

Views of the Vision

The Ministry of Gay and Andrew Hongo
and Janete Fujiki

July 2025

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Japan Mission May 27 - June 6, 2025

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus."

~ Ephesians 3:20,21 ~

In planning our trip to Japan, I had no idea that God would do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. In the short time we were there, God opened opportunities for us to minister at a special needs preschool, a day care center for seniors, a Sunday worship service and a Hawaiian Concert. The Hawaiian concert was especially important to the Noguchi's because they had invited many of their non-Christian friends and neighbors to attend. Please pray that the seeds that were planted will come to fruition in God's time. On our days off, our hosts, Naoe and Yoshisuke Noguchi, drove us to their mountain cabin two and a half hours away in Gunma Ken. They took us to Shima onsen. After a delicious Sukiyaki dinner by chef Naoe, we spent the night in their peaceful cabin. The next morning we drove to Kusatsu Onsen. I've seen it on Japanese TV shows but never dreamed I would get to go there and experience the famous onsen.



Naoe, Gay, Liliko, Janete, Uilani

Liliko Iizuka Yano has danced with us on many mission trips in the past 25 years. We met her in Hawaii when she was a seminary student. Now living in Yokohama, she travelled over 2 hours by train to see us in Saitama.



My team members: Uilani Ciacci is one of the leaders of the hula ministry at Kalihi Union Church. She also teaches sign language to the children's choir. She is of Hawaiian, Filipino, Italian, and Irish descent. Uilani shared a powerful testimony. She was divorced twice, both husbands having been abusive. On January 1, there was a big explosion caused by illegal fireworks. It happened close to where I live in Hawaii. 35 people were injured and 5 died. Uilani's 29-year-old grandson was one of the victims who died from this disaster. Despite all the hardships she endured, she ministered with joy, testifying to the Lord's goodness and mercy. Janete Fujiki was my accompanist. She also joined Uilani in some of the dance numbers. Born and raised in Brazil, her first language is Portuguese. She received a government scholarship (Kenpi Ryugakusei) to study for a year at Aichi University of Education in Nagoya. Her sparkling personality and proficiency in the Japanese language made her a valuable mission partner.

We sang at a daycare center for seniors. I was asked to learn and sing an old folksong called "Tsuki no Sabaku". When I was 16 years old, I took voice lessons from Aoyagi Music Studio. All the songs I learned there came in handy as the seniors enthusiastically joined me in singing songs like Karasu, Oborozuki, Furusato, and Kojo no Tsuki.



CHRISTIAN
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The Good Life Hawaii

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

~ Isaiah 41:10 ~

Janete and I were guests on Danny Yamashiro's radio program called "The Good Life Hawaii". The Lord led me to share a song that Randy had written called "Rest In Me My Child." Here is the background of the song:

• By Randy: One night, while I was a cancer patient at City of Hope Hospital, I lay in bed unable to sleep. The Lord reminded me of a time when my son Andrew was a toddler and was very sick. I lay down beside him and watched over him throughout the night. In the morning, when he awoke, the first thing he saw was my smiling face. The Lord told me "In the same way, I am your loving Father. I am watching over you. Someday, when your eyes awake, you will be in heaven, and you will see my face. But until that day, rest in me my child."

• By Gay: My son Andrew is now living in Northern California. He is a professor of Journalism at San Francisco State University. His wife, Meaghan is a pediatrician. They have one son, Paul who is 3 years old and a daughter, Naomi Pualani who is 8 months old.

Andrew suffers from OCD (obsessive, compulsive disorder) and depression, God provided a Christian Therapist who recommended exercises and treatments which included a low dose of medication. Andrew is doing very well now, but in times when he was under attack he found great comfort in listening to this song. He was blessed on two levels, hearing his own dad singing "I am your Father I want to love you" and God, his heavenly Father ministering and comforting him.

•By Janete: As I sat next to Gay in the radio studio, listening to this song, a flood of emotions overwhelmed me. It was the first time I heard about Andrew's struggle with OCD. As I listened to this beautiful song, I was reminded of my own brother's struggle with OCD, depression, and schizophrenia, ending in a tragic accident that took his life. The words in the song gave me hope that in Jesus, we can experience healing and joy in knowing that He is always there to love and comfort us.

Rest In Me My Child by Randy Hongo

**Rest in me my child, trust in me every day
Lean into my arms, I want to hold you
Hear my gentle voice, whispering your name
Listen carefully I want to tell you**

Chorus:

**I am your Father, I want to love you
To heal your hurting heart and give you peace
Moment by moment, I will be with you
So rest in me my child, simply rest, rest**

**Rest in me my child, sleep throughout the night
Do not be afraid, I will comfort you
When your eyes awake, you will see my face
I've been at your side, watching and waiting
(Chorus)**



To hear this radio broadcast go to www.rghongo.com and click on "news", then click on "Gay & Janete on Danny Yamashiro", then click on the play button in the media player.

