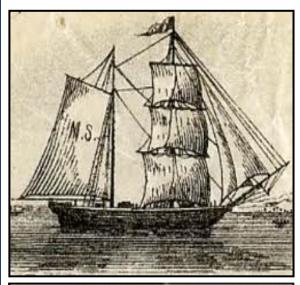
MORNING STAR

A MISSION PUBLICATION OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



OFFICES CLOSED

In response to safety compliances during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ Offices are closed to the public until further notice.

To speak to someone on staff, please call them directly or call the main number (808) 791-5622. Remain safe.

Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands

1848 Nu'uanu Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 (808) 791-5647 wbmhawaii@gmail.com



Editor: Clara D. Priester Presiding: Lorna Bufil



God Knows

When you are tired and discouraged from fruitless efforts.....

God knows you have tried.

When you've cried so long and your heart is in anguish.....

God has counted your tears.

If you feel your life is on hold and time has passed you by.....

God is waiting with you.

When you're lonely and your friends are too busy even for a phone call.....

God is by your side.

When nothing makes sense and you are confused or frustrated.....

God has the answer.

If suddenly your outlook is brighter and you find traces of hope.....

God has whispered to you.

When things are going well and you have much to be thankful for...

God has blessed you.

When something joyful happens and you are filled with awe.....

God has smiled upon you.

When you have a purpose to fulfill and a dream to follow.....

God has opened your eyes and called you by name. Remember that wherever you are or whatever you are facing.....

GOD KNOWS

Author unknown

OUR MISSION

The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands is a group of compassionate Christian women coming from a variety of churches and ethnic groups. Our purpose is:

- * to inspire and empower women to become active Christians, nurturing the Spirit in their individual lives, homes, community and the entire world
- * to educate and encourage children in their highest potential, and
- * to be in partnership with sister organizations sharing similar values.

OUR CORE VALUES

COMPASSION

Galatians 5:22-23

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of **compassion** in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

COMPETENCE

2 Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our **competence** comes from God.

COMMITMENT

Philippians 3:15-16

So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total **commitment**, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.

CHARACTER

Ephesians 4:24

Take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his **character** in you.

COMMUNITY

Galatians 6:9-10

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the **community** of faith.

CABINET

President Lorna Bufil

Recording Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Valrie A. Griffith

Finance Committee Chair Eleanore A. Chong

Oahu VP Representative Rebecca Woodland

Hawaii Island Co-VP Loke Kamanu

Representative

Maui Co-VP Arlene Pihana

Representative

Maui Co-VP Rev. Youlida Yoruw

Representative

Executive Director Clara D. Priester

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Bylaws Vacant

Edith Wolfe Scholarship Carolyn Winston

Family Thank Offering Kelcey Bufil

Finance Eleanore A. Chong

Missions Arlene Pihana

Rebecca Woodland

Nominating Alma Balatico

REPRESENTATIVE

Stamp Project Carol Miura

FROM OUR PRESIDENT: LORNA BUFIL

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10



How Has the Coronavirus Changed Your Life?

The COVID 19 pandemic has completely changed our lives in so many ways. We are now restricted from doing many things that seemed normal. Life was simple. We were able to enjoy the outdoors going for walks, bike riding, gathering with family, and attending community events. Despite the lockdown, numbers are surging on Oahu especially and our outer islands. We have been experiencing a lot of uncertainty. We are now required to wear masks and practice social distancing, and to follow specific guidelines implemented by the CDC and our Department of Health. The pandemic has affected us not only physically, but mentally, emotionally and spiritually. People are losing family members and friends. It takes a toll on everyone in countless ways. At the same time, there is much to be grateful for. Our modern technology has allowed us to continue with our spiritual journey through online worship services, distance learning for our students, special hours for grocery shopping for our kupuna. We are extremely grateful to our frontline public servants - hospitals, physicians, health care workers, police, and firefighters. God was faithful and gracious to the women in the YWCA Oahu Fernhurst Program. The threat of closure was halted by the massive support of our communities who made their upset known to our government officials. The women returned to the program. Thank you to the many care facilities that allow families the opportunity to Face Time with their loved ones. I know it means a lot. The connection with family and friends is much needed in times like these.

What this has taught me is that we are in this together. In order to make it through this pandemic we need to comply with mandates and reach out to our leaders and community to assist those that are alone and need of help. Our WBM has received numerous requests for assistance from our Family Thank Offering Ministry. I thank our organization for helping those in great need. With this intervention of assistance, the women have remained resilient and hopeful.

