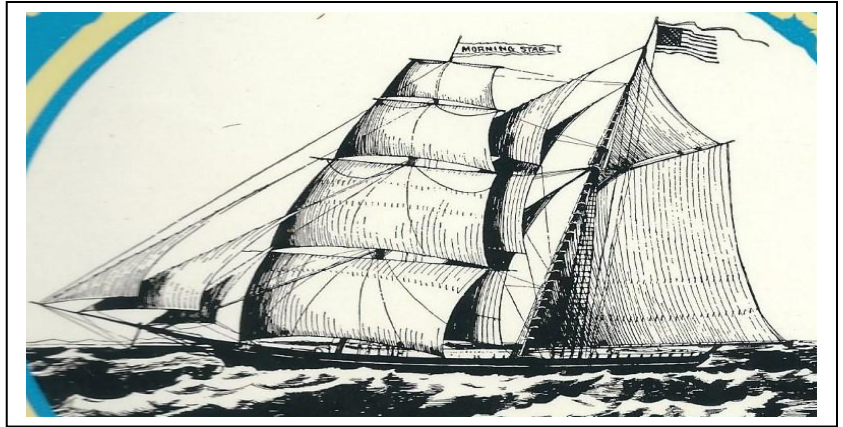


The Morning Star

The publication of the Woman's Board of
Missions for the Pacific Islands

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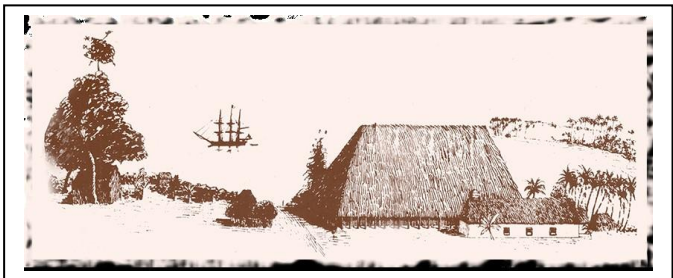


Haili Congregational Church Celebrates 200 Years

Haili Congregational Church in Hilo, Hawaii invites you to join them in celebrating 200 years of ministry to East Hawaii on Sunday, May 19, 2024 beginning with worship at 9:30 a.m. followed by a luau at Haili Church.

The early beginning of Haili Church began six months prior to the arrival of the first missionaries when King Kamehameha II (Liholiho) broke the kapu system of pagan worship. With the spiritual vacuum created by the loss of the kapu system, the response to the Gospel was tremendous on the eastern side of the Big Island, especially through the preaching of Rev. Titus Coan, one of the early missionaries. Coan arrived in Hilo in July 1835 where he stayed the rest of his life. The Spirit of God moved through him so powerfully that his worship attendance exceeded 10,000 people. He was known to preach from early morning until evening.

Haili Church is still a light shining in Hilo. We wish Haili Church continued richness in Christ.



The WBM Moves Forward

By Linda Shigeta

Renovation & Uncharted Waters

Walking with boldness, truth, and gratitude became my mantra as President Pro-tem in December 2023. I never imagined that I would rise to this position from being Kaua'i Vice President Representative.

I compare metaphorically the WBMPI with a ship. The ship has been battered while going through uncharted waters. We sailed forward through storms in big seas. I prayed to our Father God to calm the seas. Now, I call for all hands on deck for our dedicated and loyal members to sail in unity with God as our Captain. This is our course moving into the future with changes according to His will. What dedication I have seen of our council; working to move our organization onward with the Armor of our Lord. The changes through the times of Covid was enough; then our dedicated and vivacious Executive Director, Clara Preister, moved to China with her incredible husband, constant change became a norm after that. We are working towards the future and sailing our ship toward God's shore.

Peace Be With You, Linda Shigeta

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

~ Ephesians 2:10

Wondrous Woman of God

In this issue of the “Morning Star” we want to honor and remember the marvelous work of a Wondrous Living Treasure.

Auntie Aletha Kaohi, who was called home to glory **on April 10, 2024**, was a member of Hanapepe First Hawaiian Church and her home was in Waimea, Kauai. We celebrate her wondrous contributions to the Hawaii Conference, the Kauai Association where she had served in nearly every capacity of leadership, and to the Woman’s Board of Missions where she had been such a compassionate supporter.

Auntie Aletha was one of Kauai’s Living Treasures. As a direct descendant of King Kaumuali`I, she had taken her heritage and shared it through her “Talk Story” programs to keep her Hawaiian history and culture alive. She told of her family using the kukui nut oil to light the lamps in her home. Shining brightly, she lit the lamps of love and dedication in our hearts all her life.

She is cherished by so many who have been a recipient of her love for her `ohana, her church and her community. She is known as a mentor to Hawaii’s young people to raise them up to be leaders in our Hawaiian churches; one of them being Kahu Ken Makuakane, Kahu of Kawaiaha`o Church.

