

LANAKILA NEWS

SUNDAY

Ladies Ministry:
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Adult Sunday School:
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Morning Worship:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Children's Service:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Youth/Young Adult:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bible Study:
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study:
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

AWANA:
6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Men's Ministry:
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CONNECT

Website:

www.lanakilabaptist.com

Email:

Secretary@lbswarriors.org

Social Media:

"LanakilaBaptist" on:



If you would like to be a part of our Lanakila Ohana please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and drop it in the offering or at our **Welcome Desk**.



"Joseph dreamed a dream."

(Genesis 37:5)

You might think that if God lays a vision for your life on your heart, we're all set. You might even make plans and work toward the fulfillment of that dream.

Then, the "death of a dream" happens, humanly symbolizing the end of a specific plan or expectation, often leading to a period of waiting, testing, or redirection, where faith and trust in God are crucial, as seen in stories like Joseph's. Joseph dreamed that he would be used of God to save his family, but he was sold into slavery by his brothers who were jealous of him. He would be thrown into prison, being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife. The dream seemed to have died. Joseph's dream reflected God sovereign will, His goodness and perfect timing. We, like Joseph, will face times of brokenness, feeling abandoned, disappointment, or feeling like a failure. This process is preparing us, maturing us, giving us life experience for a huge task ahead, and helping us to focus only on God, trusting Him completely. Joseph's story in Genesis illustrates how a dream can seemingly "die" but ultimately lead to a greater purpose, demonstrating God's ability to work even through difficult circumstances.

Fifty years ago, God placed both my wife and me, at Lanakila Baptist Church. We heard the Gospel, trusted Christ as our Savior, and were baptized. We surrendered my lives to serve God however and wherever He wanted. We both graduated from Lanakila Baptist High School, working as janitors to pay our tuition. Lanakila has a special place in our hearts.

I had long desired to return to Lanakila and serve in some capacity, any capacity, but 43 years passed, and I gave up on ever returning. I let my dream die and was happy to serve the Lord wherever He placed me. Then, 7 years ago someone called and informed me that Lanakila Baptist Church was looking for a pastor. Long story short, Lanakila called me to be their 7th pastor and president of Lanakila Baptist School. It has been my greatest honor and privilege to serve Lanakila these last 7 years. God gave me the desire to return to Lanakila, however, that desire had to die for a while, but ultimate God gave me the desire of my heart (Psalm 37:4).

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God had been preparing me to lead Lanakila through some difficult times, "For such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

I have loved serving at Lanakila, but the time has come for me to retire. I pass the baton to Pastor Leverett, who is already doing a great job. We have seen God do some miraculous things these last few years for which I can only give glory to our faithful Father in heaven. Along the way I have been surrounded by deacons, trustees, administrative staff, and teachers whom God has used to make me look good, especially at this season in my life. James, Choo Choo, and Jennifer have especially aided me and our church as Carol navigated challenges we didn't expect. Mahalo nui loa. We love you and thank God for you all.

Aloha in Christ,

Pastor & Mrs. Esquibel

DID YOU KNOW...

The tribe of Dan was the group of people who descended from Jacob's fifth son, Dan. Jacob had twelve sons who became the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel. Understanding the history of the tribe of Dan's history provides multiple examples of the tendency of people to follow man-made religion over biblical faith in God. This is totally contrary to the Scriptures that teach us, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:20) and "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6).

As the Israelites came into the land of Canaan each tribe was assigned a specific territory to conquer and live in. The tribe of Dan was given an area that was smaller than the other tribes but it was fertile and also had a boundary along the Mediterranean Sea where there was fishing and commerce available to them.

However, the tribe of Dan never fully conquered this area because of their lack of faith in God. That was true about the other tribes as well, which led to a time during the period of Judges where, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25). Judges 18:1–31 tells the story of the people of Dan falling into idolatry. They also did not like the territory that was given to them, so they sent out spies to find a better area. They found a peaceful

group of people who lived in the northern portion of their land. The tribe of Dan took things into their own hands and wiped out the people of that land so they could then move the entire tribe up to a region close to the sources of the Jordan River, just south of present-day Lebanon. There they established their main city and called it Dan.

Later in the history of the Hebrews, the kingdom was divided after the reign of Solomon. The kingdom split into Israel's ten tribes in the north and Judah's two in the south. The people of Dan were in the northern kingdom of Israel. We learn in 1 Kings 12:25–33 that King Jeroboam was afraid that those who lived in his kingdom in the north would still go down to the southern kingdom to worship at Jerusalem, since that was where the temple that God had authorized was located. So Jeroboam built two additional altars for the people of his nation to worship. He established worship in the south at Bethel and in the north at Dan. He built a golden calf at each location and instituted special days and feasts when people would meet. Sadly, this man-made worship at Dan has been one of its lasting legacies.

Today, many people follow various man-made religions and are convinced that all ways lead to God. Unfortunately, these groups follow the ways of the tribe of Dan. Proverbs 16:25 tells us that "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Jesus taught that the way to God was specific when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6). John 3:36 teaches that "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." We can learn from Dan's mistakes by worshiping the true living God of the Bible alone and living for Him by faith. – Pastor James



Happy
Mother's
Day

Her children rise up
and call her blessed

Proverbs 31:28