



pacific **connector**



Hawaii Pacific
Baptist Convention

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Building the Kingdom

From One Servant Leader to Another



Craig Webb

Executive Director/Treasurer



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About the Cover

The hall of historic Waiola Church in Lahaina is engulfed in flames along Waiee Street on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii (Matthew Thayer/The Maui News via AP). This is directly across the street from Lahaina Baptist Church which was untouched by the fires.



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pacificconnector](http://hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector)

When children struggle to understand a crisis like the Maui fires, parents and schoolteachers often encourage the children to “look for the helpers.” We have struggled and grieved as we try to grasp the crisis' magnitude. Hawaii Pacific Baptists, look for the helpers! Your Hawaii Pacific Baptist brothers and sisters and our partners have responded to the call to show the love of Christ by serving others.

Your Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches on Maui have all mobilized to give practical help. Your Hawaii Pacific Baptist Disaster Relief co-directors, John and Gay Williams, have done amazing work coordinating relief on our behalf. Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches and church members, Southern Baptist Send Relief, and our sister state Baptist conventions have sent generous donations to fuel our long-term relief efforts in Maui. We are grateful for all these “helpers.” Our content for this edition of Pacific Connector was due before the Maui fires, so we'll have a larger update in the November-December edition.

On a personal note, I am honored to serve you as your executive director-treasurer. I am profoundly grateful for the confidence the search committee and the executive board have in me to lead Hawaii Pacific Baptists in the next season.

1. Would you pray for me, the HPBC staff, and the board as we listen, learn, and seek God's plan for this next season?
2. Will you watch all four Sue Nishikawa videos and observe the week of prayer from September 3-10? See page 6.
3. Will you continue to pray for and support Maui's relief efforts for the long haul?
4. Will you join me in Honolulu for our HPBC Annual Meeting celebration on November 2-3, 2023? See page 8.

May God richly bless you as you faithfully serve Him!

Craig Webb
HPBC executive director-treasurer

Updates at:

hpbaptist.net/disaster-relief



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The Pacific Connector highlights people and churches that work to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by reaching the Pacific and Asia. For information about Pacific Connector or the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, email: info@hpbaptist.net or call: (808) 946-9581 or write: Pacific Connector, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, 2042 Vancouver Drive, Honolulu HI 96822.

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Webb to Serve as New HPBC Executive Director-Treasurer

The HPBC Executive Board voted to affirm Dr. Craig Webb as its next executive director-treasurer on Friday night, August 18, 2023. Dr. Webb has served as the assistant executive director for the past six years and brings vast church and convention experience and a history of humble servant leadership. He and his wife, Barbara, are excited for this next chapter in their service to Hawaii Pacific Baptists.

At the meeting, the HPBC Executive Board thanked the interim executive director-treasurer, Pastor John Endriss, for his six months of service. The HPBC Executive Search Committee chair, Pastor Brian Frable, thanked the Search Committee for their diligent work during this process. Members of the Committee included Naomi Ashman, recording secretary, John Endriss, Larry Hale, Paula Higuchi, James Kinoshita, and Sterling Lee.

Webb shared, "I am honored to serve the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention in this new role and look forward to leading, serving with, and supporting our officers, board, HPBC staff team, pastors, leaders, and churches. We will continue to build on the Convention's strong foundation as we work together to fulfill the Great Commission."

Craig Webb was born on Oahu and spent his first three years in Manoa when his dad, Henry Webb, was the Baptist Student Union (BSU) director. He then spent his elementary years in Kalihi (Island of Oahu), where his dad was the pastor of Kalihi Baptist. They moved to Tennessee when Craig was eleven.

After graduating from Samford University (BA) and Southern Seminary (MDiv), Craig served as a pastor in Clarksville, Tennessee, from 1991-1994, then was pastor at Lahaina Baptist Church on Maui from 1994-2003.

He worked at Lifeway Christian Resources from 2003-2008, at The Glade Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, from 2006 – 2015, and at First Baptist, Mount Juliet, Tennessee, from 2015-2017. Craig received his Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in 2010 from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Craig and Barbara have three grown children and two grandsons.



For an introduction to Craig Webb and to hear how the search committee came to select him as the new executive director-treasurer, go to tinyurl.com/HPBC-new-ExDir or scan this QR code.

