# Pacific CONNECTOR

HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

LET THEM GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD AND PROCLAIM HIS PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS.

ISAIAH 42:12



# Chris Martin Executive Director & Editor chris@hpbaptist.net 808-356-8329

## from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Building the Kingdom SMALL STEPS AT A TIME

ecently, someone once asked me if I had ever been lost in a strange or dark place. They described the kind of 'lost' where you feel the edge of stress and anxiety creep in, creating nervous energy that borders on panic. A feeling of fear and hopelessness begins to distract from your ability to think as you look for recognizable signs. Really lost.

As memories began to come to my mind, I could recall being lost. As a boy growing up in Louisiana, I roamed the woods, fields, and swamps around my home. At times, exploring led me to become lost, but I always had an understanding that I could eventually find my way home or someone would look for me. Never did I feel completely lost.

In measuring the need for the Gospel throughout our regions of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, we must realize that the vast majority of people around us are spiritually lost. According to the statistics, the numbers are incredible:

The Pew Research Center estimates that about 25% of Hawaii's population is Evangelical Christian.

■ IMB Global Research forecasts that Japan's indigenous population of over 125 million and Thailand's population of over 68 million holds less than 2% identified as Christians.

Reflecting on the thoughts of being lost, I also have heard it said that the only thing worse than being lost is... being lost with no one looking for you.

IMB Global
Research reports that
within East Asia, Southeast
Asia, and the Pacific Islands
there are 461 people groups
with over 23 million people
that are unengaged and
unreached by the
Gospel of Jesus
Christ.

And at this moment, no one is looking for them.

This issue of the Pacific Connector will highlight some of the great things that God is doing through our HPBC churches located in East and Southeast Asia. Our prayer is that as you read, you will be encouraged to pray for, to connect with, and to partner together with the churches of the HPBC. We have an incredible need!

The statistics show us the amount of lostness around us. God's Word teaches us that Jesus expects us to go to those 'lost' ones with the truth of His Word and the power of the Gospel. Our actions will prove our faith in obedience.

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 us at 808 356-8329 or email me at chris@hpbaptist.net.

Mahalo, Chris Martin

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### Pacific CONNECTOR

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

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**MAY JUNE** 

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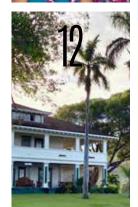




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## Fast Facts: East Asia



**EAST ASIA** 

# Asia Baptist Network

he Asia Baptist Network held their annual leadership conference March 6-8 with our HPBC churches in Asia, plus missionaries from the International Mission Board (IMB) and other international Baptist churches around Asia, and associated Evangelical churches in Okinawa. This year's meeting was at Koza Baptist Church with approximately 110 in attendance and was hosted by ABN Moderator and Koza Baptist Senior Pastor, John Reimer and the Koza Baptist Staff Team.



"Vital Signs of a Healthy Church"

was the theme of this year's annual leadership conference. Keynote speakers dealt with Biblical Leadership, Teamwork, Church Discipline, Long-term Ministry, and Growing God's Kingdom Together.

The Asia Baptist Network churches in Japan are Koza Baptist, Okinawa, Pillar Church, Okinawa, Tokyo Baptist, Tokyo, and Yokohama International Baptist, Yokohama. Our Asia Baptist Churches in Korea are Seoul International Baptist and their Church Plant, Pyeongtaek International Baptist, and Songtan Central Baptist, Pyeongtaek. The newest member of the Asia Baptist Network and of the HPBC is Calvary International Baptist in Bangkok, Thailand.



# Filipino Baptists Gather for Sunrise Service

On Sunday, April 1, 2018, the churches of the Filipino Southern Baptist Convention of the Pacific (FSBCP) gathered for an Easter Sunrise Service at Waikele Park. Worship was led by college students from several churches, Pastor Bong Abagon preached, and Daniel Capinpin, FSBCP Moderator, shared announcements and introduced the FSBCP leadership. Hazel Capinpin also shared a missions update. Following the service, a breakfast was hosted in the park by

the members of Hawaii Christian Baptist. Pastors and churches represented include Pastor Rudy and Lydia Gomintong, Hawaii Christian Baptist; Pastor Daniel and Ivy Capinpin, Word of Truth; Pastor Bong Abagon, Interim at Mililani Fil-Am; Pastor Ben Carino, Hawaii Filipino Baptist Mission, Haleiwa; Pastor Glen and Melanie Basuel, Village Park Baptist Church. There were also members and leaders of New Life Christian Church, Kalihi.





