



Fewer issues of Ka Leo Mekokiko

This is the second issue of the Ka Leo Mekokiko for this year, 2014. Since the beginning of the year, there has been only one issue: February-March 2014. The district newsletter has not been published on a monthly basis due to the illness of the Administrative Assistant. Future issues will be published based upon need and the availability of staffing.

Update on the Cal-Pac Visioning Process

Some 150 people from all over our district were present for the District Conference and the Visioning event on March 22nd at Harris United Methodist Church. Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the Reverend Steve Hundley, and the Reverend Jan Wiley led the session which began with the Bishop's message which set the tone and expectation for the day. This Visioning process is an unprecedented effort to receive feedback from the entire annual conference to help craft a vision for the annual conference. Many called this one of the best events ever in our district, and the Superintendent thanks all for their presence and input.

After all the districts had completed their Visioning events, a group of 17 people, leaders from across the Annual Conference including Bishop Carcaño, met on April 11th, and the findings from the data—which included 12,000 responses from members of our annual conference and visioning events in every district—were shared and initial directions for a unified vision emerged such as the centrality of Jesus Christ to our Conference identity, the need to communicate effectively with a postmodern society, and the distinct value of Wesleyan theology and practice in the contemporary world.

After much hard work, it was decided that the task of crafting a statement would be undertaken by the Mission/Vision Articulation Team which met after Easter. The following statement was created and presented at the four District Conferences on May 3rd. The proposed vision statement from the mission vision discernment team: "Inspiring the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's life-giving love." The proposed statement will be presented to each district at their Pre-Conference Briefing. A final meeting with the Mission/Vision Discernment Team will complete this portion of the process until a full report is delivered at Journey to Wholeness: Annual Conference 2014.

Special District Conference scheduled at Annual Conference

Since District Conference was held early this year to accommodate the Visioning Event, several items of business were postponed till a later time when a special/adjourned session of the District Conference can be held. This special session, which is primarily to elect the nominations the district slate, will be held at annual conference on Wednesday evening, June 18, at Cortner Hall after the scheduled conference session. This is the usual District Gathering time...so this year it will be "business" not just fellowship.

The Annual Conference Pre-Conference Briefings will be arranged by the individual churches, although my hope is that wherever possible, hui meetings can be arranged. There will be information posted on the website.



Ministry Musings from the District Superintendent

FOCUS: Through Discipleship and Witness

We Strengthen Churches for the Present,

Build Churches to Ensure the Future.

PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOPS IN JUNE

One of the most overlooked areas of stewardship is planned giving. Our loyal members have supported our churches with their financial stewardship during their lives, but too often, our churches and other UM entities are not included in the estates of our members. If members were, for example, to tithe their estates, there would be no lifestyle difference to the heirs, but an incredible blessing to the churches, districts, and annual conference.

Rev. Greg Batson, the president of the California-Pacific Annual Conference will be present the first week of June, mostly on Oahu. He will be present for two workshops on planned giving on June 4 at 10 a.m. at Christ UMC and June 5 at 10 a.m. at a location to be announced.

Those churches who wish information on investing funds through the Foundation may arrange individual meetings on a first come, first served basis. Neighbor island churches that wish to arrange an individual consultation on planned giving may do so—if the schedule permits—individually at GregBatson@cpumf.org.

ELECTIONS FOR GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD

Because of a change in the Book of Discipline, annual conferences are allowed to elect delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference a year earlier than before. At our district conference, the following were nominated: layperson—JoAnn Fukumoto; clergy—Piula Ala'ilima, Tom Choi, Charlene Zuill. Others may be nominated by other means. Our annual conference will have 4 delegates to General Conference (who also are delegates to Jurisdictional Conference) plus 7 additional delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.

ALOHA TO PASTORS AND PROTOCOL

This has been a busy year for pastoral moves, not only in the annual conference as a whole, but also our Hawaii District. There will be a number of pastoral changes in our district. We are grateful for the faithful service all of our pastors have given, including those who are moving to new chapters in their ministry. In addition, we will be welcoming excellent pastors to new churches.

