HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands. Isaiah 42:12 sunrise at Lanikai Beach in Hawaii 2017 | VOLUME 47, ISSUE 1 | JAN FEB

from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Chris Martin Executive Director & Editor

Building the Kingdom SMALL STEPS AT A TIME

In the process of Kingdom building, obstacles are not uncommon. They should be anticipated, knowing that the life of faith that Christ calls us to is often engineered with places of opposition. This requires a greater dependence on our Lord to find completion. Unfortunately, sometimes they are found within our core groups and leadership teams.

Many of us have experienced the good intentions of a peer or team member that seems to find solace in the role of the 'devil's advocate.' That role is the intentional alternate view, searching for a flaw or deficiency in a plan or idea. But I am reminded of the words of a dear pastor friend that stated, "We don't need a devil's advocate in our meetings — there is enough of them on the outside."

My friend followed his statement by declaring, "In here, we need God's people to seek His plan for us and share it with vision, passion and clarity. That moves us all forward!" As a follower of Christ, I remind myself of these two phrases often, especially as I am meeting with other leaders or influencers of ministry.

Being a Spirit-empowered member of a team that can communicate God's heart is an essential part of Kingdom-building. In churches across the globe, God has placed His people where and when He has chosen, with the desire that they may move others toward His goals for ministry. Delivering God's thoughts in the proper place is critically important for building.

So, let us press toward the goal of searching God's heart for His plan for our days and commit to share that with others. As we pursue the work of building His Kingdom, let us also resist the urge to become an obstacle and strive to strengthen our ministry teams through encouragement and Spirit-led cooperation.

As always, our staff team is ready to assist you in pursuing the vision and plans that God has given you for ministry. If we can serve you in making 2017 an incredible year of following God, please call on us at 808 356-8329 or email me at chris@hpbaptist.net. Mahalo.



hpbaptist.net

The Pacific Connector magazine highlights people and churches working to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by reaching the Pacific region.

This publication is provided online, free of charge and is available at: www.hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector

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Celebrating A Blessing

by Gerald Sulliban, HPBC Staff Writer

VALLEY ISLE FELLOWSHIP BUILDS A NEW WORSHIP **CENTER**

Michael "Bong" Abagon and Jerry Sulliban attended the Maui County Baptist Association Annual meeting on October 22, 2016. After the meeting, all the church members present were invited to the Valley Isle Fellowship to participate in their "Topping-Off" party at their new site between Waikapu and Wailuku.

God has really blessed Valley Isle Fellowship with 25 acres, of which, they sold 10 acres in order to finance their building project. Under the leadership of Pastor Steve Kaneshiro, his wife Clarice, his son Jeremy, and Darren Sarmiento, the many talented lay leaders in the church were able to achieve part of their dream to build their new worship center. Along with this dream, the area is surrounded with new housing developments and businesses, and this community is continuing to grow.

The celebration also included a father and son baptism outside the walls of the building in a make-shift baptistery with the Haleakala mountain range in the background.



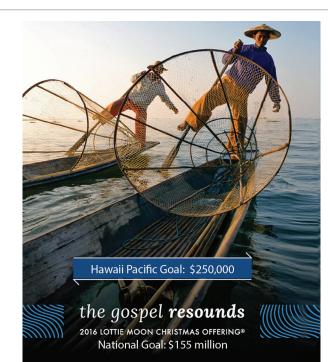




Christmas May Be Over... but giving to and praying for missionaries are never done.

GIVE: 100% of what you give helps sustain missionaries on the field, equip missionaries to serve, provide tools to share the gospel. The Hawaii Pacific Goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$250,000.

PRAY: Go to imb.org/pray





Japanese Worship Service Launched!

