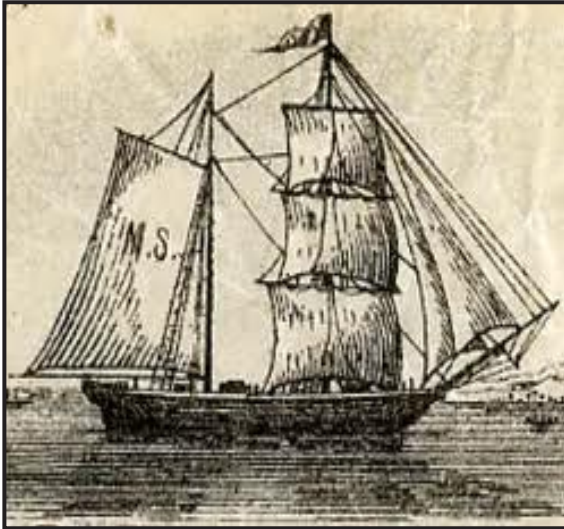


APRIL 2018

# THE MORNING STAR

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



## NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Central Union Church  
Women's Building  
1660 S. Beretania St.

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Fellowship

*Faith, Hope, Love*

Saturday, April 28, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Central Union Church

*\* Parish Hall \**

1660 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

*\* Silent Auction \*      \$35 (includes lunch)*

Woman's Board of Missions  
for the Pacific Islands

1848 Nu'uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817  
(808) 791-5647



[wbmhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:wbmhawaii@gmail.com)

Editor: Clara D. Priester  
Presiding: In Transition

*For more information or to purchase  
tickets contact:*

❖ *Our WBM Office*

❖ *A WBM Member*

❖ *Via e-mail*

*(contact information noted to the left)*

## 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

**2018**

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

**\* April 28**

**October 18**

**May 17**

**November 15**

**September 20**

**\*147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Fellowship**

Saturday, April 28, 2018 -10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Central Union Church Parish Hall

## CABINET

<i>Vacant</i>	President
<b>Riane Cardenas</b>	Recording Secretary
<b>Valrie A. Griffith</b>	Treasurer
<b>Eleanore A. Chong</b>	Finance Committee Chair
<b>Rebecca Woodland</b>	Missions Co-Chair O’ahu VP Representative
<b>Lorna Bufil</b>	Hawai’i Island Co-VP Representative
<b>Brenda Chapman</b>	Hawai’i Island Co-VP Representative
<b>Arlene Pihana</b>	Missions Co-Chair, Maui Co-VP Representative
<b>Susan Klassen</b>	Maui Co-VP Representative
<b>Clara D. Priester</b>	Executive Director

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



*Embracing Life's Intersections*

As a follower of Jesus Christ, life and ministry (categorically inseparable) is a faith journey of inevitable intersections. Among the varied definitions of 'intersection' we find ones like *crossing, juncture, interchange, roundabout, and crossroads*. Each one of these precipitates some kind of change and point in time. In Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV), the scripture affirms, *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven*. Seasons change. Continually. People change. Continually. The world changes. Continually. Some of life's intersections result in change that delight us. On other occasions, we may somehow contend with them for one reason or another. Whether or not we embrace these intersections that lead to change, they are all purposeful. How comforting to know that whenever and wherever they occur, God is ever present.

In the beginning of this new year, we experienced an intersection of vacancies in our Cabinet. When Miss Lorna (as she enjoys being called) stepped down as our WBM President to take better care of herself, the role was left vacant. She continues to serve as our Hawai'i Island Co-VP Representative and is doing remarkable work in Hilo and surrounding communities. At the same time, we were in need of a Recording Secretary. In His providence, I believed that God would send someone. And He did. Riane Cardenas, a guest speaker at our 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship, shared how God transformed her life after suffering a horrific trauma as a young adult woman. Three months ago during lunch, Riane expressed her desire to join our WBM and become actively involved. Having known her for the past six years and her passion to provide support to women in crisis, I was overjoyed. She is our new Recording Secretary and has already employed her range of administrative skills.