This brings up the important matter of protocol for former pastors, which should be observed not only by the clergy, but also by the laypeople of the churches. Under normal circumstances, the former pastor should not initiate contact with members and friends of a former church for one year. This includes Facebook and other social media.

The former pastor shall not officiate any services for former members, such as weddings and funerals, whether or not the service is on the church campus. The new pastor shall be the officiant. If it is appropriate, and the former pastor has observed protocol—such as directing all inquiries and requests to the new pastor, etc.—the current pastor may consider (although this is not required) inviting the former pastor to assist in a service in some way.

The reasons for this protocol are: to allow the new pastor to become *the* pastor of the church as quickly as possible; to allow former pastors to focus more fully on their new churches or ministry ventures; to encourage members and friends of churches to embrace their new pastor.

This protocol may seem harsh to some, but it is extremely important that this protocol be observed for the long term health and vitality of our congregations. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

Justice and Compassion Grant Applications now available

The Justice and Compassion Essential Ministry Team of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference offers support for new and ongoing programs and projects that are connected to the United Methodist local churches specifically in the area of ministries with the poor and combating the diseases of poverty. These grants, formerly known as Block Grants, given in 2014 will be less than \$3,000 and only will be given to organizations with annual budgets less than \$500,000. If your church or an agency that relates to your church does ministry with/for the poor, then please consider this opportunity.

The application can be downloaded at the Cal-Pac website: <calpacumc.org> ; click [MORE]; click [COMMITTEES /MINISTRY]; click [JUSTICE AND COMPASSION]; click [DOWNLOAD JC GRANT APPLICATION]. Or you can go to the district website: <hawaiiidistrictumc.org>; click [UPCOMING EVENTS..] located on the left side menu. **DEADLINE to District Office: MAY 23, 2014.**

Barbara Grace Ripple Scholarship for Seminary Education

In honor of the Reverend Barbara Grace Ripple, past Hawaii District Superintendent, a scholarship will be awarded to a theological student preparing for ordained ministry. To qualify the following are required: (1). Be an active member of a United Methodist church in the Hawaii District; (2) Attending or going to attend a United Methodist affiliated accredited school of theology in the USA; (3) Registered as an incoming or returning full-time student in satisfactory academic standing. No age restriction.

If you are interested in applying, please call Mr. Paul Misaka at PH: 621-5236 or e-mail at <misakap001@hawaii.rr.com> to request an application form. Submission deadline is June 30, 2014.

SUMMER STUDY AT HARRIS UMC

“**The Wesleyan Way: A Faith That Matters**” – Harris UMC opens this eight-session study to anyone in the Hawaii District. This class hopes to help seekers and believers practice discipleship as a way of life, becoming part of God’s work in transforming the world. The study includes interviews with Wesleyan Christians who are making a difference. The study will be offered:

on Sundays at 9-10:30 a.m. from June 15 thru August 3, and

on Tuesdays at 7-8:30 p.m. from June 17 thru August 5.

Cost: \$5 for student book. Registration forms are available in the Harris sanctuary or office. Class will be limited to 12 people each. Child care is available upon request. Deadline for registration is Sunday, May 18. Facilitator: Patrick Zukemura. Contact him at pzuke@hotmail.com or Ph. 391-3464.

Wahiawa UMC to host a Retirement Party for Pastor Fran Wiebenga

Wahiawa UMC is planning a retirement party for their pastor, Reverend Fran Wiebenga and invites persons whose lives were touched by her. The luncheon will be held on June 28th at the church social hall from 11:30 AM to 1:20 PM. The cost will be \$10.00 for adults, ages 5-10 yrs. for \$5.00 and others free. Contact persons will be Paul Misaka at PH: 621-5236 or David Ramelb at PH: 622-4361. Pastor Fran served eight years at Wahiawa UMC.

The Reverend Colleen Chun also will be retiring this year. In Hawaii she has served at Hono-kaa UMC, Christ UMC, Keolumana UMC and Trinity UMC, and has been on Incapacity Leave for several years. She will not be able to attend Annual Conference this June. However, congratulatory notes can be sent to: 1413 Steinburg Lane, Fort Worth, TX 761-34-3305.

MESSAGE FROM S LILO VAKAUTA, District Lay Leader

This is March of 2014. We all say praise Almighty God for favouring Hawaii District with your blessing.