Aletha Kaohi was truly a woman of grace, sharing her sacred spirit with all who knew her. Her entire life truly was an act of worship. Her morning prayer was always, “Ke Akua, what can I do for you today?” Aloha, dear Aletha.

Ever Wonder Why We Call It “The Morning Star”?

By Carolyn Winston

Annette Palmer, Lydia Snow, Clara Brewster Bingham, Juliette Montague Cooke, Daniel Akaka – all part of the Woman’s Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands sailed on the Morning Star between Hawaii and their mission stations in Micronesia.

When Lydia Snow came to the women’s prayer group at the Fort Street Church (now Central Union Church) in 1871 imploring the women for support for the missionaries in Micronesia the Woman’s Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands began. Mrs. Snow asked for two things – to find and send a female teacher to teach the women and girls in Pohnpei, and to help supply the Missionaries in Micronesia with the basic things they needed, like fabric, flour and butter and books.

It was on the ship called the Morning Star (there were five of them that sailed from 1856 – circa 1946) that the missionaries to the islands of the central Pacific sailed. They were all purchased with the support of churches and Sunday Schools throughout the United States and Hawaii by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (the Congregational Church’s original name for the foreign missions operation). There would have been no missions in Micronesia without these missionary “packets”. There would have been no communication without these ships.

Hence, the WBMPI took this name for its communication arm of our mission and ministry.

(taken from “Missionary Adventures in the South Pacific” by David & Leona Crawford c.1967)

Compassion Competence Commitment Character Community

Let's Hear It For Our Missions

UCCP LEARNING CENTER PASUQUIN

“Magandang Araw” (a blessed day) to all of you!

This school Year 2023-2024 we have 52 students enrolled, 12 of whom are scholarship recipients. Our 12 scholarship recipients come from families whose parents are either non-skilled for a regular job, seasonal farm workers, or domestic helpers. These 52 children range in age from 3-5 and are separated into Nursery, Kinder 1 and Kinder 2 classes.

We are now towards the end of the school year. By May 30, 2024, students in K2 will be moving up to grade 1 in either the public or private schools. The students from the school continue to be ranked at the top of those entering elementary school. Thanks to guidance provided by our Teachers/Parents teamwork.



This past February the school celebrated its 18th year since the founding of the school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the WBM for its faithful partnership with us in our

goal to improve lives through education. Rev. Belmonte and I would like to express once again our deep appreciation and gratitude for your continued support.

Mahalo Nui, Alma Balatico

GUAM: A recent letter from Rose Ludwig, our missional partner serving with CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) at the University of Guam tells us she is planning on moving to Vanuatu to join the CRU team serving faithfully there with folk Caleb had disciplined years before. It hasn't been easy for Rose, the sole missionary there, to maintain her base of volunteer Bible study leaders, evangelists and others reaching out with the Gospel of Christ to students and faculty alike at this university. She feels confident that the base she and her late husband, Caleb, established will continue. Our prayers go before her in this new chapter of her ministry.

JAPAN: The Woman's Board has long supported Global Ministries Mission Partner Martha Menzendeik in Kyoto, Japan. This past year the Bazaar Café, a ministry which reaches out to the students of Doshisha University celebrated 25 years of being the Light of Christ to students and those who find themselves on the fringe of Japanese society. Everyone who comes to the café knows that they will find a listening ear, a gentle spirit and a loving hand. Bible studies and spiritual conversations are frequent along with open mic festivities or just chatting over lunch or coffee. The WBM visited the Bazaar Café in 1999 soon after it opened to offer our support.

Also, in **Japan** are our missional partners, Family Pagaragan, who established a Christian witness at the Neighborhood Student and Ministry Center in Tokyo. Week in and week out finds more and more people coming to learn more about the Christian faith and life and bringing their friends to hear and learn as well. We look forward to hearing more from the Pagaragans in the future.

HAWAII: Although we financially support local ministries in Hawaii, it is our hope and vision to connect with our UCC churches here at home to work in partnership with you in your mission endeavors for the call of Christ. Tell us how we can best serve you for the glory of God. We look forward to hearing from many of you so we can partner together.

Where Does the WBMPI Stand Today?

In June the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands will complete 153 years of continuous ministry in supporting missions here in Hawaii, throughout the Pacific Rim and beyond. Normally, we would have a celebratory Annual Meeting where so many of our members and friends would be present, but this year is different. In May of 2023 we hired a new executive director after Clara Priester resigned and moved to China. Unfortunately, we lost this person at the end of December, and then we also lost our sitting president. That has left us with many challenges as to how to move ahead and where our priorities lie. Rest assured that we are moving forward. The WBM Council is working diligently to renovate our basic structure to good working condition for our future and with expert professionals to advance our beloved 153-year-old organization.

STAY TUNED!

We can use your support. Would you like to join us in our mission? Please drop us a note to our office, call at: 808 791-5647 or email us at wbm@hcucc.org. Currently, every one of us is a volunteer. We would love to hear from you!



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