An intersection with two organizations enabled us to enter new partnerships with both. Ho'ola Na Pua, an organization that restores young girls abused and traumatized by sex trafficking, and the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, an organization that provides access to counseling that is sensitive to the spiritual traditions of people in Hawai'i, became new partnerships in February 2017. There are more intersections that we have experienced and more that undoubtedly will continue to emerge. The ministry of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands is God's ministry and God's mission. At all times, especially in the middle of intersections leading to change, He knows the plans He has for each of us. In Jeremiah 29:11, God assures us of this when He promises, *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end*.

God uniquely created us and designed our lives for specific purposes that only He knows and can orchestrate. When we set our hearts to embrace life's intersections it permits us to witness and contemplate how God paternistically guides and sustains us. In this lifetime, we will arrive at intersections that may require us to pause for a time and to trust God once again, with what comes next.

While filled with transitions, 2017 was a most fruitful year. As we approach our 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship, I thank you all for honoring God with your gifts and talents and for your continued faithfulness to this ministry.

In this new year and beyond, may we embrace all of life's intersections and may we seek to do all that reflects the One who called us into being.



## IN SEARCH OF WILLING WORKERS

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

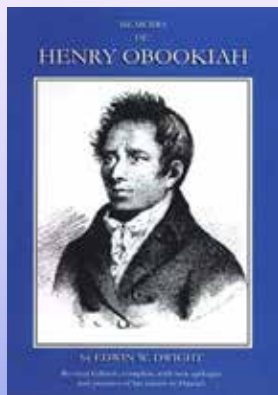
We meet monthly to conduct business, receive inspiration, and identify ways to continue to make a difference in our communities and world. Annual dues are collected from all members typically in April at our Annual Meeting and Fellowship gatherings and are used to further our ministry. There are many 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.

Please be advised that our annual membership dues are now \$50. The increase from \$25 to \$50 will aid in defraying rising costs for printing, postage and other operational expenses required to continue the work of our WBM.

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

## GENTLE REMINDER

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



## 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. Soft back copies are \$15. A limited edition hard copy is \$50. All proceeds from sales of this book are used to further the ministry of the WBM.

## CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS



### *Kahu Harriet "Clara" Daog*

Kahu Clara Daog was born in Honolulu. Currently, she is employed by Opihikao Congregational Church and is also actively involved in Hale O Na'ali'i.

Kahu Clara is a graduate of Hilo High School. She was married to the late Consuelo C. Daog.

In her time of leisure, Kahu Clara enjoys handcrafting. She is a mother of five beautiful children - Sharon, Edmond, Rudolph, Chris and Darlene, and wonderfully blessed grandmother of 14 grandchildren.



### *Lisanne Kekuewa*

Lisanne was born in Waimea, Kaua'i. She is employed by Kamehameha Schools and is actively involved in Haili Church, Kalihi and Moanalua Church, Ka'ahumanu Society Chapter 13 and the Volcano Rotary Club. She holds B.A. degrees in both Accounting and Business Administration.

Lisanne is married to Bruce Kekuewa and is a mother of four children: Ponomo'i (Ronson) Olaso, Kapua Kekuewa, Keli'ikuewa Kekuewa and Kamalanai Kekuewa and grandmother of three grandchildren.

In time of leisure, Lisanne enjoys 'ohana time, traveling reading and fitness.



### *Kauanoe Hoomanawanui*

Kauanoe Hoomanawanui was born and raised on Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island. She is a Deaconess at Koolauhui'ia Protestant Church and the Kaua'i Delegate for the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches Board of Directors. Without a Kahu at Koolauhui'ia, Kauanoe has supported the congregation through her sermons.

Kauanoe is in her second year of Seminary at the Vancouver School of Theology to earn Masters degrees in Indigenous Theology and Divinity. In her employment, she is the Burial Sites Specialist for the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division. She is mother of three children, Keani (17), Kaulananoa (15) and Kaaunamano (7).

## CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS



### ***Riane Cardenas***

Riane was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Currently, she is employed by Starbucks and Reading Theaters.

A graduate of Chaminade University, Riane earned a Bachelor's degree in Humanities. She is a member of Holy Catholic Family Church and the International Association of Women.

Her array of interests include building and fixing things, dancing hula, weight lifting, reading, writing, hiking, traveling, health and wellness, and enjoying different foods.



## **HAWAI'I ISLAND UPDATE**

### **Brenda K. Chapman**

*Hawai'i Island Co-VP Representative*

As of November 17, 2017, I have more intentionally been introducing women to the ministry of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and encouraging them to become involved. I have also been extending invitations to women to attend our upcoming 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship. They are prayerfully seeking how God is leading them.

On Saturday, February 17, 2018, I greeted Kahu Wendell Davis and church members upon their arrival to Hilo and accompanied them in their ministry of dance during the Henry Opukaha'ia celebration and service. On Sunday, February 18, 2018, I accompanied the same group who visited the Legacy Community Church in Hilo to minister to their congregation. Kahu Wendell Davis was a guest speaker there as well.

For our upcoming 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship, I have been busy handcrafting Niihau Shell earrings to be included in our silent auction.

On a personal note, I recently returned from O'ahu after tending to the affairs of my brother who passed away. I will be donating many pieces of his beautiful Asian Art collection for our silent auction as well.

This new year, be encouraged in remembering, *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:19

Yours in Christ,  
Brenda



## HAWAI'I ISLAND UPDATE

**Lorna Bofil**

*Hawai'i Island Co-VP Representative*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever.*  
Chronicles 16:34

It was great to be with you all again as we headed closer to the 2017 holiday season. The year ended beautifully.

Haili Church participated in Operation Christmas Child once again and collected a total of 65 filled shoeboxes. Along with my son Kelcey, also a WBM member, we delivered the shoeboxes to Hilo Missionary Church on Monday, November 20, 2017. A special mahalo to my family for their donation of 15 boxes to the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and Kelcey for his donation of three boxes. This was a time of year when we put a lot of love into the shoeboxes that we graciously blessed children around the world with. On Christmas Eve, we hosted our candlelight service. The highlight of the service was when we corporately sang "Silent Night" in Hawaiian.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Auntie Juliette Galuteria (photo to the right), a faithful member of our WBM. My heartfelt sympathy was extended to her Ohana. She was a mentor to so many, and I have fond memories of her as she served as Kawaiaha'o Church's Delegate. Kelcey and I always looked forward to seeing her. She will be dearly missed. It is my hope, that her legacy lives on and that our WBM will be able to honor her memory with a scholarship fund.



We are thankful for and celebrated the following new members who joined our WBM here - Kahu Harriet "Clara" Daog, Kahu Diane Hultman, Loke Kamanu, and Lisanne Kekuewa.

As of the last edition of our newsletter, I attended numerous events: Opihikao, Ola'a and Pu'ula Church Ho'ikes, the Annual Ho'ike and 150th Anniversary for Lanakila Church in Kona; the Historical Shipman House Tour Fundraiser; the Spring Aha Halawai at Ola'a Church; the Young Life Hilo Silent Auction Event on Saturday, November 18, 2017; and the Ola'a Church Aha Mele and sleepover for children where I prepared breakfast for the children.

East Hawai'i hosted their Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at Auntie Sally's Luau House on Friday, November 24, 2017. Thank you to Haili Church Missions for their donation of \$300.00 to support this ministry and outreach to our community.

Blessings to each of you this new year. Cherish the moments with your family and loved ones.

Mahalo and God Bless you all!

