## FORTY THIRD ANNUAL REPORT; OF THE WOMANS BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLAND; PRESENTED JUNE 2, 1914, WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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OF THE

# WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS

FOR THE

PACIFIC ISLANDS

PRESENTED JUNE 2, 1914

WITH THE

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

"Help those Women for they labored with me in the Gospel"

HONOLULU, T. H. PARADIRE OF THE PACIFIC PRINT 1914 St. - lat. J. M. Spanding

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

### WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS

# FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

The Woman's Board of Missions in forty-third annual session met in Central Union Church on June 2, 1914.

Devotional service was conducted by the President, Mrs. Theodore Richards. She read from Exodus 14, emphasizing the words, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." Ever the word of the Lord is "forward." There are obstacles in the way, but "the Lord shall fight for you." There are perplexities. He has said, "I will guide thee." How may we know his guidance! "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God." "We go forward on our knees." This Board was founded in prayer. Its plans were developed in prayer. It has long been carried on by prayer. Is there a possibility that in days of growing prosperity we may tend to depend upon our own initiative, to carry forward our own projects, failing sometimes to seek unto the Lord for his leading in our plans? If we go forward enveloped in the incense of prayer God's spirit, as the pillar of fire, will enable us surely to "go in and possess the land." And the President's voice in petition was followed by other voices.

Brief monthly reports preceded the day's outlook over the year which included the treasurer's full annual statement: the annual reports of recording, foreign and home secretaries, the latter presenting also reports from the branch societies; Christian work as developed by the young women of the Gleaners, Lima Kokuas, Auroras and "Kins," and set forth by representatives of these auxiliary organizations; the work of the Board in its four departments, Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese, presented by our missionaries in the reports of their individual service, with some outlook also over the broader fields which their labor represents, Mrs. May Wilcox kindly speaking concerning things Hawaiian in the absence of Miss Laura Green.

All these reports are presented in full on later pages.

An insight into the new and varied scheme of work for the coming year was presented by Mrs. Philip Weaver, chairman, in her

#### PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1914-15.

"Your program committee has met and lays before you the following report:

"For some years this society has followed the plans of the Central Committee on United Study of Foreign Missions. The work of the coming year, as planned by the Central Committee, is a Comparative Study of Child Welfare in non-Christian lands, and the method a discursive and largely anecdotal course of reading, in the familiar annual text book; the object, so far as discernable, a stimulation of interest in missions and thereby an increased collection. Now with the chosen subject your committee has the warmest sympathy. It comes with peculiar timeliness to the condition of affairs in our own city. We move that child welfare be our subject for the coming year. But we would suggest a different method of work, and a somewhat different object as the desired result of the year's effort.

"That the Woman's Board is an independent society instead of a branch of a mainland general society shows that from the first it has recognized its peculiar relation to foreign missions. Our foreign work is often most fruitful when it is done in our very home. This year your committee suggests that we revert to the earlier policy of the Board, and use methods suggested by the immediate needs of the situation confronting us.

"Instead of a general view of the conditions of the pagan world, obtained by reading and the presentation of literary papers, let us acquaint ourselves intimately with the work of the four social workers we have in our own city, for whom we are in a sense responsible, and this intimate acquaintance to be obtained not by any literary method but by visiting, by consulting with them and studying their field of work. Let us find out what they want in the way of equipment, and put our wits to work to get it so far as a crowd of determined women can. Let us find out just what they want of us in personal service, and then do what we are asked to do, or forever after keep our peace as to our missionary zeal. In short, let us put our interest in missions to the somewhat biting test of plain, simple fact-what of ourselves are we willing to invest, other than an occasional dime or dollar.

