

Pacific CONNECTOR

HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

THAILAND

Bangkok's Chinatown

One of the largest Chinatowns in the world. It was founded in 1782 when the city was established as the capital of the Rattanakosin Kingdom. In this exciting place, among the hustle and bustle of Chinese stalls, one can discover great street food.

LET ^{THEM GIVE}
GLORY
AND
PROCLAIM
HIS ^{PRAISE}
IN THE
ISLANDS.
Isaiah 42:12



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online to: hpbaptist.net/PacificConnector

2019

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MAY JUNE

from the
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



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We are
**HAWAII
PACIFIC**
Missions.

Building the Kingdom SMALL STEPS AT A TIME

During the past five years, serving you as a part of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention's staff team, I have enjoyed the unique privilege of observing God's work through your ministries. My interaction with your ministry has opened my spiritual eyes to the challenges you faced and the miracles that you have experienced. Your HPBC staff team and I are more committed than ever to see God's plans for your life and church fulfilled through our cooperative Kingdom efforts.

As a part of my role, the future for our convention of churches always remains on my mind. In preparation for the upcoming years, God has assembled quality leadership, stirred hearts to equip and engage in efforts of sharing the life in Christ, set our churches in places of influence, and prepared many other strategic moves for His Kingdom growth through us. It is time to regain a vision for the mission before us.

From the vantage point that God has given the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, we can envision every Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church working together to be leaders in impacting God's Kingdom throughout the Pacific and Asia. Based on the values of a mutually committed involvement of all HPBC churches, a humble unity among pastors and leaders, and an emphasis on effective communication between us all, this vision for the future will soon become reality.

In the pursuit of this vision, together we will build and sustain a stronger Kingdom network of like-minded churches and ministry partners to facilitate God's Kingdom through Hawaii Pacific Baptists and together we will empower and mobilize Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches to engage Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia with intentional efforts for God's Kingdom. Together, God has positioned us for this vision, and He is providing for us to take our role in His harvest fields.

Together, we will remain focused on the mission ahead of us, while working to strengthen and revitalize each other to be of our best use for Christ. We're not pursuing a wild dream or crazy idea—together we are determined to be used by God to fulfill His plans for our cooperative ministries. Please commit to pray and prepare yourself to respond to God's directives for your life and ministry within this vision.

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 +1-808-946-9581 or email me at chris@hpbaptist.net.

*Mahalo,
Chris Martin*



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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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Spiritual Leadership for the Kingdom of Christ

ASIA BAPTIST NETWORK 2019 IN BANGKOK

**The ABN
prioritizes
3 key areas:
Outreach
(local and overseas
partnerships),
Church Health, and
Leadership
Development**

Churches of the Asia Baptist Network (ABN) and friends gathered along with International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) representatives, and local pastors in Bangkok, Thailand, March 19-21, 2019. Calvary International Baptist Church (Pastor Martin and Carrie Chappell) in Bangkok, Thailand hosted the conference this year. The purpose of the three days was to foster fellowship, learning, and to invest in church leaders. Pastors, missionaries, and other leaders gathered from Thailand, Okinawa, Mainland Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, and Hawaii.

John Reimer, Senior Pastor of Koza Baptist Church (Okinawa) and ABN Moderator, presided over the conference. The keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Blackaby, President of Blackaby Ministries International. Other speakers included Rodney Woo, Pastor of International Baptist Church Singapore, the International Mission Board's Keith McKinley, and HPBC Executive Director, Chris Martin. Several breakout workshops were offered as well.

On the last day of the conference 15 of the attendees participated in Calvary Baptist's ministry to refugees in Bangkok with a visit to persons in the Refugee Detention Center.



Preparing for the Refugee Detention Center

ABN 2020 Okinawa

Next year's Asia Baptist Network will be hosted by Koza Baptist Church in Okinawa in early March 2020.

left: John Reimer, Sr. Pastor of Koza Baptist Church (Okinawa) and ABN Moderator, presided over the conference.

bottom: Meal during the ABN in the Calvary International Baptist Church Fellowship Hall



This event is sponsored by
Gateway Seminary, the
North American Mission
Board, Hawaii Pacific Baptist
Convention and is supported
by your gifts to the
Cooperative Program.

