



# Ka Leo Mekokiko

Hawaii District

June-July 2014

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 3

THE VOICE OF METHODISM

## Cal-Pac Annual Conference and some reminders for those going

The California-Pacific Annual Conference officially begins on Wednesday, June 18, and ends on Saturday, June 21 following the evening Ordination Service. The theme of this year's Annual Conference is "*Journey to Wholeness*". The focus will be on Global Health, especially the Imagine No Malaria initiative.

During the Opening Worship on Wednesday morning, "Imagine No Malaria" will be celebrated with Bishop Thomas Bickerton preaching. He is a leader in the denomination's Imagine No Malaria initiative. The theme of the service will be Imagine No Malaria, and we will celebrate the progress we have made! During opening worship, there will be a special offering for Imagine No Malaria. Each church was provided with a special offering envelope and all are encouraged to put the first fruits of your Imagine No Malaria efforts into the envelope to be collected at Annual Conference. All funds collected during Annual Conference will be credited to each local church (as long as they are clearly labeled).

**Useful reminders for those going to Annual Conference**— continued on page 6

## Special District Conference to be held at Redlands

In March the annual Hawaii District Conference was not able to handle the regular business items due to the Visioning Event with the Bishop using the allotted time for the day. A special District Conference will convene on the evening of Wednesday, June 18th at the usual District Gathering in Redlands to complete the unfinished business. Attendance is mandatory for all Hawaii delegates; be sure to sign in on the sheet that will be circulated during the meeting.

The main item that needs District Conference approval is the Nominations report which will be e-mailed to all delegates (if time allows) and it will be posted on the district website— click on [RESOURCES] then [2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE]. Other items are approval of HCOM recommendation, approval of the Cal-Pac Visioning Statement, and possible other pre-conference briefing items.

## UMW Mission Festival set for August 23rd

The Hawaii District United Methodist Women will hold their 2014 Mission Festival on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at Trinity United Methodist Church [1716 Komo Mai Drive] in Pearl City. The theme is "*A Calling for This Time . . . Transforming Lives*." The focus will be on "The Church and People with Disabilities," "Human Trafficking," "Immigration," and "How Is It With Your Soul."

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and will end at 1:30 p.m. with communion service. The cost is \$12 which includes a lunch. The registration form will be posted on the district website under [UPCOMING EVENTS]. Child care must be requested with a \$25 refundable deposit.. The registration deadline is August 16th. The registrar is Kuenilingi Maka, 91-1007 Waimomona Pl., Ewa Beach, HI 96706.





## ***Ministry Musings from the District Superintendent***

*FOCUS: Through Discipleship and Witness*

*We Strengthen Churches for the Present,*

*Build Churches to Ensure the Future.*

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014—JOURNEY TO WHOLENESS**

The annual conference begins next week from June 18-21, with some events on June 17. We will focus on the Imagine No Malaria campaign and General/Jurisdictional Conference Elections. Fran Wiebenga and Colleen Chun will be retiring from our district, as well as Gail Nakamura Messner, who grew up at Parker UMC. Of special note is that Pastor Fran will represent the retiring clergy in "passing the mantle" of leadership by presenting a clergy stole to a newly ordained elder. We will be saying farewell to departing clergy and welcoming new clergy on Wednesday evening at our district gathering—which will also be a district conference, mostly to do nominations. Our thanks to our office staff and volunteers, especially Leilani, Rosie, Alvin, and Lorraine.

### **WELCOMING NEW PASTORS**

We will have several changes in pastoral appointments this summer. Here are some ideas to welcome your new pastors:

1. Members of the church send notes, e-mails, or other expressions of welcome and support. They are greatly appreciated. This includes the pastor's spouse and children, as applicable.
2. Annual conference delegates are invited to share a meal or other informal gathering at Redlands. If you can bring expressions of aloha at the district gathering, that will be great.
3. The leadership of the congregation should send as much materials about the church as possible: the mission and/or vision of the church and any written or established goals or vision plans; a written history of the church; the most recent charge conference report; annotated photos of the church and members (a pictorial directory is particularly useful); membership directory; financial reports/summaries; information about the community around the church. If your new pastor is new to Hawaii, information about Hawaii and local culture is also very useful.
4. Find out when the pastor and the family are arriving in Hawaii and plan to send a group to meet them at the airport baggage claim. If the pastor's car is ready to be picked up, please arrange transportation to the pickup point.
5. The parsonage or residence should be ready for move in, with some food and beverages in the refrigerator for a few days.
6. Have a meeting early with the pastor and the leadership, including the SPRC. It is important to set expectations and develop an understanding of ministry styles early.
7. On the first Sunday, consider using the order for welcoming a new pastor in the Book of Worship. Be sure to include a diversity of people in the ceremony.
8. Very important: arrange for a series of smaller gatherings, preferably in homes, to introduce the pastor and family to people in the congregation.
9. It's essential to get off to a good start. Remember this principle: the first three weeks sets the tone for the first three months, which sets the tone for the first three years.

### **MAHALO NUI LOA TO OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Marilyn Van Gieson, who has been our Ka Leo Mekokiko editor for many years, is retiring from this position. Marilyn is a person of great grace and skill, and we are so appreciative of her dedication, faithfulness and warmth. While we will miss her in this position, we are grateful for her service and look forward to continuing as a friend and sister in Christ.

Grace and aloha,

*Pastor Tom*



## A "Hawaii Methodist Work Team" opportunity at Camp Mekokiko

Norma Kehrberg and Richard Matsushita are co-leading a "Hawaii District Mekokiko Camp" from across Hawaii to put together a 20,000 gallon water tank as part of Phase 1 construction. The pad will be ready, and the team's job will be to assemble the tank, line it, and cover it. If you are interested in a week's work and fun on the Big Island, send them an email for more information or to sign up. The dates are September 18 - 22, 2014. They need people to cook and do construction. It will not be all work; there will be time for relaxing and fellowship as well. If interested, contact:

Norma: [kehrbergn001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kehrbergn001@hawaii.rr.com)

Richard: [rtmatsushita@juno.com](mailto:rtmatsushita@juno.com)  
by Rev. Ted Lesnett, Mekokiko News

## Missionaries visiting Hawaii this Summer!

This summer, the Hawaii District has a wonderful opportunity to meet, greet and show our support for our United Methodist Missionaries! We have great missionaries coming to visit us - don't you want them to speak to your church community? They are available for small groups, full church worship services and other gatherings that focus on the UMC's good work for God's global family. To schedule an event with these missionaries, please contact Rev. Krista Givens at [ksgivens@me.com](mailto:ksgivens@me.com).

### AUGUST 2-19: Claudia Genung Yamamoto's Oahu itineration:

Rev. Claudia will be on Oahu from August 2-19. We are currently looking for housing and a car so she can travel on the island. Please contact Rev. Krista Givens if you can help.

The Rev. Claudia Genung Yamamoto is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church assigned to ministries of church development and community outreach in Kobe, Japan. She assumed these responsibilities in late 2011 after serving for two decades as a missionary with the National Christian Council in Tokyo. For a full biography, click on <http://www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Genung-Yamamoto-Claudia>

### JULY 23-AUGUST 10: Wesley and Jerusha Neal's Itineration:

Revs. Jerusha and Wesley Neal will be in the islands from July 23-August 10 and will travel to the Big Island and Oahu. They are newly assigned to Fiji!

The Rev. Dr. Jerusha Neal is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as professor of theology at the Davuilevu Theological College of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma in the South Pacific. Her particular interests are teaching preaching to new pastors and affirming women in their pastoral call. For a full biography, click on: <http://www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Neal-Jerusha#sthash.W8puQPPS.dpuf>

The Rev. Wesley (Wes) Neal is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as lecturer in missiology and practical ministry at the Davuilevu Theological College of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma in the South Pacific. For a full biography, click on <http://www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Neal-Wesley#sthash.RBCqnSyi.dpuf>  
by Pastor Krista Givens, District Justice & Compassion EMT

## CONCRETE CHRIST SERVICE PROJECT 2014—

### The Word moved into the neighborhood!

Who can attend? *Youth, grades 9-12 (graduated 12th graders are welcome).*

Where does it happen? *Wesley Foundation at UH-Manoa with visits to sites around Honolulu.*

When is it? *Two weeks this year. July 4-10 OR July 18-24.*

What is the cost? *\$100 which includes food, lodging, t-shirt and more!*

How do I register? *The registration form is available at this website: [hawaiiwesleyfoundation.org](http://hawaiiwesleyfoundation.org)*

Contact person if interested: David Hosey at [ccsp2014@gmail.com](mailto:ccsp2014@gmail.com) / (808) 949-1210.



