



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

A traditional fale on Manono Island, Samoa



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Thank you for taking the time to browse the pages of the Pacific Connector as you stay up to date on God's work through Hawaii Pacific Baptists. I pray His blessings to pour through your ministries as we faithfully follow Christ together.

Together. This word implies that a group engages in a combined effort centered around a unified belief or set of actions. In obedience to Matthew 28:19-20, we, Hawaii Pacific Baptists, commit to reaching our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ and making His disciples from all nations. We seek this mission together.

As you continue through this edition, be encouraged that God is working through us together in many remarkable ways. Whether on the mission, preparing for the mission, or briefly resting during the mission, we enjoy the unity and partnership of serving Christ as a robust network of churches pursuing the Great Commission together. This edition's pages reveal some of these actions.

These stories and updates only reflect a portion of God's work through us. I encourage you to contact us with more reports to share in upcoming editions, knowing that your testimonies of God's

work spur others to action. As we share the accounts of His bountiful mission through us and around us, we participate in glorifying and exalting the name of Jesus Christ to honor our Heavenly Father.

Together we make Christ's disciples. Together we serve Christ's church. Together we take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Together we glorify the Father. Together we desire to be servant leaders in impacting God's Kingdom throughout the Pacific and Asia.

Together is a fitting word. I am grateful for your commitment to this word in our work for the gospel.

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

Mahalo,

Chris Martin, Ph.D.
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HPBC launched new initiatives in 2022



Hawaii Pacific Pastors & Wives Gather for Encouragement, Rest, and Fellowship

Dinner at Prince Waikiki

Left: Matt and Cheryl Sanders, Wai'alaie Baptist, Honolulu, Oahu

Center: Daniel and Karen Tomita, Kinoole Baptist, Hilo, Hawaii Island

Right: David and Nancy Whitehead, Connections Church, Kapolei, Oahu

In February 2022, Executive Director/Treasurer, Chris Martin, challenged the HPBC staff team to find a way to gather pastors and wives for a retreat and to do it as soon as possible. After two years of this pandemic, Chris and the HPBC staff team recognized that Hawaii Pacific pastors and wives needed refreshment and renewal.

With this in mind, along with generous funding from the North American Mission Board (NAMB), a team consisting of Dawn Akutagawa,

Robert Miller, Diana Ventura, Craig Webb, and Gay Williams planned, promoted, and pulled off a two-night, three-day, all expenses paid retreat at the Prince Waikiki on Oahu just for pastors and their wives May 23-25, 2022. Besides the primary funding from NAMB, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary sponsored a dinner on Tuesday night.

In a follow-up survey when asked "What did you like about the pastors/wives retreat?" one person wrote, "First, the relaxing time spent with

my wife, without having a goal or 'homework.' Second, the opportunity to have unstructured conversations with the pastors and their wives, especially those we haven't seen in a while. Third, the absolutely amazing hotel!" Another responded, "Thank you very much for providing a time of refreshment that I didn't realize I needed. God used the time to help restore my heart and reset my focus. Thank you for your generosity, dear donors, and to the HPBC staff. Thank you for your gift of time, organization, and love!"

*Stephen and Diana Ventura,
Kauai House Church
Network, Kalaheo, Kauai*

*Daniel and Ivy Capinpin,
Word of Truth, Ewa Beach, Oahu*

*Jeff and Debi Bucholz,
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship,
Kona, Hawaii Island*





*Jay and Melissa Haynes,
Waiehu Community Church, Maui*



*Joshua and Michelle Morris,
Hamakua Baptist, Papaaloa,
Hawaii Island*



*Arjay and Tara Gruspe, Pawa'a
Community Church, Manoa, Oahu*



*Amel and Vangie Dominguez,
First Baptist Haleiwa, Oahu*



*Hanale and Zhantel Lindo,
Kaunakakai Baptist, Molokai Island*



*Daniel and Darlene Ronquillo, Maui-
Philippine Baptist, Kahului, Maui*



*Roberto and Marlene Villatoro,
Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer, Kona,
Hawaii Island*



*Marino and Josie Ramones,
Pahala Baptist, Hawaii Island*



*Shane Okimoto, Waiakea
Baptist Bible Church,
Hilo, Hawaii Island;
current HPBC President*

first time IN 3 YEARS

Hawaii Pacific Baptists to Meet In-Person

The HPBC Arrangements Committee would like to invite Hawaii Pacific Baptist messengers and guests to join them at the Prince Waikiki Pi'inaio Ballroom on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 3-4, 2022.

