



pacific connector



Hawaii Pacific
Baptist Convention

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Building the Kingdom

Who Are We? (Part 4)

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



Dr. Chris Martin

Executive Director/Treasurer



808-946-9581

chris@hpbaptist.net



About the Cover

Waikiki on Oahu is bustling again. Pray for boldness to share the gospel with visitors and locals alike!

For the last few editions of the Pacific Connector, I redirected this article space to highlight elements of the HPBC of which you may not be aware. These articles originated from questions that I regularly hear from pastors and leaders. For the series conclusion, I will address your church's role and how we partner together to accomplish God's purposes.

Every church in the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention plays a fundamental role in the ministry success of the other churches. This is central to the purpose of our network. Individually, we are weaker than the collective group. Together, Kingdom-focused contributions from all Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches will drive us closer to accomplishing God's overall plans for our efforts. We must embrace the call of God to serve each other to strengthen the body.

Amid the pandemic, churches search for innovative ways to reach their communities and the world for Christ. Where one church discovers a new system or approach God uses to bring results, others can benefit from their insights. As one method may seem to open possibilities, another church could adapt the technique for their context. The possibilities are limitless on how we could support, learn, strategize, and minister together to see Christ exalted in our ministries as a living illustration of his body.

Serving each other begins with an intentional interaction together to uncover similar challenges and victories in our ministries. This interaction, combined with a solid center of biblical inerrancy and truth, provides a robust platform for like-minded relationships. Our combined efforts increase as these relationships deepen in surrounding the core of biblical truth with proper practice.

Through this process, you can discover impactful relationships and partnerships across our convention of churches that will enhance your church's achievements while empowering other Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches. The Scriptures teach us that a rope of several cords is more substantial than one cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Imagine the power if over 150 Christ-centered Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches banded together to fulfill God's plans for Kingdom impact! That is our role and why we partner together to accomplish God's purposes.

I pray that you are encouraged to embrace the Hawaii Pacific Baptist network of churches and engage your affiliated partners with a deep desire to see God strengthen our efforts. Continue to pray and strive for ways to serve God in obedience together.

As always, your HPBC staff team is ready to serve you in any way that we can to advance and support your ministry. Please call us at (808) 946-9581 or email us at info@hpbaptist.net. *Mahalo.*

Pacific Connector — 2042 Vancouver Dr, Honolulu HI 96822 • 808-946-9581

Executive Director, Publisher: Dr. Chris Martin • chris@hpbaptist.net • 808-946-9581

Assistant Executive Director, Editor: Dr. Craig Webb • craig@hpbaptist.net • 808-946-9581

Associate Editor: Dawn Akutagawa • dawn@hpbaptist.net • 808-946-9581

Contributing Editor: Brandon Pickett | **Designer:** Patti Spencer

Contributing Writers: Chris Martin, Robert Miller, Natalie Nation, Craig Webb

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

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Sue Nishikawa Offering

for Hawaii Pacific Missions

Hawaii Pacific Baptists **Working Together**

The Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions exists to encourage and assist churches in their evangelistic outreach, assist in new kingdom work, establish missions awareness and develop missions training, and strengthen the church body and the work of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.

Our week of prayer focuses on Hawaii Pacific Baptists working together, planting churches, engaging their community, reaching the next generation, and bringing new life! Thank you for praying and thank you for giving generously through your church.

There are five new videos you may share with your church family. Watch as Chris Martin introduces this year's week of prayer and offering.



HPBC Executive Director,
Dr. Chris Martin, shares an
overview of this year's focus
and expresses profound
appreciation for your support
of the Sue Nishikawa Offering
for Hawaii Pacific Missions.

tinyurl.com/2021-nishikawa-intro



**Hawaii Pacific
Baptist Convention**

Stories, resources, giving, & more at
hpbaptist.net/suenishikawa





Sue Nishikawa Offering 2021 Prayer Guide

Day 1 - Sunday, September 5, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptists Working Together

Watch Video



We are better together! "According to the purpose statement found in our Constitution, the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention exists to provide organization for cooperative gospel ministries and help each other facilitate Jesus' Kingdom across our churches' network. The structure is called a convention, but it functions as a system of like-minded, gospel-centered churches making Jesus' disciples from every nation, tribe, people, and language" (Exec. Director Chris Martin in Pacific Connector, March/April 2021).

- Pray that God would bring unity among our network of churches as we work together for the Kingdom of God.
- Pray that God would give our churches a heart for reaching our community for Christ and that God would give us innovative ways to do so.

