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HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

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IN THE ISLANDS.

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from the
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



Chris Martin
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We are
**HAWAII
PACIFIC**
Missions.

Building the Kingdom

SMALL STEPS AT A TIME

This past weekend, your HPBC Executive Board held their first quarterly meeting of 2019. I submit a report to every Executive Board meeting—here is an excerpt from my latest report regarding just a small piece of what God is already doing across the HPBC in 2019:

So far, we hear reports of increased evangelistic efforts, baptisms, and partnerships across the churches. Last Sunday, members of our staff team had the joy of celebrating with Kahului Baptist Church in the sending of over 30 adults and children to begin a new work, Waiehu Community Church, under the leadership of Pastors Jay Haynes and Rocky Komatsu. Not only is Kahului Baptist Church involved in this fresh church start, but joined by Kailua Baptist Church, Hawaii Kai Church, and Immanuel Baptist Church of Louisville, KY. This exciting work is one model for new starts that involves local churches sending local members to reach our local areas (learn more on page 5).

On the international front, we are thrilled to assist Seoul International Baptist Church and Yokohama International Baptist Church as they are beginning new church starts in Asia. God placed the vision for these works in the hearts of Pastor Dan Armistead (SIBC), and Pastor Ben Howard (YIBC), along with key members of their churches to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ reach into new regions. God is blessing the cooperative work of many of our HPBC churches in missions and ministry, and we are privileged to serve and assist.

In briefly sharing this news in my report, I marveled at how God is moving across our churches, islands, and regions. I firmly believe that we are on the edge of an incredible movement of God throughout the Pacific. The churches of the HPBC are honored to be partnering together in this time as God readies us to reach into our communities like never before.

In the midst of a world with such spiritual darkness, heightened by political division, financial challenges, and tumultuous times, God has positioned us with His power and the truth of His Word to share His Gospel that we might see Him change our world.

Keep pressing forward in these days to passionately share the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is sovereign and He is in control—our faith is secure in Him.

As always, your HPBC staff team is ready to assist you in any way that we can to advance and support your 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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who's your ONE?

Recovering the Primacy of Personal Evangelism for the SBC

By SBC President, JD Greear

In 1953, the Southern Baptist Convention set a goal of enrolling one million new people in Sunday School the following year. They called it the "Million More in '54" campaign.

It was a crazy big goal, and even though they didn't reach one million, they were able to get six hundred thousand people involved—way more than were previously going. Many of those people trusted Christ for the first time.

That's what happens when you paint a vision of the possible: People take ownership for it, and the Spirit starts to move in fresh ways.

Recently, at The Summit Church, we tried something similar. We asked each member of our congregation to identify one person they could pray for and seek to bring to Christ over the year. The phrase we kept repeating was, "Who's your one?"

It's not an elaborate or complicated idea, but this simple idea led to our most evangelistically effective year to date. Because of this intentional push toward evangelism, we ended up baptizing seven hundred people last year. What an incredible joy it was to have people come up to me at church and say, "Pastor, this is my one." Or to see them stand in the baptistery with them and tell me later, "That was her! She was my one!"

Intentional evangelism has always been a defining characteristic of Southern Baptist mission. And rightly so, because evangelism is the primary tool by which we fulfill the Great Commission.

Everything else Southern Baptists do is ultimately in support of evangelistic discipling. The criteria upon which our churches should measure their success is by how many Christians are actively winning souls and training them to win the multitudes. Apart from that, all the money we raise, buildings we build, ministries we organize, sermons we preach, and songs we write don't move the mission forward. Without this one thing, we fail. So, how can Southern Baptists make disciples again?

1. We need a spiritual awakening that leads to action. Historically, revivals have not begun with lost people getting saved, but with the church getting "re-converted" to the Gospel, which then leads to massive evangelism.

2. This has to start with us pastors. If we're going to move the evangelism needle in our churches, we've got to be modeling what we're preaching. That's how I learned to share the Gospel—not by reading about it, but by going out with other leaders in the church and doing it with them.

3. We have to celebrate the right things. The proverbial wisdom is true: You replicate what you celebrate. That means if what we mainly celebrate are buildings and budgets, then that's what everyone will aspire to as the marks of success.

4. We have to create a yearning for evangelism in the hearts of our people. Our problem is not that we haven't found the right program that enables us to reach the world. Our problem is that we don't yearn to see lost people saved for God's glory to spread over the earth badly enough.

