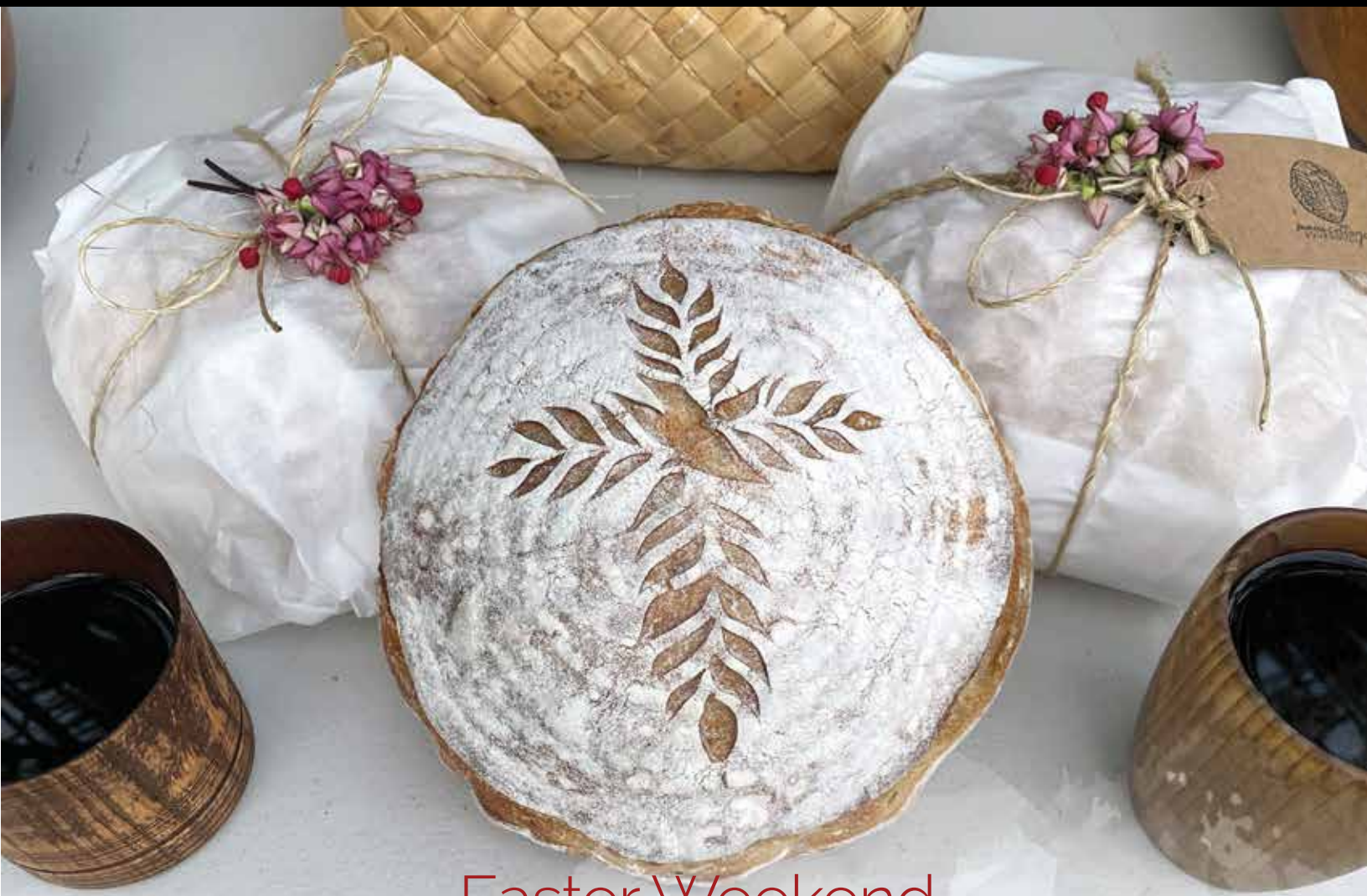


Pacific CONNECTOR

HAWAII PACIFIC BAPTIST CONVENTION

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches Working Together to Be Leaders in Impacting God's Kingdom Throughout the Pacific & Asia



Easter Weekend *Celebration*

Hawaii Pacific Baptists celebrated Christ's death, burial, and resurrection last month. Many included special Lord's Supper observances.



