

A close-up photograph of a Bird of Paradise flower (Strelitzia reginae) with vibrant orange and blue petals against a blurred green background.

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, moving ahead through the first few months of 2022.



Dr. Chris Martin

Executive Director/Treasurer



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About the Cover

The Bird of Paradise, an exotic, tropical flower



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hpbaptist.net/pacificconnector

Every nation, community, and church across the globe experiences the effects of the pandemic. No people or culture seems protected from its impact, with many losing hope of a life apart from the pandemic's reach. Life seems to have dealt a hope-defeating blow for most people who sought their purpose in health, economics, political power, or prestige.

Many pastors and leaders are concerned about moving ahead during these days, weeks, and months of uncertainty and difficulty. Previous ideas, strategies, and designs vanished without alternate plans over the past two years. As a result, the current ministry environment seems filled with more questions than answers. But, God still has a plan.

If you are fatigued from battling the challenges, you are not alone. But remember that God knows what you are facing, and he has provided many avenues of support for you. In addition to the Holy Spirit's power and presence, your connection with the HPBC opens an unbelievable number of resources for you and your ministry.

Your HPBC staff team is developing several restructured support areas for pastors and churches. Pastor Care resources are currently preparing for release in the coming weeks to provide rest for wearied leaders while helping to reset ministry goals for 2022. In addition, Church Support plans are rolling out soon, encouraging ministry engagement for membership and ministry outreach efforts across our

convention. Nearly every area of HPBC engagement will experience an updated approach as we seek to assist you.

Your Cooperative Program giving coupled with financial support from the North American Mission Board will fuel these opportunities. As the HPBC Executive Board reconstructed HPBC Cooperative Program gifts for the three ministry initiatives areas, this support will supplement those plans while targeting emotional and relational needs.

Overall, each Hawaii Pacific Baptist church can benefit from a more wholesome ministry platform stretching from leadership health to ministry advancement. God has incredible plans for us – let's embrace these days of opportunity and fulfill God's work while our world is reeling without hope.

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.

Aloha ke Akua,

Chris Martin, Ph.D.
Executive Director/Treasurer
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Thank you, Hawaii Pacific Baptists for your *generous giving!*

Hawaii Pacific Baptists Give **\$1,652,711** in 2021

**Exceeds
2020 Giving by
4%**

According to Mike Martin, HPBC Assistant Executive Director for Business and Finance, Hawaii Pacific Baptists gave nearly 4% more in 2021 through Cooperative Program and special offerings than in 2020. The 2021 total was \$1,652,711, \$58,430 more than in 2020. In 2021, Hawaii Baptist gave:

\$1,142,122

Cooperative Program



**COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM**

Nearly 4% over 2020 giving

sbc.net/cp

\$132,846

Sue Nishikawa Offering



**Sue Nishikawa
Offering**
for Hawaii Pacific Missions

Exceeding the \$130,000 goal, and
surpassing 2020 gifts by 10%

hpbaptist.net/suenishikawa

\$130,178

Annie Armstrong Offering

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Given for North American Missions in
2021, 28% more than 2020

anniearmstrong.com

\$231,536

Lottie Moon Offering

imb

**LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®**

Given for International Missions in
2021, about 3% less than in 2020. In
January 2021 alone, our churches gave
the highest amount towards the Lottie
Moon Offering on record.

imb.org/lottiemoon



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ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

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AnnieArmstrong.com

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>> North American
Mission Board

**100% of your gifts support
North American missionaries**

Pastors & Wives Encouraged, Theological Education Promoted

Coordinated by HPBC, SWBTS, and HBA

*SWBTS president, Adam Greenway
with Jerrell and Clara Tate at HBA*





Ed Upton speaks to Maui pastors and wives.

In early December 2021, leadership from The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) in Fort Worth, Texas gathered with pastors and wives in Nu'uuanu on Oahu, Kihei on Maui, and Puna and Kona on the Big Island.

On Saturday, December 11, 2021, Hawaii Baptist Academy President Ron Shiira welcomed the president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Adam Greenway, and several of the SWBTS administration, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) Executive Director/Treasurer, Chris Martin and several of the HPBC staff, as well as multiple pastors and their wives from Oahu.

The Hawaii Baptist Academy music arts ministry provided a wonderful presentation of music, singing, hula, and orchestra. Hawaii Pacific Baptist Pastors and Wives enjoyed a wonderful meal in the Hawaii Baptist Academy Elementary Campus Pavilion after the program.

On Monday, December 13, Maui County pastors and wives were treated to Christmas breakfast and fellowship. Southwestern Seminary's Ed Upton and George

Schroeder shared about opportunities for continuing education and their commitment to helping Hawaii Pacific Baptists pursue their theological education.

