

Website: [www.rghongo.com](http://www.rghongo.com)

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# Congratulations Christian Vision!

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.*

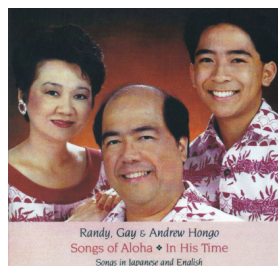
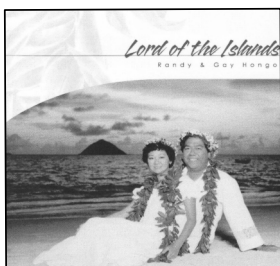
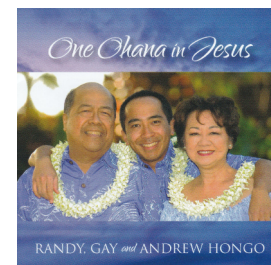
~Philippians 1:3-6

The good work began forty years ago when Randy Hongo, Bob Hicks, and Rev. Richard Weisenbach signed the petition for the Charter of Incorporation on August 16, 1982.

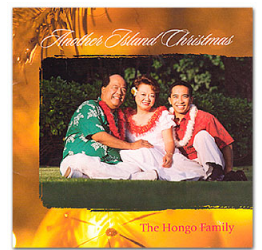
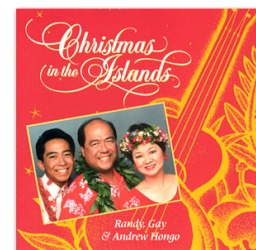
All glory and praise to our Lord for the great things he has done through Christian Vision because of our partnership with you from the first day until now.

Randy, Andrew and I were honored and blessed to be the conduit for this ministry. Please go to our website **[rghongo.com](http://rghongo.com)** to see the many ways God has blessed us.

Our heartfelt thanks to you for praying and supporting us all through the years.



CHRISTIAN  
VISION



Christian Vision Inc. Founded in 1972

Executive Director: Taylor Pagaragan • Board of Directors: Gay Hongo, President  
Chris Aliipule, Vice President • Kathleen Kawazoe Taua, Secretary • Daniel Miyamoto, Treasurer  
Steve Kaji • Nelson Kanemoto • Robert Kishi • Gordon Lau



# "This Is Your Life"

## Honolulu Christian Church Christmas Service



*Kevin Fujii and HCC Hula Ministry*

Some of you may remember a television show long ago called "This Is Your Life." In each episode, a celebrity was invited to be a guest. Then relatives and friends that they hadn't seen for years would say a few things from behind a curtain, so the celebrity could hear the nice things but wouldn't know who was saying it. Then, the climax – the relatives and friends would appear to the delight and surprise of the celebrity guest.

That is exactly what it was like for me at Honolulu Christian Church on December 12, when they had invited me to be a guest for both English and Japanese worship services!

1. The HCC hula team gave me leis and gifts and were so sad that this was the last time they would dance "Christmas in the Islands Again" with me singing it live. It reminded me of the many times Randy and I had ministered for Christmas services at this church.

2. The Imamura family came "backstage" before the service to express their gratitude for how Randy and I touched their lives. We had first met Yan Yan Imamura and her two sons a few years ago when we ministered at Pastor Russell Higa's church. Yan Yan was in tears and said she wished her family could be like ours – serving the Lord through music. Their business was failing and her husband, Marc, suffered severe depression and was living on Kaua'i. Randy invited the family to our apartment and encouraged them to use their musical gifts for the Lord. He even invited them to minister with us at West Oahu Christian Church. Now the Imamuras are serving the Lord at HCC. Marc Imamura graduated from Liberty University and is now a minister. He is an intern serving and preaching in both the Japanese and English services. Randy must be rejoicing in heaven. God is so good!

3. The guest speaker in the Japanese service was a dear friend, Tomohiro Fuyuki. He started his sermon by

sharing how he first met us in Kyoto when he was a college student. We invited him to Hawaii and introduced him to Mitsuhashi Sensei of International Japanese Christian Church. Tomohiro is now the pastor at IJCC. He recently published a book on his life and gave me copies.

4. Suzuko Schafer and Ikuko Vines, leaders of Nardo Hula Ministry from Makiki Christian Church, read in the Christian Vision newsletter about my retirement. They came to say thank you and goodbye with leis and gifts from their hula ministry team.

