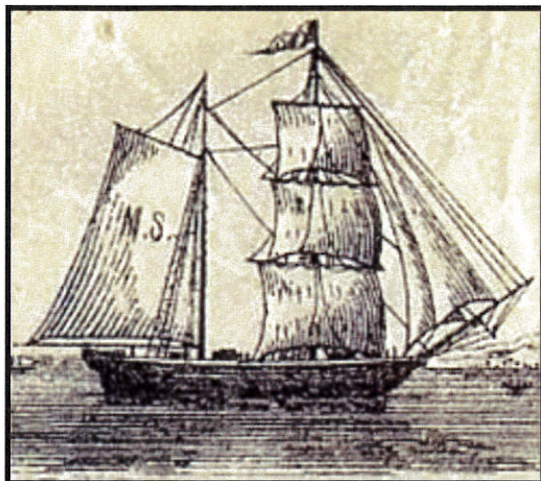


July 2013

# *The Morning Star*

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



## **Next Regular WBM Meeting**

**Thursday, September 19, 2013**  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Hawaii Conference United  
Church of Christ Office**  
1848 Nuuanu Avenue

**Invite a friend or two**

## **Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands**

1848 Nuuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96817  
(808) 791-5647



Editor: Clara D. Priester  
Presiding: Karen Welsh

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **HENRY 'OPUKAHA'IA 20th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING CELEBRATION**



**KAHIKOLU CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
82-5931 Napoopoo Rd.  
Capt. Cook, Hawaii 96704

**Saturday, August 17, 2013**

## **SERVICE**

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

## **LUNCH**

**Please RSVP by August 2, 2013**

**Deborah Li'ikapeka Lee**  
[keoheolahou@yahoo.com](mailto:keoheolahou@yahoo.com) or 443-1268

***You don't want to miss this historical event!***



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT: KAREN WELSH



Aloha Members of WBM,

It's hard to believe we are in the middle of yet another summer, but the seasons continue to march on, as they have for 143 years of this historic ministry. You may think the office is taking a rest, however, our beloved Executive Director Clara D. Priester has been working tirelessly to get everything in order for the coming year.

Another person who has been working very hard for WBM's benefit is our new treasurer Valrie Griffith. She has spent a couple of months and many countless hours reconciling years of our financial books and records. It's one of the many areas that had suffered over the years and it was my heart's desire to see it brought up-to-par during my tenure as president and I'm thankful to witness a qualified and extremely capable person handling the details. I want to personally thank Valrie for using her very unique and qualified gift set in finance to get this portion of our ministry fully on track. I might add that WBM continuously welcomes monetary gifts to help support the continued operation and missions of this ministry.

Speaking of that, WBM is also gearing up for another full year of ministry. Our Mission's Chairperson Melinda Ahn recently returned from an extensive trip to the Philippines. We look forward to hearing about her experience at one of our meetings this fall. Speaking of meetings, please make sure you look at our calendar section and mark down the three dates in September, October, and December. We will have the Joy Jar available at each meeting to spread the true meaning of aloha for our various spur-of-the moment missions' projects and needs. Bring your dollar bills and words of encouragement to each meeting.

We are working to expand our membership rolls and welcome all guests to our meetings. This is often achieved through a personal invitation, so please be in prayer and be actively thinking of a friend that you can bring from your church or community. Let's build this ministry together and Never Underestimate the Power of a Christian Woman!

In Christ Alone,

Karen Welsh  
WBM President



## 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 - 2014

### WBM MEETINGS

September 19

October 17

December 12

January 16

February 20

March 20

April 10

### WBM CABINET

Karen Welsh	<i>President Hawaii Island Representative</i>
Kathleen Mumford	<i>VP Representative, Tri-Isle</i>
Linda Shigeta	<i>VP Representative, Kaua'i</i>
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Lenora Cossey-Taft	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Valrie A. Griffith	<i>Treasurer</i>
Eleanore A. Chong	<i>Finance Committee Co-Chair</i>
Georgia S. Kay	<i>Finance Committee Co-Chair</i>
Melinda Ahn	<i>Missions Chair</i>
Clara D. Priester	<i>Executive Director</i>



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### CLARA D. PRIESTER



God continues to masterfully order my footsteps in ways that I could never fathom and He is doing the same for our WBM. Isaiah 55:8 reads, “For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.” There is a full spectrum of limitless possibilities in serving Him and while we have accomplished much in the past year, I am excited about what lies ahead. We certainly have much more to do, but I am so very grateful for all that God has already done in further establishing, and in some cases, reestablishing our WBM with our partners, churches and others in the community.

