

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

Contents:

MAY 2004

President's Message _____	Page 2
Vice President's Message _____	Page 3
Hikoi – Press Statement from the President _____	Page 4
Connexional Bits ‘n Pieces _____	Page 5
News From Around the Connexion _____	Page 6
Ecumenical News and Views _____	Page 23
Methodist Mission & Ecumenical _____	Page 29

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last month I have been in some interesting places and met interesting people. With the Tumuaki, I attended the Methodist Consultative Council of the Pacific, meeting this year in Apia. More recently, I participated in the opening of the Meadowlands Methodist Community Church and in the 150th anniversary of the Papanui Church.

This past week, Wesley Church in Taranaki St hosted hikoi participants – from the far north and from Dunedin. The offering of hospitality was one way of demonstrating solidarity. With other Wellington Methodists, I joined the hikoi as it moved through the city to parliament. It was a profoundly moving experience.

On a personal note, there was much rejoicing at the birth of my first grandchild, Ruby, on Good Friday. You may wonder what connection there is between all these events, apart from my involvement.

In all there is a common thread about identity, belonging, and relationship.

In any family, a birth or a death, a relationship commitment, or a separation, all touch on those fundamental questions of identity and relationship. With the birth of a first grandchild, I have found, family dynamics have changed, and different generations take on new roles. Family history and context gain new significance.

In the church events, there was reflection on what it means to be Methodist in various locations at this time in history. It seems to me that “being Methodist” is as freely interpreted as is the biblical tradition, and is heavily dependent on history, context, and personal experience. All of that will influence how we engage compassionately with the people we encounter.

While the hikoi was a response to proposed legislative changes to do with customary rights and legal recourse, with particular reference to the foreshore and seabed, the questions of identity, rights, and belonging are inherent in all the debates. History and context help us to understand the issues before us. Personal experience frequently determines the nature of our response.

In any situation or context there is always some tension between the personal and the communal, particularly when human rights, justice and peace are at stake. Much in Christian tradition seeks to address the wellbeing of both individual and community. I am reminded that, when one part of the body is hurt, then the whole suffers. Surely this is as true of our country as it is of any faith community.

Lynne

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

We opened a new Church this week in the town where I grew up and still live. The Meadowlands Methodist Community Church now has a permanent home. It was great to see the young people perform a dance and tell their testimony in a natural and unflustered way. Diana Tana and John Murray were there representing the partnership as it's two leaders, and along with Jill Van de Geer reminded us all that there is a face to the "connexion", and it is not a "thing" that just exists in some office in Christchurch. Other connexional leaders were there officially as guests, but I felt that we were all accepted as just part of the family in that place. Thank you Meadowlands for the warm welcome on what was a wet and windy Auckland day. New beginnings, like baptisms, confirmations and weddings make it good to be Methodist, Christian and alive.

The hikoi this last couple of weeks is a reminder of the deep feelings people have when they feel aggrieved. Whatever your thoughts are on the seabed and foreshore issue I hope you have been able to pray for those who are hurting and striving to be heard. We are lucky to be in a land in which people are able to protest and are able to take their hurts or losses to all our courts, including parliament, in order to seek justice. That right must be defended at all costs. For the trampling of one person's rights without the opportunity to be heard and seek redress, is the beginning of the end for all who are not powerful and in the minority. I hope and pray that our Church will defend the rights of all people to be heard no matter what their view is. We have a proud history as a defender of the poor and least in our society and a movement that works for change to better those people's lives.

The lectionary is moving through the story of the formation of the early Church at the moment and I am picking up the calls for unity and acceptance of all people who come to God, no matter what race and creed they come from. As an inclusive Church we hold a number of members from all sectors of the faith continuum. As part of an increasingly culturally diverse country we are also holding an increasing representation of the world's peoples. Let us start to listen to each other more and take the best of what is on offer to make our Church the best it can possibly be. Let's not wait for a hikoi or a radical speechmaker to wake us up to the tensions that may exist in our congregations.

David

PRESS STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METHODIST PRESIDENT SAYS PEOPLE BEFORE SHEEP

“I am dismayed that Prime Minister Helen Clark puts a sheep before people,” says Dr Lynne Frith, President of the Methodist Church in New Zealand, Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

“The government is undoubtedly under huge pressure over the proposed foreshore and seabed legislation. However, to call Maori and Pakeha who are participating in the hikoi “haters and wreckers” is an extreme response.

“I, along with many other Pakeha who are concerned at the direction of the proposed legislation, will be joining the hikoi tomorrow.

“Methodists recognize the special concerns and interests of iwi Maori regarding the customary use and protection of the seabed and foreshore. We regard the issue as a vital one for continuing healthy relationships between the Tangata Whenua and Taiwi, who together make up this nation.