5. Lee Akamine was the worship leader that day, and I shared how he came to my apartment many years ago to take voice lessons from Randy. The lessons paid off – Lee is doing a great job!

6. Kevin Fujii was one of the talented youth we mentored at Kalihi Union Church. He is now at HCC and it was a joy to have him sing a duet with me on Randy's composition "When Love Was Born."

7. It was a blessing to have Chris Ali'ipule there. He is now vice president of the Christian Vision Board of Directors. He serves on the A/V team at HCC and made sure the sound needs were met.

With all of these special people blessing me I felt like **"This is Your Life"** had been unfolded before me.



*Ikuko, Gay and Suzuko*



*Elvis, Yan Yan, William, Marc*



## “Queen For A Day”



This was another old television show where an ordinary housewife was chosen and honored by her family and friends. She received a crown and scepter and received gifts galore!

That is what it felt like on May 15 – my aloha Sunday at Kalihi Union Church. I had told the KUC pastors that this would be my last Sunday of leading worship because I was leaving on May 18 for a cruise then going to Modesto, California to await the birth of my grandson. After baby's arrival, I planned to retire from ministry to begin a new life as babysitter.

I was totally surprised as the day unfolded. Aileen Chinen had begun planning in March. She had people writing notes in specially decorated books, and she wrote a skit with a song to the tune of “My Favorite Things.” It was to be sung by Nelson Kanemoto, but he got sick so they pulled in Pastor Kendal Fong at the last minute. I was surprised that Kendal could actually sing the high, sustained notes...on pitch! At the end of the day they planned a luncheon for me with more surprises in store.

And they gave me a crown and a banner so I did indeed feel like I was “Queen For A Day.”



Gordon Lau, Taylor, Gay, Steve Kaji

## The Plaza at Moanalua

In 2014 Ann Horiuchi became a resident of the Plaza at Moanalua. She started a Bible study there. Randy and I took Cathy Kawamura's Sunday School class there to minister in song at their chapel service. We were invited to sing for the large room gathering every Christmas. Then they shut down because of COVID. In 2021 Ann moved to a care home in Waipahu. On April 23 The Plaza allowed the KUC choir to come to present an Easter Concert. (We were required to wear mask and shields.) Harriet Ajimine and Charlotte Kawazoe picked up Ann and brought her to the Plaza.



Blessing #1: It was a homecoming celebration for Ann. Residents and staff were thrilled to see Ann.



Blessing #2: Ada and Ginny Lum, now residents at the Plaza were overjoyed to see and hear old friends from KUC.



***From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.***

~ John 1:16





Blessing #3: Mike Oda, who recovered from cancer and now has Parkinson's disease, sang in the KUC choir. Mike is now a resident at the Plaza. He sang a solo in our concert. Fellow residents heard him sing for the first time and were surprised that he had such a beautiful voice.



Blessing #4: I was so blessed to be able to resume and carry on a tradition that Randy had started...to sing for residents of The Plaza every year.



Three generations of Hongo men

*Congratulations!*

## PHOTO GALLERY



Gay directs the KUC Easter Choir

### Kaimuki Christian Church



Cheryl Toma Sanders: Pianist  
Jay Jarman: Speaker  
Gay: Testimony and Song



Retirement Celebration at Joy Fellowship



Gay will move to California to start her new ministry: singing lullaby's to her grandson.





## Hongo Music Center



*The worship team at Christmas*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support throughout this time of transition. I know this is new for all of us, but I am excited and hopeful for what this season will bring!

You may recall in our previous newsletter that we had started piano lessons with two young students, Jonah and Khloe. I am so happy to report to you that the Hongo Music Center's first two students are doing a fantastic job!

When I first started teaching Khloe, I was told that she has a lot of energy and a little trouble focusing. I am sure you all know a few children like that! However, she has taken to piano incredibly well, and she comes to class having learned and practiced songs with her mom that they figured out on their own! She continues to be eager to learn, and it has been an absolute joy to be working with her and see her flourish and blossom in her love for music!

Along with teaching, I have been very involved in Kalihi Union Church's Worship + Tech ministry helping to lead worship on Sunday mornings, as well as leading worship at KUC's Japanese Fellowship. There have been several members of our worship team who have expressed interest in partnering with the Hongo Music Center to train up the next generation of music ministers. Along with piano, we have the potential to start voice, guitar, drums & percussion, bass, and even guzheng (chinese zither) lessons!

