

# pacific CONNECTOR



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## Building the Kingdom



Dr. Chris Martin Executive Director/Treasurer



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**About the Cover** New Year's fireworks over Honolulu



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#### The end of 2022 is here, and we begin a new year in Christ.

Despite the challenges of 2022, God was faithful. We could claim that He provided for us through the pandemic, the elections, and amid an economic recession. But, if our focus is on our current situations, we miss the power of our faith.

Hidden in Paul's dialogue to the Corinthian church on single life, he states, "For this world in its current form is passing away" (1 Cor. 7:31b). Paul's words speak candidly to the urgency of our days in God's Kingdom plans. We cannot allow the circumstances of the present world to draw us away from the power of living for Christ in all that

In the broader address of Paul's words, W. Harold Mare states.

"By 'those who have wives should live as if they had none' (v.29) he means, 'Live for the Lord in marriage.' If life brings sadness, live beyond it, do not be bound by it. If things are joyous, do not be engrossed in them. Those who are blessed with material possessions are not to cling to them, as though they were to have them always. The reason for this challenge is that the material things (this is the meaning of schema, v.31, "the present form") of this world are changing and disappearing."

Be reminded that God has incredible designs for our days that this world cannot alter. We must not allow the present world to keep our attention from proclaiming His glory or pursuing His will. Things in our world will pass away while God's purposes remain eternal. Let's embrace the opportunities to exalt Christ, strengthen His Church, share the gospel message, and press back against the darkness.

Your participation in the combined efforts of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention is one of these opportunities. We value our cooperative work and the spirit of being united in the cross of Jesus Christ. Draw closer together as we know that the world's influences will constantly challenge God's Kingdom — but together, we can make a Kingdom impact

Blessings to you as you pursue Christ. I know God has excellent plans for the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.

As always, your HPBC staff team is ready to provide for you in any way we can to advance and support your ministry. If we can serve you, call us at 808-946-9581 or email me at chris@hpbaptist.net.

Mahalo,

Chris Martin

Executive Director/Treasurer Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

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#### Serving in the Aftermath of Hurricane Ian

A team of volunteers from HPBC Disaster Relief deployed to serve those impacted by Hurricane Ian.





52 Sundays
Resources create Resources created praver and giving to missionaries and ministries.



**Every Island &** 

## **Country Represented**

Read about the experiences of messengers from around Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia.

## Something to Celebrate

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Messengers and guests gathered from around the globe.

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Teams served. trained, and made disciples in several locations during the fall of 2022.

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gatherings took place across the islands.

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Lives are transformed by the gospel because of your giving.

# Hawaii Pacific Baptists Gather for the First Time in Three Years

The HPBC Annual meeting was held in the Pi'inao Ballroom at the Prince Waikiki Hotel on Oahu Thursday and Friday, November 3-4, 2022. There were 185 messengers and 35 guests from 52 of Hawaii Pacific's 150 churches that included representation from Hawaii's six major islands, American Samoa, Guam, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines.

#### **HPBC Officers Elected**

The following officers were elected to their first one-year term: President John Endriss, pastor of Engage Church in Hilo; First Vice President Sterling Lee, pastor of First Baptist Pearl City; and Second Vice President Brian Frable, pastor of Kona Baptist Church in Kailua-Kona. Grace Poei, of University Avenue Baptist, was re-elected as recording secretary.



Chris Martin, Grace Poei, Brian Frable, Sterling Lee, John Endriss

## A Greeting from Newly Elected HPBC President, John Endriss

"Aloha Hawaii Pacific Baptist ohana. I serve as pastor of Engage Church in Hilo on the Big Island. Yes, that's the city on that island that had lava inching toward it.

I enjoyed seeing many of you in person at our first annual meeting in several years. I want to let you know that I heard you on multiple issues.



There were 185
messengers and
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across the globe.



We have some big items to work on in 2023. Know that I am committed to continuing to listen in the year ahead and work on them with your input. I plan to make some special trips to do more face-to-face listening as 2023 goes on, and I look forward to listening and talking with you more then."

#### **HPBC Actions**

Messengers unanimously approved the HPBC Credentials Committee recommendation to receive Kahului Union Church on Maui and Waikiki Korean Church on Oahu as full members of HPBC.

A motion was brought from the floor and approved to request the Executive Board to explore ways to get all the churches in the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention to give to missions through the Cooperative Program.

