

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.

The Island of Lana'i

Pu'u Pehe: "Sweetheart Rock"



For more issues, scan this QR code or go
online to: hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector

2020 MAR APR | VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2

Building the Kingdom

Small Steps At a Time

Moving ahead in 2020 will require a closer harmony and unity for more significant Kingdom influence. Harmony and unity do not come through a mutual interest or affinity, but through a commitment to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Across our convention of churches, God is at work and is advancing his Kingdom through renewed efforts of cooperation and networking.

Baptisms are on the rise because churches are working together to reach their communities and regions.

Evangelistic conversations are increasing due to the intentional efforts of extending a call to follow Christ in interactions at work and home.

Missional strategies are being carried out through the combined endeavors of associational and network connections, impacting much more than any individual church can accomplish alone.

These actions, and more, reflect the heartbeat of the Hawaii

Pacific Baptist Convention. We see every Hawaii Pacific Baptist church working together to be leaders in impacting God's Kingdom in the Pacific and Asia. With much more than a vision statement, Hawaii Pacific Baptists are working together to be leaders in reaching our "Jerusalem" for Christ. The reality of combined energies and the Holy Spirit's power are propelling us forward in following the missional intentions of Christ's Great Commission, in making disciples of all the nations. But we still have more in front of us to do.

Join me in praying for each other as we move forward. Strive to silence the negative voices around us and remain focused on our Savior's command. Seek to overcome the minor differences and press onward on the common ground of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The world around us is interested in hearing a voice of truth - and we are that voice, like John crying in the wilderness, pointing men and women to Christ.



Chris Martin

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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.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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 and Asia. For information about Pacific Connector or the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention:

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ABOUT THE COVER

Pu'u Pehe is also known as "Sweetheart Rock". Standing at 80 feet tall, it is one of Lanai's most recognizable landmarks.



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Hawaii Pacific Baptists Gave Generously in 2019

According to Mike Martin, HPBC Assistant Executive Director of Business and Finance, Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave **\$1,700,108 through Cooperative Program and special offerings** (Sue Nishikawa, Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, and World Hunger).

We are
**HAWAII
PACIFIC**
Missions.

\$1,181,665

In 2019 Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave \$1,181,665 through the Cooperative Program. This was **\$48,520 MORE** than 2018 giving.

\$130,930

In 2019 Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave \$130,930 to the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions. **This EXCEEDED OUR GOAL** of \$130,000 and is the most given to the offering in one year. Learn more at hpbaptist.net/suenishikawa



**Sue Nishikawa
Offering**
for Hawaii Pacific Missions

\$133,783

In 2019 Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave \$133,783 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This offering goes to the North American Mission Board and helps to plant new churches in unreached communities and to needs through compassion ministries in the United States, Canada and U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa. Learn more at namb.net.

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

\$235,617

In 2019 Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave \$235,617 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This offering goes to support missions work throughout the world through the International Mission Board. Learn more at IMB.org.

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

\$18,113

In 2019 Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave \$18,113 to Global Hunger Relief. Twenty cents of every dollar is sent to NAMB to support hunger projects in the US and Canada. Eighty cents of every dollar is sent to the International Mission Board for direct hunger ministry as well as water well drilling, agricultural education, water purification, etc. Learn more at globalhungerrelief.org.

 **GlobalHungerRelief**
bread for life.

THANK YOU to HPBC Woman's Missionary Union for their promotion of these special offerings throughout the year.

 **WMU®**

Around *The* Hawaiian Islands

Do you have news you would like to share?

Email us at info@hpbaptist.net or post it on facebook.com/hawaiiibaptist—be sure to like us.

Olivet Blesses Neighbors with Tidings of Joy Event in December

On December 7, 2019, Olivet Baptist Church held its "Tidings of Joy" event. They prepared gift baskets with the basic necessities in life — dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, etc., and delivered them to neighbors. The basket included a note from Senior Pastor Jamie McElrath with an invitation to December's church activities. Part of the note said, "This gift is a sign of our aloha for you. It is not much, but we hope it will be useful in the days to come. We give it to you out of our gratitude to God for the gift that He gave us — the gift of Jesus. We celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas, but Christmas is just the beginning. All along, Jesus' plan was to offer His perfect life as a sacrifice to pay for our sinful broken lives. This is how we truly know that God loves us. 'Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.'" (1 John 4:10)



Life Christian Church Holds Gingerbread House Gospel Outreach

In December, Life Christian Church invited the community to an event where families could make Gingerbread Houses together while hearing a presentation of the Gospel from Pastor Shaw Okawara. The event was held at the Nu'uano Baptist Church campus where Life Christian Church meets. Nu'uano's pastor is Bob Gierhart. Supplies for this event were provided through your church's gifts through the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions.