2019

SEP 17 /// Tuesday
Valley Isle Fellowship
Wailuku, Maui

SEP 18 /// Wednesday
Kaumana Drive Baptist Church
Hilo, Hawaii Island

SEP 19 /// Thursday
Mililani Baptist Church
Mililani, Oahu

EVENINGS, 5-9 PM

SEPTEMBER

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

**\$10
PER PERSON**
*includes meal
and conference*

DR. JEFF IORG is the president of Gateway Seminary. He is the author of seven books including *The Painful Side of Leadership*, *The Character of Leadership*, *Is God Calling Me?*, and his latest, *Leading Major Change in Your Ministry*.

DR. ADAM GROZA is vice president of Enrollment and Student Services and Associate Professor of Philosophy of Religion at Gateway Seminary.

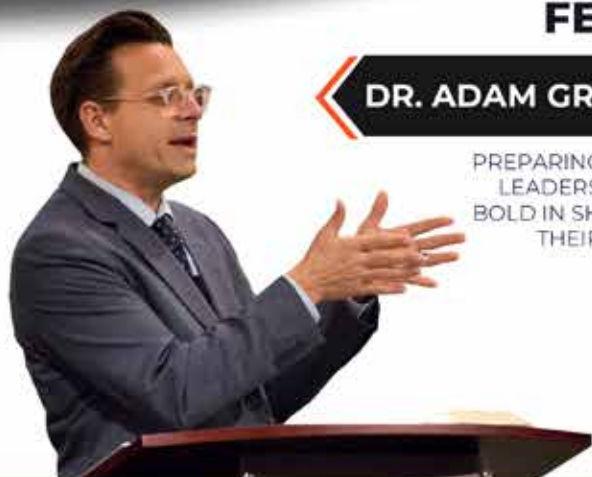
FEATURING

DR. ADAM GROZA

PREPARING YOUR
LEADERS TO BE
BOLD IN SHARING
THEIR FAITH

DR. JEFF IORG

DEVELOPING LEADERS
IN YOUR CHURCH



North American
Mission Board



GATEWAY SEMINARY



HAWAII PACIFIC
BAPTIST CONVENTION

Focus

MISSIONS ■ EVANGELISM ■ OUTREACH

Reaching this Generation for Missions



Traveling Roadshow 2019

This year's Women's Missionary Union (WMU) Traveling Roadshow was held on three islands in four locations. Simone Lake, Arizona Southern Baptist Convention State Leader for Women's Ministry, Missions and Discipleship, along with International Mission Board (IMB) Missionaries, Scott and Julie Bradford, were the speakers. The theme this year was "Reaching this Generation for Missions." The events were held on Oahu at University Avenue Baptist Church, on Kauai at EleEle Baptist Church, and on Hawaii Island at both Kaumana Drive (Hilo side) and Waikaloa Baptist (Kona side).

left: Simone Lake and husband, John

Everday Evangelism



Training Events Around the Islands

Another set of *Everyday Evangelism* events were held around the Hawaiian Islands March 11-16, 2019. Dr. Matt Queen, who developed the training and is professor and chair of the Evangelism School at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), led the training on Oahu. On Hawaii Island, Dr. Dean Sieberhagen (left), Associate Professor of Islamic Studies at SWBTS, led the training at Kona Baptist Church and Dr. Keith Eitel, Professor of Missions and Director of the World Missions Center at SWBTS, led the training at Kaumana Drive Baptist Church. These training events were sponsored by the North American Mission Board, Southwestern Seminary, the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention and supported by your gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Vacation Bible School



Training Held at Mililani Baptist Church

On March 30, dozens of leaders from twelve churches gathered to prepare for their summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) programs. Workshops were offered for leaders of Preschool; Children's Bible Study, Crafts, Mission, and Music; Adults, VBS Directors, and Backyard Kids Club!

If you need help preparing for VBS 2019, call Dawn Akutagawa at 808-356-8332 or e-mail her at dawn@hpbaptist.net.

Pray for churches around the HPBC as they plan their VBS programs this summer. Pray for children, students, and adults to come to Christ! This training was sponsored by HPBC and is supported by your gifts through the Cooperative Program.



Kaua'i Celebration with Will Graham

Vidinha Stadium, May 3-5, 2019

Volunteers from 64 churches, representing 14 denominations from across the island, are working together to host the Kaua'i Celebration with Will Graham. Celebration organizers recently completed a series of workshops that were hosted at several area churches, which were designed to help local Christians share their beliefs with others. More than 800 individuals attended these weekly classes, including a special course specifically tailored to teens and youth workers. For information on the Kaua'i Celebration with Will Graham, visit kauai.billygraham.org or facebook.com/KauaiCelebration. Will Graham is the grandson of Billy Graham and the oldest son of Franklin Graham.