WAIKIKI BAPTIST CHURCH

by Keiko Ishiwata

he Japanese-speaking congregation of the First Baptist Church of Pearl City launched Japanese worship service at the Waikiki Baptist Church on Sunday, November 6. When you first hear this news, you may wonder if there's no more Japanese worship service at our church in Pearl City. No worries! There'll be no change in Pearl City. We are just adding one more worship service at the Waikiki Baptist Church at 4 pm on Sundays.

There are so many Japanese-speaking people in and around Waikiki. Many of them don't know Jesus yet. We felt the urge to go out there and reach out to Japanese people living and working in Waikiki area. We can have tourists, too.

God gave us this idea to approach the Waikiki Baptist Church to ask them to let us use their space, even a room, to have Japanese worship service. When we approached them with the request through Pastor Sterling, Pastor Andrew Large and the WBC said "yes" to our request. And you know what? They had already started two Japanese small groups at the WBC. Those Japanese small group members are willing to join us in our Sunday afternoon worship services.

When we went to the Waikiki Baptist Church to meet with the pastor and staff for the first time, they showed us their sanctuary. Yes, they were going to let us use their main sanctuary! They showed me their base guitar and said: "We will share this guitar with you." They were willing to share with us everything there--a grand piano, a keyboard, the sound system, and a computer.

At the same time God has been sending to us servants to work together at the WBC. We have musicians, tech people (sound system and power point), and greeters. God is so faithful!

We go on a mission trip from Pearl City to Waikiki every Sunday afternoon. Pearl City Church is our headquarters where we work out strategies and get energized. Waikiki is our frontline and our harvest field.

Please invite your Japanese-speaking friends and family members in and around Waikiki to this worship service. Aren't there Japanese-speaking friends who have not met Jesus yet? Aren't there still many who don't know the meaning and/or purpose of life? Please bring them. This is our outreach. (No need to bring those who go to other Christian churches.) And most of all, we covet your prayers for us and for those whom God is going to send to our way.

Messages are bilingual (Japanese and English) so English-speaking people can bring their Japanese-speaking family members and friends to our worship service.

THE JOY OF THE **LORD IS YOUR** STRENGTH.

NEHEMIAH 8: 10



We pray that many will come to know our Savior and Lord and "the joy of the Lord" is our strength!

AROUND the SBC

Southern Baptist Convention



IZMIR, TURKEY (BP) — Religious liberty advocates have joined the U.S. government in seeking the release of an American citizen who pastored a Protestant church in Turkey for 20 years before being imprisoned for his faith. Pastor Andrew Brunson, shown in this Facebook photo with his wife Norine, is imprisoned in Turkey on false charges because of his Christian faith. American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) Executive Director Jordan Sekulow said Brunson is in "grave danger." "The government of Turkey — led by an Islamic party — has begun increased crackdowns on Christians, and Pastor Andrew, if convicted, may face years in prison based on extremely serious — and false — charges," Sekulow said in a press release.



Read More: http://www.bpnews.net/48062/us-citizen-pastoring-in-turkey-jailed-for-faith



WASHINGTON (BP) — Barely five weeks before President Obama leaves office, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued Dec. 14 a final rule that would effectively block states from prohibiting Title X funds for abortion providers. Southern Baptist ethics leader Russell Moore is praying to that end. "My prayer is that this rule is reversed quickly, and that Planned Parenthood will finally be held accountable by both left and right, not protected by political allies at taxpayers' expense," said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

Read More: http://www.bpnews.net/48065/rule-protects-planned-parenthood-in-obamas-last-days

NORTHERN VA — "...listening to someone's reproof is one of the hardest things for me. The only thing harder is giving it...," says Annie Garman, a pastor's wife who lives in Northern Virginia with her husband Colby. Pastor Colby serves as the teaching pastor of Pillar Church. Before their church ministry days, they served for two years as IMB missionaries to the nation of Iceland. For some, giving reproof is a horrifying thought because we like to keep the peace and avoid conflict at all costs. For others, this comes naturally. Whatever camp you fall in, Annie offers four steps for examining yourself before offering that reproof.