I am very thankful for my church's weekly online services that reach our members and those in high risk categories. We are well prepared to continue with prayer, worship and spreading God's word. Haili Congregational Church has reached out to our kupuna at one of our sister churches to provide Chromebooks to those in remote areas to be able to access their church online services. I am also thankful for being able to continue working at home including my work with other church leaders. My work has continued with the AHEC Executive Board as we prepare for our Virtual Halawai to be held on Friday, September 18, and Saturday, September 19. I am blessed to be working with the women of the AHEC Executive Team.

My work with our WBM remains constant as I focus on recruiting new members. I am pleased to announce that we have many returning members and two new members from Hawaii Island who have joined the WBM. I am thankful for Clara D. Priester, our Executive Director, and our Cabinet who continue to work diligently despite the pandemic. We are blessed.

My advice is to never take things for granted. Be proactive and reach out to different agencies that may need volunteers. Check on the kupuna in your congregations and communities. Reach out with a phone call, send cards to lift spirits, deliver a hot meal, or give gift cards to purchase necessities.

I am praying for your safety. Let's continue to abide by all necessary measures and comply with restrictions to help flatten the curve. Please pray for students and teachers who will need to adjust to distance learning and the safety of everyone that we will get through this pandemic. Stay safe and be blessed.



GIVE ALOHA AT FOODLAND TO HELP US RAISE FUNDS



The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands is participating in *Give Aloha Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program*. This program honors Foodland's founder, Maurice J. "Sully" Sullivan, and continues his legacy of giving back to the community.

How It Works

"Sully"

From September 1-30, customers are invited to make donations of up to \$249 to participating Hawaii non-profit organizations at checkout. Donations are accepted at any

Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms checkout. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation. Individuals must use their own Maika'i number to make a donation. Donations made without a Maika'i number will not be matched.

How to Donate

At checkout, present your Maika'i card (or provide your number) and inform the cashier that you would like to make a donation to the Woman's Board of Missions, code number **78471**. If you do not have a Maika'i card/number, you may request to establish one. Your donation will be added to your grocery purchase total. You may donate up to \$249 per organization; any portion exceeding \$249 will not be matched. The amount you donate and the name of our organization will appear on your receipt. Donations must be payable to Foodland or Sack N Save.

Acknowledgement of Your Donation

Donor names will not be released to our organization. Therefore, if you would like to us to know of your gift, please contact us directly so that we may properly acknowledge your gift. You may ask the cashier for a duplicate receipt to submit to us.

Are These Contributions Tax Deductible?

These contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please save your store receipt for tax purposes since it will be the only record you will have of your donation(s).

Matching Gift

Matching gifts will be determined at the end of the program. Our organization will receive 100% of all customer donations given to us, plus each donation made with a Maika'i card, will be partially matched by a gift from Foodland and the Western Union Foundation.

Ouestions?

Please contact Community Relations at Foodland at (808) 732-0791 ext. 7388 if you have any additional questions.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CLARA D. PRIESTER



Creativity in the Midst of Challenge

During those times in my life, as I was growing up and encountered challenges, my mother would say, "When the going gets tough, the tough get creative." On countless occasions, I witnessed her demonstration of this ideology particularly in her resourcefulness. She is a gifted seamstress, but there was a period of time when she could not afford dressmaking patterns. We had been experiencing financial hardship. Rather than becoming despondent or frustrated, my mother imagined a way. She took some newspaper and placed it on the floor, traced my measurements, transferred them to the newspaper, and created her own dress patterns. Throughout my school years and for special events, my mother skillfully crafted most of my clothing. When I was voted and presented the *Best Dressed* award at our high school senior luau, I publicly acknowledged that the award instead, belonged to my mother. It was her creativity in the midst of crisis that permitted this outcome.

Even now, though we have all been thrust into a new dimension of uncertainty amid the global pandemic, we have unlimited opportunities to explore more creative ways of living and doing things. Assuredly, technology is a unique form of creativity in terms of human connection. Churches have transitioned to virtual worship services and some have offered virtual concerts for their congregations and the public at large. For those who are homebound, this has made a significant difference in strengthening their faith walk. Nonprofits and companies are hosting virtual conferences. Others are creatively expressing themselves through social media, photography, art, and music. In a display of solidarity with the people of Italy who sang and danced from their rooftops, people in Germany did the same. On this same premise, Maurizio Marchini, an Italian opera singer serenaded his quarantined city, while Spanish police sang to families during their lockdown. In New York, volunteers with *Invisible Hands* run errands and make deliveries to those who must remain indoors. These are only a few of the countless creative minds positively impacting our world during the pandemic.

