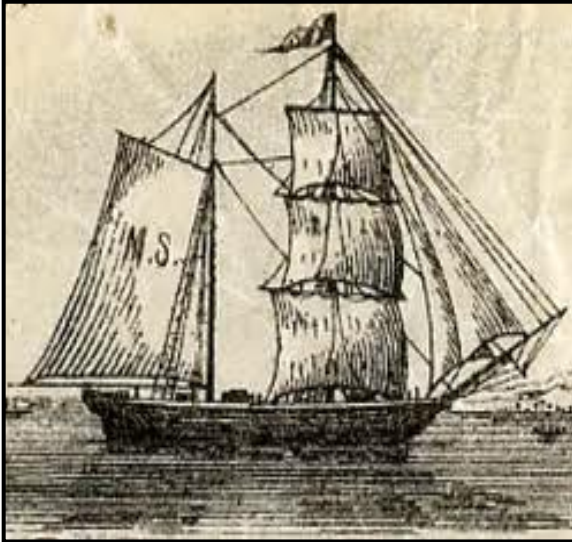


FEBRUARY 2019

THE MORNING STAR

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



SAVE THE DATE

The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands

148th Annual Meeting and Fellowship

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Central Union Church
Women's Building
1660 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

"With God....."



All Things Are Possible"

Matthew 19:26

Saturday April 27, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Central Union Church Parish Hall
1660 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

** Silent Auction **

Cost: \$35 (lunch is provided)

Tickets are now available for purchase.
For more information please contact our office at
(808) 791-5647 or a WBM member.

Woman's Board of Missions
for the Pacific Islands

1848 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 791-5647

wbmhawaii@gmail.com



Editor: Clara D. Priester
Presiding: In Transition

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.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2019

All monthly meetings are held in the Women's Building at Central Union Church from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- * **February 21**
- * **March 21**
- * **May 16**
- * **September 19**
- * **October 17**
- * **November 21**

***148th Annual Meeting & Fellowship**

Saturday, April 27, 2019

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

Central Union Church Parish Hall

CABINET

<i>vacant</i>	President
Riane Cardenas	Recording Secretary
Valrie A. Griffith	Treasurer
Eleanore A. Chong	Finance Committee Chair
Rebecca Woodland	Oahu VP Representative, Missions Co-Chair
Lorna Bufil	Hawaii Island Co-VP Representative
Arlene Pihana	Maui Co-VP Representative, Missions Co-Chair
Susan Klassen	Maui Co-VP Representative
Clara D. Priester	Executive Director

MY ATTORNEY



After living a "decent" life, my time on earth came to an end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table. As I looked around I saw the "prosecutor." He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen.

I sat down and looked to my left and there sat my lawyer, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed familiar to me. The corner door flew open and there appeared the judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as he moved across the room. I couldn't take my eyes off of him.

As he took his seat behind the bench, he said, "Let us begin."

The prosecutor rose and said, "My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell."

He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own lawyer, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about. As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at my representative who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I've done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, "This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.

When it was his turn, my lawyer first asked if he might approach the bench. The judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned him to come forward. As he got up and started walking, I was able to see him in his full splendor and majesty. I realized why he seemed so familiar. This was Jesus representing me. Lord. Savior of the world.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the judge, "Hi Dad," and then he turned to address the court. "Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And yes the wage of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished." Jesus took a deep breath and turned to his Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted me as his Savior, so he is mine." My Lord continued with, "His name is written in the book of life and no one can snatch him from me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy."

As Jesus sat down, he quietly paused, looked at his Father and replied, "There is nothing else that needs to be done. I've done it all."

The judge lifted his mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from his lips... "This man is free. The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed."

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving, "I won't give up, I'll win the next one."

I asked Jesus as he gave me my instructions where to go next, "Have you ever lost a case?" Christ lovingly smiled and said, "Everyone that has come to me and asked me to represent them has received the same verdict as you,

"Paid in Full."

Author unknown

**FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
CLARA D. PRIESTER**



Great is Our God

The gift of a new year with opportunities to grow in the wisdom and grace of God is a priceless one. May the Lord crown your new year with an overflow of his goodness.

With God's direction and providence, the ministry of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands excitedly entered into a few new and extraordinary partnerships in 2018: the Pagaragan Family (a missionary family in Japan); the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii (an organization that provides professional and accessible mental health counseling sensitive to the spiritual traditions of individuals, families and communities in Hawaii); Ho'ola Na Pua (an organization committed to the renewal of trafficked girls through health, education, advocacy and reintegration), and the Compassionate Women Ministry, Every Home for Christ in Pohnpei (an organization that promotes physical and spiritual health through Biblical teachings and practical application). Since the needs in our communities often outweigh the resources, these new partnerships enable us to more expansively share our resources and enjoy long term collaboration. The benefits then, are greater to those we collectively serve.

