




Ko'olau Baptist  
Church  
45-633 Keneke St.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

## CONNECT WITH US

 Church Website: [koolauc.org](http://koolauc.org)

 Facebook Page: **Ko'olau Baptist Church & Academy**  
Announcements, upcoming church activities, event photos, and videos.  
**LIKE & SHARE** our page and start posting your pictures, comments,  
check-ins at events and please tag us in your social media

 Instagram: **@KBaYouth808** YOUTH group events & media

 Download the **Church Center App**, to get better connected

**KBC weekly broadcast on OLELO channel 55 Saturday @7:30 p.m. & Monday @ 12:00 p.m.**

### Service Times

**Sunday**  
1st Worship Service 8:15 am  
Connecting Points Small groups 9:30 am  
2nd Worship Service 10:30 am  
Evening Family Worship 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday**  
Adult/Teen Bible Study 6:30 pm  
KBay Kids Clubs(No club 12/16-1/6)6:30 pm  
**All services live and online**

## HAWAII BAPTIST COLLEGE

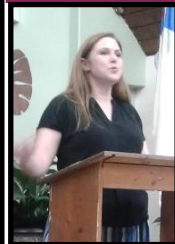
### Hawaii Baptist College is Expanding

The enrollment is increasing each semester. We believe we will add 3 new students in the Spring. In addition, we continue to add teachers who are volunteering their time to teach. We should have a record number of teachers next semester. Now is the time for us to earnestly pray for the greatest need we have, which is dormitory space. We are calling on everyone to make this an earnest prayer concern. We must trust God to raise up a great Bible College. We must guard against unbelief. Remember in olden times how God rebuked Israel for the ungrateful unbelief in face of God's promise to rebuild the Temple? *Zechariah 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.* If you would be interested in signing up for classes, please see Pastor Woodfin for more details.



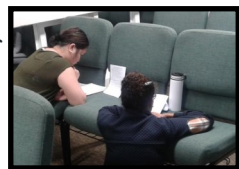
### And Bible Study

3rd Tuesday Night of each Month @7:00 p.m.



Thank you to Mrs. Jessica Vickrey for sharing her heart with us last month. She was a blessing to all. On December 15th we will be studying Proverbs 5.

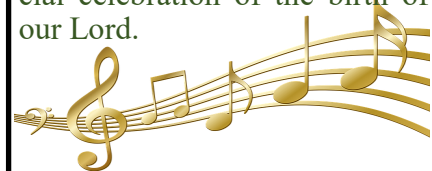
Please join us for a time of prayer and bible study.



## Christmas Singspiration

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 p.m.

We do Christmas big at Ko'olau Baptist Church. The pandemic limits some of our usual activities, but we do have one special event we hope our whole church family will participate in. We have asked all of our special singers to sing several songs for one big **Christmas Singspiration**. Join us for this very special celebration of the birth of our Lord.



Pastor  
Skip Woodfin

### Sometimes the celebration of Christmas doesn't reach our expectations.

In Hawaii, there's no "White Christmas" so we aren't dreaming about that! Perhaps we may be disappointed when we see only a few presents under the tree. This year the pandemic has drastically limited travel, so we may not be able to visit our loved ones at Christmas. This may be the first Christmas that someone special is not home for the Christmas celebration. Family members may be serving far away in military service. Others may be recovering in the hospital, and sadly, some family members may have passed away this year. We recall fond memories of Christmases past. We may have moments of sadness as we realize that past experiences can never be recaptured. Perhaps some people will hear some sad news this Christmas. Any of these things could cause our expectations, of what Christmas should be, to not be reached.

### Let's see how the First Christmas was celebrated in the Bible.

**Mary and Joseph** – They were thankful baby Jesus arrived safe and sound. The time surrounding His arrival had been so hard on all of them. Joseph and Mary faced suspicion, taxation time, traveling so far, and then finding no room at the inn.

**The Angels** – They lit up the Judean hills with praise.

**The Shepherds** – They were blue-collar workers and the first to be invited to the manger. These were not a bunch of cute kids in oversized bathrobes. They were not the romantic figures of 17<sup>th</sup> Century European art. These were 1<sup>st</sup> Century shepherds in Palestine. Ken Hughes says, "The only people who were lower than shepherds, at that particular time in Jewish history, were lepers." G. Campbell Morgan believed these were likely temple shepherds who watched flocks to be used for temple sacrifices.

**The Wise Men** - They arrived months later, with expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the "Baby King." Dennis the Menace was not impressed with these gifts. He commented, "Why didn't they bring something a kid would enjoy?" Actually, those expensive gifts probably helped Joseph and Mary to pay for a quick trip to Egypt and their eventual return to Nazareth.

