

The Pearl

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PEARL CITY'S MAGAZINE | JAN - MAR 2025 | VOL. 21

How to Walk
in 2025
Page 2

Nepal
Mission Trip
Page 8

Kealahou
West Oahu
Page 10



Pastor Sterling Lee

Words from the Pastor

How to Walk in 2025

If we want to know how to walk with the Lord in 2025, meaning what does God desire of us, the prophet Micah lays it right out for us in the 8th verse in the 6th chapter in his book. He says,

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

As we look at Micah’s words here, we see that it’s a verse that encourages us (the reader) to take action against injustice, to be in the pursuit of an active faith.

Specifically, to be just in our actions, to allow mercy to influence all that we do, and to not just simply walk with God daily, but to do so with humility.

To break that down is to say that to be just in our actions is to always act in a way that is morally right and fair. To allow mercy to influence all that we do is to demonstrate loyalty and faithfulness to God in how we reflect His love on others. To walk with God daily in humility is to be mindful of how we’re not only mindful of our relationship with the Lord, but how we continue to grow in it, and how we allow that growth to

The Pearl

is a magazine by FBC Pearl City

Lori Otsuka, Joanne Arakaki
Editors

Carlie Procell, Lori Otsuka
Designers

Sterling Lee
FBCPC Senior Pastor

Joanne Arakaki, Danny Binz,
Pauline Higa, Keiko Ishiwata,
Senior Pastor Sterling Lee,
Nick Pang, Edean Rivera, Janis
Saiki, Carole Sugai, Dr. Mona
Suzuki, Sadie Takeguchi
Contributors



FBC PEARL CITY

1445 Hoolaulea Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

Church Office: (808) 455-2011

Email: office@fbcppearlcity.org

Website: www.fbcppearlcity.com

fb.com/FirstBaptistChurchOfPearlCity

instagram.com/fbcppearlcity

twitter.com/fbcppearlcity

thank you
FOR VISITING WITH US!

Thank you so much for taking the time to come and worship with us. We'd love to see you again, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us!



First Baptist Church of
Pearl City

office@fbcppearlcity.org

(808) 455-2011

www.fbcppearlcity.org

influence the way we live life daily.

So, again if we want to understand how to walk (with the Lord) in 2025, it's fairly simple, and we need not look further than in God's word. Micah 6:8 lays it out for us:

1. Be just (acting in a way that's morally right and fair) in all that we do.
2. Allow mercy to influence all that we do and all whom we do it to.
3. Walk humbly with God daily.

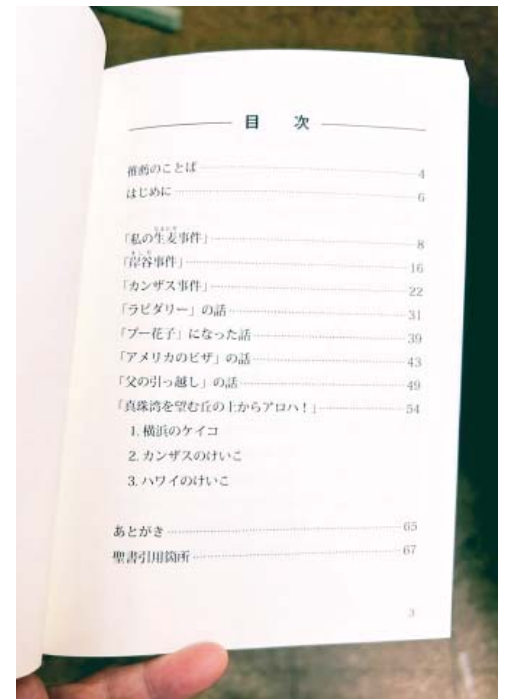
How then do we apply these recommendations, or perhaps the question to ask is, how does this look as we attempt to live them out in our lives? Well, for starters, we ought to be in communication with God daily by reading and meditating on His word. This allows us to

grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord by knowing more about Him. We also need to be in communication with Him in prayer. This allows us to not just know more about Him, but to express both our needs and wants to Him. And as we communicate with Him, we also need to be open to hearing and listening to Him (this can come in the form of scripture, words from wise counsel, or God revealing Himself through His creation), and then allowing His Spirit to lead and guide us. This applies to our actions, and the decisions we make, meaning being kind and compassionate to others in all we do, or speaking up for those who are suffering or being treated unfairly.