Given that one of the populations our WBM serves are survivors of Domestic Violence, it was an incredible honor to be present for a Domestic Violence Proclamation Signing in Governor Ige's chambers on Friday, October 12. As the Board President of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) and representative for the faith-based community on this Board, I was pleased to be presented with the Proclamation on behalf of the HSCADV. It is true that there is much more work to be done to stop the violence in our communities. Countless advocates and organizations throughout our islands work passionately and tirelessly each day to support those affected by Domestic Violence and to bring awareness to our communities. Please pray for all who are affected and support our local organizations as you feel compelled.

Our new year launched with a history making event. On Tuesday, January 15, I traveled to Kauai to meet Mayor Ridgway of Cornwall, Connecticut and his family. We celebrated the friendship circle between Cornwall and Hawaii through the legacy of Henry Opukaha'ia. The success of this event was the result of the many who attended and numerous individuals who graciously devoted their time and talents. I would like to extend a special mahalo to Koolauhui'ia Church, Lihue United Church, the Lihue United Church Tongan Ministry, Kapaa First Hawaiian Church, Aunty Aletha Kaohi, the Kauai Association of the United Church of Christ (KAUCC), Kahu Diane Kanahele, Ohana Niihau o Waimea Church, and WBM members - Linda Shigeta (former Kauai VP Representative), Sally Anson and Kauanoë Hoomanawanui. What an inspiring evening! More about this event is included further ahead in this edition.

To the members of our WBM Cabinet, I would like to express my overwhelming gratitude for working together harmoniously, respectfully, and with veracity. To all of you who so devotedly offer your gifts in this ministry, thank you immensely. Assuredly, we can expect great things for life and ministry in 2019 and beyond. We serve an eternally great God!

In this new year, be affirmed by the beauty of Saint Theresa's prayer, *May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.*

IN SEARCH OF WILLING WORKERS

Membership in the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands affords multiple opportunities to serve God by utilizing your spiritual and natural gifts to help improve the quality of life for others who are experiencing various hardships both in Hawaii and the greater Pacific Rim.

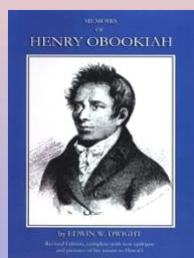
We meet monthly to conduct business, receive inspiration, and identify ways to continue to make a difference in our communities and world. Annual dues of \$50 are collected from all members typically in April at our Annual Meeting and Fellowship gatherings and are used to further our ministry. There are many ways to contribute to the work that we do through donations of needed items, financial gifts, serving on mission projects or a committee, and more.

A membership application can be found by visiting www.hcucc.org. You can locate the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands by clicking on "Directory," "Affiliated Ministries," and the WBM logo. You can also contact our WBM office for assistance with the application.

GENTLE REMINDER

If you are already a member of our WBM, please be sure to update your contact information should you move or change any of your information. We want to be sure that you receive all correspondence being sent to you. For those of you who attend our WBM monthly meetings, please remember to bring your favorite food to share during our lunch and fellowship immediately following and bring a guest or two. If you do bring a guest(s) or invite someone you know will be coming, please call Clara to let her know.

MEMOIRS of HENRY OBOOKIAH



Known as the first fruit of the Christian faith amongst the Hawaiian people, this story is honest and untainted, as told through Opukaha'ia's own perspective, as recounted through his personal diary entries and letters to close friends. It is a poignant narrative of suffering, pain and tragic death, but it is also a story of healing, renewal, joyous faith and a new life everlasting that inspired a generation of young missionaries to leave the East Coast and travel to the islands to fulfill Henry's desire to have his people hear the gospel message.

The most current edition contains new pictures and an epilogue detailing how Henry's body was brought home 175 years after his death in Connecticut. To purchase a copy for yourself or as a gift for someone else, you can visit <http://www.henryobookiahmemoirs.com> or contact our office at the number listed above. The books are available in soft back copies for \$15.

All proceeds from sales of this book are used to further the ministry of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands.

OPUKAHA'IA'S VILLAGE OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT CELEBRATING 200 YEARS



Kauanoe Hoomanawanui, Ian Ridgway, Elizabeth Ridgway, Rebecca Ridgway, Jane Ridgway (the mayor's wife), Mayor Gordon

During two former visits to Cornwall in celebration of the bicentennial of Henry Opukaha'ia's passing, Kauanoe Hoomanawanui, descendant of Henry, invited First Selectman Mayor Gordon Ridgway to visit Hawaii. Having never been to the islands, the Ridgway family arrived for their first time in Kauai on January 7, 2019 for a 9-day visit.

