

e-messenger



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**The Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa**



“Our Church's Mission in Aotearoa New Zealand is to reflect and proclaim the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the world. The Treaty of Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing relationship, and will guide how we undertake mission”.

Web Site Address: www.methodist.org.nz

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August 2004

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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I wonder if you were aware, as I was, that the most recent desecration of Jewish graves in a Wellington cemetery took place in the early hours of 'Hiroshima Day' – a day of both sorrowful commemoration of the atrocities of war and recommitment to the cause of peace?

Such visible signs of bigotry and hatred in our society understandably awaken fear and grief in the Jewish community, and remind us all of the fragile nature of human community.

I have conveyed greetings of concern and support from the Methodist Church to both the Wellington Orthodox Jewish Congregation and to the Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation.

Only a week earlier, on Peace Sunday, I had attended a remembrance ceremony at the Peace Garden in Wellington's Botanical Gardens. A plaque celebrating the contribution of Wellington's peace community to world peace was unveiled. In the tranquility of the Peace Garden and in the thoughtful words of the ceremony, no one would have anticipated the violent acts of later in the week.

It seems to me that it is much easier to pray for peace in the world than it is to deal with disturbing behaviour and speech in our own backyard. How do we as a community respond to such outpourings of violence and hatred? Do we see reminders of, and acknowledge our own, intolerance of difference? Do we take the necessary steps to understand and take responsibility for our own prejudices?

Do we see peace as a precious and fragile gift, and do as some words of Fred Kaan's suggest:

'Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.'

Lynne

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT:

I would firstly like to publicly thank those who sent cards, phoned up or prayed for my family and I in the last weeks since my father in law died. Those kind thoughts have helped lift us out of mourning and back into positive aspects of life and the journey we are on.

August annual Synod has come and gone for us in Manukau and it gives a good milestone for where we have come this year. For the first time we had two reports from Conference to deal with, one from Board of Administration and the other from Faith & Order. For all of you on Synod around the country I hope you found this new process helpful. Hopefully you were able to give more time to discussion of the reports than we were used to in Committees of Detail at Conference. It will be interesting to see the impact this has on those bodies reporting to Conference, on Conference itself and on the understanding that members of Synods will gain over time. I for one appreciated hearing "the detail" from two groups that I had not heard from before.

Last week I attended a service at Crossroads, Papakura to mark a new collection of Hymns written by Rev Norman Brookes and Jan Chamberlain. With Norman leaving the NZ Conference to travel to his native

Ireland to continue his ministry it was also a time to say goodbye to him and wife Margaret. It was a great celebration of the Christian heritage of singing our praises to the Lord, taking on a new modern form. I enjoyed being in a congregation enjoying the enthusiasm of these two hymn writers as a selection of their works was introduced. This is what our faith journey is all about; finding new fresh ways of worship to go alongside the traditional format that most of like to stick with. I would encourage you to source a copy of the book entitle “With Heart and Voice” and give these hymns a go. A number of them are written to old favourite tunes and others to new fresh airs.

I am especially enjoying studying the Lords Prayer as we follow the gospel readings in Luke in the Lectionary. It always feels good to study some of the basic cornerstones of the teachings of Jesus Christ and to think though again things that I take for granted. At Trinity, Pakuranga our presbyter Trevor Hoggard has commenced a fortnightly study home group that is following the lectionary. In it’s first couple of months we have found it stimulating, as it allows discussion of a topic that we will hear the sermon on. I for one have found this a test of the mind as we listen and debate what is being said. May you in your own way continue to find new energy and life from the Bible and from the continual change in the way the Methodist Church of New Zealand orders its life in response to the Word and the needs of Gods people.

Dave

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY’S DESK:

The Connexional Office is a hive of activity with the accounting staff very busy with a large team of auditors completing annual accounts and the administration staff are gearing up for Conference.

We remind all those who have not registered for Conference that the full registration fee of \$260 is payable from next Monday, 16 August. Conference details are available on the website www.methodist.org.nz

Board of Administration representatives were warmly welcomed at both Auckland and Manukau Synods last weekend and we wish to thank both Synods for their hospitality. The feedback we received to the presentation was that it was interesting and informative enabling people to have a greater understanding of the work of the Administration Division. If any other Synod would like us to visit and share the presentation please ring the General Secretary to arrange a date.

The **Local Government Rating Act** came into force 1 July, 2003 and some local authorities have reviewed the exemptions provided to Churches. The clause “*religious worship/education*” is being interpreted very narrowly by some authorities. The Church is seeking legal opinion from a QC and this will be available before Conference.

Please contact Greg Wright at the Connexional Office if:

- A local Authority requests a “**Statement of Use**” declaration
- You receive an “**apportionment of valuation**” for the purpose of rating
- You think you have grounds to **formally object** to a rating demand

Jill

OBITUARIES



Please remember in your Prayers the families of ...

Edith Handyside, widow of the late Alan Handyside, died in Hamilton on July 14th.

