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New

HPBC Initiatives

8 Steps of the Missions Continuum Training

South Pacific Baptist
Association Holds
Annual Meeting

pacific connector



Hawaii Pacific
Baptist Convention

Building the Kingdom

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



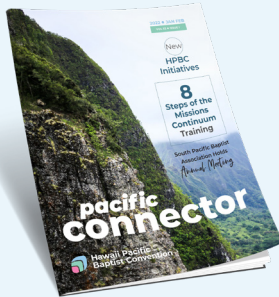
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About the Cover

Ko'olau Range on the Windward Side of the Island of Oahu



For more issues, scan this QR code or visit:
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At this time last year, many of us expected 2021 to be different from 2020 in many ways. We hoped for a return to in-person worship and gatherings without restrictions, or the ability to travel or revisit family and friends, or days without the constant reminders of the pandemic. But God had other plans for us, and he has continued to shape us to have faith amid uncertainty.

In many ways, he has allowed this time to bring us complete confidence in His providence and care for us, knowing that our tendency to trust ourselves often grows unchecked without interruption. In addition, God brought a level of course correction for our ministries, pushing us all to trust him more as we shifted visions, strategies, and plans to be more effective in our current world. Yet, as we have been reminded often, God is far greater than any situation we face.

Now, looking ahead to 2022, my prayer for us is that God will continue refining our lives and ministries to align with his perfect will. With this prayer, our desire is for Christ's plans to be fulfilled in us by bringing him glory and elevating his Great Commission to the primary place in our days. So, press forward together, brothers and sisters, knowing that God's Word is our guide, his Spirit is our strength, and his gospel is our message. Regardless of our view from here, 2022 holds more significant promise than ever before.

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 808-946-9581 or email me at chris@hpbaptist.net.

Mahalo,

Chris Martin

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Contents

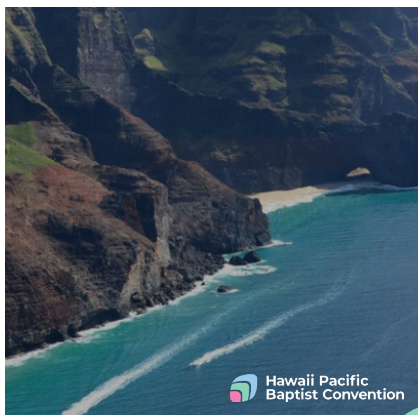
11

Ministry Started for Autistic Children — Agape Mission Baptist meets a unique and vital need



6

Women Come Together — in-person and online gatherings held throughout the convention



14

New HPBC Initiatives — HPBC's strategy for impacting God's Kingdom throughout the Pacific and Asia begins in 2022

See What God is Doing

4 Hawaii Pacific Stays Virtual for 2nd Year

HPBC held its Annual Meeting virtually due to ongoing COVID restrictions over its vast region.

12 South Pacific Holds Annual Meeting

Learn about the ways Samoa Baptists are moving forward with the gospel.

10 Why Does God Increase the Value of Our House or Our Investments?

Some questions to consider asking yourself if God has blessed you financially.

Departments

2 Building the Kingdom

Executive Director's update from Dr. Chris Martin.

8 Something to Celebrate

A spotlight of celebration focused on anniversaries, people, Samoa, and Asia

16 8 Steps of the Missions Continuum Training

Three-day training being offered by HPBC and IMB



Hawaii Pacific Stays Virtual for Second Year

By Karen L. Willoughby, Baptist Press

The Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention met virtually November 4-5 on Zoom and Facebook Live for its 79th Annual Meeting because of ongoing COVID restrictions impacting its widely-scattered region.

Its theme, *Rising Together*, was taken from Colossians 3:1.

“Despite the geographic expanse of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention [which spreads out on either side of the International Date Line], our churches have embraced a close-knit commitment to working together to be leaders in impacting God’s kingdom throughout the Pacific and Asia,” Executive Director Chris Martin told Baptist Press.

