



# Rising Together

79th Annual Meeting  
November 4-5, 2021

"If then you  
have been raised with Christ,  
seek the things that are above, where  
Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."  
~ Colossians 3:1, CSB

*pacific*  
**connector**



Hawaii Pacific  
Baptist Convention

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# Building the Kingdom

*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



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## About the Cover

*Rising Together* is the theme of the 79th HPBC Virtual Annual Meetings on Nov. 4 & 5.



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

**A**s we approach the time of our 2021 HPBC Annual Meeting, we have many things to be grateful for amid the ongoing pandemic. Of course, I wish we could celebrate together, in person, but we are thankful for the technology to provide a brief virtual annual meeting.

Regardless, God works throughout our churches and ministries to see lives redeemed through the gospel and lives transformed through Christ. 2022 is on the horizon, and God has prepared incredible plans for our work together.

For the coming year, I want to share some new opportunities for your ministry to be strengthened, supplied by your Cooperative Program gifts. Your HPBC Executive Board diligently served through the pandemic to research, prepare, and deliver these new avenues for your church's growth. These initiatives center around the three areas of theological development, leadership development, and missional development.

In the area of theological development, your executive board developed Cooperative Program pathways for scholarships for the SBC seminaries, on-island and online courses, and seminary engagements for alumni and students.

Deepening our relationships with all the SBC seminaries assists your efforts in developing the coming generations of pastors, missionaries, and ministry leaders. More opportunities continue to spring from these relationships that will enhance your ministry and your church's ministry for the coming years.

From the leadership development initiatives, interns and apprentice positions for your ministry are back, in coordination

with Cooperative Program support for entry-level ministry positions. Many of you have expressed the desire to train leaders in the field, shaped better to comprehend the contextualized nature of our ministry areas.

Through these opportunities, coupled with IMB Journeyman and NAMB GenSend roles, your church can experience the growth of new leaders for the future. In addition, the options continue through the SBC seminary connections, bringing increased development to the HPBC.

Through the missional development initiatives, your church can empower and mobilize more members for gospel engagement locally and globally than ever before. Scholarships and subsidies, provided through Cooperative Program gifts, enable pastors and mission leaders to participate in mission trips or lead church teams to engage the mission field.

Your HPBC staff team will assist in coordinating training, obtaining security clearances, trip organization, and much more. The long-term effects of this area will change the nature of our collaborative efforts to share the gospel with the world.

Your HPBC staff team is equipped and ready to serve you in preparing the coming generations of HPBC life to live out the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. In addition, the HPBC's relationships throughout the SBC network of entities and agencies are robust and healthy so that you can easily access the best resources for your ministry.

To take advantage of these possibilities or to see how your HPBC team can assist you, please call us at (808) 946-9581 or email us at [info@hpbaptist.net](mailto:info@hpbaptist.net). *Mahalo.*

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Your gifts at work by taking the gospel to unreached people every day.

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A 3-day Globalization and Missions Strategy course is being hosted by HPBC on Oahu.

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Access the Friday night celebration  
live stream via our Facebook page at:  
[facebook.com/hawaiibaptist](https://facebook.com/hawaiibaptist)  
or scan this QR code.



**Live Streamed Celebration**

# 79th HPBC Annual Meeting

**Friday, November 5, 2021**

**6:30 p.m. HST**

**via Facebook Live**

Due to recent statewide restrictions, we are unable to hold an in-person annual meeting again for this year. In addition to our business session by Zoom on Thursday, November 4\*, our Annual Meeting Celebration will be live streamed on November 5.

Join us for an hour-long live streamed celebration on Friday, November 5, with the agenda following on the next page.



# Rising Together

**If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”** *Colossians 3:1, CSB*

## Agenda — Friday, November 5

**Welcome** – Dr. Chris Martin, HPBC Executive Director/Treasurer

**Worship Song** – Freedom Village Church Worship Team, Seoul, South Korea

**Invocation** – Pastor Toshikazu Haruta, Himeji Baptist, Japan

**Spotlight on Churches Serving the Community** – Life Christian

**Theme Scripture** – Pastor Sau’foi Tavete, Happy Valley Baptist, Samoa

**Introduction of New Hawaii Pacific Baptist Pastors and Staff**

**Greetings and Updates** from our Southern Baptist Convention Boards, Agencies, and Partners:

*International Mission Board (IMB)*, Dr. Paul Chitwood, President

*HPBC/IMB Partnership Update* – Dr. Chris Martin

*Asian Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity (APAC)* – Greg Mann, Director

