Pacific CONVECTOR HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

TO THE LORD AND PROCLAIM HIS PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS.

Isaiah 42:12

Plumerias are tropical trees famous for their gorgeous flowers which are used to make leis (floral garlands)—one of Hawaii's most iconic symbols.

FOR MORE ISSUES, SCAN THIS QR CODE OR GO



from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Chris Martin *Executive Director*& *Editor*

Building the Kingdom SMALL STEPS AT A TIME

rom my vantage point as your executive director, the work of God through our Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention churches is an amazing process to observe.

It is always incredible to see how God fashions His vision within the hearts of his people in many different ways. Through a gospelcentered lens, His church moves along His paths of purpose to achieve goals and dreams that would fail under human effort.

Through cooperative giving, thousands of men and women are reaching the lost world with the redemptive message of Christ, while tens of thousands more are pursuing training to better equip themselves in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Still hundreds of thousands more are engaging in daily efforts to advance God's kingdom through daily Christ-centered lives in the workplace, schools, homes and neighborhoods.

Across the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, churches are partnering together in church planting, evangelism, and community outreach to advance the Gospel. Churches are also networking together to bring stronger training, shared ministry skills, and enhanced mission efforts to their members and attenders. But... is it working?

From my view, I would say, "Yes!" Across our convention of churches, baptisms are above previous years, memberships are growing, young leaders are being developed and new congregations are starting. Many are still struggling in many ways, but the fire of ministry has not been extinguished!

With those thoughts in mind, we must realize that we can still do more today for God's Kingdom than yesterday's efforts. We can share more through personal evangelism, give more in our tithes and offerings, open our hearts more in compassion ministries, stand more for Christ in the public sector, and love more in our homes and churches.

I want to encourage you to continue to press forward in your faithful service to our Lord. We are doing better together, locally and globally, and it is working. We will never know the full impact of our efforts, but the dedicated treasures placed above will always outweigh our earthly things.

As always, your HPBC 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, please call on us at 808 356-8329 or email me at chris@hpbaptist.net. Mahalo.

Hawaii PACIFIC

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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Bringing Light to NorthAmerica

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

North America—this is

where we live. Where we raise our families. Where we work, and where we play. It's mostly a post-Christian world. However, 269 million of our North American neighbors do not know Jesus

Together, we can equip missionaries through the power of prayer and through our financial gifts to reach the unreached in North America.

Christ. North America and its major cities are some of the most spiritually dark places in the world.

Daily, we sit next to those without hope.

Daily, we sit next to those without hope. But we can reach them through one of the most effective evangelism methods: planting churches. Together, we can equip missionaries through the power of prayer and through our financial gifts to reach the unreached in North America. Missionaries need training, resources and education. They need a community network. Church planters and their families need support for the basics of living life while they build a congregation. Your financial gifts provide a solid foundation for these missionaries, their families, and the churches they are building.

We can't all go, but we can all give together. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® changes lives forever by empowering North American missionaries to bring the gospel to the lost. Every dollar given to this offering (named after missions advocate and WMU leader, Annie Armstrong, in 1934) goes to missionaries and their work of sharing the life-transforming gospel

of Jesus Christ throughout the United States, Canada, and their territories.

With three out of four people in the United States and Canada being lost and not having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the most effective and efficient way to reach them is through missionaries who spread the gospel through establishing new churches and serving the needs of their communities. These missionaries need our prayers and our financial support. The Southern Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board (through your financial gifts to AAEO) are uniquely positioned to help these missionaries make the greatest Kingdom impact.

In 1895, the first missions offering to benefit the work of home missions (now known as North American missions) was promoted and taken up by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). The Home Mission Board (now known as North American Mission Board) asked for \$5,000 toward its work. WMU's effort exceeded that goal. From then to today, more than \$1 billion has been raised for North American missions.

HAWAII AND THE PACIFIC

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® Goal for the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention is \$150,000. Church planters and MSC missionaries serving in our convention are provided financial support and have ministries funded by this offering. Please pray and give generously through your church to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®.





