

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

JAN FEB 2021
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*Akaka
Falls*



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hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector

Building the Kingdom

Small Steps at a Time

“Serving together, you exemplify
the Body of Christ across the
Pacific and Asia

Moving into 2021, most of us are still reeling from the impact of 2020. In working through the past year, we have suffered through situations that we would never have imagined. No one remains untouched by the effects of Covid-19. Some have suffered much with the loss of friends and family members. We mourn with those who are grieving. Yet, always remember that God uses each of our situations to shape us into the image of His Son.

The shaping process challenges us and our ministries. For the coming months, concerns about family, friends, health needs, or unexpected changes may continually remain on our minds. God is faithful to guide us to His will and provide us the strength needed to follow His plans as we walk by faith. Our responsibility is to trust His plans and faithfully follow Him. The days ahead may appear different than ever before, but we know that the Father will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus to accomplish His will.

We are thankful for all of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches' dedicated service through the past several months. Investing in ministries locally to internationally, God is using each of you in unique ways. Serving



Dr. Chris Martin

✉ chris@hpbaptist.net
☎ 808-946-9581

together, you exemplify the Body of Christ across the Pacific and Asia. Our ministry is to assist you, and we consider each opportunity a privilege and honor in serving Christ. We remain ready to respond to your needs, staying alongside you, as together, we travel these days of difficulty. God is true to His promises!

Continue to pray and strive for ways to serve God in obedience together. As always, your HPBC staff team is ready to provide for you in any way that we can to advance and support your ministry. If we can serve you, please call us at 808 956-9581 or email me at chris@hpbaptist.net.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Chris Martin,
Executive Director/Treasurer

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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

Akaka Falls State Park, Hawaii Island. — photo by Leialoha, Hawaii Travel, Hikes.



We are
**HAWAII
PACIFIC**
Missions.

JAN FEB 2021



FEATURES

Hawaii Pacific Baptists Gather Virtually from Across the Globe	4
52 Sundays	8
Spotlight on Associations	16

SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING

Spotlight on Asia	10
Something to Celebrate	12
Serving • Ministry • Outreach	14

DEPARTMENTS

Building the Kingdom	2
HPBC Women Gather in Love Despite Distance	6



“ YOU, LORD, KEEP MY LAMP BURNING;
MY GOD TURNS MY DARKNESS INTO LIGHT.
WITH YOUR HELP I CAN ADVANCE AGAINST A TROOP;
WITH MY GOD, I CAN SCALE A WALL”

Psalms 18:28-29

Hawaii Pacific Baptists Gather Virtually from **ACROSS THE GLOBE**

To view or download the 2020 HPBC Annual Meeting **BOOK OF REPORTS**, scan this QR code or go online to hpbaptist.net/annualreport.



By Dr. Craig Webb and Mike Martin

With significant travel and gathering restrictions still in place for the Hawaiian Islands, the Samoas, Micronesia, and Asia, the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) Annual Meeting was entirely virtual.

A Strategic Agreement

A highlight of the event was an update on a new strategic agreement between HPBC and the International Mission Board (IMB). In this agreement, HPBC and IMB seek to partner together to mobilize Hawaii Pacific Baptists to pray, give and go with IMB teams to the nations, and to strengthen Hawaii Pacific Baptists as they embrace their responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission, both locally and globally.

Ministry and Financial Updates

Participants had access to a 48-page book of reports containing ministry and financial updates. In their September meeting, the convention's executive board approved an HPBC 2021 budget of \$1,454,200, a 21.54 percent decrease from 2020. The change is attributable largely to an anticipated decrease in Cooperative Program (CP) receipts due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anticipated receipts include \$1,062,500 in CP receipts from churches, \$166,250 from the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and \$130,000 from gifts to the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions.

The convention will continue to forward 20 percent of CP receipts to Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries and retain 80 percent for funding Hawaii Pacific missions and ministries. The budget does not include any shared ministry expenses.

For the 2019 calendar year, Hawaii Pacific churches gave \$1,700,108 through the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, World Hunger Relief, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, and the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions. HPBC leaders anticipate a similar giving total for 2020. Through October 2020, Hawaii Pacific churches had given \$1,554,661.

Moving Beyond Obstacles

An 80-minute video concerning the theme "Moving Beyond Obstacles" was premiered on Facebook Live on November 5. While it was Thursday afternoon in the Hawaiian and Samoan Islands, it was mid-morning Friday in Guam, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand. Participants also enjoyed a memorial video for Arnold Goto, former president of the Hawaii Baptist Foundation.