With all that is occurring at the moment, and since the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ offices are closed to the public, it has necessitated adjustments of our WBM as well. Meetings with our partnerships and the HCUCC staff are exclusively conducted either via Zoom or conference call. Our supporters have continued to arrange "stop and load" donation drop offs, where we meet at a designated area and donations are transferred to the trunk of my car. This means that I am still also able to deliver designated donations to the populations we serve. In terms of correspondence, most letters are now sent electronically to prevent multiple trips to the post office. A few of our donors have sent mail directly to my home, and mail is retrieved from our WBM office a couple of times per week to limit the number of trips to the office. The approved 2020-2021 Missions Budget checks have been sent with accompanying letters to the ministries we support. Regular updates are being sent to our Cabinet. Our WBM President, Lorna, and I communicate consistently and have been discussing doing ministry in more creative ways. How expansive is the grace of our God who equips and enables us to continue the imperative work of our WBM. Thank you all for doing your part and for the value that you add to this ministry.

I encourage you to remain sure in faith that nothing is too difficult for or beyond the reach of God. As I close, be reminded of God's blessed assurance when God spoke, *I have made you and I will carry you*; *I will sustain you and I will rescue you* (Isaiah 46:4).

With thoughts and prayers for peace, strength, and joy in creativity in the midst of this challenging time, *Clara*



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Rebecca Woodland, Oahu VP Representative

The year is half over but our work with Operation Christmas Child continues even during this unprecedented time. Perhaps you have used this sheltering-in-place time to sort through your storage closets and cupboards and have found some new, and

unused items that would be suitable for shoebox gifts. Current needs include bars of soap, washcloths, combs, toothbrushes, crayons, binder paper, bar erasers, pencil sharpeners, pens and stuffed toys. We also need clean shoeboxes, as our usual supplier has been closed due to the pandemic.

Please take advantage of the back-to-school sales and other sales to buy these much-needed items so that we can pack more shoeboxes with gifts for children who have nothing to call their own. Changing lives and giving hope, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to provide for the material needs of these children while opening doors and hearts to the message of Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

We are accepting donations year-round. Please contact Rebecca (<u>rebeccawoodland@gmail.com</u>) or Clara (<u>wbmhawaii@gmail.com</u>) to arrange a donation drop-off time and location. Currently, the WBM office is closed. The more donations we can obtain, the more shoeboxes we can fill. Our goal is to exceed our 2019 shoebox count of 211. With your help, WE CAN DO IT!

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST (GUAM)

JULY 2020

By Rose Ludwig

Few things have been left unaffected by the pandemic. I deeply hope that you are well and feeling hopeful despite the upheaval. The emotional and economic toil is still mounting as tourists have not been around since mid-March. With school lockdowns, the University has gone digital. Generation Z became full-fledged cyber students. We meet them virtually for Bible study, prayer meetings and evangelism. It is not the most ideal but most have quickly embraced it.



It was interesting to attend the University of Guam's first virtual graduation. What an amazing feat to put it all together. Most noteworthy is how the graduates overcame the odds. One of them is Risenta from Chuuk. She grew up being tossed to more than three foster homes. With no memory of her parents, she finally met her biological dad only during his funeral last year. "I was raised in hardship and that made me who I am today," she shared. A Korean businessman in Chuuk saw potential in her after graduating class valedictorian of her high school. He sent her to Guam to enroll at the University. That's where she came to know Jesus and was discipled by CRU. Dadah's (Risenta's) perseverance inspires me," says Shanna, her dorm mate. Being a resident assistant was a natural for Risenta. She is noted as being motherly and a humble servant. Risenta led her CRU team in student trip to

Fiji and was a mission trip co-leader in Pohnpei last year. While serving as Vice President of University of Guam CRU, Risenta led some dorm mates to Christ and opened the door for CRU to hold dorm Bible studies. She earned a Master's degree in Public Administration.

Risenta attributes her success to the grace and provision of God; With no family around and no home to return to, please pray for her next steps. May this period of waiting be preparation for her next God-led adventures.



By Samantha Church, MSW Executive Director

Prior to the current pandemic, many households were one unexpected life event away from eviction and homelessness. COVID-19 is the life event that took us all by surprise. Families that live paycheck to paycheck (about half of Hawaii's households) are more vulnerable than ever. While we have worked to prevent many families from becoming homeless through short-term rental assistance (we've already experienced a 400% increase in requests for help), many will inevitably lose their housing once the State's moratorium on evictions is lifted. Some projections anticipate a 30-40% increase in homelessness in the coming months and year.