A Cup of Cold Water In My Name

by Faith McFatridge, HPBC Staff Writer

he pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wahiawa is living out the verse from Matthew 10:42 which says, "And whoever gives just a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple —I assure you: He will never lose his reward!"

There is a bus stop at the corner of the parking lot at FBC Wahiawa on California Avenue in Wahiawa. The church is also located where students from nearby Wahiawa Middle and Leilehua High School walk past to get to the bus stop.

Pastor Steve Gray says that he would occasionally hear the students "cutting up" or sometimes shouting. One day as he was sitting at his office desk, the Lord spoke to him and asked why he was sitting inside when he should be outside doing something with the students. He didn't know exactly what to do but decided maybe a cup of cold water would help while the students waited for the bus. He could engage them in conversation and let them know about the church.

Water Wednesdays began with just a big cooler of cold water next to the bus stop. It grew into a tent with a table with chairs and snacks, cookies, and of course, the cooler of cold water.

A simple conversation at a meeting brought Gail Sumner, a pastor's wife from Praise Chapel in Whitmore and her friend, Charleen Dunn. They come every week with snacks and homemade cookies, which are mostly gone in 15 minutes as the students gather at the bus stop. Gail and Charleen start conversations with the kids and eventually ask if they want to learn about Jesus. Pastor Steve says that there have been a few who prayed to accept Christ from this ministry.

With the new pastoral intern, Malachi McSherry, the youth ministry has already grown to more than a few students. Malachi has invited the kids to youth activities at the church and made friends with many of the students who frequent the bus stop. Pastor Steve says that Malachi has come at an opportune time and he looks forward to reaching more youth with the Gospel of Jesus.

Malachi McSherry (right), pastoral intern at First Baptist Church of Wahiawa, invites a student to visit the church youth room and points to where it is located. Pastor Steve Gray (middle) started Water Wednesdays at the Bus Stop in the corner of the church's parking lot with a simple cooler of water.

And whoever gives just a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple—I assure you: He will never lose his reward!

Reaching and Keeping Youth

WHAT HPBC CHURCHES ARE DOING TO CULTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE

by Bong Abagon, HPBC Staff Writer

is exciting to see what HPBC churches are doing to cultivate young people in their churches. Weekly youth fellowships, bible studies, small groups, retreats, outings, and inter-church youth camps are developing Kingdom Growth and discipling them in their spiritual journey.

While there is no doubt that churches can do better in reaching those outside the church population, I have tremendous respect for churches that make every effort to nurture those already in it.

In January, pastors met for the the Oahu Baptist Network Dialogue discussion centered around the question, How do you reach and keep young people in your church? An article by Ed Stetzer, How to Reach and Retain Millennials, was shared, bringing forth many comments from the group. (to view the article, go to christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/september/how-to-effectively-reach-and-retain-millennials.html)

Ed Stetzer is a popular author and blogger who addresses church trends. In

the article, Ed listed ways by which churches can reach millennials:

BE CONTEMPORARY AND CULTURALLY

ENGAGED. Being effective at reaching and keeping millennials doesn't have much to do with being a "young, cool, hip church." It has more to do with fostering relationships between young adults and older adults who care about them, listen to them, and, as a result, minister together with them.

BE AUTHENTIC. Many millennials are searching for a safe place where pastors, leaders, and others share their struggles and everyone can share their sinful issues without being ostracized. Authentically sharing without condemnation is a significant point of connection with young adults.

CARE FOR THE HURTING. Churches that are engaging millennials are often known for caring for the marginalized, the hurting, and the outcasts. These

churches are focused on reaching others in need. Some call it the "Bono-ization" of our culture, a term coined from humanitarian efforts led by Irish singer, songwriter Bono—lead singer of the rock band U2.

Stetzer concludes by stating, "One of the best ways to find out how to reach millennials is to get to know them. Talk with those in their twenties and early thirties. Discover their likes and dislikes. Ask for their input. Actually befriend them."