The HPBC Annual Meeting is not only our chance to affirm new member churches, approve the operating budget, and select new officers... it's family time. The annual meeting is for biblical fellowship, mutual encouragement, ministry celebration, and worship.

The HPBC Arrangements Committee is still finalizing details, but our basic schedule for the week will include the following elements:

Wednesday evening, November 2: A Missions Conference featuring guests from the International Mission Board (IMB) who will provide training and an update on the state of global missions. Location: TBA

Thursday morning, November 3: New Workers Orientation for new HPBC pastors and staff members. Location: HPBC Offices

Thursday evening, November 3: HPBC Annual Meeting will take in the Prince Waikiki Pi'inaio Ballroom

Friday, all day, November 4: Continuation of HPBC Annual Meeting in the Prince Waikiki Pi'inaio Ballroom

2022
ANNUAL
MEETING
NOVEMBER
3-4
THURSDAY
& FRIDAY

You're Invited!

Register now at:
hpbaptist.net/event/groups-essentials
or scan this QR code:



Small Groups Essentials

with Ken Braddy

At Olivet Baptist Church on Oahu

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention invites you to participate in a 2-day "Small Groups/Sunday School Essentials" training featuring Ken Braddy. Ken is the Director of Sunday School at Lifeway Christian Resources.

This training is designed for the pastor, associate pastor, and small groups/Sunday school director. We would want one to two persons from each Hawaii Pacific Baptist church to attend.

07
OCT

Friday, 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Session 1: Discovering a Biblical Basis for Groups
- Session 2: Defining the Purpose of Small Groups
- Session 3: Learning the 8 Signposts of Discipleship
- Session 4: Mapping a Process for Making Disciples

08
OCT

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Session 5: Discovering Arthur Flake's Formula for Growing the Church
- Session 6: Identifying Best Practices for Enlisting Workers
- Session 7: Training your Workers
- Session 8: Developing your Curriculum Strategy
- Session 9: Starting New Groups
- Session 10: Creating my Next Steps Plan

Cost: There is no cost for Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors, church staff, and small groups/Sunday school directors to attend. Assistance is available for those attending from neighbor islands. Contact Craig Webb at craig@hpbaptist.net for information.

something to Celebrate

Elise Tafao Launches New Church Focused on Samoan Community

After decades of ministry in American Samoa, Elise and Lucy Tafao moved to Oahu to retire. Instead of retiring, Pastor Elise is planting a church, Manuia Bible Fellowship. Aina Haina Baptist Church (Pastor Fola Ioane) serves as the sending church. Pastor Elise also trains future pastors with the hope of planting a network of congregations to reach the Samoan population of Oahu. Manuia Bible Fellowship is supported in part by your church's gifts through the Cooperative Program and through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.



Left to right: Sean Lathrop, HPBC/NAMB Church Planter Catalyst; Chris Martin, HPBC Executive Director/Treasurer; Benson Mauga, pastor of First Samoan Baptist Community Church, Lemon Grove, CA; Colonel Vaioa Leau, Chaplain, US Army; Elise Tafao, pastor of Manuia Bible Fellowship; Fola Ioane, pastor of Aina Haina Baptist

Word of Truth Celebrates 24 Years of Ministry

In May 2022, Word of Truth in Ewa Beach on Oahu Celebrated 24 Years of Ministry. Daniel Capinpin is the pastor.



something to Celebrate

Life Christian Uses Easter Season for Community Food Distribution and Easter Family Outreach Event

Life Christian Church on Oahu held an Easter Outreach, and 13 new families joined them for an Easter egg hunt, games, a message, worship, and a bubble run following the service. They also distributed food and an Easter Gospel tract to 200 families, the weekend before Easter, at their monthly food distribution. Shaw Okawara is the pastor.



