

CONNECTIONS

January, 2024

On January 17 through 29, the president of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship of US and Canada, Pastor Howard Li, and I visited Pago Pago, American Samoa and Honolulu, Hawaii . We met up in LAX and flew 6 hours to Honolulu, transited and then another 5 hours to Pago Pago. We arrived in Pago Pago on January 18 and stayed for a week. We were there to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the American Samoa First Chinese Baptist Church and ministering with the churches in American Samoa and then on to Hawaii.

We praise the Lord for His faithfulness through the years and thank Him for His faithful servants in planting the church in Pago Pago and ministering to the believers and leaders who are committed to serving Him.



The church was planted 40 years ago by missionaries of the Chinese Baptist Convention of Taiwan, ministering to fishermen calling port at Pago Pago, as well as Chinese staying on the island, who had established businesses and raising families. As the years went by, more people arrived from Mainland China. At present, there are about a thousand Chinese living on the island, and the total population of the island is under fifty thousand.

As American Samoa is located right in the middle of a vast ocean, for a long period of time the church was without a pastor. In 2012, the church experienced her biggest challenge when a significant number of

church members and leaders left for another denomination over the charismatic issue. The remaining members stayed and served faithfully. With the help and support of the Baptist family near and afar, the church continued to witness and make disciples, raising up many young people for Christ.

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The 40th anniversary celebration on January 20, was attended by about 200 people, testifying to God's love and care as a long time member shared his experience of the early days; a beautiful collage of pictures in slides highlighted her history; the enthusiastic youth choir led the assembly bringing praises to the Lord; local Baptist pastors and I brought words of greetings and encouragement; and, Pastor Howard delivering an evangelistic message.

God moved in our midst that day as people came to receive Christ as Lord and Savior as well as rededicating their lives to Him.

After the celebration, Pastor Howard and I conducted three workshops the following evenings on evangelism, Christian fellowship and leadership. During our ministry there, Pastor Howard and I, ministered alongside Deaconess Jane Feng, and visited many families, and fellowshiped with other pastors. Sister Jane has served faithfully since she arrived on the island 20 years ago and she worked very hard with others in the church to make the 40th celebrations a success. Pastor Howard and I also had the chance to worship and preach at the local Samoan churches.

We left for Hawaii the late evening of January 25. We were so encouraged to see what the Lord had done and is doing on the island. We are glad to have American Samoa First Baptist Church as a member of the Fellowship. I am so thankful for the time we were there, enjoying the beautiful scenery and the warm hospitality of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please pray for the American Samoa First Chinese Baptist Church that our Lord will keep them and provide for them. Please pray for Deaconess Jane who is taking classes at Gateway Seminary. Thank you for your prayers and support for the Fellowship, that this church do not have to feel lonely anymore as they serve faithfully on this island in the South Pacific.



We are thankful for the arrangements made by Pastor Andrew Tong of Hawaii Chinese Baptist Church and Mrs. Anita Choy of Honolulu Chinese Baptist Church, and feel privileged to be able to serve alongside them on our America Samoa and Hawaiian Trip.

We arrived in Honolulu from Pago Pago on Friday, January 26. Pastor Howard Li led a workshop on Discipleship at the Hawaii Chinese Baptist Church, attended by members of both churches. Right after the workshop, Pastor Li flew back to the States for ministry in his home church in New York City while I shared with the participants about the ministry of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship.

On Saturday, January 27, I led a workshop on "Developing an Effective Ministry Team" in the morning at the Hawaii Church, attended by members of the two churches, and met with the pastor search committee of the Honolulu Church in the afternoon.

On Sunday, I preached at the Honolulu Chinese Baptist Church,



and conducted a workshop on "Starting Evangelistic Conversations" there in the afternoon. The participants had a good time practicing the how-to of initiating a conversation that leads to sharing Christ.

I left for Atlanta that night, after enjoying dinner with Pastor and Mrs. Tong and Mrs. Choy, hosted by our dear brother and sister in Christ, Mr. and Mrs. Yip. We give thanks for the two Chinese Baptist churches in Ha-

waii. Please pray for the Honolulu Chinese Baptist Church as they seek the Lord for His servant to shepherd his church.

All in all, We thank the Lord for a very fruitful trip and the privilege to serve Him with the Chinese Baptist Fellowship, seeing His work everywhere, enjoying the friendship of God's people, and His beautiful creation.

**Rev. Jeremy Sin,
Executive Director.
Chinese Baptist Fellowship
of the US and Canada**