In the discussion, Jason Hew, Minister of Education and Outreach at Olivet Baptist Church said, "We can easily lose the youth when we're not engaged on their level—but we need to help them process context through the eyes of the Scripture." "One of my youth can't get over the fact that he enjoyed hanging out with Grandpa Morris (a long-time church member) who simply took the time to be there, share, and listen" says Chris Morales, Minister to Young Families and Youth at Nuuanu Baptist Church who saw this as a remarkable break-through to Youth Ministry. Jeff Mullins, Youth Minister at Olivet Baptist Church, observed that spiritual lessons make sense when his youth immediately enact and apply things they have learned.

The challenge is to understand the world young people live in from music, lifestyle, to entertainment and technology. I am humbled to hear from these youth leaders and pastors a confession that there is no one way to reach and keep young people. Let's join these youth leaders in fostering relationships with the youth by caring, listening and ministering together with them.



INSPIRATION By All Means 2017 WMU Missions Celebration

by Teresa McCain, HPBC Staff Writer

"It was not a day of just a single impact but a day of many impacts," said a first-time attendee at the Hawaii Pacific WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration held on Saturday, February 4th at the Hale Koa Hotel. She continued, "I am so glad I went. At this meeting, I was embraced by women who care and have a special interest in the Lord and His work."

With this year's theme, *By All Means*, women and men who attended were given opportunities to hear from others how they have embraced missions "by all means." Stories from mission fields near and far, from way back in the past

and right now, compelled the listener to hear where and how God would have them serve "by all means." One hundred and ninety women and men from across the islands attended the one-day WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration and learned about WMU's rich mission heritage.

Breakout sessions where attendees could learn about Annie Armstrong and Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend or listen to two of our local WMU pioneers were offered. Attendees were also treated to an inspirational Lottie Moon monologue given by Laurita Mullins Miller. One person shared, "I felt extremely inspired by the Lottie Moon Monologue. It

helped me understand who Lottie Moon was and what it means to us today. I realized the importance of sharing these women's stories...so we can go forth and share with others." Another woman exclaimed, "the encounter with 'Lottie' brought us to tears."

Esther Shin, multicultural consultant from WMU Virginia, led 28 Korean women in learning about WMU and missions. In their excitement to learn more, the group moved to a local Korean church after the larger meeting adjourned, so they could continue to learn for an additional two hours. Esther brought mission education materials written in Korean for the Korean women to use in their churches. Mrs. Shin explained how to bring mission education to their congregations.

Grandma Pearl (Pearl Maeda) summed it up, "The Missions Celebration was such a memorable event. There were eight of us from Eleele Baptist Church and we were blessed beyond measure!"









What Can the SUE NISHIKAWA Offering Do For You?

by Teresa McCain, HPBC Staff Writer

WHAT IS YOUR
CHURCH'S VISION TO
BECOME ALL THINGS
TO ALL PEOPLE, SO
THAT SOME MIGHT
BE SAVED

?

re we willing to do whatever it takes, by whatever means, at any cost, with all certainty to reach the lost for Christ? That's exactly what Paul is talking about in 1 Corinthians 9:22b-23 when he says, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." Paul described what he was willing to do and to become so that some might be saved. He willingly did whatever it took to win others to Christ!

Step Into the World, Cultivate Relationships

This year's emphasis for the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions challenged all of us as believers to follow Christ's example: to step into the world around us, to cultivate relationships, and to create opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ. What does that mean for you and your church? What ways can your church reach out to the world

around you and win them to Christ? Who lives in the shadow of your church? Who are your neighbors, who do you work with, who do you pass by daily? What can you do to reach them for Christ? What needs can your church meet? How can your church become all things to all people so that by all possible means, some might be saved?

