



# *pacific* connector



Hawaii Pacific  
Baptist Convention

2024 • JAN FEB

VOL 54 • ISSUE 1



# Building the Kingdom



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Executive Director/Treasurer



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### About the Cover

Silversword plant on the Haleakala Crater at sunset on the island of Maui.

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## From One Servant Leader to Another

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17, CSB

The Almighty God, Creator of the universe, is the source of every good thing. Our dependence on Him and our faithfulness to Him are of utmost importance for our new year.

Yes, God will use our experiences, skills, education, connections, and personality, but those are limited. Only God's power and "good and perfect gifts" are unlimited.

If you participated in our annual meeting, you sensed God's power to encourage, challenge, and unify believers from churches across the globe. I was overwhelmed with the passion of our worship, the transparency of our speakers, and the insight from the men and women who participated in our panel discussions. Thank you for how you honored Barbara and me during my installation in my new role.

This edition of *Pacific Connector* is filled with highlights and insights from our annual meeting. Please read these articles and pray for the work God is doing in and through our convention of churches as we embrace 2024. There is much to do. The greater the task, the more we must rely on God's "good and perfect gifts."

Would you pray for me, the HPBC staff team, HPBC officers, and the Executive Board as we seek God's direction and seek to be faithful to Him in 2024?

May God richly bless you as you faithfully serve Him!

Craig Webb  
HPBC executive director-treasurer

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100% of your gifts support North American missionaries.

# Annual Meeting

## a Welcome Respite After Tragedies

by Karen Willoughby for Baptist Press

HONOLULU (BP) – Craig Webb was installed as the new executive director/treasurer of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) during its recent annual meeting.

“Something new” from Isaiah 43:9 was the theme for the HPBC’s annual celebration, which took place at the Japanese Cultural Center on Oahu.

“The 81st annual meeting of the HPBC Novemberw 2-3 at the Japanese Cultural Center was marked by celebration, hope for the future and attention to the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of pastors, their wives and church staff,” Webb told Baptist Press. “It was a reprieve from the devastation we’ve seen over the last six months.”

He was referring to a super typhoon on Guam May 24, and 11 weeks later by three devastating wildfires on Maui.

More than 550 people participated in HPBC’s annual meeting, including 350 guests and 198 messengers from 45 of HPBC’s 131 churches on the six Hawaiian Islands plus Guam, Samoa, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines.

In addition to the 20-minute installation ceremony, worship, enthralling messages, panel discussions on NextGen, Women’s and Pastoral Wellness ministries intertwined with reports from state convention staff and SBC entity leaders, plus routine business: resolutions, budget and elections of officers.

The resolutions both expressed appreciation: for those completing their terms of service on HPBC’s Executive Board; and for SBC entity

leaders who reported at the annual meeting either in person or on video.

### A welcome change

For many, the installation ceremony and the entire annual meeting was a welcome change from the lingering effects of the trauma Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have been going through since May.

Catastrophic destruction in May and again in August brought Southern Baptists in the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention closer to each other and to the SBC, Webb said.

A super typhoon hit Guam with 80- to 120-mph winds and unceasing drenching rain May 22-25. Eleven weeks later, on August 8, three wildfires blanketed the treasured historic town of Lahaina and upcountry of Maui.

Providentially, two months before the typhoon ravaged Guam, HPBC Disaster Relief Directors John and Gay Williams led that island nation’s first-ever Disaster Relief training.

John Williams was back in Guam two days after the typhoon, by hitching a ride with a FEMA flight. He helped organize the new DR team to

*John and Gay Williams, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Disaster Relief directors, share an update on the relief efforts in Guam and Maui at the Disaster Relief Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023.*





*Hanale and Zhantell Lindo share their testimony about the Maui Fires. Hanale is bivocational pastor of Kaunakakai Baptist on Molokai and the assistant chief of operations for the Maui County Fire Department.*

distribute food provided by FEMA and the Red Cross and to set up refugee centers for those made homeless by the island-wide destruction.

