



## **2013 CAL PAC AWARD FOR LAYWOMAN OF THE YEAR GOES TO DEBORAH WISE OF GUAM UMC**

### **MICRONESIA MISSION AREA UPDATE**

by Richard Wyttenbach-Santos, Ph.D.

Hafa Adai!

The Guam and Saipan United Methodist congregations were very fortunate on the weekend of April 20-21, 2013, for receiving the blessings of Rev. Mary J. Scifres, our Conference's Church Leadership Consultant. Rev. Scifres held the attention of 44 at Guam United Methodist Church and 22 at the Saipan-Immanuel United Method Church for morning and afternoon sessions on each island.

On Guam, Rev. Scifres presented, on behalf of the Cal-Pac Conference Laity Council, the award of the 2013 California-Pacific Annual Conference Lay Woman of the Year to Ms. Debbie Wise, the Guam UMC Lay Leader. The fact that this conference-wide distinct honor was awarded to a member of the Guam United Methodist Church is a testament to the integration and “connection” of all United Methodists, no matter how far apart they may be.

Ms. Debbie Wise will attend this year's Annual Conference at Redlands so she will be available for all attendees to greet her, congratulate her, and discuss with her issues involving our faith community in the Micronesia Mission area.

*Dr. Wyttenbach-Santos is currently the Administrative Council chair of Guam UMC, and a retired United States Navy Captain.*

### **NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR CAL-PAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

James J. Kang was been appointed to the new Director of Communications effective July 1, 2013. He currently serves Compton First UMC as its local pastor.



Deborah Wise receiving Laywoman of the Year Award from Rev. Mary Scifres during her recent visit to Guam.



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

*Focus—to promote C.D.M.L.F. in our district:*

*Connection to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all people*

*Discipleship in Christian formation—prayer, study, meditation, etc.*

*Ministry using identified Gifts and Graces*

*Leadership development and training rooted in Christian formation*

*Fruitfulness that can be discerned and measured*

### **DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON MAY 18**

We are looking forward to this year's district conference and pre-conference briefing at First UMC, Honolulu. The theme is "How Firm a Foundation," and will focus on some of the foundational Wesleyan practices. One of those practices will be class meetings and prayer, led by Christ UMC.

Another one of the practices will be ministering to those in need. We will be hearing from the First LAP (Life After Prison) participants. As an added bonus, the First LAP participants will be catering the meal. Windward Snow, who provided shave ice for participants, will be back again.

We will be taking a special offering that will benefit First LAP. Please come prepared to be generous—another foundational Wesleyan practice!

At the District Conference, we will hear a proposed new structure that aligns closely with the annual conference structure. We will be approving new leaders for the district as well as candidates for ministry. We will be honoring our retirees, giving thanks to our departing clergy and district leaders, and we will be hearing from Debbie Wise of Guam UMC, who will be honored at annual conference as the laywoman of the year.

At the Pre-Conference Briefing, the focus will be on the 2014 budget.

### **INTRODUCING SQUARE—A NEW WAY TO GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE CHURCH**

As I was looking over my online check register and I noticed that on all my withdrawals, only about 5% were by check. I used a debit card for every other transaction. In addition, I notice that I very rarely use cash for transactions.

The lone exceptions are the church and my daughter's school lunch program. Those are the only places where I use checks. When I use cash at a church, it is usually smaller amounts than with a check.

One of the young adult members in one of my previous churches told me that he had a hard time giving offering, not necessarily because he didn't have the money or the desire, it was just that he never carried a checkbook and very little cash. So it was always the dollar or two that would go into the offering plate, when he wanted to give more.

Statistics say that credit card and electronic giving results in larger individual gifts, more frequent gifts, and first time giving.

There are several ways to do e-giving, including Vanco Services, which requires a one time set-up that takes some time.

At this year's district conference, we will have two Square Readers available to receive your offerings. You may have seen these in some places: a small square credit card reader is attached to a smartphone or an iPad. You run your credit card through the reader, enter the amount you wish to give, and sign on the screen with your finger. You can request a text or email receipt. They will be credited to HUMU and the monies transferred to First LAP. There is a small surcharge (2.75% per transaction) but I believe that the likelihood of increased giving overwhelmingly makes up for the small amount given as a usage fee.

To learn more, go to <https://squareup.com/register>

I know that some will be hesitant, but like so many other things, once we get used to it, it will seem very natural. I am also convinced that not only will almost all people find this an appealing way to give to churches, but especially younger adults, even those youth who use debit cards.

Grace and Aloha—

*Pastor Tom*

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

HAWAII DISTRICT, PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS BLESSING. THIS IS MAY OF 2013. OUR GOD STILL WALK WITH US IN THE VALLEY AND THE MOUNTAIN OF OUR JOURNEY.