Be Creative, Reach the Community

Your church can request funds to meet the needs around you. This is your opportunity to be creative and unique in the ways your church reaches the community around it. Come up with a plan to reach out and meet needs in your community, download an application form from hpbaptist.net, complete it and send it to the HPBC office. The WMU Allocation Committee will review the requests and make a recommendation. It's that easy! One of our past recipients met needs by offering after-school tutoring, another by offering Kalo workshops where they share that Jesus is the "Kalo" of Life. Another counsels women with crisis pregnancies and teaches youth about abstinence. Churches provide VBS for their communities. Seafarers are ministered to on the Honolulu docks and Hilo BCM students have reached out to kids on Molokai to share the love of Christ over spring break. One of the HPBC churches in Korea took the gospel to an unreached people group in China. All of these things happened because of the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions.

What is your vision? How can your church be all things to all people so that some might be saved? By All Means, we can do this together!



Oahu Women Served More than Brunch and Tea



FELLOWSHIPPING WITH OTHER WOMEN."
LIFE-SHARING STORYTELLING AMONG LADIES." LOVED MEETING WOMEN FROM DIFFERENT CHURCHES."

ixty women and girls from ten different Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention churches on Oahu attended the Tea. Attendance ranged from elementary age girls to a few 80 plus year-olds. Ka'i'ini Aranaydo, youth leader from Hamama Community Church brought 8 girls. He noticed he was the only male so he graciously bowed out and came to get the girls at the end of the tea.

Along with a smorgasbord of tea delicacies, a panel discussion on multigenerational mentoring offered thoughts and reasons to reach across generations to mentor other women in their Christian walk. Serving on the panel were Jess Reyes and Allie Higashi from Pawa'a Community Church, Vicky Kawamae from Cornerstone Fellowship-Mililani Mauka, and Teresa McCain, Director of Women's Ministries. Dani Beth Crosby, Family Ministries director at University Avenue Baptist Church, served as facilitator for the panel. The attendees were asked for ideas for future women's events and suggestions ranged from fellowships to fashion shows to Bible studies.

One of the attendees, retired IMB missionary Shari Chow shared, "The panel discussion encouraged women in the body to meet and mentor each other; the older women helping younger generation women." One attendee from Olivet Baptist Church said that it was good to enjoy the conversation and sharing ideas around the table.

Please visit the HPBC website at hpbaptist.net/women for information on upcoming women's ministry events.



AROUND the SBC Southern Baptist Convention



PARTNERING WELL — A church planter who is known for planting 20 churches knows the importance of staying connected and the power of multiplication. It isn't just about "me", it's about "we". We actually care for one another. This is how God has designed His kingdom to advance and how multiplication happens.

Read More: https://www.namb.net/send-network-blog/partnering-well-staying-connected





REDEEMED TO GO — Abuk, a rescued refugee, returns to Africa with the gospel. She is subtly redefining what many people believe missionaries to be. Her humble spirit and inspiring story shows how they are ordinary followers of Jesus each with his or her own story of redemption and with his or her own part to play in God's mission.

Read More: https://www.imb.org/2017/02/14/redeemed-refugee-returns

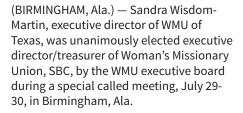
BATTLING SEX TRAFFICKING — Amy Lipovsky leads Legacy Church's battle against sex trafficking as members visit Detroit-area hotel and motel staffs to impart awareness of what they can do to help free entrapped young women.

Read More: http://www.bpnews.net/48338/battling-sex-trafficking-trekking-to-hotels-and-motels



Wisdom-Martin **Newly Elected Executive Director** of WMU, SBC | WMU

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Wisdom-Martin succeeds Wanda Lee. who has served as executive director of the 128-year-old missions organization for the past 16 years. Wisdom-Martin, who will begin her new role on Oct. 15, was presented to the board by a search committee appointed in February following Lee's announcement of her intentions to retire.

Prior to leading WMU of Texas since 2010, Wisdom-Martin served as women's missions and ministries director for the Illinois Baptist State Association, 2001-2010; and as Cooperative Program Missionary with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 1991-2001.

"Having served in three different Baptist state conventions, Sandy brings great experience as a leader to this role along with tremendous creativity," said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky and chair of the search committee. "The affirmations of her leadership received from people in each state where she has served speak volumes. She has earned love and respect through partnerships, missions trips, speaking engagements, and other missions involvement."