*Lifeway Christian Resources* – Dr. Ben Mandrell, President

*North American Mission Board (NAMB)* – Dr. Kevin Ezell, President

**HPBC Prayer Partner Greeting** – Pastor Steve Davidson, FBC Sellersburg, Indiana

**Spotlight on Churches Working Together** – GracePoint Church

**Greetings and Updates** from Hawaii Pacific Baptist Agencies and Ministries

*Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA)* – Ron Shi’ira, President

*Hawaii Baptist Foundation (HBF)* – Dr. Matt Sanders, HBF President, and Waiala’e Baptist pastor

*Baptist Collegiate Ministries* – Pastor Arjay Gruspe, Director

**HPBC President’s Message** – Pastor Steve Irvin, Pali View Baptist, Oahu

**Worship Song** – Freedom Village Church Worship Team, Seoul, South Korea

**Annual Meeting Message** – Dr. Ben Mandrell, Lifeway President

**Spotlight on Church Planting** – Connections Church

**Arrangements Committee Update** – Pastor Larry Hale, Elelee Baptist, Kauai

**Benediction** – Dr. Chris Martin

**\* The Business Session on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021** via Zoom, will include updates on the work of the HPBC. We will vote on the 2022 HPBC budget, officers, new board members, committee members, and resolutions. It will take place via Zoom for messengers and streamed live for guests. Registration is now closed for messengers but anyone can **view it live at [facebook.com/hawaiibaptist](https://facebook.com/hawaiibaptist)**.



# The 2021 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer for International Missions

Your *2020 gifts* at work

Through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Southern Baptists have given over \$5 billion to international missions.



**422**

NEW MISSIONARIES

**18,380**

NEW CHURCHES

**86,587**

PEOPLE BAPTIZED

**144,322**

NEW BELIEVERS

**769,494**

HEARD GOSPEL WITNESS

"

Without Lottie Moon, we wouldn't be able to take the gospel to unreached people every day."

— IMB Missionary

**100%**

of your gifts go directly to the missionaries on the field.

**SINCE 1918**

## What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is an annual offering collected by Southern Baptists to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially.



## Lead Your Church to Give

Here's a quick guide to help lead your church to join in giving toward a Lottie Moon campaign.

### STEP 1 — Prepare

**Pray** about your church's involvement

**Set a giving goal** for your church

**Download or order** available resources (videos, posters, graphics)

**Schedule** the Week of Prayer for International Missions

### STEP 2 — Promote

**Set up an online campaign** for your church

**Highlight your offering** on your church's communication channels

**Show IMB videos** during your worship services

**Distribute** an IMB bulletin insert at your worship service

### STEP 3 — Participate

**Pray** for IMB missionaries and your church's offering during the Week of Prayer for International Missions

**Collect the gifts** from your church

**Celebrate** all God is doing around the world

For resources, visit: [imb.org/lottiemoon](https://imb.org/lottiemoon)



## ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES

The new APAC affinity covers 16 countries in the Asia and Pacific Rim area.

**2.3 BILLION**  
PEOPLE

97,122,106 (4.2%)

EVANGELICAL BELIEVERS

**43,454** DYING DAILY  
WITHOUT CHRIST

**3,346** PEOPLE  
GROUPS

**1,134** UNREACHED  
PEOPLE GROUPS

**488** UNENGAGED UNREACHED  
PEOPLE GROUPS

### MAJOR RELIGIONS

NON-RELIGIOUS  
1,299,209,425 (56%)

ETHNIC RELIGION  
381,989,910 (16.5%)

ISLAM  
257,988,185 (11%)

BUDDHISM  
234,040,725 (10%)

CATHOLICISM  
142,217,485 (6%)

HINDUISM  
6,166,150 (0.3%)



## IMB Announces New Asian Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity

In a recent IMB press release, Leslie Peacock Caldwell shared, "International Mission Board trustees approved 68 new fully funded missionaries for appointment during their May 11-12 meeting in Richmond, Virginia. This is the first in-person meeting trustees have had since January 2020, when restrictions from COVID-19 necessitated virtual meetings."

"In his address, IMB President Paul Chitwood announced that IMB would be forming a new global affinity, the **Asian Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity**, effective Oct. 1, 2021. This new affinity will encompass work among peoples who originate in the countries

along the Pacific Ocean Rim, roughly from Mongolia to Indonesia and Myanmar to Japan. It will comprise the peoples IMB has, up until now, been seeking to engage in the affinity structures of East Asian Peoples Affinity and Southeast Asian Peoples Affinity."

Greg Mann will direct the new affinity. Our HPBC partnership with the new Asian Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity will be a part of our ongoing HPBC/IMB Strategic Agreement.