We are quickly scaling our services to meet the upcoming need. Compared to this time last year, we have helped 110% more families in the first half of 2020. We've accomplished this by increasing our Prevention and Diversion services, offering new housing resources through our Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs, and creating new shelter options through partnerships with Camp Mokoena and a Waikiki hotel.

But, more is needed. Unfortunately, the wait list for our services grows daily. As it stands, Oahu's homeless service system does not have the capacity to meet the current need, yet the demand continues to rise. We are looking at new ways to increase the community's safety net for newly homeless families through safe, family shelter options and rapid re-housing resources. We are also continuing to invest in prevention and diversion programming to help keep families in housing. As a community, we will get through this challenging time together.

UCCP PASUQUIN LEARNING CENTER

By Alma Balatico

Greetings Everyone!

I hope you are all safe and well. This pandemic has certainly changed all aspects of life as we knew it, not only here in the United States but around the world. The Philippines has also been impacted by the effects of the virus. I am happy to report that despite COVID-19 and lockdowns in Pasuquin, there are 30 children who are enrolled for this school year. Of the 30 children enrolled, 13 are indigent children who are recipients of scholarships for tuition and books from the WBM, our partner in mission. The school year is delayed due to the pandemic, so the school year is set to begin on August 24, 2020, with restrictions of social distancing and wearing a mask at all times.

The UCCP Learning Center has adopted the hybrid method for their mode of teaching this school year. The teachers will be using Zoom for remote access and classroom instruction with social distancing and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for those who do not have access to the proper equipment and/or the internet. This means that there will be variations in teaching methodology as needed. Worksheets not

found in their school books will be provided ahead of time to all students. This school year is a tough one for the teachers as preparations are almost double and due to socioeconomic circumstances, resources like data enabled cell phones, printers, laptops, etc. are not available to all students. The teachers are doing their best to meet the instructional requirements prescribed by the Department of Education.

Although 30 students have enrolled, the preschool has not yet received tuition fee payments from paying enrollees. Although parents have registered their children, most parents are also asking for a deferral of payment due to the status of their employment. Because of the pandemic, some businesses have cut work hours or have closed altogether. This is the dilemma faced by the school administrators and the Church Council as the Learning Center opens its doors this school year. We are praying that our mission partners are able to help fill the gap so the Learning Center can start instruction and pay their teachers accordingly. It is a cycle that unfortunately we are all caught up in because of this pandemic. This is a test of faith for all of us. The teachers are willing to teach knowing that they may not be fully paid and trusting fully on the faithfulness of our Jehovah Jireh, God our provider.

Thank you very much WBM for your continued support for the UCCP Learning Center. We pray God's protection over all of us as this virus continues to infect. "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble." Psalm 46:1

E Malama Pono! Take good care, everyone!

FAMILY THANK OFFERING

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes. He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1:3-4 TEV

The Family Thank Offering Committee prayerfully and judiciously reviews requests for emergency financial assistance and approves one-time mission grants to meet a special need of individuals or families. These one-time mission grants have included assistance with rent delinquencies, security deposits, utility bills, food, medication and more. Requests must be submitted to the WBM office by a pastor or church leader, community advocate, or WBM member. All requests are authenticated by the Executive Director and require supporting documentation prior to review by the Family Thank Offering Committee. The Family Thank Offering is exclusively for emergency assistance requests throughout Hawaii.

From April 3 through August 12, 2020, our Family Thank Offering Committee granted six one-time mission grants totaling \$2,225.00 to:

❖ A formerly incarcerated woman requiring a security deposit for admission to a clean and sober house.

Mission Grant: \$350.00

❖ A senior woman experiencing financial hardship required assistance with a utility delinquency.

Mission Grant: \$250.00

❖ A woman who was hospitalized in ICU for 14 days was also unable to work for a few months and had depleted her savings during that time.

Mission Grant: \$250.00

❖ A woman escaping severe injuries related to domestic violence was in need of assistance for food and basic sanitation items, gas, and enough to sustain her for three weeks.

Mission Grant: \$500.00

A senior woman experiencing financial hardship as a result of job loss and awaiting unemployment benefits for 1 ½ months was in need of assistance with her mortgage.

Mission Grant: \$500.00

❖ A seminary student caring for siblings and experiencing financial hardship required assistance with books and supplies.

Mission Grant: \$375.00

GREAT NEWS!