Bolton describes Wisdom-Martin as "a thoughtful leader who listens well and brings clarity to complex situations when she speaks."

Lee agrees. "I've had the privilege of observing and working alongside Sandy for many years," she said. "Sandy listens well, considers every possible action before she speaks, and then delivers on what she promises. Her quiet presence puts people at ease while building confidence in the actions to be taken.



She will lead WMU well from a place of complete surrender to the Lord."

Complete Surrender

"My commitment has always been to walk where God leads," Wisdom-Martin reflected, "yet this has been a difficult process because I am in a very good place. I love the assignment God has given us (in Texas). This certainly caught my family by surprise and was not a part of our plan, but we believe God is sovereign and all the details of our lives are in His hands. I trust Him completely for the future."

She said what excites her most about this opportunity is to put total trust in the Father, serve Him with reckless abandon and see where the adventure leads.

"I don't do what I do because of my employment," Wisdom-Martin continued "I do what I do because I believe in the restoration of brokenness through hope in Christ. Through WMU, the only reason we do what we do is because He is risen and we must tell the good news."



Linda Cooper, president of national WMU, said Wisdom-Martin clearly serves with humility and compassion and desires to honor God with her life. "Sandy is passionate about the work of WMU and what it represents, but most of all she loves the Lord and desires to share His love with everyone He puts in her path."

In regard to transition of leadership, Lee said, "I am excited about handing over this important place of service to Sandy and pledge all of my support and prayers as she comes to lead WMU into the future. Her love for missions, missionaries, and WMU provides a strong backdrop for developing the vision we need for the future of WMU."

In addition to more than 25 years of experience in state WMU and church and community ministry, including children's missions education camps, Wisdom-Martin has served with more than 50 missions groups in nine different countries; served as national coordinator for Mississippi River Ministry; and writes extensively for WMU publications and others. In WMU, she has served as an associational GA director, associational Acteens director, Campus Baptist Young Women (BYU) president, Mission Friends leader, GA leader, and Acteens co-leader.

Born and raised in southern Illinois, Wisdom-Martin holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Southern Illinois University and a master's in social work from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Frank, have one daughter, Hannah.

DISASTER RELIEF

Celebrates 50 Years

by Darrell McCain, HPBC Staff Writer

I had the privilege of attending the celebration of 50 years of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) organization in January. Combined with the annual Disaster Relief Round Table that was held in Texas, the three-day event celebrated its history, recognized its leaders and discussed the plans for the future of Disaster Relief (DR).

Disaster Relief started in 1967 when Bob Dixon and John La Noue with Texas Baptist Men had just finished up a Royal Ambassadors (RAs)boys camp. They had taught the boys how to make a buddy burner, one of the essential



making breakfast on a buddy burner

learning tools in RAs. A buddy burner is a handmade cook stove made out of ordinary materials that can cook just about anything. Hurricane Beulah had recently devastated areas of the

Gulf Coast. Bob had this great idea to take these buddy burners to the Gulf Coast and prepare whatever meals they could to feed the survivors and volunteers. It was a rare treat to hear Bob

Dixon and John La Noue share with us how it all started. I pray for these Godly men and am so thankful for pioneering SBDR and supporting RAs.

From a couple of men and a buddy burner to Disaster Relief today, Southern Baptists across the country are equipped with a volunteer force that can prepare 30 thousand plus meals per day, to mobilizing a construction crew, or whatever disasters that happen around the country. Here in Hawaii, our DR volunteers were mobilized during the hurricanes from Kauai, Big Island to American Samoa, Guam and Saipan.

During the DR celebration week, there was a friendly competition of preparing one pot meals from a mobile kitchen on the site. I discovered that we have some great chefs in Disaster Relief. The Texas Baptist Men showed us how to make

We have to... continue sharing a cup of cold water... and earning the opportunity to share Jesus with people.

> buddy burners and cook "Toad in a Hole" which is toast with bacon and egg on it. TBM then gave us a tour of their amazing warehouse and operations.