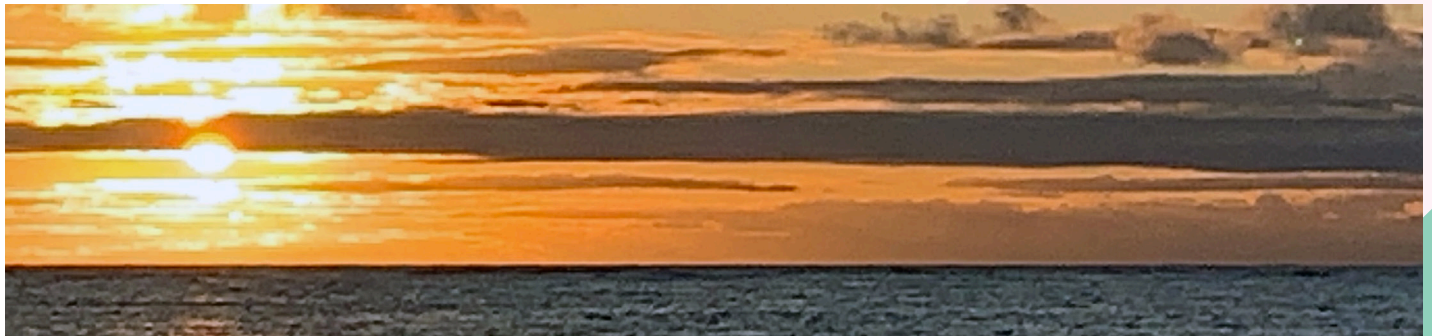
Fellowship Baptist and Faith Christian Join for Easter Luncheon

Fellowship Baptist (Pastor Harlan Nakasone) and Faith Christian (Pastor Bryan Suzui) joined together for an Easter luncheon at Pearl Country Club.



Hāmama Community Church Holds Sunrise Baptism

Pastor Ikaika Higa of Hāmama Community Church, baptized Walaka Yam at sunrise on Sunday, June 5 at Kualoa Regional Park. Mokoli'i island is in the background.



something to Celebrate

Spotlight on People

Matt Collins Called to Pastor First Baptist Wahiawa

First Baptist Church of Wahiawa has called Matt Collins as pastor. Matt, his wife Julie, and two of their three children will be on the field in early July. Matt and Julie served congregations in Kentucky and Tennessee and served as missionaries in East Asia. The family is moving from Steeleville, Illinois.



Shane Tanigawa to Return to Hawaii to Pastor University Avenue Baptist



University Avenue Baptist on Oahu has called Shane Tanigawa as senior pastor beginning August 7. Shane grew up on Oahu, is a graduate of Hawaii Baptist Academy and the University of Hawaii-West Oahu, and has been serving with Gateway Seminary for the past 18 years, primarily as the Director of Student Services.

Shane's wife is Maela and their sons are Preston and Justice.



Iha to Serve GracePoint as Youth Ministry Intern

Preston Iha is serving this summer as a youth ministry intern for the rest of 2022 at GracePoint Church on Oahu. Preston was part of The Gathering's worship team and youth ministry while in high school. Preston was born and raised on O'ahu and graduated in May from Baylor University.

Chris Martin Receives DMin from Gateway Seminary

Chris Martin, HPBC's Executive Director/Treasurer graduated in May 2022 with a Doctor of Ministry Degree in Executive Leadership from Gateway Baptist Theological Seminary in Ontario, California.



43 Big Island Baptists Gather in Waikoloa

Members of the Big Island Baptist Association (BIBA) gathered to eat, fellowship, worship, and pray. Waikoloa Baptist hosted the gathering. Trent Thompson is the senior pastor at Waikoloa.



Baptist Association of Micronesia (BAM) Hosts Nehemiah Teams

At the 2019 HPBC Annual Meeting in Oahu, Guam Christian Life Fellowship (GCLF) pastor, Pancho Madrid, and his wife, Ahyen, met IMB Missionaries, Jess and Wendy Jennings. Jess and Wendy are based in Davao, Philippines, and train, equip, and send college-age students on short-term missions projects. After prayer, Pancho and Ahyen prayed and committed to a plan to partner with them.