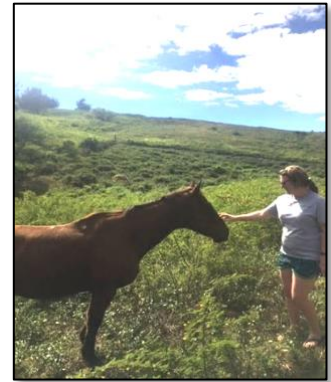
Upon their arrival, Kauanoe arranged a morning meeting for the newly elected Mayor Derek Kawakami of Kauai and Mayor Ridgway who was able to share stories about Henry Opukaha'ia that Mayor Kawakami did not know. It brought Mayor Ridgway great joy to encourage Mayor Kawakami and to be a part of perpetuating the legacy of Henry here in Kauai.

Aletha Kaohi, a matriarch of the west side families, took the Ridgway family on a historical walk throughout Waimea town as they captured the history of the missionaries who first landed in Hawaii. She also shared the native Hawaiian family stories as they worked and played alongside the missionaries.

Koolauhui'ia Church hosted the Ridgways in a Sunday service with a potluck where Mayor Ridgway shared a proclamation from the church in Cornwall. Members of the community fellowshiped with the Ridgway family and learned more about them. Shortly afterward, Kauanoe took the family to the Anahola Village where they enjoyed whale watching on the beach. Louis Hoomanawanui, Kauanoe's father who closely depicts his ancestor Henry, called out to Mayor Ridgway who was in a deep sleep while on the beach. As Louis called out to him saying, "Gordon.....Gordon.....," the mayor awoke exclaiming that he thought it was God speaking to him. It was a laugh for all! Mayor Ridgway shared that after seeing Henry Opukaha'ia's portrait daily throughout his town, it was a dream come true to wake up to Louis in God's paradise.



Kauanoe took the Ridgways to various scenic spots on Kauai including Opaekaa Falls, Wailua Falls, Mount Waialeale, Kilauea Point, Aliomanu Beach, Menehune Fish Pond, Kokee Park and to Kauanoe's family ranch in Mahaulepu. They were able to help her family rescue a horse in distress as they have done on their own family farm in Connecticut. The epic moment for the Ridgway family was seeing film production crews in action at Kauanoe's family ranch and experiencing such close family ties with nature.



On Tuesday, January 15, the Lihue United Church of Christ hosted a celebration in honor of the friendship circle between Cornwall and Hawaii. The well attended gathering included members of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands: Clara D. Priester, Executive Director, Linda Shigeta, former Kauai VP Representative, Sally Anson, and Kauanoe Hoomanawanui. The program began with a greeting by Sandi Sterker, President of the Kauai Association of the United Church of Christ (KAUCC). Kauanoe introduced the fun-loving Mayor Ridgway who expressed his gratitude for the hospitality his family had been shown. He shared a recollection of Patsy Mink dancing a hula when she traveled to Cornwall years ago and how it enhanced his connection to Hawaii as he has always seen Hawaii through the eyes of Henry Opukaha'ia. Mayor Ridgway shared his vision for the elementary school children in Cornwall to continue learning about Henry's legacy. The Kapaa First Hawaiian Church then kicked off the Ho'ike with a beautiful mele followed by all singing a Na Himeni Opukaha'ia. The Lihue United Church Tongan Ministry rendered a powerful symphonic mele in their native language. After singing another Na Himeni, *Hoe Amau*, the Ohana Niihau o Waimea Church graced the stage worshipping the Lord singing three different songs. Kahu Diane Kanahale from the Ohana Niihau o Waimea Church gave the closing prayer. The evening ended with all singing *Hawaii Aloha* as we held hands in a friendship circle.





HAWAII ISLAND UPDATE

Lorna Bofil

Hawaii Island Co-VP Representative

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Chronicles 16:34

It was a very busy year in 2018 as we held our 2nd Annual Tour of the Historical Shipman House Fundraiser and Haili's Cantata Choir where we performed, *Good News from Home*. As a member of our choir, I participated in Christmas Caroling at the Hilo Medical Center, Hale Anuenue Restorative Center and Yukio Okutsu Veterans Center. The Hawaii Island Association held a meeting at Imiola Church in Waimea that I attended on Saturday, October 27. On Friday, November 2, our Missions women gathered for a pot blessing and to pack shoeboxes. We continued packing shoeboxes on our meeting days after our business meetings. I am pleased to announce that Haili Missions prepared a total of 61 boxes for this year's Operation Christmas Child Project. We are thankful for the donations that we were blessed with. As always, God provides. I shared the remaining items with our WBM. Haili Christian School contributed 177 boxes and East Hawaii contributed more than 5,251 boxes. On Saturday, November 3, our church delegate and I visited Puka'ana Congregational Church for their Ho'ike. Their theme was *Joy to the World - Thanks Be to God!* The celebration included fellowship, music, hymns and music, and a luau. On Sunday, November 4, the Ho'omana Ministry lead by Makaiwa Kanui Tong and youth who are involved with Inter-varsity Team Hawaii, hosted a luncheon at Haili Church where they shared testimonies about the impact of their ministry. We are privileged to host this ministry annually during Spring Break.

