

Views of the Vision

The Ministry of Gay and Andrew Hongo
and Janete Fujiki

July 2026

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Christian Vision Donor Tile Wall



Those of you who have been following our ministry know that the Hongo Music Center has been a decades-long endeavor, birthed by a vision God gave Randy to train the next generation of musicians to use their gifts for God's glory. One key component of this endeavor was the Donor Tile Wall project, which we started back in 2001. It's a display of tiles recognizing the contributions of our beloved supporters. Those who wanted to give to the music center, or to fund music ministry projects (such as the production of the musical drama Randy wrote, "Glory in His Soul"), could design a tile featuring a Bible verse they treasured or honoring a loved one.

Well, 25 years after we launched this project, I am thrilled to let you know that your partnership in this Gospel effort – whether it be recently or years ago – has now come to fruition. As you see in this photo, our beautiful tile wall is now on the makai side wall outside the gym at Kalihi Union Church. We modeled this display after a similar tile wall at Hawaii Baptist Academy, which was in the shape of an eagle, designed by Richard Vierra. Christian Vision asked Richard to design a tile wall for Christian Vision featuring, of course, piano keyboards.

When the workers finished the installation, and I was at long last able to see the completed project, I was overwhelmed by God's faithfulness. There were many times over the years when the project lagged, and I felt discouraged and wondered if this dream would ever come to pass. But in those moments, I returned to this Scripture:

"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 1:4-6** ~

I now see God's faithfulness not just in the completion of the wall, but in the thriving ministry that it represents. The wall sits just one story below the Hongo Music Center, which KUC gave to Christian Vision for ministry use back in 2022. Now, we use the room for piano lessons, bell choir rehearsals, adult choir rehearsals, and as an office for our executive director, Janete Fujiki. The room is also used as a classroom for music students, homeschoolers, Sunday School, and other youth activities.

Praise God for His perfect timing. None of this is for our glory, but for His. He was the One who first gave us the vision, who brought us into relationship with you, our faithful supporters, who led us to young people who have a passion to use their music for His Kingdom, and who will continue to use our humble efforts for His eternal glory.



Hongo Music Center



Christian Vision Inc. Founded in 1982
Executive Director: Janete Fujiki • Board of Directors: Gay Hongo, President
Chris Aliipule, Vice President • Kathleen Kawazoe Tava, Secretary • Daniel Miyamoto, Treasurer
Steve Kaji • Nelson Kanemoto

Japan Mission



Jeff, Kelly, Pat, Gay, Reagan, Colson, and Taylor

This summer, I went on my 28th missions trip to Japan. Having been born in Japan and raised by a Japanese-speaking mother in a Buddhist household, from the moment I became a Christian, I have had a particular burden to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Japan. For many years, Randy was my partner to Japan, and we gave concerts in English, Hawaiian, and Japanese and shared our testimonies all across the country.

My missions partner this time was Pat Tsuji from Laguna Woods, California. Pat and her late husband, Jack, were long-time friends of Randy and myself, and I consider Pat one of my best friends. Originally from Hawai'i, Pat plays ukulele, so we both love music; she is a shopaholic, and so am I; and we both can play cards for hours on end.

One of the main reasons we went to Japan was to visit our Christian Vision missionaries, the Pagaragan family, in Itabashi, Tokyo. On Saturday, May 30th, Pat and I caught the train to their ministry center, titled "The Neighborhood." This was the first time I was able to see them in Japan (before, they had always been in the U.S. on furlough when I was in Japan), and it was a joy and blessing to witness their thriving ministry to young people who need to know the love of Jesus.

They have one event after another to bring in people from the community - hula lessons, cooking parties, Bible studies. Each event brings more and more people to their home. There, young Japanese people can experience the love of Jesus through relationship with this wonderful family. The Pagaragans also host many missionaries at their guest house. (Their third floor can house eight people.) Clive and Maya Cowell have visited twice. Leeward Community, Mililani Community, and Formation Church also sent short-term missions teams. Pastor Stan Miyamoto and Ron Kam are planning to visit in October. People are constantly coming and going - never a dull moment - and they love it!