I believe this will be a very encouraging and mutually beneficial partnership, and I am eager to see how the Lord uses this opportunity! -Taylor Asami

***Therefore my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.***

***~1 Corinthians 15:58***

## Japan Summer Mission Trip 2022



*The Pagaragans at The Neighborhood Student & Ministry Center*

Along with my music ministry here locally, I have been given the opportunity to lead a short-term mission trip to Japan for two weeks from July 22 - August 5. I am so excited to be back in Japan with my family, and I am so grateful for the team we have this year! We are working with a hybrid team of young adults: 4 from Hawaii & 3 in-country contacts (including a JET program teacher and a missionary with Mustard Seed Network).

Our team has two main goals while there:

1. Provide childcare for the missionary children, infant all the way to high school and above, at TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) Japan's Annual Conference in Karuizawa. Unfortunately, there have been many situations in which missionary children have not been given the attention and care needed from a loving Christian community. They are put on a pedestal with their missionary parents while they themselves are figuring out their own path of walking with Jesus, building that personal relationship with Him, and needing to be poured into with His love. We have the opportunity to invest and love on these MKs (Missionary Kids) over this one week conference.

2. Put on an English VBS for non-Christian Japanese children. We will be partnering with my family & The Neighborhood Student & Ministry Center in Tokyo. Much like our own Summer Fun VBS programs, we will be sharing Bible stories, playing games, singing songs and doing crafts with the intent to share the Gospel with these precious children and their families.

I will be staying an additional two weeks, 8/6 - 8/22 to reconnect with Japanese friends & churches. I will also be helping with the various ministries at The Neighborhood.



As we prepare for our trip,  
I would like to ask for your prayers for:

- Our visas. Japan is still closed, and so we need to apply for special visas to get in the country. Please pray this process goes smoothly.
- This will be the first time TEAMJapan, The Neighborhood, and I have been working with a hybrid team like this. We are all look forward to it so please pray for harmony and unity within our team.
- Please pray for the students we will be working with. Each one is known and loved by our Heavenly Father, and our hope is to encourage each one in their walk with Him, as well as communicating to each one that they are known, they are valued, and they are loved.
- Financial support. We are needing around \$11,000 for our entire team, but we trust God will provide!

Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated! If you are interested in supporting us financially, please make a check to **Christian Vision** with **"Missions"** on the bottom line. This will go into a fund to support all future missions projects for me.

Thank you,  
Taylor Asami

## Cherry Blossom Festival



*70th CBF Contestants*

Thank you to all those who supported and prayed for me in the 70th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival! It was an amazing experience, and I came out of it with a greater self-confidence in my speaking abilities and a greater appreciation for and knowledge of my Japanese culture and heritage. Now I also have 13 new, incredible, ambitious, intelligent, and beautiful young women that I can call my friends!

While I did not place on court, this actually was a blessing in disguise! One thing I was not prepared for in doing the Cherry Blossom Festival was the large time

commitment. However, since finishing my time with the festival, I have had the time and the freedom to plan our missions trip to Japan. I can now focus on building up the Hongo Music Center and transitioning well as Gay heads into retirement. I also continue to have the privilege of supporting, and meeting regularly with, all of the contestants. There are still many opportunities to be involved with the Japanese community here in Hawaii.

All in all, it was an incredible time of learning, growth, and perseverance! I am grateful for the chance to have participated and to have shared a bit of my testimony on a larger platform. I hope to use the skills and lessons learned to empower others into being the "best version of themselves" that they can be!

Thank you again for all your encouragement and prayers. I could not have done this without God and the support of YOU — my friends and family!

-Taylor Asami

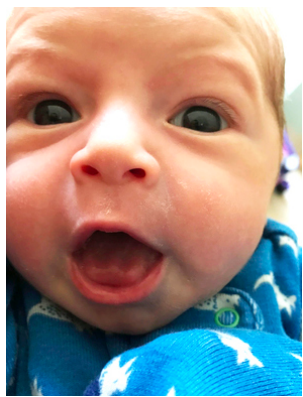


*Friends and Family at CBF Ball*





## PAUL



On June 2, 2022 at 11:06 am, my amazing wife, Meaghan, gave birth to a beautiful 7 lbs. 8 oz. baby boy after 36 hours of induced labor. It's hard to explain how in awe I am of what Meaghan did in that delivery room – the sheer willpower and physical strength required to push out that baby! I see my wife as a superhero; and I am so grateful to my mom for giving birth to me 44 years ago; and I am in awe of every mother who has ever given birth.