Kaua'i Spring Break Mission Trip

By Ken Reyes, BCM O'ahu Intern

For college students, spring break is usually a time to rest and unwind before finals week catches up. However, the break also presents a great opportunity to reach out and serve.

That's what Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) O'ahu decided to do.

From March 16 to 19, the BCM staff took 13 students to Kaua'i to help with any needs at Kaua'i House Church Network (Stephen Ventura, Pastor) and 'Ele'Ele Baptist Church (Larry Hale, Pastor). We spent two days helping Pastor Stephen clear out his father's property with a vision that it could one day be a place for ministry and missions. With a total of 18 individuals chopping trees and cutting grass, we made huge progress on the land.

Our group also helped Pastor Larry with various tasks at the church, attended Sunday worship services at both Kaua'i House Church Network and 'Ele'Ele Baptist Church, and joined in their youth group activities on Tuesday afternoon.

Lastly, our BCM students, who were believers, ministered to international students who came with us through our nightly Bible discussions and conversations throughout the week.

We're immensely grateful to have had this opportunity to serve on the Garden Isle, which is a beautiful treasure worth exploring. Please pray for a continued partnership between BCM and churches on Kaua'i, that we would serve each other from the fullness of God's grace and love.



Around the Hawaiian Islands

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

Pastor Jaimie Cheramie of Waianae Baptist Church baptizes 16 in the past 6 months.



Abraham Seong Hee Han Ordination

Hilo Korean Christian Church ordained Dr. Abraham Seong Hee & Hyun Joo Han on Sunday, February, 24, 2019 (above). Abraham will go to Taiwan as a missionary endorsed by Korea Baptist Church Mission Board in South Korea after his KBCMB missionary training.

Priscilla Shirer Simulcast

Ninety-three women from 10 churches attended Priscilla Shirer's "Going Beyond" simulcast at Waikoloa Baptist on Hawaii Island (right). The Waikoloa Men's Ministry set up, made the food, served, and cleaned up so the women could focus on the teaching of Priscilla Shirer.

Brian Fable is the New Pastor at Kona Baptist on Hawaii Island (below)





New Life Church Moves to New Location and Sees New Life

New Life Church in Kona is a church plant pastored by Jay Parks. The church recently moved from Holualoa Elementary School to the old Hualalai Theatre at the beginning of March. Since the relocation, they are welcoming many guests each week and have had an attendance of nearly 100 weekly. They have also started new small groups, a hula ministry, and are launching a youth ministry. New Life Church receives support from your gifts through the Cooperative Program.



Waikaloa New Member Ceremony

Henry and Patti Webb have been serving Waikaloa Baptist since June 2018. Henry is the Transitional Pastor, but transition doesn't mean standing still. Since November 2018, they have had 13 new members including 5 by baptism. They recently had a new member ceremony where these 13 new members (right) made their commitment to the congregation, and the congregation responded with their commitment to the new members. This was followed by the celebration of the Lord's Supper together.



Celebrating Years of Service to Hawaii Baptists

Jim and Shirley Taliaferro (left) have been volunteering in numerous ways in Hawaii for 23 years. Their service has included work on the convention and collegiate ministry buildings, mission houses, HPBC church buildings, the BCM dorm, Hawaii Baptist Academy, and Pu'u Kahea. The HPBC staff recently held a lunch to express thanks on behalf of Hawaii Pacific Baptists. The Taliaferro's live in Louisville, Kentucky.



Around East Asia

New Staff at Yokohama International Baptist

Tamaki Nagasawa will begin serving July 1 on the Yokohama International Baptist Church (YIBC) staff team as Ministry coordinator. She came to Christ at YIBC eleven years ago.



Shiroma Travels to Japan to Encourage and Follow-up on Missions Strategy

Since the summer of 2017, The Gathering and Pastor James Shiroma have sent teams to Tokyo, Japan to support the gospel work of pastors, churches, and International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries.

Over the last two years, The Gathering has engaged in supporting Tokyo area churches through community outreaches, teaching English, serving the homeless, prayer walking, participating in worship services, and preaching. IMB missionaries Mark and Mie Busby have been very instrumental in connecting The Gathering with the ongoing work in Japan.

