

# Pacific CONNECTOR

HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

Every Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church working together to be leaders in  
IMPACTING GOD'S KINGDOM throughout the Pacific & Asia.

*Re-Gathering*

AFTER WEEKS  
of At-Home  
Worship



2020 JULY AUG  
VOLUME 50, ISSUE 4

For more issues, scan this QR code or go online to: [hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector](http://hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector)

# Building the Kingdom

## Small Steps At a Time

I pray that this edition of the Pacific Connector finds you physically and spiritually well and blessed.

On top of the disruptions due to Covid-19, we now have much civil unrest in our nation related to racial discrimination and prejudice. Our leadership rises in times of challenge, not by our choice, our strength, or by our design, but by God's movement in us, through us, and around us.

On June 5, 2020, our office, joined by Hawaii Baptist Academy and Hawaii Baptist Foundation, released a joint statement condemning any form of racism or prejudice (see the last page of this publication for a copy of this statement). The timing of its release was due to the racial tensions and resulting actions of discrimination and injustices related to the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, and others.

That statement began with the reminder that God has enabled our convention to spread through ethnic diversity, based on the teachings of Scripture as a reflection of our communities' ethnic makeup.

We continue to build our convention of churches under the celebration of ethnic diversity, recognizing our differences with joy as a portion of the multiplied saints worshiping in Revelation 7:9, "After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

We understand that the source of racism is the sinful nature that resides in everyone. Knowing this, we realize



that despite humanity's best efforts, the sin nature cannot be resolved through politics, economics, education, or religion. In these four (politics, economics, education, or religion), reflected in the Law of Moses, we clearly understand the purpose of the law, just as Paul wrote to the believers in Rome, "Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are subject to the law, so that every mouth may be shut and the whole world may become subject to God's judgment. For no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law" (Romans 3:19-20).

As the law reveals every sin, redemption can only rise in faith - and that faith is only in Jesus Christ as Messiah, Savior, and Lord. Together, we stand against sin. That is why God called you into this relationship with him and called you into your ministry roles. We remain committed to stand against sin and reach out to everyone with the message of redemption in Jesus and the hope of reconciliation with God. As he changes us to be more like Jesus, the sin nature is defeated in us as we live victoriously in Christ.

Social justice is significant to us as followers of Christ — it reflects Christ's heart. But our ministries of mercy must be coupled with our ministry of evangelism. We must always reach forward with the Gospel of Jesus Christ or our social justice efforts will fall far short of God's plans for our role as his ambassadors. In Christ, stand



**Chris Martin**

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 808-946-9581

against sin, brothers and sisters — rise in word and deed against sin — and reach forward proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the world may know that he was sent through the love of the Father for their salvation.

Mahalo for the privilege and joy of serving you in our convention of churches. For our staff team, we appreciate your support of our ministries in service to you and our churches. We remain ready to respond to your needs, coming alongside you as we navigate these days of uncertainty. God is faithful.

Continue to pray and strive for ways to serve God in obedience together. 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 808-946-9581 or email me at [chris@hpbaptist.net](mailto:chris@hpbaptist.net).

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Martin". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "C" and "M".



# PacificCONNECTOR

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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 and Asia. For information about Pacific Connector or the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention:

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**INNOVATIVE  
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## ABOUT THE COVER

Himeji Baptist Church, Japan, re-gathered outdoors for worship services at an amphitheater after 3 months of worship and fellowship via Zoom.



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# Re-Gathering for In-Person Worship Services

After months of online-only worship, many Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches have carefully returned to their places for gatherings for in-person worship.



Himeji Baptist Church



On Sunday, June 7, Himeji Baptist Church, Japan, re-gathered outdoors after 3 months of worship and fellowship via Zoom. One hundred persons attended their first outdoor gathering. While they have a church building, the outdoor gathering allows them to have more in attendance and be a witness to the community. Toshikazu Haruta is pastor.





Kaunkakakai Baptist Church on the Island of Molokai re-gathered on Sunday, May 31, 2020



New Life, Kona, Hawaii Island

New Life Kona is a church plant led by Pastor Jay Parks on Hawaii Island. During the pandemic they had the opportunity to move to a new location. They re-gathered for in-person worship on Sunday, June 7, 2020.