5. We have to do whatever it takes to reach the lost. Jesus summarized his ministry as seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10). We should summarize and prioritize our ministries the same way.

On any given weekend, more than five million Southern Baptists gather to worship around the country. Can you imagine the impact if every one of them asked God each day to let him or her lead one person to Christ next year?

Join me in 2019 as I ask every church and every member to pray for "their one." A prayer guide and campaign guide is available at whosyourone.com.

Start praying today for who your one might be!

.....
J. D. Greear is pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, and is president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reprinted from sbclife.net



A prayer guide and implementation guide is available at whosyourone.com.

WAIEHU COMMUNITY CHURCH

Plant Launches with Help from Numerous Churches

On Sunday, February 3, 2019, the **Waiehu Community Church** held their first service on Maui with over 50 adults in attendance. For pastors/church planters Rocky Komatsu and Jay Haynes, this represents the investments of many churches and much prayer and hard work.

The Sunday before the launch, Kahului Baptist Church (Maui) commissioned 31 persons to go out and be a part of this new work. Eight of these are the church planters and their families and 23 are from Kahului Baptist (15 adult church members). Kahului Pastor, Randy Pauley, said, "And they got some REALLY solid members. It's like sending out David's mighty men or a Navy Seal team. Most of them are highly trained, highly educated (biblically speaking), and very experienced in church life. These men and women have been faithful believers for MANY years in our church. Without a doubt we will feel their absence. Our hope and prayer is that it results in that great multi-ethnic multitude in Rev. 7:9 including a great number of people from Waiehu, Waihee, and beyond. Then it'll all be worth it!"

About a year ago, Pastor Randy Pauley embraced the vision of Rocky and Jay to start this new church. Rocky and Jay and their families have been a part of the Kahului

Church family this year and Pastor Randy has encouraged members of Kahului Baptist to consider being "sent out" to be a part of this new church.

Waiehu Community Church will be a part of the Immanuel Network. Kailua Baptist Church in Kailua, HI (Pastor Todd Morikawa) and Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville, KY (Pastor Ryan Fullerton) are both a part of the Immanuel Network and are considered sending churches. These two churches have served in equipping the planters, providing them with resources, and are committed to stay connected to them both prior to and after the church plant is launched. Hawaii Kai Church (Pastor Dan Wong) is also a supporting church.

Senior Pastor Ryan Fullerton travelled to Maui for the commissioning and said, "The commissioning service was glorious. Not only were three churches deeply involved, but as the members of Waiehu Community Church took their membership vows, we actually watched a Church being born."

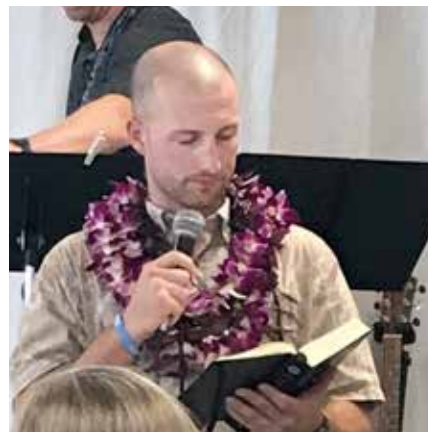
"I have never had the privilege of seeing so many churches sacrifice so much to see another Church be planted. Kailua Baptist Church sent a qualified Pastor. Immanuel sent another qualified Pastor, and Kahului sent 23 of their church family. On top of that,

other churches gave financially, and denominational representatives were there to show their support. It was a glorious thing to see so many displaying a heart to build Christ's kingdom above their own. We want to send our most qualified people to plant new churches. The world needs new churches and God calls us to send qualified men to this essential task."

After the February 3 launch service, Pastor Jay Haynes said, "We're very, very excited. We've been praying for this day for years, and the Lord has been very kind to us in allowing us to finally see it. We've had a ton of support from a lot of different churches throughout HPBC and the SBC. We're so thankful for our partners and we ask that everyone continue to pray for us as the real work has only just begun."