On Wednesday, June 8, 2022, after two years of Pandemic delays, the Baptist Association of Micronesia (BAM) welcomed the Nehemiah Team to the island of Guam. Noah, Danelle, Jeremiah, and Micah are assisting the association's ministry opportunities during the summer. Follow @gclf671 on Facebook and Instagram for updates on the Nehemiah Team's work on Guam. To learn more about the Nehemiah Teams, visit nehemiahteam.com.



Oahu Baptists Gather at Olivet for Prayer

Members of churches in the Oahu Baptist Network (OBN) gathered on Thursday, May 5 at Olivet Baptist to eat, worship, and pray together. Part of their prayer time was dedicated to praying for the people of Ukraine. Bong Abagon is OBN moderator.



Pastors Pay Should Follow Best Practices

Many churches could give their pastor a pay raise, and it wouldn't cost the church an extra dime, said O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources. How? Simply by changing the structure of his salary and benefits.

A hypothetical pastor, with annual total compensation of \$65,000, could see his take-home pay rise by almost 20 percent, net of taxes, by applying a salary and benefits approach rather than a package approach.

"These aren't loopholes," Hawkins said. "This is the proper use of tax law, as intended, to provide employee benefits to the pastor and other ministers for tax purposes on a church staff. In this manner, it's following the best practices recommended by most accountants, business managers and others. Essentially, it is what most business owners provide for their employees."

As churches seek to celebrate and honor their pastor during Pastor Appreciation Month, and as they think toward next year's budget, now is a great time to review not just what the church pays but how the church pays it.

In a package approach, the church sets aside an amount of money to pay the pastor and then tasks the pastor with delegating money for housing, insurance, retirement contributions, SECA taxes and more. This distorts what the pastor actually earns to provide for his family.

In a salary and benefits approach, the church pays for any insurance — medical, life and disability — and makes contributions to a retirement plan. Money is set aside

for housing allowance for ministers for tax purposes. A SECA offset is made available to help pastors who must pay both the employee and employer part of Social Security. Finally, the cash salary is calculated.

The church could pay the same total amount in both the package approach and the salary and benefits approach, but the full package amount is taxable for the minister. In contrast, in the compensation plan, only the cash salary is taxable.

"It's important that churches look at their local community to determine an appropriate salary for the pastor," said GuideStone President-elect Hance Dilbeck. "Consider other pastors or other professionals in the community who have similar education, credentials and responsibility in determining an appropriate salary and benefits package."

Restructuring his salary package could be an easy way for a church to show its appreciation for its pastor.

"At GuideStone, we consider it our sacred responsibility and joy to be an advocate for the scores of thousands of God-called pastors we serve," Hawkins said. "It is right; it is biblical. Churches are called to provide for those who labor in the word and doctrine."

To aid churches in their quest to be the best stewards and providers for their pastors, GuideStone provides a free Compensation Planning Guide and other compensation resources at GuideStone.org/CompensationPlanning. Additionally, Hawkins offers a chapter on pastor's pay and benefits in a free e-book,

The Pastor's Primer, available for download at OSHawkins.com/books.

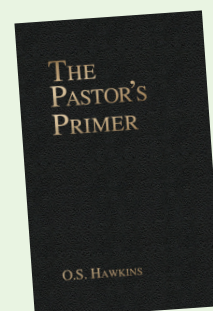
"We want to continue to be a resource for churches as they seek to do right by their pastors in the areas of benefits and compensation," Dilbeck said. "The best practices outlined in GuideStone's Compensation Planning resources will help churches on that path."

Roy Hayhurst is director of denominational and public relations services for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



A free Compensation Planning Guide is available by scanning this QR code or by visiting: Guidestone.org/CompensationPlanning

The Pastor's Primer, by OS Hawkins, is a free e-book available for download by scanning the QR code below or by visiting OSHawkins.com/books



Hawaii Pacific Baptists Prepare with Disaster Relief Training



Hawaii Pacific Baptists are re-engaging with in-person Disaster Relief training in 2022. Besides the training earlier this year at Hawaii Kai Church and Mililani Baptist, Big Island Baptists gathered at Waikoloa Baptist on the Big Island, on May 21. Thank you to John and Gay Williams, HPBC directors of Disaster Relief, who led the training.