Freedom Village Church, Seoul

Freedom Village Church in Seoul met in-person at the beginning of June after over 4 months of online-only worship. They are a recent merge of Seoul International Baptist and The Way Church. They were the first HPBC church to be forced to go online in February 2020 due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. James Lynch is pastor.

Older adults and people of any age who have **serious underlying medical conditions** may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and are **encouraged to watch the service from home.**



As recommended by the CDC





**University Avenue Baptist Church**

University Avenue Baptists (Oahu) re-gathered at the beginning of June. They are continuing to provide online worship as well. Dr. Chris Irving is pastor.



**Eleele Baptist Church (Kauai)** re-gathered at the beginning of June. Larry Hale is pastor.



As recommended by the CDC

**Kahului Baptist (Maui)** meets in-person and online for worship, bible study, and prayer.



Before re-gathering officially, Kahului Baptist did a test run with a few members.



As recommended by the CDC



# Young Missionary On Hold Continues to Serve and Disciple

On March 23, 2020, Pawa'a Community Church member, Natalie Nation was scheduled to fly from Honolulu to Tokyo to begin serving as an International Mission Board (IMB) Journeyman Missionary (2-year program). Due to travel restrictions from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, Natalie had to put all these international plans on hold. However, that did not mean she stopped making disciples or serving Christ.

As she waits for travel restrictions to be lifted, Natalie has found multiple ways to serve as a missionary and disciple-maker in Honolulu.

One way she has done this is by investing in, connecting with, and discipling young women. Her pastor, Arjay Gruspe, put her in touch with Annie Lam of Living Faith Baptist in Honolulu to begin a disciple-making Bible study with high school and college-aged young women from their church. Pastor Gruspe said, "she has also been reaching out to several young adult women both from Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) and Pawa'a Community Church and has assisted us in putting together our weekly online at-home worship video."

In preparation for her coming assignment to Tokyo, Natalie has been working hard on learning the Japanese language as well as compiling and piloting training material for church teams that have an interest to go on mission trips to Japan. She has also been working with IMB Missionaries in Tokyo, Scott and Julie Bradford and HPBC's Assistant Executive Director for Advance, Brian Smart to connect with Hawaii Churches which may be interested in mission trips to Tokyo.

While at University of Hawaii (UH), Natalie swam competitively with the UH swim team and coached the Kamehemeha Swim Club after graduation. Part of her assignment when she does move to Tokyo will be to work with IMB Japan Missionaries to establish relationships with local churches, university students at Musashino

University, and swimmers while swimming on a local swim team.

Her plans also include working with the Olympics ministry team (now scheduled for 2021) to bring together Japanese partners to engage and reach Japanese spectators with the Gospel.

If you would like to reach out to encourage Natalie or to get her regular prayer updates, please email her at [natalie.nation94@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.nation94@gmail.com).

The IMB Journeyman program is supported by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

**imb**

**LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING®**





# Responding Boldly to Needs During an Age of Fear

## Lahaina Baptist Continues Weekly Food Distribution EXCEEDS 6200 BOXES OF FOOD

According to Jay Wright, pastor of Lahaina Baptist Church, "The community of West Maui has been especially hard hit economically by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. According to official estimates, 52% of West Maui is out of work."\*

"Our church desires to be the hands and feet of Christ standing in the gap between hunger and hope for West Maui," Wright added.

Wright said, "More than 6200 boxes of food have been handed out, and hundreds of bags of groceries have been delivered to our

Kupuna and shut-ins, and countless drivers are going throughout Lahaina to ensure people in need receive a box of food."

Visit [lahainabaptist.com](https://lahainabaptist.com) to donate to help with the costs associated with the food distribution.

\*See a map with unemployment estimates in Hawaii by clicking on the link below or scanning the QR code.