Around *The* Hawaiian Islands

Thompson Receives MTS Degree

Trent Thompson, Associate/Youth Pastor at **Waikoloa Baptist** on Hawai'i Island, recently graduated from Southwestern Seminary with a Master's of Theological Studies degree. Congratulations!



Waiehu Community Church Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary

On Sunday, February 2, **Waiehu Community Church** on Maui celebrated one year since they launched as a church plant of **Kahului Baptist** on Maui and **Immanuel Baptist** in Louisville, KY. Kahului Baptist and Pastor Randy Pauley chose to move their Sunday morning worship services to join Waiehu in their celebration! Rocky Komatsu and Jay Haynes are co-pastors of Waiehu Community Church. Their church is supported in part by your church's gifts through the Cooperative Program.

(adopted children had hearts placed over their faces for privacy reasons)



Paradise Park Baptist Church Participated in Community's Christmas Parade

Paradise Park Baptist Church on Hawaii Island participated in their community's Christmas Parade with a Pineapple Plantation Train-themed float. They shared Gospel tracts and flyers as part of the outreach. Lee Ford is pastor. This outreach was supported through your church's gifts through the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions.



John Kanoa Ordained As a Deacon

On Sunday, February 9, **First Baptist Church of Wahiawa** on Oahu ordained John Kanoa as a deacon (middle with lei). His wife Jennifer, along with the deacons, and Pastor Steve Gray are standing with him.



Filipino Southern Baptist Convention of the Pacific (FSBCP) Gathered for Their Associational Meeting

The **Filipino Southern Baptist Convention of the Pacific (FSBCP)** gathered for their associational meeting at **Cornerstone Fellowship Mililani Mauka** in December. As part of their meeting, they recognized those who completed a recent Oahu Bible Institute (OBI) New Testament survey class led by Pastor Bong Abagon. HPBC was represented by Dr. Robert Miller, Director of Regional Ministries.



Alec and Belle Waterhouse Lecture Series

The Alec and Belle Waterhouse Lecture Series, a ministry of **Waiālae Baptist** on Oahu, held its 2020 Leadership Conference in February. The guest speakers were Sterling Lee, Pastor of FBC Pearl City, Matt Sanders, Pastor of Waiālae Baptist, and Glenn Furuya of Leadership Works. Learn more at waterhouselecture.org



Sterling Lee
Pastor of FBC Pearl City



Matt Sanders
Pastor of Waiālae Baptist



Glenn Furuya
of Leadership Works

Dr. Craig Loscalzo Speaks at First Baptist Church of Pearl City

More than 25 pastors and other leaders gathered at the youth room of **First Baptist Church of Pearl City** to hear Dr. Craig Loscalzo, Senior Generosity Specialist at Generis (generis.com). Pastor Sterling Lee of FBC Pearl City hosted the event. The topic was "5 Action Steps to Improve Your Church's Giving in 2020."





Remembering Deanna Aoki:

A Great Servant of God & Hawaii Pacific Baptists

Deanna Aoki impacted many with the way she encouraged people, extended grace, and pointed people to Jesus. Her radiant smile and gentle spirit will always be remembered. Aoki went home to be with Jesus on October 31, 2019, after a long battle with cancer.

Aoki, 72, served the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention as Executive Director for Women's Missionary Union from 2000 until she retired in 2010.

"Deanna Aoki was probably my very best friend," said Alice Newman, HPBC's WMU Executive Director who preceded Deanna. "I was so privileged to know and work with Deanna closely over a period of about 35 plus years. Deanna was always on missions wherever we went. She was tireless and always reflected the love of the Lord in her precious smile."

"She was never self-centered about anything and gave 100 percent of her energy to any task that was before us. She was tireless in her quest to make Jesus known."