As for the Maui wildfires, “even granite countertops were completely gone, and the metal the wheels of cars had melted,” Webb said.

“On Maui, and all the Hawaiian Islands, they [residents] were definitely traumatized,” Webb continued. “It’s a disaster you can’t even describe. It’s like nothing anyone ever experienced, the loss of life, generational homes and businesses destroyed and the town so beloved by locals and tourists just gone. It’s just hard to describe.

“There was profound grief and a sense of desperation. People couldn’t get supplies, water, cell coverage. Churches on the other side of the island sent supplies – food and water – by plane, boat and truck even before relief workers could get there.”

Much of the continuing grief and trauma has to do with the search for long-term housing, the continuing use of cramped temporary situations without any of the things around that they’re used to, and an uncertain future, the executive director said.

“Because of the way the fire hit, every home and business that burned to the ground became a toxic site because of the presence of heavy metal, arsenic and asbestos, he continued.

In their report to annual meeting messengers, HPBC’s DR co-directors John and Gay Williams summarized the help Southern Baptists provided in the wake of dual devastations.

“Since early June, 4,372 hours have been worked by DR volunteers, helping set up emergency shelters, distributing water and emergency supplies, chain-sawing, and ministering to the spiritual and emotional needs of those impacted by Typhoon Mawar,” the Williams told messengers. As of Oct. 8, teams from nine states



“brought help, hope and healing to the people of Guam by repairing and rebuilding homes.”

On Maui, the Williams continued, in two months DR teams from 13 states provided more than 11,000 worker hours, nearly 2,000 ministry contacts, by helping homeowners at several FEMA Disaster Service Centers, at the mayor’s request managing housing for off-island first responders, working directly with residents to find personal items, and providing spiritual and emotional care for returning residents.

“This work will continue for months,” the Williams stated in their written report.

“Hawaii Pacific Baptists have been truly blessed by the outpouring of financial and hands-on support from our brothers and sisters from the continental U.S.,” Webb told Southern Baptists. “We are so grateful for your continuing assistance and thank God for your support.”

## **Business and special guests**

Expenses in 2024 are anticipated to be a maximum of \$1,168,618, down from \$1,434,380 last year. Cooperative Program giving from churches is anticipated to be \$1,025,000, down 7 percent – \$1.1 million – from last year. The \$258,618 shortfall is to be covered by reserve funds, Webb said. Again this year, 20 percent – \$205,000 – is to be forwarded for SBC global causes.\*

*\*Numbers are corrected from the original Baptist Press article.*



HPBC's new officers for 2024

**New officers:** President Brian Frable, pastor of Kona Baptist Church in Kailua Kona, on Hawaii Island; First Vice-President Larry Hale, pastor of 'Ele'ele Baptist Church in 'Ele'ele, on the island of Kauai; Second Vice-President Naomi Ashman, a member of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu, on the island of Oahu; Recording Secretary Grace Poei, member of University Baptist Church in Honolulu.



John Endriss

John Endriss, HPBC outgoing president who also served for six months earlier this year as the state convention's interim executive director, preached from Isaiah 43 on the regional convention's theme: *Something New*.

SBC President Bart Barber brought greeting during the Friday evening session, and traveled to Maui Saturday and Sunday to view the devastation from Maui County's three wildfires, encourage pastors and HPBC Disaster Relief leaders and volunteers and preach in Maui churches.

Mark Dance from GuideStone Financial Resources was guest speaker at the Wednesday evening Pastors and Wives appreciation dinner, participated in the Pastoral Wellness panel, viewed the Maui devastation and preached Sunday in Maui churches.

## A meaningful celebration

The biggest celebratory point was Webb's installation ceremony.

A native Hawaiian pastor of an HPBC church perpetuating native Hawaiian culture and language made the installation a uniquely Hawaiian ceremony, Webb told Baptist Press.



Ikaika Higa, pastor of Hamama Community Church in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu—one of three churches accepted for HPBC affiliation this year—and two students from the church blew conch shells the evening of November 2 in a traditional Hawaiian call to gather.

