



Ka Leo Mekokiko

“The Voice of Methodism”

Volume 28 Number 3

March—April 2012



Christ is Risen!

*Come Share the Joy of Easter Morning
at
YOUR UMC*

*Festive Easter Services
With YOUR BRASS OR CHOIRS, ETC.
8:00 am and 10:00 am*

EXAMPLE: Refreshments & an Easter Egg Hunt for Children

HOLY WEEK IDEAS

As we move toward the most important events in human history, I encourage our churches to take advantage of this wonderful time in sharing the Good News of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Easter Sunday is typically the highest attended worship service of the year. This is, for many, your one chance to really make an impact with the Gospel. There are many ways you can maximize this opportunity:

1. **Have a simple invitation ready and passed out.** It does not have to be fancy. Above is a simple one you can send. On the other side, you might put a picture of the church or perhaps a floral cross from a different year—making sure you leave room for the address! Insert a postcard invitation into each bulletin for a couple of weeks before Easter. Have extras in an easily accessible place. The practice of invitation is so important for this day and age, and this is a painless way to start.
2. **Utilize children and youth.** On Palm Sunday, for example, you can have all of the children and youth gather before worship and have them process in to give a festival feeling.
3. **Weave a connected narrative in the liturgy on Palm-Passion Sunday.** Since Palm-Passion Sunday falls on the first Sunday, when many churches celebrate communion, have the flows and progression of the service incorporate the sacrament.
4. **Have a Christian Seder on Holy Thursday or Service of Tenebrae on Good Friday.** You can have a traditional Passover meal with lamb, matzoh, and traditional practices. I have found this to be very well received, especially when they are held in private homes. Youth groups can lead the Good Friday service of darkness, with sound effects and hammering of nails, which is very interactive and moving.
5. **Have a floral Easter cross.** Many churches do this. A large wooden cross is made and covered with chicken wire. Some churches have people come with flowers and have the cross outdoors to adorn as they come in. I have really liked when flowers are provided (or brought), and the cross is adorned during the first hymn in a procession inside the sanctuary. Afterward, families come and take pictures with the cross. It is a wonderful, festive thing to do.
6. **Have great worship.** Spare no expense. Have brass to give a truly celebrative feel to worship, present your best choir anthems, and definitely have preachers deliver a life transforming sermon that will relate to those who don't often go to church. May Christ be risen!



Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom



Ministry Musings from the District Superintendent

“To develop healthy, life-changing, missional, multi-generational, prayerful, and covenantal congregations and ministries that make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

BISHOP SWENSON’S ALOHA CELEBRATIONS IN HAWAII

As most of you know, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson will be retiring as our resident bishop at the end of August. We wish to give her a warm send-off for her presence with us for the past 12 years. In coordinating the schedules, it appears that the best dates are from August 3-12. My hope is that she will be able to travel to the four Hawaiian islands that we have UM churches (I apologize in advance that it does not look like she will be able to make it to Guam and Saipan) with an aloha celebration at each place (perhaps two on the Big Island). The tentative date for the Oahu celebration is Saturday, August 11.

If you are willing to serve on the Aloha Celebrations Committee (and especially sub-committees for each island), please let the office know. Thank you so much.

BISHOP SWENSON’S DISTRICT ALOHA GIFT

Each district in our annual conference has been asked to give a gift in honor of the bishop. Some districts are planning to purchase wells and water tables in Africa. As we are in the Pacific region, the District Leadership Team is supporting a plan to provide a concrete water container for a village in Tonga, and a water container for a village in Samoa. The estimated cost would be \$2000 for each, for a total of \$4000. This would break down to a little over \$100 per church, which should be very doable for our district. I will keep you posted with additional details as they emerge.