Read More: https://www.namb.net/flourish-blog/four-steps-to-take-before-confronting-others



SEND NETWORK — Sending Churches commit to take responsibility for a church plant until it can stand on it's own as a self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating church. Many Sending Churches have questions about their role in helping a church become self-sustainable. Six critical elements of the Sending Church's role in walking with a church plant toward financial sustainability are (1) Set a realistic budget, (2) Determine an appropriate salary, (3) Build adequate support, (4) Manage bookkeeping, (5) Institute appropriate accountability measures, and (6) Trust but verify.

Read More: https://www.namb.net/news/how-do-we-help-a-plant-financially



HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION PRESENTS



STRONGHOLDS OF UNBELIEF

LAHAINA BAPTIST CHURCH 209 SHAW STREET LAHAINA, HI 96761

FEB 26 SUN

6:00PM - 9:00PM
REGISTRATION will start at 5:30PM

COST: FREE





GREG KOUKL

PAT ZUKERAN

Registration deadline is up until the event but receive a **FREE BOOK**by speaker Greg Koukl

when you register by **February 6, 2017.**



REGISTER ONLINE at HPBaptist.net/DemolishingStrongholds

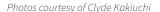
CHRISTMAS Celebrated Early at International Ministries

hristmas was celebrated a little early at International Ministries on Oahu this year. The night after classes ended at the University of Hawaii's Manoa campus, about seventy internationals gathered for a festive Christmas dinner and an opportunity to hear about the meaning of Christmas from the Bible. For many this was the first time to learn about Jesus entering the world and God's great love for them. Following the message, each table had a time of discussion led by a facilitator and all were offered a gift of the New Testament. Six different churches provided the delicious meal, and volunteers from eleven Oahu churches participated.

Sponsored by the Oahu Baptist Network and the North American Mission Board, International Ministries offers unique opportunities for students from other churches to hear the Gospel story. For more information about this ministry or to get involved, contact Carlye Lawrence, IM director, at carlylawrence@gmail.com.

For many this was the first time to learn about Jesus entering the world











Christmas Dinner gives international students and scholars an opportunity to hear about God's love for them



A Positive Impact

ALAUPAPA. MOLOKA by Clyde Kakiuchi, HPBC staff writer

"Spending time with the people of Kalaupapa was the highlight of the trip,"

was the sentiment echoed by the twelve member team who traveled to Kalaupapa, Molokai on October 28-30, 2016. Grant Okamura shared, "I appreciated hearing the stories from Edwin Lelepali (Kalaupapa resident) of his struggles; how he persevered and how he lived life to the fullest." Edith Gima added, "I met someone at Kalaupapa who had strong ties with Wahiawa and we just connected." Calvin Minoda rattled off names of Kalaupapa residents who had positively impacted his life. Minoda went on to say that it got emotionally harder when the residents he saw from the previous trip went to be with the Lord.

Kalaupapa was widely known as a place where people with leprosy, now known as Hansen's Disease, were taken and placed in isolation. Leprosy was a dreaded disease that affected the nerves and skin, caused disfigurement and thought to be highly contagious. People stricken with this disease were torn from their families and taken to this desolate place and quarantined. Father Damien and Mother Marianne Cope, the more familiar figures, arrived in the late 1800's

to serve the people at Kalaupapa. On June 30, 1969 the mandatory isolation law was lifted and the people were allowed to integrate into society.

The Olivet Baptist Church's ministry to Kalaupapa began in 1982 with David Sasaki. From 1984, Calvin Minoda led the mission teams on Presidents Day and Labor Day. The primary purpose of each mission trip was to build relationships, serve the residents and lead the Sunday service at the Kanaana Hou Church. Projects included yard work, repairing cars, fixing lawnmowers, building ramps and stairs and much more. The residents were so appreciative of the help they received and commented that they wanted to see the team again the following year.