"A native Hawaiian woman from Hamama led our folks in a Christian hand-motion hula," Webb said. "We all sang the Doxology in the Hawaiian language, and then Pastor Ikaika had everybody sing the Doxology in their own heart language: Hawaiian, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Chuukese,



Chinese, Samoan, English and probably more.”

Webb’s voice broke. “That was very meaningful,” he added.

A lei ceremony followed, with people bringing to Webb and his wife Barbara leis made not only of orchid, crown flower and other tropical blooms, but also leis made of snacks, kukui nuts, ti leaf, maile and more. One of the leis reached to Webb’s knees.



Brian Frable

Brian Frable, pastor at Kona Baptist Church on Hawaii Island who later in the annual meeting was elected president, “brought a charge to me personally and asked me to commit to the things [God] called me to do,” Webb said. “And I said yes.

“I was so humbled and honored,” Webb continued. “I publicly committed myself to love God, my family, the Word and the Church.

With God’s help I hope to faithfully fulfill my call and commitment.”

The congregation gathered around Craig and Barbara Webb, and their youngest daughter, Gracie, who teaches fourth graders in Honolulu. Three pastors prayed as the congregation lifted their hands toward the family in prayerful agreement.

“It was very special,” Webb said. “They did it very well, way more than I expected. Barbara and I were overwhelmed with the expressions of love and support as I begin this new role. It really was very special.”

Webb, born on Oahu island, moved to Tennessee at 11. With degrees from Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Webb was called as pastor of Lahaina Baptist Church on Maui from 1994 to 2003. He earned a D.Min. degree in 2010 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and most recently served as HPBC’s assistant executive director for the last six years.

The next annual meeting of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention is set for November 7-8, 2024, at Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu.

*The congregation gathered around Craig, Barbara, and Gracie Webb to lift their hands toward the family in prayerful agreement.*





# HPBC Pastors and Wives Appreciation Dinner

by Robert Miller

On November 1, Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors and their wives gathered at the Ala Moana Hotel on Oahu for an appreciation dinner. This event gave couples an opportunity to come together for fellowship and encouragement. Approximately 50 couples from all corners of the convention (Hawaiian Islands, Samoa, and Asia) gathered for this banquet hosted by the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) staff and sponsored by the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

This dinner was scheduled the day before the start of the HPBC annual meeting to accommodate messengers who were already planning to attend the annual meeting.

Pastor Eddie Hunt and Zachary Castro of Malama Christian Fellowship (Nanakuli) led dinner music and worship during the evening. Musical artists Kata Maduli and Arlene McArthur accompanied them. New Executive Director-Treasurer Craig Webb and wife Barbara were honored for their new role with gifts and lei. Following all the welcomes and introductions, couples enjoyed a buffet dinner and fellowship around their tables.

Dr. Mark Dance, director of pastoral wellness for Guidestone Financial Resources, and his wife, Janet, were the evening speakers. They encouraged couples to guard their marriage and their time with each other amidst all the





*Dr. Mark Dance (above), director of pastoral wellness for Guidestone Financial Resources, and his wife, Janet, were the evening speakers.*



*New executive director-treasurer Craig Webb (middle) and wife Barbara were honored for their new role with gifts and lei.*

challenges of ministry. Along with words of encouragement, the Dances led a question-and-answer time following their talk.

All couples were gifted free books and offered free portraits to remember this special event.

In addition, couples with young children were provided childcare at Waikiki Baptist Church, and neighbor island pastors were offered scholarships to help with additional expenses. One couple shared, "This time together was needed and refreshing."





# Panel Discussion Highlights Reaching the Next Generation

by Arjay Gruspe

On Thursday evening of the annual meeting, Arjay Gruspe led a panel discussion on reaching the next generations for Jesus Christ. Joining Gruspe were Paul Worcester, the National Director of Collegiate Evangelism for the North American Mission Board; Pastor Nick Love of Valley Isle Fellowship; Associate Pastor Peter Chang of GracePoint Church; Gracie Webb of Pawa'a Community Church; and Kaylee LaBarre of University Avenue Baptist Church.

