go. But even as we were making preparations for the trip, Randy was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. We weren't able to go that year, but the next summer, Andrew answered the call and went to Tohoku with a team from Kalihi Union Church that included Pastor Yoshitaka Fujinami, Dennis Kawamura, and Liliko Iizuka. Liliko is a beautiful Christian hula dancer and brought two of her students with her.

(From Andrew) Going to Japan in 2012 on a missions trip was a big step for me. I had done missions in many other places but had never really had a heart for Japan. I think part of it had to do with the fact that my parents used to take me (sometimes I would have said "forced me") to go to Japan with them almost every summer when I was growing up. By the time I was in junior high, I would much rather have stayed home in Hawai'i during the summer to play tennis with my friends and go to movies at Kahala Mall. But years later, in 2012, I knew God was opening the door and that I had to go in my parents' stead to continue their ministry. I joined Kalihi Union's team to Tohoku, and we performed a Hawaiian concert at a big luau outreach. Bethany Hamilton (a wonderful Christian surfer who had lost her arm in a shark attack) shared her testimony; and Paul Suzuki and his family drove eight hours to come and support us. As our team ministered in song and dance to people who had lost everything, I had a vision of God the Father standing with arms outstretched, waiting to welcome His children in Tohoku home to His loving embrace. I repented of the bad attitude I'd had as a teenager and was so grateful that in spite of my complaining, God was gracious enough to use me to minister to others.

(From Gay) When Andrew went to Japan in 2012, people told him, "Oh you sing so well!" And he said, "That's nothing. You should hear my mother." And they said, "Oh, you play piano so well!" And he said, "That's nothing. You should hear my father." They said, "Where are your parents?" Andrew said, "I'll bring them next time." So in 2013, not even a year after Randy's stem cell transplant -- which, praise God, was successful -- his doctor gave him the OK to go to Japan. We drove to Kesennuma and Minami-Sanriku and met up with a team from Kalihi Union Church that was ministering there. We were able to do concerts together at temporary housing shelters and a Sunday morning service at Kesennuma First Bible Baptist Church. It was amazing that Randy could do all of that so soon after his transplant, while on dialysis, and he shared his testimony of how God had healed him so that he could continue to preach the Gospel. The church's pastor, Minegishi Sensei, loved having us and asked us if we could come back. We said that we would return, but after that, Randy's health declined and we weren't able to travel, and then Randy went home to be with the Lord. I wanted to return to Japan, but not without Andrew and Meaghan -- and finally, next summer, Andrew and Meaghan have a window in their schedule so we can all go and minister together.

Returning to Kesennuma and following up with the believers there and ministering to people who lost everything is our main focus; but we have another goal as well: to work with the Pagaragan family in their ministry to Japanese young people. The Pagaragans have a center for friendship evangelism called SonRise cafe, located in the bustling Tokyo neighborhood of Ikebukuro. The Pagaragans -- Jeff and Kelly, and their five children -- are very dear to us because they credit us as being their inspiration for going into missions. We will be doing youth outreaches through their ministry.

We'll also be partnering with our longtime friend Naoe Noguchi, a wonderful Christian and active member of the Evangelical Free Church in Japan. We met Naoe about 20 years ago, and she and her husband were assigned to be our host family. Every trip after that we would stay in their lovely home, and they would drive us to our concerts and take us to eat the best Japanese food (Randy loved that). Now they have a house church with an after-school tutoring program, where Naoe teaches English. She has excellent English, and Randy used to teach her American slangs and idioms. She learned phrases like, "My brain is fried," or "You can hang your hat here anytime." When I wrote Naoe to tell her we were returning to Japan, she replied, "I'm so excited my hands are trembling."

We are excited to do musical evangelistic programs in all these places because although less than 1% of Japanese are Christians and most would never step foot in a church, many people love Hawaiian music and are happy to come and hear us sing. That gives us an opportunity to not only perform songs and dances from our culture, but also to share what Jesus has done in our lives. God gave Randy and me a burden for the Japanese people because there's so much darkness and spiritual bondage from years of following Buddhism and Shintoism, and a very high suicide rate.