Locally, Haili Missions is currently in partnership with Hope Services, InterVarsity Team Hawaii, Young Life Hawaii Island, the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, Kahu Kahiki Hudson's Homeless Feeding Ministry, Na Paahao O Hawaii, (Kahu Kaleo Patterson's Prison Ministry), and Christian Vision (Gay Hongo). Nationally, we support Pioneers, Samaritan's Purse, Radio Bible Ministries, World Venture, Global Hope International, and World Mission Outreach. Please remember our missionaries in prayer.

In 2019, my plan is to review goals with our Committee for 2019 concerning the expansion of our WBM membership. This includes implementing several ideas to expand outreach in our community to share our WBM ministry with other churches and organizations on Hawaii Island. Other areas of focus include a meet and greet event for Hawaii Island and inviting women from East and West Hawaii to learn more about us.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year filled with an abundance of blessings. May you continue to have faith, peace, love, hope and joy.

In Christ's Service

Lorna



MAUI UPDATE

Arlene Kealaonalani Pihana

Maui VP Representative

“Ho'onani aku au ia 'oe, e Iehovah, me ko'u na'au a pau; E heluhelu aku ai kau mau hana kupaianaha a pau. E 'oli'oli no au a e hau'oli no ho'i ia oe; E ho'ole'a aku ho'i i kou inoa, e Ka Mea Ki'eki'e Loa.”

Psalms 9:1-2

“I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of your wonders, I will be glad and exalt you; I will sing praises to Your Name, O Most High!” (*translation*)

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Happy New Year to all! As time seems to pass more quickly, I continue to remind myself, more and more, of the importance of time management.

A couple of highlights in 2018 include the 1st Annual Luminary Service, hosted by Kaahumanu Church on Saturday, October 28. This was a gathering for our community to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. Many who attended this gathering and experienced personal healing requested that we continue hosting the event annually.



Hand decorated bags commemorating loved ones during the 1st Annual Luminary Service at Kaahumanu Church.

This year has already started with the planning of a couple of events. “Spring Sing”, the next Ho'ike, will be hosted at Kaahumanu Church on Saturday, April 6, 2019. As people in our community requested, our 2nd Annual Luminary Service will be held again later this year in October. Trunk 'O Treat, a fun filled event for children, will also be held later in October.

In 2019, we look forward to working with Pastor Fred Welch of The Joyful Community Church, our new partnership. Their IMPACT outreach helps bring relief to those who are homeless, incarcerated and experiencing various crises. God has blessed this fellowship with many resourceful and dedicated servants to share his wondrous unconditional love to those in need of it most.

The gift of music that God has given me is one that I share as I continue to teach music classes at Kaahumanu Church on Wednesday evenings. Currently, six to eight people steadily participate weekly. There are times when ten or more individuals gather for these classes. I welcome anyone who is interested in learning music or refining their music skills.

In closing, may the love of our Heavenly Father be with all of you, especially for those who have lost loved ones, are caring for loved ones and are praying for loved ones all around the world.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Arlene

sanadire@gmail.com



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Rebecca Woodland

Missions Co-Chair and Oahu VP Representative

Congratulations WBM and Partners!

In partnership with Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox ministry of Samaritan's Purse, the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands committed to our 2018 goal of filling 100 shoeboxes with assorted gifts of school supplies, hygiene items, toys, and other necessities for children in need around the globe for the 2018 Christmas season. Our women caught the vision, and together we *more than doubled* our original goal. The Woman's Board of Missions total for 2018 was 206 gift-filled shoeboxes! Mahalo to all who donated items, decorated shoeboxes, packed boxes, and brought this life-changing project to their home churches and schools both on Oahu and on the neighbor islands. This year the total number of shoeboxes sent from the state of Hawaii was 46,015. The total from Oahu was 29,960 shoeboxes.

Our Hawaii shoebox gifts were sent and hand-distributed to the most impoverished children in the Philippines and to Native American children. Some have never had anything they could call their own, not even a toothbrush or pencil. The shoebox gifts fill a physical need, but equally important is their impact on the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the child and his/her community. These shoebox gifts give HOPE to the children and their communities.

