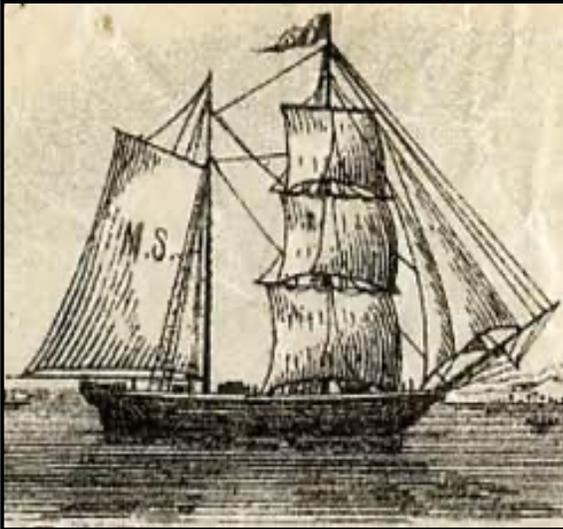


SEPTEMBER 2022

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**

**1660 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
(808) 791-5647
wbmhawaii@gmail.com**



**Editor: Clara D. Priester
Presiding: Lorna Bufil**



Opening Words

the cloudless watery blue sky has yet to learn about the small virus wreaking havoc on the earth below

the red buds emerging from winter trees have no idea they're awakening to a world where people can't hold the hands of their dying

the wind blows chill air through whether or not cheeks and fingers remain protected within walls

stars continue to burn their great stores of energy - do they also fear the day they'll run out?

but the birds know everything about singing to each other across empty spaces

dogs understand greetings that don't involve touch

tortoises take things slowly and carry their sense of home everywhere

cats flatten their curves all the time

what will history write about this moment?
what will our children remember?

may it be a story of mutual care across all boundaries
a habit of compassion as hopeful as the spring's return
and as encompassing as the vaulted sky.

LindaSusan Ulrich

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 Griffith
Finance Committee Chair	Eleanore A. Chong
Oahu VP Representative	Rebecca Woodland
Hawai'i Island VP Representative	Vacant
Maui Co-VP Representative	Arlene Pihana
Kaua'i Co-VP Representatives	Kauanoe Hoomanawanui Linda Shigeta
Executive Director	Clara D. Priester

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws	Vacant
Edith Wolfe Scholarship	Carolyn Winston
Family Thank Offering	Kelcey Bufil
Finance	Eleanore A. Chong
Missions Co-Chairs	Arlene Pihana Rebecca Woodland
Nominating	Alma Balatico

REPRESENTATIVES

Stamp Project	Carol Miura
InTouch Ministry	Rebecca Woodland

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT: LORNA M. BUFIL

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us. And establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!” Psalms 90:17



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to announce that we have continued to remain steadfast in continuing God’s mission. Although we have been unable to meet in person, our Executive Director, Clara, and I have well remained in constant contact via Zoom and weekly phone calls to exchange updates and pertinent information. I am honored to work closely with Clara. I commend her for her continued dedication and limitless efforts in steering our organization forward. A special note of thanks also to our other Cabinet members for their faithful service.

Before going any further, I would like to congratulate Clara D. Priester, Rebecca Woodland, and Kauanoë Hoomanawanui as recent graduates of the Vancouver School of Theology. We celebrate their accomplishments in earning their Master of Divinity degrees, setting a prestigious record in Hawaii’s history.

At Haili Congregational, my home church, I have continued to serve as the Missions President, member of the Church Council, and newly elected member of the Diaconate Board as a kako'o (Deaconness). I am looking forward to my new kuleana and learning new things.

In terms of outreach, Hawaii Island has been busy. The East Hawaii goal for Operation Christmas Child was to collect 6,000 filled shoeboxes. A total of 6,768 shoeboxes were collected, exceeding this goal. It turned out to be the highest number ever for East Hawaii. We are already gathering donations to fill shoeboxes for this year’s collection. I am also pleased to report that Haili Congregational Church donated \$1,000 in support of a proposal for the Theological Training for Young Micronesian Pastors in Hawaii. This missions project was adopted by the Micronesian Community. A sub-committee of Reverend Eric Anderson, Reverend Bensis Henry, Retired Pastor Ronald Fujiyoshi, and Kahu Rennie Mau, will oversee this training in phases beginning in the Fall of 2022. Our WBM supported this ministry with a \$500 gift. Thank you to both Haili Congregational Church and the WBM for their support.

Since COVID-19 has limited our gatherings and impacted many, I want to share my thoughts and experience with others. My son, Kelcey, and I were exposed to someone who tested positive and was hospitalized for COVID-19 for a medical emergency and numerous health problems. Fortunately, we did home testing and proceeded with drive through testing before going to the emergency room. My advice is to call your physician and seek medical care at the onset of early signs of symptoms. We must remain proactive even though we may be vaccinated and boosted. The important thing to remember is despite masking and social distancing, there are those who are unaware they have been exposed. Kelcey and I were fortunate to be treated with monoclonal antibodies at the emergency room lessening the severity of symptoms. We quarantined, remained hydrated, took Ibuprofen for pain as needed, and were in contact with the State Department of Health. We are truly grateful that the good Lord watched over us. Now, we are well on our way to recovery after testing negative and receiving medical clearance from our physician. I am thankful to our Church 'Ohana, friends, and neighbors who reached out to us with prayers and food deliveries. This is a perfect reminder of God’s enduring faithfulness and assurance that He is in control and always there for us.

I am humbled and honored to serve another term as the WBM President. I look forward to what the Lord has in store for us. May God’s grace always be upon you and your loved ones.

AN UPDATE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CLARA D. K. PRIESTER



As We Press On

As we advance through 2022 amid the enduring pandemic, I am delighted to share some things that I hope will inspire you and that you will join me in celebrating.

For the first time in almost three years, our Cabinet gathered for an in-person meeting on O'ahu. In addition to attending to important matters requiring various actions, we offered an enthusiastic welcome to Kauanoe Hoomanawanui and Linda Shigeta, our new Kaua'i Co-VP Representatives. We have been without leadership representation on Kaua'i for some time, so this is jubilant news. Kauanoe and Linda are already at work evaluating the needs in their communities and reaching out to our members on Kaua'i. As volunteers, the members of our Cabinet invest a great deal of time and care in faithful service to this ministry. Their gifts, expertise in their respective areas, and ongoing commitment contribute to sustaining our WBM. I am thankful for every one of you.