When I was in college, I went to the Urbana missions conference and heard a Japanese pastor who was known as the Billy Graham of Japan. I remember he told a joke in Japanese: an American missionary was handing out tracts in Japan. He meant to say,

"Doozo, o yomi ni natte kudasai," which means, "Please read this." But he accidentally said, "Doozo, o yome ni natte kudasai," which means, "Please be my bride." When he told the joke I was the only who laughed; then the translator explained in English, and everyone else laughed.

That was the first time I realized there was a need for missions in Japan and committed myself to going as a missionary. I had grown up speaking Japanese at home because my mother never learned English; and when we started going to Japan, I realized that my grasp of the Japanese language was being put to good use for kingdom purposes. Our missionary friend Ada Lum once said, "God is Chinese. He never wastes anything." God put my Japanese to good use in sending Randy and me to Japan 23 times over the course of our ministry. Please pray that God would use us for His glory to reach the people of Japan with His Good News.

(From Andrew) After Japan, Meaghan and I will be continuing on to Southeast Asia. We will be helping missionary friends who have an English club for college students and an orphanage/shelter for unwed mothers and their babies; then visiting a tribal group in the mountains to show them the documentary I filmed about their people group; and then going back to the urban slums where I did a documentary about street-kids and the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge for my masters in journalism. I'm excited to return and hopefully find some of the kids I worked with ten years ago to encourage them and pray for them. Please pray that God would protect us wherever we go and that He would give us divine appointments in these communities that for so long have been closed to the Gospel, beset by war and poverty. We are believing God will do great things in and through us.



Randy and Gay visited Southeast Asia in 2010 and met one of the street-kids Andrew had worked with and a local pastor.

We need to raise a total of \$13,000 for airfare, ground transportation, lodging, food, and other expenses for Gay, Andrew, and Meaghan for this 3-week Asia missions tour. If you would like to contribute to this mission, please write a check to "Christian Vision" and write "Missions" on the memo line or on the enclosed envelope; or you can give online at our website (www.rghongo.com) and designate it to missions.



MINISTERING TO MY FAMILY



Gay with Pearl City Community Church hula ministry, led by Ethel Kubo and Harriet Carmody, dancing to Aloha Ke Akua, written by Randy.



Gay with her brother Terry Shinsato, sister Jo-Ann, and brother-in-law Wallace Kaneshiro.

This past August, God gave me a wonderful opportunity to minister to my own family. Pearl City Community Church invited me to come and sing at their church. We have such a special relationship with that church; every time I went there, I felt like I was home. I grew up right near there, went to high school near there, and my brother and sister live just a few minutes up the street.

Their pastor, Gordon Marchant, said he'd give me the freedom to do the entire service. At first, I was very nervous because I didn't have Randy or Andrew to help me, and I felt very inadequate. But I thought, this is such a great opportunity God is giving me to minister to my family, since it's right in the community where they all live, and many of them aren't yet believers. So I said yes, and asked all of my friends to pray for God to help me.

Pearl City Community is also special because it was one of the first churches we went to after Randy was diagnosed with cancer in 2011. The church has a cancer support group, and they embraced us and prayed for us. They told us about healthy foods to eat that were good for cancer patients, and they were able to encourage us because many of them had survived cancer themselves.

The Sunday I shared at Pearl City Community, nine of my family members were able to come, several of whom are not yet believers. I was thrilled! I knew I wanted to share my testimony in the service, but I also wanted to tell some funny stories. One of those stories was about a time Pearl City Community had invited Randy and me to come and sing for their annual women's conference. They had organized a fabulous luncheon with a big buffet and centerpieces made of desserts. Randy wanted dessert but couldn't because I was there. But then I went to the bathroom, and Randy thought that was his chance. He grabbed a cookie, and then one of the church members, Geri Ihara, wagged her finger at him and sang, "No, no, no," and all the other women around him joined in. Randy said, "Sheesh, this place is crawling with food police!"

Then I shared my testimony, about how I was invited to a youth retreat at Kalihi Union Church when I was a junior in college. Before going to the camp, I said to myself, "I'm not going to believe in Jesus unless I see a big miracle." I went to the retreat and studied the Bible for the first time. The passage we were reading was from John 20:24-29. Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to some of the disciples, but not yet to Thomas. Thomas said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." As I read that verse, I realized -- that was me! I had said, "I'm not going to believe unless I see a miracle." The Holy Spirit began working in my heart (I later learned a lot of people were praying for me), and my eyes were opened. I realized this was the miracle: God speaking to me through His word, through what happened to Thomas.

