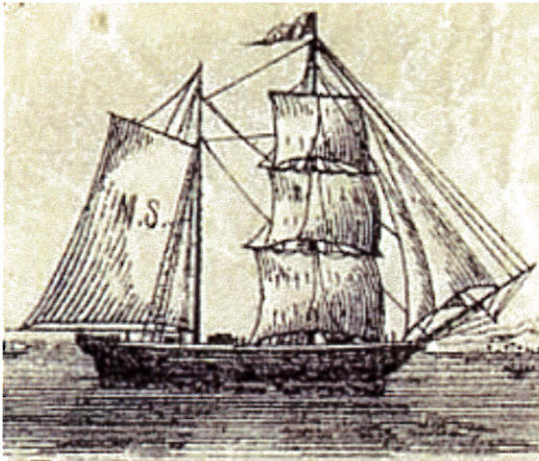


The Morning Star

A MISSION PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HAWAII



One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant teacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never traveled, except in his infancy, more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did any of the things that usually accompanies greatness. He had no credentials but himself. While he was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through a mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth, his seamless robe. When he was dead, he was taken down from the cross and laid in a borrowed grave through the courtesy of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of all human progress. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has this one solitary personality.

(Unknown)

Next Regular WBM Meeting

Saturday, February 23, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Central Union Church

Parish Hall

1660 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii

(808) 941-0957

Invite a friend

Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands

1848 Nuuanu Avenue

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

(808) 791-5647



**Editor: Clara D. Priester
Presiding: Karen Welsh**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT: KAREN WELSH



Aloha Members and Friends of The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands,

It is with great pleasure that I announce Clara Denise Priester has accepted our offer to make her the permanent Executive Director for the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands. As many of you know, I had announced we were going to start a search in January 2013, but in recent days God strongly placed on my heart that Clara had already verified herself as a woman of excellence in her role as interim. Her attitude, through thick and thin, has remained steady and cheerful, and Clara has proven an invaluable asset to this ministry organization. Not only has she successfully fulfilled all we have asked her to do this past year, she's continually pushed the envelope. She has spent much time making vital connections with sister organizations and broadened our reach, both locally and globally. Her most notable achievement was typing and orchestrating the publishing of the "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" book. Those who attended the book launch at the Hawaiian Mission Houses on Oct. 18, 2012, experienced her organization, commitment, and dedication to the effort. It was an absolutely amazing, meaningful, and unforgettable event. For these reasons alone, I felt it unfair if the WBM did not consider Clara first and foremost. It seemed unthinkable to ask her to submit an application when she was already meeting and exceeding our expectations. I also wanted to be fair to other applicants who would put in hours filling out paperwork, when my heart, and that of our other members, was to keep her onboard. When I brought it up to the WBM Cabinet, I was greeted with a resounding and unanimous "yes." We took our resolution to the WBM Council where a motion was made and a vote of unanimous decision was taken to offer Clara the position, which she has now accepted. Now we can look forward to a time of great joy, peace, and affirming action for the WBM. We can now move forward at full speed and continue to reach our many ministry objectives, dream bigger dreams and continue to fulfill the unique vision and mission of this historic organization.

As an update, the sales of the "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" have brought in a steady income for the ministry in the past couple of months, but we need to be vigilant and market the book worldwide to keep it going. Praise the Lord, we are now the #1 Bestseller on our Publisher's List. If you want to buy the book, please purchase it directly from our website at <http://henryobookiahmemoirs.com/> or call the WBM office to secure the limited edition hard back (\$50 each) or in soft back (\$20 each).

For those living on the Island of Hawai'i, we are planning a book launch in Hilo from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2013. A special program of dedication will be held at Haili Church, located at 211 Haili St. A reception and book signing will follow just up the street at the Lyman House Museum and Mission House. Due to space, this is an RSVP only event, so please call the museum at (808) 935-5021 to secure your spot.

We will also be having a Big Island "Meet and Greet" during the afternoon of Saturday, January 19 in Hilo. Please check for the exact time and place in the body of this Morning Star. This reminds me that many who receive this newsletter live far and away from Oahu. Perhaps you have been out of touch or simply have not taken the time to renew your membership this year. If so, please drop us a \$25 membership check today (Lifetime members too), along with a quick note updating our ministry on what is going on in your life. We do care and we want to know how to pray for you.