Messengers approved a \$1,075,000 budget for 2023, down from \$1.2 million last year. This includes an anticipated \$900,000 from Hawaii Pacific Southern Baptist churches, down \$60,000 from last year. Of the total given, Hawaii Pacific plans to send 20 percent for the fifth year to the SBC Executive Committee for disbursement to SBC entities.

### Presentation Made to Newly Elected HPBC President



Lifeway president Ben Mandrell brought the convention keynote address. Before his message, Ben presented a special edition leather Christian Standard Pastor's Bible to newly elected HPBC president John Endriss.

## APAC Presents Gift to Hawaii Pacific Baptists

Jeff "Wally" Waligora and Tony Wyrick, representing the International Mission Board's Asia Pacific Affinity, presented a framed "Lottie Moon Letter" to Hawaii Pacific Baptists in appreciation for the formal partnership we have enjoyed for the past three years. Chris Martin, HPBC executive director, received the gift on behalf of HPBC.



## Annual Meeting Messengers Participate in Seminary Luncheon

As part of the HPBC Annual Meeting, messengers and guests participated in a luncheon to hear from representatives from several Southern Baptist Seminaries. Thank you to Gateway Seminary (**gs.edu**), New Orleans Seminary (**nobts.edu**), and Midwestern Seminary (**mbts.edu**) for sponsoring the free luncheon. Gateway president Jeff lorg, New Orleans Vice President for Institutional Advancement Mike Wetzel, and Midwestern Adjunct Professor Kenneth Priest, spoke to guests at the luncheon.



The HPBC staff team provides an annual orientation to help new Hawaii Pacific Baptist pastors understand how we work together as Hawaii Pacific Baptists and to allow our staff team to get to know them better.



#### Worship

The Central Baptist Church, Honolulu, worship team under the leadership of Ethan Lum, led our singing on Friday night.



## **Every Island & Country** Represented from HPBC

#### **Every Area Represented** at HPBC Annual Meeting

Six Hawaiian islands, two US territories, and four countries in Asia make up the extent of the HPBC. Every island, territory, and country was represented at the 80th HPBC Annual Meeting. Read about the experiences of messengers from around Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia. Here's what some of the messengers experienced.

#### Ben Howard, Pastor of Yokohama **International Baptist Church**

"For me, the true joy and importance of the annual meeting are in the relationships created and sustained in that gathering. What a great opportunity to meet other pastors and brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches we partner with for the Gospel... but rarely meet in person."



#### Pastor Hanale and Zhantel Lindo, Kaunakakai Baptist, Island of Molokai

"Our first experience there at the conference was that it was a very beautiful venue, a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends, and there was an awesome show of outside resources."



#### Saufo'i Tavete, Pastor of Happy Valley **Baptist. American Samoa**

"The HPBC Annual Meeting was an amazing experience — networking with like-minded kingdom builders at a remarkable event."

#### Saufo'i Presented Gift to Hawaii Pacific Baptists

Saufo'i presented a gift from Happy Valley to Hawaii Pacific Baptists. Chris Martin (HPBC Executive Director) and Craig Webb (HPBC Assistant Executive Director) received the gift on behalf of HPBC.



#### **Pastor Josh and Michelle** Morris, Hamakua Baptist, Hawaii Island

"We both loved the fellowship with everyone and hearing how everyone has made it through Covid. We both enjoyed hearing from and talking with all the missionaries."



"Attending the recently held HPBC Annual meeting is so encouraging. We loved being with our fellow believers. We came to the convention because we are part of the body and left with the hope of Christ for a lost and broken world."





#### **Pastor Martin and Carrie Chappell, Calvary** International Baptist, Bangkok, Thailand

"Carrie and I are always deeply touched by the sense of family at the HPBC and are grateful for the opportunity to be included and enjoy the fellowship and the ministry networkina."



#### Pastor Larry Hale, Ele'ele **Baptist, Island of Kauai**

"It was so great to be back together again. I was so moved by our corporate worship and song experience that I was brought to tears multiple times. With everyone singing together, the powerful words, I could see Jesus looking at me at my fallenness full of His grace and mercy. It was overwhelming."

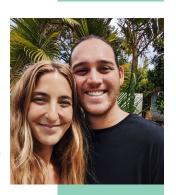
#### **Pastor Chris and** Shawna Komatsu. Lana'i Baptist Church, Island of Lana'i

"The HPBC Annual Meeting was very informative. I was also able to connect with some old friends and make some new ones. The fellowship was sweet and encouraging."