**Simeon and Anna** – These elderly saints rejoiced to see the Messiah and celebrated Bible promises fulfilled.

**That first celebration was simple and uncomplicated. The focus was on Jesus. This should be the focus in our day.**

**Christmas today is vastly different from that first Christmas morn.**

• **Businesses** celebrate Christmas as the best time of the year for record sales. There are lots of people = lots of sales = lots of money = lots of smiles. Businesses see Christmas as: Chri\$tma\$. 20% of retail sales take place in December alone. In the jewelry business, Christmas sales account for 30%. Our missionary, Bro. Jonathan Midkiff's mother is a manager at a See's Candies store. She says that Christmas and Valentine's Day represent the bulk of their sales for the whole year.

The commercialization of Christmas has produced many "Scrooges."

## Celebrating Christmas Then and Now

Luke 2:1-20

A recent survey found that 45% of our population would rather *skip* Christmas altogether.

• **Politicians** reluctantly celebrate Christmas as just one of many national religious holidays. America is becoming more and more anti-Christian. While there is a move to "Keep Christ in Christmas," I'm not sure we will recognize Christmas in the years to come.

• **Public Schools** must celebrate Christmas very carefully. Instead of a "Christmas program" they have a "Holiday Celebration." The word "holiday" is a contraction of the word "holy day," so even their effort to take Christ out of Christmas cannot be done. Schools have caved in to the pressure of a few activists for fear they will be sued by the American Civil Liberties Union.

• **Families** see Christmas as nothing more than time off from work when the kids and grandkids gather at the parents' house for food and fun. While those are the good times, Christmas is not a great time for others. Many have family or economic problems that make Christmas a time of tension, grief, and friction.

• **Partiers** see Christmas as an excuse to spend a week getting drunk! Some start drinking at an office party on the last working day before Christmas and do not sober up until after the New Year. It is a time for "national anarchy," commented a former alcoholic. Psychologists call it *legitimized deviancy*, an unspoken rule that the normal laws of civility and morality are tossed aside at key points in the national calendar. Being a non-drinker during Christmas is not a big price to pay considering what alcohol will do to destroy families and lives during the holiday season. There is no such thing as drinking without consequences. Drinking is not a merry way to celebrate Christmas.

• **Christians** should see Christmas as it was meant to be seen. Christmas is about a **Person not Presents**. It is about a **Savior not Sales**. It is about **Forgiveness of Sin not about Fancy Food**.

One evening a preacher was speaking to a group of children during the Christmas service. He wanted to clarify for them that Jesus is what Christmas is all about, so he asked them, "If it were not for one person we wouldn't have Christmas at all. Do you know who he is?" A little boy blurted out, "Yeah, Rudolf." It may be true in the world of make believe that Rudolf may have saved one night for Santa so he could get the gifts to the children, but Jesus is the one that came to save the world from their sin for all eternity. There is certainly nothing wrong with giving gifts to people, as an expression of our love to them, but let us never think that **our** gifts are what Christmas is all about.

Please don't misunderstand, we can celebrate with family and exchange gifts and even enjoy wonderful gatherings with food and fellowship. Our concern is that we don't miss the most important gift of Christmas which is found in Luke 2:11, *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."* Our concern should be that we have the ultimate "gift exchange" with our families and friends. Your gift of telling them of Christ and why He came. While some may have heard the slogan, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" most people don't know the reason behind the season as to why Jesus came. *1 Timothy 1:15 states, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,"* Let us spread the glad tidings of Christmas.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is  
Christ the Lord.





### Important Facts About Jesus' Birth

- The name "Jesus" means the Lord Saves.
- "Bethlehem" means house of bread. Jesus is "the Bread of Life"
- The number of wise men is unknown
- Jesus being born in Bethlehem was a fulfillment of a Prophecy found in Micah 5:2
- **Both Joseph AND Mary were descendants of David.** The Gospel of Matthew traces Joseph's lineage through Solomon, while the Gospel of Luke traces Mary's lineage through Nathan (also David and Bathsheba's son). The point? Jesus was both the biological (through Mary) and the legal (through Joseph) "Son of David". He was in the Messianic line through *both parents* as well as heir to the royal lineage of David. This is one reason why King Herod feared the young boy would threaten his dynasty
- **Jesus was born of a virgin.** This was a fulfillment of a prophecy found in Isaiah 7:14. It was a miracle along with the fact that he was conceived of the Holy Spirit. This means Jesus was born without the taint of sin and was God in flesh.
- **Jesus existed in eternity past as God the Son and only was born in the flesh to become our savior.** (Read John 1:1 and John 1:14)
- **Jesus birth is a blessing for everyone.**

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:1



### The Divine Design of Relationships

Sunday School Series  
Teens and Adults  
November and December

Growing Stronger and Closer  
by Appreciating Our Roles  
in Relationships



At Ko'olau Baptist Church, we fund the ministry through the free will gifts of God's people to our general fund. This is how we take care of ministry expenses such as our electric bill, building maintenance, staff salaries, and literature like Sunday school materials and Gospel tracts. Praise God for using God's people to fund the ministry. Our people are generous to give faithfully to the work of the Lord in Kaneohe. *1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

Our members also desire to help in missionary endeavors around the world, and have chosen to follow the example of the believers in II Corinthians 8-9 to give an offering by faith that goes to our mission fund. This is beyond their usual giving to the general fund of the church. In this way, our church is enabled to support missionaries around the world. We call this plan **The Faith Promise Plan**. Please note a few things about the Faith Promise Plan.