In Christ's Name,

*Lorna*





## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

### Rebecca Woodland

*O'ahu VP Representative & Missions Co-Chair*

Partnering with Operation Christmas Child, the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands packed shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items, clothing and toys for impoverished children around the globe. Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, providing gifts to children in countries ravaged by war, famine, natural disaster, poverty, etc. These shoebox gifts also become a ministry tool, as each box is accompanied by a gospel booklet and the opportunity for the child to enroll in a series of Bible classes called "The Greatest Journey", taught by trained Christian teachers. Each shoebox impacts not only the child who receives it, but also the entire extended family and/or community.

We purchased and collected a variety of gifts and spent several hours packing shoeboxes at our October and November meetings. Some of our women packed more boxes on their own, and others introduced Operation Christmas Child to their home church, school, workplace, etc. This yielded a large number of shoeboxes on the neighbor islands.

On O'ahu, the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands packed 81 shoeboxes. The total number of shoeboxes packed on O'ahu and Moloka'i totaled 27,609. The total number of shoeboxes packed and sent by the state of Hawai'i was 45,143. Our Hawai'i shoebox gifts were distributed in the Philippines, Indonesia, Peru, and Mali.

Our WBM goal for 2018 is to fill 100-125 shoeboxes. Please bring your gift-filled boxes or extra items to fill shoeboxes to our WBM monthly meetings. You can visit [www.samaritan.org/occ](http://www.samaritan.org/occ) for more information, instructions, labels, videos, and gift suggestions.

May God bless each child who received a shoebox and all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Mahalo!



## MAUI UPDATE

### Arlene Kealaonalani Pihana

*Maui Co-VP Representative*

It has been a very busy time here on Maui. In addition to planning our upcoming Meet & Greet on Saturday, March 17, 2018, I began teaching a music class at Kaahumanu Church from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. All who are interested are welcome.

It was a blessing to be able to participate in both the "Equipping Tomorrow's Church Leaders" gathering on January 5-6 & 19-20, 2018 and the Church Leaders event on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the Church of the Crossroads.

Recently, I began my second year of seminary in the Vancouver School of Theology Indigenous Studies Program by extension. In July 2018, I will return for our annual summer sessions. Praise God!





## *Meet Our New Maui Co-VP Representative*

### **Susan Klassen**

We are elated to announce that Susan Klassen (formerly Lord), has graciously chosen to serve as our new Maui Co-VP Representative alongside Arlene Kealaonalani Pihana. Susan has been a member of our WBM for countless years serving in various roles.

Susan and her husband, Veryl, have been married for three years. Currently, they reside in Waiehu where they attend Waihee Protestant Church and serve as Sunday School teachers for the UCC Pohnpei Ministry. Susan was also nominated for President for the Sunday School program and considers it a privilege.

Adding to all of the above, we celebrate Susan as a student in the Master of Divinity Indigenous Studies Program (by extension) through the Vancouver School of Theology. She is one of several WBM members studying to earn an M.Div. degree.

Welcome, Aunty Susan!

## *A Letter from Aunty Susan*

Aloha Mai Kakou!

May this Morning Star edition find you all in good health and good spirits in this wondrous New Year.

It is with a humbled heart and much gratitude that we are able to host a Maui Meet and Greet on Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Hale Ho'ike'ike at the Bailey House Museum. Our theme is "Christ in Us, the Hope and Glory," a theme continued from our 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fellowship. The purpose of this event is to bring awareness to Christian women on Maui about the ministry of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands. Presentations will also be made by representatives from organizations that we are currently supporting here on Maui. Lunch will be provided at this gathering. Attendees are being asked to bring a school supply item(s) in lieu of the cost for lunch. These supplies will help to support children in a much-needed Sunday School program here on Maui.

I am excited to serve as the Maui Co-VP Representative for the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and look forward to attending my first meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2018 on O'ahu.