NAMB president Kevin Ezell thanked SBDR for their work and ministry. David Melber, vice president of SEND RELIEF, shared more of the new SEND RELIEF program with NAMB. Send Relief seeks to join Christians and churches in this swelling tide of compassion. It seeks to equip churches to take their next missional opportunity by offering mercy to suffering people in the local, national and

international community.

I was able to learn a lot and it made me realize that we have to move forward to continue sharing a cup of cold water to survivors and earning the opportunity to share Jesus with people.



DR Texas Baptist men prepare a delicious meal during the

the Islands

Meet Malachi McSherry PASTORAL INTERN, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WAHIAWA

— Malachi is serving a pastoral internship under Pastor Steve Gray. Malachi is from Bixby, OK, and has spent several summers as an intern with the Pawa'a Community Church and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries on Oahu. No stranger to missions, he



has been on mission trips since he was 14. When on a mission trip to Hawaii last year with his church, the group had a chance to visit the Seafarers Ministry on Oahu. A pastor whose church sponsors a boat was at the Seafarers Ministry that evening. He met Malachi and talked to him about possibly coming to work at their church to help grow the youth department. That pastor was Steve Gray.

Malachi's mission education began at an early age in his church in Bixby, OK. His Mission Friends teacher was Teresa McCain who also was his kindergarten teacher. Later, his Royal Ambassador leader turned out to be Darrell McCain. In 2016, his church sponsored the mission trip to Hawaii and their hosts were the McCains, who are serving as Mission Service Corps volunteers.

According to Pastor Steve, Malachi has already made friends with several youth and has many plans to expand the ministry. Malachi's term of service is for two years but with a smile on his face, he hopes to stay longer—God willing.

Missions Fest for West Hawaii

RAISING AWARENESS of missions education and cooperative partnerships was the purpose of the Missions Fest that was held at Waikoloa Baptist Church on Saturday, February 25. Also, there was a time of sharing with retired IMB missionaries. Churches on the Kona side of the Big Island were invited to participate, and all who were interested were able to attend—there was no cost. Guest speakers included Teresa McCain, HPBC Director of Women's Ministries; Gail Gierhart, Hawaii WMU President and retired IMB missionary; Brad Chow, retired IMB missionary; and Jamie and Liz McElrath, retired IMB missionaries. A potluck lunch was served.

Equip and Train

CHURCHES CAN EQUIP AND TRAIN LEADERS for God's kingdom work through the Oahu Bible Institute on Oahu and the Island Bible Institute on Maui. Check out their web site for course offerings, tuition cost, scholarships, and much more:

Island Bible Institute on Maui—
www.islandbibleinstitute.com
Oahu Bible Institute on Oahu—
www.oahubaptist.net/oahu-bible-institute-brochure
For information about Voyage Ministries: voyagewaimea.com

Split-Second Racing

RACE—Split-second laser finishes, stunning design concepts, and elaborate decorations summed up this year's Pinewood Derby Race held on February 11 at the HPBC Chapel. Racers from several HPBC churches participated in the three divisions: 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, and youth/leaders. Trophies were given to the winners in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. All had the opportunity



to listen and interact with student and full-time missionaries who had served around the world with the International Mission Board. Katelyn Holzer, Jess Reyes, and Jeremy Santiago shared with the children their missionaries experiences while serving in East Asia, Indonesia, and Benin. After the race, all participants shared a lunch and compared cars. Loud cheering, breath-holding, and great fun was had by all who participated in this year's Derby Race.

Meet Chris Morales CHRIS WAS LICENSED INTO

THE GOSPEL ministry by Nu'uanu Baptist Church on Jan. 22, 2017. He is serving as Minister to Youth and Young Families. Chris is "floored" by God's love for him, God's grace in his life, and is in awe of God's sovereignty. He loves the Word, loves the



church, and thanks the Lord for his lovely wife, Samantha. His hobbies and favorite things are an open Bible with coffee on the table, acoustic worship, surfing and making his wife laugh! He is passionate about reaching the community with the gospel through the local church and everyday gospel-centered living. He served for the past 9 years in youth ministry and now serves the young families, young adults and youth at Nu'uanu Baptist Church. Inspired by Acts 2:42-47, he prays that the church will simply be devoted to the word, prayer, and fellowship.