#### 1.) It is Scriptural

In the Old Testament, we find that the people gave over and above their tithes. As God blessed them, they gave to God and to His work. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul received gifts from various churches. These gifts were special offerings which were collected and given to the work of the Lord. The words "gift", "bounty", "abundance", and "willingly", are all words which he uses to characterize this giving. In the Book of II Corinthians 9:6-7, we read, *"He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

#### 2.) It is a source of God's provision and blessing.

We give what God provides and God blesses it. After collecting an offering for the Temple, David said this in I Chronicles 29:16, *"O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own."* When we give, we only give back part of what God has provided. Faith Promise giving is "willing" giving. It is never required. The giver must be sensitive to God and open to what He will do through us. One of the great blessings of the Christian life is to allow God to work through us in meeting the

needs of others. Faith Promise provides the opportunity for us to become personally involved in giving to help spread the Gospel to those who are without Jesus Christ. Not only are we obeying God's command, but we are also bringing blessings to ourselves, our families, our church and to others.

#### 3.) It is not a pledge

A pledge is something between you and an organization (in this case, a church) or an individual. It places an obligation upon the giver and could be considered a legal obligation. Faith Promise is simply a promise to God. You are trusting God by faith to enable you to give. This Sunday, we will collect our Faith Promise cards, but you will never be billed for a Faith Promise commitment. In fact we ask that no one sign the cards. If you are unable to pay, you should prayerfully tell it to God and wait for His provision.

#### 4.) It is trusting God for what I do not now have

Romans 1:17 tells us, *"The just shall live by faith,"* which means believers live by faith, and that includes giving. We give by faith. Since it is by faith, it is not giving from funds that we already possess. If you had it in the bank, there would be no need to trust God to supply it. Faith Promise is putting faith to work by asking God to increase your capability to give to the work of missions around the world. Then, as God supplies, your gift expands the work of missions. God may supply weekly (perhaps an unexpected increase in your salary) or periodically (through gifts or bonuses) during the year. God may supply by reducing expenses. It will be different for every individual. You will enjoy the blessing of giving to reach lost souls around the world.

#### 5.) It is a commitment

Faith Promise is making a promise to God. It involves the responsibility that as God gives us the money, we will follow through on our promise to Him.

#### 6.) It should be entered into prayerfully

This is a major spiritual decision in the believer's life. Oswald J. Smith once wrote: "If I had waited until I had it, I never would have given it, because I never would have had it. I gave a Faith Offering and God honored it." Will you step out by faith and give so that souls may be reached for Christ around the world?

Our **Just Keep Going Mission Month** was a huge blessing as we heard from some of our missionaries via video and guest speakers. Please continue to pray for our missionaries as they serve the Lord on our behalf around the world. If you would like to adopt a Missionary for 2021, stop by the Mission tree and take a card.



## THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

As we enter the holiday season, Pastor Woodfin will start a new sermon series entitled, *The Incomparable Christ*. Join us as we study the wonder of Jesus Christ our Lord. No one was ever born like Jesus, lived like Jesus, spoke like Jesus, died like Jesus, came forth from the grave like Jesus, ascended into heaven like Jesus, and is returning like Jesus. No one saves like Jesus. No one heals broken hearts like Jesus. No one fulfills and gives meaning to life like Jesus. No one brings joy and happiness like Jesus. He said, *"learn of me."* This Christmas season and start of a new year will be made extra special by learning more about Jesus and growing more in love with Him.



The **Share the Aloha Food Drive** hosted by our KBA students and delivered by our church ohana was a great success. Over 400 bags were loaded with can goods and non-perishable food items as well as personal care supplies. All were delivered to a low-income housing area in Kaneohe, and to a homeless camp in Waianae, and to a few elderly homes. The bags were received with many thanks and very much appreciated by all.

A big Mahalo Nui Loa to all who contributed goods and gave to make this day a blessing to so many.

Congratulations to the 1st grade class and to the Senior Class for collecting the most items and winning the pizza/ice cream party for their classes.



*Merry Christmas to you and your family.*

Thanks to all the ladies and a few gentlemen who helped add a little Christmas cheer to the property. We had a great time of fellowship and fun.

May your Christmas be filled with precious memories and wonderful blessings.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14



## Upcoming EVENTS

**Dec. 6**  
**Faith Promise**  
**Commitments**

**Dec. 6**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Guest Speaker**  
**Rafael Soto**

**Dec. 13**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas**  
**Singspiration**

**Dec. 15**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Ladies Prayer**  
**& Bible Study**

**Dec. 25**  
*Merry*  
*Christmas*