After years of serving and building relationships one resident made this comment, "you not friends." Calvin was stunned and after a slight pause the resident repeated, "you not friends" then added, "you ohana (family)." Right then Calvin knew the group was accepted. It was affirmation that the group was doing the right thing year after year. Calvin went on to say that the main reason we were able to continue this ministry was because of Olivet's financial and prayerful support along with the invitation to return from the Kalaupapa residents. The church also supported the ministry by baking homemade cookies for the residents, the Sisters and Park Service

personnel. The comments received were usually, "Wow, for me? So much cookies! Thank you so much." They received it with gratitude knowing it was made with love by the church members, carefully transported with the team and generously shared with them after a fellowship meal.

Sid Somera, a member at Olivet and seasoned pilot, generously offered his services and flew the teams to Kaluapapa since 2005. Not wanting credit, Sid commented that he wanted to use the talents that God gave him to help the team, who in turn would help the residents, who in turn would give God the glory. He made four round trips each way to accommodate the team in the four passenger plane.

Kalaupapa is a place of pristine beauty, rich history, and tragedy. In the movie "Soul of Kalaupapa: Voices of Exile" one of the residents remarked that living in Kalaupapa was tough but wanted people to know that there was hope and they had each other. Not everything was bad. There were parties, weddings, celebrations, and happy times too.

To fellowship with the people at Kalaupapa and hear their stories was an honor and privilege. Our lives were changed and the passion for missions renewed. Edith Gima put it so well, "We thought we're going there to be a blessing but we ended up being blessed."

International Students Experience Gospel In Action

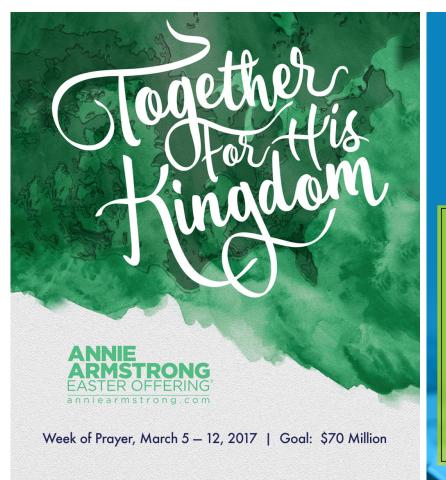




by Carlye Lawrence

...AND EXPERIENCED CHRIST'S LOVE...
through the ministry of hospitality

his November, twenty-five internationals celebrated Thanksgiving in the homes of Christians, and experienced Christ's love for them through the powerful ministry of hospitality. Families from six different churches on Oahu signed up with International Ministries and were matched with international students or scholars. Jordan. from Germany, said "they treated us like family and I felt instantly comfortable." A Chinese visiting scholar that enjoyed a warm welcome with her host family later said that the best people she has met in Hawaii have been Christians, and though she doesn't yet know God, she felt His love for her through them.



Biblical Spiritual Disciplines... *for REAL people* **January 13-15**

Central Baptist Church | 1217 Nehoa St., Honolulu

Developing the simple, Biblical means God has given to every Christian for pursuing intimacy with and conformity to Christ

Conference with Dr. Don Whitney

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday January 13th

7:00p Praying the Bible, Part 1

8:30p Praying the Bible, Part 2

Saturday January 14th

8:30a The Biblical Basis of Meditation on Scripture

10:00a Method of Mediation on Scripture, Part 1

11:30a Lunch Break

1:00p Methods on Mediation on Scripture, Part 2

2:30p Family Worship

Sunday, January 15th

10:45a Dr. Whitney preaching at Central Baptist Church

Dr. Whitney serves as
Professor of Biblical
Spirituality and Associate
Dean at the Southern
Baptist Theological Seminary.
He is founder and president
of The Center for Biblical
Spirituality and also a former
pastor. For more information, visit
biblicalspirituality.org.