Aloha for shane sowers AND FAMILY— Central Baptist Church, Oahu. Baptism, Lord's Supper, inspiring sermon and aloha potluck for Shane and his family on January 22. Shane has served at Central for the past 8½ years. He has accepted a pastorate in Colorado.



Photo courtesy of Clyde Kakiuchi



Pastors Retreat: Laughter, Learning, and Encouragement

by Clyde Kakiuchi, HPBC Staff Writer

ontrary to popular belief, pastors do have a lot of fun and can be quite hilarious at times. Such was the case for the nineteen who attended the Pastors Retreat held at the Puu Kahea Conference Center on January 23-26. It escalated from laughter to roaring laughter during the meals and free time as pastors exchanged stories of the past and participated in various games. If laughter is good medicine, a few may have overdosed in a good way.

There was also a serious side of the retreat as the pastors engaged in the spiritual disciplines such as private and corporate prayer, solitude, worship, fellowship in the biblical sense and a guided study. One result of practicing the disciples was the trust and bond among the pastors. Brian Suzui shared, "The fellowship and bonding times was the most meaningful to me. Hebrews 3:13 came to mind, 'But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today....' During the retreat, I was encouraged by my brothers in Christ." Shane Okimoto, pastor of the Waikea Uka Bible Church wrote, "The retreat brought us together for a time of learning and sharing life with each other. It was good to know that we share in similar struggles and situations. It refreshed me as an individual and as a servant of the Lord, even when I didn't realize that I needed refreshing."

When asked, "What is one thing you are going to implement personally or church wide?," Larry Hale, pastor of the Eleele Baptist Church responded, "More solitude and teaching the spiritual disciplines." Zeke Tomaselli commented, "Prayer stations of the cross is something I

would be interested in implementing." Shane Okimoto added, "I have been thinking of starting small group Bible studies within my church to deepen fellowship where people have more time and opportunity to be real with fellow believers. I believe God has put that on my heart to implement this year."

It's good
to know
that we
share in
similiar
struggles...

The benefits of attending the pastors retreat was the formal time of learning, the informal time of networking, and the bonding time through mutual encouragement. Yes, pastors can have fun. If you are not having fun, talk with one of the nineteen who attended. You just may break into joyous laughter.

MISSIONS ADVENTURE CAMP

Christian Camps

Did you know that Christian Camps are more likely to help children become Christians, and more likely to help children and youth to commit to ministry or become a missionary from Gods calling. It's amazing so many memories from Church sponsored camps come to mind. Campers make new friends and strengthen best friend relationships. Camp is a place where children and youth go to grow closer to God or some go just to have fun and get away from home. When they get there they realize God is real and He loves them. Last year, Providence said "I'm coming to camp next year" before camp is even over!





FRESH IDEAS

by Diana Davis

THE MISSION FIELD NEXT DOOR

Playing in her yard, little Paula loved hearing the music at the church next door. She often peeked through the fence to watch happy people going inside. One day, a woman noticed her behind the fence and asked, "Do you want to go to church with us?" It was the happiest day of her childhood! Paula's entire family came to know Jesus as Savior because of that invitation.

Is it possible for someone to live within walking distance, but never be influenced by your church for Christ? Look outside. Is there a neighborhood, apartment complex or business? Do homeless people or professionals or school kids pass by?

Here's a challenge for your small group, ministry team or church. Choose a block of homes or apartments near your church, then make a plan to know and invite each person who lives there. Try a few of these simple ideas to get started:

• Chart your chosen block.

Your group could blitz your block one Sunday to deliver a Bible or plant to each home. Meet them. Learn names. Be a friend. Pray for them.

• See needs. Meet needs.