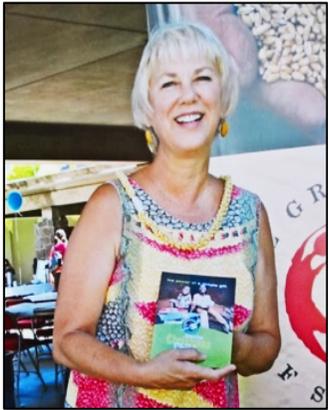
On June 16, 2022, I received an e-mail from the Executive Administrator Concierge with Bank of Hawai'i announcing the celebration of its 125th anniversary. They launched an *Aloha for Community Initiative* that allowed each employee to choose from a handful of organizations that the bank already has relationships with, or to nominate a non-profit of their choice. The Bank of Hawai'i Foundation will grant a \$125 gift to all who are chosen. I am delighted to announce that the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands was selected by one of their employees. Congratulations to our WBM! To the one who graciously chose our organization to receive this gift, we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

As some of you may already know, the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ building is for sale. As an affiliate organization of the HCUCC, our WBM has had an office in this building for many years, but change has come. God is doing a new thing. We are relocating to the music building at Central Union Church with whom we have a long and faithful shared history. The women of Central Union Church have continued to play a strong leadership role with our WBM. Many have served as our President. Mary Atherton Richards, a life-long member of Central Union Church, served as the WBM President longer than anyone else: a total of 26 years! As well, the Women's League of Central Union continues to be a strong financial supporter of the WBM. Effective August 1, 2022, we will have a shared address with Central Union Church at 1660 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96826. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Jon Fujita, Operations & Projects Manager, for facilitating a smooth transition for our WBM.

Our partnerships remain vibrant and strong. At the request of and in collaboration with the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, I will be conducting a workshop for women and girls titled, *Building and Nurturing Self-Esteem: The Beauty of Your Uniqueness*, on September 3, 2022, at the Kaimuki Library. This is just one example. There are many more. Kristen Young of Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) recently inquired about a potential partnership. We will meet on August 15, 2022.

Earlier this month, I was surprised to receive a certificate of recognition from the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its Board of Directors for my 2022 *Star Advocate Award* nomination. This is an award that acknowledges one's dedication to survivors of domestic violence. How good it is to serve with our WBM who directly and compassionately supports survivors and is in partnership with sister organizations who serve similarly.

There is, of course, much more work to do, but I remain excited about all the possibilities with God. I hope that you, too, have an expectation of greater things to come as we continue to press on.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Rebecca Woodland, M.Div.

Oahu VP Representative, Missions Co-Chair, InTouch Ministry

A primary missions project of the Woman's Board of Missions has been Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Last Christmas, in the midst of the pandemic, we far exceeded our goal and this year we hope to do the same.

We are grateful for the ongoing donations that continue to flow in from various sources and individuals. Hundreds of new toys and various other practical gift items have been received. Bar soap, washcloths, and toothbrushes are needed for every shoebox. School supplies, especially crayons and pencils, are always in demand, as these items are consumable and every shoebox needs a box of crayons and a handful of pencils. Please take advantage of back-to-school sales! If you prefer not to shop for gifts, monetary donations will be utilized to purchase gifts and help defray shipping costs.

The shoebox ministry serves impoverished children throughout the world, providing much-needed hygiene items, school supplies, and other necessities to kids who may never have received a gift of their very own. Partnering with schools, churches, hospitals, and other organizations, shoeboxes are distributed (handed out personally) to the children. This is a tangible way to share our aloha and God's love. Every year, the boxes go to different regions and different children. Along with these shoebox gifts, the children have the opportunity to learn about Jesus, the greatest gift of all, through culturally-appropriate booklets and discipleship classes called *The Greatest Journey*. Through your donations, you are making a tangible and eternal difference in their lives.

Thank you for your contributions and partnership in this important ministry. Each shoebox gift touches the life of the child who receives it, and their entire family and community. For more information, please email Rebecca at rebeccawoodland@gmail.com.

INTOUCH MINISTRY

This year, as the pandemic lingers on and many of our lovely members still feel a twinge of loneliness and isolation, it has been my joy and privilege to connect with many of you on behalf of our Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands via mail through our InTouch Ministry. Each of you are valued members of the WBM, although it has been about three years since we have been able to gather in person. Due to pandemic protocols, the need for social distancing, and my own academic commitments as a student in my final semester of seminary, in-person connections have been virtually non-existent. The purpose of the InTouch Ministry is to make certain that you know you are not forgotten.

Since the beginning of 2022, I have written and sent 60 cards to our members on behalf of our WBM, mainly birthday cards and also some sympathy cards and cards of encouragement. These days it is rare to receive a hand-written note or card. I am always delighted and surprised when I receive one, and I hope you feel the same.

All of us have been gifted with different responsibilities and talents. We are the hands and feet of Christ here on earth. As we work together to serve God by serving women and children throughout the Pacific region, please know that no contribution is insignificant. We need each other. Together, we support and strengthen each other as we collaborate to further the work of God's kingdom on earth.



STAMP PROJECT

By Carol Miura

For many years, our WBM has been sending cancelled postage stamps to a community of disabled individuals in Germany. After some time, the cost of postage for one medium sized flat rate box became exorbitant at \$84.55.

In researching other programs where postage costs would not be so excessive, I discovered *Stamps for the Wounded*. This program encourages our recovering and rehabilitating military service personnel to work on developing personal stamp collections and/or creating stamp collages (book covers, maps, etc.). This is therapeutic for program participants.

Since my report last year, I have mailed four boxes (9+ pounds each) to this program at a cost of \$16.10. Besides new and used U.S. and foreign stamps, stamped postcards, and envelopes, I also include stamp collecting paraphernalia: mounts, catalogs, hinges, etc. Collectors most always have extras of these items. Stamps are much less used now in an era of electronic communication (cell phone calls, texts, and email). However, the fun of collecting never ceases. Our cancelled postage stamps are all put to good use. Please consider saving your cancelled stamps and donating them to our WBM for this noble cause. Thank you.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)

By Clara D. K. Priester

More than nine years ago, after a meeting with former warden Mark Patterson, I inquired how he felt the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands could support the women in the WCCC. It was then that he appealed to our WBM to adopt the women in the Mental Health Unit. We embraced the opportunity. A year prior to warden Patterson's appeal, our WBM had been involved with the *Total Life Recovery Program*, a faith-based program, by providing basic sanitation items and visiting women in this program.

Our regular visits to the Mental Health Unit are always and eagerly anticipated by both the women in the WCCC and our WBM. During these visits, we have shared meals, served cake and ice cream for holidays, delivered candy treat bags, played games and awarded prizes, engaged in talk story, attended appreciation programs hosted by the women and staff, and at times simply sat beside them respecting the silence. Our visiting teams have experienced how there is power in presence alone. We believe that the same holds true for our sisters in the WCCC.

For the past three years, our visits to the women in the Mental Health Unit have been suspended amid the current pandemic. According to the WCCC Mental Health Staff, the impacts have been deeply challenging for the women. Aside from our visits, some of the women have never had visitors. Though visits have been suspended, our WBM has demonstrated that we have not forgotten our sisters. Working closely with Haneefbilal Abdulshafiq, Psych Social Worker in the Mental Health Unit, we have routinely provided basic sanitation items, candy treat bags, and composition books. Composition books are greatly appreciated by the women, since journaling is an imperative aspect of their healing.