On Monday morning, December 13, Alan Tamashiro and Puna Baptist Church along with HPBC's Robert Miller, hosted Professor Michael Wilder of SWBTS and several Hilo-side pastors and wives for a breakfast and time of fellowship.

On Monday evening, December 13, Big Island pastors and wives gathered at Kona Baptist where pastor Brian and Amanda Frable hosted a Christmas dinner sponsored by SWBTS.

These events were sponsored by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as a part of a partnership with the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention to promote continuing theological education.

To learn more about opportunities to continue your theological education with Southwestern Seminary or any of our six Southern Baptist Seminaries, contact HPBC's Craig Webb at craig@hpbaptist.net.



HBA Soldiers of Light and Orchestra



Transitional Pastor Serves Five Hawaii Congregations in Eight Years

By Robert Miller, HPBC Director of Regional Ministries

When Blaine & Peggy Fye moved to Oahu in 2013 they had no idea what God had in store for them. Their plan was to live in their daughter's apartment and retire comfortably in the Aloha State. Today, eight and a half years later, Pastor Blaine has faithfully served 5 Oahu congregations (Wai'alae, Palisades, University Avenue, Wai'anae, Kalihi) as transitional pastor.

A church without a lead pastor often goes through a season of uncertainty. Churches are often left to work through miscommunication, conflict, and some cases hurt without a leader. With the help of a trained transitional pastor, the transition is usually smoother. The calling of a transitional pastor is to love and lead a church through the interim period and prepare them for their next pastor.

According to Pastor Blaine, churches in transition need a pastor to love them, to help them celebrate their history, guide them in understanding their needs, and prepare them for a healthier future. Pastor Blaine was able to draw on his 50 years of ministry experience to assist churches in transition. As a transitional pastor, he also challenged members to grow during the interim period and not put their spiritual growth on pause until the new pastor arrives.

As Pastor Blaine and Peggy relocate to Sun Lakes, Arizona for their next phase of ministry, they will be missed by many they served. If your congregation desires a transitional pastor, or if you are a pastor interested in learning more about transitional ministry training, contact Dr. Craig Webb at craig@hpbaptist.net.

Crim's Retire from IBC Manila after Eleven Years as Pastor

On February 6, David and Cindy Crim announced to the church family at International Baptist Church (IBC) Manila their plans to retire from the mission field. The Crims have served in the Philippines and IBC Manila for more than 11 years: from 2011-2012 as interim pastor, and from 2013 to the present as senior pastor.

The Crims are also team associates with the International Mission Board, serving as the city strategists for Metro Manila. David and Cindy will complete their service on March 15, 2022, and will set up a temporary residence in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where they will provide care for Cindy's mother.



Celebrating the Life **of Pastor and Missionary George Watanabe**

Hawaii pastor and missionary, George Watanabe, 84, died on January 22, 2022. He was pastor of Academy Baptist Church (now Central Baptist) from 1964 to 1968 while he also taught at Hawaii Baptist Academy part-time.

George and his wife, Amy, were IMB missionaries in Japan for 32 years before retiring in 2000. Executive Secretary of the Japan Baptist Convention, Yoshinao Nakada, said, "The work of George Sensei had a splendid impact here in Japan, especially in Kobe, Nagoya, and the Kaminokura mission. We express our sincere thanks for their work."

George also served in several Hawaii churches as an interim pastor and as the Japanese language pastor at Nu'uaniu Baptist Church. A memorial service was held at Nu'uaniu Baptist on January 27, 2022 and George was buried at the Valley of the Temples.



Every One Needs a Will — You Can Make One *free*

70% of American adults do not have a will. If they were to die or become incapacitated, it would be up to the government or others to determine how their dependents will be cared for and how their estate will be used.

Anyone who has children or others depending on them needs a will. Anyone who has property, savings (including retirement), and/or investments needs a will.

The Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, Hawaii Baptist Academy, and the Hawaii Baptist Foundation have made it possible for you to write a legally binding will at no cost to you by visiting hawaiiibaptistfoundation.com/freewill.

A will can help you develop a plan that answers the following questions:

- Who will take care of your children, elderly parents, or special needs family members?
- How will your outstanding debts be paid?
- Who will control how your house, car, savings, and investments will be used?

- Do you want part of your estate to go to your church or other ministries?

To get started, visit hawaiiibaptistfoundation.com/freewill. In addition to the free will, health care directives and durable financial powers of attorney are also available. You can also change your will in the future as your situation changes.