To learn more, visit [imb.org/asia-pacific-rim](http://imb.org/asia-pacific-rim)

## Equipping for Globalization and Missions Strategy

Would you like to explore ways to lead your church to reach not only your community, but the nations, with hope of the gospel?

On **February 24-26, 2022**, HPBC will host the International Mission Board's Drs. Hal Cunyningham and Amanda Dimperio as they offer a **three-day training** called **Globalization and Missions Strategy**. The training will take place on Oahu. Scholarships will be available for HPBC pastors.

In this course, we will see how globalization has changed missions in the 21st century. Those taking this class will develop an understanding of biblical foundations for global missions, apply principles of servant leadership to leadership in a sending church or agency, and utilize underlying principles of the *Eight Steps of the Missions*

*Continuum* to establish a missions sending strategy for a sending church or agency.

For more information, contact Dr. Craig Webb at [craig@hpbaptist.net](mailto:craig@hpbaptist.net).



Read an article by Hal and Amanda about the *Eight Steps of the Missions Continuum* from the Fall 2021 edition of Lifeway's Deacon Magazine: [tinyurl.com/8Steps-Missions](http://tinyurl.com/8Steps-Missions)



# Financial Update

According to Mike Martin, HPBC Assistant Executive Director for Business and Finance, between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, **Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave \$1,653,080 through the Cooperative Program and special offerings.** This includes:

**\$1,173,363** through the **Cooperative Program**

**\$121,169** to the **Sue Nishikawa Offering** for Hawaii Pacific Missions

**\$134,246** to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** for North American Missions

**\$207,868** to the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** for International Missions

**\$16,433** to **World Hunger**

Thank you, Hawaii Pacific Baptists for your *generous giving!*



## Baptists Give More than \$20 Billion

"Since 1925, Southern Baptists have given more than \$20 billion through the Cooperative Program to fund its entities and missionaries taking the Gospel throughout the world." (Source: baptistpress.com)



## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Highest Ever at Over \$66.5 million

"After a pandemic-influenced decline in 2020, Southern Baptists rallied to give \$66.5 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) in 2021, the highest amount ever given to the offering that supports missions in North America." Kevin Ezell, North American Mission Board President (Source: baptistpress.com)





## Lottie Moon Exceeds \$175 Goal, IMB Celebrates Best Financial Year

As the International Mission Board closes the 2020-21 financial books, it expects to report a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering total of \$177.6 million. This total includes \$14.9 million received for specific Lottie projects (often called Lottie Moon challenge or Lottie giving projects) and exceeds the \$175 million offering goal set in partnership with Woman's Missionary Union.

IMB also received \$96.8 million from the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program for 2020-21, which, combined with other sources of revenue, made it the best financial year in the organization's 176-year history.

## “Cooperative Program Quotes



"As Southern Baptists, we have one thing that unites us. At our core is the passion to take the Gospel of Christ to those who have never heard. We work together toward that common goal. As a child and young adult, my heart was sealed for missions. I am a product of the Cooperative Program.

The CP is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries."

(Source: [baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

**Sandy Wisdom-Martin**  
WMU President



"This invisible army has built an unrivaled denominational support base for our mission boards, seminaries and other entities. Most of them have supported us without ever personally meeting an entity leader. They do it because they trust the process — both funding and governance — and believe we can do more together than independently."

(Source: [baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

**Jeff Iorg**  
Gateway Seminary, President



*By Ken Reyes, Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) O'ahu Staff*

**N**obody was sure of what the fall semester would look like. By mid-August, most classes at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa were suddenly moved back online, along with many plans for reopening the campus. Club fairs were canceled, fall sporting events had to go audience-free, and students were forced to continue staring at screens all day. But God was unshaken by any of this.

God has blessed BCM O'ahu by bringing us new staff, new students, and new ideas as we

remained steadfast and fixed on His vision to bring the Gospel to our local campus. At the beginning of August, Hannah and Noah Denney arrived in O'ahu from Chico, California. In pursuit of God's calling, they left their family, friends, and CSU-Chico's Christian Challenge to begin a new season of ministry with us.

Meanwhile, God was moving around his people within BCM as well. John Allison, who has served as associate director for BCM for more than a decade, stepped up to become the new International Ministries director. And a former student leader and new UH graduate, Micah Abe, joined us as a staff volunteer. The Lord has also blessed us with three faithful student leaders, Nathaniel Atwell, Hannah Mercado, and Luna Porras, to help us shape our ministry to college students.