Sunday worship service was at Kita Ageo Evangelical Free Church in Saitama. The service was led by longtime friends and supporters Yoshisuke and Naoe Noguchi. Many of those in attendance were not yet believers, but seekers who wanted to know more about Jesus. I sang "How Great Thou Art" in English, Hawaiian, and Japanese while Pat danced hula. Then Pat accompanied me on ukulele while I sang "People Need the Lord" in Japanese.

Since half of the congregation were non-Christians, Naoe said, "Please sing a popular Japanese song." Pat said, "I know how to play Sukiyaki." So Pat played, I sang lead, and everyone sang along: "Ue wo muuite aru ko..."

In addition to our ministry of music and hula, Pat gave a moving testimony of the hardships she faced in her life. She shared that through God's love, grace, and faithfulness, she was able to get through the most difficult times of her life. She was especially encouraged by scriptures such as:

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

And the God of all Grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will restore you and make you strong.

1 Peter 5:10

God used us to bring comfort, hope, and joy to many that day. God also blessed me as I saw a man sitting in the last row near the exit. He had been quietly coming to our concerts for years, and also loved listening to our recordings. I learned recently that he had become a Christian, and I was so grateful to be a part of God's work in his life.



During tea time, Naoe brought out her collection of pa'u skirts. We danced and sang "Pearly Shells."



Noguchi's and Oyamada Sensei

Aloha to Harry Abe



Harry Harumi Abe
May 11, 1937 - April 27, 2026



Gay with Kahu Ken
Makuakane

On June 16, I sang and shared a remembrance at Harry Abe's Celebration of Life. The service was held at Kawaiaha'o Church with Kahu Ken Makuakane delivering the message.

During the service, I shared a special memory I had of ministering to Harry. A few years ago, when Harry was a resident at Mauna Lani nursing home, I visited him along with his brother-in-law, Dennis Santo. The last time I had seen Harry prior to this was when he and his wife, Floria, visited Randy and me in Duarte, California, where Randy was receiving treatment for multiple myeloma at City of Hope cancer hospital.

Harry and Floria were visiting their daughter, Lora, and her family in a nearby city, and they stopped by our hospital with lots of omiyage from Hawaii. Their visit and gifts brought so much joy to Randy during a very challenging time in his life. So, I was grateful for this opportunity to return Harry's kindness.

I said, "Harry, I'm here to sing for you. Lora told me your favorite is country-western songs." So Harry sang along with me as I sang songs like "Country Road" and "I'm Leaving on a Jet Plane." Then, knowing he spent many years in Japan, I sang "Kokoni Sachi Ari." Then I closed with "Amazing Grace."

I told Harry, "This song means a lot to me because I was saved because of God's amazing grace. I once was lost and blind when I didn't know Jesus. There was absolutely nothing I could do on my own to get me into heaven. But God's gift of grace was that he sent his son Jesus to pay for our sins when he died on the cross. If we repent of our sins and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then we are saved and have eternal life. Harry, would you like to receive this grace and have forgiveness of sins and eternal life? Would you like to pray and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Would you like to spend eternity with Floria in heaven someday?" Harry nodded and said, "Yes, I would." And so that day, Harry and I prayed for Jesus to come into his heart.

After that, whenever Lora visited her mom, Floria, she would say "Guess what? Good news, Mom!" Floria would respond, "What is it?" Lora would say, "Dad became a Christian!" And Floria would reply, "I don't believe it! Really? That's wonderful!"

Pastor Danny Yamashiro once said that evangelism is like a string of pearls. Every time a non-believer receives an act of kindness in the name of Jesus, he receives a pearl. When he has received enough pearls to make a necklace, and God sees that his heart is ready, God sends someone to witness to him and put the clasp on to complete the necklace. Floria, her family, and friends have been sowing pearls into Harry's necklace for many years. I had the privilege of putting on the final clasp.