A Celebration of Life to honor Aoki was held at Olivet Baptist Church on January 11, 2020. Deanna's son, Pastor Stephen Aoki, executive pastor of Tiburon Baptist Church in California, delivered the message at her memorial service.

"You need to know how much my mom loved you and loved serving you, alongside you," Pastor Stephen told those who attended his mother's memorial service. Pastor Stephen also shared the personal influence his mother had on his life and cited a few examples. "When I was at seminary, my mom was my greatest supporter," he said. "When I was ordained at Tiburon Baptist Church, my mom was my greatest encourager." "If there is just one thing that she would want said, it would be this, 'focus on Jesus.'"

Deanna's other sons Chris Aoki and Joe Aoki also shared at Deanna's memorial service, "There are many reasons why people choose to believe in God," said Chris. "...for me, I know there is a God because of my mom and watching her live life, loving God and loving others."

Joe Aoki added that Deanna was a woman of God's word who loved spending time with God, reading the Bible, and saw how God's word influenced his mother. "Growing up, I remember her sitting at the dining room table every morning, reading the Bible, praying and communing with her Savior," Joe said. "These times with her savior allowed the word of God to dwell richly in her."

Churches and people Deanna Aoki came in contact with have been deeply impacted by Deanna's life. Her Christlikeness in all matters and her encouragement were outward expressions of the work of Christ in her. Throughout her life, her ministry and even in her suffering, Deanna was a shining example of the hope found in Jesus.

Deanna's life and work faithfully built on the gospel foundation that was previously laid in Hawaii. Because of Deanna's faithfulness, future generations have a pathway in reaching Hawaii, the Pacific, Asia, and the world with the gospel.

Paul writes in Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Because of this, Deanna's testimony continues to influence many.

Deanna Aoki is survived by her husband, John Aoki, sons, Christopher (Cicely) Aoki, Stephen (Pauline) Aoki, and Joseph (Megan) Aoki and seven grandchildren.

Around Micronesia *and the* South Pacific

Happy Valley Hosts Evangelistic Football Camp

Happy Valley Baptist Church in Samoa hosted an Evangelistic Football Camp at Tafuna High School in December. Forty high school seniors participated. The camp was led by Brian Smart, HPBC Assistant Executive Director of Advance and several college coaches. Brian had the opportunity to share the gospel throughout the camp. Pray for one of the students who asked for help in knowing how to live a life that honors Christ. This Camp was supported by your gifts through the Cooperative Program through the Existing Church Evangelism Fund from the North American Mission Board. Five students received scholarships to go to US colleges. Safuo'i Tavete is the pastor of Happy Valley.



Coach talks with campers



Baptist Association of Micronesia Churches Help Sponsor Guåhan Festival of Hope

Our Baptist Association of Micronesia (BAM) Churches helped to host the Guåhan Festival of Hope with Franklin Graham on Sunday evening, February 23 in Guam. This includes Calvary Baptist (Pastor Rob Puckett), Guam Christian Life Fellowship (Pastor Pancho Madrid), and Tamuning Christian Fellowship (Pastor Ed Perez). Over 40 churches in Guam participated. The Festival of Hope was also held in Saipan on February 21.

5,500 attended the Guåhan Festival of Hope with Franklin Graham in Guam on Sunday, February 23



HAWAII PACIFIC CHURCHES

In Mission.

Tokyo Baptist Church in the Middle of the 2020 OLYMPICS



TOKYO BAPTIST CHURCH (TBC), a member of the Asia Baptist Network and a Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church, is partnering with the International Mission Board (IMB) Tokyo by embracing Connect 2020. The TBC church facility will be used during the Olympics for ministry and is already housing the office where IMB missionaries Daniel and Tara Rice are organizing and strategizing Connect 2020.

Members of Tokyo Baptist are now gearing up to participate in Olympics outreach events, and training will begin in the Spring. Please pray for Senior Pastor, Takeshi Yozawa; Evangelism/Administrative Pastor, Joel Kaminaga; Maturity Pastor, Jesse Cesario; and the rest of the staff team, leadership, members, and the International Mission Board team.

For more information, visit connect2020.net.