The exciting news is that our visits will resume in October 2022, when I will meet the new warden. He will be the third I have communicated with. We are delighted to be able to attend an appreciation program performed by the women once the date has been confirmed.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST (CRU) * GUAM

By Rose Ludwig, Missionary



Gearing towards Easter break, the Guam teacher's planning group has been praying about how to get the word out to teachers about EFC (Educators for Community), a group of Christian educators who are following Christ and are committed to reaching their school and community through the educational domain. Here is what happened. A retired teacher volunteered to bake cookies, another teacher packaged them, and the rest attached a tag with scripture, and hand delivered them to their colleagues. Throughout the week before Easter, they personally delivered 119 bags of cookies to teachers at several different schools. One group of teachers delivered a cookie bag to every teacher, administrator, aide, and worker at their school.

Another teacher delivered 20 bags to her Head Start colleagues in her district while another delivered 20 bags to other teachers at her school. The unexpected treat brought heartfelt thanks and conversations to explain more about EFC and what we do. Please pray for group's next steps to bring in new teachers, both believers and nonbelievers.

Closed Border but Open Door

Taking inspiration from the Jericho wall where the gates tumbled after prayer and praise around the perimeter, we did the same at the University of Guam. Sam (in the green shirt, right photo) who led our prayer time was facing a formidable wall himself - that of a closed border in Tonga due to COVID-19. He is a campus staff member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship now stranded here in Guam waiting to head to his new ministry assignment in Tonga. A year later, his leaders realized that his presence at UoG was an answer to our prayer for a male discipler on campus. His stint here in Guam would bear fruit with Mark Jones (in gray shirt) a dorm student eagerly wanting to know Christ and make Christ known. Mark now leads a dorm Bible study during the pandemic. Sam has now settled into a more permanent place near his church in Guam and is willing to stay longer. What providence and provision!



Master of Another Kind



When Annette (flanked by the Sophia University President and El, a fellow student from Palau in left photo) left Guam in 2019 to pursue a Master's degree in Japan, she thought language and culture would be her major hurdles. Having lived in the Philippines, Pohnpei, Fiji and Guam, the journey would be manageable, she had hoped. Add COVID-19, a typhoon, winter, and quarantine to the curriculum, and it was a major upheaval for her. By the grace of God, after much sweat, tears, and prayers she returned home never the same again. The degree from Sophia University was completed last March and her view of God and God's

faithfulness became grander and deeper than before. It was a pursuit of a bigger Master. It was not just a degree, but the Lord, Master and Savior. Annette now works at her alma Mater, the University of Guam at the Water and Environmental Resource Institute (WERI), along with her younger sister Annabelle.

Next month, I will return to summer caregiving duty of my 90-year-old mom in the Philippines. Please pray that my one-month service would be prompted with love and compassion. It has been a two-year hiatus for me but no break for my younger sister in her caregiving duty.

May we continue to take note of God's wondrous ways of governing our lives for His own glory and purpose.



COMPASSION WOMEN MINISTRY (POHNPEI) 2022

This year's prophecy was, "The Lord will bless and take his children to a new level, to witness his glory and work in the lives of many." We are indeed witnessing this prophecy in the lives of women in our group as we begin to witness the hunger for the word in not only women but men as well.

For the month of January, the CWM group joined a regular fasting prayer schedule with EHC (Every Home for Christ) members. As the fasting ended, CMW group had a get-away assembly at EHC where they spent two days fellowshiping and listening to teachings taught by guest speakers from church of Assembly of God and Christian Mission Fellowship. The theme of the event was "**Arise and Stretch Your Tent**" Isaiah 54:2. Two speakers came from CMF (Christian Mission Fellowship) church and a speaker from Assembly of God. Lessons taught were based on great women of God in the bible, Mary, Martha and the Samaritan women at the Jacob's well.

In February, our regular women Bible studies previously held on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., resumed at the EHC base in Kolonia.

In March, several of our CWM members participated in an ongoing mission that EHC is administering called OIKOS. This mission is to reach every home on the island of Pohnpei including the outer islands.

In April, the CWM planning team, modified an existing assistance the group is regularly doing. Instead of CWM members supporting assigned full-time workers/student at the EHC campus, they decided to provide a support in a particular month as a group to help those who are in need. All collected support (monetary, food, shelter, and clothing) is to be given to selected members of the EHC Ministry and fellowship center. These selected members were mostly widows and those struggling financially. Two groups were given assistance. The first support was given to all students living on the EHC campus in Madelonihmw. The second group receiving support consisted of two widows.

Our goal is to continue to reach those in need at EHC and those outside of this ministry as well.





Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

Compassion, Hope, and Healing

By Rachele Chang, Executive Director

COVID-19 lessened the stigma of mental illness, but there is still an unmet need. Anxiety, stress, social isolation, grief, and depression have impacted all of us.

At Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i, we believe that everyone should have access to affordable, accessible mental health care, regardless of their ability to pay. We strongly believe that spirituality can be a source of strength in the healing process.

Thank you for your compassion, generosity, and commitment to helping those in need of care. The WBM's generous gift in 2021 provided mental health subsidies for **35 clients** and **50 counseling sessions** through the **Client Assistance Fund**.

You touched the lives of people in need of mental health counseling, including:

- A retired pre-school teacher coping with her husband's anger and verbal attacks was able to see her husband's point of view and make her self-care a priority.
- An uninsured, retired woman anxious about filling out forms received support to renew her eligibility to keep her home.
- A senior veteran whose claims were denied by his insurance received counseling to address relationships conflicts and anger management.
- A woman working through issues of guilt, self-esteem, and self-worth whose insurance will not pay for mental health services.

In 2021, we served 549 clients through 4,627 counseling sessions – a 21% increase in the need for services over 2020. Half of all our clients received subsidized care – and many didn't even know it.

To meet the need for services, we hired five licensed counselors, opened a new office in Kaneohe and renovated two offices, and presented seven free mental health workshops.

We also want to share more exciting news: we are launching the **Rev. Dr. George Clifford Pastoral Care Assistance Fund**, a new fund to help clergy and lay ministers with limited financial resources to receive mental health counseling. Our pastoral leaders care for us, and we want to make sure they receive the care they need.

Thank you for walking beside us as we help people on their journey to health and wholeness.

You can learn more about mental health counseling and wellness, refer a friend or family member, donate to the Client Assistance Fund, or volunteer for our Board by contacting us.