There are many other ways to plan for the care of your loved ones and the usage of your estate. To find out more, please contact the Hawaii Baptist Foundation at matt@hawaiiibaptistfoundation.com or (808) 973-1111.

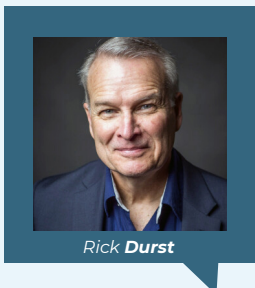


Alec & Belle Waterhouse
LECTURE SERIES

Upcoming Events

The God Who Is Trinity March 25-26, 2022

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important Christian beliefs and one of the most neglected. Join us as Rick Durst from Gateway Seminary and Matt Sanders of Wai'alae Baptist Church teach us how a greater understanding of the Trinity affects everything that we believe and do as Christians.



The conference will be held in person at Wai'alae Baptist Church and will also be available online. There is no charge to attend.

waialaebaptist.org/2022trinity



Men's Conference April 29-30, 2022

Through a ministry to married couples that he and his wife, Tondra, lead, George Gregory has spent much of his life helping men understand their biblical roles as fathers, husbands, and members of the church. George is a former pastor and current chaplain of the Los Angeles Chargers.

The conference will be held at Wai'alae Baptist Church. Men and boys of all ages are welcome. There is no charge to attend.

waialaebaptist.org/2022mens

Find Ways to *Reconnect* with Missions in 2022

1. Consider the seven pathways to serve in missions



For those who feel called to serve overseas, there are seven pathways for adults 21 and over who want to go longer than a couple of months, many short-term trip opportunities, and a host of student pathways.



imb.org/2022/01/04/called-to-go-imb-send

2. Explore volunteer missions opportunities in the Asia Pacific Rim

From the sweeping grasslands of Mongolia to the islands of Indonesia, from the bustling streets of Tokyo to the rice fields of Myanmar, the Asia-Pacific Rim is vibrant and diverse. It's also home to over 2 billion people, many of whom are living in spiritual darkness. To access or download the Asian Pacific Rim Peoples Volunteer Trips Booklet with over 25 trips to choose from, visit:

imb.org/asia-pacific-rim/volunteer-trips or
e-mail Connect2APAC@imb.org



3. Join a Virtual Missions Prayer Event



PRAYER
zoomrooms
March 8, 2022



7 PM Eastern Time / Taiwan
10 PM Eastern Time / Thailand

The Asia Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity is hosting two virtual events on March 8, 2022, for Taiwan and Thailand.

Information and Preregistration at:
imb.org/apac/events



something to
Celebrate

Guam Christian Life Fellowship (GCLF) Outreach to H2 Workers Bears Fruit

By Pancho Madrid, GCLF Pastor

On March 27, 2021 while at a dinner for my son's birthday, I received a phone call from someone who said that he was looking for a church. At first, I thought it was a prank call from one of the church leaders, but I soon realized it wasn't. Junrie had just completed a 14-day quarantine as he had come to Guam from the Philippines as an H2 worker. We picked him up the next day to bring him to church but had no idea how God was at work.

H2 workers are overseas contract workers with the type of US Visa where they are not allowed to bring family members. From the start, it was evident that Junrie was a Christian who desired to make the gospel known and invite his fellow H2 workers to church. That was our prayer from the start. A few months later, he brought another believer to church, and another one a couple of months later, then another after that. The first group of men was all believers.

On November 28, 2021, the GCLF Men's Ministry named "The Talayerus" ("talaya" is the Chamorro word for a fishing net) had a fishing fellowship and these men invited a non-Christian co-worker to come along. That person was led to faith in Christ that morning. That same evening, three other men from the same construction company visited our church and two of them were led to faith in Christ. The Sunday following, three more men, then another and another.

On January 1, 2022, six men out of the eleven professions of faith declared their faith in believer's



Spotlight on **Guam**

baptism (see photo below). New Year's Day has always been one of the most anticipated family gatherings since the inception of GCLF. New H2 workers joined us for that event and three more men came to Christ on the first Sunday service of 2022.

The church leadership sensed what the Lord is doing and after much prayer and consideration felt the need to start a "bus ministry" in order to provide transportation to the H2 workers. God worked providentially in the hearts of many people, including the auto-dealership owner on the island, and a partnership with Hawaii Pacific Baptists and GCLF was able to purchase a 15-passenger van.

Our Christmas Eve Service with the Pinoy-style fiesta celebration was planned around welcoming our new brothers and guests with the intention of easing their homesickness away from their families during the Christmas season. It was a great success. The highlight of the evening was that three men accepted the Lord. I'm sure they won't forget that date, we won't.