<https://rpubs.com/jtyndall/claimsperworker>



Serving 9 cars at a time — about 800 to 840 cars per distribution



Aerial view of Food Distribution in early May 2020



Each week the team loads 4 Maui Police Vehicles with 8-12 boxes of food for officers to deliver to families in need throughout west Maui

The Wednesday crew is building between 800 and 900 boxes a week







## LIFE Christian Church Serves 120 Roosevelt High School Families

For a second time this year, LIFE Christian Church worked together with the Roosevelt High School administration to identify families in need of help. On May 11, 2020, a team of 11 volunteers, along with two members from HPBC Disaster Relief held an invite-only food distribution. LIFE Christian Pastor Shaw Okawara said, "We were so grateful for burden that God has given our church to share the love of Christ in practical ways during this season of need. After the first food distribution that we did last month, it was so well received. We realized how big the need was and felt like God was asking us to do it again - thus a second time."

The food distribution was supported by your gifts through the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions.



**Sue Nishikawa  
Offering**  
for Hawaii Pacific Missions

Food ready to be boxed up for distribution



Shaw Okawara, pastor of LIFE Christian Church



## Hāmama Community Church and University Avenue Collaborate to Serve Community

Hāmama Community Church Plant (Pastor Ikaika Higa) and University Avenue Baptist Church (Pastor Chris Irving) collaborated with four other Kahalu'u churches and Wong's Meat Market to provide food three times during the stay-at-home order. They serviced over 200 families (over 635 adults and 383 keiki). The churches partnered with KEY Project Community Center to serve the community in this way.

Pastor Ikaika said, "We have helped with KEY Project's food distribution many times through the years, but when we asked how we could do more during the Pandemic, they asked for meat. So we prayed that Jesus would help us fulfill that very specific request. Jesus definitely blessed the efforts to serve because towards the end of the distributions, all we had to give out was the meat that the churches pulled together to provide; what the food bank provided ran out. Many island families have been needing kokua through COVID-19 and we're thankful that the churches could be a part of meeting those needs."



JULY AUG 2020



# SOMETHING TO Celebrate

## OBI End-of-Semester Celebration via Zoom — 2020 Spring Semester Celebration



The Oahu Bible Institute (OBI) held their End-of-Semester Celebration via Zoom on Thursday, May 28, 2020, 6:00 PM. Dr. Warren Haynes, director of the Advance program with Gateway Seminary in California, Dr. David McQuitty, OBI director in Texas, and Chris Martin, Executive Director/Treasurer brought greetings on behalf of the HPBC.

## Cornerstone Fellowship Recognizes High School, College, Professional Graduates

On their first Sunday back in the building on Sunday, June 7, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, Mililani Mauka (Oahu) honored three graduates. Dr. Travis Laney, interim pastor, led the recognition in his PhD gown.

From left to right: Vicky Kawamae (Wayland Baptist University – Bachelor's in Christian Ministry); Kailee Chatters & Kylie Hull (Mililani High School); Braden Goto (Pacific University, Oregon – Business Degree in Marketing).





## University Avenue Holds Drive-through Celebration for Graduates and Retirees



## Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA) Holds Drive-through Celebration



On May 30, HBA held a special modified in-person and virtual senior send-off celebration to recognize their high school graduates as they picked up their cap and gown.

According to HBA Athletic Director, Deren Oshiro, "vehicles arrived at designated times and were sent to drive through the middle school and high school campuses in groups of 10. Teachers and other students joined digitally by phones and iPads to cheer while senior advisors and administrators cheered in-person, took photos, and distributed the cap and gown packages."

HBA will host a private Baccalaureate Event on campus on June 21 followed by a private in-person graduation ceremony on June 27. KHII TV, sister station of KHON2 the local NBC affiliate, will broadcast the graduation 2 weeks later.

Ron Shiira is President of Hawaii Baptist Academy. HBA is a private Christian school located in Honolulu. Established in 1949 by Christian missionaries, HBA now has more than 1,000 students enrolled in grades Kindergarten – Grade 12. All of HBA's graduates qualify for college, and more than 100 students make a decision to follow Jesus each year.

*Celebrate*



An online ministry update from around the SBC



For detailed information, go online to <http://www.sbc.net/advance/> or scan this QR code

## Racial Healing, Great Commission, Cooperative Program Headline SBC Advance

The two-hour online event was not intended to replace the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting (originally scheduled June 9-10 in Orlando, but canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic), but instead to provide Southern Baptists the opportunity to hear how God has continued to work through the SBC.