Gordon Little died peacefully at Te Omanga Hospice, Lower Hutt on Monday 19 July. Gordon was married to Rev Edith Little, a former Vice President of the Methodist Church.

Esme Rose Olsen mother of Ken Olsen died in Waikato Hospital on Tuesday 20 July.

Rev Allen S Hall presbyter and missionary, died on Friday 23 July in Brisbane where he had been living for many years.

Prue Patrick one time National Treasurers of the MWF, died in Pahaitua Wednesday 28 July.

Davinia Taylor wife of the Rev Phil Taylor, died in Whangaparaoa on 29 July.

Una Foley mother of Moira Neal and Una Ferguson, and resident of Everill Orr Village for 11 years died on 31 July 2004. Una was a former member of Kingsland Church, St James Uniting Onerahi and Matron of Astley House.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION

Treasures of the Past and Present A Journey Through Te Awamutu's Rural Region

Members and friends of the Te Awamutu Methodist Church invite you on a tour which will take you to the old and the new over the weekend of the 16th and 17th October 2004. Proceeds will support the linking of the Bryant Memorial Hall to the Church with an upgrade of the facilities to make the historic complex more user-friendly.

This tour will offer a variety of venues for ticket-holders to visit. The church will be open and will host a twilight concert. There will be other historical buildings to visit, old and modern homes of differing architectural styles and both new and established gardens in a variety of themes. Different venues will include a classic car collection, vintage farm machinery, a modern cowshed, the work of a nationally known weaver and a Christmas display.

An extensive arboretum will be open to view and floral displays at local churches. Devonshire teas will be offered. There is already interest being shown from groups outside our region keen to take in this tour through our rural heartland and for our locals it will be an opportunity to explore homes and gardens, and discover treasures old and new within our own community.

Weekend Pass: \$20

Valid Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th October - includes entry to all venues, Twilight Concert and Guidebook.

Ticket Enquiries:

Registration Secretaries -

Colleen Cullen

R.D. 2

Te Awamutu

Phone 07 8727857

colleencullennz@yahoo.co.nz

Betty Christopher

136/1 Douglas Avenue

Te Awamutu

Phone 07 8714966

General Enquiries:

Convenor-

Beverly Bryant

114 St Leger Road

Te Awamutu

Phone 07 8716676

Fax 07 8716679

Norman Brookes and Jan Chamberlin have published a Hymn book called "*With Heart and Voice*". The book includes contemporary words to well know tunes with musical settings by Bill Chessum, and new tunes by Marjorie Spicer, Roger Hey, Frank Denis and others. Copies cost \$19.50 and may be purchased by phoning Jan or Brian ph (09) 428 1103

INVERCARGILL METHODIST PARISH
(Lindisfarne Centre)

is now on line at www.invercargillmethodist.org.nz

Wesley Wellington Parish 75 Taranaki Street



www.wesleychurch.org.nz

125th Year Celebration
of the opening of the present church

25-27 March (Easter) 2005

For information contact the Parish Office:
Ph: (04) 384-7695
Fax: (04) 382-9708
Email: gen.wesley@clear.net.nz
Postal address: PO Box 6133, Marion Square, Wellington

BIRKENHEAD METHODIST PARISH

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

EASTER 2005, MARCH 25TH TO 27TH.

Plan now to be attend these celebrations.

Show your interest by writing for further information.

Birkenhead Methodist Parish PO Box 34-332 Birkenhead Auckland.

Phone 09 4190272. Email: zionhill@xtra.co.nz.

PLAN NOW TO BE AT BIRKENHEAD FOR EASTER.

BLenheim METHODIST PARISH

"On the 3rd August the Rev. Judith Parkes leaves for New York to work for ten days at the church centre of the United Nations.

Judith is on the executive of the World Federation of the Methodist and Uniting Church Women, which is a Non Governmental Organisation of the United Nations. The executive is made up from all parts of the world and Judith is President of the South Pacific area which she will be reporting on. Discussions will be held on Gender Justice, Children, especially the girl child, HIV/AIDS, Violence against women and Racism.

The executive will be meeting with Catholic Women and Jewish Women who are also N.G.O.'s of the United Nations. The agenda is full as we also prepare for our next Assembly which is to be held in Korea in 2006.

With Judith's passion for her ministry to the Elderly and confused it will be a joy to meet Mrs. Susanna Paul who works for the Federation at the United Nations and who heads the committee on Global Aging. Two years ago Susanna invited Judith to present workshops on her work at the N.G.O. forum that ran alongside the United Nations Assembly on Aging in Madrid, Spain.

Judith says she now needs to think globally and on hearing and reading reports we live in a very favoured country."

"Recently in the Blenheim Parish the Springlands Methodist Church honoured six members of their congregation at a special service "Honouring Age" led by Rev. Judith Parkes.

These folk are all in their nineties, and the service was held to celebrate the lives of these special members of the church, acknowledging their life journeys, the gifts and talents used in the church and community, and God's faithfulness. Tributes were read out for each of the honoured guests. Flowers were given and a celebration morning tea was held."