The annual meeting message from Ronnie Floyd, SBC Executive Committee President and CEO, expounded on the theme Scripture, Psalm 18:28-29. Floyd also shared 5 Actions for Every Christian and Every Church. Before his message, viewers watched

the premier of "The Hawai'i Blessing," a video produced by Hawaii Islands Ministries with the participation of worship leaders from 25 churches on six Hawaiian Islands.

One participant responded to a follow-up survey: "The Gospel Focus was my favorite. The tribute to past heroes of the faith, and the environment of worship. During the Hawaii Blessing, I was worshipping behind my desk in Okinawa, Japan. Thank you all!"



Watch the entire Annual Meeting video here: <https://vimeo.com/473972903>



HPBC Women *Gather in Love* Despite Distance

248
Gather Virtually
for HPBC Virtual
Women's Retreat



by Ken Reyes

On October 23, ladies from all around Asia-Pacific gathered for the 2020 HPBC women's virtual retreat, which was a sweet time of worship, insightful seminars, and refreshing conversations. Around 248 women in total gathered to celebrate God's love as this year's theme was "Love God, Love Others: Gather in Love."

Although we were not able to meet in person, the virtual gathering was still a huge success—there were 148 individuals on Zoom and 100 women in 9 watch parties, all tuned in despite time zone differences. There were 49 HPBC churches represented, from O'ahu, Hawai'i Island, Maui, Moloka'i, Kauai, Guam, Japan, the Philippines, and South Korea.



“

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”

At the retreat, we were blessed by a sweet encouragement from Lifeway's Women's Ministry Director, Kelly King. The women were also blessed with seminars celebrating God's love and ones featuring discussions on how women can take care of themselves and each other as we walk together in love. Among the seminar speakers were Gay Williams (chaplain and licensed professional counselor), Kristen Salles (registered and licensed dietitian), Cindy Gaskins (Christian Ministries Director at Hawaii Baptist Academy), and Rose Waligora (serving w/ the IMB East Asian Peoples Affinity Group). At the end of the sessions, women gathered in breakout rooms to share stories about how God is moving in their lives and to connect with both new and familiar faces, virtually.

This retreat would not have been possible without the leadership of our HPBC Women's Ministry Director, Diana Ventura, and the retreat planning team consisting of Rose Waligora, Jimean Vallente, Lia Yahn, Lisa Tabudlo, along with the media

technical team that included Lisa Tabudlo, Dawn Akutagawa, and Pearl Hopkins. It was also a privilege to lead the women in worship alongside Kristin Nagamine, one of my longtime friends.

What a blessing it is to gather in God's love with women from across the Pacific!

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Ken Reyes is on staff with Baptist Collegiate Ministries O'ahu. She is currently a Masters of Arts Political Science student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



52 SUNDAYS

SHARE WHO YOUR CHURCH'S MONEY SUPPORTS
AND THE STORIES BEHIND EACH DOLLAR GIVEN.



USING 52 SUNDAYS IS EASY

- Download resources for each missionary's story directly to your computer to share with your church. These resources are available at: hpbaptist.net/52sundays.
- Whether at a podium on Sunday, or on a couch in a small group, share these stories to connect Cooperative Program giving with missionaries in the field.

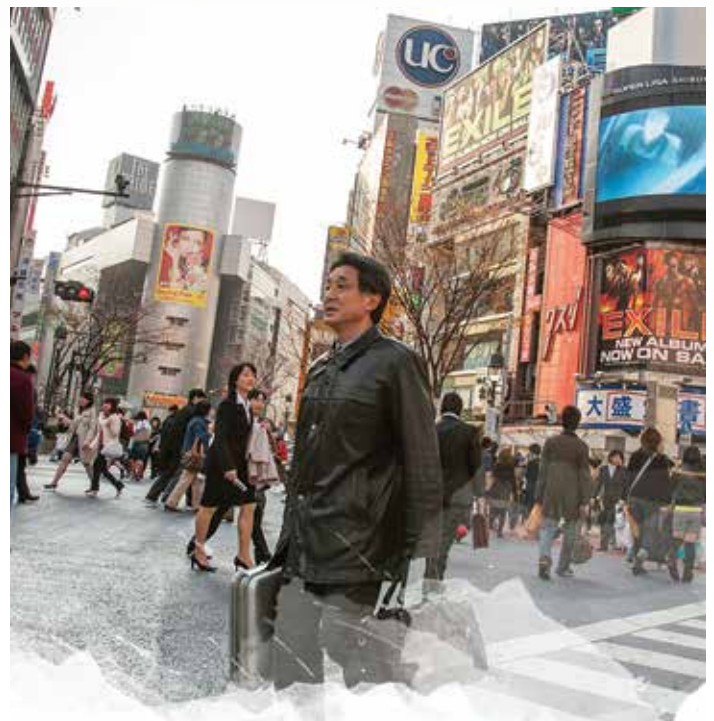


CONNECT THE OFFERING PLATE TO THE MISSION FIELD WITH 52 SUNDAYS.