SBC Advance highlighted Southern Baptist achievements in the Great Commission, the Cooperative Program, religious liberty, seminary education, diversity, disaster relief and missions at home and abroad. Entity leaders, pastors, state convention and Woman's Missionary Union executives joined to spotlight Southern Baptist work.

On the SBC Advance website, you will find reports specific to individual entities.



### 2020 SBC Advance Book of Reports

To view the SBC Advance Book of Reports online or to download, scan the QR code below or go to: [tinyurl.com/adv-sbc](http://tinyurl.com/adv-sbc)



## REPORTS



Dr. Paul Chitwood brings an update from the International Mission Board (IMB)



Dr. Ben Mandrell brings an update from LifeWay Christian Resources



Sandy Wisdom-Martin brings an update from the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU)



PRAY JUNE 2020

FOR YOUR  
NEWLY APPOINTED

61

IMB MISSIONARIES

AMERICAN PEOPLES

*Chris & Sara*  
*Jeff & Nell*  
*Paul & Christina*

CENTRAL ASIAN  
PEOPLES

*Matt & Claire*  
*George & Judy*  
*Abigail*  
*Timothy & Juliana*  
*Jack & Melissa*

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND  
MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

*Andrew & Elizabeth*  
*Seth & Rachel*  
*Scott & Mia*  
*Scout & Jane*  
*P.N. & Maxine*  
*Grace*  
*Michael & Lydia*

EAST ASIAN PEOPLES

*Robert & Alyssa*  
*Mark & Emma*

EUROPEAN PEOPLES

*Cody & Brittany*  
*Matt & Shelby*  
*Elbert & Kay*  
*Angelo & Monica*  
*Christopher & Julianna*  
*James & Abigail*

SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES

*Jaden & Alexis*  
*Nick & Melissa*

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN  
PEOPLES

*Eric & Heather*  
*Jesse & Martha*

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES

*David & Emily*  
*Dwayne & Ella*  
*Jake & Amy*  
*Joseph & Rose*

DEAF PEOPLES

*Naya*



## Free Will Service

Your Hawaii Baptist Foundation offers a Free Will service available online now by visiting the Hawaii Baptist Foundation website at [hawaiibaptistfoundation.com](http://hawaiibaptistfoundation.com) and clicking on the "Begin Your Free Will" button. As soon as you print

your document and sign it in front of two adult witnesses who are of sound mind and not named in the will, your will is legally valid.

If you have a large or complicated estate, completing this process

may help to speed up the time with an attorney by having your wishes already written out. The Hawaii Baptist Foundation can also help you find a qualified attorney to assist you in your estate planning process.



## Applications Being Accepted for the KOKUA Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for the KOKUA Scholarship, an endowed gift established to provide post high school scholarship assistance to the offspring of full-time ministers within the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.

The endowment was started in the memory of J. Russell Duffer and his wife Rhoda Alice Duffer. Rev. Duffer received his Biblical training from Ouachita Baptist College (now University) and was called to ministry in Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas. The Duffers emphasized education to their children, including their son, Dr. Bob Duffer, and that commitment inspired the endowment. With initial and ongoing funding by Bob and June Duffer, the endowment has also grown through the generosity of other Hawaii Pacific Baptists. To receive information and an application, please contact the Hawaii Baptist Foundation at 808-973-1111 or [info@hawaiibaptistfoundation.com](mailto:info@hawaiibaptistfoundation.com). Applications are being received through September 30, 2020 and the recipient(s) will be announced at the HBPC Annual Meeting in November.



The Hawaii Baptist Foundation is here to serve Christian stewards, by making available trust services and planned giving opportunities. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of service to you. Call Arnold Goto, HBF President, at 808-973-1111 or email him at [agoto@hawaiibaptistfoundation.com](mailto:agoto@hawaiibaptistfoundation.com).



# HPBC Churches

## WORKING TOGETHER TO BE LEADERS



We see every Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church working together to be leaders in impacting God's Kingdom throughout the Pacific and Asia.  
~ HPBC Vision



### Churches Open Doors to Other Congregations

As congregations re-gather in their buildings, some have seen additional obstacles because they previously met in school facilities or had facilities too small to accommodate social distancing. The Gathering on Oahu and Guam Christian Life Fellowship (GCLF) on Guam have both found a place to re-gather with the help of sister churches in the area. Mililani Baptist Church enthusiastically opened its worship center for The Gathering to have Saturday worship services at 4 p.m. Calvary Baptist Church, Guam, welcomed Guam Christian Life Fellowship to their campus for Sunday evening services at 5 p.m.