MAY JUNE 2021
VOL. 51, ISSUE 3

For more issues, scan this QR code or
visit: hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector

Building the Kingdom

Who Are We? (part 2)

I pray that this edition of the Pacific Connector finds you well and blessed, pursuing the will of our Father.

For the last edition and several upcoming editions of The Pacific Connector, I want to highlight elements of the HPBC that you may not be aware of. These articles originate from questions I hear from Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors and leaders. I pray this will help you know more about the fantastic opportunities available to you and your ministry.

I hear questions about the staff team's roles and responsibilities. Lately, conversations circulate about Cooperative Program giving to support a staff team instead of going back into the mission fields or our churches' ministries. These topics are critical to our continued cooperation as a convention of churches.

As mentioned in the last edition, the Southern Baptist Convention functions as an incredible mission network, linking thousands of individual churches to vast resources and possibilities that no individual church could access. The role of the HPBC

staff team exists to help churches navigate this network successfully.

In the last issue, I referenced the access to ministry support from extended partnerships across the SBC network, such as theological training, leadership development, and missional engagement. Your HPBC staff team continually bridges this network from both sides, through the partners and the churches, to strengthen our HPBC churches in any conceivable way.

Regardless of the ministry need or ideas that you face, your HPBC staff team operates as a mission extension of your church, linking you to finding and providing your ministry's needs. In years past, the HPBC staff team focused on promoting programs or resources depending on the SBC network's interests. Today, your HPBC staff team stands ready to fill your needs according to what God guides for your ministry. The options for your church are limitless!

In the next edition, I will address how we as a convention ensure biblical integrity, proper doctrinal adherence,

and the overall focus on living and sharing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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) 946-9581 or email us at info@hpbaptist.net


Mahalo,

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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Media & Financial Services

ABOUT THE COVER

Melissa Haynes, of Waiehu Community Church, prepared special loaves of bread for the Kahului Baptist Good Friday Lord's Supper.



We are
**HAWAII
PACIFIC**
Missions.

MAY JUNE 2021



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Arrangements Committee Proposes **HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING** In Multiple Locations

IN SEEKING TO PLAN a meaningful HPBC Annual Meeting in 2021 that would facilitate the conducting of important business as well as building togetherness in the midst of uncertain future pandemic restrictions, the HPBC Arrangements Committee is proposing a hybrid approach. The vision is to host the Annual Meeting at sites in different regions via Zoom where Hawaii Pacific Baptists can be seated as messengers, conduct business, and enjoy fellowship and worship.

At this point, we plan to have a small base-site in Honolulu where we would host the gathering via Zoom and have our main business and speakers. We are proposing a one-day format on Friday, November 5, 2021, with approximately 10 regional sites.

We are also proposing a 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. HST Business Session and a 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. HST Annual Meeting Worship Celebration. Note that with the time difference, Hawaii

Pacific Baptists in Guam and Asia will be participating on Saturday morning through early afternoon.

At these regional sites, Hawaii Pacific Baptists could gather and participate via Zoom on a large screen. Each location would have volunteers who would credential messengers, tally votes, and field questions during the business session. The worship celebration would include live and prerecorded elements including musical worship, reports from entities, and a message.

The Zoom would be interactive for the regional gathering sites and others would be able to view and comment via Facebook Live stream.

Please be in prayer for our arrangements committee and HPBC staff team as we work through the logistics of this potentially impactful annual meeting.

Hawaii Disaster Relief Update

by John and Gay Williams, Disaster Relief Directors



As we start to see light at the end of the tunnel on this pandemic, we have learned a few lessons about how to best serve those in our community.

First, we must each be prepared. By making sure our families are ready we will be in a better position

to help others. As hurricane season approaches, prepare yourself and your loved ones by having the recommended hurricane supplies.

Second, we must make sure our churches are ready, only then can we truly be in a place to help and serve our neighbors. Should a major event happen in our beautiful Island home we can't always rely on others to come from the mainland.

Unlike disasters on the mainland where help can arrive from neighboring states, we need to stand on our own. This has become very apparent with the current travel restrictions and possible transportation issues that may arise during a disaster.

The good news is our HPBC Disaster Relief ministry has a strong core of trained volunteers and great equipment. What

we need most is you! By training as a disaster relief volunteer, you can be better prepared as an individual and as a member of your church. There truly is a spot for everyone to serve. We get the unique privilege of serving those in crisis. The ability to demonstrate, in a very real way, the love of Christ is a privilege we want to share. We would love to have you volunteer and look forward to serving with you.