It was also an unexpected blessing to see my old friend, Kahu Ken Makuakane, who is now the pastor of Kawaiaha'o Church. Kahu Ken reminds me so much of Randy. Both were ordained ministers, both grew up in Hilo, both attended Haili Church, and both were gifted composers, singers, and pianists. It was a joy to have Kahu Ken accompany me as I sang "You Raise Me Up." We rehearsed right before the service, and after running through the song once, I asked Kahu Ken, "Are you able to raise the key one step higher?" He said, "Sure!" – or rather, "Shuwah!" He played the accompaniment beautifully by ear using no music sheet. Just like Randy.

Upcoming Events

*Gay will be singing
at the Celebration of Life
for Ada Lum.
August 1, 2026:
10am visitation,
11am service. Reception to
follow. Kalihi Union Church.*



PHOTO GALLERY



Gay sings "Rejoice" on Dec. 14 at Makiki Christian Church with Nardo Hula Ministry.



Sisters: Joy Nakamura, Gay, Pearl Toma at Christian Vision Donor Wall



Gay narrates and sings for Joy Fellowship Christmas Pageant.



Ada Lum at her 100th birthday party surrounded by KUC Hula Ministry



Janete's piano students learn music theory and memorize scripture at Hongo Music Center



May 24 - Pastor Gerald Chinen dines with Gay, Pat, son Benjamin, and his girlfriend, Faith, after giving the message at Makiki Christian Church.

God's Comfort - from Andrew



Andrew, Meaghan, Paul (4 years old), Pualani (1.5 years old), and Grandma Gay enjoy Kailua Beach.

I was recently in Hawai'i for my 30th high school reunion. That's right – it was three decades ago, in 1996, when I graduated from Punahou School. I'm 48 years young, praise God! My wife, Meaghan, and our two kids, Paul (4 years old) and Pualani (one-and-a-half years old) accompanied me home to Honolulu for a week-long visit.

In the months leading up to this reunion, I was surprised by the mix of emotions I felt as I thought about reuniting with so many of my classmates. On one hand, I was excited to see old friends and reminisce about fun times at our beloved alma mater; on the other hand, I was anxious about returning to a school that held some painful memories for me, too. Although I enjoyed my time at Punahou – for the most part I was well-liked, had a lot of friends, and excelled academically – I had also experienced rejection, teasing, and bullying that left me feeling rejected by my peers and ashamed of who I was.

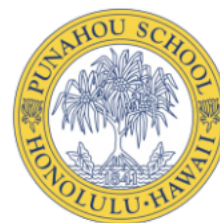
As these memories resurfaced, it surprised me that thirty years later I could still recall vividly, as if it were yesterday, times when my peers told me I talked like a girl, or teased me for coming across as feminine. Those moments stuck with me through the years, making me feel ashamed that I didn't know how to be a man, that something was wrong with me for not being a boy like the other boys.

I'm in a discipleship group at my church now, in California, that emphasizes the importance of noticing how God is at work in our everyday lives, even in experiences that are stressful, frustrating, or painful. My pastor encourages us to exercise "compassionate curiosity" with ourselves – not just ignoring or suppressing negative emotions, but asking the Lord what He is trying to show us through these experiences about the lies we believe and the truth of who we actually are in Him.

It was easy for me, back then as an adolescent, to believe that if people told me I was feminine, that there was something wrong with me. As I prayed about these painful memories, the Lord affirmed to me that my desires back then – to be accepted by my peers, to belong, to feel safe – are good desires that He placed in me. But He also showed me that those cruel comments did not in any way say anything true about me. They were lies, not the truth. The only thing those lies actually revealed was that the people who made those comments were insecure and probably had been through a great deal of hurt themselves. The truth was that I was exactly who God created me to be, and that I was a mighty man of God in Him. The characteristics others may have mistakenly perceived as feminine – my sensitive, artistic, creative nature – were actually gifts from God, reflecting His image and His glory. Just because I didn't fit into society's narrow definition of masculinity didn't mean I was any less a gift to the world as a young man.