Free, but space is limited!
Register early at, cbchawaii.net

Questions? Call 808-232-5185 or email cbc@cbchawaii.net



Messengers from HPBC churches hold up voting cards when voting on recommendations and resolutions during the 74th Annual Meeting of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Charting the Course Together

HPBC Celebrates Its 74th Annual Meeting

Kona, Hawaii — Hawaii Pacific Baptists celebrated their seventy-fourth annual meeting at the Courtyard King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, November 17 and 18, 2016.

The theme was "Charting the Course Together" based on Acts 20:24.

There were 214 registered messengers and 60 guests at the two-day meeting. The proceedings of the annual meeting and videos from the annual meeting can still be viewed by going to ustream.tv/hpbc-hawaii.

One new congregation requested affiliation and was approved by the messengers. The Honolulu Slavic Church led by 3 elders is the first Russian speaking church to affiliate with the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. With this new addition, there are now 12 ethnic language HPBC congregations.

Messengers to the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention approved an overall budget of \$2,915,000 reflecting a decrease of 6% from 2016.

Keynote speakers included President John Endriss, HPBC Executive DirectorTreasurer Chris Martin, and IMB Japan Cluster Leader, Donn Broeker.

The convention will continue to allocate 31.5 percent of Cooperative Program receipts to national and international missions and ministries. Messengers also approved the calendar of activities for 2017 and the report of the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Executive Board containing information on administrative service and division programs.

John Endriss, pastor of Engage Church in Hilo, Hawaii was re-elected president. Robert Uyeda, associate pastor of the English Department of Hawaii Chinese Baptist Church in Honolulu, was reelected 1st vice president. Wes Higuchi, a member of Kahului Baptist Church on Maui, was re-elected 2nd vice president. Hazel Capinpin, member of Word of Truth in Ewa Beach, Oahu, was elected for a third term as recording secretary.

A resolution was approved thanking the volunteer leadership of those ending their terms of service to the **Executive Board and Convention** Committees. A resolution recognizing the Southern Baptist Convention agencies was also approved.

This year's annual meeting was hosted by the Big Island Baptist Association who provided the sound and lighting equipment and the worship music for each session.

Next year's annual meeting will be held November 9 and 10, 2017 at the Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu.







- 1. HPBC Officers re-elected by the annual meeting messengers were (L-R): John Endriss (pastor of Engage, Hilo, Hawaii)-President; Robert Uyeda (associate pastor of Chinese Baptist Church, Honolulu)-first vice president; Wes Higuchi (member of Kahului Baptist Church)-2nd vice president; Hazel Capinpin (Word of Truth, Ewa Beach, Oahu)-Recording Secretary; with Chris Martin, HPBC executive director-treasurer
- 2. During the first night of the annual meeting, president John Endriss asked the messengers to get into small groups to pray for each other
- 3. Participants of the Youth Project, held in July, performed a dance routine. The group raised funds for airfare and lodging to come to Kona. They also performed at the Filipino Association's annual meeti
- 4
- performed at the Filipino Association's annual meeting in Hilo on Saturday

 4. Pastors Quintet provided special music. L-R: Dean Stanley, pastor of Kona Baptist Church; Bob Gierhart, pastor of Nuuanu Baptist Church; Tim Clayton, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church; Steve Gray, pastor of FBC Wahiawa; and Makito Watanabe, pastor of Olivet's Japanese Department
- 5. John Endriss, HPBC president, gave the keynote address at the first session of the HPBC annual meeting
- 6. Donn Broeker, IMB missionary and Japan Cluster leader for the East Asia People Affinity, delivered the keynote address at the Friday evening session of the HPBC annual meeting.
- 7. Arnold Goto, (third from left) president of the Hawaii Baptist Foundation, presented checks to the three associations that conducted youth camps for their island. L-R: Dean Stanley, moderator of the Big Island Baptist Association; Wes Higuchi, moderator of the Maui County Baptist Association; and Robert Miller, facilitator for the Oahu Baptist Network.