To volunteer e-mail disasterrelief@hpbaptist.net





BCM Manoa Assistant Director, John Allison (left) and BCM Intern, Ken Reyes (bottom) with an IRL small group

Connecting with College Students During the Pandemic

A Highlight of Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) at Two Hawaii Campuses

By Ken Reyes, BCM Intern

Though the word “unprecedented” has likely been over-used to describe the past year, it continues to characterize the experiences that college students face today. Our students at BCM O’ahu and Hilo BCM are no strangers to it either. Thus, helping them navigate through the emotional and spiritual toil of the pandemic has become one of the primary ministry points in the last twelve months. As a result, we have seen God open many doors to help us connect with students in fresh, new ways.

At BCM O’ahu, we decided to focus on small-group communities as a way to both respect statewide pandemic guidelines and still provide opportunities for connection and growth. Our

Tuesday nights are now called IRL (Intentional, Relatable, Livable)—groups of 5-10 students and staff meet together in different houses and tune in together on Zoom for worship, talk story, and a time to discuss life and the Bible. Our staff also meet regularly with student leaders to create events that focus on inviting friends to fun outings that still allow for adequate distancing. These include planned coffee tours, a farmer’s market outing, and beach/hike days. Discipleship groups have also been crucial during this time, becoming an avenue for deeper spiritual engagement with both new believers and seasoned students in our ministry.

Hilo BCM has also taken advantage of the 10-person gathering limits by focusing on small group activities. Anita Bice, their director, notes that campus is deserted and students would otherwise feel lost without BCM. As a result, they have also opened up their building so that students can choose to do their classes or homework with others in the facility. Talk story and hang-out time have become vital for students who crave community as well. Aside from that, their group also does Bible studies and leadership trainings, as well as a Thursday evening worship service that meets at Ohana Church.

(left) Hilo BCM students at one of the service projects they worked on for Puna Baptist Church’s Keiki Closet.





PastorsForum

For Hawaii Pacific Baptist Pastors

In February 2021, we launched the Pastor's Forum for Hawaii Pacific Baptist Pastors. The **virtual gathering meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at noon Hawaii time** with pastors regularly participating from the multiple Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Samoa, Bangkok, Manila, Japan, and South Korea.

The four sessions in February and March centered around the theme of disciple-making. The four sessions in April and May are focused on finding and developing leaders. Contact Dr. Craig Webb for more information at craig@hpbaptist.net.



Recordings of all the Pastors Forums are available at:
vimeo.com/showcase/8179273



February 10
Michael KELLEY
Senior VP, Church Ministries
for Lifeway
Redefining Discipleship
Post-Covid

February 24
Ken BRADY
Director of Sunday School &
Training Manager for Adult
Bible Study Groups, Lifeway
Developing Disciple-making Strategy
in Your Church

March 10
Dr. Phil NEWTON
Pastor, Southwoods Baptist
Memphis, TN
Author of *The Mentoring Church:*
How Pastors and Congregations
Cultivate Leaders

March 24
Dr. Gus HERNANDEZ, Jr.
Church Planter, Miami, FL
Former staff, Long Hollow
Baptist, Hendersonville, TN
Replicate model of
Disciple-making & D-groups



April 14
Jeff MARTIN
Exec. Dir., Fellowship of
Christian Athletes
Founder, Fields of Faith
Developing Confident, Dependable
& Focused Servant Leaders

April 28
Dr. Juan SANCHEZ
Sr. Pastor, High Pointe Baptist
Austin, TX
Author of *The Leadership Formula:*
Develop the Next Generation of
Leaders in the Church

May 12
Dr. Jeff IORG
President, Gateway Baptist
Theological Seminary
Author of *Shadow Christians:*
Making an Impact When No One
Knows Your Name

May 26
Todd ADKINS
Co-Founder, The Lifeway
Leadership Podcast Network
Director of Leadership
Development, Lifeway



Church Planting:

CONNECTIONS CHURCH, KAPOLEI

by David Whitehead

Connections Church is a new Southern Baptist church in Kapolei. They are planning to have their Grand Opening in September 2021. Church planter, David Whitehead, reports that they are holding "preview" worship services on the third Sunday of each month and have had two so far. The preview services in February and March each had 50-60 attending with decisions for Christ at each service.