The panel discussed the importance of reaching the next generation of students with the gospel. The discussion highlighted the power of partnerships, an involved church community, discipleship, mentorship, and the opportunities available to engage the generation with the gospel and grow them to reach others. With staggering statistics shared like the average numbers of those evangelized on college campuses across the nation, only 5%, and at current rates, 9 of 10 students will not have a

personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the need is great, and the time is now to do "Something New" in the lives of students.

*The thing that stood out was Pastor Love saying, 'Maybe your task is to partner with those doing the work. Join in with them.'*

– Shane Tanigawa, UABC Pastor

*I was really moved by the emotion of Paul Worcester towards the number of lostness in this generation and our call to reach them with the gospel. It was a refreshing reminder of the importance of evangelistic efforts.*

– Andrew Large, Waikiki Baptist Pastor

*To see and hear the young ladies on the panel speaking about the importance of reaching their generation was powerful!*

– Liz McElrath, Olivet Baptist Church

To learn more about Next Generation Ministries, contact Arjay Gruspe at [hiarjay@gmail.com](mailto:hiarjay@gmail.com).







by Robert Miller

On November 2 of the annual meeting, Director of Regional Ministries Robert Miller led a panel discussion dealing with pastoral wellness. The panel included Dr. Mark Dance, director of pastoral wellness for Guidestone Financial Resources; Pastor Brian Frable of Kona Baptist Church; and Pastor Martin Chappell of Calvary International Baptist Church in Bangkok. Miller stated, “The goal of this panel discussion is to encourage pastors to serve well, live well, and finish well in ministry.”

After introductions, the panel was asked, “Why does a pastor’s holistic health matter?” Mark Dance, who recently wrote *Start to Finish*, drew from his book and quoted Deuteronomy 6:5, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” He added, “Every part of us belongs to Him, not just parts of us.” Martin Chappell agreed, adding, “There should be no separation between your spiritual life and your other life.”

Another concern addressed was pastoral burnout. Dance was asked, “Is pastoral burnout and attrition on the rise?” Dance explained that many of the statistics quoted are inaccurate and that the surprising news is that pastors are not quitters. Dance assured us, “Pastors do not have a history of bailing.” He added that ministry is hard, and pastors are often overwhelmed, but most are not quitters.

The final question to the panelists was, “What one piece of advice would you give your younger self?” Brian Frable responded with, “to love the people more.” He explained that it is easy to love God and family, but a pastor must be intentional about loving his congregation. It is Frable’s practice to listen to his families and speak well of them publicly. Pastor Martin advised, “to hold on to your call, so when ministry becomes difficult, you can pause and recognize this is what God called you to.”

To learn more about Pastoral Wellness or receive a free *Start to Finish* copy, contact Robert Miller at [robert@hpbaptist.net](mailto:robert@hpbaptist.net).

# Panel Focus *The* Pastoral Wellness



# Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

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## Panel Discussion Highlights Women's Ministry

by Diana Ventura

On Friday morning of the annual meeting, Diana Ventura, HPBC director of women's ministries, led a panel discussion focusing on the state of women's ministry. Joining Diana were Melissa Haynes of Kahului Baptist on Maui, Noe Okawara of LIFE Christian on Oahu, and Gay Williams of Hawaii Kai Church on Oahu.

The panel discussion began with sharing who has been their spiritual influence and how that individual has impacted them. Each leader shared that the most effective way they are supported is by being affirmed, empowered, and cared for. Being discipled is key as they serve others.

The panelists discussed the areas relating to women that the church should be aware of. Spiritual gifts, passions, and experiences allow women to be empowered and utilize the gifts the Lord has given them.

In a recent Lifeway Research study on the state of ministry to women, it was found that women are essential to the growth and overall health of the church. The nurturing and insightful character of a woman strengthens the church body. Melissa Hayes pointed out that ministry to

women is happening in every church, whether the pastor is aware of it or not. Women are actively serving the church body.