To learn about needs, prayer concerns, and to receive their prayer newsletter visit waiehuchurch.org

Waiehu Community Church is supported by your gifts to the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention and The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions. March 17, 2019 is Church Planting Sunday in the SBC.



top left:
Waiehu Community Church Family is commissioned by Pastor Randy Pauley at Kahului Baptist Church

top right:
Waiehu Community Co-Pastor Jay Haynes on launch Sunday

bottom left:
Waiehu Community Church launch Sunday

bottom right:
Waiehu Community Co-Pastor Rocky Komatsu speaks on launch Sunday





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Hawaii Pacific Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) *Celebrates 75 Years of Ministry*

The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting was held in Oahu and Hilo February 2 and 4. Saturday, February 2, 2019, almost 200 women and men gathered at the Honolulu Country Club ballroom for worship, hula, history, testimonies, and guest speakers.

Pastor Steve and Dee Ann Gray (Wahiawa) led in a time of praise then Gail Gierhart (Nu'uau) welcomed folks and led the opening prayer. The 75th Anniversary celebration program included what was called "defining moments" shared from different perspectives.

●●● **Faith McFatridge** (Olivet) & **Edith White** (Wahiawa) shared WMU defining moments on behalf of the late Sue Nishikawa (our Hawaii Pacific Missions Offering is named for Sue).

●●● **Alice Newman** (Hawaii Kai) and **Deanna Aoki** (who was represented by her daughter-in-law through a letter) shared defining moments in their WMU life.

●●● **Darrell McCain** (University Avenue) shared defining moments from his Royal Ambassador (RA) life.

●●● **Charlene Vaughn & Imelda Gasmen** (FBC Pearl City) shared what God is doing today through Pearl City WMU.

Some of the other features of the celebration included:

●●● Songs written and performed by **John Hom** (Nu'uau).

●●● International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries, **Scott and Julie Bradford**, were guest speakers and shared IMB missionary experiences.

●●● The keynote address was delivered by **Sandra Wisdom-Martin**, WMU Executive Director/Treasurer.

●●● **Jerish Chin & Samantha Morales** (Nu'uau) presented a hula to "Knees to the Earth."

This year the 75th Annual Celebration was also held in Hilo on Hawaii Island. Kinoole Baptist hosted the event and 60 women and men attended from seven churches. As part of both events attendees gave \$2,939.44 towards the Alice Newman Touch Tomorrow Today Foundation.



view all photos
SCAN



You can also
view all the photos
online at tinyurl.com/WMU-75AnnMtg

The WMU will be providing missions training the first two weeks in April on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island. More information is at hpbaptist.net.



left:
*Sandra Wisdom-Martin,
WMU Executive Director/
Treasurer*

middle:
hula to "Knees to the Earth"

right:
*missionaries Scott and Julie
Bradford*

VBS: It's Worth It!

by: Landry Holmes

What's your VBS story? Are you among the 60% of adults who attended VBS while growing up? What memories do you have? New research from LifeWay reports that 9 out of 10 American adults who attended VBS while growing up report having positive memories of those experiences. What's more—the perception of VBS is overwhelming positive even among those who never attended themselves. There really isn't a stigma against VBS. It's something the vast majority of Americans have experience with, it's something they view as positive overall, and it's got the brand recognition a Fortune 500 company would pay big bucks to achieve. That's great news for churches! When we do VBS, we don't have to explain to our community what it is or why people should come. We don't have to convince people it's going to be fun for kids. We don't have to sell people on its merits. We're sitting in a really good place!

Are you still wondering why your church should host VBS? Are you asking if it's worth it to continue VBS in your church and in your community? After all, aren't there other good things—maybe even better things—that we can do as local churches to reach our communities? Let's start with the problem, first, then answer that question.



The problem is that we are in a two-fold crisis. First, our churches are in a crisis of evangelism. Second, we are in a crisis of loneliness. Our kids have never known the world without the internet or smartphones. "They are on their phones, tablets, and gaming devices," states Jana Magruder, Director of LifeWay Kids. "They are photographing their food, their friends, themselves (hello selfies), and posting everything going on in their lives without actually living real-life experiences. They are more concerned about followers and likes than true relationships. They text or Snapchat more than they call on the phone or see each other in person. They watch Netflix or YouTube videos more than they participate in events and experiences, with real people and social relationships."

What does all this time on digital devices make kids—and the adults around them? Lonely. Research tells us that kids and teens who have Christian friendships at church have healthier spiritual lives as adults. VBS can provide the opportunity to meet and develop friendships through fun and real-life experiences. Similarly, kids and teens who connect with godly men and women at church have healthier spiritual lives into adulthood. God did not create us to be lonely—he made us to live in community. There are very few times in the rhythm of church calendars that provide a whole week of human and multi-generational interaction for the sake of the kingdom of God.