Here are inspiring updates of the above-noted recipients:

- ➤ The formerly incarcerated woman is now in an advanced clean and sober program and remains focused on her healing and recovery.
- The senior woman with a utility delinquency has recovered financially. She is now *paying it forward* and assisting others in her community who are homeless.
- The woman who was hospitalized in the ICU is physically stronger and has returned to work. She has been saving and says that she was even able to assist a family member with their rent.
- The survivor of domestic violence has divorced her abuser, moved to a new residence, and secured employment. She continues to heal from her facial injuries and years of abuse.
- The senior woman awaiting unemployment benefits has received them and has also secured employment as a substitute teacher.
- The seminary student successfully completed the first required course and is receiving growing support from fellow seminarians and others in the community of faith.

Our deepest appreciation for all who have given faithfully and liberally to this imperative ministry.

Ways to Support the WBM

BECOME A MEMBER

Offer your gifts and talents to support women and children in crisis and unexpected need.

HOST A COLLECTION DRIVE

Rally family and friends to donate items on our wish list (on the back page of our newsletters). We are always in need of menstrual hygiene products, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and composition books for the populations of women that we serve.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

GIVE ALOHA/FOODL AND

Make a donation in honor of a loved one.

ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS

Join us and bring a guest or a few with you.

LEGACY AND PLANNED GIVING

Give a gift after your lifetime through bequests, retirement plans and/or life insurance.

Participate in this annual community matching gifts program in the month of September.				
		ong dotted line		
	\mathcal{M}	ly Gift		
Name Phone:				
Mailing Address				
City	State	Zip Code		
Check enclosed p	ayable to WBM Visa/Mastercard	d/Discover Card (circle one)	Expiration Date/	
	Card #		CVV or CSC Code(security code-back of card)	

Designation	Name of Person Your Gift Honors	Amount
Memorial Gift (in honor of a loved one)		
Family Thank Offering Fund ²		
Mother Alice Fund ³		
Operational/Administrative		
Other ⁵ (identify mission of your choice here)		

² Family Thank Offering - financial emergency assistance.

Mail completed form to WBM, 1848 Nuuanu Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817. For questions please call our office at (808) 791-5647. You can also make a donation on our WBM web page by visiting www.hcucc.org and selecting "Directory," "Affiliated Organizations," and clicking on "Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands" to get to our "Donate" button.

³ **Mother Alice Fund** - for UCC women attending a seminary (students who are Members in Discernment (MID) of Hawaii Conference Associations)

⁵ Other - any mission highlighted in our newsletter

Pray For Our Missionaries

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 96:3



Mark and Dayna Blair

Beijing International Christian Fellowship

CHINA



The Pagaragans

Missionary Family – Team USA

JAPAN



Rose Ludwig

Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU)

GUAM



Martha Mensendiek

Doshisa University and Bazaar Café

JAPAN

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS 1848 NUUANU AVE. HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

WISH LIST

(new or very gently used)

The items listed below are regularly needed for missions projects and outreach. If you are able and willing to donate any of these items or a combination of them at any time, it would be a great relief to those in unexpected need. **Items marked with an asterisk are most requested.**

Personal ItemsBedding ItemsBaby ItemsBody Lotion *BlanketsBaby LotionBody Wash/Soap *Mattress PadsBaby Powder *Combs/BrushesPillows (standard)Diapers & Wipes *

Deodorant
Hand Wipes/Sanitizers
Kleenex

School Supplies
Crayons

Other
Bibles

Menstrual Hygiene Products Composition Books Prescription Eyeglasses
Personal Wipes Elmers Glue Gift Cards (Walmart, Longs)

Shampoo/Conditioner Erasers Safeway)
Toilet Paper Pens (black ink) Socks
Toothbrushes* Pencils

Toothpaste* Plain Envelopes

MAHALO NUI LOA

Donations & GiftsDr. Dwayne PriesterCancelled Stamps (for Stamp
Maile AndersonJudy AsmanCarolyn WinstonRose Marie Doral
Mrs. KajiharaLily AuRebecca WoodlandMrs. Kajihara

Alma Balatico Rev. Youlida Yoruw H.M. Wyeth

Lorna Bufil Dr. Alan Yoshida

Lorna Bufil Dr. Alan Yoshida
Dr. Virgie Chattergy Gloria H.Y. Young

Lisa Fong

Donna Gamboa

Evangelist Vital Green

Churches/Organizations

First Chinese Church of Christ

Haili Congregational Church

Susan Gruetzmacher Hawaii Conference United Church

Nancy Heu of Christ

Kauanoe Hoomanawanui I Support the Girls Hawaii Loke Kamanu Kaumakapili Church Carol Miura Mid-Pacific Institute

Grace Murata Waiokeola Congregational Church

Irene Nomura Waialua UCC

Eleanore Chong

Kazue Okuhara Women's League of Central Union