Phone: 808-545-2740

Email: info@samaritanhawaii.org

Website: <https://www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/samaritancounselingcenterhawaii>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/samaritan-counseling-center-hawaii>

YouTube: [tinyurl.com/scchyt](https://www.youtube.com/scchyt)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/scchawaii>



UCCP PASUQUIN LEARNING CENTER

END OF SCHOOL YEAR * 2021-2022

By Alma Balatico and Rev. Lynn Gumallaoui



On behalf of the UCCP Learning Center of Pasuquin, we would like to thank our sponsors and friends, with a special note of thanks to the WBM and Moanalua Community Church who were instrumental to the success of the 2021-2022 school year.

During the 2021-2022 school year, our school used a hybrid-learning model. Pupils attended school three times a week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) for small group, in-person classes and had remote-learning classes on Wednesday and Friday. These remote-learning classes consisted of videos and pictures sent in-group chats for students to complete at home. Using this model, we were able to provide a continuous learning environment for our students despite the restrictions of the pandemic.

We are planning to have a face-to-face moving-up and recognition ceremony on July 1, 2022. We have 43 students advancing to the next level: 20 Nursery pupils, 8 Pre-Kindergarten pupils and 15-Kindergarten pupils ready for Grade 1. In this group, we have 10 scholarship recipients: 3 from the Nursery, 3 Pre-Kindergarten and 4 from the Kindergarten.

Masked Kids in Prayer at the Start of Class



The opening of school will be on August 22, 2022, for the 2022-2023 school year, according to the Department of Education Advisory. The Department of Education is requiring us to comply with new requirements to allow us to have in-person classes

Small Group Classes



for this coming year. These new health protocols include signage, portable sinks/handwashing stations for the incoming pupils, and the use of thermal scanners (digital thermometer), logbooks, sanitizers, and facemasks as the students and parents enter the school.

As of this moment, having two teachers in all levels is still manageable. One of our WBM-sponsored teachers, Ms. Angelica Fiesta, has left to support her husband's ministry in Cagayan Province. This means that if our enrollment increases, we will need to find a teacher to take her place.

The pandemic brought challenges that made us more motivated and productive with the support of our school head, Rev. Lynn B Gumallaoui. She will be leaving Pasuquin to begin her new position as the Conference Minister for the Northwest Luzon Conference. Rev. Marjorie Belmonte is our incoming pastor. We look forward to working with her as we plan for and welcome students for the 2022-2023 school year.

Pastor Lynn & Angelica with K-class graduates



We are grateful for your continued support for the preschool and our outreach to the community as we go through these changes. Thank you for your generosity. You have greatly impacted this corner of the world.



In 2021, the UCC Transition House was able to resume its mission of helping survivors of domestic abuse by serving four families over the year. After being closed for all but the last month of 2020, we reopened by following COVID protocols mandated by the State. We established a partnership with the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) in December 2020, that specifies their providing us with a Housing Advocate (formerly House Manager) and selecting residents from among their clients to live at the UCCTH. Our House was re-opened with a blessing by Kahu David Baumgart Turner of Church of the Crossroads.

DVAC provides our residents with a range of services, including counseling for mothers and their children, advice on applications to preschools, access to food stamps and other resources, advocacy in legal proceedings, and referrals to housing to enable residents to move on beyond the Transition House. Our residents are being very well-served by DVAC's Housing Advocate, who works on the premises three days a week and is available at other times.

The UCC Transition House Board remains responsible for maintaining the physical house and its amenities and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our residents. Although we no longer have to pay for a house manager, we pay rent for the House to the Church of the Crossroads. We also cover all costs of maintaining, upgrading, and insuring the facility. We continue to work with a very capable Facility Coordinator who is employed elsewhere during the day but lives in the house and is available to the residents after hours and on weekends.

Our residents in the past year included a mother and her 12-year-old son, a mother and her 2-year-old son, a single woman, and a mother who was waiting to receive her children through a custody settlement. Three of these groupings have now relocated to long term housing. Early in 2022, another mother moved in with her 3-year-old daughter. The residents shared a Thanksgiving meal together provided by Makiki Christian Church. On Christmas morning, they were overwhelmed with generous presents provided by our donors. They also shared a roasted chicken dinner prepared by our Facility Coordinator.

Improvements to the house were made in 2021. These included upgrades to the Housing Advocate's office, plumbing work to clear a sewer pipe, regular pest control, and the installation of outdoor security cameras. The backyard was fully landscaped with an irrigation system and a lawn laid with sod, surrounded by mulched areas to be planted this year. Most of the landscaping was donated by the landscaper, supplemented by a grant received from Lima Kokua.

A large source of our income in the past has been our annual fundraising dinner, but we were unable to host an event in 2021 due to the pandemic. Grants were received from the Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation Charity Walk and Pearl City Community Church. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the UCC churches and our individual donors.

Board members remain committed to continuing our mission of providing safe and comfortable housing for our residents, and facilitating their access to the resources they need to heal and move forward with their lives. We intend to continue our partnership with DVAC in the coming year and improve our ministry in this very important mission.

1 John 3:23, 24

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us. We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Sincerely,

UCCTH Board of Directors:

Lori Yamashiro, Chair, (Nuuanu Congregational Church)

Valerie Wayne, Secretary (Church of the Crossroads)

Susan Tengan, Treasurer (Hawaii Kai UCC)

Joan Sakaba (Kailua Christian Church)

Keiko Denbeau (Kawaiahao Church)

June Tom (Makiki Christian Church)

THE BAZAAR CAFÉ: THE NEW CALL FOR ACCOMPANIMENT

By Martha Mensendiek

Missionary with Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan

Published on Dec 15, 2021, www.globalministries.org

What a year this has been. So many people all over the world have suffered lost lives, or loved ones lost jobs and stability. Many people are still anxious about the future.

In last year's letter, I wrote about my (then) upcoming trip to the Philippines with students and about my integral connection with the people of that country. Well, that trip never happened – canceled because of the growing threat of the pandemic. My annual social work study tour with students to Hawaii in September of course also had to be canceled. So much of my teaching involves fieldwork or “going places” and “meeting people” that this pandemic has been a challenge to learn new ways to keep the connections alive through various tools like Zoom that now many of us are depending on.

The Bazaar Café, (our church's coffee house ministry), continues to be open for lunch and coffee, with seating outside, as well as indoors, with various precautions implemented. However, we are not able to have large groups or gatherings of people for various functions, which is, of course, true for churches and other organizations throughout the world.

The other day, a small group of us met at the Bazaar Café for a debriefing session of a three-year HIV research project. We were part of an HIV research grant and we looked at how the Bazaar Café has supported the vulnerable, especially focusing on HIV-positive persons. We interviewed former staff, clients, and volunteers, some of whom are HIV-positive individuals in order to record the history of our Café and then through analyzing the findings, to identify some characteristics of our support and our particular role in assisting vulnerable persons.