The crisis that we as churches and individuals find ourselves in today is not new. The crisis of evangelism is rooted in history. Jonah resisted and got on a boat rather than journey to Nineveh. People needed to hear God's redemptive plan, yet Jesus Himself declared, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).

Neither is the reality of individual loneliness only a contemporary crisis. Elijah felt isolated on Mount Horeb. Jesus experienced ultimate loneliness when He cried out His last words on the cross. However, because of Jesus' horrific moment of complete and absolute loneliness, you and I do not have to be alone, ever. Crisis averted.

So, if the dual crisis of evangelism and loneliness is the problem, what is the solution? VBS began in a moment of crisis, not so different from the one we face today—churches needed to spread the gospel, and individuals longed for meaningful community. Enter Virginia Hawes, a godly woman who noticed the problem in a section of New York City's East Side and began searching for a solution. In 1898, Virginia Hawes opened what has become known as the most prominent precursor of today's VBS, in a beer parlor. "We felt that the Bible is not taught in homes as it used to be, nor as it should be, and it is not taught in the public schools. So we opened...a school in which we made the Bible our only text book," Hawes said.

By 1934, approximately 700 Bible schools reached as many as 100,000 children. And those numbers continued to grow—through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the turbulent 60's—to today. I truly believe that God desires to continue to use VBS as a tool of the church to reach babies through adults with the gospel. And, I'm convinced that the solution to loneliness is found in the Jesus taught in VBS, and the community Jesus provides through the church.

VBS is worth it—all the effort, all the expense, all the hours, all the tears. Why? Because VBS is the one week that mobilizes the entire church to reach the community with the gospel, while simultaneously providing a unique discipleship experience for the individual child and volunteer.

VBS

TRAINING

MARCH 30, 2019
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
MILILANI BAPTIST CHURCH

Come and join us as we **Zoom In** and **Focus on Jesus!**

OPEN TO ALL VBS WORKERS

Sessions offered for Preschool, Children's Bible Study, Children's Craft, Children's Mission, Children's Music, Adult, VBS Directors and Backyard Kids Club!

More info at hpbaptist.net



THE GATHERING

Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) The Gathering Retreat 2019

by Ken Reyes, BCM Oahu Intern

The Gathering, our annual statewide BCM retreat, took place during the first weekend of February as students from O'ahu and Hawai'i Island gathered to worship God and to be equipped in their faith.

This year, Hilo BCM hosted the event at Makapala Christian Retreat Center in Kohala with 50 college students in attendance, including 25 traveling from O'ahu. BCM partnered with Dr. Adam Groza, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Gateway Seminary, to introduce our theme for this year's retreat: "Let's Talk Story."

In four sessions, Dr. Groza spoke about knowing and living out God's story in our everyday lives. As he introduced the importance of theology, ethics, evangelism, and apologetics, he challenged students to engage deeply with their faith in Jesus Christ through reading and cherishing God's Word. The Kokua Crew from YWAM Kona, comprised of six individuals from Germany, Brazil, South Korea, and the United States, also led worship during each session.

Although initially unfamiliar with each other, both O'ahu and Big Island students took every opportunity they had to spend time together through our different activities, free time outings,

and daily meals together. Hilo BCM was gracious in providing dinner to O'ahu students shortly after arriving on the island, giving everyone a chance to be acquainted prior to driving up to the camp together.

The students were also split up into small groups to discuss questions introduced in each session and to share stories of God's work in their lives—stories of coming to faith, stories of victory, stories of hardship, and stories about the unexpected hand of God working in different situations.

It was encouraging to see students engage in deep conversations about God, Scripture, and life during the small group discussions and even during free time. Although most students that attended the retreat were believers, many were inspired by Dr. Groza's challenge to devote themselves as "students of the Word" and to share the Good News on their respective campuses.

At BCM, missions is not merely part of the program—it is the heart of what we do as a ministry. In the spring semester of each school year, we strategically encourage and plan for deeper student involvement in missions. Among others, the Gathering is



“Missions is not merely part of the program—it is the heart of what we do...”

one of the vital steps towards this goal. Although the retreat is over, our hope is to build on what Dr. Groza taught by continually equipping students with practical, Biblical tools necessary to live in obedience to God.