- Get a better grasp on what God is doing with giving through the Cooperative Program.
- Share the stories of missionaries in remote parts of the world that your church is supporting.
- Pray for missionaries across the globe each Sunday as a church body.

52 Sundays is electronic. That means you can download the entire year of resources from our website or just what you need for each Sunday. Each story includes bulletin inserts, powerpoint slides, social media graphics, and speaker notes.

Featured Story for January:



Carlton & Cornelia Walker
Japan

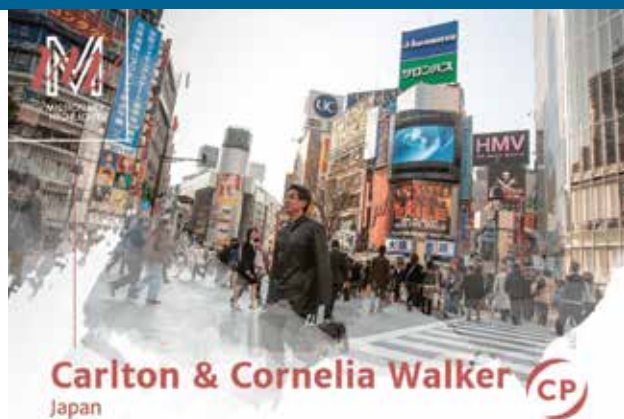


SHARE THESE STORIES WITH YOUR CONGREGATION IN 2021!

52 Sundays is a powerful missions resource filled with weekly highlights of missionaries connected to our SBC Great Commission Partners. Celebrate the global impact your church is making through Cooperative Program supported missions.

Pray for a new mission area every Sunday in 2021 with this prayer guide including inspirational stories, slides, and bulletin inserts. Each week is a challenge to pray boldly for those on the local, national, and international mission field. Using 52 Sundays? Thank you for helping share with your church what God is doing locally and around the world through the Cooperative Program.

WHAT COMES WITH EACH SUNDAY:



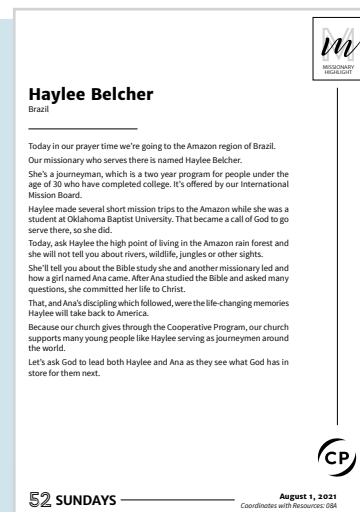
Powerpoint slide, sample from January 17, 2021



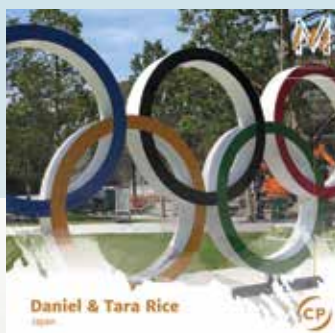
Missionary slide (full screen), sample from June 27, 2021
(Widescreen slides are also available for download)



Bulletin Insert, sample from March 14, 2021
(Available in single and two-to-a-page formats)



Speaker Notes, sample from August 1, 2021



Social Media graphic, sample from April 11, 2021
(Shortened text for social media posts is also available).

Share these stories with your congregation in 2021!
Find out more at:
hpbaptist.net/52sundays

Spotlight on Asia

■ Yokohama International, Japan, Celebrates 60 Years, Gives Thanks

Yokohama International Baptist Church (YIBC) celebrated 60 years of ministry on Sunday morning, November 22 with a Thanksgiving worship celebration both in-person and online. A feature of the worship service was a special testimony from a Japanese pastor who was the first Japanese person baptized at YIBC in 1963. He went on to serve nearly 50 years as a Pastor and senior leader with the Navigators ministry both here in Japan and in the U.S. Ben Howard is senior pastor.

YIBC members after celebration.



(above) YIBC Pastor Ben Howard with Yuji and Sumie Uno

■ Calvary International Baptist, Bangkok Thanksgiving Celebration

Pastor Martin Chappell shared that Calvary was able to host an in-person Thanksgiving Celebration with its main congregation as well as its language congregations. Chappell reported at least 12 nationalities enjoying the special time of fellowship.