One of our conclusions is that our support can be identified as “Banso-gata” (the Japanese word literally

means “running alongside”) or translates into English as “accompaniment.” Our style of assistance is to accept persons where they are and to walk/run alongside them toward healing/wholeness. We connect them to formal systems of support if needed, but do not judge them if they do not follow through, or if they have a relapse of any sort. Our purpose is to prevent the social isolation of those who are often disconnected from family and from society at large. We want to continue to be a connection for them, while also respecting their autonomy.

This “Banso-gata” support has been made famous in Japan through a pastor in Kyushu Japan, who has been active in reaching out to and supporting homeless persons. Rev. Tomoshi Okada is the director of a non-profit organization supporting the homeless and is well known for his advocacy work including lobbying for increased government assistance for society’s most vulnerable people. He talks about how poverty is not just economic deprivation but a problem of social isolation. So “Banso-gata” support involves continuing to connect with the isolated persons and connect them to the community and to the particular support they need. At the same time, it is important to respect the autonomy of the person. It goes beyond standard distinctions of “those who help” and “those who are being helped.”

We invited Rev. Okada and his managing director, also a pastor, to join our debriefing session to give us feedback on our findings. All those in attendance found Rev. Okada to be quite a charismatic and inspiring speaker. He pointed out the theological context of “accompaniment” as being the core of the Christian faith – that is, “Immanuel” – God with us. He emphasized that God accepts us as we are, and it is our very “existence” that is accepted. That is the base of his model of “Banso-gata” support for homeless and impoverished persons, as it is for the Bazaar Café.



It was not a surprise that his comments were very uplifting and gave us positive reinforcement as well as ideas for moving forward. This experience of sharing our story together with Rev. Okada gave us the opportunity to reflect on what we have been doing at the Bazaar Café and to reaffirm our commitment to continue accompanying those who are socially isolated.

Although it may seem that COVID-19 has not hit Japan as hard as other countries, the consequences of the pandemic are becoming more apparent here as well. As is true in many countries, poverty, cases of domestic violence, and suicide (especially among women) are on the rise. Foreign workers are also among the most vulnerable, being the first to be laid off, thus not being able to renew their visas, being cut off from health insurance, etc. Those with addictions find it hard to keep sober in the midst of anxiety. And so, our work of being a connection for people and accompanying people through this hard time is needed more than ever. Thank you for your prayers and support of our continued ministry of accompaniment in Japan.



*By Samantha “Sam” Church,
Executive Director*



Sam and newborn son, Oliver

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2021 marked our 15th anniversary. Together, we have built a high-impact organization that is changing lives. We continue to step up to meet the needs of our neighbors, friends, family members and colleagues who are struggling with housing instability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a time of challenge, but also one of opportunity. We have seen an increase in funding which has allowed us to grow our programs and help keep homelessness from robbing children of their futures.

This year was a special one for me – my son Oliver was born in June. Growing my family has intensified my passion for helping other families thrive. It really takes a village to help raise a child and I am honored to work for an organization that provides a support system for families in our community who are experiencing a housing crisis.

We are currently in the process of purchasing a facility to create a child-friendly campus where families who are facing a housing instability can access the comprehensive support they need to transition to stable housing and self-sufficiency – the 'Ohana Navigation Center.

Here are some program highlights:

Shelter Program: We have been sheltering families in individual units at a facility in Honolulu since the onset of the pandemic. With funding from the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program, we were able to shelter 79 families, 267 family members in 2021. Families staying in the shelter program were provided warm meals by community volunteers. A total of 8,736 meals were served!

Shelter Diversion & Homeless Prevention Program: This program provides assistance to families that are on the verge of homelessness through eviction or are living in overcrowded environments. Through resource referrals, landlord mediation, rental assistance and employment support, we are able to prevent many of these families from experiencing the trauma of homelessness. We were able to serve 364 individuals, including 184 children, with this resource in 2021. It has proven to be a great support system to help families stabilize.

Support for Victims of Crime: About 30% of the families we help have identified themselves as a victim of crime. Through Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, we are able to support these households with connection to housing, rental assistance, and supportive services. We use family-centered strategies to ensure the safety of those we support by providing critical services that help families achieve long-term stabilization after experiencing a crime and housing instability.

O'ahu Housing Now (OHN): In partnership with the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Community Services, Partners in Care, Alternative Structures International (ASI), and Housing Solutions Inc., we set an ambitious goal to house 300 households through a rapid rehousing approach, which provides short-term rental assistance and supportive services to assist people in obtaining housing quickly. Family Promise provides case management support for half of the households enrolled in the program. In 2021, we supported 144 households through OHN including nine families who were pregnant.

We hope you will join us as we change the future for vulnerable parents and children.

Much Aloha!

THE PAGARAGAN FAMILY (MINISTRY IN JAPAN)

By Kelly Pagaragan

2022年7月



THE PAGARAGAN POST

NEIGHBORHOOD
SUMMER UPDATE

TO OUR DEAR WBM FAMILY,

This update is a little different than normal.

First, it is to tell you how grateful we are for your continued support these many years. Second, is to let you know how your support has also been investing into our children as they live in Japan. The last 2 are still home with us here in Tokyo. We've been blessed that we have been able to homeschool all 5 kids all the way through school. Reagan just graduated high school and Colson will be starting his junior year. They are both committed to working within the community and meeting new people. They also started a Bible study earlier this year with some of the other missionary kids (MKs) in our organization. The "MKs" are often without deep spiritual connection as they are surrounded by the non-Christians their parents are ministering to. Please continue to pray for not only the salvation of Japanese, but also the hearts of the children that are serving alongside their parents here in Japan.



REAG_ART (REAGAN'S ART CLASS)

For the last 7 years I have been having art class with the same teacher(sensei). And every once in a while someone from our class would curiously ask him something about Christianity. Usually, about history or why he became a Christian. Sensei would answer them in a way that I could tell they were thinking about what he said.

Now that I'm older and can understand the language a bit more, I have been able to see and understand how he casually talks about Jesus with the people who come to the art class, both Christians and non-Christians. These classes have been more than just art, but also evangelism.

We also appreciate your prayers for upcoming events. We have a team coming from Kalihi that will be working with our MKs for one week. They will also be assisting us as we host an "Aloha" Kid's English Club for the first 2 days in August.



COLSON'S CORNER

As we started a Japanese class this year I have become a lot more comfortable in the basic and overall understanding of the language. Giving me more confidence to interact with people both in Japanese and English



WBM MAKES HISTORY



On May 10, 2022, WBM members Kauanoe Hoomanawanui, Clara D. Priester, and Rebecca Woodland made history as the first three women from Hawaii to graduate from the Indigenous Studies Program at the Vancouver School of Theology, University of British Columbia. Kauanoe and Clara further made history as the first women of Kānaka Maoli and Puerto Rican heritage to graduate from VST respectively. Each woman received her Master of Divinity degree in the largest graduating class since 1971. The ceremony was held in person at the breathtakingly beautiful Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, Canada.