Later in that passage, Jesus appeared to Thomas and said "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" I said, "I too believe You are Lord. I believe in You."

And then I read what Jesus said to Thomas after that: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Again I thought, "Hey, that's me! I haven't seen, but I believe." That was the first time in my life I had been called "blessed," and it felt so good.

After I shared this testimony, I explained the plan of salvation: that God gave His only Son Jesus Christ to die on a cross for our sins, and that if we ask for His forgiveness and invite Him to be Lord of our life, He will forgive us and give us the gift of eternal life. I then asked anyone who wanted to give their life to Jesus to pray with me. I don't know what the results were that Sunday, but I do know that I did my part, and now it's up to the Holy Spirit.



HOMEcoming IN HILO by Andrew Hongo



Gay and Andrew went to minister at the historic Haili Congregational Church in Hilo, Hawai'i. They are joined here by members of Randy and Gay's first youth group, and Kahu Wendell Davis and his daughter Puakailima.

As a child, even though I grew up in Honolulu, I always enjoyed visiting Hilo. I got to play with my Big Island cousins; we would go fishing and swimming at a beach house in Kapoho; and I knew it was my dad's hometown, where he had wonderful memories of his mom and dad, both of whom passed when I was still a little kid. Dad was a proud son of Hilo, always ready to sing Hilo March at the drop of a hat.

After Dad passed, my mom wanted to return to Hilo to sing at Haili Congregational Church. This was the first church that she and my father ministered at, and the youth group they led there had remained close to their hearts all through the years. It's also a historic church, at one time in the 1800s the largest church in the world, and was instrumental in bringing revival to the Hawaiian people. My mom and I always remember the heart Dad had for his people, the Hawaiian people, a heart that I share as a Hawaiian as well. I was grateful when God opened the door for me to come home to Hawai'i over the summer to minister at Haili with my mom; and grateful to my wife, Meaghan, for being so supportive of my making the trip from Alabama. (Meaghan had to work so couldn't come with me.)

We did morning services at both Haili Church and Kuhio Chapel, which was the church's outreach to the Hawaiian community. When Dad was the youth minister at Haili, he would go to Kuhio Chapel every week to do Bible study with the Hawaiian children. One of those Bible study members, Pikake Lee Kimata, wrote this remembrance for Dad's celebration of life service.

Randy Hongo was my Released Time Bible Education teacher in the 1970s when I was a grade school student at Keaukaha Elementary School in Hilo. Upon early dismissal from school, normally each Wednesday, my mother Elizabeth, Randy, and other helpers would walk a group of kids to nearby Kuhio Chapel to learn about Jesus Christ through the stories in the Bible and through music. This was a unique opportunity to engage kids in Bible study and

prayer and Randy was enthusiastic about teaching us about the Gospel because he cared for each of us and the salvation of the young children was important to him. I admired how well he played the piano and how he inspired us kids to sing with heart for our Lord. Randy was kind, loving and generous with his time. He reached out to help give us kids a firm foundation for life.

(Pikake is a descendant of Henry Opukaha'ia, one of the first Hawaiian Christians who inspired the missionary movement to Hawai'i.)

The church service at Haili that morning was very emotional for me. I saw all these people who loved my dad so much, and it was the first time we were able to grieve with them after my dad's passing. But as I spoke in that Sunday morning, I was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as I remembered my father's legacy: to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. I said, "If my dad were here, I know that more than anything else, he would want you to know that Jesus Christ gave His life for you, and that if you put your trust in Him, He will forgive your sins, change you from the inside out, and give you the gift of eternal life." I was so grateful for the truth and power of the Gospel, as I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that Dad was in heaven with the Lord because he trusted in the shed blood of Jesus. I felt inspired to sing one of Dad's favorite hymns:

Jesus paid it all

All to Him I owe

Sin had left a crimson stain

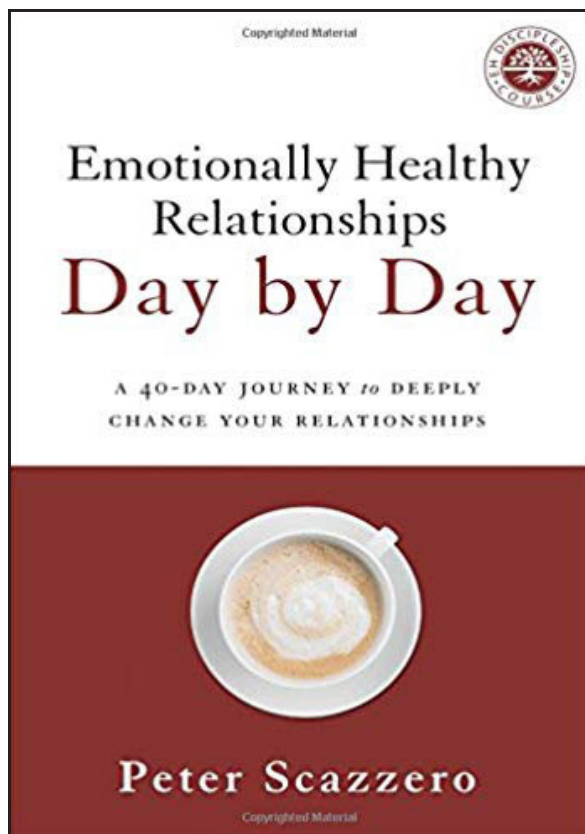
He washed it white as snow



(From Gay) It was such a wonderful reunion to see so many of our former youth group members come to Haili Church and Kuhio Chapel. After the service we had a luncheon and time to fellowship. As part of our youth group in the 70s, we had a youth choir, and the kids were really talented. So at the reunion we did a choral arrangement of the praise song, *10,000 Reasons*. Andrew played the accompaniment on the piano, and everyone said, "Oh, he plays just like Randy." It was very heartwarming, because it reminded me of all the good times we had singing together with Randy at the piano and me directing the choir.

Another blessing from the Lord was that the guest speaker that Sunday was our friend Kahu Wendell Davis, accompanied by his daughter Puakailima. Kahu Davis had just suffered a devastating loss when his wife Maria passed away in a kayaking accident. Kahu Davis encouraged me by saying, "We have both lost loved ones but we must continue in our ministry. It is all for the glory of God."

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS DAY BY DAY



When Randy was first diagnosed with cancer in 2011, the Lord provided a wonderful resource for us in our time of greatest need. Someone gave us a devotional book titled *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. Each day, the book gave a message of encouragement, comfort, and hope written in the voice of Jesus speaking directly to us. Each day, our family looked forward to reading it together. And very often it inspired Randy to write a song -- in fact, he wrote more than a dozen songs inspired by these devotions.

I feel the same way about the devotional book that I am reading now, called *Emotionally Healthy Relationships Day by Day* by Peter Scazzero. God led me to this book at a very important time in my life -- and in Andrew and Meaghan's lives -- as we are in a season of transition and seeking God for direction. It is the book that we are doing together for our Sunday School class at Kalihi Union Church, led by Pastor Clive Cowell and Robin Kumabe. I am finding that this book is helping me to make space in my life to listen to God's voice and to love others as Jesus did.

An important part of this devotional is not just the content, but the form. It requires me to do two "offices" a day, when I set aside time to be with God and listen to His voice. The idea comes from the root of the word "office," which means "work" -- and each day, our most important work is just to be with Jesus.

I like this discipline of doing the office twice a day. Every morning, after I do my exercises and eat my breakfast, I do my first office. I begin by sitting quietly in God's presence and center my attention on Him. I put aside my to-do list, let go of distractions, and just concentrate on what God has to say to me. Then I read the book's devotional and accompanying Scripture and take time to reflect on what God is saying to me through it. I do the same thing again after lunch or in the early evening, depending on my schedule. This practice is changing my attitude and helping me to live out what Brother Lawrence talked about -- that we can practice God's presence throughout the day, even through menial, everyday tasks.