HPBC Executive Director-Treasurer Search Committee



Pastor Brian Frable
(chair) Kona Baptist,
Hawaii Island



Pastor John Endriss
HPBC president/pastor
of Engage Church



Naomi Ashman
Olivet Baptist, Oahu



Pastor Sterling Lee
First Baptist, Pearl
City, Oahu



Pastor Larry Hale
Ele'ele Baptist, Kauai



Paula Higuchi
Kahului Baptist,
Maui



James Kinoshita
Olivet Baptist, Oahu

HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTISTS WORKING TOGETHER

The Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions exists to encourage and assist churches in their evangelistic outreach, assist in new kingdom work, establish missions awareness, develop missions training, and strengthen the church body and the work of the Hawaii Pacific Baptists.

Hawaii Pacific Goal
\$132,000

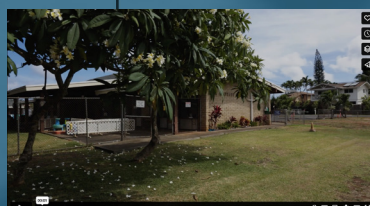
Access four new videos to help you and your church family see examples of how your gifts are being used and to celebrate what God is doing in these churches.



Overview/Theme



Outreach Football Camp
Hamama Community Church



Bivocational Pastor,
Logos Bible Software



Creative Community
Outreach, *Journey Through Jerusalem*



**Sue Nishikawa
Offering**
for Hawaii Pacific Missions

Mission offering materials are made possible by gifts from your church through the Sue Nishikawa Offering and the Cooperative Program, and are made available by the HPBC Woman's Missionary Union and the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.



Sue Nishikawa 2023 Prayer Guide

Day 1 - Sunday, September 3, 2023

Pray for Your Sister Churches

Pray for your brothers and sisters serving Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia. As you pray, consider how you will give this year to the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions to provide resources for ministries and efforts.

[READ MORE](#)



Day 2 - Monday, September 4, 2023

Pray for Hawaii Pacific Baptist Pastors and Wives

Through your gifts, forty-five Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors and staff received grants to access Bible software and online resources for sermon preparation. Pray for the Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors and wives to find encouragement and support as they serve together.

[READ MORE](#)



Day 3 - Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Pray for Next Generation Ministries

Your gifts supported a Football Clinic organized by a member of Hāmama Community Church in Kahalu'u on Oahu. Pray for preschool, elementary, middle school, high school, and collegiate ministry leaders as they reach and disciple the next generation.

[READ MORE](#)



Day 4 - Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Pray for the Opportunity to Reach Our Communities

Your gifts helped University Avenue Baptist on Oahu host an event called "Journey Through Jerusalem," showcasing the Passion Week story from the townspeople's perspective. Pray that our churches will be able to identify their community's needs and develop innovative ways to spread the message of Christ.

[READ MORE](#)



Day 5 - Thursday, September 7, 2023

Pray for Missions Education

Your gifts helped make this year's WMU Mission Celebration a success. Over 125 attendees gathered to listen to inspiring testimonials from guest speakers, missionaries, and leaders. Pray that our churches would heed the Great Commission's call to go and make disciples of every nation.

[READ MORE](#)



Day 6 - Friday, September 8, 2023

Pray for Theological Education

Through your gifts, eight pastors and church leaders received seminary scholarships through the HPBC Theological Development Initiatives. Pray that God will call and equip Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors and leaders for our churches.

[READ MORE](#)



Day 7 - Saturday, September 9, 2023

Pray for Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church Planting

Through your gifts, Dr. Steven Kang, pastor of the Waikiki Korean Baptist Church Replant, hosted an evangelistic gospel music concert. Pray for our current Hawaii Pacific Baptist church plants and those who will accept the call to plant churches in the future.

[READ MORE](#)



Day 8 - Sunday, September 10, 2023

Thank You for Praying and Giving

Thank you for the prayers, financial support, and encouragement every year. You are part of what God is doing through Hawaii Pacific Baptists.

[READ MORE](#)



Something NEW

HPBC Annual Meeting 02-03 November

THURSDAY EVENING & ALL DAY FRIDAY

Isaiah 43:19 (CSB)

**“Look, I am about to do
Something New;
Do you not see it?
Indeed, ***I will make a way***
in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert.**

Japanese Cultural Center

2454 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

HPBC Partners with Associations to Provide Training for Pastors

In mid-November 2023, **Brian Croft**, the founder of Practical Shepherding and the co-author of *Pastoral Friendship: The Forgotten Piece to a Persevering Ministry*, will be on multiple islands for equipping and encouragement. These events are for pastors, elders, and church staff. Spouses are welcome.