■ International Baptist, Manila Responds to Needs After 2 Typhoons

Roderick Jacinto, International Baptist Church of Manila Outreach Pastor, shared that their church was able to assist in Typhoon relief with supplies as well as mud-outs in a local church affected by winds, rain, and flooding. The area was hit in November by back-to-back typhoons.



Spotlight on Asia

■ Himeji Baptist Church, Japan, Finds Creative Ways to Share the Gospel *by Masahiro Haruta and Haruko Takechi*

Himeji Baptist Church has found ways this year to push past regulations to reach out to their community for prayer, teaching, and evangelism.

Green Worship Sunday

On the first two Sundays of November, the church held "Green Worship Sundays" at a Himeji Park. This was followed by a Prayer Walk by students around Himeji castle. They prayed for their city, our neighbors, and people's salvation. During the Sundays, two single adults prayed a salvation prayer.

Lighthouse International Ministry

Lighthouse International ministry is Himeji Baptist's kids' English language school. This ministry is primarily for those who have never been to church but want to study English in the Himeji Baptist Church building. Through this ministry, students and their family members have come to Christ, several families have become regular attenders, and some parents have made a decision to be baptized.

Personal Evangelism

During this pandemic, members of Himeji Baptist have been more active with personal evangelism. They have shared their faith with their co-workers, friends, and family members. More than 10 people were led to Christ through personal evangelism by using tracts or building stronger relationships.

■ Koza Baptist, Okinawa Builds Bridges to the Community

"Koza Cares" is a local outreach that seeks to share the Gospel with the local community by building a bridge through care packages to members of the community who have been affected by COVID restrictions. Koza members raised over \$15,000 and sent or personally delivered care packages throughout the local community, and to the Philippines and India. Chris Eyre is Senior Pastor



SOMETHING TO *Celebrate*

HPBC's Martin and Smart Earn Ph.D.s from SWBTS



On December 4, Dr. Chris Martin, HPBC Executive Director/Treasurer, and Dr. Brian Smart, HPBC Assistant Executive Director for Advance, received their Ph.D.s in World Christian Studies from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Martin's Ph.D. dissertation is titled, "A Critical Study of the Influence and Impact of Missionary Children on Christianity in Hawai'i." Dr. Smart's Ph.D. dissertation is titled, "An Analysis of Christian Social Transitions among Samoans and the London Mission Society (1830-50)." Send congratulations to Dr. Martin at chris@hpbaptist.net and Dr. Smart at brian@hpbaptist.net.

Celebrate

Rob and Dlorah Puckett to Leave Guam After Over 15 Years of Ministry

At the beginning of December, Pastor Rob Puckett retired after serving Calvary Baptist, Guam in February 2005. He had served as their Interim Pastor, Associate Pastor, and, since July 2013, as their Senior Pastor. After retiring from the Air Force in 2008, Rob worked for the Air Force as a civilian planner until 2012, at which time he began serving at Calvary full time. Dlorah has been the Elementary Music Teacher and Choir Director at McCool Elementary School. The Puckett's have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Tino Diaz, Deacon Chair at Calvary and current Associational Moderator, said about Rob and Dlorah, "the time you spent with us at Calvary will be a great influence and will never be forgotten. You have played an active role not only in our church but also in so many other non-profit organizations including your work preparing for and serving during natural disasters (both VOAD and SBC Disaster Relief). You have also been a key leader and connector with the Baptist Association of Micronesia and the Guam Ministerial Association. We will treasure your legacy in our hearts. You spent your life with us unselfishly. May the Lord repay you and richly reward you for what you have done. You are not just a pastor to us. You are a friend, a brother, and leader. God bless you in your life's journey."



Wilson Ordained to the Gospel Ministry



Pastor Wilson pictured with his wife, Chiyo, along with his two children and Con's parents just after the ordination.

Pastor Con Wilson was ordained to the gospel ministry on October 25. Pastors and church members gathered on Zoom to celebrate his ordination. Wilson has served as pastor of International Baptist Fellowship since 2016. Also, on Nov. 21, 2020 Con & Chiyo's third child was born. Her name is Hope Hikari Wilson.

Life Christian Church Provides Advent in a Box



Life Christian Church distributed "Advent in a Box" kits to help families celebrate the days leading up to Christmas this year. The "Advent in a Box" kit includes a DIY Advent wreath, crafts, and a devotional to lead families through God's word week-by-week in the days leading up to Christmas. Members have been inviting personal contacts and contacts from their community to join them for this special season.