Hear more from the graduates as they share their experiences culminating in this history-making event.

Kauanoe Moana Hoomanawanui



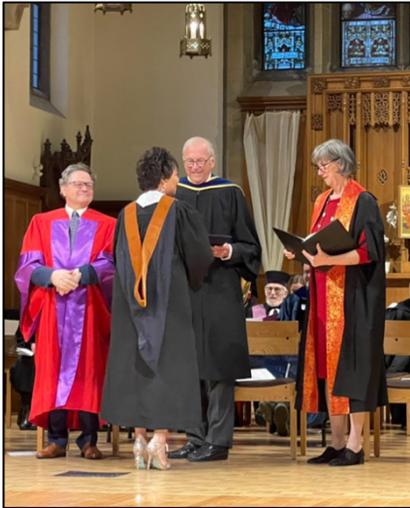
Aloha e,

My theological studies began in 2016 and my journey as a member in discernment with the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC), Committee on Ministry (COM) in 2017. I was first introduced to the Indigenous Studies program at Vancouver School of Theology (VST) by The Rev. Dr. Grant S.C. Lee. I completed all of the Master of Divinity requirements in the Summer of 2021. Convocation ceremonies commence annually, and this year, I received my diploma in person. My church, family and I are ever so grateful for your support throughout the years. We are excited to see what our Creator brings to our community of faith.

While attending seminary, I was tremendously blessed to serve on the VST Student Association as a Faculty Representative as well as on the VST Faculty Council as a Student Representative. The opportunities while attending an Indigenous Studies Program, the relations I have built and continue to share have been divinely discerning. I was also able to serve on every level of UCC polity as a trustee, board member, association president, committee chairs and various committees throughout all of the UCC. Such a marvelous wealth of knowledge that I am truly grateful to have experienced. As a member of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands, this journey has been a privilege. Rebecca Woodland, Clara D. Priester, and I graduated together in person, each receiving an end-of-year award.

The memories we shared together and continue to share are all to the glory of God.

Clara Denise Ka'ie'ieokekaimālie Priester



We have all experienced how God leads us on paths that we are incapable of ever imagining. My Vancouver School of Theology experience is one such path. The call of God to enter VST was confirmed through spoken words during a conversation with The Rev. Dr. Grant S. C. Lee.

The path toward earning my Master of Divinity degree was both arduous and dynamic. My time at VST was a constellation of: newly formed friendships with some of the brightest, creative, and resilient fellow seminarians; an indescribable depth of multid denominational learnings; and an increased spiritual acuity enabling greater effectiveness in ministry. Opportunities to engage with fellow seminarians from Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Germany, Ghana, Hawaii, Indonesia, Jamaica, South Korea, Taiwan, and more, were immeasurable. The gift of being invited into the life worlds of brothers and sisters from Blackfoot, Cree, Cherokee, Lakota, Nakoda, Navajo, Nisga'a, Ojibwe/Anishnaabe, Pueblo, and many other Indigenous Nations was transformative.

Among the unforgettable moments of my VST experience was receiving *The Rev. Dr. Francis and Mrs. Sarah Runnalls Award in Church History* and *The Professor S. Vernon Fawcett Prize in Hebrew Bible* in May 2021. This year, I was profoundly humbled to receive *The Sophia Augusta Dougherty Award for Students Displaying Exemplar Pastoral and Interpersonal Skills*. In addition to earning my M.Div., these achievements enlarge the legacy I desire as an example for my sons, Damon and Zion, and five grandchildren - Damira, Brandon, Channing, Deijanae and Damon Jr.



During an intense study of the *Theology of Paul*, we reflected on what it means to be “fishers of men.” It was then that I received the sacred gift of the name Ka'ie'ieokekaimālie. It was bestowed by Kauanoe who called me saying, “you are a fisher of women!” “Ka'ie'ie” is an endemic plant uniquely suitable for making multifaceted interwoven nets and “kaimālie” is the essence of “calm waters.” The full name captures the resemblance of a fine Hawaiian quilt of God’s love in God’s calling to the ministry of walking with others toward their healing (to a place of “calm”). For this spiritual blessing, thank you, Kauanoe.

The mission of VST is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders. As I now pursue Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in preparation for Chaplaincy, it is my prayer that my life and service with our community will continually be an exemplification of this mission. Further, I

will continue God's mission of loving and walking alongside currently and formerly incarcerated women toward their healing, raising awareness of domestic violence and advocating for survivors, and offering sacred and brave spaces for those who seek counsel.

My parade of gratitude for my VST journey begins by honoring God. Without God's love, grace, strength, wisdom, and provision, this would never have been possible. God is always the possibility in what seems impossible. For his unfaltering love, kindness, and support, I am grateful for my husband and best friend, Dee. This path would have unquestionably been daunting without him. For his grace and mentorship, I am grateful for The Rev. Dr. Grant S.C. Lee. For the generosity of scholarships from the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and the Chinese Christian Association, thank you for investing in my seminary studies and ultimately how I have been further equipped for ministry. For the knowledge imparted to me, and the encouragement of my brilliant professors, thank you for your nurturing ways and for honoring truth telling and truth seeking. For my sisters, Kauanoe and Rebecca, thank you for making this experience beautifully unforgettable. Lastly, for my family members who traveled to Canada for our Convocation and celebrations, thank you for being a part of creating a memory I will always remember fondly.

Rebecca Ruth Woodland



In the fall of 2016, at the age of 66, I embarked on my seminary journey at the Vancouver School of Theology. I had no idea what to expect. I had no career goal in mind. All I knew for certain was that God wanted me at VST, in their Indigenous Studies Program. Not just any seminary or program, but VST's Indigenous



Studies Program working towards a Master of Divinity degree.

All my life I have asked questions, many for which no answers had been provided. In some cases, questions were not even allowed, or at least not without repercussions. Although raised in a Christian home, exposed to Bible teaching literally every day of my life since birth, some things did not make sense to me. I wanted ~ needed ~ real answers. Not pat answers.

At VST, questions were not only encouraged and welcomed - they were required! VST's inclusive, non-judgmental, thoughtful, open-hearted, relational approach to learning was a breath of fresh air. Most professors make a point of emphasizing that we are all co-learners, together. We all learn from each other.