Day 2 - Monday, September 6, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches Planting Churches

Watch Video



- Pray for our current Hawaii Pacific Baptist church plants and those who will take the call to plant churches in the future.
- Ask God to prepare the harvest, provide laborers for the harvest, and draw people to Himself.
- Pray that each church planted will grow into a vibrant, life-giving, and gospel proclaiming church.

Day 3 - Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches Engaging Their Community

Watch Video



- Pray for God to guide Hawaii Pacific Baptist church leaders as they assess the current needs of those around them and determine the best way to reach them.
- Pray that God will give opportunities for gospel conversations.
- Pray that God will open hearts and minds to hear the gospel.

Day 4 - Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Next Generations Ministries

Watch Video



- Pray for the student ministry leaders to find ways to be intentional and creative in reaching students for Christ.
- Pray that God will open the hearts and minds of students to receive the message of Jesus.
- Pray for discipleship opportunities among students.

Day 5 - Thursday, September 9, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church Revitalization, Rebirth, and Growth

Watch Video



- Pray for Hawaii Pacific Baptist church pastors and leaders as they make disciples who make disciples.
- Pray for God-led enthusiasm for His Word and joy as people hunger and thirst to know God more deeply and intimately.
- Pray for Hawaii Pacific Baptist church pastors and leaders to have wisdom and discernment from the Holy Spirit as they lead their congregations.

Day 6 - Friday, September 10, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptists in the Hawaiian Islands



Hawaii Island (The Big Island), Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai.

- Pray for Hawaiian Islands pastors and church leaders as they prepare for and lead worship gatherings, small-group discipleship, and as they "equip the saints" (Eph. 4:12).
- Pray that God will give these pastors and church leaders a heart to reach their community and the nations for Christ.
- Pray for unity and cooperation in each church, in associations of churches, and throughout the HPBC.

Day 7 - Saturday, September 11, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptists in the Pacific and Asia



Guam, Samoa, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and The Philippines.

- Pray for Asia and Pacific pastors and church leaders as they prepare for and lead worship gatherings, small-group discipleship, and as they "equip the saints" (Eph. 4:12).
- Pray that God will give these pastors and church leaders a heart to reach their community and the nations for Christ.
- Pray for these churches as they navigate different levels of pandemic restrictions.

Day 8 - Sunday, September 12, 2021

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention Staff Team



Dawn Akutagawa, Arjay Gruspe, Monica Kang, Sean Lathrop, Chris Martin, Mike Martin, Robert Miller, Brian Smart, Lisa Tabudlo, Diana Ventura, Craig Webb, John and Gay Williams.

- Pray for each team member to abide in Christ and walk closely with God.
- Pray for staff team members' families.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment in all their work.



Rising Together

Virtual Annual Meeting 2021



Hawaii Pacific
Baptist Convention

Hawaii Pacific Baptists, thank you for praying for your Arrangements Committee. This team has worked to plan, un-plan, plan again, and change plans as gathering restrictions have shifted throughout the year.

While we had hoped to have in-person gatherings, we have recommended, and your HPBC Executive Board has affirmed that this year's Annual Meeting will be entirely virtual. The schedule will be as follows:



HPBC Annual Meeting Business Session

Live via Zoom ■ Thursday, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m. HST



HPBC Annual Meeting Celebration

Via Facebook Live ■ Friday, Nov. 5, 6:00 p.m. HST

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

“

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ”

(Colossians 3:1, CSB)

Please check our website **hpbaptist.net** for updates and registration instructions.

Thank you for your willingness to be flexible as we navigate the uncertainty.

HPBC Reveals

Aloha Hawaii Pacific Baptists, we are thrilled to share the new logo with you!

After using our old HPBC logo for over a decade we wanted to better represent the fresh work that God is doing in and through our Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches. We got help from Innovative Faith Resources (they produce Pacific Connector, our website, and our Sue Nishikawa video/print content).

New Logo & Branding

How was the HPBC logo conceived and created?



Here's a simple video to help you know how the logo was conceived and created.

tinyurl.com/hpbc-logo

With his sketchpad, Bobby Puffenburger, Creative Director for Innovative Faith Resources, begins developing ideas for Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention's new logo.



Vacation Bible School



Mililani Baptist Holds In-Person VBS, 5 Children Come to Christ

Mililani Baptist Church held an in-person Vacation Bible School in June with 44 in average attendance. Five children received Christ. We are thankful for a team of 35 volunteers, including a team of interns from Connections Church in Kapolei who came to assist with music.



