

January 2015

The Morning Star

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



Next Regular WBM Meeting

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 19, 2015

**Hawaii Conference United
Church of Christ
Kukui Room
1848 Nuuanu Avenue**

Bring a friend or two

**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**

SAVE THE DATE

The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands

144th ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 16, 2015

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Central Union Church
Parish Hall
1660 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i**

Cost: \$25.00

(includes lunch)

***Tickets will be available for
purchase at our next WBM
meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2015.
~More details are forthcoming~***

***There will be no WBM meeting in
January 2015***

FROM OUR PRESIDENT: KAREN WELSH



Please take a few moments out of your busy life and think about the WBM!

I have been pondering this very busy week. It's been a whirlwind of activity. I have sung in a trio that gave a Christmas concert for seniors at a local church, hosted an Open House at my home to help a friend sell her jewelry for Christmas, kept my grandchildren overnight so we could make Christmas gifts and crafts for loved ones, pulled together a family party for my eldest daughter's 29th birthday, went to church for regular services, carved out enough time to make choir practice for our upcoming cantata, made Christmas ornaments for the keiki who will attend Haili's Christmas Eve Service, attended to Christmas parties, shopped, and cleaned an apartment.

It wasn't until sheer exhaustion forced me into bed early one evening that I began to think about the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and a deadline I had missed on submitting this article. I thought to myself, "Really, Karen, are these your true priorities in life?" The sad truth was, I had become overextended this holiday season and forgotten the really important goals and ministries that I have committed my life to as I abide on this earth. I honestly think this is a part of satan's evil plot; to get us so involved and consumed in "good deeds" that we lose sight of our calling, our heavenly-minded goals, our true ministry. It caused me to pause and become focused, once again, on the things that matter most to the heart of God, and that is doing His Good and Perfect Will.

I think back a couple of weeks to the moment my husband and I led a dear friend in the salvation prayer right in the parking lot at Haili Church. Now her life is wrapped up the Kingdom of Heaven! What a gift! This should be our ultimate desire and goal, to make sure people are coming to Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Without the Son of God in our lives we are doomed. With Him we are set free. This is how ALL lives should matter to each of us, regardless of race, culture, or upbringing. Without Christ we are all nothing. With Christ, we are everything, so let's continue to spread the Word!

WBM is committed to bringing Christ to our corner of this vast and unsettled world. We need your ongoing support, however to continue bringing the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ to many lands and people groups. Please take a few moments to pray about how much support you can give. We very much appreciate it and all monies received by our non-profit by December 30th will be a tax-deduction for next year.

Our mailing address is:

WBM
1848 Nuuanu Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96817

Thank you for helping us continue the 144 year tradition of this ministry. Because of your help, the WBM continues to grow and thrive in Hawaii Nei, the entire Pacific Rim, and beyond!

Aloha Ke Akua Na Iesu Kristo,
Karen Welsh

WBM MISSION 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.”

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

WBM Monthly Meetings

January (no meeting)

February 19

March 19

April 16

May 16, 2015 - Annual Meeting
(more details forthcoming)

WBM CABINET

Karen Welsh	President Hawaii Island Representative
Rebecca Woodland	O’ahu VP Representative
Linda Shigeta	Kaua’i VP Representative
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina	Recording Secretary
Cynthia Homer	Corresponding Secretary
Valrie A. Griffith	Treasurer
Eleanore A. Chong	Finance Committee Co- Chair
Georgia S. Kay	Finance Committee Co-Chair
Melinda Ahn	Missions Chair
Clara D. Priester	Executive Director

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Sarah “Sally” Anson
Kapaa, Kaua’i

IN SEARCH OF WILLING WORKERS

Membership in the Woman’s Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands affords multiple opportunities to serve God by utilizing your spiritual and natural gifts to help improve the quality of life for others who are experiencing various hardships both in Hawai’i and the greater Pacific Rim. Our organization recently celebrated 143 years of ministry in May 2014.

We meet monthly to conduct business, receive inspiration, and identify ways to continue to make a difference in our communities and world. Annual dues of \$25 are collected from all members in June and used to further our ministry. A one-time gift of \$100 honors you as a lifetime member, though an annual contributing due of \$25 is still required to further support the ministry. There are many ways to contribute to the work that we do through donations of needed items, financial gifts, serving on mission projects or a committee, and more.