the Islands



Pawa`a Community Church **CHRISTMAS OUTREACH TO A NEIGHBORHOOD SHELTER**

 Pawa`a Community Church loves the community around them. They see what the needs are, and finds ways to share Jesus while loving others. According to pastor Arjay Gruspe,"This was the scene on December 10th when PCC hosted 32 families of a shelter in their neighborhood to a Christmas celebration. "A meal was served, entertainment provided, and children received presents and made crafts." Pastor Arjay noted, "In this year's program, a clear presentation of the gospel was given, free Bibles were available for everyone along with a copy of Lee Strobel's, 'A Case for Faith,' and church members were available for any families desiring prayer."

Praise and Prayer from PASTOR AND CHURCH PLANTER KURT SIMON, VOYAGE MINISTRIES IN WAIMEA,

HI— October flew by! Sometimes I wonder if our adversary uses business to distract us from other things, say, Kingdom things. Although our plates are full, so are our hearts. A few of our church family were able to take part in the latest community theatre play It was a huge success and another opportunity for our members t be "missional". Please keep Waimea Community Theatre in your prayers. It is encouraging to see God's hand working there! We are praying and believing for salvation for everyone! I am continuing with the life of Joseph at The Gathering and on Halloween our



Community Outreach Team made a splash with a Comfort Station in one of the busiest Trick or Treating areas in town. They had food, fellowship, first-aid, a crossing guard, port-a-pottys and tons of candy. It looks like a keeper and a great way to bless the community of Waimea. Thank you for walking this walk with us! We dearly need and appreciate your prayers. Please pray for continued growth and for many hands to help in our ministry. God's richest blessings.

For more information about Voyage Ministries, visit www.voyagewaimea.com.



Mililani Baptist Preschool

participated in the 31st Annual Mililani Town Parade this year! Jessica Han, Mililani's preschool director, says, "This parade is a fun Christmas holiday event that promotes community participation and unity. "This event benefited the preschool in the following ways: It built community among our preschool families through planning and decorating together, and it gave our families a fun community event to participate in with their children, while promoting school pride. "This benefited MBC by giving them a chance to participate in the making of the float, and also meet preschool families, as we all marched together on the day of the parade. "I would definitely encourage other churches to get involved in events like these. It helps show the community that you want to be a part of what is going on in the neighborhood, and that you care about them! "It also provides great opportunities for fellowship between families and church members!"

New Life Church's Fall Festival A PRAISE FROM JAY PARKS, CHURCH PLANTER AND PASTOR OF NEW LIFE CHURCH IN KAILUA-KONA, HI:

"This was an incredible event. We hosted this Fall Festival at Holualoa Elementary School on October 30th. We had no clue how many people would come. We handed out cards, advertised on social media, gave out info at school, and told everyone we saw. The school gave out 500 cards to students. We gave away free snow cones, hot dogs, prizes, cupcakes, and candy. We had bounce houses and a trunk or treat. Before five o'clock people began to roll in. Before it was over that night around six hundred people had come through. We gave out gifts and information about the church. More than ninety percent of the attendees did not know that a church met in the school. It was an incredible night. I went to school the next day, and they were so thankful for us and what we had done for the community. They made me promise to do it again next year. What a blessing!"

For more information about New Life Church, contact Jay Parks at jayparks81@gmail.com



Ohana's New Place of Worship

Ohana Church in Hilo, HI has found a new place of worship at 1967 Kinoole St., in Hilo. According to Pastor Zeke Tomaselli, "There is an excitement taking place in Ohana Church. For the last 2½ years, since we launched our first public service, we have been moving around to different meeting spaces. As of December 1st, God opened a door to where we got keys to our permanent leased space. It's an older church building that needs a lift; however it is ours. We don't see this building as an end goal of our mission; however we see it as a launching pad to see our church, our communities, and our city loved to the beauty of Christ. We would like to use this opportunity to call on kingdom partners who sense God's call to help revitalize and renovate our new property. "Please contact me at zeke@ ohanachurch.com if you feel led to partner with us." For more information, visit ohanachurch.com.