The HPBC is poised to enter into strategic partnerships with multiple state conventions, Martin said.

Business consisted of 205 messengers from at least 50 of HPBC’s 161 churches and church plants passing a \$1,796,300 budget for 2022, which is a 24 percent increase from the 2021 budget.

Cooperative Program giving from churches is anticipated to be \$1,200,000, plus \$130,000 from the Sue Nishikawa State Missions Offering and \$175,000 from the North American Mission Board. Again this year, 20 percent of CP funds — \$240,000 — is allocated for national and international Southern Baptist missions and ministries.



"We are excited that the churches of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention not only receive support through the Cooperative Program, but they are also positioned to make a difference through their gifts through CP," Martin said. "We highly value the relationships across the SBC network, especially in efforts to provide contextualized ministry that will advance God's kingdom throughout our incredible convention of churches."

Officers elected at the interactive virtual annual meeting are: President Shane Okimoto, pastor of Waiakea Baptist Bible Church in Hilo; First Vice President Johnny Hom, associate pastor of Nu'uuanu Baptist Church on the island of Oahu; Second Vice President Brian Frable, pastor of Kona Baptist Church on Hawaii Island; and recording secretary Grace Poei, a member of University Avenue Baptist Church on the island of Oahu.

In his report to messengers, Martin spoke of three initiative areas – theological, leadership, and missional development – for HPBC churches.

"Your Cooperative Program dollars will fuel the growth of local ministry leaders, the mobilization of local missionaries and the placement of local ministries," he said. "We will pour into the coming generations to empower pastors, leaders, missionaries, seminary students, lay leadership and more to advance the

churches and ministries of every Hawaii Pacific Baptist church."

A regularly set virtual Pastors Forum, which includes pastors from the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Samoa, Bangkok (Thailand), Manila (Philippines), Japan, and South Korea, was designed to "uphold and sustain a stronger kingdom network of like-minded churches and ministry partners to facilitate God's kingdom through Hawaii Pacific Baptists," reported Craig Webb assistant executive director for assist.

Mission projects are being developed for the Philippines, Korea, Japan and New Zealand, plus a vision trip to Taiwan. "We are also working with partners on a strategy for HPBC churches to impact New Zealand," said Brian Smart, assistant executive director for advance.

Work on rebranding and a new logo for the regional convention are now in use.

At least 100 college students are involved in collegiate ministries on Oahu and Big Island, according to Arjay Gruspe. At least 70 join in Bible study or discipleship, about a dozen in leadership development, and 18 churches are being assisted by collegiate ministries.

The 80th annual meeting is set for Nov. 3-4, 2022, in the Hibiscus Ballroom and Foyer of the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

79th HPBC Virtual Annual Meeting

Experience worship led from South Korea, prayer from Japan, Scripture reading from Samoa, updates from national entities and local ministries, a president's message from Dr. Steve Irvin, and an annual meeting message Dr. Ben Mandrell!

The total video length is 1 hour and 10 minutes including the 5-minute countdown.



Access the video by visiting:
tinyurl.com/79th-hpbc-am
or by scanning the QR code.





Women Throughout the Convention Come Together

By Diana Ventura, HPBC Director of Women's Ministries

HPBC Women's Ministry hosted small in-person gatherings throughout the Hawaiian Islands and hosted an online gathering on Zoom for the Asia Baptist Network women in October 2021. Over 218 ladies joined in, representing 68 HPBC churches. The participation continues to reflect the desire and need women have for connection and fellowship with other Hawaii Pacific Baptist women.

These gatherings provided a way for women throughout the convention to come together. The event consisted of a worship time, testimonies by women who have experienced God in the midst of the pandemic, and a message by Kelly King, Women's Ministry Specialist for Lifeway Christian Resources. Kelly's message was focused around God calling women to be shepherds. When women are encouraged by God's Word and presence, they are infused with courage from above, to embrace God's word by allowing it to transform them from the inside out, and to echo by pouring out the goodness and truths of God's Word.