Already, we have seen students express a reignited excitement for reading the Word, sharing their faith with others, and going on mission trips this summer. All this would not be possible without the support of HPBC, churches, and individuals who faithfully invest in our students and in BCM—for that, we are immensely grateful.

Please continue to pray for BCM on both O'ahu and Hawai'i island, for students to love Jesus and others wholeheartedly, and for the name of Jesus to be renowned on every college campus in the state of Hawai'i.



AROUND Hawaii AND THE Pacific

If you have news you would like to share, email us at info@hpbaptist.net, or like us and post it at facebook.com/hawaiiibaptist



*Waikoloa Baptist Church, Baptisms at A-Bay, Waikaloa — left: Trent Thompson, Youth Pastor
right: Transitional Pastor, Henry Webb*



*Guam Christian Life Fellowship — Pastor Pancho Madrid
is baptizing, January 1, 2019*



*New Life Christian Church — Pastor Shaw Okawara
(left) and his wife Noe (right)*



*Sterling Lee (left), Senior Pastor at FBC Pearl City and Dr. Matt
Queen (right), Associate Professor of Evangelism at Southwestern
Seminary. Dr. Queen led two days of training (January 15-16)
called "Everyday Evangelism." It was hosted by FBC Pearl City.
Sixty people from twelve Oahu churches attended.*

Church Planting Emphasis Sunday MARCH 17, 2019

Would you pray for our church planters, their families,
their churches, and the churches who support them?

Hamama Community Church, Kaneohe (Ikaiika & Stacey Higa)
Sending Church: University Avenue Baptist

Pillar, K Bay, Kaneohe (Brian O'Day)
Local Sponsor: Fellowship Baptist; Sending Church: Pillar

Red C Church, Honolulu (Vince & Lisa Tabudlo)
Sending Church: Pawa'a Community

New Life, Kona (Jay & April Parks)
Local Sponsor: Ohana; Sending: New Prospect Baptist, Oxford, MI

Ohana Church, Hilo (Zeke & Layne Tomaselli)
Local Sponsor: Kona Baptist; Sending: Hope Church, Las Vegas, NV

Legacy Church, Hilo (Shane & Donna Miura)
Sending Church: FBC Pearl City

Waiehu Church, Waiehu, Maui (Rocky & Emily Komatsu;
Jay & Melissa Haynes)

Sending Church: Kahului Baptist

Kauai House Church, Kauai (Stephen & Diana Ventura)

Sending Church: Eleele Baptist; Supporting Church: Waiikihi Baptist

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the primary
way we support mission efforts in North America. For
more information, contact Steven Kang, Director of
Church Planting at skang@namb.net or Sean Lathrop,
Church Planting Catalyst at slathrop@namb.net.
For more info how to HEAR, PRAY, INVITE, GIVE, and
GO, visit hpbaptist.net.

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING**
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS



John and Sherry Reimer — Okinawa

Mililani Baptist Church

Mililani Baptist Church on Oahu announces Kaleb Barrett as their new Associate Pastor of Music and Outreach. He started January 16, 2019.



Kaleb and Naomi Barrett

Missionaries Available

International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries, Scott and Julie Bradford, are available for the next two months for speaking, training, encouraging, and missions strategy. This is part of our HPBC partnership with the IMB East-Asia People Group Affinity. Many of you have met Scott and Julie as they have taught in our last 3 HPBC Missions College trainings. To connect with them regarding any of these please e-mail jmbradford102288@icloud.com

Pastor John Reimer's Planned Transition at Koza Baptist, Okinawa

Peter Drucker once said, "There is no success without a successor." I've been thinking about that statement for years and have been praying for my successor for a while now. Sherry and I were praying about our transition away from Koza. When we felt the Lord had made it clear for us to begin to move forward to our next steps and leave Koza Baptist Church, I knew we needed to give the church at least nine months for the health of the church to search for and locate the next lead pastor of Koza.

That man could come from within or from a global search. Regardless, I've taught our church for years to 'not rush to failure.' We like to solve problems quickly, but that often actually creates more and worse problems. If we really want our churches to succeed and the Kingdom of Christ to grow then we've got to be ready, willing, and able to create succession plans.

Finally, most of us know the importance of these type plans but it's another thing to actually execute one. I challenge my fellow pastors to take the steps to build a functional succession plan for the success of our churches and the growth of the Kingdom. Learn more about their pastor search at bit.ly/KozaPastor



Welcome Dr. Robert Miller, HPBC Director of Regional Ministries

Dr. Robert Miller transitioned Jan. 1, 2019 to become a part of the HPBC team.