(1)
Pastor Daniel Capinpin,
President of our Filipino
Southern Baptist Fellowship
of the Pacific

Pastor Rudy and Lydia
Gomintong of Hawaii
Christian Church with
Pastor Craig Webb,
HPBC Assistant
Executive Director

(3)
College student-led worship
at the sunrise service for the
Filipino Southern Baptist
Fellowship of the Pacific













## **HE IS RISEN! EASTER, 2018**

- 1 Members of Kaunakakai Baptist on Molokai gather after baptism at the Wharf with Pastor Andrew and Martha Johnson
- 2 Good Friday service with International Students at the International Baptist Center in Manoa
- 3 Pastor Andrew Johnson of Kaunakakai Baptist on Molokai baptizing the week after Easter
- 4 John Endriss, pastor of Engage Church, Hilo, praying with three college students who were baptized on Easter morning
- 5 Calvary Hillside Church on the Big Island, from Easter service at Hapuna Beach, where they baptized 11
- 6 Easter morning hula at Ohana Church, Hilo
- 7 Easter morning singing at Ohana Church, Hilo





Teresa McCain

## **Wives In Ministry Retreat**

# **ADORNED**

Our 43rd annual Wives in Ministry retreat was held at Pu'u Kahea conference center April 5-7, 2018. The theme was "Adorned: Is Your Beauty Imperishable?" based on 1 Peter 3:3-6. Shauna Pilgreen, a Flourish author, and wife of Ben, pastor of Epic Church in San Francisco was our guest speaker. Meredith Palicte, Minister of Worship and Internationals at University Avenue Baptist, led worship.

Our Wives in Ministry team plans and implements this event under the direction of the chair, Teresa McCain, HPBC's Director of Ministry to Women. The members of this team are Dawn Akutagawa, Wendy Martin, Noe Okawara, Lisa Tabudlo, Layne Tomaselli, Ashley Tucker, and Miki Uyeda.

This year, before messages from Shauna Pilgreen, several women shared



Wives in Ministry Retreat

testimonies including Melanie Hom, Dlorah Puckett, Miki Uyeda, and Barbara Webb.

Additional activities included massage, craft nights, and break out sessions led by Layne Tomaselli—*Different Ways to Study the Bible*, Noe Okawara and Miki Uyeda—*Sharing Resources*, Teresa McCain

and Wendy Martin—Gateway Women's Network, Dawn Akutagawa—Diamond Painting, Lisa Tabudlo-Making Haku, and Ashley Tucker—Homeschooling Round Table. We also had a pop up shop featuring Lularoe Clothing, Worldcrafts, and Usborne Books.

# FRESH IDEAS

#### by Diana Davis

## What Does the Ideal Pastor's Wife Look Like?

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP) — Believe it or not, every pastor's wife is one-of-a-kind. She's definitely not a clone of your previous pastor's wife, or any other pastor's wife you know. God created her uniquely—her personality, giftedness, style, strengths and weaknesses.

Don't fall for the rumor that there's a cookie-cutter mold for the ideal pastor's wife. I've known and observed hundreds of effective pastors' wives, and can assure you that no two are alike!

I know awesome pastor's wives who are tall, short, old, young, introverted and extroverted. She may wear a ponytail, pixie cut or dreadlocks. Some wear hats or have tattoos or pierced ears. There are pastor's wives who run marathons, barrel race, coach, hunt, golf, and raise goats.