The academic aspect of this school is far more strenuous than any Bible College or most graduate programs in the United States. The Canadian university system is more demanding, much like a European system. I have never worked so hard in my entire life. The "approved/not approved" grading

system (NOT a pass-fail system) requires that all assignments demonstrate the student's competence – actually, mastery, of the subject matter. Anything less requires a re-write, or several re-writes, until the professor considers that the student has mastered the material. The professors come from various religious backgrounds and Christian denominations. Many of the professors are Indigenous, from numerous tribes throughout Canada and the U.S. All instructors have advanced degrees from prestigious universities. Studying theology and looking at Christianity through an Indigenous lens opened my eyes and my heart to a new way of understanding God, faith, justice, mercy, and suffering. I had many “Aha!” moments in almost every class. Finally, my faith made sense. Much of what I had previously been taught was “Christian” was simply the Euro-American White way of looking at the world. Culture had collided with Christianity and suppressed truth. VST changed my heart and my head. Aside from the brilliant teaching, VST's diverse faculty and student body makes for an exceptionally rich and unique learning experience for every student and instructor. The relationships developed throughout the past five-plus years will be treasured for the rest of my life.

Located on the campus of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Theology is surrounded by forest and ocean, on the ancestral and unceded land of the Musqueam people. Before the pandemic, we spent three summers on this beautiful campus for summer school. The highlight of summer school was getting to know our Indigenous sisters and brothers from all over Canada, the U.S. and beyond. We enjoyed salmon barbecues and meals together, and chapel services led by students from various denominations and tribal groups.

A key realization during my VST experience has been the trustworthiness of God in every situation ~ financial issues, health challenges (vision, hearing), academic struggles, the sudden death of my mother. No matter what the situation, God has been (and always is) present, upholding me and guiding me through it all. These are not mere words or platitudes. God's abiding presence and care is a palpable reality.

I am grateful to my sisters, Clara D. Priester and Kauanoe Hoomanawanui, for accompanying me on this VST journey. I learned so much from both of you. Thank you for your unwavering support, encouragement, love, and sisterhood through it all. We have all graduated with Master of Divinity degrees. We finished well, but this is not the end. It is the launching pad to our next adventure, wherever God takes us. I am on a long, winding path toward ordination in the United Church of Christ and have been preaching at Central Union Church Windward. Only God knows what lies ahead. And that is all I need to know.



In Honor of Our Mentor

The Rev. Dr. Grant S.C. Lee was instrumental in our VST experiences. “Pastor Grant”, as we endearingly called him, opened his home for our study sessions. His willingness to hear our concerns, and his words of encouragement sustained us particularly during the beginning of our seminary journey.

When we received the announcement that Pastor Grant made his eternal transition on July 28, 2020, we purposed to press on as a cohort and to finish well.

Though he was physically absent from our convocation and celebrations, we believe that Pastor Grant's spirit was indeed with us.

MAUI UPDATE

By Arlene Kealaonalani Pihana, Maui Co-VP Representative

He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, his righteousness endures forever. 2 Corinthians 9:9

May this update find you well in mind, body, and spirit. It is exciting to inform you that WBM members Susan Klassen and Grace Murata have been serving the Pohnpeian Ministry with community support from David Murata (Grace's husband), and Uncle Moki and Uncle John Ho'omana at Waihe'e Protestant Church. Every Wednesday, they have been distributing food boxes to 24 families. Food donations are generously given by local farmers known by Grace and David Murata. Donations also come from the Maui Food Bank.

Our Maui WBM members also support Pohnpeian women and girls who gather for crafting classes that teach coconut leaf weaving and sewing. The women sell these handcrafted items (skirts, blouses, shorts, and blankets) to the community to support their ministry. Their earnings have even allowed them to purchase new sewing equipment. A local business regularly donates fabric in bulk quantities.

My leadership roles have now expanded to that of President of the Na Moku'puni 'O Maui, Moloka'i ame Lana'i (formerly known as the Tri-Isle Moku'puni). On Sunday, June 26, 2022, a Farewell Liturgy Service was hosted by Na Moku'puni 'O Maui, Moloka'i ame Lana'i (formerly known as the Tri-Isle Moku'puni) for Pastor Tino Cordova on Sunday, June 26, 2022. The gathering was held at Iao Protestant Church. I attended the event along with Maui WBM members, Rev. Youlida Yoruw and Susan Klassen.

In closing, may God's grace and blessing be upon you and all of your loved ones.

ANNOUNCING.....

OUR NEW KAUA'I CO-VP REPRESENTATIVES



Linda Shigeta



Kauanoë Hoomanawanui

We offer a wholehearted welcome to Linda Shigeta and Kauanoë Hoomanawanui as our new Kaua'i Co-VP Representatives. Linda returns to this role having formerly served from 2013-2015. Linda and Kauanoë are committed to serving our senior citizens on Kaua'i. As membership expands on their island, they also aim to explore other missions we may collaborate with in ministry.

Welcome to our leadership team, Linda and Kauanoë! We thank God for your hearts to serve.

EDITH H. WOLFE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

By Carolyn Winston, Chairwoman

The Edith H. Wolfe Memorial Scholarship is used to support educational purposes of women and children throughout the Pacific. Rev. Wolfe was an ardent supporter of helping those who desired a greater education and supporting women from the Pacific Rim and Islands was very dear to her heart. Considerations seek Need, Academic Merit and Career Plans.

This past year, the Edith H. Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Committee has again been honored to grant scholarships to four women pursuing further education. Three were at the graduate level and one in an undergraduate program. We are very pleased that all four of these women desire to serve God in some capacity of professional ministry.

Rev. Wolfe would be so very pleased to know that three out of the four are of Kānaka Maoli ancestry – one being a descendant of Henry Opukaha`ia. She expressed her appreciation for the support of the Edith Wolfe Scholarship in these words:

*"Aloha E.H.W. Memorial Scholarship Committee:
Mahalo for supporting me as a community of faith member and Member in Discernment. I am truly grateful! ... Mahalo again, as I have embraced the opportunities available to learn abroad for the betterment of the people of Hawaii. It has been a great journey so far and I hope to become ordained soon so serve in ministry further bringing fruits of hope and faith to all....*

Nui Kealoha No."

To obtain a scholarship application, please contact the WBM at either (808) 791-5647 or via e-mail at wbmhawaii@gmail.com.

Serving joyfully,
Rev. Phyllis Meighen, Linda Shigeta and Carolyn Winston (Chairwoman)

FAMILY THANK OFFERING

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 July 1, 2021 through June 11, 2022, our Family Thank Offering Committee granted seven one-time mission grants totaling \$1,925.00 to:

- ❖ A formerly incarcerated woman who was accepted into a clean and sober house who was in need of food and basic sanitation items.

Mission Grant: \$300.00

- ❖ A senior woman experiencing financial hardship.

Mission Grant: \$400.00

- ❖ A woman experiencing financial hardship due to a rent increase. In addition, she had lost her employment as a result of the pandemic.

Mission Grant: \$375.00

- ❖ A mother and her two children who were in crisis and in need of necessities.

Mission Grant: \$400.00

- ❖ A woman recently released from prison who was granted admission to a transition home. She was in critical need of basic sanitation items and a few pieces of clothing.

Mission Grant: \$250.00

- ❖ A young woman released from prison who was admitted to a clean and sober program needed assistance to purchase basic sanitation items and some clothing.