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF PRIMITIVE METHODISTS IN THE WAIKATO

20th - 24th October 2004
Hamilton Methodist Parish

Wednesday, 20th October

- Opening of Historical Display
- Organ recital at 12:00 noon - Free

Saturday, 23rd October

- River cruise and commentary of Hamilton History on the Waipa Delta Paddle Boat, with afternoon tea.
Boarding at Memorial Park Jetty at 2:45pm
Boat leaves at 3:00pm - Cost: \$21.00 per person

Sunday, 24th October

- Worship Service at 10:30am
- Catered lunch at 12:00 noon - Cost: \$15.00 per person
- Historical Tour/Walk the History - leaving from car park at 2:00pm - Free

All events (apart from Waipa Delta cruise) will be held at
St Paul's Methodist Church and Centre, 62 London Street, Hamilton

*Enquiries, please contact Rev Dr Susan Thompson:
Phone (07) 839-3951 / fax (07) 839-3950 / email: susan@hamiltonmethparish.org.nz*

Primitive Methodist Centenary Registration Form

Rev / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Any special food requirements for lunch? _____

I / we will be attending the following events:

	No attending	Cost	Total
Wednesday, 20 October Organ Recital _____	_____	Free	_____
Saturday, 23 October Waipa Delta River Cruise _____	_____	@ \$21.00	_____
Sunday, 24 October Catered Lunch _____	_____	@ \$15.00	_____
Historical Walking Tour _____	_____	Free	_____
		Registration Fee	\$ <u>5.00</u>
		Total payment enclosed	\$ <u> </u>

**Please make cheques payable to Hamilton Methodist Parish
Send payment and registration form to:
Hamilton Methodist Parish, P O Box 384, Hamilton by 1st October**

At the recent NZ Diaconate Task Group held in Wanganui from 4-6 June 2004 it was decided to share with the Connexion an abbreviated report by Brenda Fawkner.

DIAKONIA - UNITING CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORT

The DUCA Biennial and Continuing Education event was held in Melbourne Australia from the 6th to the 13th of February, 2004. It was attended by Deacons and representatives from every state in Australia. There was a Deacon from Fiji and an executive member of World Diakonia of the Asia Pacific region.

BRENDA FAWKNER'S PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

There were five attendees from New Zealand - Deacons Lorna Goodwin from Palmerston North, Richard Williams from Auckland, Shirley Joy Barrow from Whanganui, Brenda Fawkner from New Plymouth - they were financed by the Methodist Travel & Study Fund and the Diaconate Task Group. A Tongan presbyter who is the Diaconal representative on the Tongan synod also attended. There were ten Australian candidates, and one NZ deacon who also took part in the preessional. (This was a Level Two B. TH paper on Diaconate ministry).

I was very encouraged with the vitality and creativity I saw in the Diaconate in the Uniting Church. Twelve years since the intentional renewal, there are now approximately 75 active Deacons working in a full time or part time basis.

The equality of the two orders of ministry with the same level of theological training, stationing and stipending, is attracting candidates who see a future in ministry in a church which is strongly focused on mission. I saw and heard of ministry reaching out in city, rural, and outback areas. I heard reflections of Deacons who felt called by God to change from being a minister of the Word to becoming a deacon.

BACKGROUND OF THE DIACONATE IN AUSTRALIAN UNITING CHURCH:

The development of the Diaconate in Australia began with a renewal in 1992. In the foundational document of the Uniting Church, reference was made to the possible renewal of the Diaconate. At the national assembly in 1991 it decided to proceed. It recognised in proceeding that there was a growing worldwide recognition of the importance of diaconal ministry. It was also aware Australian society is in a process of substantial change. In creating these two streams of ministry, that of Deacon and Minister of the Word it was responding to changing needs. It also recognised the need in this contemporary situation for a number of commissioned and specified ministries.

As quoted by the Rev. Deacon Bill Harris, (president of World Diakonia Asia Pacific region), "the UCA in renewing the diaconate with its two streams of ministry, Word and Deacon being parallel and complimentary - it is now the most integrated and accepted Diaconate functioning in the world."

The theological training of Deacons is undertaken in Theological colleges in each of the Australian states. When formation is completed Deacons are placed and stipended in the same manner as Ministers of the Word. They are accountable to the church for their ministry through the presbytery. They may be part-time or full-time placements. Deacons have authority to preside at

the sacraments, and will do so usually (but not exclusively) in the context of their ministry placements.

Deacons may serve in ministry in a congregation or a group of congregations in city, suburban or rural areas, working with a focus on the needs of people in the community. They may work in chaplaincy in hospitals, schools and prisons. They may serve in mission placement in Australia or overseas. They may serve in community or government organisations where their appointment has been recognised as a placement by the appropriate synod body.

OUTLINE OF THE CONFERENCE:

The conference was held on the 6th and 7th February – details are available in the full report.

Sunday 8th February.

An invitation to all conference members to attend the worship service at St Kilda Church. Rev. John Tansey is a deacon working with a congregation which has involvement, with people with mental health disabilities. The church has a parish mission with a drop in centre.