## **MESSAGE FROM S LILO VAKAUTA, District Lay Leader**

Hawaii District, this is June and July 2014, Listen to the words God is speaking to you for your faith and obedience.

It doesn't matter what you are up against: troubles with loved ones, partners, family, a son or daughter that just can't get on the right track, aches or unending pain in your body, that overwhelming feeling of loneliness. **FAITH IN GOD WILL PULL DOWN THESE MOUNTAINS... AND BRING A QUICK END TO THESE TROUBLES.**

**"YOUR FAITH MUST BE RELEASED. Faith is Action! *Faith does something receives something.* Real faith will cause you to act on God's Word. When you obey God, this ACTION will cause YOUR FAITH to BE RELEASED... and bring about the manifestation of the PROMISE YOU NEED."**

Faith that remains dormant or unused will never move God to release your MIRACLE BLESSING. Please understand... it doesn't matter if you are a Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal, Methodist, or adhere to another religion... **God uses INSTRUMENTS of Faith to bring about your RELEASE of His Miracle Working Power.**

**YOU'LL EXPERIENCE THE Power of GOD FOR YOURSELF...** No matter what your problem... disease, divorce, debt, depression, addiction, low self esteem, pain, stress, worry, any attack of the enemy... You'll experience the POWER of God to RESTORE, REFIRE, RECLAIM YOUR MIRACLE... AND YOUR LIFE.

When the miraculous took place in the Bible days God say and was moved by the faith of certain individuals... In our crusades, televised worldwide, those who get miracle results, are those who show God their faith.

Hawaii District, I have no doubt that God has sent us (just in time) with the CORRECT WORDS... to break evil, to break misfortune, bad luck, or anything else the devil calls it. We know through the witness of the Holy Spirit... that these evil forces have to go.

The prophecy to you Hawaii District is from the Word of God.

***"This saith God, the battle you are now fighting shall end in a great victory as you OBEY me. I shall anoint you with strength to outlast your enemy. Do not be weary in well doing, for you SHALL REAP IN DUE SEASON IF YOU FAINT NOT. I will pour upon you the favour of my Kingdom and also the favour of men and they will mightily bless you. I shall release an awesome anointing upon you that shall destroy every yoke, and in the midst of your battle, great victory shall rain down upon you. The prayer of agreement will UNLEASH my mighty power in your life...fear not, faint not, but OBEY ME, SAITH GOD... SOW SEED OUT OF YOUR NEED, FOR I WILL GIVE YOU A GREAT HARVEST EVEN IN YOUR TIMES OF STRUGGLE AND BATTLE. YOUR OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY... AND I SAY UNTO THEE, GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO THY BOSOM AND I SHALL CAUSE MEN TO GIVE TO YOU***

***AS I GIVE YOU FAOUR IN THEIR SIGHT... FEAR NOT, FAINT NOT... FOR THIS IS THY MOMENT OF GREAT REWARD, SAITH GOD."***

The anointing is so strong and powerful... God is crying out to His obedient ones. Hawaii District, when God sends out a cry like this to the OBEDIENT... he is also ready to pour out mighty blessings. God has revealed to us scripturally, and I give you the prophecies given instructing you exactly how and when to release God's POWER PRESENCE through these BODY POWER POINTS and this BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN MIRACLE PRAYER CHAIN... **YOUR WORLD THAT HAS BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN BY SATAN WILL BE... "TURNED RIGHT SIDE UP"...** by the Power of Almighty God. Amen!

***You will never, never, be the same after you act on these instructions in OBEDIENCE to God.***

We love you all, Hawaii District.

S. Lilo. Vakauta

Servant of God



## Grants for Church-based Campus Ministries

The California-Pacific Annual Conference Higher Education and Campus Ministry Council is now accepting grant applications in support of new and young church-based campus ministries in the 2014-2015 school year. A total of \$5,000 is available to help with development and promotion of creative campus ministry projects.