Lifeway Research also found that only 5% of women ministry leaders plan alongside church leaders. Diana Ventura pointed out that women in leadership have come a long way, yet there is still work to be done. Women can be strategic partners to the church leadership team.

Diana wants women to know that they are seen, heard, and supported. The desire is for women to know God's goodness and that they have a God-given spiritual gift; as Titus 2 says, the older women should come alongside the younger women.

Diana ended the panel by saying, "When women know who God is, they know who they are." It happens when women go deep into God's Word and are discipled.

To learn more about Women's Ministry, contact Diana Ventura at [diana@hpbaptist.net](mailto:diana@hpbaptist.net). She is there to support, resource, and encourage women.



# Something New for Women at Annual Meeting: Women in Leadership Breakfast and Ladies' Chat Room

by Barbara Webb

Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors' wives and women in ministry were honored with breakfast on Thursday morning, November 2, prior to its HPBC Annual Meeting. As the Annual Meeting theme was "Something New," this "new" addition to the week's events was a wonderful time of encouragement, reconnecting, and making new connections.

Ladies from various churches participated in making this a very special event. Ivy Capinpin of Word of Truth Church opened with a prayer poem she composed. Meredith Palicte and Dani Beth Crosby of University Avenue Baptist Church led worship, and then Aki Fowler from Kahului Union Church performed a worship hula to the song "There Is None Like You." Barbara Webb of Central Baptist shared stories and struggles in ministry and encouragement for the women. Maela Tanigawa of University Avenue Baptist Church closed the program with meaningful prayer. Aki Fowler performed a beautiful hula benediction to the song "The Prayer."

The ladies were introduced to another "Something New." During the Annual Meeting, The "Chat Room" was created for women to gather and encourage one another. Part of this space was a prayer area and place for prayer requests. The hostesses wore name tags saying, "Ask me to pray for you."

These events were organized under the direction of Diana Ventura, HPBC's director of women's ministries, and Barbara Webb, as well as the leadership of the Women in Leadership Team.

The team prays that these and future events will help our women in leadership to make lasting connections and find mentors and others they can reach out to for support. Pray for our women in leadership as they continue to minister to our churches.



*Ladies from various churches reconnected and made new connections.*



*Barbara Webb shared her story and encouraged the women.*



*Maela Tanigawa of University Avenue Baptist Church closed the program in prayer.*

*Diana Ventura (right), HPBC's director of women's ministries, shares a laugh with Amanda Frable of Kona Baptist, Hawaii Island.*



# Brian Croft Provides Training in Four Locations on Three Islands



In mid-November 2023, **Brian Croft**, the founder of Practical Shepherdship and the co-author of *Pastoral Friendship: The Forgotten Piece to a Persevering Ministry*, equipped and encouraged pastors and church leaders on multiple islands for equipping and encouragement.

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.

**The Oahu training was held at Olivet Baptist on November 10-11.**



**The Maui event was held at Kahului Baptist.**



**The Kona event was held at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship.**



**The Hilo event was held at Kaumana Drive Baptist on November 13.**

Sean Corser, Practical Shepherdship ministry associate, speaks with Pastor Tim Elisaga of Ohana Church.



**HPBC's Rober Miller and Craig Webb traveled with Sean and Brian for each event.**



**Sue Nishikawa  
Offering**  
for Hawaii Pacific Missions





## Nick Love Is Installed as the New Pastor at Valley Isle Fellowship, Maui

While Nick Love began serving as pastor at Valley Isle Fellowship (VIF) in April, the church held an afternoon installation service and fellowship on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Speakers included retired pastor and VIF member Jim Wellsan, Maui County Baptist Association moderator Wes Higuchi, Waikiki Baptist pastor and Love family friend Andrew Large, and HPBC's Craig Webb.