Peter Batten (a Deacon working as an outreach worker at South Port Parks parish mission) took part in the service with his clown ministry.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT

Monday 9th February.

Worship was led each morning by Deacons from different states. Following worship Denham Grierson, a now retired theology lecturer, lead bible study on the theme: Exploring the sign of Jonah.

The bible study became a high light of the Continuing Education Event. The themes it introduced, the challenge that was given to Deacons to express their prophetic voice, the insights that were gained, lead to the final session of the event, to the Deacons preparing a statement to be sent to the Assembly giving voice to the concerns that Deacons had on the issue currently causing division in the church. Brenda Fawcner was invited to share insights and understandings that the New Zealand Methodist church has come to in its time of dealing with the same issue.

CHURCH AND MISSION

Presentation by Rev. Jonathan Barker (Deacon)

The Relationship of the Church to Society.

Jonathan changed from being a Minister of the Word to a Deacon. He outlined the work he had done when in ministry at Bondi Beach at the Chapel by the Sea. The church was involved with the already significant ministry among the poor and disadvantaged many of whom live on the streets. Diaconal ministry is shared with a small dedicated team of community workers and a wide circle of volunteers. An ex brothel was purchased and transformed into a 'house of hope' for homeless people. It is a day centre, offering showers, washing and kitchen facilities. People are linked with community services, self help groups and are assisted in finding permanent accommodation as far as possible. Living skills are taught and daily free meals are served.

There is an important role of acting as a spokesperson for the issues that surround caring for the poor in our society today, and in campaigning and doing battle for services under threat such as low cost housing a good connection with the church was maintained.

Jonathan outlined a 12 week education process in 3 week blocks with 12 people from the parish of Chapel by the Sea giving them a theological underpinning for the work they were undertaking. Interestingly former clients were involved.

The outline of the course included; looking at their faith; an introduction to Liberation theology, the forces in society that shape their values, the global forces impinging in our world locally and the forces we have no control over. It included also an introduction to social analysis, identifying major problems eg. affordable housing.

WHAT IS A DIACONAL CHURCH:

Rev. Bev Fabb (Deacon)

Bev is a Co-ordinating minister for the UCA in Perth. She works particularly in the community services area but also has some responsibilities with the congregation. The focus of the church is the development of innovative ways of being church and new forms of mission and ministry.

In her presentation she shared insights and models of strategies of bringing change to the church. Some of the insights from her presentation were;

- the Diakonal church seeing itself as part of the community in which it lives,
- the primary focus as service within the community, being described as invitational, wholistic, seeing God at work in the wider community, embodying Christ's mission in the world with a focus on the marginalised.
- It is a church which links the spiritual to service.

Some responses to needs in the community in which Bev is working, have been -

- the Rainbow project, (supporting people with mental illness)
- offering women's studies,
- work in aged care,
- offering Christian meditation groups and discussion groups,
- support for young gay and lesbian street kids, after a group became concerned about the suicide rate of these young people with church connections.

Identification of the blocks to the church becoming diaconal were summarised as;

- Tradition
- fear of failure
- finance- desire for security
- prejudices, buildings and possessions,
- relevant holiness code - anti social status, do it for us attitude.

The importance of affirming people in their Christian service, was noted as often members of congregations do not realise the work of mission which they are doing and transformation starts when the service is named in a different way.

CHURCH IN NON TRADITIONAL SETTINGS

- A Presentation by Rev. Marion Gledhill (Deacon), shared insights of her work with UnitingCare Burnside NSW - a large child and family services agency. She spoke of her work in developing pastoral care in the agency, social and justice advocacy.
- A Presentation by Rev. Scott Kelly (Deacon). Working for the government in Restorative Justice. Although Scott is working for the government he remains a deacon in the church.
- A Presentation by Rev. Bill Thomas (Deacon). As a sole minister in a very multicultural area he shared insight into the development of his work with a strong commitment to social justice and community welfare mission emphases.

OTHER TOPICS COVERED WERE DEACONS AND MULTI FAITH RELATIONSHIPS, DEACONS AND EMERGING CHURCH, DEACONS AND THEIR IDENTITY/SPIRITUALITY.

FRONTIER MINISTRY & FIELD TRIPS: one to Narana Creations in Geelong, working with Aboriginal people on the interface with society.

BRENDA'S REFLECTIONS – as Convenor of NZ Diaconate Task Group

In New Zealand we see Presbyters moving into chaplaincies in tertiary institutions, hospitals and prison chaplaincies. Here Methodist Deacons are unable to fill these diaconal roles as there is lack of recognition from other denominations. They are also affected by the level of theological training that they receive and the inability of deacons to administer sacraments within their sphere of ministry.

Sadly we have those in ministry who choose to follow a diaconal ministry in community agencies resulting in their leaving the church. Deacons in the UCA have remained within the church. In comparison with the UCA model our Diaconate has been unable to attract candidates in its present form, and requires serious questions to be asked of the church.

At the conference I had the opportunity to speak to many individuals about their ministry and of their perceived strengths and weaknesses.