A membership application can be found by visiting www.hcucc.org. You can locate the Woman’s Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands by clicking on “Ministries” and then “Affiliated Ministries.”

GENTLE REMINDER

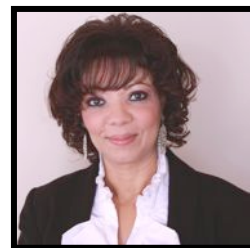
If you are already a member of our WBM, please be sure to update your contact information should you move or change any of your information. We want to be sure that you receive all correspondence being sent to you.

For those of you who attend our WBM monthly meetings, please remember to bring your favorite food to share during our lunch and fellowship immediately following and bring a guest or two. If you do bring a guest(s) or invite someone you know will be coming, please call Clara to let her know.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about membership, our organization or how you can get involved, please contact Clara at (808) 791-5647 or (808) 990-0503.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CLARA D. PRIESTER



“So That He May Be Glorified”

September 11 is a day that I will remember vividly. It was the day that my husband, Dee, rushed me to the emergency at Straub Hospital where it was confirmed that I had suffered a heart attack. Almost, immediately, I was transported to the cardiac wing of the hospital where I was prepped to undergo a procedure to implant a coronary stent in an artery that was completely blocked. My doctor informed me that I made it to the hospital just in time. Shocked and stunned that this was happening, my husband and I prayed and believed for God’s perfect will to be done. After being released from the hospital to return home, I was rushed back to the emergency several days later to undergo a second procedure. By the grace of God, my cardiologist reported that the smaller arteries were having spasms as they adjusted to the stent and that I did not require an additional stent implant.

Equally shocked and stunned, family and friends commented and asked questions like, “How could this happen?” “A heart attack? Not you!” “I don’t understand. You’re so young and healthy,” “Are you experiencing a great deal of stress?” “Does this run in your family?” I pondered some of these same things knowing that I live a healthy lifestyle. As I recovered and evaluated areas of my life, I inquired of the Lord if there was something more that I could be doing in terms of my health.

My answer came rather swiftly when I received an e-mail containing the parable of the blind man found in John:9. In this parable, Jesus is walking in Jerusalem on a dusty road and sees a man who is blind from birth sitting there. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, *Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.* When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, *Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.* He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Having read and heard this parable many times previously, it ministered to me differently and in a much deeper way this time. Not only is our Heavenly Father, El Rapha, the God who heals, but all that he does in and through my life is to glorify him. All that he does in and through your life is to glorify him.

There are times when we may do all of the right things, but yet and still, “life happens.” We will surely have trials, but God manifests his greatness especially during those times that may even shake us for a moment. We can have peace in knowing what God’s Word promises in Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

As I continue to recover, I am grateful that God spared me for a specific purpose and that I can share my testimony of his power in my life so that he alone may be glorified.

As a new year is ushered in, may we remember and give thanks for the greatest love that was given to us – Jesus.

FROM OUR O'AHU VP REPRESENTATIVE

REBECCA WOODLAND



It is a joy to be part of Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands, partnering with sister organizations that share our values and mission as we work together to bless, empower, and encourage women and children at home in Hawaii and the greater Pacific Rim.

Recent projects include (but are not limited to) Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Several of our WBM members packed shoeboxes with gifts, many donated funds to help with transportation costs (thank you, Joy Jar!), and others contributed gift items for filling the shoeboxes. I spent many hours every day for eight straight days of National Shoebox Collection Week gathering and collecting shoebox gifts, building cartons for these shoeboxes, packing shoeboxes with donated items, and assisting with logistics and details at the main shoebox drop-off location, Central Union Church. I am grateful for a faithful team of willing, capable, intelligent, creative volunteers who saw this project through to the end. The shoebox gifts from the state of Hawaii are now on their way to bless the children of Indonesia, providing them not only with gifts of toys and much-needed school supplies, hygiene items, and other essentials, but also with the opportunity to experience the true meaning of Christmas as they learn about Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All. Nearly 30,000 gift-filled shoeboxes were collected on Oahu, and we anticipate a statewide total of around 40,000 shoeboxes. (Worldwide totals are expected to exceed 10 million, with at least ten countries participating in giving, and 100 countries receiving these gifts.) Woman's Board of Missions is excited to be part of this powerful ministry, changing the world one shoebox at a time.