*Applications must be received by July 31st. Recipients will be notified by September 1st.*

**Purpose of Grants for Church-based Campus Ministries** The funding opportunities we provide are for creative approaches to ministries for, with, and by college students. The funds available are designed to enable local churches located near college and university campuses within the California-Pacific Annual Conference to develop ministries with students in their area. Funded ministries will address critical issues related to college students in their local context, with an eye toward spiritual development as a necessary component of academic, emotional, relational and personal development.

**Eligible Applicants** Eligible applicants are local United Methodist churches or groups of churches in the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Eligible applicants will also meet the following criteria.

- The ministry must be driven in design and implemented based on input from college students.
- The ministry must have a strong biblical/theological foundation.

**Application Process** Applicants will submit one original copy of their application to the Higher Education and Campus Ministry Council (HECMC). HECMC will convene the Grants Task Force to review and discuss the applications that meet the listed criteria. The task force will vote on a list of recommended ministries with the final approval coming from the Higher Education and Campus Ministry Council.

**Return application to:** Carla Bailey, HECMC E-mail: [carla.s.bailey@gmail.com](mailto:carla.s.bailey@gmail.com)

**Progress Reports** Each ministry receiving grant money from HECMC will be responsible for completing ministry reports and financial reports after 6 months and 12 months.

## Grants available for Aging in Poverty Ministries

The United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries together with the General Board of Discipleship offers grants to assist in creative ministries by, with, and for older adults. The application must focus on developing and implementing an **Aging in Poverty Ministry**. The ministry must provide (1) a program for direct poverty assistance such as food distribution or (2) a program for economic education such as teaching older adults how to budget their funds, or (3) another creative program to address the issue of aging in poverty.

Applications are available in print form and online at <[www.aging-umc.org](http://www.aging-umc.org)>. The first step is to review the grant application booklet and to note the criteria for applying. After reviewing the booklet, complete the application which will include "Supporting Documents". All applications must be postmarked no later than August 18, 2014. Must have all endorsing signatures. If you have questions, contact the Office of Aging & Older Adult Ministries / Teri Kline / toll free: (877) 899-2780 ext. 7177 / [tkline@gbod.org](mailto:tkline@gbod.org).

## Aloha Harvest Compassion in Arts Competition 2014

Do you know any young and artistically talented student(s)? Encourage him/her to submit their creation to the **3rd Annual Compassion in Arts Competition** by October 3, 2014. This competition is open to middle and high school students only (6-12th graders) and it officially starts August 1st when school resumes. All mediums are accepted from drawings to poetry to dance to videography, and much more. For more information on guidelines, the submission form, etc., contact [alohaharvest.org](http://alohaharvest.org) or PH: 537-6945

by Melekaufusi Pepa, former District Children's Ministry co-coordinator



## Cal-Pac Annual Conference—continued from page 1

### **Useful reminders for those going to Annual Conference:**

#### For all delegates:

1. **Everyone must check in at Hunsaker Hall to register.** There you will receive your official badge, keys, and meal tickets/special event tickets (if ordered when you registered).
2. The room assignment list will be e-mailed if time permits, but it will be posted on the district website, <hawaiidistrictumc.org> under [Resources] [2014 Annual Conference] found in the left side menu.
3. **WEDNESDAY EVENING DISTRICT GATHERING [9:30 p.m.; Cortner Hall Lounge]** is mandatory for all delegates. There will be a Special District Conference held during this gathering. There are two official agenda items: the election of District officers and the approval of a Candidate for the Ministry. SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 1.
4. A tip collection will be taken at this gathering for the students who made up all the beds for Hawaii delegates.
5. Local Churches who have a pastor leaving and/or a pastor coming to their church: be prepared to give a lei/token gift to say “good-bye” to the leaving pastor (farewell recognitions will be first on the agenda for the Wednesday Evening Gathering) and something to “welcome” the new pastor/spouse (welcoming recognitions will be at the end of the gathering agenda).
6. Also do not forget to bring monies or personal checks for the offerings that will be taken at the worship services. Three special offerings were mentioned, but there are seven worship services.
7. Don't forget to bring your church's offering for the “Imagine No Malaria” initiative.