Mission Grant: \$100.00

- ❖ A woman in a clean and sober program who needed clothing.

Mission Grant: \$100.00

INSPIRING UPDATES

Here are inspiring updates of a few of the above-noted recipients that we have heard from:

- The formerly incarcerated woman who was in a clean and sober program secured employment and has been clean and sober for seven months. She attends a life group facilitated by Clara once per month.
- The senior woman experiencing financial hardship has rebounded and is doing well.
- The woman released from prison and granted admission to a transition home was able to reunite with her six children. One of her daughters graduated from high school and she was present for the event. She has also secured full-time employment and meets with Clara regularly.

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



Please Kokua

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

From September 1-30, all customers are invited to make donations of up to \$249 to participating Hawaii on-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. This year, Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match each donation up to a total of at least 250,000 for all organizations combined.

Questions?

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

Partnership Opportunities

BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER

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

MONTHLY DONORSHIP

Become a monthly donor. Offer a gift of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more. Every gift is invaluable.

HOST A COLLECTION DRIVE

Encourage 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

Make a donation in honor of a loved one.

SUPPORT 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.

GIVE ALOHA/FOODLAND

Participate in this annual community matching gifts program in the month of September.

-----cut along dotted line-----

My Gift

Name _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Check enclosed payable to WBM Visa/Mastercard/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 ⁴		
Other ⁵ (identify mission of your choice here) ➡		

² **Family Thank Offering** - financial emergency assistance.

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

⁴ **Operational/Administrative** - helps absorb costs such as printing, postage, rent, insurance, office supplies, etc.

⁵ **Other** - any mission highlighted in our newsletter

Mail completed form to WBM, 1660 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, Hawaii, 96826. For questions please call (808) 791-5647. Donations can be made on our WBM web page at 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.

In Memoriam



Elsie E. S. Tuttle

February 15, 1927 – January 20, 2022



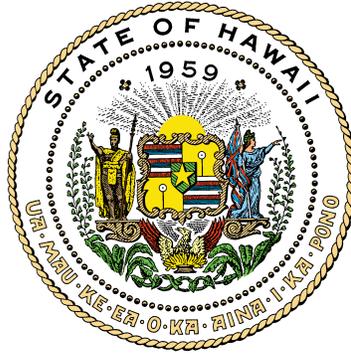
The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands lost one of our endearing saints this past January. Elsie Tuttle was received into glory on January 20, 2022, after serving God so faithfully for the vast majority of her almost-95 years.

Elsie joined the WBM when the Rev. Edith Wolfe became Executive Director in 1965, and immediately jumped into the activities with her signature enthusiasm. Throughout her active years she served on numerous committees, chairing the Missions Committee more than once, the Family Thank Offering Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Spiritual Life Committee. Elsie also was a special gift to the WBM as the Corresponding Secretary for several years, as she poured her loving spirit into hundreds of cards, phone calls and visits on behalf of the WBM lifting spirits and encouraging many in their active membership. Elsie served as President of the WBM from 1982-1984 which were active years supporting missionaries from around the world and close to home. Twice, she served as Interim Executive Director; once after Rev. Edith Wolfe retired, and once previous to Carolyn Winston becoming the Executive Director. While Elsie served in that capacity, she was known for meeting many missionaries coming into Hawaii – sometimes in the middle of the night. She was always there with a welcoming smile and a lei. Elsie was known to host missionaries and dignitaries in her home with other WBM members where stories of God's work being done around the world were discussed and great food and fellowship enjoyed.

Elsie will be remembered for her zest for life, her energy to work, her commitment to serving her Lord, and her dedication to those ministries that meant so much to her. She always volunteered her expertise in her deep knowledge of the WBM keeping us mindful of all the missionaries serving tirelessly in mission posts around the world. She did not want anyone to be forgotten. She was always cheerful, always faithful to the task, always ready and eager to serve. Above all, many women can say what I say, **“She loved me!”**

Aloha pumehana, Elsie.

Carolyn M. Winston
Former Executive Director, Woman's Board of Missions



Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, the undersigned Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 06/04/1947 ; that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that, as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dated: May 01, 2022

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



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Pray For Our Missional Partners

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

Psalm 96:3



Rose Ludwig

Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU)

GUAM



Martha Mensendiek

Doshisa University and Bazaar Café

JAPAN



The Pagaragans

Missionary Family – Team USA

JAPAN

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
1660 S. BERETANIA ST.
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

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 Items

Body Lotion *
 Body Wash/Soap *
 Combs/Brushes
 Deodorant
 Hand Wipes/Sanitizers
 Kleenex
 Menstrual Hygiene Products
 Personal Wipes
 Shampoo/Conditioner
 Toilet Paper
 Toothbrushes*
 Toothpaste*

Bedding Items

Blankets
 Mattress Pads
 Pillows (*standard*)

School Supplies

Crayons
 Composition Books
 Elmers Glue
 Erasers
 Pens (black ink)
 Pencils
 Plain Envelopes

Baby Items

Baby Lotion
 Baby Powder *
 Diapers & Wipes *

Other

Bibles
 Prescription Eyeglasses
 Gift Cards (*Walmart, Longs*
Safeway)
 Socks

MAHALO NUI LOA

Donations & Gifts

Betty Abe
 Haneefbilal Abdulshafiq
 Cynthia Akimseu
 Kaylynn Allifua
 Alma Balatico
 Kelcey Bufil
 Lorna Bufil
 Nanette K. Cabatbat
 Karen Chang
 Dr. Virgie Chattergy
 Eleanore Chong
 Ruby Donlin
 Rose Marie Doral
 Katsuko Enoki
 Lisa Fong
 Jon Fujita
 Valrie Griffith
 Nancy Hayashi
 Kauanoë Hoomanawanui

Georgia Len
 Vivian Maunakea
 Toni Rae Mendez
 Carol Miura
 Grace Murata
 Irene Nomura
 Tadia Rice
 Linda Shigeta
 Carol and Mike Sullivan
 Moira Tanaka
 Hanako Takahashi
 Cory Taylor
 Sandra K. Toorinjian
 Lori Yamashiro
 Carolyn Winston
 Rebecca Woodland
 Rev. Youlida Yoruw
 Dr. Alan Yoshida
 Gloria H.Y. Young

Churches/Organizations

Central Union Church
 Church of the Holy Cross
 Ewa Community Church
 Faith Assembly of God (Mililani)
 Haili Congregational Church
 Mid-Pacific Institute
 The First Chinese Church of Christ
 The First Chinese Church of Christ –
 Women's Fellowship
 Waialua United Church of Christ
 Waikeola Congregational Church
 Women's League of Central Union

Cancelled Stamps (for Stamp Project)

Rose Marie Doral
 Dr. Dwayne Priestler
 Heuionalani Wyeth