## Erik Naylor Is Installed as the New Pastor at Lahaina Baptist, Maui

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, Erik Naylor was installed as the new pastor of Lahaina Baptist Church. Transitional pastor Barry Campbell presided, and then Erik's dad, Pastor Phil Naylor,

spoke and led in prayer. HPBC's Craig Webb preached and brought a charge to the church and pastor Erik.



## Dalton Slavens is the New Pastor at Central Baptist, Honolulu

On Friday, December 1st, Pastor Dalton Slavens began serving as the new senior pastor of Central Baptist Church. Dalton's wife is Kristen, and their children are Hudson, Levi, Brighton, and Sydney. Dalton served two years

as a Journeyman with the North American Mission Board on Hawaii Island and as a Ministry Associate and then Associate Pastor at Kona Baptist Church. Dalton was raised in Glencoe, Oklahoma.



# Hawaii Residents Continue to Recover from Fire, Find Hope During Christmas Season

by Stephen R. Clark for The Baptist Paper

**“** We lost a lot of possessions, but we have the most important things. Each other and our faith,” said Erik Naylor, newly installed pastor of Lahaina Baptist Church.

In the burned-out town of Lahaina on the island of Maui, there's still no power. No water. No twinkling lights or sweet baby Jesus replicas displayed in cute creches. Outside of Lahaina, in areas not touched by fire, typical Christmas decorations and signs declaring “Mele Kalikimaka” adorn homes and businesses.

The people who lived in Lahaina, about 9,000 or so, have been dispersed into crowded hotels and other sparsely available housing in surrounding areas. Only in recent weeks have residents, wearing hazmat suits, been allowed to visit the ashy remains of what used to be their homes. But, for many of them, their hearts are filled with an amazing sense of gratitude.

Erik Naylor, newly installed pastor of Lahaina Baptist Church, had moved his family to Maui from Arizona only a few months prior to the devastating fire. He lost his home and had to



Photo: John Williams

*Pieces of a nativity scene found in the rubble after the Maui fire.*

flee with his wife and five children. He explains, “When we left, it was like driving through a hurricane. There was a lot of wind. We had to dodge downed trees and telephone poles.” But, he explained, just like most residents, they thought they’d return to their home the next day. “When we got out,” he says, “we had no cell phone reception or power. We weren’t aware of the extent of what was happening until the next day.”

But all was not lost.



### Restoring a ‘small sense of normalcy’

While it’s tempting to say they lost everything, Naylor countered, “We lost a lot of possessions, but we have the most important things. Each other and our faith.” He and his family are very grateful. This attitude of gratitude seems to be evident in other fire survivors as well.

Naylor reports that people are very grateful that they survived the fire and for all of the help they’ve been receiving. He shared that businesses and individuals from around the island, in the spirit of the season, are contributing bicycles and other items to those who have been displaced.

Where they are able, those in temporary housing are putting up lights and Christmas trees. “It’s good for the kids,” Naylor said. “It

helps restore a small sense of normalcy.”

Still, challenges exist.

Most people are living in hotels where they do not have access to stoves and ovens, so they can’t prepare typical holiday meals. The road to recovery is a long one. While their church was miraculously not touched by the fire, Naylor noted they likely would not be able to use the building for up to a year.

### August devastation

The fires started on August 8, and in roughly 12 hours, the town of Lahaina on Maui was essentially gone. The earth was scorched, nearly 3,000 buildings — mostly homes — were destroyed, at least 100 deaths have been confirmed, many people were injured





during the rushed evacuation, and people still remain missing.

Since then, John and Gay Williams, co-directors of Hawaii Pacific Baptist Disaster Relief (HPBDR), have been tirelessly coordinating relief efforts for HPBDR, overseeing the work of 250 volunteers from 17 states. In addition to working with Southern Baptists, they also worked alongside other agencies. Those efforts are only now beginning to wind down.

### Phase two beginning after Christmas

During the past months, FEMA divided Maui County into 80 EPA zones, opening 4 to 6 each week. This entailed allowing homeowners wearing hazmat gear to return to the site of their homes. All zones will have been opened by Christmas, and phase two of the recovery efforts will begin soon after that.