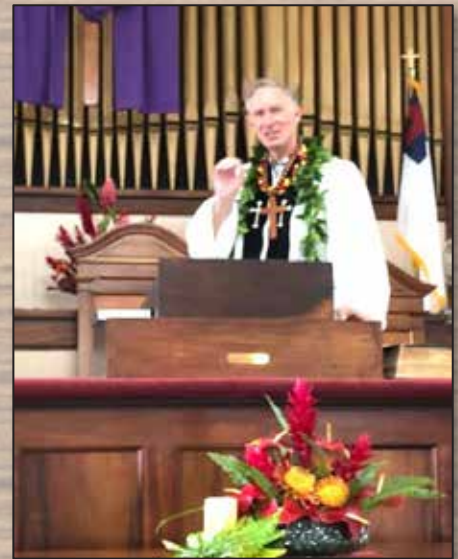
My husband and I are retired and feel very blessed to serve as missionaries doing God's work.



# IN COMMEMORATION OF HENRY OPUKAHA'IA

*Saturday, February 17, 2018*

HAILI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

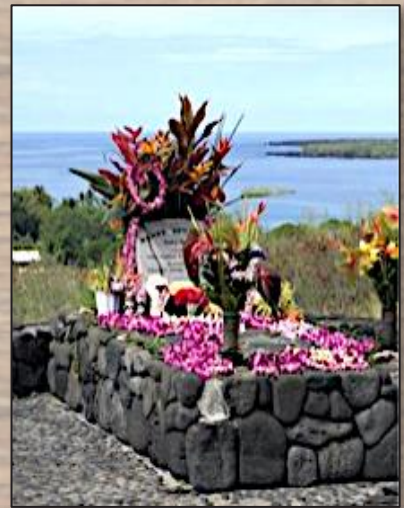




# IN COMMEMORATION OF HENRY OPUKAHA'IA

*Saturday, February 17, 2018*

KAHIKOLU CHURCH & HAWAIIAN MISSION HOUSES







## BEA VELADIEZ: A WALKING MIRACLE

It was almost six years ago that Melinda Ahn, our then Missions Chairwoman, traveled to the Philippines. It was also when we learned about the urgency 12-year old Bea was facing. Born with a deformity, Bea had undergone a previous surgery where a titanium rod, screws and disks were inserted into her back. As she grew, she developed a bulge on her upper back. Now, Bea required a second surgery.

Initially, doctors planned on pulling Bea's body upright with hooks. Instead, they agreed that replacing the existing titanium rod with a longer one was the best option for her. Our WBM felt compelled to fund the surgery. Though it was a grueling surgery that Bea endured, by a miracle of God, it was a success. A short time after her recovery and in amazement, Bea wrote a note to Melinda saying that the "hump" in her back was gone!



On February 27, 2018, Bea enjoyed a grand celebration of her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a day adorned with roses, brightly colored balloons, gifts and the love of family and friends, and dancing with her father, Reverend Arturo (photo to the right).

Today, Bea lives vibrantly. She is actively involved in youth groups in both churches where her parents are ministers, and enjoys leading activities with children.



Bea continues to communicate with Melinda whom she fondly refers to as "Lola" (grandmother) through Facebook. Below are two different Facebook posts by Bea just as she wrote them:



*"I'm going to turn 18 Feb Lola hahaha. But yes Im coping well and my back doesnt have any complications aside from muscle cramps sometimes or tiredness in my shoulders and lower back due to some activities I suppose. But Im healthy and that's such a blessing already! I havent gotten any taller but its not such a hassle, I can still do ordinary things without a hitch and I thank God for that. I pray that you and the Woman's Board of Missions be safe all the time. Love you Lola" ❤️*

*"I can stand up straight! Praise God for that! The pain will be gone in God's time. I got the letter that the WMB sent and i'm starting to write what to reply to you, they are all wonderful and beautiful people and i pray that everything will be fine and good. Godbless lola and your family and the whole of WMB..Love, Bea"*

Reverends Arturo and Maria Rebecca Veladiez, Bea's parents, are forever grateful to God and the ministry of the WBM. Without the second surgery, Bea's life could have ended. She is a walking miracle.

We love you, Bea!