As part of the realignment of the Oahu Baptist Network, Robert has become HPBC Director of Regional Ministries. In this role he serves church leaders, churches, and associations across the Hawaiian Islands. He will work with all of the Hawaiian Islands Associations to foster partnership and fellowship and kingdom work.



Fola and Finau Ioane

Aina Haina Baptist Church

Pastor Fola Ioane was installed in January as the new pastor of Aina Haina Baptist Church on Oahu. He is pictured with his wife Finau. Retiring pastor, Gary Yafuso, led the church in a transition process.



Scott and Julie Bradford



Big Island Baptist Association Executive Board met at Calvary Hillside Church in January

Pastors and other leaders gathered in person and by Zoom Video Conference.



Henry Webb and Craig Webb led two days of Transitional Pastor Training on Oahu, January 7-8

IBC Manila's Missionary Care Week



Last month the International Baptist Church of Manila held what they call a "Missionary Care Week." IBC Manila supports 14 missionary/church planting teams throughout the Philippines (11 national and 3 international). They flew in their national teams for a week of care, fellowship, refreshment, and training. IBC

Manila became a part of the HPBC at our November 2018 Annual Meeting. Pastor David Crim and his wife Cindy and several of their church leadership were in attendance.



WELCOME

Three Steps to Increase Your Welcoming Skills

Here are three ways to develop your welcoming skills along with practical tips to get you started.

1 Practice your smile and hand-shake.

"Bright eyes cheer the heart; good news strengthens the bones."

(Proverbs 15:30 CSB)



A warm smile and firm handshake may sound too elementary but don't skim past this. In most areas of the United States, a handshake is a culturally appropriate physical way to express "you are welcome here." A smile in every part of the world communicates "I'm glad you're here."

These two elements of Christian hospitality will lower the anxiety of your guests.

Practical tip: As you get dressed for any church gathering, ask God to put a smile on your face. If this doesn't come naturally, put a note card on your car dash that says, "Warm smile, firm handshake."

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." Mother Teresa

2 Choose to look for unfamiliar faces.

When I walk into the worship center, it's my natural tendency to scan the room for people I know and to look for those who know me. I especially like to talk to people who think I'm important. At best, it's a desire for spiritual fellowship and encouragement. At worst, it's pride, selfishness, and a seeking of approval. I have to choose to look for

unfamiliar faces and to walk over and greet them.

This is especially true for guests who have just been seated. In "Becoming a Welcoming Church," Thom Rainer reminds us that the most awkward and uncomfortable time for a guest is just after they are seated in the worship center and are waiting for something to start. He quotes one church guest, "We really had an overall good experience. But, there was one part that just was not that good. It was the nine to ten minutes after we sat down in the worship center and before the services started. No one spoke to us. No one sat by us. No one even acknowledged us. It was really uncomfortable until the service began."



Practical tip: Scan the room for individuals, couples, or families who have just been seated. Walk up as soon as possible and warmly welcome them, "Hi my name is Craig, I'm not sure if I've met you before but I just wanted to say, hello."

3 Choose to listen more than you talk

Whenever there's an awkward silence in a conversation, I default to my favorite subject, me. This is a very hard habit to change. I regularly ask God

in the morning to help me to listen more than I talk. I ask Him to help me to be interested in others before trying to impress them by being interesting. Keep the focus on the guest and their questions. Listen to the answers closely. Ask clarifying questions before you answer their question.

Would you allow God to use you to enhance these seemingly obvious welcoming skills? The writer of Hebrews says at the beginning of the last chapter, "Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:1-2 CSB)