Williams noted that during these visits the Baptist volunteers were key.

Essentially, the volunteers were providing ministry support to the homeowners. As they surveyed the ashes of what was once their home, the volunteers stood with them and prayed with them.

"We were there to grieve with them as the magnitude of their loss sank in," Gay said. "Typically," she noted, "they would pull up to

their property and be hit with the realization that everything was gone."

Some people looked, saw there was nothing, and left. But many others decided to search the ashes and rubble for keepsakes.

"It was amazing how often they would be looking for a loved one's ring or some other keepsake, and they would find them! Each time, it seemed a miracle," she said.

When items were found, "their attitudes shifted. They were encouraged. And that was our goal, to help instill hope so their healing could begin," she said.

### Quietly sharing the gospel

After each visit, the team would pray for the people and give them a Bible.

The Williams reported that their teams conducted more than 650 site visits, had more than 5,700 contacts with people, and put in 41,000 man-hours.

"Through it all," Gay said, "the Lord has provided for everything we've needed for our volunteers. We are very grateful to all the Baptist churches who contributed to our efforts. We feel very blessed."

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*This article originally appeared in thebaptistpaper.org. Reprinted with permission.*

### Update from Lahaina Town 12-11-2023



You can access video updates online by visiting [hpbaptist.net/disaster-relief](https://hpbaptist.net/disaster-relief) or scan this QR code.

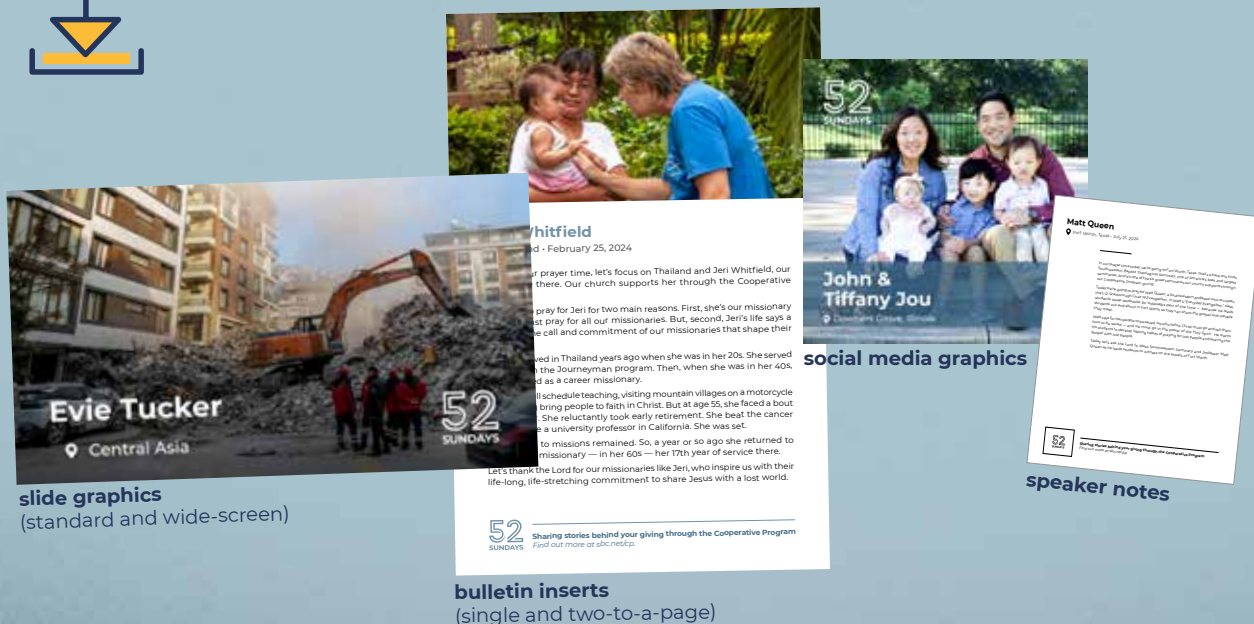




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