By Janete Fujiki

It has been my joy to work with these music groups during these past few months.



Worship service at One Kalakaua. Ada Lum, Pastor Davin and Barbie Hee, Nelson Kanemoto, Janete, Gay, Ginny Lum. Every Sunday, Pastor Davin asks Ada to say the opening prayer. Although Ada is 99 years old, she prays with such power and authority. It is evident that she has an intimate relationship with her Lord that will never fade.



Health, Nutrition, Wellness and Fitness- 6/28/2025
with Winton Fong and ChenChen Zhao



John Kim directs the KUC and First Presbyterian Church choir for the Good Friday Service.



Children's ministry-
Mother's Day 2025

Our Two Little Miracles

By Andrew Hongo

A typical dinner at the Hongo household is pretty chaotic. Our three-year-old, Paul, is probably covered in spaghetti sauce as he tries to cram as many noodles in his mouth as possible, and when he does take a break from eating (which is his favorite activity in the world), it's probably to jump up and down in front of his sister screaming, "Pualani, take a bite out of life, the world's a feast!" – a line from one of his bedtime books that makes his sister laugh hysterically. Naomi Pualani, our eight-month-old, has probably smeared yogurt all over her face, is throwing spoons, banana, and avocado onto the ground, and won't stop growling (her latest phase which, given that we don't have a dog, is rather a mystery). Meaghan and I are likely trying to cook dinner, clean up spills both accidental and intentional, keep Paul from attacking Pualani (which is thankfully happening less frequently, but is still a work in progress), and – if stars align – actually eat something ourselves.



It's sheer chaos, and it's exhausting, overwhelming, and wonderful all at once.

Meaghan and I are both only children, but after we had Paul, we agreed that it would be nice for him to have a sibling, as we both wished we had siblings growing up. There was some trepidation – I remember telling my pastor that we were considering having another, but that I wasn't sure we could handle it. He said, "You're worried you'll feel overwhelmed?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Do you feel overwhelmed now?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Then go forth and multiply!"

When we found out we were having a girl the second time around, we were happy. We'd have been happy with either gender, but we also thought it would be a new experience having a daughter. Little did I know how different it would be.

My first emotion when Paul was born was jealousy. Most people try to hide their horror when I admit that, but I can say it openly because I absolutely adore my boy. But yes, jealousy! Meaghan had been through a really hard labor – 36 hours – and when we finally came through it, I was waiting for her to turn to me, kiss me, and tell me what a wonderful partner I had been. Instead, she completely ignored me and couldn't stop staring at this little baby at her breast. What about me??!

All kidding aside, it was a real adjustment for me learning to share my wife once Paul came along. But, of course, I love him to the moon and back; I love being a dad, teaching him to ride a

bike and swim; and I love all the memories that come flooding back at each childhood milestone of my own dad, whom Paul calls Papa Randy.

I remember before Pualani was born, Meaghan had ordered a bunch of bows and flower headbands – not a crazy amount, but maybe a dozen. I did NOT say out loud, but thought to myself, "How many headbands does a baby need?" But the first time I saw our gorgeous baby girl with a cute pink bow on her head, my opinion changed immediately. Now I'm the one who spends a few minutes every morning carefully choosing Pualani's accessories, making sure it matches her outfit and complements her complexion.

And as beautiful as she is, I've also decided that no boys are allowed within 100 miles and that she can't date until she's 30.

But we do have a special bond. When I hear her stirring in her crib and go over to pick her up, she looks up at me, and I can see the exact moment she recognizes who I am, because she breaks into a radiant, joyous smile at me. Even when she's nursing with Meaghan, if she hears me walk into the room, she'll take a pause from eating, turn to me, and coo and laugh. Her first word was "Da-da," which Meaghan says (without jealousy) is evidence that she's a daddy's girl. (My wife is inarguably more emotionally mature than I.)

I remember a Tim Keller sermon about the Trinity that I first heard years ago. He talked about how the somewhat difficult-to-understand doctrine of the Trinity (that our God is equally three persons and one being) actually has deep meaning for our relationship with Him. Specifically – our God is, at the very core of His essence, relational. From eternity without beginning, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were loving each other, serving each other, delighting in each other. We humans were formed not out of some loneliness experienced by God, but rather, out of generosity – so that the circle of perfect, divine love might be expanded, and that we might be invited in.

I think about the love that Meaghan and I have for each other. Nearly eight years into marriage, and it just keeps getting better and better. We have our moments, as all couples do, but I never thought I could love someone so much, and be loved so unconditionally. And it was out of that overflow of our love for each other that God created these two beautiful little people, who have brought chaos, yes, but also joy unspeakable into our lives.