BEARING FRUIT BY LOVETT WEEMS

We have received much positive feedback about Lovett Weems, our Britt Lecturer. I highly recommend his book, *Bearing Fruit—Ministry with Real Results*, as a study for leaders in our district churches. One church is already studying the book and is enthusiastic about it. It will really cause you to think about the way your church does ministry and gives great suggestions on how to improve. Highly recommended! The district office has several copies available for the discounted price (even cheaper than Amazon.com!) of \$10 each on a first come, first served basis.

THE POWER OF HABIT

A book that was made available only a few weeks ago is *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business* by Charles Duhigg. I think that this an extremely valuable book for all churches. In revealing the reasons why people do things habitually, it offers great insight on how churches can foster the habits in practices such as regular church attendance, spiritual disciplines, volunteerism, and leadership.

I am strongly considering a group study for interested persons in the district. Please contact me at dshawaiiunc@aol.com if you would like more information.

OPEN LETTER TO CHURCHES SEEKING MEMBERS

This link was sent to me recently. It is a very frank and honest sharing from people who visit churches regularly as visitors: <http://seelydarun.com/2012/02/27/open-letter-to-churches-seeking-new-members/> All churches who wish to have new members should read it.

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

Cokesbury Announces New Children's Curriculum Releasing Fall 2012!



Cokesbury is proud to announce their new children's curriculum, *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* [Visit the website](#) to watch videos, [preview sample lessons](#) and [learn more!](#)

Grow, Proclaim, Serve! incorporates Bible stories, activities, crafts, media, and games into a full faith experience for children. With *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* children will develop the skills to unlock the Bible and grow their faith by leaps and bounds.

With *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* children will grow in mind and body, they will also grow in heart and soul. *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* will nourish and enrich children, from birth through tweens, in their faith. They will be able to proclaim the good news of God's love and serve God and neighbor. Children will realize that their faith goes with them as they grow.

[Parents can get involved too!](#) As a parent, finding a church home that reinforces and encourages the spiritual development of your child's faith is very important. The resources that a church utilizes to accomplish that task can be equally important. Encourage your church to us *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* Sign up for the [Grow, Proclaim, Serve! email newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date on top of all the latest announcement! If you have additional questions about this program, please call Curric-U-Phone at 800-251-8591.

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATES

- Any interested UM youth can apply to go; ask pastor for application form. Due: 3/28/12. Three will be chosen.
- Travel, Bus, and Reimbursement forms now on website.

BITS N' PIECES...

**** PERSONAL ****

Congratulations to...

...Rev. Piula and Mrs. Kim Ala`ilima and big sister, Salani, on the birth of Iona Skye on March 5, 2012. She weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz. and measured 20½ inches long. Warm wishes can be sent to: 5052 Kilauea Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816.

Deepest sympathy to...

...the family of Mrs. Sun-Hae Chang upon the passing of her husband, Mr. John Chang in Korea. Mr. Chang established the Y.S. Mae Fund in loving memory of his mother; this trust helped many churches to develop programs for church vitalization. Over the years he generously supported many UM Korean churches and ministries in the Hawaii District. A memorial service was held in Korea and one at Kam-Nam UMC - Honolulu on March 18th.

Please continue to pray for...

...Mr. Dick Englar of Waianae UMC, District Lay Leader; he is still experiencing pain in his right arm.

...retired Pastor Roby Correa who is recovering well from skin graft surgery.

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

...Retired Pastor Misipati Karapani who has been suffering from swelling in his legs.

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

**** LEARNING AND CARING ****

Youth Mission Group willing to do volunteer work...

The youth group of Smoky Hill UMC is hoping to come to Hawaii in 2013. They go on a mission trip every year. In the past they have held VBS (Vacation Bible School) in various places; they will be doing a VBS in Buffalo, New York this year. They have also done mission trips where they have repaired and cleaned up houses for the elderly and homebound. There are usually 20 or so teenagers. If interested, contact Sharon (Gouvea) Hawley at <sagouvea@comcast.net>; her parents are long-time Kailua UMC members.