These are all practices that I believe are a necessary part of the body of Christ (the church) that God desires! So, may we be intentional in how we choose to walk with God this year!

“He has shown you, O mortal,
what is good.
And what does the Lord require
of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and
to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8 NIV



Aloha from the Hill Overlooking Pearl Harbor!

By Keiko Ishiwata
(Associate Minister of the Japanese-speaking Congregation)

On December 25, 2024—Christmas Day—I published my first book, *Aloha from the Hill Overlooking Pearl Harbor*. This milestone was not something I had planned for long, but rather, a path that God led me to walk in His perfect timing.

It all started last September when I was preparing for a long-overdue reunion with my maternal relatives in Chiba, Japan. After decades of being apart, I wanted to bring them something to share my faith with them—perhaps a small booklet sharing my testimony. As I explored ways to compile my story, researching formatting techniques on YouTube, a respected Japanese-speaking pastor encouraged me to publish a book.

For years, the thought of writing my own book lingered in my mind as a distant dream. Yet, I never expected it to become a reality so soon. As I prayed about it, God guided me to compile messages I had previously shared on two radio programs on KZOO, a Japanese-language radio station in Hawaii. These programs, sponsored by the Association of Hawaii Japanese Christian Churches, were designed to share the love of Christ with a broad audience. Through this process, a 67-page book came together, capturing my journey and faith.

At one point, I considered adding more content, but to my surprise, my writing came to a stop—almost as if God was telling me that the book was complete just as it was.

This book is more than just a collection of messages; it is my testimony of God's unseen hand in my life. Born in Yokohama, Japan, I never imagined that I would one day live in Hawaii, serving as a Japanese language minister on a hill overlooking Pearl Harbor. My presence here is not due to mere coincidence or luck—it is a clear testament to God's divine plan and guidance.

If you have family or friends who understand Japanese and might benefit from reading this book, please let me know. I would love to share a copy with them! May this book be a small offering to remind people of God's faithfulness, no matter where He leads us in life.

May His blessings be with you all!

Deacon Ordination
Matthew Amend

Sunday, February 16, 2025
7:00pm



JOIN US!

EASTER SUNDAY- April 20

Worship Services - 8am & 10:45am

9am - Donut/Coffee Fellowship

9:45am - Sunday School

Children's Activities from 9:30am
(Sunday School~~Egg Hunt~~Children's Worship)

www.fbcpearlcity.org
(808) 455-2011



Altar Art

A special thanks to Ancleto “Leto” Rivera for sharing his talent of artistry in food carving arrangements during the year. Leto is employed at the Kapiolani Hospital for Women and Children as a Lead Cook. He is a quiet, unassuming man with a generous servant’s heart and a love for God who just enjoys cooking for us.

We are grateful when he shares his cooking talents as he makes the best and most flavorful chili, salsa, fried rice, soups, and more, for all of us to enjoy. “If Leto makes it, you better stand in line quickly!!!”

His other passion is food carving! On special occasions you may see his awesome creations on the altar... floral designs made of radish, carrots, daikon, pumpkin, watermelon, pumpkin, whatever comes to his mind.

Once knife in hand, his fruit and vegetable carvings take about 4-6 hours to complete depending on complexity. However, the majority of his time is spent in preparation, days of contemplating what he’ll make, researching ideas on YouTube from master carvers, mostly from Thailand.

Sincere thank you to Leto and Edean for serving God together!





Left: Leto's recent food carving arrangement for FBCPC's Sunday morning altar.

Above left: "This one was more elaborate because we were celebrating our 10th wedding anniversary. I don't recall how long it took him to prepare for that day's arrangement."

—Edean

Above right: One of his watermelon carvings for the altar.