#### Pastor James Lynch, Freedom Village Church, Seoul, South Korea

"This was my first annual meeting. I was so encouraged by the unity, the fellowship, and the common vision for the gospel. I can't wait to be with everyone next year!"









#### Pastor Pancho and Ahyen Madrid, **Guam Christian Life Fellowship**

"Ahyen and I left the conference Hope-filled, Provisioned, Broadened, and Charged-up! H.P.B.C."

#### Roderick Jacinto. **Associate Pastor for** Missions and Outreach. **International Baptist** Church of Manila, **Philippines**

"Being reunited with old friends, getting to know new friends, rubbing elbows with the leaders of the HPBC and allied institutions, and



worshiping together as One Body of Christ made my trip to Honolulu unforgettable!"

#### Pastor James and Julie Shiroma. GracePoint Church, Mililani, Island of Oahu

"I really enjoyed seeing people from all over Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia. It was a great opportunity to encourage as well as be encouraged."



## Missions Trips

#### Two-Thirds World Network Mission Trip to the Philippines Fall 2022

Vince and Jennifer Bagoyo of Valley Isle Fellowship, Maui, and Paula Higuchi, director of the Biblical Counseling Center of Maui and member of Kahului Baptist, Maui, served in the Philippines this fall. Vince and Jennifer reconnected with their Two-Thirds World Network ministry partners and provided discipleship and relationship-building with their supported church plants. Paula provided Biblical Counseling training in several locations. They worked alongside Pastor Roderick Jacinto, associate pastor for missions and outreach, International Baptist Church of Manila (an HPBC church), in their mission.



Paula Higuchi, director of the Biblical Counseling Center of Maui, leads one of the training sessions.



Pastors and wives, and church leaders participated in a pastoral care retreat led by Vince, Jennifer, Paula, and Pastor Roderick.



## Pastors Travel to Japan for Missional *Training* with Missional *Trying*

As soon as the HPBC annual meeting was concluded, pastors were on a plane to Japan for a new type of mission experience. One of the HPBC strategies to mobilize Hawaii Pacific Baptists to serve alongside International Mission Board Missionaries is a mission trip designed with a combination of learning and serving. The November 2022 Mission Lab Pilot was the first attempt to accomplish this.

In cooperation with the International Mission Board, six men (five from Hawaii and one from Tennessee) participated. Brian Smart, HPBC assistant executive director for Advance, led the team. HPBC pastors on the mission trip included John Endriss of Engage Church, Hawaii Island, Brian Frable of Kona Baptist, Hawaii Island, and Larry Hale of Eleele Baptist, Island of Kauai. John Allison, director of International Baptist Ministries, Oahu, participated along with Mike McClanahan, Missions Pastor at First Baptist Church Hendersonville.

#### Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer, Hawaii Island, on Mission in El Salvador



Pastor Roberto Villatoro of Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer (Kailua Kona) shared that they partnered with Iglesia Bautista Peniel in the mission field, bringing VBS to four missions. Three were in the department of Usulutan in the cities of Los Lunas Tecapan and Jucuapa and one in the department of La Union in the city of Santa Rosa de Lima. Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer is an HPBC church that meets at Kona Baptist, Hawaii Island. Kona Baptist, Hamakua Baptist, and Primera Iglesia Bautista de Paramount provided financial support and resources.



According to the IMB's Daniel Rice, "These pastors varied in their ministry experience among the Japanese. This group was a great mix to work with for the first Mission Lab so that they could give us helpful feedback."

#### Mission Lab Format

Rice reported that the Mission Lab format included a morning block of training and an afternoon block of ministry practicum sandwiched by a morning devotional and an evening debrief. Before the trip, participants completed online training using IMB's training portal (imb.org/training). This included general training for short-term teams as well as some Japan-specific content. The morning block was broken up into three sessions: Japanese culture and its relevance to the mission work, IMB's strategy and concepts vital to accomplish the Great Commission in Japan, and practical ministry such as evangelism tools.

Each morning's content was to correlate directly to the afternoon's activity, especially the practical ministry training. The team was able to practice what they learned alongside local IMB Tokyo team members. Rice said the phrase "missional training with missional trying" is a good way to describe what was happening.



#### Local and Global Disciple-Making

For Pastor Larry Hale, this was his first international mission trip. He said, "I was able to get a better grasp of what it means to build partnerships with IMB missionaries on the field. It also helped me get a bigger and better picture of how local and global disciple-making work hand in hand."