Some are factory workers, homemakers, teachers, doctors, antique dealers. They're salespeople, office workers, home decorators, RN's, CPAs, CEOs, and EMTs. Some have a GED; others a PhD. They're coaches, entrepreneurs, mechanics and knitters. They're on city councils, PTO boards, neighborhood watch teams and bowling leagues. They attend book clubs, yard sales, cattle

auctions and college classes.

They live on farms or in condos, in mobile homes, parsonages and neighborhoods. They're childless, parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, great-grandparents. They're vegetarians, foodies, volunteers, drummers, soccer moms, readers, writers and artists. They're biscuit burners and gourmet chefs. Some even play the piano.

Each has a distinct background and Christian testimony. Their individual ministries within God's church vary enormously, from behind-the-scenes support to upfront leadership.

The list could go on, but you get the point. Each pastor's wife is truly unique -- like you! She loves her God and His church. In fact, she's given her life to serving alongside your pastor. God has not called her to meet the expectations of church members, but to live for Him and serve Him exactly as He's gifted and called her.

If you get right down to it, there are only two requirements for an ideal pastor's wife. First, she's a child of God—an imperfect sinner saved by His grace. Her life is dedicated to the Savior. Second, she's married to the pastor. She's the only woman in the entire world who's qualified to be that pastor's wife.

How can you, personally, encourage your pastor's wife? Try one of these ideas:

- Notice how she encourages her husband in ministry. Compliment her privately.
- Be her great cheerleader. Always have a good word to say about her.
- Be aware that a great deal of her ministry work may be behind the scenes.
- Show interest and encouragement in her outside-the-church involvements. Understand that God works through every area of her life.
- Say "thank you" occasionally. She joyfully carries many extra responsibilities and burdens.

You can uplift your church and pastor's ministry by loving and accepting his wife. Will you be someone who encourages your pastor's wife today?

Source: bpnews.net. Diana Davis, a syndicated columnist and author in Pensacola, Florida, wrote Deacon Wives: Fresh Ideas to Encourage Your Husband and the Church (B&H Publishing). Her newest book is "Across the Street and Around the World," coauthored with her daughter Autumn Wall (New Hope Publishers). dianadavis.org

## Recruiting VBS Volunteers Is a Challenge

### but the REWARDS Are Worth It!

Reprinted by permission from factsandtrends.net

by Jana Magruder

For many churches, Vacation Bible School is one of the most important and exciting times of the year. It's when many children hear the gospel and commit their lives to Christ. And in most congregations, it takes an army of volunteers.

Recruiting them is no small task. Sometimes it's a struggle to find enough volunteers to work with children on a normal week—and that's asking people to help for only an hour or two.

For VBS, volunteers often have to give up a week of their time. VBS usually takes place in the summer, conflicting with vacations and summer activities. And more volunteers are needed—as many as three times the number needed for a regular week.



Despite all those issues, it's worth doing. It's worth it for the kids and families who will hear the gospel, and it's worth it for the church family to serve alongside one another for the greater purpose of kingdom expansion.

Vacation Bible School and other large-scale events can be a great opportunity for an all-hands-on-deck mentality that can strengthen entire congregations, with multiple generations playing a role. Here are some ideas to consider when recruiting, training, and rewarding those who choose to say yes to serving.

#### Communicate the value of VBS

Begin with the "why." Tell your church why VBS matters. It's not about entertaining kids for a week. It's not about silly songs and games, even though they're fun.

It's about creating an intentional time and space for kids of all ages to hear the gospel, learn Scripture, and tell their friends about Jesus. Most pastors agree VBS is the most evangelical program a church can offer to communities. Churched and unchurched kids get a full week of diving into God's Word.

Is it a lot of work to put on? Yes. Do we need everyone's help to accomplish this? Yes. Is it worth it? Absolutely.

#### Be organized

Create a systematic way for people to sign up to serve. After the vision for VBS has been presented, be ready for what's next.

Some churches devote multiple Sundays to enlistment, decorating tables with VBS promotional items in heavy foot traffic areas. Friendly faces greet people and ask if they would like to sign up.

Other churches have online sign-ups with emails going out for the call to action. Electronic applications can be used to capture information. Some churches use both methods.