You can get involved! The Woman's Board of Missions is making Operation Christmas Child an ongoing, year-round effort. Donations of new items such as school supplies, mild bar soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, T-shirts, stuffed toys, jump-ropes, yo-yos and other small toys are always welcome.



Back row: Myrtle Stewart-Vetekina, Melinda Ahn. **Front row:** Lorna Bufil (Hawaii Island Co-VP Representative), SSG Brandon C. Allen (Clara's son who was on military leave), Riane Cardenas (Secretary), Josann Jenks



Also, we are looking for long-term storage space because the shoeboxes packed throughout the year cannot all fit into the WBM office or my small apartment.

Please contact Clara at wbmhawaii@gmail.com or Rebecca at rebeccawoodland@gmail.com if you can help in any way.

Our goal for 2019 is to fill 400 shoeboxes. WE CAN DO IT!



COMPASSIONATE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

FIRST RETREAT 2018

By Karleen Samuel, Chairwoman

On Saturday, July 7, 2018, Compassionate Women, a group under Every Home Church center in Kolonia, Pohnpei conducted their first 2018 retreat at the Kolonia EveryHome Fellowship Center. Participants included thirty-five young girls and women. The retreat was comprised of three speakers which were from Pohnpei Public Health, College of Micronesia Cooperative Research Extension and EveryHome Ministry.



Mrs. Pertina Albert Saimon from Pohnpei Public Health presented health topics relating to the well-being of a family by discussing some factors that parents can apply to help their young ones attain a better life and make better decisions. Disease statistics existing on the island of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) were also presented to educate the group about how they can help minimize/prevent them from their young ones and from spreading.



Merly Nelson from Cooperative Research Extension, the second speaker of the event, shared how to possess a healthy life using three keys: measuring the amount of food to consume in a meal, balancing meals and exercising.



The retreat concluded with a Bible teaching by Amy Santiago from Every Home. The topic of her lesson was LOVE (Agape). She spoke about the importance of abiding in the Word of God, for it nurtures, protects and develops an individual mentally, physically and spiritually.

The retreat was successful through some in-kind support from Every Home members and funds supported by the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands in Hawaii.

The organizing committee has already planned that future training will focus on hands-on to help develop group skills.

BEIJING INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Despite what you may have heard, this month we in Beijing International Christian Fellowship did what Christians have been doing all over the world for the last 2000 years – rejoiced in Emmanuel!

We had the privilege of sharing the Good News of His coming with all people for the 8th year in the Haidian Church. We are very thankful for the welcome and Gospel-partnership we enjoy with the brothers and sisters of this church.

For two nights in December the Lord filled their sanctuary with more than 1,500 people as we declared our hope in Jesus through song, dance, drama, and proclamation.

Jesus
CHRIST
hope
of the
world

B I C F - Z G C
2018 INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
国际圣诞节庆祝活动

December 7 and 8
7:00-9:00pm
Haidian Christian Church

Free Admission
(This is not a ticket)
无需凭票 免费入场

For more info, contact: zgc@bicf.org

BEIJING INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
ZHONG GUAN CUN



Now that we have almost 30 Small Groups in our church, spread across many of the universities in our part of the city, December was packed with Christmas outreaches and parties. Several groups decided to give popcorn to all of the international students in their dorms. Lots of popping and cracking, followed by lots of surprised smiles and words of appreciation for their random kindness in Christ's name. Who doesn't need a break to enjoy some popcorn....and a Christmas card with some Great News?!

We had our normal 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. services on Sunday, December 23. Members worked hard to present a great program of dance, drama, music, and preaching from Luke 2. The Advent reading was presented in languages from the Pacific (Samoan, Hawaiian, and Tongan – with English translation on the PPT screen) and songs were sung in English, Portuguese, French, and Swahili! Jesus truly is Savior of the whole world!



JOSHUA TRAINING CENTRE

God has brought the nations to BICF ZGC, and we pray that the nations will, in turn, be impacted for Jesus Christ as ZGC helps men & women better prepare for Gospel ministry. Understanding/teaching the Bible, current issues in theology, your role in the mission of God, practical mentoring for ministry practice within our church—these are the things you can expect in our brand-new training course!

DEC (9TH/16TH OR 15TH) CLASS: **Missiological Training**

Have you always thought of "Missions" as those super-Christians that move to a jungle somewhere? In this class we're going to COMPLETELY blow up your view of *Missions* as we make one small change to the word: remove the final *s* and join us to talk about the biblical **Mission** of God—What is God's Mission? How do you define God? And how does your answer to these two questions define your entire life? Yes, your *entire* life.

WARNING: you might be changed forever. SEE YOU THERE.