Right: Leto with his beautiful arrangement offering.





NEPAL MISSION TRIP

By Dr. Mona Suzuki, MD, Internal Medicine, President, Aloha International Mission (AIM)

We are so grateful and thankful to God for the amazing opportunity that we had to join with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Nepal. God was evident through it all.

Thank you for donating \$900 toward the medical backpacks in Nepal! While there's a lot to share, I'd like to focus on how your church's contribution was important to the medical backpack training endeavor.

Each medical backpack costs approximately \$200 which included the backpack itself, a blood pressure and blood glucose monitor, nebulizer, oximeter, thermometer and some first aid supplies as well. In addition, other funds were used to cover the cost of travel, food and lodging for pastors and leaders. They travelled from all over the country to receive this training, some taking 1-2 days to arrive in Kathmandu where Dream Church (the lead church),

is located. Many came from extremely rural and mountainous areas with rugged terrain only accessible by foot.

Last year was our first year offering this medical backpack training and we were able to train 13 pastors. God provided! This year we decided to think big and trust God with providing funds for more people. So we aimed to train 30 pastors and leaders.

Upon arrival in Kathmandu, we were updated that 35 people wanted training! So while we had budgeted \$6000, God provided more! Thank you for being a partner in making an eternal impact and giving these pastors medical tools to show compassion to their villagers. This in turn opens doors of relationship-building and trust to be able to share the life and love of Christ. This is the best medicine ever – eternal healing and life in Christ! This is what makes our efforts so worthwhile.

I'd like to highlight an important fact and why sharing this medical training is so valuable: evangelizing is not allowed in Nepal. It is illegal and you can be imprisoned for 1-5 years! We in the US are not aware of how difficult it is to be a Christ follower in other countries. As a Christian in Nepal, it is not as easy as it is for us here. There are potential risks to evangelizing.

All the more, it is an honor and privilege for us to partner with our brothers and sisters in Christ there who stand up for Christ and want to share Him with others, even at the risk of being persecuted for their faith.

Thank you for partnering with us in this eternal endeavor for God's glory!

Note: In addition to Pastor Jomesh who leads Dream Church, God provided a lay leader named Suk who will be visiting the 35 leaders as a followup support and resource person. He himself has some basic medical training and has been going out to the villages even before the start of this program. This year the training sessions were video-recorded so that Suk can use it for training of future pastors. This means we do not have to be there to train every year, saving money and time, and providing freedom to hold training sessions all over the country, and not only in Kathmandu.



Our Thanksgiving Offering for Kealahou West Oahu



Each year we collect a special offering at our Thanksgiving Day worship service. It originally was a little plastic bank shaped like a bread and was called “love loaves.” In recent years we distributed take out boxes and would collect funds to donate to a ministry meeting various needs here in Hawaii, the mainland or in other countries.