To close, I'm asking God to bless each and every one of you. I thank Him for you and I look forward to serving WBM more faithfully throughout the coming year.

WBM VISION STATEMENT

"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."



CORE VALUES

Competence

Compassion

Commitment

Character

Community

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>January 17</i> | "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah"
Book Launch – 5-7 p.m.
Hosted by Lyman House Museum.
Program at Haili Church. Reception
and book signing to follow at
Lyman Museum. |
| <i>January 19</i> | Big Island Meet & Greet –1- 4 p.m.
Kuhio Chapel at 144 Desha Avenue
(in Keaukaha, outside of Hilo) |
| <i>February 23</i>
(Saturday) | WBM Meeting – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Central Union Church (Women's
Building) |
| <i>March 21</i> | WBM Meeting – 5 p.m. at Lihue
United Church. Please bring a dish to
share for our fellowship. |
| <i>April 18</i> | WBM Meeting – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Hawaii Conference United Church of
Christ, 1848 Nuuanu Avenue |
| <i>May 18</i>
(Saturday) | Annual Meeting – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Central Union Church (Parish Hall) |

WBM CABINET

Karen Welsh	<i>President Big Island Representative</i>
Kathleen Mumford	<i>VP Representative, Tri-Isle</i>
Olive E. Bass	<i>VP Representative, O'ahu</i>
Linda Shigeta	<i>VP Representative, Kaua'i</i>
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Lenora Cossey-Taft	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Georgia Kay	<i>Interim Treasurer</i>
Eleanore A. Chong	<i>Finance Committee Chair</i>
Melinda Ahn	<i>Missions Chair</i>
Clara D. Priester	<i>Executive Director</i>

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CLARA D. PRIESTER



Grace and peace to all of you.

What a memorable year 2012 was for our Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and in my personal life's journey. God has been so faithful to us.

The year was one of having unshakeable courage to step out and believe God for greater things, to perceive our challenges as opportunities for God to demonstrate His undeniable power, and to grow in Him as we have worked alongside each other in ministry.

I am honored to continue as the executive director of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands. It has been a joy getting to know many of you so much more. How grateful I am for all that I have gleaned from each and every one of you. To our kupuna, your wisdom and patience have been more than a gift to me. I celebrate the beauty, value, and talents that each of you bring to our WBM.

My commitment to share the love of God through our ministry and outreach remains prominent. May you know that my support to you will be as enthusiastic as it has always been.

As you celebrated this past Christmas season, I hope that your home was adorned with God's unfailing love, graced with His unparalleled peace, and filled with the laughter of loved ones.

As we enter a new year, may we continue to be mindful that everything we do should bring honor to and glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Your prayers have uplifted our work and each other, and I believe that God is going to bring an increase to our WBM that none of us would ever have the capacity to imagine.

TRI-ISLE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Kathleen Mumford, Tri-Isle VP



The ladies from the Tri-Isle met in May, the second quarter of this year, for the first of what hopes to be an annual event to invite women and young ladies into our organization. The event was hosted by Iao Church and had over 20 in attendance with many new members. The young women who wanted to join our organization all had sponsors for their memberships.

During the summer, I attended the WBM's Annual Meeting in June on Oahu. Dressed in mu'u mu'us, all of the ladies made the event look like a nice old Hawaiian gathering. The speakers were very moving, making us aware of the joys and opportunities of being a woman today to soar to new heights as well as the sadness for the children who are caught in sex trafficking.

My goal as VP is to attend and support at least one UCC church each month. In June, July and August I attended Paia, Haiku, and Kahului Union. The day I attended Kahului Union Church the sermon was on missions where I learned about their members going to the mainland to share their talents with an American Indian tribe. Margaret Raymond and I represented Po'okela Church and the WBM at the Haiku Ho'ike to sing along with many others in support of their fine church and fellowship.

In October, there was to be a Maui gathering. It was postponed due to the recent reprint of the "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" and the book signing on Oahu. I hope to have a meeting date set soon and include plans for a Maui Book launch. I attended the book dedication and signing on Oahu. It was fabulous with mu'umu'u and garden hats and inspirational messages by a wonderful host of church leaders.