"In order to get at this, we have met with each of the four expert workers, Japanese, Miss Gulick; Chinese, Mrs. Mackenzie; Hawaiian, Miss Green; and Portuguese, Mrs. Soares, and asked for definite lists of what was wanted to further their work. In the first five minutes Mrs. Mackenzie wanted enough perfectly definite things to make a list as long as your arm; Miss Green almost gasped at the thought of wanting to a definite purpose with an idea of getting needed equipment and help, and her list was even less modest than Mrs. Mackenzie's. Mrs. Soares and Miss Gulick also want thick and fast. Here are a few samples, just to indicate the variety: Simple layettes that can can be loaned in cases that need immediate help; any other baby clothes; singing teachers who will help in clubs; also Sunday school singing; ditto for latest fads in embroidery, and what we used to call fancy work; a good syringe; an occasional supply of eggs and other delicacies for the very sick; sheets and pillow cases that can be lent and returned for further service; potted plants, especially the small flowering sorts; where to apply for the occasional outfitting of a child to send it decently to day or Sunday school; hair ribbons as a means of grace for discouraged and neglected small girls; also anything else small girls wear; ditto for small boys; a baseball outfit; good times, tea parties, outings for old, tired out and thoroughly blue Chinese women who are stranded so far as any fresh interests in life, because the transition stage of their own social conditions has left them out of relation to their social order; workers in Sunday schools and clubs of every sort and variety.

"Not one of the four said money, not one said anything about the loneliness of her work, that year after year, we do not go near our workers, because we have hired them to serve for us—our proxies to God? But under all the list, often unconsciously to the speaker, was a hungry-hearted cry for friends; friends who cared for the work, who knew,

whom you could depend on; just plain human friends one could tie to.

"Now with the aid of the workers the committee hopes so to organize our own forces and those of the four girls' societies that are in a way our wards and the Sunday school, that we each of us can find our appropriate job, something that we would more than half like to do, that needs doing. The details of the plan we shall be ready to submit in the first meeting in the fall,

"It might be a human thing to do to stand back of each of our four vested interests in foreign fields in much the same way. Already Miss Judd has written to find out if there is anything we can do to help out with the ever-present subject that presses hard on the unlimited hearts and flat purses of mission workers-what can we do about Christmas? Our gifts must be timely and sensible as we can make them, but better even woolen socks for Africans perhaps than the absolute nothing we sometimes offer at Christmas. At least, they would create a diversion. Then not as members of the Women's Board but just as plain, every-day church women me might remember in some way the people at Nauru and the Wickes of North China. Being human, they probably have homesick streaks at times to fight against, and a simple, even a silly, gift with love is a wonderful pick-me-up. Not that we shall use anything but our best sense in selecting-but even Christmas chocolates with love count.

"Now all this means busy times. We shall have too much on hand to write many papers, and if the plan goes, reports and conferences may take more of our time than before. But we shall have earned the right in our monthly session to sit back comfortably with hemstitching or what not, at as attractive a missionary matinee as the program committee can get up. So there will be occasional papers on the condition of child welfare in pagan lands, papers dealing with the latest governmental as well as missionary movements, such as the addition of Kindergartens to the new school system of the New China.

"Now all this I have spoken of is simply our own corporate job, the reason for our existence. If we back up our employes so that they can get efficient work done, surely that is nothing especially to our credit. But we are not only a missionary society of the Central Union Church; we are the oldest women's club for unselfish community service in this city. Now our church, together with St. Andrew's, through the two Men's Leagues, is going to take up before the Legislature next spring, the question of a Child Labor Law. How much about that shall we know or care! One of the other Child Welfare bills to be presented, if present plans carry, is to look to a lowering of our present child mortality rates; Mr. Rath and Dr. Pratt would like our help and interest in making this matter clear and vital to the women of the community, so that instead of a vague good-will we might really know what they or we are trying to secure. There is to be a bill for the securing of an adequate or rather a more nearly adequate foundation of a school for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Children of the Territory. The Detention Home is not a dead issue. The crying need for a home for feeble-minded girls and women is another matter already under advisement. The censorship of moving pictures is in the hands of a committee of the Humane Society.