Our current project, White Gifts, wraps up (pun intended) on Sunday, December 14. Partnering with about a dozen local ministries and Honolulu-based social service agencies serving the poorest of the poor, we anticipate at least one thousand gifts will be collected to help these agencies better serve the people they are reaching out to help. Waikiki Health Center, Next Step Shelter, UCC Transition House, Hawaii Meals on Wheels, Parents & Children Together, Mary Jane House, Central Union Church's Kaka'ako Park Ministry, and Hale Kipa, (among others) have made their needs and requests known to us. If you wish to participate, here are the guidelines: All gifts must be new, easily transportable, and suitable for a person who is homeless or in transition. The greatest needs are gifts for adults and teens who otherwise would not likely receive any gift at Christmas. (Note: This is not "Toys for Tots" or "Angel Tree".) Each gift needs to be wrapped in white (use the reverse side of gift wrap), with a white ribbon or bow, and is given in honor of the Christ Child. Please contact me (Rebecca) at 295-3027 as soon as possible so arrangements can be made to get your gifts to the appropriate recipients well before Christmas.

As the year draws to a close, let us pause to reflect on the Greatest Gift of All, Jesus, who came to us as a poor child, became our Savior, and taught us how to love each other.

Wishing you all a blessed, joyous, hope-filled Christmas and New Year,
Rebecca



Operation Christmas Child

FROM OUR KAUA'I VP REPRESENTATIVE

LINDA SHIGETA

Aloha from Kauai



The annual Parade of Lights on Rice Parade was a hit for our U.C.C. youth. This is the first time our youth have participated as a unit. The picture was taken by Kahu Rennie Mau who is our Island Wide Youth Coordinator. We were getting ready for the parade when the picture was taken. I am so very proud of our youth. Many of our youth were participating in other school groups in the parade as well. After the parade we played games, took Christmas pictures and had dinner at the Lihue Christian Church. We are grateful for the use of their facility.



We are working on a youth social for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at present. The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands has been a wonderful help to our youth.

Mahalo for your assistance and support to our island.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES



The Ludwig Family
Guam



The Pagaragan Family
Japan



Mark and Dayna Blair
China



Pastor Les and Lynn Ginoza
Thailand



Pastor John McGuire
Marshall Islands

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

We were blessed to continue our ongoing support to the following ministries and organizations this year:

Homeless Blessings are visits to our homeless brothers and sisters in our parks and in Chinatown to provide them with basic necessities, food, and to fellowship with them. These are done once per quarter.

Kokokahi Tropical Hunger Project established malnourished feeding programs through sewing projects, teaches organic sustainable farming to feed the poorest of the poor, provides support in medical training, and relief from natural disasters.

TJ Mahoney is a program that prepares women for reentry into their families and communities after being incarcerated.

UCCP Pasuquin Learning Center is a preschool in Ilocos Norte, Philippines that was established by one of our members. Children are taught a Christian-based curriculum and are fed a warm meal daily that is often the only meal they have all day.

United Church of Christ Transition House is a safe house for women and their children who are survivors of domestic violence. The House helps women and children heal and provides tools to live well independently.

Waikiki Youth Outreach Center is an outreach service providing hot meals, clothing, medical care, and basic necessities for our homeless youth.

Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) is a facility that houses about 300 women. We adopted the women in the mental health unit (at the request of Warden Patterson) by providing basic necessities and visits to fellowship with them from time to time. We have also supported the Total Life Recovery Program (TLR), a faith based program spearheaded by Chaplain Tammy Turcios. Many of the women who participate in this program accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and also enjoy chapel services.

ZOE International rescues children from human trafficking and provides shelter, intervention, and faith-based counseling while nurturing them towards healing. They also educate others in terms of prevention.

Additionally, we received appeals for financial support from a few other ministries and were able to provide some support to:

Beautiful International - an organization that helps women overcome poverty through micro business and microfinance, and to find faith in God. Work is being done in Iraq, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Egypt.

Friends of Fukushima - raises awareness of the plight of people affected by radiation and assists those with disabilities.