In May, after receiving an e-mail from Warden Patterson, I attended the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) Counselor Training with Melinda, our Missions Chair and Tracey Holcomb, President of Sisters Going Deeper in God and new WBM member. The training was organized and conducted by Chaplain Tammy Turcios who oversees the Total Life Recovery Program (TLR), a faith-based ministry to women in the facility. It was an incredibly enlightening training and greatly beneficial in ministry. We heard powerful testimonies of the healing power of God in the lives of several women. Many of them have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Lillian was one of these women. She had been incarcerated for several years and was moving on to TJ Mahoney, a program that prepares women for reentry. She applied for work and was hired by a local church that created an administrative position especially for her. Lillian continues to thrive, but is always careful to acknowledge God for His guidance and provision and her successes. We have been able to gift her and Dione, another program participant with toiletries and financial gifts in partnership with Sisters Going Deeper in God. On June 25, I was Lillian’s guest at a “Building A Beloved Community Dinner” at Kaumakapili Church. What an honor this was for me. I will be meeting with Lorraine Robinson, Executive Director of TJ Mahoney, on July 9 to talk about how we can work more effectively in stewarding our resources to help more of the women in this program. I continue to receive updates from Lillian and Dione about their progress and have opportunities to pray with them. This is the joy of ministry – witnessing the transformational and restorative power of God in the lives of people.

I am pleased to report that I have met and continue to meet with Pastor Odette Carasquillo (Center of Light Christian Ministries), Reverend Debra Murray (United Methodist Church), Pastor Karlyn Miyashiro (Island Women Empowered by God), Kelly Pagaragan (missionary in Japan), Caleb Ludwig (missionary in Guam), Norina Barcenias (Wings International – help for Domestic Violence survivors), Dr. Gina Camara and Haneefbilal (Acute Mental Health Unit at WCCC), Rose Colquitt (Substance Abuse Program at WCCC), Su Atta and Annie England (PACT/Family Peace Center), Debbie Smith (Youth Outreach Center), Sisters Going Deeper in God, Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Donna Gamboa (Windward Spouse Abuse Shelter), Riane Cardenas (Executive Director of a new non-profit providing help to families of Domestic Violence), Kehaulani Coleman (Director of Economic Advancement Programs, YWCA), and more. Our partnerships create opportunities for me to share the ministry of our WBM, garner more support, and work collaboratively to further our reach. The needs in our communities are so great and it requires all of us working together to do more. My regular meetings also include our amazing Finance Committee and working very closely with Melinda, our Missions Chair. How very grateful I am for the dedication of all of these servants.

On Sunday, June 23, I attended a service at Waipahu UCC where I presented a check from our WBM for Kelly Pagaragan. She was unable to be there, so her mother and mother-in-law received the check on her behalf. Reverend Norma DeSaegher and I had an inspiring exchange after the service and I was able to share a WBM update with her. Other WBM members that I visited with there were Sachi Fujita, Irene Nomura, and Rose Pamatigan.

With God’s direction and anointing, and the faithfulness of so many of you, I believe that greater things are on the horizon for our WBM. May God grant you blessings of peace, health, and extraordinary moments.



## OUR 142<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

More than 65 women and a few husbands attended our Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Island's 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, held on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the Central Union Church Parish Hall. The theme of the event was "Called to Holiness" and the festive red decorations with beautiful imagery of hula dancers delighted all present. The scripture was taken from 1 Corinthians 15:34 which states, "Think straight. Awaken to the holiness of life."

Pianist Barbara Chong-Gossard launched the event with a beautiful musical prelude. Eleanore Atherton Chong welcomed members and guests and provided a brief history of Central Union Church. Her explanation of the stained glass windows in the Parish Hall was of particular interest since they were the windows of the original church once located where the current Hawaii State Capitol building now stands.

WBM President Karen Welsh called the meeting to order and a praise hula was offered by Mama Kahu Mariah Davis. She was accompanied on guitar by Kahu Wendell Davis.

The president introduced special guests before conducting the business portion of the meetings, where the 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes were approved, written reports received, and oral reports were given by Finance Chairwoman Eleanore Atherton Chong, Membership Chairwoman Kathleen Mumford, Missions Chairwoman Melinda Ahn, President Karen Welsh, and Executive Director Clara D. Priester. WBM supported missionary Caleb Ludwig also spoke for a few moments and thanked the membership for supporting his ministry to college students in Guam. Action Items including the approval of the 2013-2014 Proposed Operations Budget, Mission's Budget and Slate of Officers. The Reverend Gloria Imamura of Central Union Church formally installed and commissioned the officers to serve.