#### Offer multiple ways to serve

Many people assume serving in VBS means they have to teach kids. Not everyone feels equipped to teach, and that's OK. There are many ways to serve in VBS.

Be sure to present all the roles—snack coordinators and servers, set builders and decoration installers, greeters, worship leaders, registration helpers, T-shirt organizers, and the list goes on. Everyone has a way to use their gifts during VBS.

#### Host a kickoff party

Once you have enlistment complete—or even partially complete—get folks excited by throwing a party. This helps potential and committed volunteers feel more connected to the upcoming event. More specific training can come later for certain groups, like those who will teach.

Get creative and serve the snacks that will be served during VBS, decorate with theme-related décor, play some of the games, and engage with the crafts. Most importantly, talk about the Bible content and how exciting it is to share this with the kids who will come to VBS.

Close by praying for the week, asking God to work in the hearts of those who attend and to do great things in the life of your church.

#### Serve those who are serving

Let potential volunteers know they will be cared for: create a hospitality team with the task of serving VBS volunteers. Encourage this team to provide food, daily notes of encouragement and, if possible, a space to take quick breaks during the event.

This strategy allows another group of people to use their gifts while helping those who are working feel blessed and refreshed.

#### **Show appreciation**

When VBS is over, the most important way to thank your volunteers is to celebrate what God has done.

After the last bit of glue has been scrubbed from tables and the worship pastor finally has the stage free from extra props and scenery, don't forget to give thanks for the gospel being displayed and shared, for God's name being made known, and for the work He accomplished in the lives of those who served.

Once volunteers see what happens when everyone rolls up their sleeves and serves alongside one another for the gospel to be shared, this joy can overflow into the next season of recruitment.

JANA MAGRUDER (@jana\_magruder) is director of LifeWay Kids. Find more resources for planning and executing VBS at VBS.LifeWay.com



#### If you have news you would like to share,

please email us at email us at info@hpbaptist.net or you may like us and post it at: facebook.com/hawaiibaptist

#### Margie Hoff's Passing.

Margie Hoff, wife of pastor Clifford Hoff, passed away March 26 after a long illness. Margie and her late husband, Cliff, served several churches in Hawaii beginning in 1968 including University Avenue Baptist. After a season on the mainland they returned to pastor Waimea Baptist on Kauai and Olivet Baptist on Oahu. Margie was active in Women's Missionary Union (WMU) and served as Hawaii WMU president for many years.

#### **Missions Adventure Camp at** Pu'u Kahea.

This year's Missions Adventure Camp was held March 22-24, 2018 at Pu'u Kahea Conference Center. Boys and girls in the 2nd-6th grades learned to be ALL IN for God. They enjoyed participating in learning camp craft skills as well as archery, crafts, and games. This year, a team of Royal Ambassador leaders from Texas Baptist Men led the children in learning how to do different camp crafts. Every camper earned the Hiker patch for participating.

#### **Southwestern Seminary MTS Program Gaining Steam.**

Representatives from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary came to Honolulu to meet with prospective Masters of Theological Studies (MTS) students. Call the HBPC office to learn more.





# AROUND the SBC Southern Baptist Convention

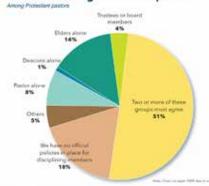




SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION — The 2018 SBC's Annual Meeting will be held at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, TX. Messenger pre-registration is now open.

For more information or to register, go to: sbcannualmeeting.net



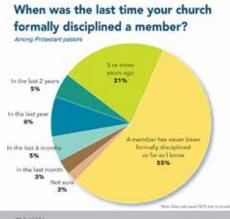


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#### **Church Discipline Focus of New Survey**

NASHVILLE (BP) — More than 8 in 10 Protestant senior pastors say their church has not disciplined a member in the past year, says a new study released today (April 5) by LifeWay Research. More than half say they don't know of a case when someone has been disciplined, which can include being asked to leave the church for misconduct, according to the study conducted Aug. 30-Sep. 18. "It's one of the topics that churches rarely talk about," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

Learn more at bpnews.net or lifewayresearch.com.