Pastor John McGuire (YWAM) - a thriving ministry to children and young adults in the Marshall Islands.

Young Life - an international outreach that introduces adolescents to Jesus Christ and helps them grow in their faith.

FAMILY THANK OFFERING

There are many ministries that we are blessed and grateful to support. The Family Thank Offering is an outreach that is especially dear to the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands. It is supported by a few UCC churches, individuals, and members who send regular donations. In the past couple of years especially, we received more and more appeals for emergency assistance for rent/security deposits, utilities, and basic necessities. This is largely in part because more of our community advocates and human services have learned who we are and what we do. Through our Family Thank Offering, an outreach that gives one-time mission grants to meet a special need of women and their children (exclusively in Hawaii), we have been able to offer support to women who were on the verge of becoming homeless, escaping violent husband or partners, without food and basic necessities, newly released from prison, and much more. While meeting the physical needs of women and their children, the gift of compassion through the Family Thank Offering inspires hope that allows many of these mothers to move forward in their lives. Requests for emergency assistance are presented by ministers, community advocates, and at times, our members. These requests are typically made to our office. All requests are authenticated and require supporting documentation. For example, if a woman is escaping domestic violence and needs assistance with a security deposit for a place of her own, we require a copy of the rental agreement and confirm the information with the landlord/owner. This information, along with what is provided by her advocate or minister, is then submitted to the Family Thank Offering Committee. All requests are reviewed and a determination is usually made within 24-48 hours. Because these requests require us to work with a sense of urgency, if a situation happens during the weekend, the committee discusses the request via telephone. These one-time mission grants are allowable up to \$500 and when possible, checks are sent directly to a landlord, attorney, or utility company. Otherwise, checks are made payable to the woman in need. Checks are prepared swiftly after approval. To protect the privacy of the women we assist, no names are used in our summaries. Our Executive Director, Clara, remains in contact with several of the women who received assistance, always encouraging them and praying with them. Recently, two of the women returned to volunteer in the office as their way of giving back, two have remarried and are doing well, another graduated from Hawaii Pacific University and is now an advocate at the Institute of Human Services, one is now helping to meet the needs of homeless families in Wahiawa, another is an advocate for women who have previously been incarcerated, and several others now have jobs and are receiving counseling as they rebuild their lives. Please consider supporting the Family Thank Offering. Every dollar received is invaluable.

MISSION GRANTS

2014

A 3 year old girl's family needed assistance after she underwent a major surgery to correct a leg that was a bit shorter than the other. Her parents were without an income for one month while they were here on O'ahu with their daughter. We learned later that this little girl is now an ambassador for Shriner's Hospital for Children.

Mission Grant: \$300

A young woman (survivor of domestic violence) who recently graduated from college and lost two of her family members in a matter of months, needed assistance with food and utilities as she also cared for her grandmother.

Mission Grant: \$200

A woman who lost her job and was facing homelessness with her children needed assistance with rent.

Mission Grant: \$300

A mother of two children was facing eviction as a result of economic hardship and needed assistance with rent. She raised some funds on her own and also received some assistance from her church. With our help, she was able to move into a place of her own.

Mission Grant: \$300

A mother escaping domestic violence and fighting for custody of her children needed assistance for attorney fees. Her ex-husband was bitterly fighting her as a way to avoid paying child support. With our help, she was able to successfully secure legal representation.

Mission Grant: \$300

Hurricane Iselle relief was sent to Kalapana Maunakea Church to help replenish food that the church used to feed those in need in the community. All of their food was spoiled as a result of the loss of electricity.

Mission Grant: \$500

A woman in the Institute of Human Services (IHS) received assistance for her monthly shelter fee to prevent her from returning to the streets.

Mission Grant: \$90

A woman facing eviction needed assistance with a rent delinquency. She had suffered two consecutive heart attacks shortly after losing her job and was also caring for her two grandchildren.

Mission Grant: \$500

A woman with two children who was formerly homeless needed assistance with a rent deposit. She was promised assistance from the Institute of Human Services who soon after, learned that they had lost their grant. Consequently, they were unable to help her.

Mission Grant: \$350

A woman who was formerly homeless needed assistance with rent. She had no family here and had just started working.