Finally, as VP for the Tri-Isle area, my goals are to see, for 2013, four meetings a year for the Tri-Isle Women. I would like to see one meeting in the spring on Molokai, one in the fall on Lanai and one each spring/fall on Maui. At the meetings I wish to reestablish one church representative to come to the meetings. From there, we can decide on how we Tri-Isle women can make a difference for the WBM organization.

For now, we will need to collect an email list of women in the Tri-Isle who wish to gather and promote the mission for the WBM. A strong representative for the WBM, UCC and women's issues is Linda Mau who has taken a new assignment with the Department of Health as the Public Health Nurse for Lanai. We wish her well on her move and hope to see her at the Lana'i meeting.

Please contact me at kathleen@kmbeaches.com if you wish to participate in the next Tri-Isle meeting or wish to be on the email list for local notifications, or if any church is having an event that you wish the WBM would announce or support.

CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Our Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands continues to grow. We are grateful for the gift of all of our members. This month, we welcome and celebrate our new members:

Tracey Holcomb
Manifee, CA

Veronica Burnett
O'ahu, HI

Mama Kahu Maria Davis
O'ahu, HI

Judith E. Fox
Kihei, HI

MORE ON MEMBERSHIP

After recently updating our WBM membership directory, it is a joy to announce that we now have **217** members and we continue to grow.

Currently, our membership has representation from O'ahu, Mau'i, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, California, Connecticut, Florida, Japan, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington.

A revised membership application can be found at www.hcucc.org. You can locate the Woman's Board of Missions by clicking on "Ministries" and then "Affiliated Ministries". For questions about membership, please contact Clara at (808) 791-5647 or Kathleen at (808) 385-1625.

MISSIONS: THE HEART OF GOD

UCCP PASUQUIN LEARNING CENTER

By Alma Balatico

Aloha to Everyone!!

My husband and I spent a little over a month in the Philippines where the UCCP Learning Center is located. While we were there, we had the privilege of observing the operation of the Learning Center. I spent most of my time reviewing the curriculum and methodology and spending time with the teachers. "Gold", my husband, audited their financial procedures and reporting.

The new minister, the Reverend Lynn Gumallaoi (photo) and I agreed that a regular review of the policies, procedures, and curriculum have to be done to keep the lessons fresh and interesting for the children. Music has always been strength in the curriculum but since the departure of our music teacher, Archie Cortez last year, this task has been passed on to our regular teachers. The addition of a part time music teacher to teach every Friday is a focus for the school this school year. It is not only a fun way for the children to learn, but music is also an outreach to the community.



As I reported in the past, every first Sunday of the month the UCCP Learning Center children sing during worship. They make a good part of the church's children's choir.



Many of the children's parents are either non-church goers or Roman Catholics. They attend the church service on the first Sunday to see their children sing in worship – a very powerful outreach ministry for the church.



A typical school day starts with a flag ceremony and exercise.

There are three classes at the Learning Center. The nursery, ages 2-1/2 to 3; kindergarteners, ages 3-1/2 to 5; and the preparatory class, ages 5 to 6-1/2 that meets in the afternoons. The prep class curriculum emphasizes reading, writing, and arithmetic in preparation to entering first grade the following year. Parents and surrounding elementary schools report that our Learning Center graduates are more focused in class and seem to assimilate well.



◀ Nursery class with teacher Marivic in the red KMS t-shirt



➤ Kindergarten class - Teacher Sheila (red shirt) and Angie Fiesta, the volunteer church secretary



◀ Afternoon class (Preparatory Class): The kids love to sing! Look at the expression on their faces . . . "Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me . . . The Bible tells me so!"

Notice the children's t-shirts. Look familiar? Front says KMS (Kawananakoa Middle School), a donation from the WBM! However, they say "KMS," "King My Savior!!"

➤ Doing seat work. Emphasizing reading, writing and arithmetic

Learning is a family affair! In October the Learning Center observed National Language week. The culture and languages (dialects) of the Philippines is emphasized in the curriculum for the week. The children and parents were involved in activities in preparation for the culmination of the observance.



A school assembly was held on Friday to share what was learned during the week. There were presentations of dances and songs as well as a parade by the children dressed in different native wear. Some of the parents got together to do a dance performance for the children, parents and guests. The members of the church and the school families are very grateful for the financial blessings through the Woman's Board of Missions, the Moanalua Community Church, and individual supporters who generously share their blessings. Sir Winston Churchill once said "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." May your life be richly blessed because you freely give!