In the middle of all this you must realize that YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL TO GOD and He has promised to take care of us. "And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (Isaiah 58:11). God has made these promises to you and He will fulfill them. You have not waited too long, it's not too late nor have you gone too far.

I HAVE NEVER "SEEN" ANYTHING LIKE THIS...

Yes, we all realize we are living in the moment that the Bible calls a perilous time, a dark and dangerous time... Yet, this is a very important time of prophetic fulfillment.

You are unique and one of a kind. You are a man who is living in 2 worlds. First and foremost, you live in the NATURAL REALM. But, there is more to your life than what is SEEN by the world, you also have an UNSEEN part and this UNSEEN, SPIRITUAL WORLD IS MUCH HIGHER THAN THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS.

JESUS CAME TO US AS VICTORY IN BOTH REALMS... God is only truly pleased when you experience VICTORY in both the NATURAL REALM, (success, money, ownership, better income, debts paid in full) and VICTORY in the SPIRITUAL REALM... (righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost).

We are experiencing an end-time revival of souls, but there must also be a corresponding end-time revival of personal increase on your behalf; a harvest that goes beyond the NATURAL REALM and actually gets into the SUPERNATURAL REALM OF HARVEST... A HARVEST SO BIG THAT IT IS MIND BOGGLING... that's not from man but from God!

**A PROVIDENT PERIOD OF SUPERNATURAL BLESSING!**

HAWAII DISTRICT, why have you been going through so many struggles with money, your relationships, home, family, health, and spiritual things... WHY? Because EVIL has constantly battled to gain control over planet earth and you personally.

Satan has always sought to usurp control over God's creation because he knows his time is short... BUT HEAR THIS: HE WILL NEVER HAVE CHARGE OVER YOU!!! He's a liar and a defeated foe.

UNDERSTAND THIS... the very nature of things is about to change.... Yes, the NATURE OF THINGS... things that you always thought would be one way, are about to change... For instance, the nature of the lions had to change when Daniel was in their den; their nature was to eat him alive, but God changed their nature. The nature of the water had to change when Moses stretched out His rod and the water rolled back... do you see this?

We love you all Hawaii District.

S. LILO VAKAUTA

Servant of God

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Email calpachawaiiidistrict@gmailcom  
District Superintendent: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Choi Editor: Marilyn Van Gieson (email: vangiesom002@hawaii.rr.com)

## **2013 Summer Sermon Reflection – “Wrestling with the Bible”**

### **In Five (5) Sessions with the Reverend Adam Hamilton**

Group 1 meeting on Sundays at 3:30-4:30 p.m., July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4

Group 2 meeting on Tuesdays at 7-8 p.m., July 9, 16, 23, 30 and August 6

Both Groups will meet in the Harris UMC Komuro Lounge

**OVERVIEW:** The Bible contains some of the loftiest and most beautiful verses in literature. Millions look to it for inspiration and guidance. At the same time, some parts are confusing and others are deeply disturbing. Did God really command violence and genocide? Was the earth really created 10,000 years ago? Are women required to be silent and subservient? Are we bound by ancient codes regarding sexuality? Are these the words of God or mortals? If you've ever had questions about the Bible, we'd like to invite you to join us for a series of honest and frank messages.

Rev. Hamilton will be with us via video. Sermon titles include: Making Sense of the Bible, Violence and God in the Bible, Dinosaurs on the Ark: The Bible and Science, The Bible and Sexuality, and The Reliability of the New Testament.

Sessions will include viewing the sermon video, discussion, reflection and prayer. A Grow-Pray-Study guide (GPS) will be provided for each session. Patrick Zukemura will facilitate the sessions and questions may be directed to him at Ph. 391-3464 or email: pzuke@hotmail.com.

Each group will be limited to 12 people so we can have adequate time for discussion, reflection and prayer. To insure proper placement and preparation of materials please complete the registration below. There is no registration fee, but offering will be taken. Child care may be provided upon request.

### **MISSIONARY DR. ELMA JOCSON'S VISIT**

Dr. Elma Jocson, UM missionary at Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Liberia will be visiting churches in Hawaii the week of June 6-10. Her schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, June 6: Arrive 12:25 PM**

**Friday, June 7:** 9:30-11:15 AM Aiea UMC Vacation Bible School

**Saturday, June 8: 10:00AM "Mission Dialogue Session" and brunch at the home of Norma Kehrberg**

**Sunday, June 9:** Preach at Kilohana UMC 10:00 AM, 5:00PM Harris UMC

**Monday, June 10:** Depart Honolulu at 8:00AM

### **TO ALL DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST MEN:**

Aloha, and greetings to all United Methodist Men. You are all invited to our annual District Breakfast. Treat yourself, and friend if you so desire, to breakfast at Flamingo's Restaurant in Pearl City on June 1, 2013 starting at 8:00 a.m. They have a private room in the back of the restaurant. It will be a chance for you to connect with the District Men and hear a little bit about what is going on. We will have a speaker, singing, stories and old friends. Please set this time aside and come and enjoy the morning. Hope to see you there.