Mission Grant: \$350

A woman being released from the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) was in need of clothing and basic necessities for herself and her 5 children.

Mission Grant: \$250

A woman leaving the UCC Transition House needed assistance with rent to secure a place of her own.

Mission Grant: \$400

WISH LIST

(new or very gently used)

The items listed below are regularly needed items for mission projects and outreach. The needs in our communities are alarmingly increasing. If you are able to donate any of these items or a combination of them at any time, it would be a great relief to those in crisis. **Items marked with an asterisk are needed in both travel and full sizes.**

Personal Items

Shampoo/Conditioner *

Body Wash/Soap *

Body Lotion *

Toothpaste *

Toothbrushes

Toilet Paper

Hand Wipes/Sanitizers

Deodorant *

Sanitary Napkins

Tampons

Combs/Brushes

Towels

Children's Underwear *(all sizes)*

Bedding Items

Pillows *(standard)*

Pillowcases *(standard)*

Blankets

School Supplies

Crayons

Composition Books

Pens (Black Ink)

Pocket Folders

Markers

Erasers

Pencils

Baby Items

Baby Powder *

Baby Lotion *

Diapers & Wipes

Other

Socks

Bibles

Jackets

Prescription Eyeglasses

Postage Stamps

Plain Envelopes
(letter & legal)

Fabrics/Sewing Notions

Gift Cards

(Walmart, Longs, Gas Cards, Grocery Store Cards)

If you have any questions about anything listed, please contact Clara (808) 791-5647 or (808) 990- 0503.

~ Mahalo for what you are able to do ~

MAHALO NUI LOA

Judy Asman
Graceleanor Baird
Ruby Donlin
RoseMarie Doral
Donna Gamboa
Valrie Griffith
Sherman Hee
The Rev. Dr. Nani Hill
Cynthia Homer
Colleen Jamison
Elspeth Kerr
Karen Koles
Robert Kozuki
Chris Nuuhiwa
Dee Priester
Gina Richardson
Thomas Shiga
Carol Sullivan
Mike Sullivan
Rebecca Woodland
Dr. Alan Yoshida
Donations & Gifts

Judy Asman
RoseMarie Doral
Ms. Engstrom
Walter F. Goodman, Jr.
Sandy Kaina
Joyce Kajihara
Kawaiaha'o Church
Audrey Pricher
Linda Shigeta
Carolyn Winston
Cancelled Stamps

Carol Miura
Stamp Project

Henry Ahn
Melinda Ahn
Storage

Churches/Organizations
Central Union Thrift Shop
Friends of the Library
Haili Congregational Church
Haili Vacation Bible School
Hawaii Kai UCC
International Baptist Church
Kahului Union Church
Kapaa United Church of Christ
Sisters Going Deeper in God
The First Chinese Church of Christ
(*Women's Fellowship*)
Windward United Church of Christ
Women of Kawaiahao
Donations & Gifts

Melinda Ahn
Ruby Donlin
Corinne Kido
Jason Saito
Linda Shigeta
Myrtle Stewart Vetekina
Rebecca Woodland
Packing Hygiene & Food Bags

Hanalei Ahn
Henry Ahn
Rainforest Ahn
Shannon Burnett
Valrie Griffith
Corinne Kido
Kokokahi UCC
Ian Murphy
Michelle Murphy
Clara D. Priester
Jason Saito

Homeless Blessing Donations

Melinda Ahn
Barbara Brocchini
Mario Brocchini
Kaimana Parsons
Myrtle Stewart Vetekina
Homeless Christmas Blessing

Sally Anson
Graceleanor Baird
Ailene Beady
Ulu Breen
Rae Carter
Charlene Dorsey
Rev. Dr. Nani Hill
Barbara Hollenbeck
Joyce Irwin
Miyoko Kaohi
Elena Kaauwai
Marsha Kiest
Sue McLaughlin
Rev. Phyllis Meighen
Karen Michaels
Carolyn Moore
Leslie Namoa
Gladys Okada
Helen Percival
Clara D. Priester
Teri Sakai
Gloria Saraos
Rev. Jeannie Thompson
Naomi Yokotake
Lihue United Church
Kaua'i Meet & Greet

Mahalo nui loa to all of our members, partners and supporters for a phenomenally great year!