“I urge the Prime Minister and cabinet, who frequently claim to be wanting the best for all New Zealanders, to receive the hikoi with at least the same good humour and generosity of spirit displayed towards ‘Shrek’ the sheep.”

Rev Dr Lynne Frith

President, Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa

Contact details:

Ph: (04) 384 7695

Fax: (04) 382 9708

Email: gen.wesley@clear.net.nz

Lynne:

Cell: 021 677 467

CONNEXIONAL BITS 'N PIECES

METHODIST PROVIDENT SOCIETY GRANTS

The Methodist Provident Society is now inviting applications for grants which will be able to be distributed after the 2004 Methodist Church conference. There are two categories of grants – grants of a general nature and grants that are for new developments

Application forms can be obtained from the Administration Division of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, P.O. Box 931 Christchurch. The application forms invite the telling of stories about the projects for which assistance is sought and the applier should share their dreams and aspirations.

Application Forms have to be signed by a member of the Provident Society, and must be received by the Executive Officer of the Provident Society, Ruth Le Couteur, by the 31st July.

Decisions regarding the grants will be made at the Annual meeting of the Society on Wednesday 8th September at Morley House, Latimer Square, Christchurch commencing at 7p.m.

LECTIONARY

Order Forms for the 2004/2005 Lectionary are being posted to the Connexion this week. If you don't receive a form and would like to order a Lectionary please contact Viki on (03) 366 6049 or email vikif@methodist.org.nz and a form will be sent to you. These are free to Presbyters and Parishes. Individuals can purchase a copy at a cost of \$2.50 (includes GST + postage)

INFORMATION LEAFLETS

Information Leaflet No. 160 – Health & Safety in Employment is now on the website www.methodist.org.nz

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION

WESLEY CENTRE, BLENHEIM



CONGRATULATIONS!

During March 2004 three couples from Wesley Centre, Blenheim celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries.

They are (*from left to right*) John and Joy Bush, David and Margaret Stubbs, Jack and Doreen Soar.

ROSEMOUNT METHODIST CHURCH, MURCHISON

Celebrating it's 90th Anniversary

Sunday 23rd May 2004

Rosemount Methodist Church will be celebrating its' 90th Anniversary with a Celebration Service followed by lunch and time for reminiscing.

All former members and ministers will be most welcome.

For further details and registrations please contact:

Mrs Margaret Rouse, Canton Road, Murchison, 7191 (ph 03 523 9067)



DARGAVILLE METHODIST CIRCUIT

Celebrating 125 years

Queens Birthday Weekend 2004

Celebrations are being planned for Queen's Birthday weekend, June 2004. We would like to hear from Ministers, Deaconesses, Lay preachers, Choir persons, Organists and any other past congregation members interested in attending.

Contact:

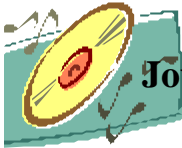
Caroline Cornor, 19 Montgomery Avenue, Dargaville

Email: cornor@clear.net.nz (subject line 125 yr Celebrations)

WESLEY CHURCH, TARANAKI ST
125TH Anniversary
26th & 27th March 2005

Wesley Church, Taranaki Street, Te Aro, Wellington are holding celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of the opening of the present Wesley Church building on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th (Easter) March 2005.

To be informed of further details please contact the Church office, PO Box 6133, Marion Sq. Wellington. Phone (04) 384 7695 or e-mail gen.wesley@clear.net.nz.



Journey On – a CD resource for Christian Funerals

Recently launched - *Journey On* - a CD resource for Christian Funerals

The double CD contains 13 organ accompaniments to traditional hymn tunes frequently used at funerals and 13 contemporary songs also suitable for this purpose. *Journey On* is designed for ministers to lend to families to aid the selection of music for congregational singing at a funeral service.

All verses of the hymns are recorded in the event that the CD is used in the service in place of an organist. The newer songs have solo vocalists so that the listener can hear a full version of the music. There is a full set of words in a separate booklet to go with the CD. Owners of an original copy will be given permission to reproduce a limited number of CDs and word booklets for distribution to families so that they always have a copy on hand.

Journey On is a project of the Waikato Waiariki Methodist Synod.

Copies are available from Bonnie Heberton bonhomie@clear.net.nz for \$30 + GST + \$2.40 postage

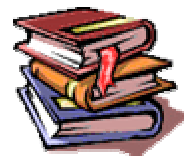
“Life at Depth”
by Rob Ferguson

An exploration of Spirituality.

Drawing on 25 years experience as Presbyterian and as a Clinical Worker in men’s programmes in the community, this book explores three facets of how we might learn to make meaning in our lives. Using autobiography as a tool, the reader is invited into a conversation, with themselves and with others. This is not a book about religion, or particular forms of spirituality.

The book is available from the publisher,

Rafter Productions
PO Box 28 010
Beckenham
Christchurch.