We started a new believer's class (see photo above) as our way to do the follow-up and usher the "babies" to a deeper understanding of the decision they made, grow into a deeper relationship with our Father, and present the many ways they could serve in the church.

Thank you for praying for us as we continue to serve God and share His love with others.



Calvary International Baptist (CIBC) in Bangkok, Thailand Christmas Stocking Outreach

According to Carrie Chappell, CIBC Bangkok has been partnering with Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) groups since 2008 to make Christmas stockings for outreaches in Bangkok, Thailand, and other areas in Southeast Asia. These stockings contain various goodies, the Christmas story, and the gospel message. Stockings are distributed to friends, co-workers, family, neighbors, and at Christmas parties hosted by CIBC and International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries at churches, villages, and schools. Many people have come to faith through this ministry and one church has been started in South Thailand. Martin Chappell is the pastor of Calvary International Baptist.



International Baptist Church of Manila Commissioned IMB Missionary

International Baptist Church of Manila (IBCM) held a missionary sending celebration on February 27. They commissioned Eli Go to serve on an International Mission Board (IMB) team in South Asia. She will be the first person sent via the partnership between the IMB and One Sending Body (a Filipino Baptist missions sending agency).



52 Believers Baptized in 2021

New believers are baptized by Pastor Carlos Sabado, pastor of International Baptist Church Manila's church plant in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur. In spite of the pandemic, IBC Manila and her church planters baptized 52 new believers in 2021.



HBA – Christmas TV Special





HBA Broadcasts “A Thrill of Hope”

By Annie Tasaka

Hawaii Baptist Academy's first Christmas TV Special, *A Thrill of Hope*, was televised and shared with the HBA community and our greater community throughout the month of December. Due to Covid restrictions, annual in-person end-of-the-year student performances took the form of a TV special airing on news stations and streaming online. HBA's High School Wind Ensemble, the Soldiers of Light choir, Drama Department, and Halau Hula 'O Ka Lama 'Ula were showcased on the half-hour special.

The concert's theme was drawn from the carol, “O Holy Night.” The carol's celebratory lyrics inspired HBA's theme “A Thrill of Hope.” The thrill of our Savior's long-awaited coming was foretold to Adam and Eve and prophesied to be called “Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, the everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6).

“Through our service projects, we hope that we can demonstrate Jesus's love in a tangible way,” said HBA President Ron Shiira. “We want our students to know that it is the music of our hearts that truly demonstrates and helps share God's love and hope.”

The Soldiers of Light prepared for the concert all semester. Freshman Randie

Lueder said, “We have prepared by going over the songs over and over again to perfect them. Mr. Yo (Todd Yokotake '84, Choir Director) split us up into sections based on our vocal part, so we could tighten sound and harmonies. We also practiced taking off our masks and singing in groups while the rest of the choir critiqued our stage deportment. We also watched other virtual performances and took note of what they did well and what didn't feel or look right. Critiquing each other and other companies helped us learn what we should and shouldn't do. It's been really exciting putting everything together and I believe our hard work paid off.”

For the students, performing for a video recording is a different experience than live performances. Senior Kira Hasuiki said, “It's not just technical-wise, but also mental. Unlike in a live performance, we didn't have the same adrenaline rush recording in a studio with a mic as we would on stage. Instead of just singing in front of a crowd in one go, we recorded our voices separately and then filmed ourselves lip-syncing to a track while trying to make it look as real as it would in a live performance. In addition, we filmed ourselves while trying to make it look ten times more

interesting since people tend to lose focus faster watching pre-recorded television rather than a live concert.”

The atmosphere of a live concert does not translate into the viewer's home well, transferring the burden of captivating the audience onto the performers. “That's why we really had to push ourselves to sing even more expressively than we do in live concerts and really try to imbue the emotion into the song we're singing,” Hasuiki adds.

Excerpted from an article that appeared in the Student Newspaper "Eagle Eye". Reprinted with permission.

View the entire broadcast at:
hba.net/arts/christmas-concert-2021





Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

Hawaii Pacific Baptists Urged to Explore New Initiatives

In 2021, the HPBC Executive Board launched new initiatives to strengthen Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches in theological, leadership, and missional development. 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 initiatives will focus HPBC resources on these three areas:

1 Theological Development Initiatives

Scholarships are available for Hawaii Pacific Baptists pursuing theological training from one of our six Southern Baptist seminaries through on-campus, on-island, and online courses. We will also seek to develop engagements with seminaries for alumni and students.

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.

3 Missional Development Initiatives

Scholarships and subsidies, provided through your Cooperative Program gifts, will 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.

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.

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