Yokohama International Baptist VBS Sees 47 Children in Attendance

With pandemic restrictions in place in Japan, Yokohama International chose to make adjustments rather than cancel VBS in 2021. They reduced their number of days and chose to invite only elementary age children. Forty-seven children participated, and some of the children heard the Gospel for the first time. Ben Howard is pastor.

Oahu Churches, Mainland Churches, Help Connections Church Kapolei, 9 Children Come to Christ

Connections Church Kapolei held VBS from June 7-11 with 73 children enrolled — 9 accepted Christ! This church plant was assisted by 29 students and adults from Burnt Hickory Baptist in Georgia and 4 interns from Texas. Local churches that assisted in various ways were Mililani, Aina Haina, University Avenue, International Baptist, Abundant Life, Waikiki, and First Baptist Pearl City.



Vacation Bible School

4 Churches Cooperate for VBS, 43 Children Come to Christ

Mililani Fil-Am Baptist, Hawaii Christian Church, Word of Truth, and Waipahu Community worked together to host VBS from June 19-23. They also held a family day on June 24. There were a total of 63 volunteers that helped and over 100 attendees. Forty-three children accepted Jesus. First Baptist Wahiawa and Filipino United Church of Christ also assisted.



Koza Baptist, Okinawa, Holds VBS, 300 attend, 17 Come to Christ

From August 2-6, 2021, Koza Baptist Church welcomed over 300 children and staff to participate in "Destination Dig", the Koza Vacation Bible School for 2021. It was a week of fun and excitement, as the children learned to dig in the word for the treasure. During our VBS, many seeds were planted for the gospel, and some are already bearing fruit. Seventeen individuals prayed to receive Christ, including sixteen children, and one mom! Chris Eyre is pastor.



Update from Tokyo Olympics 2020

IMB Outreach



TOKYO 2020



by Natalie Nation, IMB

Changes and adjustments marked the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. In the same way, our IMB Tokyo team adjusted plans more times than I can count. What started as a plan to host more than 200 volunteers turned into the 20 of us volunteering for our events.

By God's grace, we hosted 22 events throughout the Olympics.

- We prayer walked around the Olympic venues.
- We handed out evangelism materials.
- We offered English conversation at stations.
- We hosted college students in Olympic-themed games and conversations.

All this while we were bending and flexing through extreme heat, sporadic rainstorms, canceled plans, and constantly changing governmental restrictions. We could have done nothing if not for trusting entirely in the work of the Holy Spirit.

At each event, we handed out Japan-themed pins colored like the Olympic rings with Gospel words on them: Love (creation), Hope (sin), Grace (Jesus' blood), Faith, and Community (eternal life). With these pins, gospel conversations came naturally.





These conversations were surrounded by “ooh’s and ah’s.” Laughter sprinkled these conversations. And each person left with a pin and a spectacular gift—the truth of the Gospel.

As a team, we came together during the Olympics. We stood beside each other as we led spiritual conversations and accomplished Weternal differences despite ongoing difficult circumstances. It was like our own mission trip! We prayed together before the events. We watched each other share the Gospel. We laughed while holding up signs, hoping someone would stop and talk to us. Then afterward, we shared incredible stories of how we saw God move at the end of each event.

God reminded us that He is at work in Tokyo. I am so grateful I participated in a small piece of His big plans to reach Japan.

Natalie Nation is an International Mission Board (IMB) Journeyman serving in Tokyo, Japan. She is a member of Pawa'a Community Church on Oahu.



Laughing when a girl walked up and told us it was hot, so we needed some candy. She gave us candy, and we gave her a pin and knowledge about Jesus.

See what God is doing through this team! View this short video about the Japan Olympic Outreach Pins ministry: tinyurl.com/outreach-pins



5 Minute English team at Ikebukuro Station



At Takadanobaba Station, we invited some new friends to our follow up event using a QR code on my phone.



something to Celebrate

Spotlight on People

Art Bingham Serves as Interim Pastor at Lana'i Baptist

Art Bingham is serving as interim pastor at Lana'i Baptist Church as the church moves through the search process. Art and Charlene Bingham are from Kenton, Ohio. Art previously served as pastor (2010-13) and interim pastor (2006) of Lana'i Baptist.



Albert Ordained at Oahu Bible Institute Celebration

Manny Albert was ordained to the Gospel ministry on July 30. He was trained through Oahu Bible Institute and is currently an Assistant Pastor at Fellowship Baptist Church where Harlan Nakasone serves as Pastor. Fellowship Baptist Church is helping him plant a church to reach Micronesian Americans.