One devotional that really spoke to me focused on the elder brother Jesus spoke of in Luke 15 (The Prodigal Son). The elder brother may have been doing everything right on the outside, but on the inside there was bitterness, resentment, and lostness. The author said he can easily recognize the older brother in himself, whenever he sees himself complaining about how other people have rejected him, been impolite to him, or neglected him. I realized that I, too, can easily become the elder brother and complain about other people who annoy me or are very needy. Sometimes I don't want to spend the time and energy to love them as Jesus loves them because I can be critical or judgmental of others.

But the devotional also said that when we judge someone, we despise them. That hardens our heart toward them -- which also hardens our heart toward Jesus. I realized when I have a bad attitude toward difficult people, my heart is hardening. And I don't want to have a hard heart toward them, or toward Jesus.

But the book also teaches us how to love in situations like these. The author says that to love someone, especially those who are difficult to love, is not just to do things for them, but to reveal their beauty and value to them by saying, whether in word or deed: "You are beautiful, you are important. I trust you, and you can trust yourself, too." I realized that God says this to me every day, that He is patient and generous with me every day. So I can say this to others who are in need of encouragement or love, too, and be patient and generous with them. I think of that pop song that goes, "You are so beautiful to me," and I imagine God singing that to me. And because of how He has loved me, I can love others, too.

I would highly recommend this book to you to read, too.

WAIKIKI BEACH CHAPLAINCY 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy founder Bob Turnbull (left); WBC Pastor Alex McAngus (center); and former WBC Pastor Gene Ozburn (right).



Randy and Gay ministering at Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy with Spirit of Joy hula ministry.

This February, Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary, and I'm so excited to be able to sing for the event. Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy is a powerful ministry God has used to touch thousands -- they set up a Christian worship service on the beach every Sunday to minister to all the locals and tourists enjoying God's creation. Randy and I have sung for their ministry many times over the years.

Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy holds a special place in my heart because its founder, Pastor Bob Turnbull, was the speaker at a youth camp I attended nearly fifty years ago. I was just a college student and not that interested in the Bible, but Bob was so handsome (he was formerly a Hollywood actor) that I paid attention to his sermons. But it was hearing Bob's powerful testimony that opened my heart to the Lord.

Bob shared that he saw his parents killed at Pearl Harbor, and because of that, he had a deep hatred in his heart for the Japanese people. But when he became a Christian, the Lord turned that hate into love. God gave Bob a heart to minister to the Japanese in Hawai'i -- as well as many other ethnic groups -- with the love of Jesus. When I heard his testimony, it pierced my heart because I was born as an American citizen in Japan, and I had heard many dramatic stories of Pearl Harbor. It amazed me that God could do such a miracle in Pastor Bob's heart and that helped me to give my own heart to Jesus.

One of the things Bob said really stuck with me: that there are no coincidences, but everything happens because of God's divine planning. I remember at the end of that youth camp, my mother called me and asked me to come to the airport the next day to say good-bye to my brother-in-law, who was leaving for the mainland for work. I told her, No, I'm busy with church stuff. She got mad and told me I didn't care about our family.

The next day, a bunch of kids from the youth group said, "We're going to the airport to see Pastor Bob off. Can you come?" So I went with them to the airport, and right there next to Pastor Bob's gate were my mother and my brother-in-law and my whole family. They saw me and said, "Oh you came! We're so happy." I told Bob, "Isn't this a coincidence?" And he said, "Gay, what did I teach you?" I said, "Oh yeah, it's God's divine intervention!" That was my first time seeing God's miraculous hand at work in my life.

I'm grateful for Pastor Bob's ministry to the people of Hawai'i and to me personally. I look forward to seeing him at the anniversary celebration. Joining me will be Debbie Rutkowski, an anointed hula dancer who ministered with Randy and me for many years, and her hula ministry, Spirit of Joy. Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy was instrumental in helping Debbie through her early years as a young Christian.

JOY FELLOWSHIP



Pastor Owen Tanoue, his father, Noboru, and Gay at Joy Fellowship.

Every Thursday, I help with Kalihi Union Church's Joy Fellowship, a ministry to senior citizens. They have singing (which I lead), exercise, crafts, prayer, and a message, followed by a delicious and healthy lunch.

It's a wonderful ministry because many elderly people do not have many opportunities to fellowship, so they come even if they're not Christians and have a chance to hear the Gospel. Those who are Christians enjoy the fellowship, grow in their faith, and have a chance to minister to others.