The coronavirus has definitely been a major roadblock in beginning a new church. Many of the typical avenues that would be used to reach people have not been allowed, along with meeting facilities being shut down. But God always provides a way. Pastor David and his wife Nancy were able to negotiate with the Wet'n'Wild Hawaii water park to meet in the pavilions surrounded by beautiful grassy areas. Many guests commented about the unique and beautiful location.

David and Nancy are supported by the North American Mission Board (with your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering). They are also being supported financially and with prayer by several Hawaii and mainland churches including Waikiki Baptist Church (Pastor Andrew Large), Life Church Kona (Pastor

Jay Parks), Mililani Baptist Church (Pastor Dennis Andrews), and Kauai House Church Network (Pastor Stephen Ventura). More partners are needed. If interested, please contact Pastor David Whitehead at pastordavid@808.church. Other churches and individuals are also helping in many ways.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please pray that this church plant will be able to find their own Worship Leader, Praise Team & Band, Children's Leader, Youth Leader, and Small Groups Leader.

Your prayers are also needed for them to find needed financial resources to continue this new church start.

Pray too, that they will discover many more people that God is drawing to Himself and that those will commit their lives to Him.

For more information, please visit 808.church and Facebook at Connections Church Kapolei.

Eleele Baptist Church Food Distribution Expands



Pastor Larry Hale shared that on the second Saturday of each month, church members of Eleele Baptist (Kauai) work together to distribute food to community members in need. The most recent was April 10. Larry said he thanks God for all the volunteers that came out and the food He provided as the need has been great.

Serving, Ministry, Outreach



According to Harvest Family Ministries' Brad McDaniel, between two church Kokua Closets (First Baptist Church Wahiawa and Central Baptist Church), more than 300 children were served in 2020. The churches also gathered school supplies which were put in 450 backpacks that were given to children in need. That included 100 that were shipped to the island of Molokai and 50 to the island of Lanai. Jessica Lum of Central Baptist, leads the Kokua Closet ministry.

Kokua Closet Ministry Helps Children in Need

Church Planters Receive Online Encouragement and Training in Evangelism and Discipleship

As part of the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) ongoing training, Church Planter Catalyst, Sean Lathrop provided online training specifically for our Hawaii Pacific church planters. Dr. Matt Queen of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary provided training in the area of evangelism and Brian Frable, pastor of Kona Baptist (Hawaii Island) provided training in the area of disciple-making.

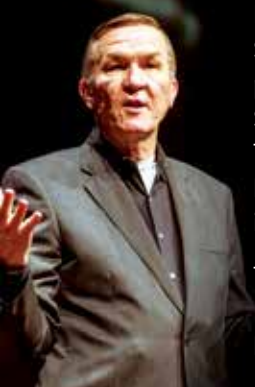
Anyone can
ACCESS THE TRAINING at:
hpbaptist.net/churchplanting

THE SPIRITUALLY RIPENED FIELDS



Teach Your Children *Truth* May 13-15, 2021

Dr. Richard Ross



Dr. Ross is the keynote speaker for the next Waterhouse Lecture Series focused on Teaching Your Children Truth. He serves as a professor to the next generation of youth ministers at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, TX. Richard co-founded the international True Love Waits movement (now called True Love Project). He has written 23 books for youth leaders and parents and speaks in over 35 conferences and churches each year.

The conference will be held online and in person at Waialae Baptist (Oahu). For those attending in person, Waterhouse will be offering translation in Korean.

SENIOR ADULTS conference

June 18-19, 2021

Running the Race Well

Be on the lookout for a Senior Adults Conference from Waterhouse Lecture Series featuring six speakers and six topics including: legacy, assisted living, finishing well, transitions, and estate planning.



Wives in Ministry Gather Via Zoom for ENCOURAGEMENT & FELLOWSHIP

On Friday, March 5, 2021, the Wives in Ministry team made up of Wendy Martin, Barbara Webb, Noe Okawara, and Diana Ventura hosted a virtual gathering for our HPBC pastor spouses. Since it had been a year since the world and ministry were turned upside down and the annual in-person retreat was not possible, it was time to come together to connect and engage. Robin Covington, Executive Director's wife from Alaska, shared an encouragement. The wives were able to make personal connections through breakout groups and provide a space for the ladies to share and pray together.