The in person gatherings took place at hosting church sites on Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island. Thank you to Mililani, University Avenue, and Waialae Baptist Church on Oahu, to Valley Isle Fellowship on Maui, and to Waikoloa and Hamakua Baptist Church on Hawaii Island for opening up your church campuses to the women and for welcoming our leadership team and the women who participated.

The Asia Baptist Network ladies also gathered via Zoom. With the assistance of the entire ministry team including Haruko Strydom from Japan and Rose Waligora in Korea, 80 ladies gathered and connected more intimately via breakout rooms. Women from Japan, Philippines, Korea, and Guam joined in. What a beautiful reminder that God brings us all together through technology until we are able to travel once again.

A special thank you to Haruko for translating all the communication to Japanese to help us reach many of our Japanese speaking ladies.

On behalf of the women's retreat team, we are so grateful for all the ladies who participated in-person or online in these gatherings. The purpose of HPBC Women's Ministry is to encourage and challenge women to focus on their personal spiritual growth and journey with God. An abundant life with Christ begins with an intimate relationship with Christ. From there, leadership development follows as we share God's Word and come alongside others through discipleship.

The team looks forward to what the Lord has in store for HPBC Women in 2022.



Over 218 ladies joined in, representing 68 HPBC churches.

pg 6: Waikoloa Baptist, Hawaii Island
pg 7, top right: Hamakua Baptist, Hawaii Island
pg 7, middle (l-r): Special online gathering via Zoom for Asia Baptist Network; Mililani Baptist, Oahu
pg 7, bottom (l-r): University Avenue Baptist, Oahu; Valley Isle Fellowship, Maui; Waialae Baptist, Oahu



something to Celebrate

Spotlight on

Anniversaries

Kinoole Baptist Church Celebrates 75 Years of Ministry in Hilo

Kinoole Baptist Church celebrated 75 years of ministry on Sunday, November 21, 2021 in their two morning worship services. Pastor Daniel Tomita, who has been pastor of the church since 1995, presided over the celebration. Pastor Daniel expressed appreciation for the 75th anniversary committee led by Karl Sunagawa.

Highlights of the celebration included the opening of a time capsule from their 50th anniversary, a video featuring over 50 church members sharing their highlights of being a part of the church, and a beautiful water color portrayal of the church family and church building by member Arabel Cambor. The painting was used for their 75th anniversary keepsake 1946-2021 pictorial album and directory.

The church also received letters of recognition from Hilo Mayor, Michell D. Roth and from HPBC Executive Director, Chris Martin.



International Baptist Church of Manila Celebrates 62 Years of Ministry

On Sunday, November 21, 2021, IBC Manila held a special celebration including music, testimonies, baptisms, preaching, and multiple greetings from ministry partners around the world. David Crim is senior pastor.

Pastor of Missions and Outreach, Roderick Jacinto, shared that six persons were baptized during the worship celebration at IBC Manila. He also reported that their missions and outreach ministry baptized 38, including 11 persons in Unzad, Pangasinan, 11 in Palo, Leyte, 2 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and 10 in Tacloban. He said, "We thank God for the faithfulness and resilience of all members and leaders of the church amidst the pandemic."



something to Celebrate

Spotlight on People

Kaleb Barrett Ordained at Mililani Baptist

On Sunday evening, October 10, 2021, Mililani Baptist Church set Kaleb Barrett apart for the gospel ministry. Kaleb has been serving as Mililani's Pastor of Music and Outreach since January 2019. Dr. Craig Webb, from HPBC, preached the ordination message. Dennis Andrews is senior pastor.

Pastor Kaleb Barrett with his wife, Naomi



Alvin Keamo Ordained at First Southern Baptist, Pearl Harbor

On Sunday, October 24, First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor set apart Alvin Keamo for the gospel ministry. His ordination council was convened on October 18 with Drs. Robert Miller and Craig Webb from the HPBC participating. James Mahan is pastor.