## BEIJING INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We are encouraged by the Lord's double blessings in recent days - our work visa was extended and permission for our church to operate was granted - both for one more year. (They only renew one year at a time). We praise the Lord and thank you for your generous prayers and support which have kept us going strong here. We have entered our ninth year in Beijing.



In Beijing International Christian Fellowship, our sign of autumn is lots of new people! Students from many nations, coming to attend the 82 Universities in our neighborhood, are finding out there is a church in China! Some who hid their Bibles in their luggage wept with tears of joy when they learned they could openly gather to sing His praises. Not-yet-Christians who never dared investigate Jesus and the Bible at home are coming to find friendship.



Our first International Student Camp was successful. October 1 is China's "National Day" and most of the nation is off for the entire week. Isn't God wonderful to slot an empty week for these students cooped-up from their first month of studies, ready to bust out and have some fun?

We had 63 people from 31 countries - about 10 seekers. One student said, "Jesus is the gateway to ultimate success. He is the ultimate success." Another, who is not yet a follower of Jesus said, "If this is the Christian life - to be so peaceful,

one has to be Christian." Praise the Lord for this time of gospel growth.



Having the motto, "Gathering, Growing, Going," has helped focus our church. Though goodbyes don't feel good sometimes, we can rejoice that we've had a small part in equipping many for kingdom service in distant lands for many years, we pray.

In the joy of our King,  
*Mark and Dayna Blair*





## UCCP PASUQUIN LEARNING CENTER

*By Alma Balatico*

Greetings from Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. My husband, Gold and I arrived in Pasuquin on November 10 and stayed until February. We were supposed to arrive here in September in conjunction with a medical mission that was co-sponsored by our home church, Moanalua Community Church in partnership with UCCP Poblacion Pasuquin, Varsity Christian Fellowship of New York and Compassion in Action based in the Philippines. However, due to some health issues, Gold and I were not able to join my family in the mission.

The medical mission was held at the UCCP Poblacion Pasuquin. This was a community outreach project not only for our church families but open to the residents of the 32 barangays in Pasuquin. Volunteers came from the Learning Center and Church families. The mission ran from October 12 to 13. It offered medical, optical, pediatric, and dental services.



As part of the medical mission, the doctors gave our preschool children a medical and dental workup. The parents as well as the children were given a lecture about proper dental hygiene and vitamins were also dispensed to the families. Some members of the Moanalua



Community Church passed out goodie bags to our preschool children. Each child was given a toothbrush, crayons, a small coloring book, and some sweets from Hawaii.

In Rev. Lynn Gumallaoi's report to the WBM this past July, she indicated that the Learning Center is in the process of accreditation. Part of the requirement for accreditation is for the Learning Center to have a school clinic. The mission doctors donated essential medicines and supplies to stock up our school clinic. This was very timely as inspectors from the DOE were scheduled to do an ocular visit of the school facilities the week after the mission.



The church held a Worship through Music on the first day of the mission. Different choirs from several UCCP churches participated including the choir of UCCP Poblacion Pasuquin. The medical team also had a choir and participated in the worship. UCCP Pasuquin's choir was conducted by Aiza Aguda and Angelica Fiesta, the two Staff Development program scholars of the UCCP Learning Center and recipients of a scholarship grant from the Edith Wolfe Memorial Fund. Aiza and Angelica, who are now seniors at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, have been conducting the choir as part of their immersion program, a pre-requisite to graduation. We thank God that they are actively using what they are learning and applying it to ministries benefiting the Learning Center and the Church.

This medical mission's main emphasis was evangelism. Upon registering for medical services, the patient is led through 3 different stages. First triage, then counseling where a pastor or deacon sits with the patient and shares the Gospel and each patient is given the opportunity to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.



After counseling, the patient is then taken to their requested medical service. About 300 people came through the mission during the two days. About 300 seeds of faith were planted. PRAISE THE LORD!! The Learning Center and the Church are blessed to have been given the opportunity to touch so many lives for Christ through this mission. Thank you for your continued partnership.