Mow an overgrown lot. Paint a decaying home. Build a ramp for an elderly neighbor. Show God's love tangibly.

• Personally invite.

Personally invite them to come inside your church. Examples: attend worship, Wednesday dinner, Easter celebration, kids event, youth camp, church picnic, Bible study, etc. Meet them there.

• Use visuals.

Use outdoor banners, signs, and even sidewalk chalk art to remind neighbors they're welcome to God's church.

Consider their needs.

Consider the needs of those you've met, and plan a class or event with them in mind—

exercise group, benevolence, community garden, GED, class or event for young professionals, parents, immigrants, singles, kids, married couples. Invite them.

Share.

Be willing to open up and share your church gym, playground, library, basketball goals, or walking track.

Host.

Try hosting a neighborhood coffee in the church. Personally deliver invitations, serve snacks, provide nametags, and get to know guests. Invite them to worship.

• Participate.

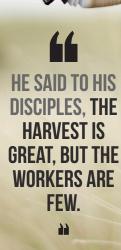
If there's a neighborhood event, go. If there's a neighborhood newsletter, advertise in it. If there's a neighborhood crisis, be the first to serve. Show God's love.

Last Sunday in our small group, Suzie was excitedly telling about the senior care center being constructed next to our church property. "Some folks there won't know Jesus," she exclaimed. "We've got to do something!" There's our mission field. Will we just smile and wave as we drive to church, or will we invite them to know Jesus?

That child who peeked through the fence grew up to be an awesome servant of God and a friend of mine. I'm so glad someone walked next door and invited her to meet Jesus.

As you exit your church on Sunday, look all around. Ask God to open your eyes to see people who need Him.

Watch Diana and Autumn's video at hpbaptist.net/ wivesinministry for more encouragement. © Diana Davis' newest book, coauthored with daughter Autumn Wall, shares lots more mission action tips -Across the Street and Around the World (New Hope Publishers 2016) dianadavis.ora



MATTHEW 9:37

Help Your Church Celebrate Easter

Easter events can have very positive results if thoughtful planning is involved. Here's a head start on planning with your leaders for the best Easter Celebration in your congregation. Above all, keep the resurrected Jesus the main focus.

Here are some things your church leaders should consider:

- Challenge members to **invite relatives and friends**. People are more likely to say yes to attending church on Easter than any other day of the year. Be welcoming and share the genuine smile of Jesus to others.
- Plan ahead to replace missing workers or volunteers. "In a big church," writes Karl Vaters of Christianity Today, "when some musicians leave town for Easter weekend, there are plenty to take their place...in a small church, it's a different story." Plan ahead, but train now those who will replace the ones who will be gone.
- Plan every detail you possibly can. From an umbrella crew to decision counselors. It's a lot better to put your effort into this, than spend time doing the "I wish I should have..."
- Imagine you're a first time guest and evaluate your church. Solicit fresh eyes to advise what could be easily overlooked.
- Plan a follow-up and re-invite guests immediately. This is one day that you should have a visitor information packet. Devise a way to collect their email address and information and pray for a good follow up. Do a "glad-you-came" phone call or send out an invite to your next church event.
- It is a time for intense prayer. Let members go into a season of prayer for 3-4 weeks ahead of Easter. Send a short 21 day email prayer guide. Have everyone commit to praying specially for someone to invite.
- Update your church website. Its been proven that visitors will look at your website first before they step into your church. Consider adding a "first-time" button.



CALENDAR

view the online calendar at hpbaptist.net/hpbc-2017-calendar

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(office closed)

APRIL

- 1 VBS Training
- 7-8 HBEEA Conference
- 9 Cooperative Program Sunday
- 14 Good Friday
- 16 Easter
- 23 Baptist Doctrine Sunday
- 23 SBC Seminaries Sunday
- 27-29 Wives in Ministry Retreat

MAY

- 7 Senior Adult Sunday
- 13 HPBC Executive Board
- 14-20 Christian Home Week
- 21-28 Baptist Association Emphasis
 - 29 Memorial Day (office closed)



ISAIAH 42:12