JTC offers one class per month: either 1 full Saturday (8:30am-5pm) or 2 Sunday afternoons (1-5pm)

FUTURE CLASSES INCLUDE:

Jan 12, 6/23 Theological Training Ecclesiology—THE CHURCH

Our newest Zhong Guam Cun (ZGC) ministry is called *Joshua Training*. The title was coined in hope that men and women will be better equipped for service through the message of the Word and mentoring in their walk and witness. We feel responsible to take even more advantage of the opportunity we have to equip student/leaders from around the world. We want to be more intentional in helping them be ready to serve their churches, even plant new churches, in the places God will lead them with the impressive academic credentials they earn here in Beijing. Given the busy schedules of folks in Beijing, we are trying to find the right balance of how much time to require for this program. The current schedule is one day a month. Courses are offered all day on a Saturday or two Sunday afternoons. People can choose what works best. So far, we have had more than 100 ZGC members taking each of our Joshua classes. Mark will be part of the teaching team for the January course on *Ecclesiology: The Church*.

Thanks for praying for our travels to Jinan, China in November 2018. We had the privilege of meeting with 150 students from 33 cities in China who were chosen to participate in a Leadership Conference. They lead Small Groups on University campuses all around the nation, reaching their classmates with the Great News. Mark was asked to be their speaker and shared *Lessons on Leadership: Paul's Letter to Titus*. We learned together and from one another. Their testimonies of endurance and obedience were humbling and invigorating. Some groups are now forced to meet in dormitory stairwells. But they have vowed to press on!



Christ is here. Christ will come again. Happy New Year!
Mark and Dayna

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)

MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

By Clara D. Priester

In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus affirms, ³⁵*for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,* ³⁶*I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, **I was in prison and you visited me.*** ³⁷*Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?'* ³⁸*And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?'* ³⁹*And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'* ⁴⁰*And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

With a sure belief in this passage of scripture, members of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands have made ongoing visits to the women in the WCCC for the past seven years. When Mark Patterson, former WCCC warden, compassionately asked if we would "adopt" the women in the Mental Health Unit about five years ago, we were humbled and considered it a privilege.

On Monday, August 20, I met with the staff concerning the needs of the women. Following the meeting, I spent some time talking with the women about the kinds of classes they would like taught. Among those suggestions were domestic violence awareness, life skills (budgeting and finance), self-care, and employment preparation (interview skills and finding job resources). We are still working on this.

Riane Cardenas (WBM Secretary), Rebecca Woodland (Oahu VP Representative and Missions Co-Chair) and I, fellowshiped with the women during lunch on Thursday, October 25, followed by a few humorously competitive rounds of Bingo where they had opportunities to earn prizes brought by the WBM. If you are wondering what those prizes may have been, I can tell you that they were in no way extravagant or what one may ordinarily think of as a prize. During my previous visit in August, the women had simply asked if (on this visit) they could earn basic sanitation items: hair shampoo and conditioner, body wash, and body lotion. Things that so many take for granted and rarely think these things may become a hardship. What a most humbling experience.

The range and diversification of talent among the women were on full display when Rebecca Woodland and I attended a production of *The Lion King* on Monday, November 5. Enhanced with remarkable voice overs, imaginative costumes and props, and dance provoking music, the production offered a fun-filled hour. The level of their ingenuity enables the women to do great things with items that are often discarded.

At the request of the women, I arrived for another visit on Friday, December 21. During this visit, they enjoyed pizza, doughnuts and candy treat bags. Every woman at the table where we sat expressed her genuine appreciation for making them feel important. Some of their expressions were worded, "Thank you for all of the donations that you continue to give"; "I appreciate that the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands really cares about us as people"; "When I know that you all are going to be visiting us, I can hardly wait"; "Thank you for the food and treats that you bring because we rarely ever have these things"; and "Thank you for making our day so much better by being here."

As we continue to visit and fellowship with our sisters in the WCCC Mental Health Unit in 2019, our prayer is that with God, through us, the power of being present and "sitting beside" them will contribute to their healing and restoration.

UCCP PASUQUIN LEARNING CENTER (UCCP)

By Alma Balatico

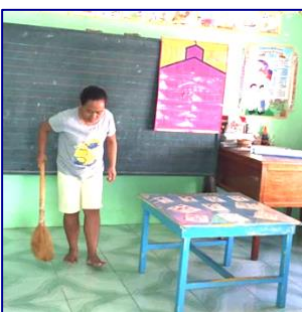
Greetings from the UCCP Pasuquin Church and Learning Center in the Philippines. My husband and I have been here for almost four months now and we would like to share with you some experiences and observations about the life and work of the church and the Learning Center. In 2018, the school and church council approved two big projects. These are the construction of an outside double sink and the enclosure of the playground for safety, health and sanitation reasons. These projects were also undertaken to comply with facility licensing requirements.