The Mother Alice Offering was conducted by a former recipient and WBM Member, the Reverend Youlida Yoruw, from Iao Congregational Church on Maui. WBM Spiritual Life Chair Lila Vailuu led the Necrology as we remembered members who have passed away this year.

The worship service was the highlight of the day as Tri-Isle Representative Kathleen Mumford led in a beautiful and heart rendering Call to Worship. Mama Kahu Mariah Davis offered another praise hula with her husband accompanying on guitar and was proceeded by an inspiring keynote address by Dr. Ku'ulei Serna.

Former Executive Director Carolyn Winston presented Mrs. Fesilafa'i Malae with her second "Never Underestimate the Power of a Christian Woman" award for more than 50 years of continuous service to the ministry.

A delicious lunch, fellowship, and lots of laughter followed the formal program of the day. There was much happiness and celebration in the festive atmosphere. The women agreed they are looking forward to another 142 years of service through this historic, yet vital ministry.

*Karen Welsh*  
*WBM President*

# NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN



## IN HONOR OF A FAITHFUL MINISTRY

**10** Years Ago when Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II ~ She was making Poula for the Woman's Board's Spring Tea and filling hospitality bags for the Woman's Board of Missions All-State Women's Retreat and inviting all her friends to attend;

**15** Years Ago when Michelangelo's, "Christ & the Woman of Samaria," sold for \$7.4 million ~ She was encouraging all her friends and sisters in Christ to give to the Woman's Board of Missions Family Thank Offering;

**20** Years Ago when Bill Clinton is inaugurated as the U.S. 42nd president and Carolyn Winston is installed as the Woman's Board of Missions 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Director ~ She was serving dinner to the Hawaii Conference's Board of Director's dinners;

**30** Years Ago when the final episode of M\*A\*S\*H is watched by 125,000,000 viewers ~ She was mashing bananas for lunch and bringing lei for the Woman's Board's monthly Council meetings;

**40** Years Ago when President Richard Nixon announces a peace accord has been reached to end Vietnam War ~ She is bringing words of peace and love through her many Christmas cards and gifts to the members of the Woman's Board of Missions;

**50** Years Ago when the Beatles are taking the world by storm with their songs "Please, Please Me" and "She Loves You" ~ She is sharing her love and kisses and encouraging words and deeds with all of our Woman's Board of Missions members;

**55** Years Ago when Elvis Presley patriotically joins the U.S. Army ~ Mrs. Fesilafa'i Malae joyfully joins the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands as one of our first Samoan women. She has been faithful ever since then.

*MRS. FESILAFAI MALAE*

2012-2013 Recipient

Written by Carolyn Winston  
WBM Nominating Chair & Former Executive Director



## FROM OUR TRI-ISLE REPRESENTATIVE & MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

### KATHLEEN MUMFORD



I will be hosting the next Maui meeting on Saturday, June 29, 2013, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the UH Maui College, Building C, Room 02 (tentative location). If you are interested in planning the 2013-2014 event calendar, please attend. All are welcome. Plans include hosting the Henry Opukaha'ia book launch in November 2013, discussing a timeline for a woman's retreat, and a journey to Lanai or Molokai or both within the next year.

In addition, we would like to have a WBM Tri-Isle historical documentary on file. David and Lois Farrington of Paia and Po'okela Church have agreed to tape the interview sessions. If you would like to participate or know the history or someone who we should contact please let me know as soon as possible. As I talk with several current members, it all seems to lead back to the women of Kahului Union Church.

Finally, the goal for the Membership Committee will be to discuss ways to get all the churches involved with the WBM and to have active representatives from each church.

For information, please email Kathleen at [kathleen@kmbeaches.com](mailto:kathleen@kmbeaches.com) or call (808) 875-0222

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands affords multiple opportunities to utilize 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 celebrated 142 years of ministry in May 2013.

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. There are many ways to contribute to the work that we do.

A membership application can be found at [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org). You can locate the Woman's Board of Missions by clicking on "Ministries" and then "Affiliated Ministries."

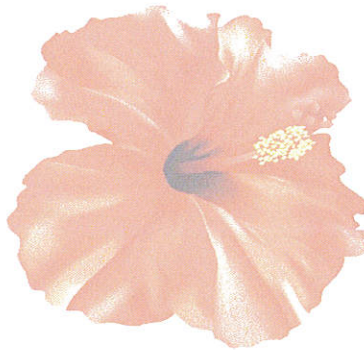
For questions about membership or our organization, please contact Clara at (808) 791-5647 or Kathleen at (808) 385-1625.