Guam Christian Life Fellowship Worship Service in the Calvary Baptist Church worship center



### Three Churches Share One Video Worship Service

Central Baptist Church, Honolulu, First Baptist Church of Nanakuli, and Kaunakakai Baptist on Molokai are all three without a pastor. Lay-persons at Central Baptist put together multiple elements of worship (Call to Worship, Musical Worship, Scripture Reading, Congregational Prayer, Doxology) from multiple church members and HPBC's Craig Webb provided a sermon recorded at his home in Makiki. Central Baptist Church's Ted Nakamura post-produced and uploaded the hour-long service each week.

As Craig worked with Nanakuli and Kaunakakai to consider options for equipping their congregations for at-home worship, they agreed to try the video supplied each week from Central Baptist. Pamela Keopua of FBC Nanakuli shared that several members of her family members that had not attended in-person worship services in a long time joined them every week as they set up a projector and screen on the back lanai for two families to worship at-home. Pray for these churches as they are re-gathering for in-person worship.

Members of First Baptist Nanakuli meet via Zoom with Robert Miller, Craig Webb, and Elise Tafao to plan re-gathering



### Kona Baptist Working Together with Ocean View on Hawaii Island

When Tim Bruno, pastor of Ocean View Baptist Church, was leaving to go to a new ministry assignment, he reached out to Brian Fable, pastor of Kona Baptist and members of the HPBC staff team for help. Tim and the Ocean View church leaders considered whether they would go on their own or ask Kona Baptist to partner with them. After several meetings via Zoom, both churches entered into a covenant relationship for church sustainability. Pastor Fable has been providing weekly administrative oversight, mentoring ministry leaders, and providing encouragement and guidance as they move forward.



Map Showing Kona Baptist and Ocean View Baptist



Kona Baptist Church Pastor, Brian Fable

### Two Oahu Churches Working Side-By-Side

Waipahu Community Christian Church and Village Park Baptist Church are two congregations with a close relationship. While they had been meeting together once a month for Sunday morning worship service and fellowship, last year they decided to do so every week. During the Pandemic, Mark Yamamoto, a lay-person and worship leader at Waipahu Community, worked with leaders to provide the technology for both churches to watch one online worship service. While they continue as two separate congregations, Pastor A. Glen Basuel, an Army Captain, serving as a battalion chaplain, is ministering to both.



Mark Yamamoto's Technology Setup for Online Worship

# HPBC Statement on Racism and Prejudice

Hawaii Pacific Baptists issue joint statement condemning any form of racism or prejudice



Christopher Martin  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
chris@hpbaptist.net

June 5, 2020

Aloha,

Reflecting on the 78-year history of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, we recognize that God established our network on a firm foundation of ethnic diversity. We are distraught and saddened by the recent events gripping our nation, ignited by the inexcusable deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, and other victims of discrimination. In the history of Hawai'i and the Pacific, we have experienced similar instances of unjust discrimination. We resolve to condemn any form of racism or prejudice.

God's love and mercy extend to the world through Christ. Scripture teaches us that in Christ, we no longer know anyone from a worldly perspective. As ambassadors of God's message of redemption with humanity, we appeal to all for reconciliation to God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). Any form of racism or injustice denies our role as God's ambassadors, and the rebirth of our lives in Christ, knowing that those actions are not compatible with God's nature.

Together, we renew our dedication to prioritizing our lives to God through the mourning of injustice, the repentance of ungodliness, and the obligation to living in Christ's love toward all. Our prayer is for us, as God's people, to rise in active humility and repentance, to lead forward with courage in godliness, and to firmly stand for righteousness and holiness in our world.

Aloha in Christ,

Dr. Steven Irvin	President, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention
Ron Shiira	President, Hawaii Baptist Academy
Arnold Goto	President, Hawaii Baptist Foundation
Christopher Martin	Executive Director/Treasurer, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

***Working Together to be Leaders in Impacting God's Kingdom***

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