Pastor John Endriss reported, "This trip was an exciting opportunity to see the possibilities God is creating for our Hawaii churches to partner with our HPBC churches in Japan and IMB missionaries." Endriss added, "Many of our church members in Hawaii have a good grasp of Japanese culture. Maybe God is preparing us to use some of our knowledge and experience to impact a place where less than 1% know Jesus."



(top) John Allison with IMB missionaries and a local church pastor at an outreach event at Waseda University

(left) International Ministries, Oahu, hosted a joint event with IMB in Tokyo to connect former Hawaii students to IMB missionaries to continue outreach.





## Ventura Leads Session on Multi-Cultural Issues at National Conference

At a recent Lifeway Women's Leadership Forum, HPBC Director of Women's Ministry Diana Ventura led a breakout on "Leading and Living in Multi-cultural Community."

#### Haynes to Pastor Kahului Baptist, Maui

Pastor Jay Haynes, one of the founding pastors of Waiehu Community Church on Maui, has been sent out by his church to become the Lead Pastor at their partner church, Kahului Baptist. Jay is married to Melissa. They have three children. Jay is a graduate of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.



#### Lee Preaches at Alabama Pastors Conference

Sterling Lee, the pastor of First Baptist of Pearl City, preaches during the second session of the Alabama Baptist Pastor's Conference on November 14 at Shades Mountain Baptist Church.





by John Williams, HPBC Disaster Relief Co-Director

September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian struck Southwest Florida as a Category 4 storm. This was the deadliest hurricane to hit Florida since 1935, killing 157 people and causing over \$50 billion in property damage. Florida Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) requested disaster relief teams from around the country.

During the first two weeks of November, John Williams led a team of volunteers from Hawaii Pacific Baptist Disaster Relief on a deployment to Fort Meyers, Florida. They served those impacted by hurricane Ian. The team from HPBC served alongside teams from Arizona, New Mexico, Louisiana, Texas, and Missouri. Disaster relief teams across America came together to support each other in times of need. The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief network comprises of Southern Baptists from all 42 State conventions bringing help, healing, and the hope of Jesus anywhere disaster strikes. During the recovery effort for Hurricane Ian, Southern Baptist prepared 735,985 meals, presented the Gospel 2,352 times, and worked over 248,500 hours!

When Disaster Relief teams deploy, many homeowners are desperate for help. The teams bring not only physical support but the love of Jesus. One homeowner, Flint, from Fort Meyers stated, "We both (he and his wife) believe the destruction made by Hurricane Ian created a mountain of trouble we were just not able to climb this time." The team





from HPBC was able to come alongside and work with the couple, not only making their home safe to move back into but restoring their spirit and showing them a path forward. "I can't explain how much it meant to have this crew come and help me. I am by myself and I could not have done this on my own." said Mary, a homeowner.

Those who have had the privilege to deploy often receive more than they give. "I just walked in my front door, looked at all my belongings, and cried thinking about all the people who lost everything," stated one of the HPBC team members upon returning from Florida. The experience of serving Jesus in such difficult situations is both humbling and transformative.

If you would like to learn more about how you can be involved in ministry, please reach out to John and Gay Williams at Disasterrelief@hpbaptist.net

Disaster Relief Team from HPBC (left to right): Terry Hutchison (Hamakua), Tom Adams (Hamakua), John Williams (Hawaii Kai), Michael Ashman (Olivet), Teresa Makinney (Eleele), Stephanie Funtanilla (Eleele), and Cheryl Sanders (Waialae)



## IMB Missionaries Provide Training Before Annual Meeting

On the Wednesday night before the HPBC Annual Meeting, 115 pastors, church staff, and missions leaders with a heart for cross-cultural missions gathered for a Missions Conference sponsored by HPBC and the International Mission Board (IMB). The four-part interactive missions learning event included an "IMB Missions Panel" with Nate Parrow, Jeff "Wally" Waligora, Phillip Irwin, Tony, and Geriann Wyrick. This was followed by a mission learning activity on the "Eight Steps of the Missions Continuum" led by the IMB's Hal Cunningham. We ended the evening with an update on the global missions field in a post-covid world and guided prayer for the work of global, cross-cultural missions. Olivet Baptist Church hosted the event in their worship center. Jamie McElrath is the pastor of Olivet.





#### **Maui County Baptists Hold Acts 1:8 Dinner**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8, CSB

The newest Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention Church, Kahului Union, hosted an Acts 1:8 Dinner on Saturday, November 5. Kenneth Priest, the transitional pastor at Valley Isle Fellowship, coordinated the event. The Maui County Baptist Disaster Relief team cooked dinner, the Valley Isle Fellowship worship team led in worship, and a team from the Kahului Union Japanese



Congregation performed Hula.