The virtual gathering brought together approximately 34 wives from throughout Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia, Japan, Guam, Kauai, Oahu, and Korea.

HPBC's heart continues to be focused on pastoral support and making a way for the wives to come together is a way to appreciate all they do to support, encourage, and lead in their respective ministries. The next virtual gathering is planned for May 14, 2021.

Easter Weekend Celebration

Kahului Baptist (Maui) Has Good Friday Meal

Pastor Randy Pauley, elders, and church leaders chose Good Friday to gather the congregation for a special celebration of the crucifixion of Christ. Pastor Randy Pauley said, "2020 scattered us. The goal with this event was to do something that many haven't, share a meal together. We followed Covid protocols and it was a very sweet time."



Members spread out in the church courtyard during the Good Friday meal.

Melissa Haynes of Waiehu Community Church made special loaves of bread for the occasion.

Watanabe Distributes Easter Packets to Preschool Families

Pastor Makito Watanabe shared that 2020 and the beginning of 2021 has been a challenge for the Olivet Baptist Japanese Department. Many in the congregation had their livelihoods affected by the shutdowns.

So there was great joy in finding ways to do outreach and evangelism. One of the projects was creating a special activities packet with resources from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. The focus was on Japanese families at Olivet Baptist Preschool. They also made them available to English speaking parents to share with their neighbors.



Central Baptist Sunrise Service

When transitional pastor, Kenneth Priest, began serving in March, he asked the church leaders to consider an Easter sunrise service outdoors. The goal was to get members to invite friends and family to attend with them. Rain forced the worship service indoors, but the service was well attended.



Central Baptist worship leader, Ethan Lum, leads during the sunrise service.

Easter

Weekend Celebration

Easter Sunrise Service

Baptist Association of Micronesia Churches on Guam gather for an Easter sunrise service at Calvary Baptist Church.



Mililani Baptist Holds Easter Community Outreach Event

On Saturday, April 3, Mililani Baptist held a drive-through event where they shared the gospel by handing out eggs with candies, information about the church, and most importantly, gospel tracts and next steps information. As the cars came in, they heard the resurrection story told as they made their way through the parking lot.

Pastor Dennis Andrews said there were 30 cars full of keiki (children in Hawaii) along with several who walked or biked in. Afterward, volunteers took eggs and materials to Mililani Town Center and handed them out as they had conversations with over 60 people.



Living Faith Holds Special Easter Service in Parking Garage

Living Faith held their Easter worship service in the church's open air parking garage. Part of the worship service included a group playing hand chimes.



HBA Alumni Virtual Choir Performs with Christopher Kale Jones

As part of their desire to share the HOPE that is found in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ during Easter, "Forever" by Kari Jobe was recorded by Hawaii Baptist Academy's very first Alumni Virtual Choir in March 2021. 49 alumni participated from around the world including HBA class of '96 singer songwriter Christopher Kale Jones.



To watch the recording, visit tinyurl.com/HBA-vchoir

52 SUNDAYS

Share the stories behind
each dollar given through
your church.



**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 locally and in remote areas whom your church is supporting.



Pray for missionaries around the globe each Sunday.

Using 52 Sundays is easy.



Download resources for each story directly to your computer to share with your church. Each week offers a short missionary story.



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.



Pictured are just two of the many missionaries who have been able to share the Gospel through the generous support given through your Cooperative Program giving.

Share these stories with
your congregation in 2021!

Visit hpbaptist.net/52sundays to get started.



Something to Celebrate

Andrews Called as Senior Pastor of Mililani Baptist

Mililani Baptist Church (Oahu) called Dennis Andrews to serve as their senior pastor on December 20, 2020. Dennis had been serving as associate pastor for family ministries. He has a Master of Divinity from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor Dennis, his wife, Rachel, and their son, Deklan, moved to Hawaii in March 2019 from Augusta, Georgia.



Thompson Called as Senior Pastor of Waikoloa Baptist



On February 21, 2021, Trent Thompson was called by Waikoloa Baptist on Hawaii Island to be their senior pastor. Trent has been serving as student minister at the church since April 10, 2015. Trent and his wife, Rebecca are from Mantachie, Mississippi.