The Living Lighthouse

Church in Tamuning, Guam, celebrated its fifth year of hosting a Christmas Cantata in partnership with Calvary Baptist Church which sponsored Living Lighthouse.

Pastor Raye Bosi said, "It's that time of the year again where we are all reminded of that Wonderful event that happened in Bethlehem where our Savior is born and this year we had lots of opportunities. "The Choir sang at Calvary Baptist Church, St Dominic Nursing Home and was invited to sing at The John F Kennedy High School Faculty and Staff Christmas party."

The church held a full production concert at The Living Lighthouse church led by Pastor Bosi which was well attended and according to Pastor Bosi, "four precious souls made professions of faith to accept Jesus as their Savior." Pastor Bosi noted, "This brought Christmas into a wonderful completion that night. We also had a great meal serve for everyone."

For more information on The Living Lighthouse, contact Pastor Raye Bosi at renato_bosi@yahoo.com.



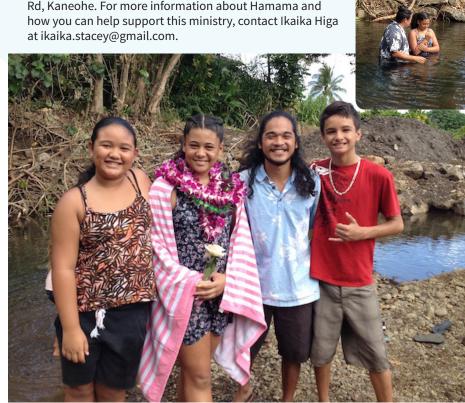
Hamama Community Church celebrated its

first baptism of one of the youth who has been attending the church. The baptism took place at a lo`i or an irrigation system mainly used to grow taro. It was a place befitting the vision of Hamama which is to engage the community by perpetuating native Hawaiian culture and language in our community.

Ikaika and Stacey Higa minister as church planters in Kahaluu on the windward side of Oahu. They desire to "meet people where they are at and engage them with the truth of the gospel." Hamama in Hawaiian means to "open up" but is also the name of a waterfall used as a water source from the nearby Koolau Mountains. According to Pastor Ikaika, "Hamama is the name of one of the waterfalls connected to the Waihe'e stream that brings fresh waiola - living water - into our community or Kaneohe. "We, at Hamama Community Church, open our lives to the refreshing Living Water of Christ and desire to share His aloha with everyone."

Ka'i'ini Aranaydo is serving as a student intern at Hamama. He works with the youth that come to the church. Pastor Ikaika says, "Ka'i'ini has cultivated a deep passion for Hawaiian culture, and to serve the youth of our community. His mission is to unleash undoubtful hope in the One who loves each of us."

Hamama Community Church is located at 47-219B Waihee







OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH SENDS DR MISSION TEAM TO GONZALES LA

By Dean Morihara, a member Olivet Baptist Church, Honolulu

IN NOVEMBER 2016, a team from Olivet Baptist Church responded

team from Olivet Baptist Church responded to the Disaster Relief's need for volunteers in Gonzalez, Louisiana. The team members: Roger Honda, Morris Miyamoto, Sean Morihara, and Dean Morihara were asked to prepare meals for the volunteers at the facility. Though none of the members were or are cooks the team decided that would still go and do their best.

In the first five days they prepared meals for 10-12 volunteers and in the last two days meals for 50 volunteers (BCM students from Alabama and Georgia arrived at the end of the week).

The team's sought to provide meals that had a local Hawaiian flavor so they prepared dishes such as: shoyu chicken, chicken katsu, fried rice, stir fried vegetables, etc. and local items i.e. spam musubi, guava juice, mango slices with lee-hing powder, haupia, kona macadamia coffee, etc. The meals and side dishes were enjoyed and so appreciated by the workers.

