

History  
of  
St. Mary's Mission  
and Home for Children

Honolulu

7

Van Deerlin, Hilda

1927

# St. Mary's Mission Home

Honolulu, Hawaii

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Miss Hilda Van Deerlin	-	-	-	Superintendent
Miss Sara Chung	-	-	-	Assistant
Miss Margaret Van Deerlin	-	-	-	Assistant
Miss Alice Guild	-	-	-	Assistant Kindergartener

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St. Mary's Mission

Honolulu

gift of Mrs. A. A. A. A., 1943



*Picture taken by Melville Holmes, P. I. P. Photo.*

St. Mary's Mission Church and Home for Children, Honolulu.

## HISTORY

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St. Mary's Mission is the outcome of a work begun some years ago by Miss Maroni, a faithful Church woman, who was for many years a teacher in the Moiliili public school. She took a very deep interest in her scholars and used to gather the children together and talk to them after school hours and she held a class on Sundays for them. At Christmas and Easter she would take them to the Cathedral services.

Soon after Bishop Restarick came to the Islands Miss Maroni told him of what she had been doing in Moiliili and asked him to take up the work which she had started but was no longer able to continue on account of age and failing health.

The Bishop rented a small store in Moiliili and a Saturday sewing school and a Sunday school were held there. At first the Sunday school was composed largely of Chinese and was therefore placed under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Kong. Some Hawaiian girls came to the sewing school. Miss C. Teggart and Miss Hilda Van Deerlin assisted Mrs. F. T. Kong in the sewing classes.

A little later Mrs. Folsom was placed in charge of the work and went to live in the neighborhood. A night school was then opened and house to house visits were made. Then a day school was started which proved very satisfactory; the Sunday school also was well attended.

In September, 1908, Mrs Folsom went to work in Hilo

and Miss Sara Chung and Miss Van Deerlin were sent to St. Mary's. They found that a free dispensary was very much needed and as Miss Van Deerlin had had some hospital experience a small room was fitted up for that purpose and before long many patients were being treated there. At the time of the threatened cholera epidemic the government dispensed poi from St. Mary's. Soon after this, arrangements were made whereby Palama Settlement placed a trained nurse in St. Mary's dispensary.

In 1912 land was bought and the present house was built. The day school was limited to 150 boys and girls and was always filled and many children were refused each year. The school opened every morning with a religious service and the children received definite religious teaching and attended the Sunday school. The night school closed with a short service every evening and many of the night school men were baptized.

Honolulu has a good Church boarding school for girls, St. Andrew's Priory, and one for boys, Iolani School, but the Church had no orphanage in these Islands. It was Miss Van Deerlin's great desire to start one. A little cripple girl came to live at St. Mary's as she was so badly deformed that she was unable to go to school and her only hope of obtaining an education was to live at St. Mary's.

In 1917 three little girls came to make their home at St. Mary's and one of them is still living here and is old enough to be a great help outside of school hours. Miss Margaret Van Deerlin came also at this time to assist in the work being carried on by Miss Van Deerlin and Miss Sara Chung.

From time to time other orphan and dependent children were taken in. The living quarters at the Mission were intended to accommodate only the three workers so when the children came there was no place for them. The sitting room was turned into a bedroom, beds were put in the hallway, on the porch, and everywhere that one could be put. Finally one of the schoolrooms became a dormitory. This

was made possible by the building of a schoolroom and assembly hall.

Still the children continued to come and we had to refuse them. Last year, through the efforts of Mrs. Restarick and some of the ladies of the Auxiliary, we were able to add two wings to the Mission House for the accommodation of the children. One wing has been named for May L. Restarick and the other for Louise F. Folsom.

We take both boys and girls as we do not think families should be separated and we like to have the little brothers and sisters together. We have Americans, Hawaiians, Chinese, Japanese and Koreans in the home, all living together as a happy family. More than half the children are Hawaiians or half Hawaiians.

A few of the children have relatives who can pay for their support but most of them are dependent upon St. Mary's and are supported by voluntary donations from our friends. A small monthly sum is allowed from the Court of Domestic Relations for those sent to us by it. We have never refused a child for lack of support, for the more destitute he is the more he needs a home at St. Mary's and whenever we get into a particularly tight place an unexpected check comes and relieves us.

The orphanage will be <sup>nine</sup>~~10~~ years old in September of this year (1927). During that time 81 children of nine nationalities have been cared for. Thirty-five are now in the home and this is all that we can accommodate at present. Fourteen are boys and twenty-one are girls. One little half white boy has been here since he was nine months old and two little girls since they were twelve months.

One of our older girls has gone to work in a nice Church family and comes home to St. Mary's to spend her Sundays. On Christmas morning, when she came to Church, she brought a small gift of money which she had saved for St. Mary's as a token of her appreciation for the home she had had here for six years. She came to St. Mary's when she

was nine years old and she has no other home. Two of our white children have been adopted by Church people. All unbaptized children are baptized as soon as possible after entering the home.

The need for the men's night school has passed and the classes have been discontinued. The day school grades have been reduced and the older children of the home attend the Public School.

We have a pretty little Church that was built in 1917 by General Edward Davis in memory of his wife, and we use it every day. Besides the short morning service attended by the day scholars, we have evening prayers with the home children just before the nursery children go to bed.

We have regular Sunday services and some of the home children form the choir. There have been 200 baptisms. On one Sunday last year 26 children from the Sunday school were baptized at one time.

The Rev. Mr. Freeman celebrates Holy Communion at 7 o'clock on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Bishop Restarick comes every Sunday and has service and instruction for the Sunday school and has a Bible class for older boys. The Rev. Mr. Kieb has Evensong with instruction and meets with the Young People's Fellowship.

Our Kindergarten has an attendance of 65 little ones. The mothers have taken much interest in the nutrition class for underweight children and in the mothers' meetings held in connection with the Kindergarten. Last September 21 per cent of the Kindergarten children were underweight, the following May only 9 per cent remained in the class.

The Kindergarten children attend the short morning service in the Church. At this service they learn many hymns, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, versicles, and a few other short and simple prayers.

In the middle of the morning milk and crackers are served to the Kindergarten children. In this way they learn to set the table, use napkins and say grace. The little ones

wash their napkins and dolls' clothes, learn to sweep, make dolls' beds, plant seeds, care for their gardens and perform other Kindergarten activities. On Sundays they have their own little service, carry a Processional Cross made by themselves, and take up their own offerings. Miss Alice Guild assists in the Kindergarten.

We have troops of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and a Young People's Fellowship. The girls keep the Church brasses polished. The boys are taught to be servers at the Altar, carry the Processional Cross and take up the offerings.

The dispensary is open every afternoon for the treatment of minor ailments and dressings. A baby clinic is held once a week with a doctor and nurses in attendance. A class for women who desired to learn English and one for those who wished to learn sewing were held in the evenings during the past year.

The playground at St. Mary's is a pleasure to both young and old. It is surrounded by everblooming hibiscus and shaded by monkey pod and poinciana trees. A large sand box and swings amuse the little ones while the older boys and girls enjoy basket ball and volley ball.

Signed,

HILDA VAN DEERLIN.

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

*Donations of money or provisions are most acceptable at all times.*

*Bequests and Devises to St. Mary's Home may be made in the following form:*

*I hereby give, devise and bequeath unto the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Hawaiian Islands, a Corporation, in trust for St. Mary's Mission Home (here name the amount or describe the property devised or bequeathed.)*