I was also happy to have participated in the Learning Center's teacher evaluation process. In order to maintain the quality standards the community has come to expect from the Learning Center, the teachers and curriculum are frequently evaluated to make sure the students receive quality education. A teacher's preparation, presentation, and implementation of the curriculum are rated as well as their interaction with the students. Teacher, Jennifer, holds the children's attention and has a good command of her class. The children are engaged in their lessons and actively participate in discussions.

In preparation for the holidays, the children excitedly prepared for their annual Christmas program. They sang, danced, and three children recited poems from memory! I was impressed as they were not short poems! After the children's presentation and giving of gifts, the kids and their families enjoyed a potluck lunch. The Learning Center was on a break from Monday, December 24, 2018 to Friday, January 4, 2019.

The pictures on the left are parents of our sponsored children. These are mothers whose children receive our WBM gift of tuition and books. They help in the upkeep of the school, feeding and preparing food for the children, preparing classrooms in the morning and clean up after classes.

We would like to thank you very much for your continued support of the ministry to our indigent children. The Learning Center is a partnership of different moving parts - teachers, students, parents, church members, and our valued supporters. Without your gift of tuition and books, the Learning Center is unable to reach out to these children. **YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES!** *Aloha and God bless you!*



YOUNGLIVES

OAHU

Summer Camp 2018

We had the opportunity this year to fundraise for almost our entire trip and travel to YoungLives summer camp in Challenge, California. It was a week to remember at Camp Woodleaf. A Young Life camp.

We enjoyed a ropes course, swam, sang, ate and most of all we learned more about Jesus – the man, the Son of God who came to save us from our sins.



Free at last! Free at last!

Pictured above, at camp, is our team and teen moms pointing to the One who makes us free at last.



Mama Jen and Keku Kuhau

YoungLives Oahu just celebrated five years of ministry! Our mission to share the pure and simplistic love of Jesus to teenagers who have become mothers has not changed. We have witnessed lives changed and girls who once came as teen moms just learning who Jesus really is, move on to becoming leaders who share Christ and his love with other teen moms. Keku Kuhau (pictured left with Mama Jen) is now serving and leading in our ministry for almost two years.



A few of our awesome mommies had an opportunity for an outing with their babies. Pictured on the left are Cala and Makayla with their beautiful babies.



Our team and mommies as we all prepared to board our flight to California for our YoungLives Summer Camp 2018.



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

Code: 78471

Mahalo plenty for your support!

We extend our immense gratitude for all who graciously supported the ministry of our WBM through the Give Aloha/Foodland Campaign. Through the collective generosity of donations made in the month of September, we raised \$872.80. Our goal for 2019 is to raise a minimum of \$1200 through this fundraiser. We ask for your kokua and thank you in advance for what you are able and willing to contribute.

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Charitable Donations and Traditional IRAs

Paying taxes is never a popular or fun topic, but I'm concerned that many people are not aware of the new tax law changes for 2018. In the past many older, retired folks like myself were itemizing our deductions (mortgage interest, real property taxes, medical expenses, charitable donations etc.). But the new standard deduction amounts are doubled for 2018 and that's going to impact whether we get any tax benefit for our charitable donations. So I want to make everyone aware of a special program.

If you have a "Traditional IRA", generally you must start taking a distribution after you reach 70 ½ years of age. It's called a "Required Minimum Distribution" (RMD) and there is a huge penalty if you don't obey the "RMD" law. Unfortunately the "RMD" amount is taxable income. However you can save paying taxes on your "RMD" if you are going to make donations to eligible charities. It's a tax provision called the "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD). A "QCD" is a donation from your "RMD" amount that is made directly from your IRA manager to the eligible charity. The key word here is "directly". It's really simple. For example: My Traditional IRA account is with Fidelity. So what I do is send Fidelity a list of the various charities (name, address and amount). And Fidelity then writes checks from my "RMD" amount and mails those checks directly to each of the charities (with my name on the memo line of the check). The remaining "RMD" amount is mailed to me and I have Fidelity withhold Federal tax.

This "QCD" amount is not included in taxable income. Note: You can donate any or all of your "RMD" amount. Your IRA manager will calculate your "RMD" each year and you can change the amount of your "QCD" each year, as you wish. You cannot itemize a donation to a charity if you already claimed that donation as "QCD". It's one or the other, but not both. So for instance, if my "RMD" is \$8,000 and I donate \$3,000 as a "QCD" I will then pay taxes only on the \$5,000 that I don't donate. This way I save by using the new higher standard deduction and by not including the \$3,000 in my taxable income. I hope this hasn't been too confusing. If you want to read more go to www.irs.gov. Publication 590-b explains "RMD" and the "QCD" is on page 13. It's dated for 2017, but "RMD" and "QCD" rules will remain the same for 2018. It's possible that some tax preparers are not aware of the "QCD" program.