Oahu — November 10-11

Training in Oahu will be held at Olivet Baptist Church on Friday and Saturday, November 10-11, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Oahu event costs \$20, including lunches and Brian's book. Registration will open in October.

Maui — November 12

The Maui event will be at Kahului Baptist Church on Sunday evening, November 12, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Hilo — November 13

The Hilo training event will be held at Kaumana Drive Baptist on Monday, November 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will include lunch.

Kona — November 14:

Training at the Kona event will be at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship on Tuesday, Nov 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

These events are a partnership with the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, the Oahu Baptist



Network, the Big Island Baptist Association, and the Maui County Baptist Association. It is also supported through your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions.

Contact:

For more information about the HPBC training events, contact Robert Miller at robert@hpbaptist.net.



A Brian Croft ministry, *Practical Shepherding* — Helping Pastors Strive. For information or to watch this and other videos, visit: practicalshepherding.com



**Sue Nishikawa
Offering**
for Hawaii Pacific Missions



**Practical
Shepherding**



Oahu Baptist Network Churches Hold Youth Camp

Oahu Baptist Network (OBN) leaders worked together to hold the first OBN Youth camp since 2019. The camp theme was "Return, Rebuild, Renew." Olivet Baptist Church Minister of Youth & Discipleship, Jeff Mullis, said, "The camp was an amazing time of our youth coming together to have fun and worship

Jesus. Praise God, four youth repented and believed in Jesus for their salvation! We are already beginning conversations for next year." Arjay Gruspe, HPBC Director of New Generation Ministries, was the camp speaker.



Big Island Baptists Hold Youth Camp

Big Island Baptist Association (BIBA) leaders worked together to hold their first BIBA youth camp since 2019. John Endriss, HPBC Executive Board president

and pastor of Engage Church in Hilo, led the camp. Arjay Gruspe, HPBC director of Next Generation Ministries, was the camp speaker.



Pastor's Forum in August Focused on Disciple-Making

Pastor Doug Burrier, founder of Sustainable Discipleship and author of "How to Make Disciples: A Simple, Proven Model for Making Self-Sustaining Followers of God," was our first forum guest of the fall.

This and other Pastor Forum recordings are available on the HPBC's website at tinyurl.com/pastoralvideos, or scan the QR code below.



Parker Windle to Serve as Pastor of IBC Manila

International Baptist Church (IBC) of Manila has called Parker Windle to be their senior pastor. Parker served as a journeyman with the International Mission Board in Paris, France, from 2008-2011, helping to establish a Punjabi-speaking Indian church. After completing his journeyman term in 2012, he joined the staff at Emmanuel International Church in Paris to serve youth and young adults. In 2015, Parker became the senior pastor at Emmanuel. He will begin serving IBC Manila later this year.



Parker and Kyrach Windle and daughter Lily Amber

Kalihi Baptist Calls Camacho to Serve As Their Pastor

In July 2023, Kalihi Baptist Church on Oahu called Alberto Camacho to serve as their next pastor. After he returns to New York to close out his current ministry, he will begin serving at Kalihi in December 2023. Pastor Alberto returns to the islands after serving previously as a church planting missionary (NAMB) and pastor of Word of Truth. From 2013 to 2015, he served as our HPBC President. Pastor Alberto has also served churches in New York, New Jersey, Hawaii Island, and the Philippines. Together Alberto and Beth have three children and four grandchildren. They are eager to serve the church and reconnect with their family.



Pastor Daniel Lee to Serve Hilo Korean Baptist Church

Daniel Hyun-soo Lee will begin serving at Hilo Korean Christian Church on October 1, 2023. Pastor Lee formerly served at Global Mission Church from 2001 to 2009 and at the Anointing Ministry Church in La Crescenta, California (2010-2023). He did his undergraduate studies at Biola University and his graduate studies at Fuller Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (D.Min.). Pastor Lee and his wife Jeanine have three grown children: Crystal (27), Jonathan (24), and Benjamin (21).



Happy Valley Baptizes Five Students

Pastor Sau'foi Tavete of Happy Valley Church in American Samoa shared that five youth group members publicly declared their faith in Christ through baptism at Utulei Beach on Sunday,

July 23. Pastor Tavete shared that this was after a week of Vacation Bible School.