"Our church really does have a sense of mission and calling to walk alongside Japanese churches, pastors and missionaries to spread the gospel in Japan," said James Shiroma, lead pastor of The Gathering. "We see Japan as a direct extension of who we are and what we do."

During last summer's mission trip, The Gathering also led a retreat for Japanese pastors and their families, along with IMB missionaries and their families. "We really believe in the ministry of encouragement," Shiroma said. "Whether it's in a big group or one-on-one with a missionary or pastor, we want to encourage those serving in Japan to 'keep on keeping on'."

This summer, The Gathering will return to churches and ministries it has served over the last two years and will add Kanto Plains Baptist Church (KPBC) as a new partnering church. KPBC has asked The Gathering to lead out with Vacation Bible School. In late March, Shiroma visited Kanto Plains Baptist and met with Pastor Guy Bishop, other church leaders and people who attend the church to build relationships. Shiroma also visited and encouraged other ministry partners in Japan who The Gathering has served over the last two years.



James Shiroma preaching with Guy Bishop interpreting



Tomaselli Leads Team of 10 from Hilo to Japan

Pastor Zeke Tomaselli led a mission team (below) from Ohana Church (Hilo, Hawaii Island) of 10 including 5 students. Their focus was on encouraging believers, especially from the church with whom they partner. They led youth rallies, Bible studies, small groups, and worship services. The Ohana Church team used music and hula as part of their ministries in the church and in outreach events. They partnered with International Mission Board (IMB) Missionaries, Mark and Mia Busby.

Pastor Zeke shares the following testimony from the trip: "My aunty, Emma Keaweehu, lost her oldest son (my cousin) Kaliko, two weeks before the mission trip. He was only 35. Emma got the call that Kaliko was being rushed to the hospital on Oahu while the Ohana Church mission team was doing a fund-raising car wash for the Japan trip. The team stopped everything and began to pray. 20 minutes later Kaliko passed away on Oahu. We immediately helped Emma get on the next flight out. She called me later that night. I told her that it was ok if she stayed behind from the Japan trip to make arrangements. She replied, "Kahu, I believe the Lord wants me to go to Japan. I don't know what for, other than to share the gospel, but I need to go."

She did go, and God really shone through Aunty Emma. She even got to share her testimony with all the groups we ministered to and especially on Sunday morning at Grace Church, Tokyo. It was a sweet moment. You could hear hearts touched by aunty's testimony how Jesus was the only way, truth, and life. She shared with each testimony, "We cannot do anything to earn a relationship with the Lord, it is only through Jesus that we are able to have a relationship with God."

Not many of my family knows the Lord Jesus, so to see my aunty sharing the gospel through her pain reminded me why I came home to Hawaii to plant Ohana Church. Her testimony brought me to tears."

Yokohama International Baptist Church Celebrates Work of Japanese Translators

Dr. Hiro Akashi (left) leads a team of four Japanese translators who sit behind a plexiglass screen each Sunday to provide translation from English for Japanese worshipers. Dr. Akashi has been translating in some way for the church for nearly 30 years, and he coordinates all our translators. Senior Pastor Ben Howard (right) provides his message in manuscript form which is translated to help each translator prepare. Tetsu Fukui and Kazunori Tabé, both YIBC Deacons, serve in this ministry along with Sayaka Thomas.



Sports Ministry Explored in Japan

Full Count Ministries from Nashville, TN sent a group of former baseball players and coaches (above) on a vision trip to explore opportunities for sports evangelism in Japan. HPBC Assistant Executive Director Brian Smart and his wife Daisy traveled with them and introduced them to pastors and leaders of Yokohama International Baptist and Tokyo Baptist Church, as well as IMB field personnel.





27 Years Serving in Samoa

Pastor Elise and Lucy Tafao are retiring after serving for 27 years in Samoa. Elise has been the Senior Pastor of Happy Valley Baptist Church, and Lucy has led the Samoa Baptist Academy. Elise disciplined and trained a countless number of pastors and planted numerous churches in Samoa. He is shown here (third from the left) with pastors and church leaders from Samoa along with Brian Smart, HPBC Assistant Executive Director, at a Retirement Breakfast Celebration on April 1, 2019.