**MANIGONG BAGONG TAON!**

**Happy New Year!**

## **WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)**

*By Clara D. Priester*

For a few months, our sisters in the Women's Community Correctional Center Mental Health Unit had repeatedly been asking the staff when we would be returning. Painstakingly, some of them have never had visitors. I have been told that some never will. As I remain in close communication with a psychiatric social worker in the facility, I was made aware that the women were, in fact, pleading with him to invite us for another visit.

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018, four other WBM members and I enthusiastically participated in a visit to the facility. Melinda Ahn, Riane Cardenas (a new WBM member since this visit), Donna Gamboa, and Rebecca Woodland comprised this group. Also joining us was Monika Oliva, a friend of Donna's.

Our visit began at 10:00 a.m. as we were escorted to the Mental Health Unit. Upon our arrival there, we greeted the women who were casually sitting and talking in the courtyard. Knowing that we were going to be visiting that day, they were visibly overjoyed as we continued walking further into the courtyard.

After spending some time talking and laughing with the women, we met with the staff in their offices. We were informed that the women were preparing for a program they were presenting for us. A short time later, we all walked outdoors to the pavilion where we were then seated while the women began assembling to commence their program. The Mistress of Ceremony who presided over the program demonstrated an impressive level of confidence and humor that was contagious among us. They began by each reciting their personal affirmations - something they do four times daily. A few of the women then summarized articles they previously before dancing a hula. Multiple talents were revealed in their talent show. A play performed by the women tugged at our heart strings. And then.....the "Electric Slide" song began playing. Loudly. We clapped along while the women began dancing in unison for a few moments. Each one then broke away from their group to invite one from our group to join in the fun. We laughed hysterically the entire time we all danced until the song ended. As the staff-designated panel of judges for the winners of the talent show and article summarizations, this was the most difficult part of the day for us. We managed to choose three winners and award their prizes (provided by the staff). A beautifully handcrafted card was presented to us by the women at the conclusion of their program. Immediately following this presentation, I was asked to pray a blessing over the women, staff and lunch. Because we know that Chinese food is favored by our sisters there, our WBM provided three different dishes among the many that were brought. Rare treats like cake and ice cream were also served and joyfully consumed. Throughout the day, we heard expressions of, "It's really nice to have outside food," "I feel like a princess today," "Thank you for making us feel special," and "thank you for all you do for us."

As I drove away from the facility once again, I was overcome with gratitude for the gift of these unforgettable moments with our sisters who possess so little, yet are so authentically appreciative.

## CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST (CRU) - GUAM

We thank God for the open doors at the University of Guam. There is a faculty member who was supportive of making Christ known on campus. One of them is an instructor who allowed us to share a video and picture cards that open spiritual discussions in his classes. Two classes were exposed to our small group spiritual discussions. We discovered that students are receptive to such relevant topics like forgiveness and personal and emotional healing.



During the Personal Adjustment Class in the Psychology Department, students heard the Gospel. Our team had the wonderful opportunity to facilitate meaningful and relevant conversations using picture cards.

On Club Day, we set up a table to distribute Jesus film videos and evangelistic materials and collected completed spiritual surveys. Interested students were contacted and invited to our discipleship group. We

are grateful that we have been able to enjoy weekly prayer meetings and trainings every Friday.



Our team also did a Chamorro night market evangelism as pictured left. The man on the left with a cap is carrying a Jesus film DVD that we distributed. The young man in the black shirt is one of our team members who was engaged in discussions with anyone interested in talking further about the content of the film.

Part of our socialization in CRU includes fellowship like the sports activity below. Birthday fellowships and Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons are regular treats for our students.



I wish I could find a way besides prayer to express how grateful I am for your standing with me all of these years. I am here doing what I believe God has called me to be and do. There is no way that I can do it apart from God's grace and your unwavering support. You are valued more than I can express.