The basic duties for the team were planning (which included marketing), preparing breakfast, sack lunches (which they put together) for them to take with them to the jobsites and dinner, and lastly cleaning up after each meal.

The team was eager to maximize their time being on mission so they volunteered to help with the rebuilding work. Their construction leaders (Donna and Jim Leitch and John Storey) gladly involved the team in doing sheet rock installation at one

so encouraging in teaching the team how to measure, cut, lay the dry wall. They had almost completed all the sheetrock work but did not have enough days left on mission.

While there, they learned these staggering facts of the flood damage incurred.

134,000
homes were damaged in 20 parishes

13 lives were lost

31 inches of rain fell in a 15 hour period

8.7 billion in damages

Most all homes were not covered by flood insurance because this kind of event has never occurred in a "thousand years"

From their waking hours in the morning, preparing breakfast, then going to the worksite to helping with reconstruction, and then returning to preparing dinner, the team was constantly on the move. Though there was no time rest during the day, the team found great joy & strength in their

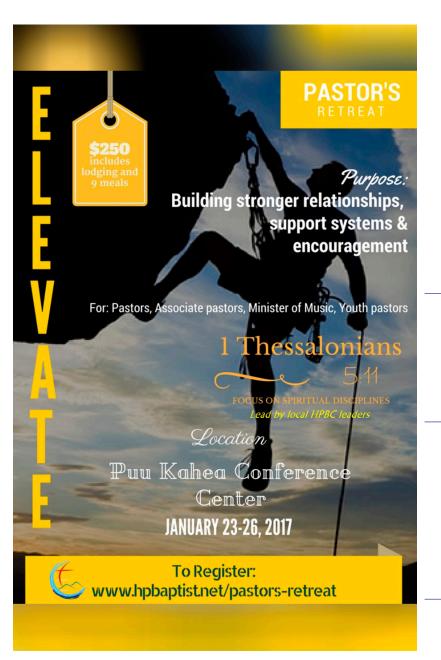
particular home. The leaders were so patient, serving, serving God and His people, and so encouraging in teaching the team how working alongside with other Christians.

Through their mission experience the team was reminded that God is perfectly able to use us in our weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness.")

He is able to use unlikely people and He is able to do immeasurably more with our lack of cooking skills, lack of construction skills, and do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20) "He is able to do immeasurably more, more than we could ask or imagine."

Though the team was not able to see the completion of the work on the house or able to meet the homeowners, the Lord reminds us to continue to be obedient to His call, even when we cannot see the fruits of our labor and that "He is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine or see." And that His blessings will come in ways that we never expected.

In conclusion all of the team members were blessed and amazed by the experiencing God's presence in all that we did. As far as fulfilling the primary task of feeding and cooking, the team of "not cooks" was praised numerous times for the great meals (and it meant a lot when the comments came from those who ate the meals prepared from the day the team arrived). On the last day before the team was to depart God allow the team to meet one of the home owners and was able to hear Arlene's story and pray for her.







CALENDAR

view the online calendar at hpbaptist.net/calendar

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 23-26 Continuing Education Conference
 - 28 HPBC Executive Board

FEBRUARY

- 1-28 "True Love Waits" Emphasis
 - 4 WMU Annual Meeting
 - 11 Pinewood Derby & Mission Fest
 - 12 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- 13-19 Focus on WMU
- 17-19 The Gathering
 - 18 Children's Ministry Day
 - 20 President's Day

MARCH

- 4 Disaster Relief Training
- 5-12 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 5-11 Youth Week
 - 19 Church Planting Emphasis Sunday
 - 19 Substance Abuse Sunday
- 23-25 Missions Adventure Camp
 - 27 Prince Kuhio Day(observed)



ISAIAH 42:12