**** CLASSIFIED ****

Available: dispensers for paper towel and bathroom tissue.

...Kailua UMC would like to give another district local church on Oahu used [but still usable]: 4 paper towel and 6 bathroom tissue (double-roll type) dispensers. Please call 261-6238 if you are interested.

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS**March 2012**

Sat., Mar. 10; 8:30 a.m.: DLT meeting; SWCC
 Sun., Mar. 18: *One Great Hour of Sharing*
 Tue., Mar. 20: Dist. Conf. Planning Mtg.; Dist. Office
 Mon., Mar. 26: *Prince Kuhio Day*; District Office closed
 " " " : Deadline for Apr.-May Ka Leo Mekokiko

April 2012

Sun., Apr. 1: *Palm / Passion Sunday*
 Thu., Apr. 5: *Maundy / Holy Thursday*
 Fri., Apr., 6: *Good Friday*; District Office closed
 Sun., Apr. 8: **EASTER SUNDAY**
 Tue., Apr. 10: CDL (Nominating) Mtg.; Dist. Office
 Sat., Apr. 21: District UMW Spiritual Retreat
 Sun., Apr. 22: *Native American Ministries Sunday*
 Tue.-Fri., Apr. 24-May 4: GENERAL CONFERENCE;
 Tampa, Florida
 Mon., Apr. 30: Deadline for May-June Ka Leo Mekokiko

May 2012

Wed., May 2; 7:00 p.m.: Dist. UMW Executive mtg.
 Thu., May 10; 8:00 a.m.: HCOM meeting
 Sat., May 12; 9:00 a.m.: HUMU Board Mtg.; Harris
 Fri., May 18: Spring Clergy Gathering; St. Stephen's
 Sat., May 19: **District Conference**
 Thu.-Sun., May 24-27: **Walk To Emmaus for men**
 Sun., May 27: *Pentecost Sunday*
 Mon., May 28: *Memorial Day*; District Office closed
 " " " : Deadline for Jun.-Jul. Ka Leo Mekokiko

June 2012

Sat., Jun. 2; 8:00 a.m.: **UMMen Breakfast**
 Sun., Jun. 3: *Peace with Justice Sunday*
 Mon., Jun. 11: *Kamehameha Day*; Dist. Ofc. closed
 Thu.-Sun., Jun. 14-17: Cal-Pac Annual Conference
 Mon., Jun. 25: Deadline for Jul.-Aug. Ka Leo Mekokiko

July 2012

Wed., Jul. 4: *Independence Day*; Dist. Ofc. closed
 Wed.-Sat., Jul. 18-20: WESTERN JURISDICTIONAL
 CONFERENCE; San Diego
 Thu.-Sun., Jul 26-29: Cal-Pac UMW Korean
 School of Christian Mission
 Fri.-Sun., July 27-29: Cal-Pac UMW School of
 Christian Mission
 Mon., Jul. 30: Deadline for Aug.-Sep. Ka Leo Mekokiko

August 2012

Sat., Aug. 4; 9:00 am: Dist. UMW Exec. mtg; SWCC
 Sat., Aug. 11: **?Aloha for Bishop Mary Ann Swenson**
 Thu.-Sun., Aug. 16-19: **Walk To Emmaus for women**
 Fri., Aug. 17: *Statehood Day*; District Office closed
 Sat., Aug. 18; 9:00 a.m.: HUMU Board mtg; Harris
 Sat., Aug. 25: **Mission Festival**
 Mon., Aug. 27: Deadline for Sep.-Oct. Ka Leo Mekokiko

September 2012

Mon., Sep. 3: *Labor Day*; District Office closed
 Sat., Sep. 8; 8:30 a.m.: DLT mtg.; Susannah WCC
 Sat., Sep. 22; 8:30 a.m.: Dist. UMW Annual Mtg; Trinity
 Mon., Sep. 24: Deadline for Oct.-Nov. Ka Leo Mekokiko