Sincerely yours,  
Rose Ludwig, *Missionary*

## **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 Hawai'i.

Since the publication of our last newsletter (September 2017), our Family Thank Offering Committee granted the following eight one-time mission grants totaling **\$3,425.00**:

- ❖ A woman who endured financial abuse by all but one of her children was fighting to keep her home. She had depleted all of her savings and some of her retirement fund. After returning to work to help her situation, she was in need of assistance with food and other basic necessities.  
**Mission Grant: \$400**
- ❖ A young woman rebuilding her life post incarceration needed assistance with rent.  
**Mission Grant: \$500**
- ❖ A young mother with four school-age children who escaped an abusive partner needed assistance with basic necessities. She has been struggling a bit after the escape.  
**Mission Grant: \$350**
- ❖ A woman in need of assistance after the sudden death of a family member had received donations of airline miles but required more assistance to travel to officiate the service.  
**Mission Grant: \$400**  
A young mother of three children needed assistance with food and other necessities.  
**Mission Grant: \$400**
- ❖ A woman with two children who escaped an abusive husband required assistance for a small balance of rent, basic sanitation items and other necessities for her children.  
**Mission Grant: \$375**
- ❖ A young mother of two sons needed assistance with rent. She is a survivor of domestic violence.  
**Mission Grant: \$500**
- ❖ Our WBM gave a gift to the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii designated to assist women in crisis with counseling services.  
**Mission Grant: \$500**
- ❖ Our WBM gave a gift to the Kokokahi Tropical Hunger Project to repair sewing machines that we previously purchased.

Members serving on our Family Thank Offering Committee are Judy Rantala, *Chairwoman*, Nora Kamikawa, and Grace Murata. We appreciate you all for your time, compassion and care in reviewing countless requests.



# Pray For Our Missionaries

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

*Psalms 96:3 NIV*



**Mark and Dayna Blair**

*Beijing International Christian Fellowship*

**CHINA**



**Tom and Monica Liddle**

*Global Ministries Missionaries*

**EAST TIMOR**



**Rose Ludwig (second from the left) and daughters**

*Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU)*

**GUAM**



## **WISH LIST**

*(new or very gently used)*

The items listed below are regularly needed items for missions projects and outreach. The needs in our communities are alarmingly increasing. 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 needed in both full and travel sizes.**

### **Personal Items**

Shampoo/conditioner \*  
 Body Wash/Soap \*  
 Body Lotion \*  
 Toothpaste \*  
 Toothbrushes \*  
 Toile 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**

Betty Abe  
 Mrs. Aiyama  
 Norina Barcenas  
 Lorna Bufil  
 Susan Bush  
 Eileen Ching  
 Winifred Doi  
 Rose Marie Doral  
 Lisa Fong  
 Darleen Fontanilla  
 Donna Gamboa  
 Nancy Heu  
 Melinda Ishii  
 Nita Johnson  
 Karen Koles  
 Naomi Komenaka  
 Marlene Lee

Christine Nuuhiwa  
 Dr. Dwayne Priestester  
 Cynthia Sato  
 Carol and Mike Sullivan  
 Rebecca Woodland  
 Dr. Sheila Woods  
 Dr. Alan Yoshida

### **Churches/Organizations**

Central Union Church  
 Church of the Holy Cross  
 First Chinese Church of Christ  
 First Chinese Church of Christ -  
*Women's Sewing Fellowship*  
 First United Protestant Church of Hilo  
 Friends of the Library  
 Kaumakapili Church  
 Kaulanapueo Congregational Church

Waiokena Congregational Church  
 Women's League of Central Union  
 Waialua UCC

### **Cancelled Stamps (for Stamp Project)**

Janet Akau  
 Terri Ann Arreola  
 Rose Marie Doral  
 Judith Engstrom  
 Katsuko Enoki  
 Melinda Ishii  
 Vicky Malaqui  
 Thelma Oshiro  
 Pookela Church  
 Andi Warren  
 H.M. Wyeth