Alvin Keamo with his wife, Charlotte, and his daughter, Avlin

Jeff Fisher Serving as Pastoral Intern for Hawaii Kai Church

Jeff Fisher is currently serving at Hawaii Kai Church's current pastoral intern. Jeff is from Northern California and is currently working towards his Master of Divinity at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jeff worked in South Korea for over four years and is proficient in the Korean language. He has a heart for pastoral ministry as well as missions.



GracePoint Church Calls Peter Chang to Serve as Associate Pastor

At the end of November, GracePoint members voted unanimously to call Peter Chang to serve as GracePoint Church's Associate Pastor for Youth, Young Adults and Discipleship. Peter is completing the fall semester teaching at Hawaii Baptist Academy and will join the GracePoint church staff full-time on January 1, 2022. James Shiroma is pastor of GracePoint which is a recent merge of The Gathering and Cornerstone Fellowship Mililani Mauka.



Peter Chang with his wife, Mandy, and children Josiah and Gwen

Missionaries to pray for. Points to ponder.

52 Sundays is a powerful missions resource to encourage prayer and giving for Cooperative Program missionaries and ministries. Each week offers a short missionary story, PowerPoint slide, bulletin insert, and social media post.

52
SUNDAYS

hpbaptist.net/52sundays



Why Does *God Increase* the Value of Our House or Our Investments?

By Matt Sanders, Hawaii Baptist Foundation

What comes to mind first when our mutual funds or annuity or the value of our house goes up? Do we think – how lucky? Or do we think about how wise we were with our money? Or do we not really think about it all and just enjoy the windfall?

Maybe we say, “Thanks, God.” But do we ever ask “Why God? Why would You bless me this way?”

Even Christians who tithe or give regularly to their church can forget to ask this question about every area of their finances. The assumption is that God blessed us just to bless us or because He knew we really needed it. Yet as Christians, we are called to be selfless, to serve others in humility and love. That would seem to mean that God blesses us so that we might bless others.

If God has blessed you financially, here are some questions to consider:

- *What current and long-term needs do you have?*
- *Are there family members or other people in my life who need support?*

- *Are there kingdom causes – like my church and other ministries – that I can help?*



- *Are there ways to help future generations of Christians by investing in their future?*

As you consider these questions, know that there are ways...

- *To make a gift and receive income for the rest of your life and/or the life of someone else.*
- *To make a gift in the future and receive a tax benefit now.*

Whether you are writing your will, planning your estate, preparing for retirement, or wanting to know more about how you can help ministries like your church, please contact the Hawaii Baptist Foundation at matt@hawaiibaptistfoundation.com or (808) 973-1111. We would love to answer your questions and help you learn more about how you can bless others today and for many years to come.



Ministry Started for Autistic Children at Agape Mission Baptist

By Robert Miller, HPBC Director of Regional Ministries

According to the CDC approximately 1 in 54 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This disorder is a developmental disability that affects all ethnic and socioeconomic families, including the Kim family.

Calvin Kim who serves as Senior Pastor of Agape Mission Baptist Church (Palolo, Oahu) and his wife Bin, understand the challenges of raising an autistic child firsthand. Their four-year-old daughter, Chloe, was diagnosed with ASD in September of 2019.

Rather than keeping their challenges private, the Kims saw a ministry opportunity with their church to help their daughter and other children battling ASD. It is their belief that autistic children also need to learn about the Lord. So in October 2021 they hired a Registered Behavioral Technician and gathered

volunteers to start a Sunday School class for autistic children (ages 4-8).

Each child receives one-on-one attention in class from skilled volunteers while they participate in worship, Bible study, crafts, and art. This weekly ministry provided by Agape Church meets a unique and vital need on Oahu. Agape Mission is a Korean congregation, yet their Sunday services are offered in English as well. This church welcomes all families and is also seeking volunteers to assist with their autism ministry.