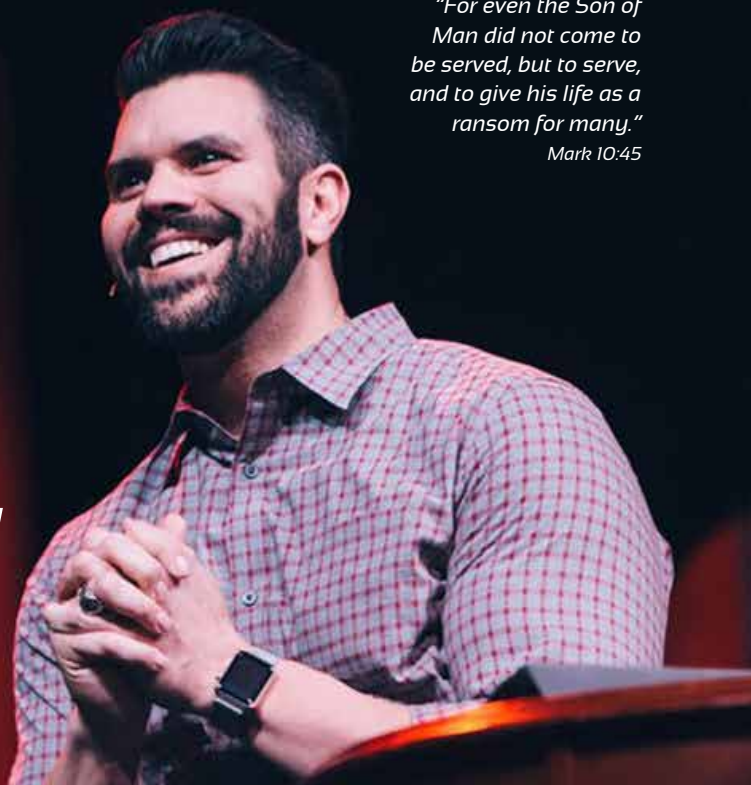
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DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP IN YOUR CHURCH

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:45*

Q&A with Robby Gallaty

BY AARON EARLS



Before Robby Gallaty began writing books on discipleship, before he pastored a church committed to discipling members—before any of that—he was a new convert sitting at a table in a Chinese restaurant learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus from a seminary student named David Platt.

Both Platt, former president of the International Mission Board, and Gallaty, senior pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee, went on to become influential church leaders, but first they were just two guys discussing Jesus while they ate General Tso's chicken.

Unfortunately, Gallaty's experience of having a more mature believer walk with him after his conversion is all too rare in many modern American churches. To find out why and to see what we can do to change that, Facts & Trends spoke with Gallaty.

How did we end up at a place where discipleship and Christian growth seem almost abnormal for a new believer at some churches?

Rather than discuss every issue, I'll focus on one I think can impact churches immediately: a lack of disciplined leaders in the church.

People lead others the same way they were led, meaning we usually emulate what was modeled for

us. If pastors or church leaders were never disciplined, they typically aren't focused on making disciples.

We have spent a lot of time teaching people to share their faith, which is vital, but we haven't done a great job at teaching them how to share their lives.

Surprisingly, Jesus spent most of His ministry discipling 12 men. I believe pastors and church leaders should evaluate their own lives as disciples and determine how best to invest in others the way Jesus did.

I don't think leaders are making a conscious decision to ignore discipleship. I believe it's simply an oversight since no one ever intentionally invested in them.

If you had to boil it down to one thing, what are churches missing when it comes to discipleship?

Churches are missing a model for making disciples that is clear and simple for every believer.

The focus of church leaders must shift from being executors of ministry ourselves to being equippers of the saints, who will in turn partner with us to carry out the ministry.

By doing so, people fulfill their God-given calling to participate in the good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).



Evangelism and discipleship are two oars in the same boat. We must not only invite people to Jesus but also invest in those we have invited.”

We must determine how those who attend our churches are being equipped to make disciples. Intentional steps toward disciple-making will build as leaders share their experiences and model disciple-making for the congregation.

Also, when we highlight discipling relationships in our congregation, our people will begin gauging effectiveness by that metric.

Remember, our people replicate what we celebrate.

Sadly, many leaders don't have a simple, systematic process for developing people into faithful followers of Christ. While there are many models of disciple-making, there is one shared mandate for all those who are disciples of Jesus, and that is to make disciples.

What will it look like when a church is effectively discipling people?

Believers who are discipled begin to grow exponentially. The pipeline for service and volunteerism in our church is disciple-making groups. The byproduct of spiritual maturity is numeric growth.

When I began focusing on the depth of my people, God began growing the breadth of the ministry. Normally, pastors tend to focus on the opposite. We are taught to grow the breadth of our ministries and let people worry about their own depth.

But Jesus never left disciple-making to chance. He was intentional with His 12 disciples from the outset of their calling.

Evangelism and discipleship are two oars in the same boat. We must not only invite people to Jesus but also invest in those we have invited.