GracePoint Baptizes Eleven

On August 5, 2023, Grace Point Church baptized 11 people at Ala Moana Beach Park. It was a great celebration as the ages of those baptized ranged from children through senior adults.



Mainland Church Serves Kahului Baptist, Maui

Pastor Jay Haynes shared that in July, Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi, came and served and invested in the Kahului Baptist Church property.

Morrison Heights pastor, Greg Belser, led a team of thirteen on this mission trip. Pastor Jay said, "They slept on cots and mats at the church and

used a rugged camp shower. They worked 10-12 hours daily for five days and didn't see much of Maui. They painted, worked on our playground, did lighting upgrades in our sanctuary, laid over 1000 sq ft of new flooring, and installed over 4200 sq ft of new ceiling covering our old sanctuary's acoustical tile."



Mililani Fil-Am Mission Trip to the Philippines to Lead VBS

Pastor Bong Abagon led a team to Inayawan, Negros Occidental, Philippines, to hold Vacation Bible School and do other ministry.



Waipahu Community Christian Mission Trip to Moloka'i

Mark Yamamoto, a deacon at Waipahu Community Christian Church (WCCC), shared that "on July 10-14, they partnered with Kaunakakai Baptist Church (KBC) on Moloka'i and the Hawaii Pacific University Student Nursing Association to bless the people of Moloka'i. The focus of this mission was to

provide free medical assessments at KBC by nursing students supervised by an RN due to the shortage of healthcare professionals on the island."

Glen Basuel is the pastor of Waipahu Community Christian Church, and Hanale Lindo is the pastor of Kaunakakai Baptist Church.



FBC Sellersburg Partners with Hamakua

Hamakua Baptist Church (Big Island) invited a group from First Baptist Church Sellersburg, Indiana, to assist in their recent VBS. Three teenagers from the church joined Sellersburg Pastor Steve and his wife, Debbie Davidson, to assist Hamakua in a five-day VBS for 47 children. The students worked in every area of VBS and assisted the church in every way possible. First Baptist Sellersburg has been prayer partners with Hawaii Pacific Baptists since 2017. Joshua Morris is the pastor of Hamakua Baptist.



Hamakua's Josh and Michelle Morris (center) with Sellersburg's Steve and Debbie Davidson

After Four Years of Pandemic Restrictions, Oahu Church Returns to Japan

When Pastor James Shiroma and a mission team from The Gathering returned to Hawaii from Tokyo in July 2019, little did they know that not only would it take four years to return—but that a lot would change.

“When we returned from our last mission trip to Tokyo in 2019, we were focused on preparing our church to send people to serve in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, but God had other plans,” Shiroma said. “Because of COVID, we have not been able to return for four years. When the doors opened this summer, we were so ready to go.”

In addition to waiting for Japan’s doors to open, the church (The Gathering) Shiroma pastored, merged with Cornerstone Fellowship in May 2021. The name of this new merged church is GracePoint Church.

Although The Gathering sent mission teams to Japan in the past and, this summer, reconnected with the same ministry partners in Japan, this was GracePoint Church’s first mission trip as a merged church.

“For the most part, it seemed as though we picked up where we left off four years ago,” Shiroma said. “Serving Jesus in Japan as GracePoint was awesome.”

This summer, GracePoint church sent a team of 13 people to Tokyo (June 20-July 1, 2023) to serve with missionaries, pastors, church planters, churches, ministry leaders, and Christians in Tokyo.

The team ministered to the homeless, shared the gospel at Waseda University and International Christian University, assisted churches with English conversations and Bible Studies, helped with Sunday worship, prayer walked, served with a human trafficking ministry, participated in a baptism, and prayed for Tokyo with Pray Yamanote.

“Many doors were open to connect and share Jesus with people, and God was in the midst of all the details,” said Lisa Tamura-Tanoue, GracePoint Church’s Japan mission trip coordinator. Tamura-Tanoue also



coordinated The Gathering’s mission trips to Japan in 2018 and 2019.

“The missionaries told us that well over 99 percent of the people have never had anyone pray for them, much less share the gospel with them. That is when we need to remember that God is bigger than all of this, and He calls us to go and that is why we go.”

Shiroma said he is looking forward to GracePoint Church sending more teams to Japan.

“The mission trip affirmed our call to serve Jesus in Japan,” Shiroma said. “But more importantly, it grew our church’s understanding of God’s heart for the nations.”