Sometimes we look for big miracles from God: a blind person receiving sight, a cancer patient recovering overnight, a life-long addiction being healed. And yes, I fully believe our Lord can do, and does do, miracles like these. But I also look at Paul and Pualani, these two children who so clearly reflect the image of God Almighty and believe that their lives are the greatest miracles I've seen.



By Taylor Pagaragan

Hi friends!

Can you believe we're halfway through 2025? God has been at work in beautiful ways, and I am so excited for what is ahead!

Praise Report

T-san, our Japanese friend of 10+ years who accepted Christ last spring was baptized on June 15! It was a joyous celebration where he and 6 others shared their testimony and publicly declared Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! Please keep him in your prayers he begins this new chapter in his walk with Jesus.

Southeast Asia Ministry Recap

This spring we traveled to Indonesia for TEAM's Asia-Pacific conference. While my parents attended training, my siblings and I served the missionary kids (MKs) in their program. Despite losing my voice, losing a piano, and catching a stomach bug, God was faithful! He gave me the strength to lead every session with joy and energy! Thank you always for your support and prayers. Together we were able to invest in and encourage both the current AND next generation of Global Workers, especially for those in high-risk and unreached areas.

Prayer Requests

• **Rowan Ludivico Kersten** was born on June 29, 2025! After a difficult delivery and NICU stay, my mom and I both took turns supporting my sister and her growing family in Seattle. Please pray for continued healing and strength for the whole family.

• **Women's Ministry** is starting to take root and grow in our church! I have been invited to join the planning team for our very first women's conference at our church, as well as starting a young women's Bible study! Please pray for encouragement and participation.

• **Tokyo summers are HOT** — 95°F/35°C with 80% humidity! Please keep us and our Neighborhood community in prayer as we prepare for:

- 3 Summer Camps/VBS
- Summer Young Adult Outreach Events
- Leadership Training Seminars
- ...alongside regular English events, mission team hosting, and leading worship at weekly services!

This is a **full and joyful season!** I'm learning to pace myself, take Sabbaths, and lean into God's specific call — stepping more into leadership! Thank you for being part of this journey with me. Your prayers and support mean the world!

With gratitude,

Taylor Asami

Subscribe to my personal updates by contacting:

taylorasami.p@gmail.com



Taylor with her student at the English Class event in the Neighborhood



Taylor at English Class picnic with visiting Pastor Clive and Maya Cowell.



This is our final product: Easter 2025. Our group had about 22 people on this day.

PHOTO GALLERY



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On Dec. 29, I had the privilege of leading worship and singing with Lisa Lee at Kalihi Union Church. Todd Yokotake was our accompanist. Todd's piano skills remind me so much of Randy's. It was a joy to minister with Todd and Lisa.



My gang from Modesto came to visit me in Hawaii from June 8 to 14. They are pictured here helping me to lead worship at Joy Fellowship. We also sang for Manna Ministries. These ladies, Four Filipinas and one Chinese, are my best friends in Modesto. Every Sunday, we go to Big Valley Grace Community Church together. After church, we go to one of the ladies' homes to eat Filipino food. Then we play cards and Mah Jong.



Since two of our ladies had military connections, we were able to attend a Luau at Hale Koa Hotel (a military hotel). One of them, Marginia Morales, is a retired Army Major, having served in Iran as a nurse. She still suffers from PTSD as a result of her experience there. At the end of the luau show, active and retired military personnel were asked to stand as we honored them with thunderous applause.



Cherry Blossom Queen Congratulations!

Older sister Kiyomi, Queen Ariel, younger sister Keiko

On March 15, my grandniece, Ariel Akemi Sanders, was crowned Cherry Blossom Queen. Her mom, Cheryl Toma Sanders, was Miss Hawaii 1990. Her aunt, Laurie Toma Libarios, was Cherry Blossom Queen 1995. Congratulations, Ariel, on carrying on this legacy into the next generation.

Her dad, Dr. Matt Sanders, is the pastor of Waiālae Baptist Church. Ariel is a nurse at Queens ER. She is looking forward to going to California in August to participate in Nisei Week, and going on a goodwill tour to Japan with the Cherry Blossom Festival Court this October.



Pastor Ted Esaki first met us when he pastored Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. In 2016, he invited us to El Estero Presbyterian Church in Monterey, CA. He is now the interim pastor at Honolulu Christian Church. On December 8, I sang at HCC with Kevin Fujii as their Hula Ministry danced.



Janete and hula ministry minister every other month at One in Christ Asian Church, a Pakistani Church. They meet in the basement of Door of Faith Church on Young Street. After the service, they are treated to spicy Pakistani Delicacies.



Christian Vision presented a special concert on May 20 at Arcadia Retirement Residence. This was in honor of one of their residents, Dottie Yuen. For many years Dottie directed the Bell Choir, Children's and Adult Choir at KUC. She was delighted that these ministries had been resurrected by Janete.

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Paul
3 years old



Naomi Pualani
8 months old

Mahalo!

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