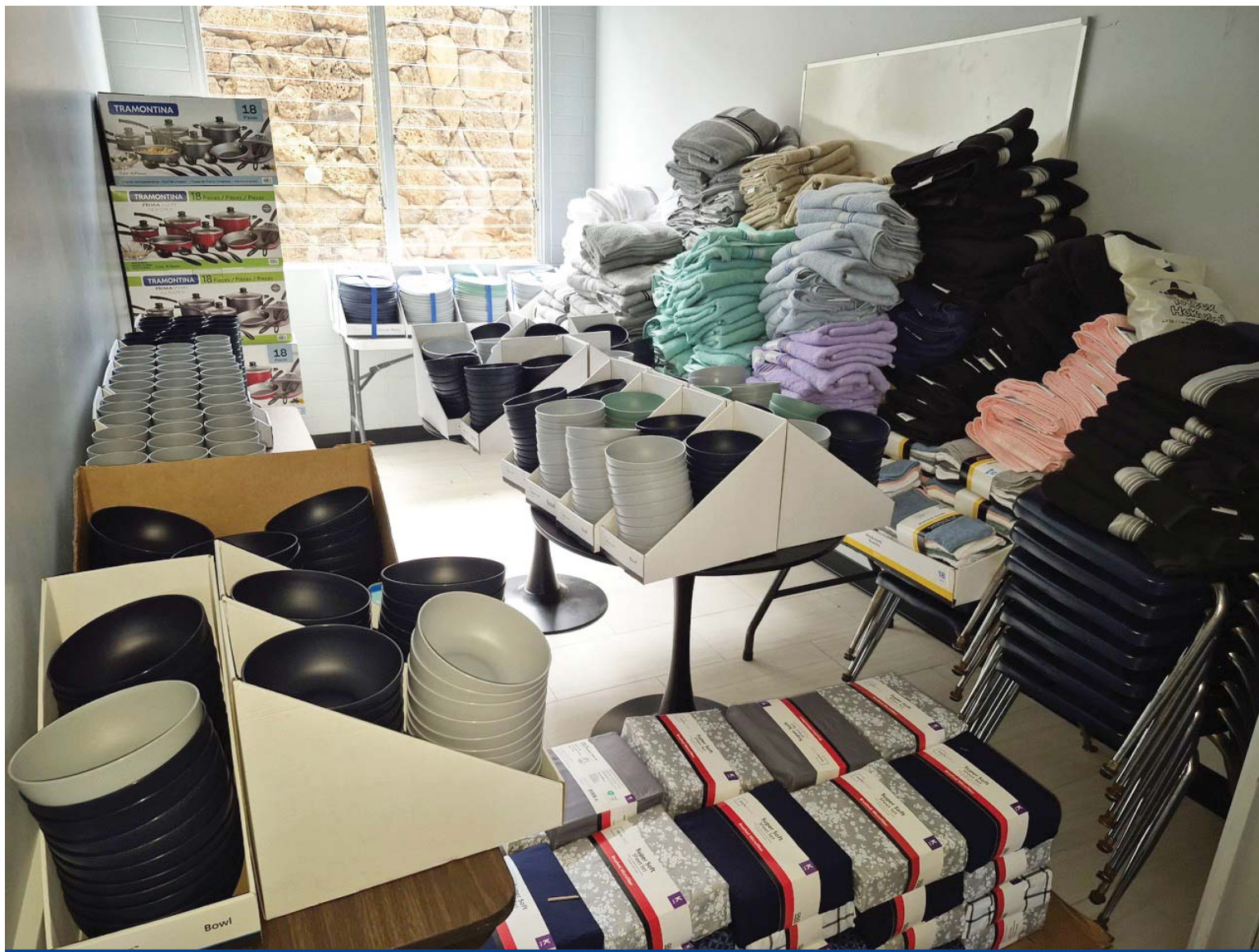
Thanks to the generosity of you, our church family, we collected a little over \$5,000 this year. These resources have been designated to assist a partnership that we share with Kealahou West Oahu (KWO), a non-profit agency serving unsheltered, sheltered, and at-risk houseless individuals and families on

the Leeward coast. With this year’s offering we’re able to provide washcloths, towels, cookware, dinnerware (plates, bowls, and cups), and sheet sets for the residents of both the Onelauena and Onemalu shelters being serviced by KWO.

Our church has had a decade-long partnership with the shelters out in Kalaeloa and the non-profit agencies that service them. Most recently as we’ve made our way out from the pandemic, we’ve had the privilege of providing and serving several dinners at KWO (including a fine dining meal!) while our worship ministry provided music. We were especially blessed to meet and get to know the individuals and families who attended.

KWO has always been about “Partnerships in building community” and we continue to give thanks that we’re able to partner with an organization that seeks to assist those in need, and also to do so with sustainable models in mind.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew’s gospel, we hear these words from Jesus; *“35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*



GET TO KNOW OUR GROUNDS KEEPERS



GRACE TENN

How long have you been doing the church beautification ministry?
5 years.

What is your main job to do around the church grounds?
Removing weeds.

What other things do you do to beautify our church grounds?
Trimming the plants.

What encourages you to consistently help with the ground work?
Serving the Lord with joy and gladness.