## 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. A warm welcome to our new members:

**Miter Joseph**  
*Kahului, Maui*

**Rebecca Woodland**  
*Honolulu, Hawaii*



**Bethany K. Andersen**  
*Keaau, Hawaii*

### ONE

One song can spark a moment,  
One flower can wake the dream.  
One tree can start a forest,  
One bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship,  
One handclasp lifts a soul.  
One star can guide a ship at sea,  
One word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation,  
One sunbeam lights a room.  
One candle wipes out darkness,  
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey,  
One word must start each prayer.  
One hope will raise our spirits,  
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom,  
One heart can know what's true.  
One life can make the difference,

You see, it's up to you!



## FROM OUR KAUA'I VP REPRESENTATIVE

### LINDA SHIGETA



A new pay-it-forward type of leadership program for young adults was presented in a formal letter written by Meleane Moala appealing to our WBM for financial assistance at our February 2013 meeting. Meleane is a youth member at Lihue United Church, recent graduate and valedictorian of Kapaa High School, and serves on the KAUCC Standing Committee for Youth and Young Adults. The project was born of her desire to cultivate the Spirit in the lives of young people who also feel a strong desire to share Christ with others. It would also provide more training in ministering to others and time to develop a deeper sense of their own call to Christian sharing. Meleane's high school senior project included a UCC pastor. She had gathered young women who were unchurched and through a weekend of prayer and conversation, exposed them to the heart of the Christian faith and the love and fellowship of Christ. This project, called the Sacred Day Walk and Apprenticeship, is to help inspire and energize our youth to live authentically. It will be a time for each one to just be with God, as he speaks in life-giving ways through nature and prayer, and will be offered to 10 young adults ages 18-30. Four will be selected from Kauai. An estimated 100 youth, grades 6-12, will be served by apprentices from July 30 through August 3, 2013 at Koke'e State Park on Kauai. The Woman's Board of Missions blessed this project with a monetary gift of \$1,000.

The spring break Youth Camp on Kauai was a success and immensely appreciated by our youth and community. Their theme was *God is the Adventure*. The Woman's Board of Missions sponsored four Marshallese youth, while I joyfully sponsored three others. They camped at the Church of the Pacific in Princeville. Clint Snyder (Waimea United Church) and his brother in Christ, Jamie, were some of our youth leaders. Pastor Alpha Goto (Wai'oli Hui'ia Church) in Hanalei gave surfing lessons and the Hanalei Adult Canoe Team gave instructions in the art of canoe paddling. The youth also worked with the Church of the Pacific's food pantry and garden where, Andrea Kaohi (Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church) was our outstanding cook.

The "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah" book launch was hosted at Lihue United Church on Thursday, March 21, 2013. The youth of our island and youngest member of our WBM, Kiara Maciel (Oahu), were a major focus and involved throughout the program. They could see truly the good works of our brother in Christ, Henry Opukaha'ia. A special thank you to the Reverend Dr. Nani Hill (Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church) for the blessing of the book. Deborah Li'ikapeka Lee gave an inspiring presentation. Our Lord, the dedicated service of our WBM, and our Kauai churches made this gathering a success. I also presented two books as a love gift to the Friends of the Lihue Library. Thank you Jesus.

The KAUCC Youth Committee is in the process of developing funding and hiring a youth coordinator for UCC churches island wide.

I have reached out to individual leaders of the Marshallese UCC churches on our island and supported them by helping their concerns to be heard with the State Department of Health.

The mainstay of my calling is to reach our youth. I believe that our Father will see more of His will come to fruition in this coming year. Your prayers are appreciated.

Thanks be to our Father for the honor of serving as Kauai's VP Representative this year.



## HOMELESS BLESSING MAY 2013



Kiara and Kaiulani



Homeless Blessing  
Angels



Eyeglass Recipient



Goodie Bags



Myrtle giving towels



Melinda, Kiara, & Kaliko  
on the move

A group of our members, families and friends met at the Discovery Center at Kaka'ako Park. Myrtle and Sione brought sandwiches and musubi for the group. We ate, took pictures near a banyan tree, and then gathered together and prayed. Kaliko prayed that the people we visited would feel hope. My husband, Henry closed the prayer.