Guam Christian Life Fellowship (GCLF) Inaugural Member Celebration

Guam Christian Life Fellowship is a new church plant in Guam that has been meeting for one year under the leadership of their Interim Pastor, Pancho Madrid. This year, Pancho has been taking the church through a study of church membership. On Sunday, March 31, they had a commitment ceremony with 20 inaugural church members (below).



photo by Sophie Baker Photography

Van Werkhoven Begins Serving as Pastor of Church 360 in Saipan

Dan Van Werkhoven moved to Saipan from Australia in the Fall of 2015 to marry his then fiancée, Brittany Hodge, who is from the American Midwest. The couple has served as an intern alongside pastor Billy Jones at Church 360 in Saipan. In early 2018, pastor Jones and his family moved back to the mainland US, and Dan was asked to begin serving as Church 360's interim pastor. In the spring of 2019, Dan was asked to serve as the congregation's pastor. Learn more about the ministry at church360saipan.org.





Church Planting Pastor Training Held at HPBC Offices in March

THE BUSINESS SIDE OF MINISTRY

Nineteen persons from seven church plants, including two from neighbor island churches and two Chuukese language church plants attended the training organized by the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention's Church Planting Department. The training was hosted by Sean Lathrop, our NAMB Church Planting Catalyst.

Mike Martin, HPBC Director of Church Finance led the Friday night portion of the training with a focus on satisfying the state and federal requirements to be recognized as a church (i.e. Articles of Incorporation; church constitution and bylaws; Employer ID Numbers; State of Hawaii Basic Business Application; Hawaii General Excise Tax). Mike also shared practical help on how to set up church accounting, payroll, and budget. Participants were given a training booklet called *Church Reporting Made Easy (2019 edition)* that Mike compiled. Mike also shared several handouts including a sample Ministerial Tax Return for 2018 that he had prepared, an article he wrote on Salary

“...will allow them to share Christ, make disciples, and develop community.”

Compensation Packages, and Guidestone's, Financial Checklist for Pastors.

Sean Lathrop led the Saturday morning portion of the training with a focus on how to submit funding requests for evangelism projects.

Pray for these pastors and church leaders as they deal with the business side of ministry that will allow them to share Christ, make disciples, and develop community. This training was provided with support of your church's gifts to the Cooperative Program.





Ronnie Floyd Elected SBC, EC President/CEO

DALLAS (BP) -- Ronnie Floyd is the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee (EC). He was elected April 2 by ballot vote in a called meeting in Dallas. A former SBC president, Floyd has been a long term pastor at Cross Church in northwest Arkansas. "We're going to come and we're going to reach the world with all we have and call this convention up to a level that we all need to go to," Floyd told the EC. "Please pray for us."



Photo by Adam Covington

LifeWay to Close Stores, Focus on Digital Strategy

NASHVILLE (BP) -- LifeWay Christian Resources is charting a new course in 2019 marking a shift to a digital retail strategy. As part of the transition, LifeWay will close its 170 brick-and-mortar stores in 2019.

The Southern Baptist entity will continue to offer a broad selection of resources through LifeWay.com and the LifeWay Customer Service Center. LifeWay Customer Service hours are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Central). LifeWay also will continue to serve customers through its network of church partners who work directly with churches.

Acting President and CEO Brad Waggoner said LifeWay is "fortunate to have a robust publishing, events and church services business. Our retail strategy for the future will be a greater focus on digital channels, which are experiencing strong growth. LifeWay is moving into a new era with a strategic digital focus that will prepare us for the future and allow us to better serve our customers."



Greenway Elected 9th President of Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) -- Adam W. Greenway has been elected the ninth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Greenway, 41, comes to Southwestern from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he served as dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry. Greenway's election signifies a return to Southwestern, as he completed his master of divinity on the Fort Worth campus in 2002.



Reasons To Do VBS



70,135
SALVATION
DECISIONS

2.5 MILLION KIDS AT VBS

155,344
PROSPECTS
DISCOVERED

1,383 RESPONSES TO
GOD'S CALL INTO
MINISTRY OR
MISSIONS

THERE ARE MORE THAN
2.5 MILLION VALID REASONS
TO DO VBS. THESE ARE JUST A FEW:



VALUABLE
BIBLE STUDY

15 HOURS OF
INTENSE
DISCIPLESHIP



**SHARING
THE GOSPEL
EVERY DAY**
+++



7 MONTHS OF MINISTRY IN **1 WEEK**



VITALIZING
RECREATION



VIGILANT
VOLUNTEERS



\$6,526,962 GIVEN TO MISSION
CAUSES THROUGH VBS OFFERINGS

(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
- 17-19 **HPBC Leadership
Training w/Jeff Iorg and
Adam Groza**
- TBA **HBECA 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