There are shortages of Ministers of the Word nationally in Australia. Deacons are appointed to positions in churches with responsibilities for congregations. This can work well when congregations are mission orientated and are seeking leadership and help in extending their ministry. Deacons spoke of the research that had been carried out in their areas, in response to the needs of the community.

From the identification of the needs, came the development of:

- friendship centres for people with disabilities,
- drop in centres,
- children's clubs,
- school holiday programmes
- other creative responses that I have spoken about previously in the report.

Deacons endeavour to maintain a focus on mission but some spoke of the difficulties they had in maintaining a diaconal focus and said there was a danger of the diaconate becoming 'domesticated'. Some Deacons who had not been stationed but were employed by government agencies, are recognised as fulfilling their diaconal ministry.

One Deacon moved from prison ministry to the area of restorative justice working for an agency. He continued to be recognised as a Deacon.

There were ten candidates attending the conference, (these people had been through a selection process and their training was being funded by UCA), they were at various stages of their theological education. All were aged under forty.

The conference and continuing education event highlighted for me the need we have in the Methodist Church in New Zealand to come once again to a time of renewal for the Diaconate in New Zealand. We have had no candidates applying for the Diaconate for a number of years. There are only 12 Deacons with active covenants in the church now; this is leading to a collapse of the present diaconate when the last of our Deacons retire.

The question I ask is: In this time of change in our society, can the church in its search for a new paradigm, overlook the order of Deacon?

Brenda Fawkner.

1st April 2004

NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Presidents Letter July - September 2004

“Time for Change.”

So often we want to ‘run away’ from Change, I wonder why? And yet we are changing all the time. Our circumstances are changing, in our families, in our churches, within ourselves, often it is the changes within our bodies and our health that precipitate change in other areas.

This is the time of year when changes occur within MWF. Are **YOU** feeling apprehensive about change? I am, and I am sure that Nelma your President elect has times of wondering, ‘What have I allowed myself to agree to!!’

Changes in your **Fellowships**. - I am aware that some Fellowships are no longer able to continue as they have done in the past, **BUT** many are asking to become Associate members. Please talk to your District President if you need to consider this step, it will enable **YOUR** President to support you.

Changes to **District Officers**. - It is recommended that Districts do follow the Constitution regarding the required Officers, **BUT** you should **ALL** have heard of the new word in **BOLD** in the proposed updated Constitution, this word is **FLEXIBILITY**. I have spoken at all the District Rally Days about this. There are Districts that I am aware of that are using some of the APW suggestions of having District Convenors; I feel that the minimum number of **District Officers is 2 BUT preferably 3**. You do **NEED a Convenor**, a **Treasurer** and if possible a **Secretary / Distributing Secretary**. It is **VERY** hard and **frustrating** for the National Executive as they try to ensure that important information reaches all the Districts. This is where communication can so easily break down and that is very sad.

National Level. - The end is in sight for this National Executive. Some Executive members will be happy to relinquish their responsibilities, but all of us will miss greatly the bond of Friendship we now enjoy. We have **worked very hard** for NZMWF. You may feel that you are a small cog in your Fellowship, but you need to be aware that you are one of **3,000 plus MWF** members within **New Zealand**, AND a special member among the **Millions** through the **WFM&UCW** worldwide. Every cog is **IMPORTANT!**

To conclude:

I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT YOURS.

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me what to what you will, rank me with whom you will, put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you, let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and whole heartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am your. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

The Methodist Covenant Service.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mary,

July 2004.

News from the President of the South Pacific Area of WFM&UCW.

Judith Parkes writes:

I recently returned from Australia having attended the National Celebration of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, (Australian equivalent to MWF) in Adelaide, South Australia. The theme was "Cloud of Witnesses." There were 150 members from across Australia present.

On the 3rd of August I leave for New York where I will be attending the Executive meeting of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. We are staying at Alma Matthews House and meet at the Church Centre for the United Nations. So we will be at the United Nations each day and on August the 6th we will be taken on a tour of the United Nations. We will be meeting with the Catholic and Jewish women who are also N.G.O's of the United Nations.

Susanne Paul is our worker at United Nations and will be our hostess. She chairs the committee on Global Aging and what is happening in this area worldwide. With my interest in Ministry to the Aged and Confused it is always good to hear from her regularly, and it will be special to be with her and attend her church on the Sunday.

We look forward to hearing more from Judith at Convention.

N.C.W. 5 cent Fund.? ? ? ?

How many members are remembering the 5 cent fund? Many are, but some Fellowships may have forgotten this important fund that helps with the running expenses of the National Office for the National Council of Women.

Each member is asked to donate 5 cents per year for this fund. This is a very little amount that we are asked for to maintain the office of a very important organization. NCW keeps the concerns of women before the government, and we in NZMWF, are a nationally organized member. The money is usually forwarded to NCW in May, but it is not too late to make payments even now, and for those of us who have forgotten, let us remember to give our monies this year and in the years to come.

Love-Gift Offering.

Has your Fellowship celebrated 40 years of MWF?