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS BLESSING



By Melinda Ahn, Missions Chair

Acts 20:34: It is more blessed to give than receive.



Left: Our youngest member Kiara Maciel. Middle: Kaiulani Hess-, Henry & Melinda Ahn with 5 mo'opuna Haven & Shady Ahn, Kiara, Iliana & Julian Maciel, Kaliko (Melinda's daughter) & Alejo Maciel (taking the picture), Kaimana Parsons, Myrtle & Sione Stewart-Vetekina Right: Kiara and Waimea Williams with bibles and goodie bags made up with toiletries and knit hats, 25 dozen boiled eggs, fruit, nuts, Cross in my Pocket gifts, and Christmas candy.

We all met by the Discovery Center, in Kaka'ako, shared a prayer, swept the outer park, and then the beach parks. People were so open and unguarded when they were approached by happy, enthusiastic children. You could see their faces as the children approached them. We spent time talking with people. They were friendly and shared some of their personal stories. One woman cried upon receiving a pair of eyeglasses when we visited River Street. Chinatown's homeless population was older & needed the glasses the most. We began at 2:00 p.m. and finished at 6:00 p.m. We ran out of supplies as many approached us having heard we were there. A great need for toiletries was expressed by people in Iwilei & Chinatown. My heart was touched and enriched as we shared what we had with others. As I said before, many of us could easily be in their place as a result of a death or loss of a job.



Myrtle's van was a very popular place full of jackets, blankets, towels, pillows, clothing and socks.



Left: Kiara leads the way. Middle right: A man already has his knit beanie on and is reading his new bible. Middle right: The boys were excited and ran and gave an officer a goodie bag and a bible which he happily received. Far right: our new Missions Committee member, Kaiulani Hess, shares baked goods and fresh fruit she brought with a smile.



Rainbow Blessings

There have been rainbows in the sky at every one of our homeless outreach missions. We saw this rainbow when we began the homeless Christmas Blessing.

At the end of our last outreach to the homeless during Easter, we saw another beautiful rainbow.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)

By Clara D. Priester

We continue to support our sisters who are incarcerated at the Women's Community Correctional Center here in Hawai'i.

Last year, during a visit with Warden Mark Patterson, he appealed to me to encourage our WBM to adopt the women in the Acute Mental Health Unit. Because funding from the State is typically inadequate in meeting the needs of the program, supplemental support often comes from churches, organizations, and others in the community.

On Wednesday, November 28, 2012, I met with Warden Patterson and toured the facility. Our new member and one of our partners, Tracey Holcomb (Sisters Going Deeper in God) joined me. We were greatly moved by the stories of the women, but extremely impressed with the cultural and needs-specific programs that Warden Patterson and his staff have worked so diligently and compassionately to create. As the women successfully complete the program(s) required, some become mentors for others.

During our tour of the facility, we had the privilege of meeting Haneefbilal, a clinical social worker and psychologist in the Acute Mental Health Unit, who shared a little about the kinds of treatment women receive. We also met and listened to a woman's firsthand account of her experience and how the program has allowed her to heal and find peace. She now realizes that she can now encourage and mentor others when she is released.

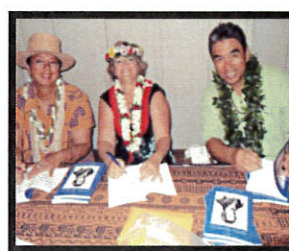
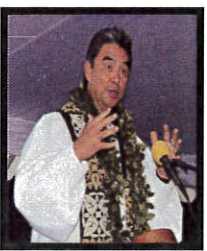
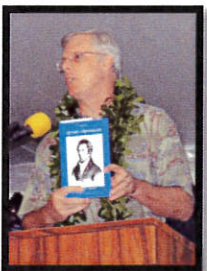
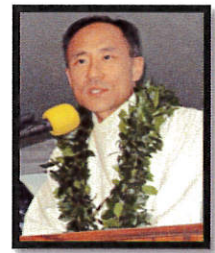
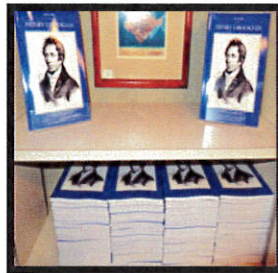
There is an ongoing need for toiletries (both full size and travel size) and supplies for the women in the Acute Mental Health Unit. The following is a list of these items:

Hair Shampoo	Stamps
Hair Conditioners	Socks (white only)
Body Lotions	Popcorn
Colored Markers	Chips
Coloring Books	Candies
Colored Paper	Construction Paper
Craft Supplies (glitter, glue)	

If you are able to support this program by donating any of the items above, I know that it will be endlessly appreciated by the staff and our sisters at the WCCC. Please pray for the staff and women here. Mahalo.

THE “MEMOIRS OF HENRY OBOOKIAH”

The “Memoirs of Henry Obookiah” book launch held on Thursday, October 18, 2012, at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Museum in Honolulu was a complete success! More than 125 people attended the historic event. The WBM especially thanks our Executive Director Clara D. Priester, Eleanore Atherton Chong, Georgia S. Kay, the Reverend Dr. Charles A. Buck, Kahu Bill Kaina, Kahu Kekapa Lee, Kahu Wendell Davis, Kahu Brian Welsh, Reverend Richard Kamanu, Reverend David Hirano, Pupukahi of Mid-Pacific Institute, Dr. Tom Woods, Dr. Dwayne Priester, Deborah Lee, Mid Week Magazine, our members, and the many others who helped and participated in the program, dedication, and blessing.



MAHALO NUI LOA

Frances Dolph
H.M. Wyeth
Annie Chun-Mow
Keala Kaimimoku
Sandy Kaina
Cherry Jeong
Cancelled Stamps

The Reverend Dr. Charles A. Buck
Reverend Richard Kamanu
Reverend David Hirano
Kahu Kekapa Lee
Kahu Brian Welsh
Kahu Wendell Davis
Hawaiian Mission Houses
Pupukahi of Mid-Pacific Institute
Kumu Lanakila
Youth on the Move (Central Union Church)
Aloha Party Rentals
The Larry Czerwonka Company
Diane Czerwonka
Leonora Espania
Pumehana Wadsworth Davis
Ron Nagasawa, Midweek
Dr. Tom Woods
Diane Ching
Eleanore Atherton Chong
Karen Welsh
Kathleen Mumford
Melinda Ahn
Kiara Marciel
Reverend Diane Weible
Vivian Maunakea
Memoirs of Henry Obookiah
Book Launch

Tracey Holcomb
Sisters Going Deeper in God
UCC Transition House
Donations

Sharon Cenal
Prescription Eyeglasses

Martha Albin
Helen Pierce
Elsbeth Kerr
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina
Sione Vetekina
Dwayne "Dee" Priester
Mrs. Fesilafa'i Malae
Deborah Li'ikapeka Lee
Georgia S. Kay
William Donlin
Ruby Donlin
Kaiulani Hess
Linda Shigeta
Irene Nomura
Olive Bass
Gloria Ganibi
Chris Nuuhiwa
Hawaii Reads
95.5 The Fish
Honolulu Weekly
Colleen Knudsen
Sherman Hee
Rhoda Simeona
Maryruth Eaves-Herrera
Lenora Cossey-Taft
Memoirs of Henry Obookiah
Book Launch

MAHALO NUI LOA

Central Union Church
Church of the Holy Cross
First Chinese Church of Christ
Hanapepe UCC
Hawaii Kai UCC
Kalihi & Moanalua Congregational Church
Kaulanapueo Church
Kaumakapili Church
Nuuanu Congregational Church
Opihikao Congregational Church
Po'okela Church
United Methodist Women
Women of Kawaiaha'o
Waialua UCC
Waiokeola Congregational Church
Waipahu UCC
Women of Kawaiaha'o

Valrie Griffith
Accounting Support

Myrtle-Stewart Vetekina
Sione Vetekina
Lila Vailuu
Melinda Ahn
Henry Ahn
Shaden Ahn
Haven Ahn
Rainforest Ahn
Waimea Williams
Kiara Maciel
Luka Nae'ole
Kaimana Parsons
Kaiulani Hess
Kaliko, Alejo, Iliana, and Julian Maciel
Christmas Homeless Blessing

To our countless number of family and friends who have supported us.