Discipleship relationships offer two practices the church typically lacks: accountability and reproducibility. When we are effectively making disciples we will see both of these things increase, and the church will benefit as a whole.

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Robby Gallaty, senior pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee

How can churches evaluate discipleship in their congregation?

Often we celebrate things like conversions and baptisms, which should be celebrated. However, they shouldn't be the only things celebrated in church.

Baptism wasn't the finish line for the first-century disciples; it was the starting line. The real work of making disciples began after people crossed the threshold of faith.

In a church where disciple-making focuses solely upon the decisions, the process of walking with new converts is often minimized or set at such a low priority people simply don't understand the importance.

To better evaluate the spiritual condition of our people, we need a new metric to gauge growth. One way to do this is to answer five key questions:

- 1. How missional are the people we lead?*
- 2. How accountable are they?*
- 3. Are they reproducing the life of Christ in others?*
- 4. Are they living in biblical community?*
- 5. Are they getting in the Word of God until the Word gets into them?*

We should ask these questions of ourselves first, then of those we are leading in ministry. I believe this will help us have a better grasp of whether our people are being disciples who make disciples.

Ultimately, if we say "every soul matters to God," are we being honest if we don't disciple those who have responded to the gospel message?

What practical steps can churches take to begin to change their discipleship culture for the better?

It all starts with the leadership. If the pastor and church leaders aren't making disciples, it's very likely the people won't either.

The first step is to look at how we, as leaders, are living out the Great Commission. We can't expect others to be passionate about the Word and prayer if we neglect those disciplines. We can't expect members to share the gospel with lost people if we aren't doing the same.

Next, we can use that experience as the backdrop for getting others involved in the process.

“ Churches are missing a model for making disciples that is clear and simple for every believer.”

Robby Gallaty

(HPBC events are **bolded**)

JAN

*Call to Prayer
Month*

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6-13 January Bible Study
- 20 Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEB

*True Love Waits
Emphasis*

- 1-3 **The Gathering**
- 2 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 2 **WMU Annual Mtg, Oahu**
- 4 **WMU Annual Mtg,
Hilo**
- 10 Racial Reconciliation
Sunday
- 11-17 Focus on WMU
- 16 Children's Ministry Day
- 18 President's Day

MAR

- 3-9 Youth Week
- 3-10 Week of Prayer for North
American Missions and
Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering
- 17 Church Planting Emphasis
Sunday
- 17 Substance Abuse Sunday
- 26 Prince Kuhio Day (observed)
- 30 **VBS Training**

APR

- 7 Cooperative Program
Sunday
- 14 Baptist Doctrine Study
- 19 Good Friday
- 21 Easter
- 22 SBC Seminaries Sunday

MAY

- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 4 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 5 Senior Adult Sunday
- 12-18 Christian Home Week
- 13-15 **HPBC Pastors Retreat,
Pu'u Kahea**
- 20-27 Baptist Association
Emphasis
- 27 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 4-8 **Keiki Adventure Camp**
- 11-12 Southern Baptist
Convention, Birmingham, AL
- 11 King Kamehameha Day
- 16 Baptist Men's Emphasis
- 23 Mission: Dignity Sunday
- 30 Citizenship & Religious
Liberty Sunday

JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 14 Send Relief Sunday

AUG

- 3 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 4 Social Issues Sunday
- 12 Student Evangelism Day
- 16 Statehood Day
- 18-24 Worship Music Week

Hawaii Pacific
BAPTIST CONVENTION



SEP

- 1 Single Adult Sunday
- 1-8 **Week of Prayer Hawaii
Pacific Missions, Sue
Nishikawa Offering**
- 2 Labor Day
- 15 Anti-Gambling Sunday
- 17-20 **HPBC Leadership
Training w/Dr. Jeff Iorg**
- TBA **HBEEA Conference**

OCT

*Cooperative Program
Emphasis*

- 6 Personal Evangelism
Commitment Day
- 13 Global Hunger Sunday
- 20-26 Week of Prayer for Baptist
Associations

NOV

- 3 Orphans and Widows Sunday
- 6 **Missions College One Day**
- 7 **New Workers Orientation**
- 7-8 **HPBC Annual Meeting**
- 10 Disaster Relief Appreciation
Day
- 11 Veterans' Day
- 28-29 Thanksgiving

DEC

- 1-8 Week of Prayer & Mission
Study for International
Missions & the Lottie Moon
Christmas offering
- 24-25 Christmas