### **Reaching New Students**

As we collaborated on plans, ideas, and action steps to tackle welcome week, we realized that we had to sow broadly if we wanted to reach new students. We planned around two things for this initial outreach—community events and campus

# **A New Season of God's Faithfulness at BCM O'ahu**





surveying. By the end of our first two weeks back, we had collected and reached out to over 200 student contacts. Knowing that not every person would reach out to us, we prayed and continued to invite students to coffee meetups and events anyway. And because of this, we have seen more new students participate in ministry events and fun activities in August alone than we did all last year.

### **A Journey with Students**

Now that the semester has settled to a steadier rhythm, God has given us opportunities to dive deep with new and existing students while still surprising us weekly with new

contacts and potential interests. Altogether, staff and student leaders are currently meeting with and discipling 24 students regularly. We have also seen several students either recommit to or decide to follow Jesus for the first time both during one-on-one conversations and our Tuesday night gatherings.

Because of the nature of young adulthood and the college setting, consistent follow-ups have become key to inviting students into a deeper examination of their lives now intertwined in the Good News. Even though so much is uncertain about the future, still entangled in the pandemic, we are confident in God's faithfulness and goodness to us and our ministry.

We at BCM O'ahu invite you to pray with us and partner with us in continuing to reach college students with the love of Jesus and journey with them in this season of their lives.



*UH Students Gracie Webb, Sarah Tilton, Briana Bennett, Kaitlyn McBroom, Hannah Mercado — Photo by Hannah Denney*



*UH Students Rhysa Lee, Ryan Pacris, Chao Siwapornchai, Gracie Webb — Photo by Hannah Denney*



*Hannah and Noah Denney, BCM Staff*



*Micah Abe, BCM Staff Volunteer*



*John Allison, Director International Ministries*



*Ken Reyes, BCM Staff*

### Koza Baptist Okinawa, Japan

**Koza Baptist, Okinawa, Baptizes 9 in August** — Two Sundays in August (Aug. 8 and 15), Koza baptized 9 new believers. These included adults and children, some from the recent VBS decisions of faith in Christ. Chris Eyre is pastor.



*Pastor Chris baptizes a father and his son.*



*IMB Missionary Jared Jones baptizes Makiko and her son Kiryu. Jared and Tara Jones are IMB missionaries who joined Koza Baptist from Tokyo to help with outreach and VBS. Jared and Tara were both critical parts of how the Lord led Makiko and her son Kiryu to make a decision of faith in Christ and follow in believer's baptism.*

### Waikiki Baptist Honolulu, Hawaii

**Waikiki Baptist Baptizes at Ala Moana** — At the end of September, Waikiki Baptist baptized a new believer at Ala Moana Beach Park. Andrew Large is pastor.



**Himeji Baptist Holds Baptism in Apartment Bathtub** — At the end of September, Pastor Toshikazu Haruta held a baptism at the apartment of a couple who had professed their faith in Christ.

### Himeji Baptist Japan





### Van Michael Komatsu Ordained, Installed as New Pastor at Kihei Baptist on Maui

On September 18, Van Michael Komatsu was ordained to the gospel ministry at Kihei Baptist Chapel. Van Michael has replaced retiring pastor Jay Armstrong, as the new vocational elder (Pastor) in October.



(top) Pastors and other church leaders, after Van Michael's ordination

(left) Van Michael, his wife Delaney, and their daughter Eliza

### John Kaneshiro Called to Serve Wai'alae Baptist, Ordained in October

John Kaneshiro became Associate Pastor of Discipleship for Wai'alae Baptist in June 2021. John and his wife, Erica, both grew up in Hawaii and spent most of their lives on the island. John hopes to complete his Master of Divinity Degree in Preaching and Pastoral Ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in December.

On October 7, John met with a group of pastors who served as his ordination council. They voted unanimously to recommend to Wai'alae Baptist to ordain John (set him apart) for the gospel ministry. He was ordained on Sunday evening, October 24, at Wai'alae. Dr. Matt Sanders is senior pastor.



### John Allison to Serve as New Director of International Ministries

John Allison has been serving as Associate Director of Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) for more than a decade. John was recently asked to serve as the Director, International Ministries, Oahu. He is originally from Oklahoma. International Ministries supports international students, scholars, and their families studying on Oahu. Learn more at [ibmhawaii.org](http://ibmhawaii.org).



# Servants of God

Hawaii Pacific Baptists, please pray for these servants of God who are new to Hawaii or new to their roles in the churches or ministries they serve.