What would you say to encourage others to join this ministry?
Spend time weeding and you'll get to spend quality time with the Lord in prayer and reflection.

What are your workdays and hours?
Mondays 7:00 am - 12:00 pm.

What scripture speaks most to you?
Habakkuk 3:17-18.

How long have you been doing the church beautification ministry?
15+ years.

What is your main job to do around the church grounds?
Mowing the grass, trimming the hedges, and removing the weeds.

What other things do you do to beautify our church grounds?
Checking on the sprinkler systems and ensuring they are running smoothly.

What encourages you to consistently help with the ground work?
Seeing the church ground have beautiful flowers, green lawns, and trimmed hedges.

What would you say to encourage others to join this ministry?
You will have satisfaction of having a nice lawn.

What are your workdays and hours?
The morning half of Mondays and Wednesdays.

What scripture speaks most to you?
Luke 6:31.



ERIC UYEHARA

How long have you been doing the church beautification ministry?
2 years.

What is your main job to do around the church grounds?
Removing the weeds, raking, taking out the trash, and watering the lawn.

What other things do you do to beautify our church grounds?
Trimming the trees and painting.

What encourages you to consistently help with the ground work?
Meeting the church staff and learning how to be patient.

What would you say to encourage others to join this ministry?
By cleaning the grounds, it makes one feel good by a sense of achieving goals.

What are your workdays and hours?
Mondays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

What scripture speaks most to you?
Acts 10.



PAUL MCINTIRE

GET TO KNOW OUR GROUNDS KEEPERS

How long have you been doing the church beautification ministry?
3 years.

What is your main job to do around the church grounds?
Doing repair work with Danny and yard work with Eric.

What other things do you do to beautify our church grounds?
Helping paint and tile the Fellowship Hall.

What encourages you to consistently help with the ground work?
The fellowship and the beautifying of the church grounds.

What would you say to encourage others to join this ministry?
Come for the fellowship and stay to make the church campus beautiful.

What are your workdays and hours?
Mondays 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

What scripture speaks most to you?
Galatians 5:22-23.



GARY OHASHI



ALAN TENN

How long have you been doing the church beautification ministry?
5 years.

What is your main job to do around the church grounds?
Mowing the front yard, trimming the trees and bushes.

What other things do you do to beautify our church grounds?
Fertilizing the plants and poisoning the weeds.

What encourages you to consistently help with the ground work?
Beautifying God's house.

What would you say to encourage others to join this ministry?
Serve the Lord with gladness and have physical exercise.

What are your workdays and hours?
Mondays 7:00 am - 12:00 pm.

What scripture speaks most to you?
John 3:16

How long have you been doing the church beautification ministry?
A couple months, since December 2024.

What is your main job to do around the church grounds?
Trimming the shrubs, cutting the grass, and removing weeds.

What other things do you do to beautify our church grounds?
I helped with the Fellowship Hall renovation.

What encourages you to consistently help with the ground work?
I just wanted to help.

What would you say to encourage others to join this ministry?
No pressure, just do what you can. Helping gave me a greater appreciation for the work done by the maintenance volunteers.

What are your workdays and hours?
Mondays 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

What scripture speaks most to you?
Galatians 5:22-23.



JOEL PAI



MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, February 2

By The Nominating Committee

It was so wonderful to see so many of you at the Ministry Fair where we learned about the various committees of our Church through their creative and beautiful displays and enthusiastic volunteers.

These committees, with their various ministries, are an invaluable part of our church family. Their 150+ volunteers give so much of their valuable time, energy, and enthusiasm, as they serve the Lord at FBCPC.

Some of you also volunteered to become part of a ministry team!! Volunteers are always welcome!! For more information, please email Carole Sugai at carolesugai@gmail.com or call the church office: 808-455-2011.

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12 NLT)







FBC PEARL CITY

The Pearl is a quarterly magazine published by First Baptist Church of Pearl City.
*If you want to contribute an article, testimony, news blurb, and/or photo,
please email office@fbcpearlcity.org*

Image by Mariya Muschard from Pixabay