First Baptist Church of Nanakuli Sees New Life



In the middle of the pandemic, after being without a pastor and often having attendance of only a handful of members, First Baptist Church of Nanakuli (Oahu) invited Pastor Elise Tafao to be their interim pastor and to help revitalize the church. Pastor Elise retired before returning to Oahu after over two decades of serving as pastor of Happy Valley Baptist Church in Samoa.

One of the projects was to clean up and revitalize a worn education building. Under Pastor Elise's leadership, skilled volunteers from the church labored to make room for worshipers by thoroughly cleaning the facility, taking out walls, installing new flooring, and applying fresh paint. Dr. Robert Miller, HPBC Director of Regional Ministries, recently attended and took this photo. He reported more than 30 attenders!

Mahan Called as New Pastor at Pearl Harbor



Pastor James Mahan has been called as the next pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor (FSBCPH). He starts his ministry on May 30th. James served as Associate Pastor of FSBCPH back in 2017 and also pastored a congregation in New Mexico before returning to Hawaii. He and his wife, Talicia, are parents to their daughter Ava.

Tomaselli Moves to Mainland to Complete Theological Training



Zeke and Layne Tomoselli with their sons (left to right) Kaimana, Kainalu, and Kainakoa.

At the end of April, Pastor Zeke Tomaselli and his family moved back to the mainland for Zeke to complete his theological training. Zeke has been pastor of Ohana Church in Hilo since 2013. Ohana Church is now under the leadership of their Alaka'i (elders/leaders): Kahu (pastor) Marcus McBee, Shannon Kane, and Ian Van Cleave.

Guam Christian Life Fellowship Celebrates 3 Years



On February 28, 2021, Guam Christian Life Fellowship (GCLF) celebrated its third year of faithfully serving our Lord Jesus Christ in the village of Mangilao, Guam. They were joined by representatives from other Baptist Association of Micronesia churches amongst other church friends and family. Pancho Madrid is pastor.

Komatsu is New Associate Pastor at Kihei Baptist



Van Michael Komatsu became the associate pastor of Kihei Baptist Church on Maui on March 1, 2021. He had been serving as a pastoral intern at Hawaii Kai Church on Oahu since January 2020. Komatsu graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY with a Master of Divinity in Christian Ministry. He is originally from Maui and his wife, Delaney, is from Jeffersonville, Indiana. They are both excited to be in Kihei and also to welcome their baby girl who is due in June!

Waikoloa Baptist Hosts Pastor Mar Ramones' Filipino Ministry



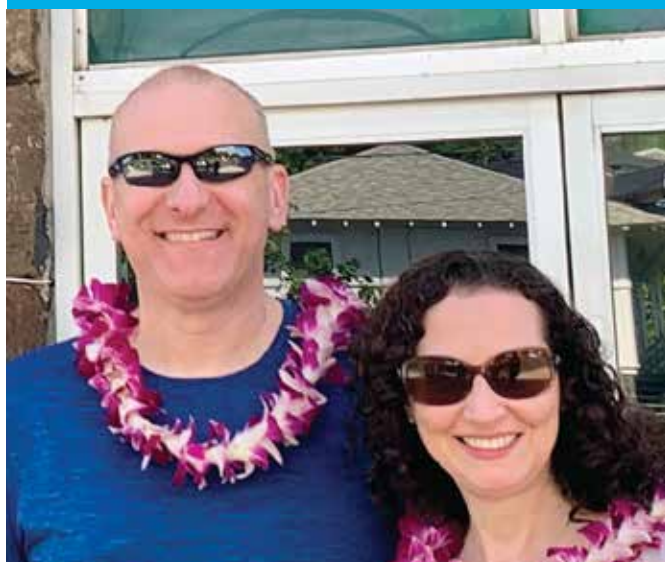
At the end of March, Waikoloa Baptist hosted Pastor Mar Ramones' Filipino ministry. This was part of the Filipino Ministry's youth retreat in Waikoloa. Trent Thompson is pastor of Waikoloa Baptist.

Life Christian Celebrates 6 Years of Ministry



On Sunday afternoon, April 11th, Life Christian Church celebrated six years of ministry with a celebration worship service and activities for families. Dr. Chris Martin, HPBC Executive Director, was the guest speaker. There were also testimonies from new believers and members sharing how God has worked in their lives through the church. Shaw Okawara, is pastor.