**Pastor Dennis & Rachel Andrews**  
*Mililani Baptist Church, Oahu*



**Pastor Art & Charlene Bingham**  
*Interim at Lanai Baptist, Lanai*



**Pastor Michael & Janet Brooks**  
*Waianae Baptist Church, Oahu*



**Micah Abe**  
*Volunteer Staff Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Oahu*



**Pastor Brad Dell**  
*Restoration Church, Oahu*



**John Allison**  
*Director, International Ministries, Oahu*



**Noah & Hannah Denney**  
*Staff, Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM), Oahu*





**Pastor Amel & Vangie Dominguez**  
*First Baptist Church, Haleiwa, Oahu*



**Pastor James & Talicia Mahan**  
*First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor, Oahu*



**Pastor Tim & Mary Gentry**  
*Interim at New Life Kona, Hawaii Island*



**Pastor Marcus & Sarah McBee**  
*Ohana Church, Hawaii Island*



**Pastor Jimmy & Teresa Gimmen**  
*Interim at Calvary, Guam*



**David McElrath**  
*Life Christian Church, Oahu*



**Pastor John & Erica Kaneshiro**  
*Wai'alae Baptist Church, Oahu*



**Pastor Trent & Rebecca Thompson**  
*Waikoloa Baptist Church, Hawaii Island*



**Pastor Van Michael & Delaney Komatsu**  
*Kihei Baptist Chapel, Maui*



**John & Gay Williams**  
*Directors, Hawaii Baptist Disaster Relief*

# 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.

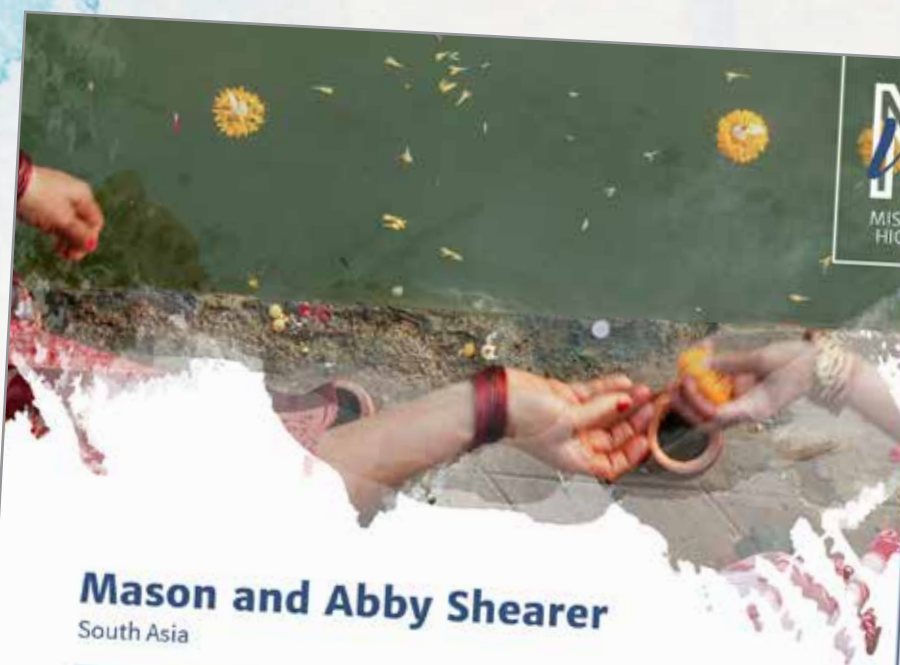
Pray for a new mission area every Sunday in 2021 with this prayer guide including inspirational stories, slides, and bulletin inserts. Each week is a challenge to pray boldly for those on the local, national, and international mission field.



**Resources to download and distribute** for each missionary's story directly to your computer to share with your church.



**Share these stories**, whether you're at a podium on Sunday or on a couch in a small group, to connect Cooperative Program giving with missionaries in the field.



### Mason and Abby Shearer

South Asia

We love stories about leading someone to Christ.

Today as we pray, we will hear how God brought a new believer to our missionaries in South Asia. We'll call them Mason and Abby.

It was said that Dasya was a man out of hope. He had no job and no food for his family. He walked three days to a city, looking for work. But he found neither work nor a place to stay.

Then a friend said he should pray to Jesus for help. Dasya prayed. Soon a stranger gave him enough money to pay rent for his family. Also, Dasya found a job.

Since Jesus had met his needs, Dasya decided to leave Hinduism and become a Christian.

Mason, our missionary, was going through Dasya's village to share the gospel. That's when he met Dasya and heard his story. Dasya believed in Jesus, but needed help reading the Bible. Mason began discipling Dasya.

We rejoice today that Mason and his wife, Abby, are serving in that South Asian country, because God is clearly at work there. Our church is supporting them through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray for them and let's pray for Dasya.



November 14, 2021  
Coordinates with Resources: 11B

Learn more at:  
[hpbaptist.net/52sundays](http://hpbaptist.net/52sundays)