Do you remember that I spoke at all the Rally's about our Love Gift Offering Dream?

Why are we suggesting that Fellowships and Districts give thanks for all that MWF has been to them? – WELL,-The President's Overseas Travel Fund was almost completely empty when we took office in October 2002. In July 2006, Nelma Woodfield, our President-elect, will be the NZMWF Representative at the WFM&UCW world Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, the birthplace of the WFM&UCW. Let us make sure New Zealand is represented.

If you are able to support the Love-Gift Offering, please make sure your District Treasurer has the contribution before Convention so that it Can be dedicated at the Official Opening. Also please mark it clearly – "Love-Gift Offering." Remember this is not compulsory.

2004 – 2005 Special Project.

The work on the next Special Project is underway and your Missions Convenors are excited about our final choices. They hope you will be just as excited when you receive your "Packs" at Convention.

It was decided that it would be much more cost-effective to distribute the packs at the same time as the Launch takes place. We have also noted that most Fellowships do not get down to the business of fund-raising until early in the New Year. BUT do get stuck into reading the material supplied as soon as you get it, and be ready to bring the Special Project before your Districts, your Fellowships and your Parishes.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Convention 2004 draws near! We ask that you will remember your National Executive in your prayers as they prepare for this special time. Pray for us that we will make this a time of loving fellowship where all members of NZMWF feel valued and where our faith is fully shared.

Pray for Andrea Williamson as she prepares for the special Keynote times that set the focus for our Convention.

Remember our Local Arrangements Committee as they work so hard to make sure that the housekeeping runs smoothly.

And remember particularly Nelma Woodfield and her "Team" from Wellington who are preparing to take over the responsibility of National Executive in October.

From your Liaison Officer.

This year has lent itself to some significant events. Many Districts and local fellowships have enjoyed reminiscing about and celebrating the 40 years since the MWF was formed. What a memorable occasion it will be at Convention when members from all over New Zealand celebrate our Ruby anniversary at the formal dinner.

The Indian part of this years Special Project gave rise to some interesting ideas, - special meals, cooking demonstrations, instruction on wearing saris, displays of Indian dancing and typical Indian wares.

With the approach of the District Council AGM, some members will be stepping down from office and others taking up the challenge. For some Districts, finding leaders is a very big challenge but many have found innovative ways of coping. Districts cannot function without the loyalty and loving service of those who undertake office at District and Local levels. And behind and alongside each of those in leadership roles are the many faithful women who make up our membership.

Mail has been a little light these past few months but I am anticipating loads next month when we receive the Annual Reports.

Thank you for the District Histories received to date. You still have time to send yours for inclusion in this very important historic record of MWF.

News from the Districts!

Manukau: On their special day of remembrance and thanksgiving for 40 years of MWF, Manukau included a prayer from the Annual Report in August 1964 "...May we each go forward in faith and love, trusting God for all that is to come, assured that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. May His blessing rest on MWF. Let us witness for Him in our daily lives, that what we do and achieve may reflect His love, His power and His glory."

Waikato/Thames Valley: celebrated at St John's, Hamilton East with a programme of music, songs, reminiscences, a monologue about Albert at the zoo, delivered by a past National President dressed in a dark costume, fox fur, hat and gloves as our mothers may have worn to Fellowship 40 years ago.

Taranaki APW/MWF: will hold their celebrations in conjunction with their AGM in August. "It is requested that HAT and GLOVES be worn." Guest speakers will be Gladys Mead, a past National President of APW, and Joyce Dey, a past National President of MWF.

Manawatu/Wanganui: held a special meeting in June to meet President Mary following her time at Diaconate Convocation. **Wairarapa** were able to send some representatives to the luncheon.

Wanganui held a fashion show providing their own models for Ballentynes Fashions. This raised \$640.00 for the Special Project plus a further \$157 from the Sales Table. In the interval four members modeled fashions from the 1960's.

The President's Overseas Travel Fund and other interests will benefit from the \$413.00 raised through the distribution of colourful boxes to their congregations for direct donations. **Well done Wanganui!!**

Hawkes Bay: When President Mary was in the lower North Island in June, she was able to go through to Hawkes Bay. The Fellowships met in Napier and then Mary was able to meet with some Samoan members the next morning.

All the areas that were flooded or cut off in the February itinerary have now been visited. This has involved Districts arranging extra meetings. National Executive is most appreciative of all that has been done.

Wellington: While Mary was officially “off duty,” she was able to visit the Fellowship at Upper Hutt. – An older BUT growing group.

Nelson/Marlborough: celebrated the 40th Anniversary with lunch at the Strawbridge Café in Stoke. Fifty members and one associate had a happy time of fellowship, some members having not seen each other for some time. Charlotte Williams, as the oldest member had the privilege of cutting the Cake made by Mollie Bertram and iced by Alison Kane.

North & South Canterbury, Otago and Southland: all celebrated their 40 years at Rallies while Mary and I were in the South Island in May. All were wonderful occasions and we were honoured to be part of them.