You are walking in the favour of God...The Lord declared that HIS GLORY will surround you and HIS SPIRIT will protect you! He has given BLESSINGS planned for you.

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour...”

THAT IS GOD'S PROPHETIC PROMISE TO YOU!

But, I want you to know Hawaii District, that no matter what happens in the day ahead—the **LORD SAYS** that **HE HAS CALLED YOU BY THE NAME, HE WILL BE WITH YOU, and HE WILL PROTECT YOU!**

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR WHEN GOD IS NEAR!

Hawaii District, I want you to realize that because of our relationship, you are under DIVINE PROTECTION...and through this PROPHETIC WORD you will receive GOD'S ANOINTING that will miraculously take you THROUGH THE TRIALS and into a MIRACLE SEASON OF VICTORY, DELIVERANCE, and DIVINE PROSPERITY.

In the Spirit I see that you are being tested and these tests of faith have left you feeling physically exhausted and spiritually depleted. The devil wants you to feel broken and defeated when the storms of life beat down on you, but God says, **“you are not alone; I'm with you in every battle, rise up and claim your victory.”**

I've been in the ministry over twenty years in Hawaii. And have been a student of the Bible all that time, but there are still times when things happen that simply boggles the mind, making it difficult to understand God's master plan. What I've learned and I'm sure you have too, is to trust Him whether I understand or I'm sure you have too, is to trust Him whether I understand what He is doing or not. The Word calls this: *“Walking by faith and not by sight,”* (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Hawaii District, in prayer God gave me this wonderful verse for you; *“You are like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in the season and whose leaves do not wither. Whatever you do shall prosper.”* (Psalms 1:3 NIV)

“Yea I say unto thee, I the Lord your God have seen the way the enemy has tormented you and I have heard the lies he has whispered in your heart. Your adversary, the devil, has told you that I am too busy with the big things in the universe to be concerned with your needs. My precious Son let Me remind you that the devil cannot tell the truth because he is the father of lies. I am concerned about you, I long to pour out My best and richest blessings upon you. It is My Will that you walk in divine health, unspeakable joy and you have abundant supply; Yes, I am your God and it is My good pleasure to give you the Kingdom with all its miracle benefits.”

And we ask all these things in the name of our Lord and our Saviour. Amen.

We love you all Hawaii District,

S. Lilo Vakaota

BITS N' PIECES... [Please pardon the lateness of some items due to the lack of monthly issues.]

* * * *PERSONAL* * * *

Deepest sympathy to...

...the family and friends of the late Mr. David Jeong. David passed away on February 22, 2014 at home. He was a member of Kailua UMC and before that Keolumana UMC and served on several district committees, i.e. HUMU Board, DPAS, District Superintendency, etc. He was also very active in the community.

...Mrs. Naty Lagaso and family upon the passing of her husband, Mr. Alfredo Lagaso who died on March 10, 2013. Al served on several district committees (District Personnel Committee currently) and will be remembered for his music talent. He directed many a district choir at district and annual conference occasions. Notes of condolences may be sent to Naty at: 98-1928 Wilou St., Aiea, HI 96701.

...the family of the late Mrs. Mildred Sung Soon Thomas. She is the mother of Mrs. Kathy Thomas-Sano, spouse of Bishop Roy Sano. Mrs. Thomas passed away on March 19, 2014 and lived in Aiea for many years. Notes of sympathy can be sent to Kathy at: 400 Elysian Fields Dr., Oakland, CA 94605.

...Mrs. Anna (Richard) Titanic and family on the passing of her husband, Richard on April 19, 2014. Richard served on the Committee on District Superintendency from 2005-2013. He was an active member of Christ United Methodist's English-speaking congregation. Notes of sympathy can be sent to: 1330 Heulu St., #502, Honolulu, HI 96822.

Mahalo from...

...Leilani Zukemura thanks everyone for their prayers and loving concern. She is getting stronger day by day. And she is now able to work on a part-time (limited) basis at the District Office – 3 hours per day; 3-4 days each week.

Please continue to pray for...