One of our beloved members is a man named Noboru Tanoue. In August, he celebrated his 99th birthday at Joy Fellowship, and he was delighted when I sang Koko Ni Sachi Ari for him, the most famous Japanese love song in Hawai'i. Noboru even sang along with me.

Just nine days after his birthday, Noboru attended church at Fellowship of the Cross and Resurrection. Noboru's son, Owen Tanoue, is the pastor of that church; and though Noboru attended regularly, he had never accepted Jesus Christ. Well, on this particular Sunday, a lady at the church asked Noboru, "Well, Mr. Tanoue, are you ready to become a Christian yet?" They asked him that all the time, and usually he declined, but on that day he finally said, "Yes." Pastor Owen talked to his dad and found that he understood the Gospel and was very sincere in receiving Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Noboru's story reminds me of my mother, who was a Buddhist all her life until becoming a Christian at age 82. It's never too late. Keep praying for your loved ones. Don't give up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 1, 2019 Covenant Presbyterian Church (2651 SpringHill Ave, Mobile, AL) • 10:30 am Worship Service
Special music by Andrew & Gay Hongo
- December 7, 2019 The Plaza Assisted Living at Moanalua (1280 Moanalualani Pl, Honolulu) • 2:00 pm Christmas Concert
By Gay Hongo and Kalihi Union Church Music & Hula Ministries
- December 22, 2019 Kalihi Union Church (2214 N King St, Honolulu, HI) • 7:15 am, 9:00 am and 10:45 am
Special Music in Worship Service By Gay Hongo
- December 24, 2019 Kalihi Union Church (2214 N King St, Honolulu, HI) • 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service By Gay Hongo and Choir
- December 29, 2019 Hawai'i Kai Retirement Community 3rd Fl, Mauka Bldg (428 Kawaihae Street Honolulu, HI)
10:30 am Chapel Service Gay Hongo, Ethel Kubo and Harriet Carmody
- February 2, 2020 Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy (Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort (2005 Kalia Rd, Honolulu, HI)
10:30 am Beach Service 50th Anniversary Celebration By Gay Hongo and Spirit of Joy Hula Ministry
- July 4, 2020 SonRise Cafe (6-6 Oyamacho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 173-0023, Japan)
6:00 pm Hawaiian Christian Concert Live Event By Andrew & Gay Hongo and Pagaragans
- July 5, 2020 Kita Ageo Chapel - Yoshisuke & Naoe Noguchi's House Church (Kami 6-13 Ageo City, Saitama 362-0001, Japan)
9:30 am Sunday Service • Afternoon Service TBA Andrew & Gay Hongo
- July 12, 2020 Kesennuma First Bible Baptist Church (67-3 Takaragasawa Iwatsuki, Kesennuma-shi, Miyagi 988-0207, Japan)
10:15 am Sunday Service Andrew & Gay Hongo

KALIHI UNION CHURCH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Gay leads Bible study for the women's fellowship at Kalihi Union Church.

The Women's Fellowship at KUC was founded by Libby Steeper, whose husband Bill was senior pastor of Kalihi Union Church. We meet every Wednesday from 9-11am for prayer, fellowship, and refreshments. We have fun, too -- one of our members, Harriet Ajimine, always has a joke to tell, and we discuss important matters like where to find the best sales. But of course, the focus is fellowship and discipleship -- studying God's word and encouraging each other to follow the Lord.

I had never attended the Women's Fellowship, but when God opened the door, I decided to go. I got there and realized that while all the women were there, they didn't have a leader for the Bible study portion. They asked me to lead, and while I was a little nervous (I had never led a Bible study before), I remembered another thing our missionary friend Ada Lum once said: "I'm not very good, but I'm the best we've got." So I decided to trust the Lord to help me and have now enjoyed leading our Bible study for more than a month.

Thankfully, the women in the group are very mature Christians with a deep understanding of Scripture. I'm more like a facilitator than a leader, and I'm humbled to learn so much from them about the Bible. There are also a number of widows in the group, so we can encourage each other even in the midst of our grief. It is a precious time I look forward to each week.

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Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! From the Hongo Family
Thank you for your prayers and support that make this ministry possible!