- Keith Isaacson, Past District UM Men's President

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

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

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

... Chris Kemoeatu, son of the Reverend Manako and Mrs. Ahea Kemoeatu of Kahuku UMC. Chris is waiting for a kidney transplant. Pray that a donor and matching organ be found and that the transplant will be successful.

... Samuel Manu, who was born prematurely on February 16 at the Kapiolani Medical Center. Samuel is the grandson the Reverend Manako and Mrs. Ahea Kemoeatu of Kahuku UMC. It was reported that he is growing stronger day by day.

... 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.

### ***MAHALO TO THE HOSTING CHURCHES***

On behalf of the Hawaii District, the Superintendent thanks the pastors and the church members of the churches, who hosted the recent Worship Workshop led by the Reverend Mary Scifres, for their hospitality and donations of refreshments. Thanks go out to: Ala Lani UMC on Maui, Kona UMC and Hilo UMC on the Hawaii island, Lihue United Church on Kauai, Guam UMC, and Immanuel UMC on Saipan.

The number of participants at each site was more than expected . There were even non-United Methodist participants at several sites. Reports to the District Superintendent on the changes made and its results are welcomed and can be sent to the District

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

5/19—HonoluaUMC—Pastor Tevita Maile

5/26 —Honokaa UMC —to be supplied

6/2—Hilo UMC—Pastors Malyong Yi & Olivia Latu

6/9—Harris UMC—Pastors Nobuko Miyake-Stoner, Rona Mangayayam

**DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**May 2013**

Sun. May 5 ; 1:00 pm: **Basic Lay Servant class;**  
Trinity UMC

Sun., May 12; 1:00 pm: **Basic Lay Servant class;**  
Trinity UMC

Sat., May 18: **Hawaii District Conference and  
Annual HUMU Meeting;** First UMC

Sun., May 19: *Hunger Focus Sunday*

Sun., May 19; 1:00 pm: **Basic Lay Servant class;**  
Trinity UMC

Tue., May 21; 8:30 am: **Transition Workshop;**  
District Office

Thu.-Sun., May 23-26: **Walk To Emmaus for  
Women**

Sun., May 26: *Peace with Justice Sunday*

Mon., May 27: *Memorial Day;* District Office closed  
“ ” “ :Deadline for Jun.-Jul. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**June 2013**

Sat., Jun. 1; 8:00 am: Dist. UMMen Breakfast;  
Flamingo Restaurant in Pearl City

Tue., Jun. 11: *King Kamehameha Day;*  
District .Office closed

Wed.-Sat., Jun. 12-15: Cal-Pac Annual Conference  
Session; University of Redlands

Mon., Jun. 24: Deadline for Jul.-Aug. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**July 2013**

Thu., Jul. 4: *Independence Day;* District Office closed

Thu.-Sat., Jul. 18-20: Cal-Pac UMW “mission u” -  
Korean

Fri.-Sun., Jul. 19-21: Cal-Pac UMW “mission u” -  
all other schools

Sat., Jul. 27: Tour of Windward UM Churches -  
[tentative]

Mon., Jul. 29: Deadline for Aug.-Sep. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**August 2013**

Sat., Aug. 3; 12:00 pm: Dist. UMW LIMITLESS  
“ ” “ ; 6:00 pm: Dist. UMW Team mtg.

Sat., Aug. 10; 9:00 am: **Mission Festival;** Christ UMC

Thu.-Sun., Aug. 15-18: **Walk To Emmaus for Men**

Fri., Aug. 16: *Statehood Day;* District Office closed

Sat., Aug. 17; 9:00 am: HUMU Board mtg; Dist. Ofc.

Mon., Aug. 26: Deadline for Sep.-Oct. Ka Leo Me-  
kokiko

**September 2013**

Mon., Sep. 2: *Labor Day;* District Office closed

Sat., Sep. 7; 8:30 am: DLT meeting ??

Sat., Sep. 28: District UMW Annual Meeting; Wahiawa

Mon., Sep. 30: Deadline for Oct.-Nov. Ka Leo Me-  
kokiko

**October 2013**

Sun., Oct. 6: *World Communion Sunday*

Mon., Oct. 28:Deadline for Nov.-Dec. Ka Leo Mekokiko