Family & Friends Share Video Memorial to Celebrate Stanley Togikawa's Life

Stanley Kiyoshi Togikawa served on staff at University Avenue Baptist, Olivet Baptist, Hawaii Baptist Academy, and the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. He was instrumental in establishing the Shiraki Memorial Foundation. Under Stanley's guidance and advice, the foundation has provided financial support over the years to over a thousand students locally and on the mainland, and funds Christian ministries globally.



Korean Association Meets and Fellowship

Families from the Korean Baptist Association gathered for a meal and fellowship in July. The group included: New Central Community Church (Hwan Soo Jang), Waikiki Korean Church (Steven Kang), Emmanuel Korean BC (Kyu Ho Chang), New Central Community Church (Hannah, wife), Antioch BC (Lauren Lee, wife), Korean Baptist Church of Hawaii (Kyoung Ae Kim), Emmanuel KBC (Mi Ok Chang), Waikiki Korean Church (Monica, wife), Asia Mission BC (Jong Wook Park), New Central Community Church (Soo A Jang, daughter), Antioch BC (Emma Lee, daughter), Antioch BC (Oliver Lee), Korean Baptist Church of Hawaii (Hyeong Gi Kim), Asia Mission BC (Soon Kil Park) and Asia Mission BC (Jihye Park, daughter—not in this picture).



Steve Gray to Serve Church in Kentucky

After serving First Baptist Church Wahiawa for 10 years, Steve Gray has been called to serve as pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholas, Kentucky. Gray served with Oahu Baptist Network as moderator and with the Hawai'i Baptist Foundation as a board member. Pastor Steve and Dee Ann are grateful for the many partnerships and friendships they established in Hawaii. FBC Wahiawa is the first Baptist church in Hawaii and celebrated its 87th anniversary on August 22.



Stanley was born in Kapa'a, Kauai on April 2, 1932 and died in Honolulu on March 6, 2020, after a lengthy illness. In lieu of a live memorial service, an online video may be accessed at <https://vimeo.com/560221488>. Donations in memory of Stanley may be sent to the Rotary Club of Ala Moana, the Olivet Baptist Church, and/or The Shiraki Memorial Foundation.

More information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/Togikawa>.

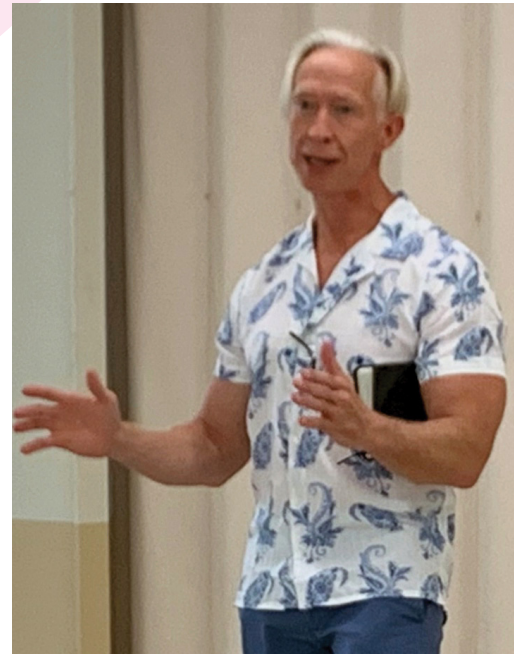
Warren Haynes Helps Leaders Communicate on Purpose, Celebrate OBI Graduates

Dr. Warren Haynes is the Director of the ADVANCE Program at Gateway Seminary. This is the academic program that the Oahu Bible Institute (OBI) uses for its courses. Warren visited Oahu at the end of July to provide training and support.

On July 29 he introduced his new book, "How to Communicate on Purpose" to Oahu pastors over breakfast at Waialae Baptist. Haynes helped pastors to understand the common struggle with "self-talk." Pastors were given a free copy of Warren's book.

On July 30 he was the featured speaker at the Oahu Bible Institute (OBI) Spring Recognition and Celebration held at Waipahu Community Christian Church. A total of 14 certificates and diplomas were awarded.

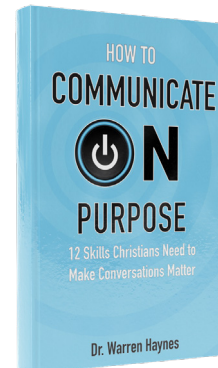
Dr. Haynes also provided training on "Communication and Leadership" for Living Faith Baptist Church. Participants studied his book in advance and on July 31 had in-person instruction then and did hands-on training as they went into the community to meet people and engage them in prayer.