International Baptist Church of Manila Responds to Volcano Disaster

According to Roderick Jacinto, Missions Pastor at INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH (IBC) Manila, he and a team from the church traveled to Bauan Batangas evacuation center to help those who were affected by the Taal volcano eruption in mid-January. They provided relief to families evacuated from San Nicolas, Agoncillo, and Lemery. The team distributed food packs, bottled water, and over the counter medicines. They shared the Gospel, prayed with and encouraged families.



MAR APR 2020

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Himeji Church Reaches Students with Olympic-themed Event

According to HIMEJI BAPTIST Associate Pastor, Masahiro Haruta, their church hosted a youth event called OKASHI-OLYMPIC (Snack Olympic) 2020. Forty students participated. Himeji Baptist became a Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church in November 2019 and is a part of the Asia Baptist Network.



International Ministries Hosts Christmas Outreach

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES (IM) hosted a Christmas Dinner on December 12, 2019. International Ministries shares the Gospel, ministers to students from around the world, and raises up leaders to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Thank you IM Director, Carlye Lawrence, along with Zack Taylor, and Sarah Williams.



University Avenue, Nu'uuanu, Olivet, Pearl City, Palisades, Pali View, Life Christian, and Hawaii Kai Rotate to Serve Internationals

International Ministries hosts a meal every Thursday during the semester. Several Oahu churches rotate to purchase, prepare, and serve hot meals to international students from China, Japan, Korea, and multiple other countries. It's held in the Chapel on the HPBC Campus which is situated across the street from the University of Hawaii at Mano'a.



Serving lunch:

(top) members of University Avenue Baptist

(left) members of Nu'uuanu Baptist

who's your 1ONE?

Chris Martin, HPBC Executive Director, has issued a challenge for all Hawaii Pacific Baptists to join Southern Baptists around the country in participating in the "Who's Your ONE?" challenge.

Imagine the impact if every Christian had ONE person they prayed for and shared the gospel with. Whom are you committing to pray for? What would it look like to see the Lord begin a movement of Who's Your ONE?

Every attending church member would be asked to pray about a friend, relative, work associate, classmate, or neighbor that they would list as their ONE.

They would then begin to pray daily for their salvation and ask God to open opportunities to share the gospel with their ONE.

They would be equipped by their church to share the gospel.

When their ONE comes to Christ, the church member will help that ONE grow to maturity in the faith.

To download a 30-second challenge to show at your church, visit vimeo.com/390585941 or scan this QR code with your mobile device.



Baptism Sunday in SBC: APRIL 12



J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), is calling SBC churches to participate in a nationwide focus on baptism this Easter Sunday, April 12. More information and resources are available at namb.net/baptism-sunday-resources.

After observing this special Sunday, send videos and/or photographs from your Sunday morning service to the North American Mission Board at evangelism@namb.net and to HPBC at craig@hpbaptist.net.

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

It's all about the gospel

Week of Prayer
March 1-8, 2020

**>>> North American
Mission Board**

NATIONAL GOAL:
\$70 MILLION

HPBC GOAL:
\$170,000

100%
of your gifts support
North American missionaries

PLEASE GIVE THROUGH YOUR
LOCAL CHURCH OR ONLINE AT
ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/GIVE

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The Gathering 2020 Recap

By Ken Reyes, BCM O'ahu Intern

During the second weekend of February, BCM Hawai'i held its annual collegiate retreat called The Gathering, where college students are invited to learn, worship, and connect. BCM O'ahu, headed by director Arjay Gruspe, hosted this year's retreat at Pu'u Kahea Conference Center in Waianae, Hawai'i. Sixty students, staff, and leaders were in attendance (including 31 from Hilo BCM and 5 from International Ministries).



This year, Paul Worchester (Christian Challenge Director at California State University in Chico) led the group in four sessions of evangelism and discipleship training. His deep passion for the Gospel and his hunger to see college students follow Jesus was a contagion that spread like wildfire among the students and leaders. Alongside the messages, Chaz Umamoto (worship leader at First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu) led everyone in an intimate, refreshing time of worship during the weekend. Students also walked away with practical skills and resources to equip them for intentional ministry and evangelism on their college campuses.

We are so grateful for this retreat, which serves as a fun break from school and a time of refocusing and refueling to continue serving God and loving others.