...Retired Pastor Larry Wayman. His congregation at Moanalua Community Church requested healing prayers for him. He flew to California in March for surgery on his spine.

...Retired Pastor Roby Correa's youngest daughter, Mrs. Michelle Dekle. Michelle has been diagnosed to have Moya-moya Syndrome.

... Chris Kemoeatu, son of the Reverend Manako and Mrs. Ahea Kemoeatu of Kahuku UMC. Chris is waiting for a kidney transplant. The transplant surgery has not been scheduled yet; his brother, Maake, will be the donor. Please pray for both of them.

... Mr. Mark Britt, the adult son of Mrs. Caroline Britt, benefactor of the annual Britt Lectures.

... Mr. Dick Englar of Waianae UMC, our former District Lay Leader.

... Mrs. Dot Bloom of Keolumana UMC and former District Camp Secretary.

... Retired Pastor Misipati Karapani.

... Rev. Colleen Chun and Rev. Kana Shimasaki who are both on Incapacity Leave.

Hold the following churches, ministries and their pastors in your prayers:

5/11 - **Ewa Beach UMC** - Pastor Roby Correa & Vaokotone Teapa

5/18 - **Christ UMC** - Pastors Nak In Kim, B.S. Kim, C.M. Lee, S. Nam, H.C. Om

5/25 - **Calvary UM Mission** - Pastor Kyu Woo Nam

6/1 - **Bethany Korean UMC** - Pastor Myung Duk Han

6/8 - **Aldersgate UMC** - Pastor Emmanuel Cruz

6/15 - **Camp Mekokiko** - Reverend Ted Lesnett, Manager (volunteer)

6/22 - **Camp Kokee** - Lyndon Yamane & Becky Komaki

6/29 - **Susannah Wesley Community Center** - Ronald Higashi (Exec Dir)

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DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 2014

Thu.-Sun., May 22-25: **Walk to Emmaus for Men**

Mon., May 26: *Memorial Day; District Office closed*

“ ” “ : Deadline for Jun.-Jul. Ka Leo Mekokiko

June 2014

Wed., Jun. 11: *King Kamehameha Day; Dist. Ofc. closed*

Wed.-Sat., Jun. 18-21: Cal-Pac Annual Conference

Mon., Jun. 30: Deadline for Jul.-Aug. Ka Leo Mekokiko

July 2014

Fri., Jul. 4: *Independence Day; Dist. Ofc. closed.*

Mon., Jul. 28: Deadline for Aug.-Sep. Ka Leo Mekokiko

August 2014

Thu.-Sun., Aug. 7-10: **Walk to Emmaus for Women**

Fri., Aug. 15: *Statehood Day; District Office closed*

Sat., Aug. 16: HUMU Board meeting [tentative]

Sat., Aug. 23: **Mission Festival**; Trinity UMC

Mon., Aug. 25: Deadline for Sep.-Oct. Ka Leo Mekokiko

September 2014

Mon., Sep. 1: *Labor Day*; District Office closed

Sat., Sep 27: District UMW Annual Meeting; Christ UMC

Mon., Sep. 29: Deadline for Oct.-Nov. Ka Leo Mekokiko

October 2014

Mon., Oct. 27: Deadline for Nov.-Dec. Ka Leo Mekokiko

November 2014

Tue., Nov. 11: *Veterans' Day; District Office closed*

Sat., Nov. 15: HUMU Board meeting [tentative]

Mon., Nov. 24: Deadline for Dec.-Jan. 2015 Ka Leo Mekokiko

Thu.-Fri., Nov. 27-28: *Thanksgiving holiday; Dist. Ofc. closed*

December 2014

Wed., Dec. 24: *Christmas Eve; Dist. Ofc. closed at noon*

Thu., Dec. 25: *Christmas; District Office closed*

Mon., Dec. 29: Deadline for Jan.-Feb. Ka Leo Mekokiko

HUNGER AWARENESS SUNDAY
in Cal-Pac Annual Conference —
MAY 18, 2014

KA LEO MEKOKIKO May—June 2014
Update on Cal-Pac Visioning.....p.1
Special District Conference.....p.1
Justice & Compassion Grant.....p.3
Ripple Scholarship for Seminary.....p.3

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