**⊕**LifeVav

# CHURCH FINANCE A N S W E R S



Mike Martin

As I've met with pastors and church leaders one of the questions I get a lot is about housing allowance. This article from GuideStone is very helpful. Learn more at GuideStone.org/TaxGuide.

#### Ministers' Housing Allowance

Ministers are unique. They receive an inspirational calling from God to ministry accompanied by a special dual tax status from the IRS. Ministers for Tax Purposes also receive certain tax benefits — one of the most important being the ministers' housing allowance.

#### What is the ministers' housing allowance?

Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code allows ministers of the gospel to exclude some or all of their ministerial income designated as housing allowance from income for federal income tax purposes.

#### How to determine housing allowance

If a housing allowance is properly designated in advance, a minister can exclude the lowest of the following three amounts from income for federal tax purposes:

- The total housing allowance designated by their church (or GuideStone for retirees)
- Actual housing expenses (including mortgage payments, utilities, insurance, improvements, furnishings, etc.)
- The fair market rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities)

Ministers for Tax Purposes have a dual tax status. They are considered employees for income tax purposes and self-employed for Social Security tax purposes.

#### Ministers for Tax Purposes are:

Exempt from federal income tax withholding

Required to pay the full amount of Social Security tax

Allowed to exclude housing allowance from federal income tax, but not from Social Security tax

#### **During working years**

For more information about housing allowance qualifications and annual designations, review our Questions and Answers about the Ministers' Housing Allowance at GuideStone.org/TaxGuide

#### HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR MINISTERS/TAXES

Ministers, for tax purposes, are eligible for a housing allowance on their ministerial earnings. This designation can only be made in advance and should be made in writing by the church before the start of each year for tax purposes.

#### IN RETIREMENT

As a denominational pension board, GuideStone can facilitate housing allowance for retired ministers (within IRS limits) — a unique benefit for you! This housing allowance is not subject to Social Security taxes (SECA).

# What's Coming Up for HPBC

**MAY** 21-23

#### **HPBC Pastor's Retreat, May 21-23**

When: Monday, May 21, 1:30 p.m. to Wednesday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. Where: Pu'u Kahea Conference Center in Wajanae on Oahu.



Pu'u Kahea is a Hawaiian word that can be translated to "Hill of Calling." We are inviting men who are living out their calling as pastors to retreat, refresh, and re-create. We hope that God will use this time away to refresh your heart for life and ministry. Your Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention is sponsoring this event. It is funded by your church's gifts to the Cooperative Program. There is NO COST for the senior pastor or other senior staff designated by senior pastor of an HPBC church. You will have air-conditioned accommodations. We will provide meals, drinks, and snacks during the retreat. We also offer partial travel assistance for neighbor island senior pastors. Register online at hpbaptist.net.

**SEP** 16-22

### **HPBC Leadership Training Events, September 16-22**

When and Where: Sep. 16-17 in Hilo; Sep. 18-19 in West Oahu; Sep. 21-22 in East Oahu Who: for pastors and church leaders

Why: to equip pastors, church staff, and church leaders in the areas of sharing the gospel, strategic planning, developing teams, and basic leadership training.

#### **Guest Training Leaders:**

TERRY DORSETT, Executive Director for New England Baptists. Terry will lead four sessions with a focus on developing leadership teams in the smaller church.

NATHAN LORICK, Executive Director for Colorado Baptists. Nathan will lead four sessions on motivation, mobilization, strategy, implementation and next steps to share the gospel.

KENNETH PRIEST, Director of Convention Strategies for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Kenneth will lead for sessions to help churches develop a shared strategy to revitalize the church they serve.

There will be no charge for this training. Please add these dates to your calendar. We will notify you when online registration is available. Your Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention is sponsoring this event. It is funded by your church's gifts to the Cooperative Program.