Otago reports that with the closing of Trinity Church in Dunedin, almost 102 years of unbroken and outstanding service by generations of Trinity women has ended. On the 1st of September 1902 a Ladies Auxiliary of the Methodist Foreign Missions was formed. This was the precursor of the Methodist Women’s Missionary Union, and from 1964 MWF. **What a wonderful record Trinity.**

God’s richest blessings on each and every one!

Sincerely,

Joan Shaw.

N.B. “God doesn’t call the qualified, - He qualifies the called!”

Source unknown.

Smethurst

There have been a great many more applications for Smethurst Grants this year which leads us to believe that the new method of distributing the information is working well. A BIG “Thank you” to all District Secretaries and District Distributing Secretaries who have made sure every Parish is covered.

The next closing date for applications is October 20th 2004. This will be the last one for this year.

The 2005 Application Forms will be sent out in February next year.

ECUMENICAL NEWS & VIEWS

**WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL
P. O. Box 518
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 USA
828-456-9432 828-456-9433 (fax)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, USA
August 10, 2004

METHODIST PEOPLE ASKED TO PRAY FOR PEACE

Believers around the world who stand in the Methodist/Wesleyan heritage are urged to join the International Day of Prayer for Peace on September 21, 2004. His Eminence, Sunday Mbang, Prelate of the Methodist Church of Nigeria and Chairperson of the World Methodist Council, is calling on the people called Methodist to join the international community in praying for peace.

The International Day of Prayer for Peace is encouraged by the World Council of Churches, as well as the United Nations. Dr. Sam Kobia, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and a Kenyan Methodist pastor, indicates that the twenty-four hour observance is one way to combine the strength and witness of churches with the many forces in the international community which are striving to promote peace and justice in the world. Methodist leaders are asked to include prayers for peace in worship observances and prayer vigils on September 21, as well as the Sundays before and after the International Day of Prayer for Peace.

“The people called Methodist have always been people of prayer” according to Dr. George H. Freeman, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council. The Council has given the World Methodist Peace Award to twenty-two individuals and two groups since 1977 in recognition of contributions worldwide to peace and justice. The World Methodist Council is composed of 76 member Churches in more than 132 countries. The Methodist/Wesleyan family is in ministry that reaches 75 million persons worldwide.

“Praying for peace is one way that the people called Methodist combine their prayers and their voices with others who would ask God to bring a true and lasting peace to this world,” according to Dr. Freeman. The International Day of Prayer for Peace on September 21 calls on churches and ecumenical organizations at all levels to pray and work for peace, justice and reconciliation.

VACANCY – WANAGANUI PRISON CHAPLAIN

The Prison Chaplaincy Service of Aotearoa New Zealand is seeking a full time Chaplain to work alongside the Catholic Chaplain at Wanganui Prison.

The Ideal Applicant will have:

1. Proven pastoral experience, normally five years.
2. Relevant theological training.
3. Accreditation and recommendation by the applicant's denomination as a person qualified, experienced and suitable for the role of prison chaplain.
4. Cultural awareness and sensitivity to the religious, spiritual and pastoral needs of people in prison.
5. Ability to minister in a bi-cultural, cross-cultural and multi-cultural environment.
6. Ability to work as part of an interdenominational team ministry.
7. Ability to deliver services in a non-judgmental and impartial manner.
8. Ability to act with integrity at all times.
9. Good general health – sufficient to work within a secure and rugged prison environment.

For further details, job description and application forms contact the Executive Manager, David Connor

e-mail david@ pcsanz.org

phone 09 379 3018

PO Box 109516, Newmarket, Auckland 1031

Applications close 30th September 2004

The latest edition (July 2004) of "**Rural Network News**" is available at:

www.schoolofministry.ac.nz/RuralMinistry/

Chirnside McPhail Complex

48 Cannon Drive

Kerikeri 0470

Aotearoa New Zealand

64 9 401 7554 (phone)

64 9 401 7555 (fax)

027 419 0206 (mobile)

The Reverend Don Prince
Chaplain
Phone (03) 337 7899

The Princess Margaret Hospital
P O Box 731
Christchurch

CPE Opportunities in Christchurch, 2005

Two clinical Pastoral Education Programmes will be offered in the South Island during the year, 2005.

Programme One : **Christchurch**, March 21 to July 1
Extended (part-time) 400 hours (15 week) programme

Programme Two : **Dunedin**, August 16 to November 5
Full-time, 400 hours (11 week) programme

15 Week programme

Group work and seminars will occupy one day each week.

Clinical placements two days (16 hours) each week

Individual supervision, 1 hour each week

Personal reflection, reading, preparation, 4.5 hours each week.

11 Week programme

Group work and seminars will occupy two days each week.

Clinical placements will occupy two and one half days (20 hours) each week

Individual supervision 1 hour each week

Personal reflection, reading, preparation, 6 hours per week.

Clinical placements will be arranged with each student taking particular needs and experience into consideration.

There will be a limit of six students per supervisor.

