

## (12) Conclusion: Remembering the Dream

As we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Aiea Church, it would do us well to remember the part of our founders' dream that is yet to be realized. To do that, travel in your mind's eye with me back into the hills of old Aiea. Let's go up a dirt road past a pump house and a sweet artesian well. Let's pass through some cane fields and find a rise with an open area and a lonely guava tree. Let's listen to the words of the Master Sailor.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Yes, I am coming soon.

(NIV)

Let's look now beyond the Waianae Mountains into the expanse beyond. The cane fields are now bordered with flowers and fruit trees. A large irrigation ditch winds through this garden. Brother Harris Okuda is tending the garden. The diving deacons are swimming with the fish in a glassy ocean. Gabriel is leading a large choir including Chris Hong, Sala Mamea, Hilda Wong and Molly Horikawa. Minoru Azama is running. Aunty Lei Juarros is doing hula. Uncle Manuel is hiking along the river. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hirata are joined by their family including son Leslie. Mr. and Mrs. Kashin Kakazu are joined by their family including sons Shigemi and Richard, and daughter-in-law Yvonne. Aunty Kay Kaeka is joined by her children including Hoolu. Isabella Quizon hugs Yolanda. Kenneth Fujimoto and Uncle Bill Villegas are leading the Aiea pathfinder salute. We see

the Aiea pastors, the members, our friends, our relatives, our children. We see the big smile of Pastor George Kiyabu with his arms around Odell Mitchell and Gerald Hemmet.

But then there's a moment of silence.

Everyone bows.

The only sound is that of crowns being laid on the ground.

We remember this presence.

We remember this voice.

We cry tears of joy.

We are left speechless, but our souls sing Alleluia.

This is not just a memory.

We sing louder.

This is real.

This is eternal.

This is forever.

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ

And he shall reign forever and ever.

And this is our dream.