**NOV** 6-7

#### **Missions College 2018**

When: Tuesday, November 6 to Wednesday, November 7 Where: Olivet Baptist Church



HPBC Missions College is two days of intentional missions training by International Mission Board (IMB) personnel for missions leaders and missions teams. Missions College allows Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention pastors, staff, leaders, and church members the opportunity to engage in all areas of missions. Whether you are a well-seasoned veteran or just getting started, you won't want to miss it. IMB field personnel will take you through the process of researching and understanding your location, or for more experienced leaders they will help you develop in-depth strategies to take your missional work to the next level. This is an invaluable time to meet full-time missionaries who will share their experiences.

**NOV** 8-9

#### **HPBC 76th Annual Meeting**

When: Thursday, November 8 to Friday, November 9 Where: Olivet Baptist Church

The HPBC Annual meeting is not only our chance to affirm new members churches, approve the operating budget, and select new officers, it's family time. The annual meeting is for biblical fellowship, mutual encouragement, ministry celebration, and worship.

**NEW** resource

#### Get Connected to Church Planting with NAMB.net/Pipeline

NAMB has a new resource required for church planting support. Visit NAMB.net/pipeline or visit our website for more information. Please e-mail your HPBC church planting team (Steven Kang skang@namb.net, Sean Lathrop slathrop@namb.net, or Brian Smart bsmart@namb.net) for assistance in navigating this new resource.



# 2018 CALENDAR



#### **January**



#### Call to Prayer Month

- 1 New Year's Day
- 7-14 January Bible Study
  - 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
  - 21 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

#### **February**



#### "True Love Waits" Emphasis

- 3 WMU Annual Meeting @ Olivet BC
- 10 HPBC Executive Board
- 11 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- 12-18 Focus on WMU
  - 17 Children's Ministry Day
  - 19 President's Day
  - 19 Women's Tea
- 23-25 The Gathering

#### March



- 3 Disaster Relief Training, Oahu
- 4–11 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 4-10 Youth Week
  - 18 Church Planting Emphasis Sunday
  - 18 Substance Abuse Sunday
- 22-24 Missions Adventure Camp
  - 26 Prince Kuhio Day (observed)
  - 30 Good Friday
  - 31 VBS Training

## April



- 1 Easter
- 5-7 Wives in Ministry Retreat
  - 8 Cooperative Program Sunday
- 14 Pinewood Derby & Mission Fair
- 15 Baptist Doctrine Study
- 22 SBC Seminaries Sunday
- 27-28 HBEEA Conference

#### May



- 6 Senior Adult Sunday
- 12 HPBC Executive Board
- 13–19 Christian Home Week
- 20-27 Baptist Association Emphasis
- 21-23 Pastor's Retreat @ Pu'u Kahea
  - 27 Life Commitment Sunday
  - 28 Memorial Day

#### June



- 4-8 Keiki Camp
- 11 King Kamehameha Day
- 12-13 Southern Baptist Convention
  - 17 Baptist Men's Emphasis
  - 24 Mission: Dignity Sunday

#### July



- 1 Citizenship & Religious Liberty Sunday
- 4 Independence Day
- 22 Loveloud Sunday

#### August



- 5 Social Issues Sunday
- 12 Student Evangelism Day
- 17 Statehood Day
- 19-25 Worship Music Week
  - 25 HPBC Executive Board

#### September



- 2 Discipleship Rally
- 2 Single Adult Sunday
- 3 Labor Day
- 2-8 Week of Prayer Hawaii Pacific Missions / Sue Nishikawa Offering
- 14-15 Hawaii Baptist Early Edu. Assoc.
  - 16 Anti-Gambling Sunday
- 16-22 HPBC Leadership Training Events

#### October



#### **Cooperative Program Emphasis Month**

- 7 Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- 14 Global Hunger Sunday
- 19-20 Women's Retreat

#### November



- 4 Disaster Relief Appreciation Day
- 6 General Election Day
- 5 New Workers Orientation
- 6-7 Missions College
- 8-9 HPBC Annual Meeting
- 12 Veterans' Day
- 22-23 Thanksgiving

#### December



- 2-9 Week of Prayer & Mission Study for International Missions & the Lottie Moon Christmas offering
- 24-25 Christmas



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