In order to respond to disasters with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, volunteers must go through training and certification. To train you must be eighteen years or older and a member of a Southern Baptist Church. You are required to retrain every three years and need to be credentialed which includes a background check. For more information, contact John and Gay at disasterrelief@hpbaptist.net.

Retired Hawaii Pacific Baptist Ministers and Wives Gather

The Pau Hana Ohana, a group of retired ministers and wives, gather regularly via zoom and in person. In May, they gathered at the Waioli Kitchen in Manoa for some great food and fellowship. HPBC's Robert Miller joined them to share a devotion.

If you would like to connect with this group, contact Lizzy McElrath at lizzy.mcelrath@gmail.com

Hilo Collegiate Ministries Uses Star Wars to Gather Students

On May 4, Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) Hilo Director, Anita Bice and the BCM Ministry Team used "May the Fourth" (a play on words from Star Wars "may the force be with you") to play "Live Clue" with a Star Wars theme.



Robert Miller, HPBC Director of Regional Ministries, shares a devotional with the group.



Wives in Ministry Gathers Women on Four Islands



Wives in Ministry gathering on Maui at Valley Isle Fellowship. *Barbara Webb, Melissa Haynes, Debbi Priest, Diana Ventura, Noe Okawara, Emily Komatsu, Dani Komatsu, Brittney Pauley, Christine Nemoto, Annette Tanaka, Wendy Martin, Clarice Kaneshiro, and June Kaneshiro.*

The HPBC Wives in Ministry Team is led by Diana Ventura, director of women's ministries. The team includes Wendy Martin, Noe Okawara, and Barbara Webb.

In the last edition of Pacific Connector, we shared about the first Wives in Ministry gathering held on Kauai at Diana Ventura's home. Since then, they have gathered women in Kona on the Big Island, Wailuku on Maui, and Honolulu on Oahu.

If you are the wife of a pastor or church staff and need support or just want to connect with other wives in ministry, contact Diana Ventura at diana@hpbaptist.net.



Wives in Ministry gathering in Kona on the Big Island. *Diana Ventura, Marleen Villatoro, Wendy Martin, Rebecca Thompson, Amanda Frable, Barbara Webb*



Wives in Ministry gathering on Oahu. Lizzy McElrath, Tara Gruspe, Noe Okawara, and Sheryl Martin.

Wives in Ministry gathering on Oahu. Chiyo Wilson, Suzanne Large, Talicia Mahan, Barbara Webb, Beverly Miller, and Diana Ventura.





HPBC Initiatives Roll Out for Kingdom Impact

by Craig Webb

When the HPBC Executive Board voted in 2021 to launch new initiatives to strengthen Hawaii Pacific Baptist Churches in theological, leadership, and missional development, they anticipated that it would take time for Hawaii Pacific Baptists to embrace and take advantage of them.

The HPBC programs committee members oversee these three initiatives and receive applications and make recommendations to the full executive board. The first applications considered in February came from Calvary International Baptist in Bangkok and Freedom Village Church in Seoul, South Korea. Both churches are Hawaii Pacific Baptist churches and part of the Asia Baptist Network.

For Calvary International Baptist in Bangkok, a "First Year Subsidy" Leadership Development Initiative will help them fund support for the first year of the ministry of John Blackmon who has been called to serve as Associate Pastor. Martin Chappell is the senior pastor.

For Freedom Village Church in Seoul, the "Seminary Scholarship" Theological Development Initiative will provide funding for Levi Miller to pursue a Master of Divinity through Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In May 2022, the HPBC Executive Board approved **"Summer Appointment" Leadership Development** Initiative funding to help Kona Baptist Church support Josh Galvan as a summer intern. Brian Frable is the senior pastor. They also approved **"Seminary Scholarship" Theological Development** Initiative funding to help Todd Morikawa pursue a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary. Todd is the senior pastor at Kailua Baptist Church.

Your Cooperative Program gifts fund these initiatives supplemented by additional resources through your contributions to the Sue Nishikawa Offering for Hawaii Pacific Missions. Your HPBC Executive Board enthusiastically encourages you to take advantage of these initiatives to raise up leaders, provide theological training, and start new mission ventures.

Visit our website where you will find a page with overviews, applications, and evaluation forms for several unique opportunities in each initiative area.

Scan this QR code or visit:
hpbaptist.net/initiatives