MORE from Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) ●●●●●●●●●●

01

BCM O'ahu and mission partners from Northern Arizona State University assist Wahiawa First with "Water Wednesday" to pass out snacks and water to local middle and high schoolers.



02

BCM Oahu, NAU mission partners, and Hamama Community Church celebrate together at Hamama's Tuesday night Bible study.



03

BCM O'ahu and mission partners from Northern Arizona State University help clear land at Hamama Community Church's workday in January.



Nathaniel Atwell and Malachi McSherry perform a song at BCM O'ahu's Welcome Back Open Mic outreach event on the first Friday of the spring semester.

BCM O'ahu students reach out to their peers from Oahu campuses at a Welcome Back Open Mic event the first Friday of the spring semester.



The Friday before the semester started BCM O'ahu hosted a game night outreach event that was attended by more than 40 students.



Update from Anita Bice BCM Hilo Director

Since January 2, we joined Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Kona for a young adult game night, worshiped with Waikaloe Baptist Church, led an outdoor game and shared testimonies with youth and young adults in Naalehu in partnership with Pahala Baptist Church, created giant murals for Paradise Park Baptist Church's children's ministry, spent two days sprucing up the BCM building and grounds, prayer walked at UH Hilo, hosted new students at six events and hung out with them other times, helped new students attend local Baptist churches, had BCM worship and Bible study nights with students sharing testimonies the first night and Bible teaching the other nights, hosted two Free Lunches, and began men's and women's small group Bible studies.

Hilo BCM takes students on an adventure the Saturday before school started, ending up at a Kona beach.



Hilo BCM students with a West Texas A&M University BSM missions team behind murals they created for Paradise Park Baptist Church's children's ministry.



01 JANUARY*Call to Prayer Month*

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5-12 January Bible Study
- 19 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 25 **VBS Directors Training**

02 FEBRUARY

- 1-28 "True Love Waits" Emphasis
- 1 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 7-9 **The Gathering**
- 9 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- 10-16 Focus on WMU
- 15 Children's Ministry Day
- 17 President's Day
- 29 **WMU Annual Meeting, Oahu**

03 MARCH

- 1-7 Youth Week
- 1-8 Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 17 Church Planting Emphasis Sunday
- 21 **VBS Training**
- 26 Prince Kuhio Day
- 29 Substance Abuse Sunday

04 APRIL

- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter
- 12 Baptist Doctrine Study
- 19 SBC Seminaries Sunday
- 26 Cooperative Program Sunday

05 MAY

- 2 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 3 Senior Adult Sunday
- 7 National Day of Prayer
- 10-19 Christian Home Week
- 18-20 **Pastors' Retreat**
- 25 Memorial Day

06 JUNE

- 2-6 **Keiki Adventure Camp**
- 7 A Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- 9-10 SBC Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
- 11 King Kamehameha Day
- 21 Baptist Men's Emphasis
- 28 Mission: Dignity Sunday
- 28 Citizenship & Religious Liberty Sunday

07 JULY

- 3 Independence Day (observed)
- 19 Send Relief Sunday

08 AUGUST

- 1 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 9 Student Evangelism Day
- 16-22 Worship Music Week
- 21 Statehood Day

09 SEPTEMBER

- 6 Single Adult Sunday
- 6-13 **Week of Prayer Hawaii Pacific Missions**
- Sue Nishikawa Offering**
- 7 Labor Day
- 13 Anti-Gambling Sunday
- 14-17 **HPBC Leadership Training Events**
- TBD **HBEEA Conference**

10 OCTOBER

- 1-31 Cooperative Program Emphasis
- 4 Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- 11 Global Hunger Sunday
- 16-17 **Women's Retreat**
- 18-24 Week of Prayer for Baptist Associations

11 NOVEMBER

- 1 Orphans and Widows Sunday
- 4 **Missions College One Day**
- 5 **New Workers Orientation**
- 5-6 **HPBC Annual Meeting**
- 8 Disaster Relief Appreciation Day
- 11 Veterans' Day
- 14 **HPBC Executive Board**
- 26-27 Thanksgiving
- 29-12/6 Week of Prayer & Mission Study for International Missions & the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

12 DECEMBER

- 25 Christmas

Hawaii Pacific
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