Eleele Baptist Ordains 3 Elders

On Sunday, November 15, 2020, Eleele Baptist on Kauai ordained 3 men as elders. Larry Hale is pastor.



Ordination of three new Eleele Baptist Church Elders: Neil Young, Gary Appel, and Craig Hayashi.



Laying on of hands by Pastor Larry Hale, George Maeda, Jim Denny, and Kirk Morris.

Student Helps Eleele Baptist Creatively Promote Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions



This year Corbin Hale helped Eleele Baptist Church promote the Sue Nishikawa State Missions Offering by drawing images representing the people from Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches. Each outlined figure was drawn and colored as we collected \$400 and all figures were completed when we reached our goal. Our goal was \$3,287 but church members surpassed the goal by giving \$3,412! Corbin is the son of Pastor Larry and Lisa Hale.



Life Christian Provides Food for 260 Families

Life Christian Church on Oahu held their food distribution on Saturday, Nov. 21 at Stevenson Middle School. They served approximately 260 families with a produce box, meat, rice, eggs, and chips. Each family also received an invite to join them for worship and a gospel tract. Shaw Okawara is the pastor.



Eleele Baptist on Kauai Provides Food for Over 200 Families

Eleele Baptist Church has been serving their community once a month on the 2nd Sat at 7:30 am. In a recent distribution, they provided bags of food to over 200 families. Larry Hale is the pastor.



Hamama Purchases Tent for Worship, Study, and Outreach

Hamama Community Church purchased a large tent in order to hold outdoor services, Bible studies, and Hawaiian practices workshops to reach their community. Ikaika Higa is the pastor. Hamama is a church plant supported by your church's gifts through the cooperative program.



Collegiate Students Equipped to Share the Gospel

by Ken Reyes, BCM Staff

On November 23, BCM O'ahu held a Gospel-sharing workshop for college students, focused on pandemic-era evangelism. Our guest teacher was Paul Worcester, National Collegiate Evangelism Director for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), who gave us resources and insight on digital evangelism and leveraging technology and relationships for the Gospel. Per statewide guidelines, we were able to host the workshop at University Avenue Baptist Church with a small group while broadcasting the teaching on Zoom. We are so grateful for this opportunity to learn from Paul and for our partnerships with different ministries around the nation.

International Ministries (IM) to Offer ESL Certification Training



International Ministries
Christians serving Internationals

According to International Ministries (IM) Director, Carlye Lawrence, "teaching English as a Second

Language (ESL) is a proven and effective ministry tool that allows you to meet important needs and share the Gospel."

IM is offering an ESL Certification course where participants will learn the basics of learning and teaching a foreign language, including how to plan a lesson, key ESL elements, how to deal with cultural misunderstandings, and how to share your faith with your students. The cost of materials is \$10, and completion of all courses and homework is required for certification.

To register, e-mail: rmoore3735@msn.com.

Spotlight on ASSOCIATIONS

FROM
DR. ROBERT MILLER
HPBC Director of
Regional Ministries

BIBA Meets Virtually, Affirms Japan Partnership



Big Island Baptist Association (BIBA) gathered on October 10 for their Annual Meeting on Zoom. BIBA approved a partnership with Himeji Baptist Church (East Asia People Affinity Group) to begin January 1, 2021, for three years.

BIBA also approved the transfer of the Hilo Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director position to HPBC beginning January 1. Lee Ford, Pastor of Paradise Park Baptist Church, serves as BIBA Moderator.

MCBA Holds Virtual Annual Meeting, Celebrates Church Plant



Maui County Baptist Association (MCBA) held their Virtual Annual Meeting on October 24 via Zoom. MCBA includes the islands of Moloka'i and Lanai. Wes Higuchi, a long time member of Kahului Baptist Church, serves as Moderator.

A highlight of the meeting was a video update from co-pastors, Jay Haynes and Rocky Komatsu of Waiehu Community Church. Waiehu is a recent church plant on Maui, is the newest church to join MCBA.

Oahu Baptists Gather In-person and Online

Oahu Baptist Network (OBN) gathered on November 19 for their Annual Celebration. Approximately 20 gathered in-person at Wai'alae Baptist Church and another 50 joined through Zoom. OBN messengers approved restructuring the network around 6 objectives led by 6 teams. Pastor Jerrell Tate of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, will continue to serve as Moderator.

top, right: Pastor Jamie McElrath of Olivet Baptist brought the message.

bottom, right: Pastor Jerrell Tate of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship leads the meeting.