There are many tax law changes for 2018 including the loss of personal exemptions, that we all need to learn about. I'm not a professional tax preparer, but I've benefited from the "QCD" program and hope you can also.

Aloha,
Valrie Griffith

FAMILY THANK OFFERING

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes. He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1:3-4 TEV

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 through December 2018, our Family Thank Offering Committee granted 7 one-time mission grants totaling \$3,400 to:

- ❖ A young mother escaping her abusive husband with her 2-year old daughter: **\$400**
- ❖ A woman whose husband passed away unexpectedly: **\$500**
- ❖ A woman who required assistance with a security deposit for a clean and sober house: **\$500**
- ❖ A survivor of domestic violence requiring assistance with rent: **\$500**
- ❖ A young woman requiring a security deposit for a clean and sober house: **\$500**
- ❖ A grandmother caring for eight of her grandchildren as a result of her daughter's incarceration needed assistance with basic necessities. **\$500**
- ❖ A young man whose family needed assistance while he underwent treatment in a clean and sober house. **\$500**

****** UPDATES ******

We are encouraged by the following reports of those who previously received support from our WBM:

- The young mother who escaped her abusive husband with her 2-year old daughter is safe and being assisted by advocates. She is working and going to school. Her goal is to establish her own business.
- The survivor of domestic violence requiring assistance with rent is now in a place of her own with her two children. She started a cleaning business that is doing exceptionally well and she will also be graduating shortly from Hawaii Pacific University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.
- The grandmother caring for eight of her grandchildren as a result of her daughter's incarceration is doing much better.

* All three women regularly communicate with Clara.

Pray For Our Missionaries

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

Psalm 96:3



Mark and Dayna Blair
Beijing International Christian Fellowship
CHINA



Rose Ludwig (far right) and daughters
Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU)
GUAM



Tom and Monica Liddle
Global Ministries Missionaries
EAST TIMOR



The Pagaragan Family
Missionary Family – Team USA
JAPAN

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
1848 NUUANU AVE.
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

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

Shampoo/conditioner *
 Body Wash/Soap *
 Body Lotion *
 Toothpaste *
 Toothbrushes *
 Toiler Paper
 Hand Wipes/Sanitizers
 Deodorant *
 Sanitary Napkins *
 Tampons *
 Combs/Brushes
 Personal Wipes
 Kleenex

Bedding Items

Pillows (*standard*)
 Blankets
 Mattress Pads

School Supplies

Crayons
 Composition Books
 Pens (*black ink*)
 Pocket Folders
 Markers
 Erasers
 Pencils
 Elmer's Glue

Baby Items

Baby Powder
 Baby Lotion *
 Diapers & Wipes *

Other

Socks
 Bibles
 Prescription Eyeglasses
 Postage Stamps
 Plain Envelopes
 Fabric/Sewing Notions
Gift Cards (*Walmart, Long
 Drugs, Safeway*)

MAHALO NUI LOA

Donations & Gifts

Norina Barcenas
 Lorna Bufil
 Kayla Bush
 Susan Bush
 Riane Cardenas
 Dr. Virgie Chattergy
 Griffin and Trevor Chen
 Eileen Ching
 Rose Marie Doral
 Lisa Fong
 Grace Fujii
 Donna Gamboa
 Mrs. Hayashi
 Nancy Heu
 Grace Hirota
 Karen Koles
 Marlene Lee
 Mercie Nahaku

Carol Miura
 Ellen Okamura
 Dr. Dwayne "Dee" Priester
 Cynthia Sato
 Carol and Mike Sullivan
 Sandra Toorinjian
 Denise Sasaki Torres
 Mr. Torres
 Bob Urbanski
 Rebecca Woodland
 Dr. Alan Yoshida

Churches/Organizations

Central Union Church
 Central Union Church Thrift Shop
 Church of the Holy Cross
 First Chinese Church of Christ
 First Chinese Church of Christ -
Women's Fellowship

First Chinese Church of Christ -
Women's Sewing Fellowship
 First United Protestant Church of Hilo
 Friends of the Library
 Haili Congregational Church
 Kaumakapili Church
 UCC Judd St.
 Waiokeola Congregational Church
 Women's League of Central Union
 Waialua UCC

Cancelled Stamps (for Stamp Project)

Rose Marie Doral
 Judith Engstrom
 Kapaa Church
 Pookela Church
 H.M. Wveth