Kahului Union Church Pastor Ken Tanaka and Kenneth Priest delivered the welcome; Wes Higuchi, Maui County Baptist Association (MCBA) moderator, talked about missions in our Jerusalem (Maui County); Craig Webb, HBPC assistant executive director, talked about missions in our "Judea" (Hawaii, the Pacific, and Asia); Bob Bickford, Associate Director of Church Replanting for the North American Mission Board, talked about ministry in our "Samaria" (North America); and Jess Jennings, of the International Mission Board, talked about the "ends of the earth." Eight Maui County Baptist churches participated in the event.





# Hawaii Pacific Baptists, It's Time to Begin Preparing for **VBS 2023**

Did you know that adults who attend VBS have overwhelmingly positive memories of the experience?

Did you know that 69% of American parents will encourage their child to participate in a VBS event at a church they don't attend, if invited by one of their friends?

If you total it up, VBS results in 15 hours of intense discipleship, the gospel being shared daily, and

seven months of ministry in one week!

## This year's Lifeway VBS theme is *Twist and Turns*

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they there it's never "game over."

Join Dawn Akutagawa for an Overview of this Year's Theme on Friday,

January 20, 2023 starting at 2 p.m. (HST) through zoom. This is open to pastors and VBS directors. You must register to receive the zoom information.



While most churches offer VBS during the summer months, Lana'i Baptist held their VBS during fall break, October 3-7, 2022. The church offered a hybrid format with an option to pick up a VBS activity bag and snack or to stay for an hour of activities. Cindy Sagawa was the director. Chris Komatsu is the pastor.



## \$1000 Grants Available to Help HPBC Churches with 2023 VBS

As part of our partnership with churches in Tennessee, Hendersonville Baptist has made a generous donation so that any Hawaii Pacific Baptist Church offering VBS in 2023 can request a \$1000 grant. Contact Dawn Akutagawa at the HPBC office for more info (dawn@hpbaptist.net).



#### Associations Gather in Person in Guam. Oahu. Maui. and Hawaii Island

By Robert Miller, Director of Regional Ministries

#### **OBN Approves Cooperative Agreement with HPBC**

The Oahu Baptist Network (OBN) met on October 27 at FSBC of Pearl Harbor. OBN messengers approved their 2023 Operational Budget and their Cooperative Agreement with HPBC. Pastor Amel Dominquez of FBC Haleiwa brought the Annual Message, and Pastor Bong Abagon will continue to serve as Moderator.





The Maui County Baptist Association (MCBA) met on October 22 at Kahului Union Church (KUC). Messengers approved their 2023 Budget and Calendar. Moderator Wes Higuchi welcomed KUC to MCBA and recognized their Elders. Ken Tanaka, the Lead Pastor of KUC, brought the Annual Message.



#### **BAM Meets, HPBC's Martin Brings Greetings**

The Baptist Association of Micronesia (BAM) held its annual meeting at Calvary Baptist Church on October 22. Mike Martin, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention's Assistant Executive Director of Business and Finance. spoke from Philippians 3:13 and brought greetings from all Hawaii Pacific Baptists, Outgoing BAM Moderator Pastor Pancho Madrid of Guam Christian Life Fellowship (GCLF) encouraged us to focus on "Just One Thing" from Philippians 1:27 - 2:4.





(above) BAM messengers elected a new set of officers for 2023, including moderator: Joe John Mantanona (GCLF); vice-moderator: Pastor Ed Perez of Tamuning Christian Fellowship (TCF); clerk: Edlyn Dalisay (GCLF); and treasurer: Gil Bagiac (TCF).

(left) HPBC's Assistant Executive Director for Business and Finance. Mike Martin. brings greetings to BAM messengers.

## Every mission matters.

A prayer for every missionary.

52 Sundays is a powerful missions resource created to encourage prayer and giving for Cooperative Program missionaries and ministries. Join us each week to learn about, support, and pray for a Cooperative Program missionary or ministry.

> **Download** resources for each story directly to your computer to share with your church. Each week offers a short missionary story.





#### Itamar Elizalde

Bulletin inserts (single and

two-to-a-page versions)

Josias & Débora Laporte

Slide graphics (standard and wide-screen ratios)

Speaker Notes

SUNDAYS

Visit hpbaptist.net/52sundays to get started.