Warren Haynes speaking to pastors.



Warren teaching communication principles at Living Faith Baptist Church



If you would like a copy of Warren's new book, e-mail Craig Webb at: craig@hpbaptist.net



Warren took the "Communication and Leadership" training to Ala Moana Mall



Hazel Capinpin, from Word of Truth, is presented her certificate in Introduction to Christian Studies at the OBI Recognition and Celebration service.

something to Celebrate

Mililani Hosts Back to School Bash, Share the Gospel

Mililani Baptist Church hosted a Back to School Bash in July. Members from the community were able to hear a Gospel presentation, receive school supplies, prizes, play games, and interact with various ministries from the church. As a result, 70 bags of school supplies were given away which included Gospel tracts. Leftover supplies were donated to Hanalani Schools. Since the event, several visitors have attended services at Mililani and the church has been able to follow up with many others. Dennis Andrews is lead pastor.



Cornerstone Distributes Backpacks with School Supplies

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, Kona (Hawaii Island) served their community by assembling and distributing backpacks of school supplies for children. Jeff Buchholz is pastor. Send Relief (sendrelief.org) provided the backpacks.



Koza Baptist, Okinawa, Reaches People at Apartment Complex

On July 31st, a small group from Koza Baptist Church were blessed to be invited into a local apartment complex to have fun, lead games, and present the Gospel.

In the weeks leading up to the outreach, several children who were out of school for summer break, would ride their bicycles to the church to use the church playground. They would often come inside and ask for snacks or water. This was an opportunity for the church staff to plan and execute a strategic local outreach to serve Japanese families close to the church. Koza's Missions Pastor (Hunter Gray), some of the Japanese speaking staff, and the Jones family (IMB Missionaries to Japan) coordinated with the local community. It was a fun event where several relationships were established creating more outreach opportunities in support of the community.

During the outreach, kids and adults destroyed 3000 water balloons and played interactive games. They also presented the good news of Jesus Christ to all in attendance. Pray for their follow-up. Chris Eyre is the senior pastor.



Fellowship Baptist with the Help of Mililani and FBC Pearl City, Distributes Backpacks and Food

Pastor Harlan Nakasone and team distributed backpacks with school supplies at the end of July. Fellowship Baptist, Mililani Baptist, and FBC Pearl City donated all the supplies for this outreach event. They also distributed food for families in their community.



**Waikoloa
Baptist**
Hawaii Island

Pastor Trent Thomson, of Waikoloa Baptist on Hawaii Island, baptized father and son, Todd and Jacob Perkins. Thirty-one people joined them at Anaeho'omalu Bay to celebrate.



Guam Christian Life Fellowship (GCLF) Baptizes Mother and Son at Annual Family Retreat — Pastor Pancho Madrid reported that the highlight of their church's annual retreat was getting to baptize mother and son (Josie and Vien).

**Guam
Christian Life
Fellowship**
Mangilao, Guam



Pastor Chris Eyre of Koza Baptist, Okinawa, baptized 6 adults and children on a rainy Sunday in July. They followed the baptism with a church family picnic under canopy tents.

**Koza
Baptist**
Okinawa



52 SUNDAYS

Resources Available to Help You Tell the Story

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.

Learn more at:
hpbaptist.net/52sundays



Katelyn Summers

Southeast Asia

Let's say you're a missionary and you're called to a country in Southeast Asia that rejects the church.

Today we're going to pray for a missionary who came up with an interesting solution. We'll call her Katelyn, but that's not her real name.

Katelyn set up a coffee business — not by herself but in partnership with a church in Singapore. Students sent by the church pick coffee berries and bring bags of them to Katelyn. She roasts, processes and dries the berries into coffee beans.

Then she goes through the community and sells the beans. The coffee business helps Katelyn stay in the country. It also provides lots of opportunities to talk with people about Jesus.

Now, our church helps support Katelyn in that far-off country because part of our Cooperative Program dollars are sent to her by our International Mission Board.

How about that missions-minded church in Singapore? We helped send missionaries to Singapore for years and now there are strong partner churches that can do missions work like this.

Now, think about this: Katelyn is selling coffee beans to folks she wants to tell about Jesus. Don't you guess they're wide awake to hear what she says?



September 26, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 09D



Download and distribute resources for each missionary's story directly to your computer to share with your church.



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.