For more information contact Pastor Calvin Kim at (703) 999-3976 or calvinhkim@gmail.com. Pastor Kim and the congregation welcome your prayer as they expand this ministry to the autistic community.

something to Celebrate

South Pacific Baptist Association Holds Annual Meeting

The congregations of the South Pacific Baptist Association in American Samoa held their annual meeting on October 30-31 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Leone. Their business meeting was on October 30 and they held a combined worship service on October 31.

Here are photos from the combined worship service. You can also view a video clip on Facebook from the SPBA celebration at tinyurl.com/SPBA-AnMtg or scan the QR code.



Lay Preachers from South Pacific Baptist Association Ordained in Samoa

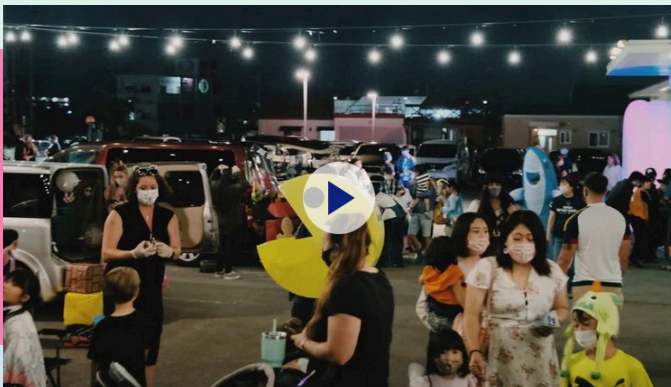
Happy Valley Baptist Pastor, Sau'foi Tavete, shared that on November 15, 2021 several pastors from the South Pacific Baptist Association met to examine and ordain four new lay preachers for the gospel ministry.

The back row are current SPBA pastors. The front row (left to right) are Lotuma'alii Alalatoa Auseugalelei (Ua Taunu'u Baptist Church), Kamilo Feleti Sitaga (Ua Taunu'u Baptist Church), Fa'amaile Ricky Fata (Emmanuel Baptist Church) and Vaefa Vaefa (Emmanuel Baptist Church).



Koza Baptist, Okinawa, Holds Fall Festival for the Community

On Sunday, October 31, 2021, Koza Baptist Church in Okinawa held a Fall Festival for their community including a trunk or treat, songs and skits, a cake give away, and a gospel message presentation. Chris Eyre is pastor.



Enjoy a short video of this event.

Watch it here by clicking on the video to the left, or go online to tinyurl.com/Koza-Fall-Fest, or scan the QR code.





**Hawaii Pacific
Baptist Convention**

New HPBC Initiatives

To pursue the HPBC vision of seeing every church working together to be leaders in impacting God's Kingdom throughout the Pacific and Asia, we have exciting news to share.

In 2021, your HPBC Executive Board researched, developed, and approved new initiatives to strengthen Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches in theological, leadership, and missional development. With your HPBC staff team alongside, you can explore and utilize these opportunities, beginning January 1, 2022.

Your Cooperative Program gifts will fund these initiatives supplemented by additional resources through your contributions to the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions. The HPBC Programs Committee will oversee the process of application, approval, and evaluation to strengthen accountability and integrity for our cooperative work.

As funds from the North American Mission Board (NAMB) will provide for evangelistic ministries, we will focus HPBC resources on these three areas:

1 Theological Development Initiatives

In the area of theological development, your executive board developed student support pathways for the six SBC seminaries through on-campus, on-island, and online courses, with other seminary engagements for alumni and students. These pathways provide essential resources to call out those God calls to serve and equip them for the ministries He has prepared.

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

Hawaii Pacific Baptists are so thankful for the support that many of our students and current ministry leaders have received through Seminary scholarships from the Shiraki Memorial Foundation. We encourage you to explore their website (shirakifoundation.org) for more information on

New HPBC Initiatives

their support for seminary training for Hawaii students who plan to serve in Hawaii churches.

2 Leadership Development Initiatives

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. These initiatives will serve those of you who have expressed the desire to train leaders in the field, shaped better to comprehend the contextualized nature of our ministry areas.