We began at Kaka'ako Park then headed downtown to River Street in Chinatown. People from Aala Park came to us. We spent a good bit of time on River Street, before heading to the parking lot at Kmart in Iwilei across from the Institute of Human Services. We distributed previously donated prescription eyeglasses and every single pair found a home with someone who really needed it. Some cried, as they were now able to read. I gave one man a Daily Bread devotional and he told me he was unable to read. All of the eyeglasses were gone by this time, so I happily gave him my own.

All 120 food goodie bags consisting of 2 eggs, a big juicy apple, almonds, a granola bar, chocolate nuggets, and a little candy in each were distributed. People were so appreciative and excited. It was the same when we distributed 150 toiletry goodie bags, towels, slippers, sheets, pillows, blankets, clothing, socks, diapers, teddy bears, Bibles, and 25 dozen hard-boiled eggs. Kaiulani brought and distributed cold water and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. People expressed so much gratitude for what many would consider small things.

One man was so excited that he called his social worker to tell her he had just been given slippers, a towel and clothing. He only had the clothes on his back. He stayed with us until we left. A woman approached Kaliko saying that she was ashamed that she was really hungry and was not worthy of our gifts. She confided that she was going to take a towel from the Salvation Army. Kaliko ran into Kmart and purchased a couple more towels. The woman's boyfriend was wearing a pair of slippers that had broken and were being held together by tape. She said that we were really a blessing! Kaliko told them that she wanted them to see that there really is hope.

Another woman in a small crowd approaching us asked if we were selling our things when she saw that we had a car, a van, and a truck filled with supplies. We told them that we had brought these things for them. They said that we were "awesome." Many people asked who we were and inquired if we were with any group. I let them know that we are the WBM! People were polite and thankful. They said that they were happy and that they were so grateful that we thought of them!

One of the things that really tugged at my heart was the experience that a man shared with me. He said that he had an apartment that was sold from under his family. He works and has enough to pay for rent, but did not have the extra money for a deposit on a new rental. He has a girlfriend and child and said that he did not want to be homeless and that he did not want a "hand out." He just needed some help. We were able to assist this family and he has contacted our office twice to report to Clara that he and his family were able to find a new place and were grateful to our WBM for treating his family with such kindness.

Thank you to the countless number of you who give consistently to our WBM. You help to make our homeless blessings and other missions projects possible.

*Melinda Ahn, Missions Chair*



# MAHALO MI LOA

Beverly Zane  
Toni Rae Mendez  
RoseMarie Doral  
Sisters Going Deeper in God  
**School Supply Drive in Partnership  
with Waiiokeola Congregational Church**

Melinda Ahn  
Henry Ahn  
Kaliko Maciel  
Kiara Maciel  
Kaiulani Hess  
Sione Vetekina  
Waimea Williams  
Kaimana Parsons  
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina  
**May 2013 Homeless Blessing**

Carolyn Winston  
Melinda Ahn  
Linda Shigeta  
Central Union Church  
Irene Nomura  
Dwayne Priester  
Lenora Cossey-Taft  
Yvonne Shim  
Dr. Kuulei Serna  
Eleanore Atherton Chong  
Kathleen Mumford  
Kahu Wendell Davis  
Mama Kahu Maria Davis  
Reverend Gloria Imamura  
Reverend David Hirano  
Reverend Youlida Yoruw  
Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina  
**142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**

Sherman Hee  
**Hawaiian Bible (Gift to WBM)**

Dwayne Priester  
**All-in-One Printer for WBM Office**

Ruby Donlin, Chair  
Grace Murata  
Kats Enoki  
Hanako Takahashi  
**Family Thank Offering Committee**

Eleanore Atherton Chong, Chair  
Valrie Griffith  
Jim Richards  
Georgia Kay  
**Finance Committee**

Judy Rantala  
Carol Miura  
Pookela Church  
Kapaa UCC  
HCUCC Office  
RoseMarie Doral  
Georgia Kay  
Helen Pierce  
**Cancelled Stamps**

Central Union Church  
Church of the Holy Cross  
Crystal of Salvation (Woman's Assoc)  
First Chinese Church of Christ  
Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church  
Hawaii Kai UCC  
Kahikuonalani Church  
Kalihi & Moanalua Congregational Church  
Kaulanapueo Church  
Kaumakapili Church  
Lanai Union Church  
Nuuanu Congregational Church  
Opihikao Congregational Church  
Pookela Church  
Waialua UCC  
Waiiokeola Congregational Church  
Windward UCC  
Women of Kawaiahao  
**Gifts and Donations**

**To our Cabinet, Committee Chairs, and all of our WBM members and supporters  
for your prayers, service and gifts in 2012-2013. We appreciate you!**