Fast-forward now to the past few months: It was easy for me, at 48 struggling with emotions triggered by this reunion, to think to myself, "Man, I can't believe I'm wasting all this energy focused on things that happened 30 years ago. How silly am I for still being hung up on some stupid kids teasing me?" But – exercising compassion towards myself – I realized that the wounds we receive in childhood often cut deep, and that many of us carry that pain with us into adulthood. Perhaps the Lord had actually, in His perfect time, orchestrated my life so that at 48 years old, when I finally had the self-awareness and self-compassion to really work through these issues, He could do a deeper work of healing in me – so that I could then have more compassion toward others and minister out of His love for them.

The reunion ended up being a total blast, a wonderful time to reconnect with friends and also build new relationships with people I hadn't known that well back then. And though the reunion is now over, the lessons God has been teaching me are ones I carry forward with me. The Bible says that God "comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (II Corinthians 1:4). As I share more openly about the bullying I endured, I realize more and more that this is something so many of us have been through. My prayer is that God will bring healing to those of you who can relate to my story, for by His stripes you are healed.



Janete's Update



Ukulele group ministers at Christmas walkthrough



Christmas Concert at Arcadia with Adult Choir, Ukulele Group, Bell Choir and KUC Hula Ministry.



December 14, 2025: KUC Hula Ministry with Pastor Jonathan Steeper and Tricia at One in Christ (Pakistani) Church.



KUC Ukulele Group fellowship with "Joyful Sounds" directed by Auntie Jean James



Children's Bell Choir directed by April Ikeda, rehearsing for Christmas Service.



Pastor Kendal, Amy Fujii, and children bid farewell to Pastor Jonathan by singing "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Taylor's Update



BBQ at The Neighborhood with our English students & families.

Dear friends,

I am so excited to share with you how God continues to work here in Japan! Over the past few months, we have had hundreds of visitors come through The Neighborhood, including non-Christian Japanese families, short-term mission teams, and young adults from around the world. We were also especially blessed to have Auntie Gay visit us for the very first time!

Within the last month alone, we have seen four families come to church through our English kids events ministry at The Neighborhood. One of these families has been with us since we first restarted our English kids events after COVID. Recently, their 9-year-old daughter sat next to me in the main service for the first time, and it was such a special moment to hear her singing "Goodness of God" at the top of her lungs! What a beautiful reminder that there is power when we meet God in worship! Even though she and her mom are still non-Christians, the seeds that have been planted are slowly beginning to grow. During lunch, she asked if we could look up 1 John 1:7 because she wanted to write it in her notebook: "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin." Please pray for K-chan and her mom, that they would continue to experience the love of God and come to know Him personally as their Lord and Savior.

There are two more things I would love prayer for:

1) I recently took on the role of Vocal Leader for our young adults worship team. It is both a joy and a



Special song at our church's Women's Conference.

responsibility to help our vocalists not only grow in their singing ability, but also to guide them in what it means to worship, how to lead worship, and how to cultivate their own personal walk with God.

2) I will be directing worship for our annual New Hope Japan Youth Camp from August 10–13. We are expecting around 70–80 Japanese junior high and high school students from all over Japan to come together for fellowship and worship. Many students have stepped into a calling to become pastors or full-time ministers after attending this camp. I will be leading a worship team made up of musicians from Japan, Oregon, Hawaii, and Australia. Please pray for unity, joy, and God's presence as we worship together. Because the camp will be held at a campground in Gotemba, the participation fee for volunteers and staff is approximately \$170. If you feel led to support this ministry, please feel free to give through the link on rghongo.com or contact me directly at taylorasami.p@gmail.com

Thank you, as always, for your continued prayers and partnership in bringing the heart of God to the heart of Japan.

Gratefully Yours,
Taylor Asami Pagaragan



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Paul and Pualani discover malasadas.

Mahalo!

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