Priest Serves Central Baptist as Transitional Pastor



At the beginning of March, Dr. Kenneth Priest began serving Central Baptist Church Honolulu as their transitional pastor. Kenneth is the director of the Center for Revitalization at Southwestern Seminary. Kenneth and his wife, Debbi, plan to serve through the end of July 2021.

On Wednesday, March 31, Kenneth helped Central Baptist celebrate their 70th Anniversary in a virtual meeting.

Mike Wagner Retires from Kalihi Baptist



Pastor Mike Wagner retired from Kalihi Baptist Church on April 5th after 5½ years of serving as pastor. Before serving at Kalihi, Mike served in the U.S. Air Force and in various ministries overseas and on the mainland. Prior to Kalihi Baptist, Mike served as Associate Pastor of Hawaii Bhansok Baptist Church. Mike, and his wife Sue, will be moving back to the mainland sometime this summer.

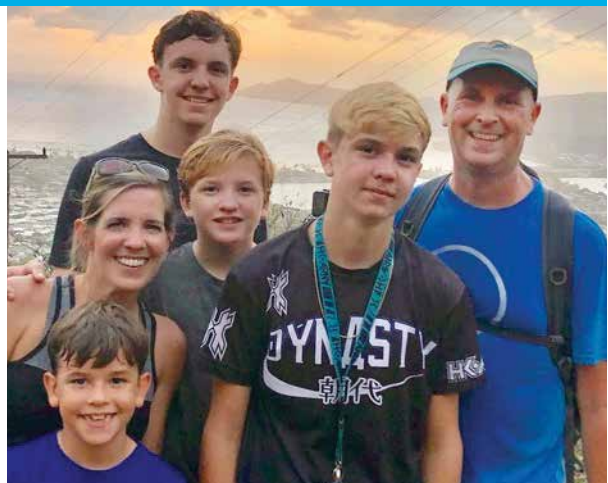
Randy Pauley Baptizes Father and Son

Randy Pauley, Pastor of Kahului Baptist Church (KBC) in Maui, shared about a recent baptism. He has been praying for a family since his first day as pastor at KBC. Recently, Randy had the honor of baptizing two from this family: the father and a son! First, Randy baptized the dad, then they baptized the adult son together. Randy remarked, "To see God answer those prayers in the baptismal waters was truly breathtaking and a solid reminder that prayers are always heard."



Laney to Complete 15-Month Interim at Cornerstone Mililani Mauka

Dr. Travis Laney will complete his ministry as Interim pastor of Cornerstone Fellowship Mililani Mauka on June 1st after serving for 15 months. Travis has been instrumental in helping Cornerstone rethink ministry. Travis, his wife, Allison, and their four sons will return to Orlando, Florida where Travis will pursue interim ministries and teaching opportunities. Before Cornerstone, Travis pastored in Kentucky and Florida and has served as adjunct professor.



Celebrate

Beaucond Retires After a Decade at Pearl Harbor



Pastor Charles Beaucond will retire from First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor (FSBCPH) on May 30 after 10 years of serving as pastor. Charles has lived on Oahu for 20 years. Before becoming pastor of FSBCPH he served in volunteer roles at First Baptist Church of Pearl City and FSBCPH. He was also an adjunct professor for Wayland University for 10 years. Charles, and his wife Pon Suk, will be moving to Hickory, North Carolina in June to be near their grandchildren.

New Life Baptizes Seven in March and April



Pastor Jay Parks has baptized seven new believers in the past two months including his daughter (with lei) pictured here with his family.

Waikiki Baptist Baptizes Three at Waikiki Beach



Three new believers were baptized in March at Waikiki Beach. Pastor Andrew Large is pictured here with one of the young ladies baptized (center), and his wife, Suzanne.

50 Attend Waikoloa Beach Baptism Celebration



Pastor Trent Thompson reports that on Sunday, April 11, Rusty Sampson and Kenzi Gustavson were baptized at Anaeho'omalu Bay (A-bay) in Waikoloa (Hawaii Island). He said over fifty attended the celebration.



Easter Celebrated with Baptisms at University Avenue



On Easter Sunday, University Avenue Baptist, Oahu (UABC) celebrated the baptisms of three students. Dani Beth Crosby (center) is Family & Communications Minister. Dr. Chris Irving is senior pastor at UABC.

Two Baptized on Easter Sunday in Guam



Pastor Pancho Madrid baptized two young men at Family Beach in Piti, Guam on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Celebrate