To see our little son emerge with his full head of hair, and take his first breath, and utter his first cry was the greatest miracle I have ever seen. Only the Lord could do this! As the nurses laid our son on Meaghan's chest, I placed my hand on his tiny head and dedicated him to the Lord in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I pray that just as my parents showed me what it meant to love and serve the Lord, Meaghan and I would do the same for our precious child.

We gave him the name Paul ʻImaikalani Torakiyo Hongo, and here's a brief explanation of where that name came from.

Paul is after the Apostle Paul, who told everyone he met about God's amazing love. We had liked the name Paul for a while but wanted to wait until he was born to see him to make sure the name would fit. Right after our son was born, he immediately started crying (the most beautiful sound in the world); and then as soon as the nurses laid him on Meaghan's chest, he was quiet and at peace. Meaghan thought of what the Apostle Paul wrote, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation... I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:12-13). We knew our son had the gift of contentment and that he was indeed a Paul. Paul is also the name of Meaghan's grandfather, Paul Meunier, a devoted family man who loved the simple gifts of life – especially the Green Bay Packers.

ʻImaikalani is his Hawaiian name, given by Andrew's Auntie Lehua Kelekolio Carey. In Hawaiian culture, often a family member will have a dream or special inspiration for the Hawaiian name. We asked Auntie to help us think of a name and told her that one of the verses on our hearts

was James 1:17: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." Auntie meditated on the verse and her special relationship with Tutu Kelekolio, and she received the name ʻImaikalani. "ʻI" is the Biblical Hawaiian term for "supreme" or "all," "mai" means "from," and "kalani" means "heaven." Auntie translates this name as "every supreme good from heaven." Our little one is a good and perfect gift to us, just as Jesus Christ is the greatest gift the Heavenly Father has given to the world.

Torakiyo is a Japanese name from the Hongo line. Andrew's great-grandfather was Torakiyo Hongo: "tora" for "tiger" and "kiyo" for "pure." Andrew's Japanese name, "Kiyohiko," is a tribute to that great-grandfather; the same "kiyo" ("pure"), coupled with "hiko," meaning "great." With Paul, we took the original "tora" from Andrew's great-grandfather, meaning "tiger," because our son is born in the year of the tiger; but we adapted "kiyo" to the Christian meaning of "holy," as in the holy Bible. So his name means "Holy Tiger," reflecting bravery and faith. Kanji: 虎聖

Hongo is Paul's Japanese last name which means "journal of the motherland." A fitting name for a family full of writers, poets, journalists, and lyricists.

I'd also like to thank all of you who responded to my last newsletter article in which I discussed how the Lord has used even mental health issues like OCD to draw me closer to Him. It was so encouraging to hear from many of you who struggle with various forms of anxiety and depression, to know that I am not alone, and to know that God is at work in your lives, too. While I do certainly still have moments, days, or even weeks when anxiety seems to overwhelm me, I am grateful for a supportive wife whom I can talk to about anything; for a praying mom who is always there for me; for a Christian therapist who offers Biblical insight; and for medication supervised by a compassionate physician that regulates my brain chemistry.

But in all honesty, there are many times I simply wish that I never had these mental health struggles, when I think that I'd be a better husband or better father without OCD and anxiety. In those moments, I cling to Jesus' words in the Gospel of John: "Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's son may be glorified through it'" (John 11:4). I take heart knowing that this struggle will not end in death; no, God will use even this for His glory. Perhaps these struggles will make me more compassionate to others with mental health issues, and enable me to point them to the Lord. Perhaps these struggles will remind me that I need God's help every moment of every day. Perhaps these struggles will force me to trust not in my own strength, but in the supernatural power of Jesus Christ, who is our Great Healer and our Prince of Peace.





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## *Passing the Torch to Taylor*



***And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.***  
***II Timothy 2:2***

## *Mahalo*

I am so grateful to God for blessing me with you – the supporters of Christian Vision. Through forty years you have prayed and supported us so that we could serve the Lord through our music and testimony.

I am now passing the torch to Taylor and pray you will continue your support as she ministers in the power of the Holy Spirit.

With deep affection and gratitude,  
Gay Hongo



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You can also donate online at [www.rghongo.com](http://www.rghongo.com). Thank you for your support, prayers, and partnership as we serve the Lord through Christian Vision – to the ends of the earth!