#### For those riding the buses from the airport and back to the airport:

1. A tip collection will be taken during the bus rides for each bus driver. The bus leader on your bus will take up the collection.
2. Breakfast stop on Tuesday morning: The bus going from the airport to the University of Redlands, will stop at the Claremont Shopping Mall for breakfast. It will be only **a one-hour stopover** and there are several places to eat. Please do not congregate at the same eating establishment. The local churches pay for the cost of the buses and the bus cost is based on an hourly charge.
3. Bus going BACK TO THE AIRPORT: Boarding the bus is at **5:30 a.m. on Sunday morning**. Please do not oversleep. Prepare to have breakfast at the airport.

## Informational Sessions to help Undocumented Young People

You may qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) if you:

- came to the U.S. before your 16th birthday
- Are currently at least 15 and were born after 6/15/82
- Have continuously resided in the U.S. for at least 5 years and were present on 6/15/12
- Are currently enrolled, graduated from a U.S. high school or university, obtained a GED or have been honorably discharged from the military
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor or 3 or more misdemeanors.

To learn how to renew or apply for DACA there are two informational sessions: Tuesday, July 8; 6:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church and Saturday, July 26; 10:00 a.m. at the Filipino Community Center. For more information contact: [facesvp@gmail.com](mailto:facesvp@gmail.com)

## 2014 Offering of Letters with Bread for the World

For more than 50 years U.S. Food Aid has been an effective response to natural disasters and humanitarian crises caused by famine or conflict. Since it began in 1961, it has helped more than 3 billion hungry people in 150 countries. Current laws require the US Agency for International Development to buy emergency food aid from US farmers which then gets shipped far away. The 2014 Offering of Letters asked for flexibility to purchase more food locally. The revised 2014 Farm Bill established a program for local and regional purchases of food where the need arises. This saved much money for the US and helped the local farmers. One example: It helped a small farmer in Rwanda, East Africa who learned how to manage the harvest and improve the quality of her crop which resulted in the food aid for refugees in the Congo.



## ***BITS N' PIECES...***

**\*\*\* PERSONAL \*\*\***

### **Please pray for...**

... Chris Kemoeatu, son of the Reverend Manako and Mrs. Ahea Kemoeatu of Kahuku UMC. Chris is scheduled for a kidney transplant on June 18th at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. His older brother, Maake, will be the donor. Please pray for both of them.

### **Congratulations to...**

...the Reverend Fran Wiebenga of Wahiawa UMC. She will be retiring this year after faithfully serving 27 years at several UM churches of this conference. In the Hawaii District, she has served at Hilo UMC and at Wahiawa UMC.

...the Reverend Gail Nakamura-Messner who also will be retiring this year. Though Pastor Gail has not served in our district, she grew up at Parker UMC in Kaneohe.

### **Deepest sympathy to...**

...the Reverend Tevita Maile of Honolulu UMC and family upon the passing of his mother, Mrs. Lesieli Maile. Mrs. Maile was 90 years old and passed away on December 12, 2013 in Tonga. Notes of sympathy can be mailed to: 5110 Kohi St., Lahaina, HI 96761. The district apologizes to Rev. Maile and his family for the lateness of this notice.

### **Please continue to pray for...**

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

... 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.

**\*\*\* CLASSIFIED \*\*\***

### **Volunteer Inquiry...**

A recent graduate of Candler School of Theology is interested in volunteering/employment within the United Methodist Church here on Oahu. Contact Leilani, Administrative Assistant, at the Hawaii District Office for more information; phone 536-1864 or e-mail: [hawaiidistrict@calpacumc.org](mailto:hawaiidistrict@calpacumc.org).

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

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)

7/6 - **Aiea UMC B** Pastors Jim White, Joe Siofele, Peter Lee

7/13— **District Office B** Rev. Tom Choi, Leilani, Rosie, Alvin, Marilyn

7/20 - **Kihei Tongan UM Mission** - Pastor Panepasa Fifita

7/27 - **Beautiful UM Mission** - Pastor Taehyun O

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District Superintendent: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Choi

## DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June 2014

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*

Thu.-Mon., Sep. 18-22: UM Mekokiko Work Camp

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

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**KA LEO MEKOKIKO June-July 2014**

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