Semester and summer term ministry support, brought through the intern and apprentice programs, is designed to assist leaders in equipping others through practical service. Those individuals trained can continue to grow through the entry-level ministry opportunities within HPBC churches. If churches explore new ministry roles or seek first-year support for a church-approved position, these initiatives provide an onramp for leadership and service.

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 leadership development to the HPBC.

3 Missional Development Initiatives

Your church can empower and mobilize more members for gospel engagement locally and globally through missional development initiatives 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 a new mission field. These initiatives will expand your missional reach to engage fresh mission efforts, whether at home or across the globe.

For pastors that have never led teams from their church or for ministers that lack engagement in the field for many years, these opportunities bring training, practical assistance, and financial support to bring a new missional vision into reach. As many small churches cannot coordinate an entire team, these initiatives also allow church members from different congregations to collaborate on a mission trip. Under the leadership of your HPBC staff team, mission teams from multiple churches can begin to develop a new plan through training, mobilization, and evaluation with others. Every church can be on mission through our cooperative work in the HPBC.

These plans allow for continued development to strengthen and start HPBC-supported churches and missions, locally and globally, through the praying, giving, and sending of Hawaii Pacific Baptists.

In coordination with the SBC seminaries, the North American Mission Board, and the International Mission Board, God is preparing Hawaii Pacific Baptists to lead the way forward in reaching the world for Christ, beginning in our regions. Prayerfully consider how your church can benefit from these initiatives in developing leaders for God's Kingdom work ahead.

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.

We have prepared a page on our website with overviews, applications, and evaluation forms for several unique opportunities in each initiative area. Scan the QR code or visit hpbaptist.net/initiatives.



HPBC/IMB to Offer 3-Day "8 Steps of the Missions Continuum" Training ■ *February 24-26, 2022*

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

On February 24-26, 2022, HPBC will host the International Mission Board's Drs. Hal Cunnyingham and Amanda Dimperio to offer a three-day training called Globalization and Missions Strategy. The training will take place on Oahu at the Ala Moana Hotel conference rooms.

In this training, 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, and utilize underlying principles of the "8 Steps of the Missions Continuum" to establish a missions sending strategy for a sending church or agency.

These are some of the topics Hal and Amanda will cover in the 3-days of training:

- 6 Components of the Missionary Task
- 8 Steps of the Missions Continuum
- 10 Questions to Aid in Understanding a New Culture
- Biblical Foundations for Missions
- 6 Critical Questions about Missions Involvement for the Local Church
- The Steps to Becoming a Missions-Sending Church
- Missionary Care
- 5 Components of Missionary Assessment: Sending the Right People to the Right Place at the Right Time
- 4 Models for Missionary/Church/Agency/Field Relationships
- Covenant Agreements

Scholarships will be available for neighbor island HPBC pastors for travel and lodging. For more information, contact Dr. Craig Webb at craig@hpbaptist.net.

Tentative schedule:

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

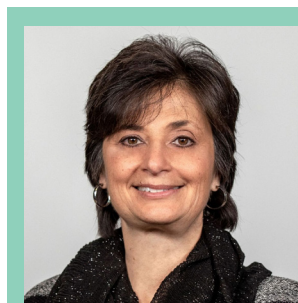
Friday, February 25, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 26, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to noon



Dr. Hal Cunnyingham

Dr. Cunnyingham has served with the IMB for 37 years and is responsible for the IMB Diaspora Strategies, Global Research, and Globalization. He and his wife, Cynthia, served two years in Brazil as missionaries, followed by 23 years in East Asia. He now serves as Associate Vice President for Global Engagement at the International Mission Board.



Dr. Amanda L. Dimperio

Dr. Dimperio has served with the IMB for a total of 20 years as a church planter and media missionary in Mexico, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia. Amanda helped new missionaries navigate the IMB application process as Assessment and Deployment Consultant for five years and now serves in the role of Director of Globalization/Global Engagement at the International Mission Board.