For further information please contact:

Don Prince
15 Tivoli Place
Bishopdale
Christchurch 8005

Phone (03) 352 4194
Fax (03) 352 4196



Churches' Agency on Social Issues (Methodist, Presbyterian, Churches of Christ, Quakers)

Minimal legislation needed

CASI has asked Parliament not to proceed with the Foreshore and Seabed legislation at the present time, but to engage in further discussion and consultation.

'We urge Government to ensure that any legislation is the minimum required to deal with immediate and particular issues, including those of inalienability and public access,' CASI's submission recommended.

'Our central concern is to prevent this issue from causing significant harm to race relations in Aotearoa-New Zealand,' said CASI member David Simmers, speaking to the submission before the Parliamentary Select Committee on Fisheries and other Sea-related Legislation. He referred to the recent hikoi as an indication of distrust, engendered by Maori rights being legislated away over more than a hundred years, and warned that 'we are in danger of adding to that legacy.'

'There is a lot of goodwill between the races in this country, but our trust in each other is not robust enough to withstand major setbacks,' he said.

CASI Methodist member Ken Rae, speaking to the Committee, outlined three ways of handling the immediate issue: joint control and management of defined areas (as has been developed for Bastion Point and Lake Taupo), recognition of customary title subject to public rights including access, and not able to be privately sold; and increasing the tools available to the Maori Land Court so that it can recognise a range of rights in addition to fee simple ownership.

In the longer term, Government should be committing to a longer conversation with Maori and others about available options, and ways of protection the mana of an iwi which

would confirm Maori customary ownership while providing for joint management and control, CASI said.

'An understanding and social compact which emerged from such discussions could then be given appropriate legislative expression, while local discussions about specific issues continued. Discussions between people who know and meet each other regularly are likely to be more open and committed to reaching a consensus, rather than the posturing and rigidity that can occur when issues are considered only in general nationwide terms.'

For the full submission, see the CASI website www.casi.org.nz.

What CASI is working on

- The Social Issues Resource Kit is being printed and will be available for distribution in September.
- A brief guide to the local body elections in October should be completed by the beginning of September.
- A paper exploring the issues around the possible repeal of S.59 of the Crimes Act (permitting 'reasonable force' in disciplining children) is in preparation.
- Our website is continually updated (once or twice a week at least) these days. Following our development of a special section on civil unions, with resources and comment, daily traffic trebled the day the legislation was introduced to Parliament.
- New resources are now being considered. Let us know the topics YOU would find material for study and discussion useful to have.

No more swearing

CASI feels that the current practice of 'swearing an oath' on certain formal occasions should be retained, but that the words and the options should be changed.

The language of "swearing" an "oath" is not very meaningful in today's world. Words such

as “solemnly and sincerely promise and declare” are more likely to convey the intended meaning, CASI said in a recent submission on the Review of Oaths and Affirmations. ‘We feel it is undesirable to have multiple forms of oath, one for people who believe in God and a different one for others. It is not symbolically helpful, when common civic duties are the issue, to needlessly call attention to the differences which exist among New Zealanders but which do not affect the matter in hand,’ we said in our submission. .

‘Many church people have some uneasiness about the inclusion of a religious dimension in the administering or taking of oaths.

‘They are mindful of Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:34-37, with some (including the Quakers) feeling that this prohibits oath-taking. Others feel perhaps that people could do well to be reminded of God’s presence in some solemn situations. But while this may be relevant for those to whom God is a reality, it has little or no meaning for others. If anything, it is likely to project an image of God as essentially judgmental, which from our Christian point of view is seriously misleading.’

Around the country

From Pharmac to prostitution

Beryl Paine reports that the **Community Concerns group at Stoke Methodist Church** has had a productive few months. They have made submissions on the Right to Education (the Human Rights paper) and on the Work/Life Balance consultation run by the Department of Labour. Locally, they’ve had input to the Nelson City Council by-law on the advertising of commercial sexual service. They

are currently supporting an attempt to have Rilutek, a life-extending drug for people with motor neurone disease, placed on the Pharmac subsidy list. Then they move on to study of the draft New Zealand Housing Strategy with a view to making a submission.

Pokies don’t always rule

Taking on the power of the pokies, **Margaret Harvey of Northcote (Auckland)** made a submission on the city’s Draft Gambling Venue policy and fronted up in person to a Regulatory Committee hearing. Despite the low turn-out of Councillors (5 instead of the promised 15), she found it valuable to be able to speak directly to those making policy and to emphasise how much material is available on the social impact of gambling (despite claims to the contrary). ‘The fact that the Council is not allowing any increase in gaming machines on the North Shore means, I feel, that something has been achieved,’ she said.

From **Christchurch**, **Brian Turner** reports on the East Christchurch Justice Forum, which three local Catholic parishes have formed and which has broadened to include the New Brighton Union Parish and other interested parties. (more from bhturner@paradise.net.nz)

(Extended versions of these and other stories appear in the August edition of Broadsheet, CASI’s bimonthly print and web publication. Get your own copy by email or post – contact casi@casi.org.nz, or download from www.casi.org.nz)