Or by emailing the author at fergies@paradise.net.nz

Price: \$20.00, plus \$2.00 p&p

THE CHURCH ADDICTION TEST [part 2]

From Convenor, Communications Committee, David Bush

Top 20 Positive Discoveries Thriving Churches Have Made

Compare these top 20 positive discoveries with the foregoing shocking truths that reveal your institutional church addictions. Then discern your areas of greatest difficulty or opportunity for church transformation.

1. Transformed adults (ages 18-40) are the future of your church.

Adults who are changed, gifted, called, and equipped will take care of the kids—and everything else!

2. Everybody wants to be touched by the healing power of God.

The publics of North America are desperate to be changed, different, and liberated from their hurts and addictions.

3. Churches that provide, multiple opportunities for intimacy are the new "species."

People want to go beyond the coffee um to bare their souls with a deeply trusted few.

4. God expects every Christian to be on a constant crusade for excellence.

Training one's God-given gifts to a high standard of performance is both fulfilling and effective.

5. Most people like contemporary music with strong melody and lots of rhythm.

Percussion, guitar, creative instrumentations, and small group ensembles get people's attention.

6. Sound debt management is the key to thriving church development.

People multiply their investments in clearly beneficial missions and are motivated to assume the debts of mission-driven institutions.

7. Streamlined, high-trust organisations grow churches.

Church management is best done by a trusted, gifted, and equipped few.

8. What matters most of all is how people feel following the worship service.

People want to "feel better" or "feel healthier" for worship, and be motivated to learn and serve through the week.

9. It is the pastoral leader's job to train gifted laity in pastoral care.

Clergy are trainers, motivators, and visionaries who equip others to do ministries.

10. It is the volunteers' business to actually do ministry.

Every layperson is called to discover and exercise the spiritual gifts God has given.

11. Participation in any aspect of congregational life and mission is everything.

Hands-on mission work and involvement in ministry is more meaningful than mere belonging.

12. If you want action, find a gifted and called individual and turn that person loose.

Trained laity, who are free to take initiative, will find whatever help they need.

13- Self-affirmation is the right message.

People seeking self-worth give generously to express and celebrate their inner value.

14- Christ is that revelation of the Trinity which directly addresses transformation.

The church best engages the public when they talk about their experience of Jesus Christ.

15. People on the fringe of church life are key to discerning the future.

Biblical visions are most often perceived by those who have been marginalized-

16. Small groups are the cornerstone of Christian education.

Groups in any configuration, meeting during the week in homes, promote Christian growth.

17. Finance and administration leaders talk mostly about mission.

Church boards only exist to empower people to walk in mission with the risen Lord.

18. People make time to deepen self-awareness and exercise spiritual gifts.

In the rat race of daily life, people will take the time to do things that are really meaningful.

19. The anticipation of the unpredictable is the art of thriving church life.

Spontaneity, flexibility, and planned stress management are part of authentic visions.

20. Motivating visions are always a "Song in the Heart."

They are best shared without words, to get the blood of church participants and utter strangers pounding.

Adding Up Your Addictions and Counting Your Opportunities

Add your scores in each of the following areas. Higher numbers indicate areas where you will find it difficult to understand or implement change.

Lower numbers indicate possible "entry points" to initiate church transformation. Remember that the statements overlap, because from one direction or another, sooner or later, transformation touches the whole system of church life.

****SMETHURST TRUST FUND REMINDER****

The next final date to receive applications is: **20TH JUNE 2004**

Mary West 8 Sherwood Drive Hamilton
ph 07 8505711 email mary@west.net.nz

President Lynne and Alan and Kerry Upson, welcomed their first grandchild, Ruby Astrid, daughter of Katherine and Alistair Ravenswood, born on Good Friday.



Please remember in your Prayers the families of ...

Mrs Lilian Silvester, widow of the late Rev John Silvester M.A. Fellow of Trinity College, died at Middlemore Hospital on Thursday 22 April 2004, following a short illness.

Linda Uasi, wife of Rev Langi'ila Uasi and mother of their three sons, passed away on Saturday 24 April after a long illness.

Gwen Petch, wife of the late Rev Ashleigh K Petch, died peacefully on Sunday 2 May.

From the Archives ...

In 1902, when a new General Secretary was to be elected by Conference, there were three nominations of men to succeed Dr William Morley - Henry Bull, William Lee and William Parsonson. The following poem was written for the occasion.

"The Doctor's Boots..."

They were very large and roomy
And he had worn them long,
They were still of some importance
For they were always strong.

But at last he had to leave them
For the Court had ordered so,
And we wondered who would wear them
Now the Doctor had to go.

Now the most of us were Britons,
And of course that gave a pull
To a fine and worthy fellow
Whom we knew as "Brother Bull."

But he said he didn't want them
For it wasn't worth his while
To endure the 'Slings and Arrows'
Which were always quite a pile.

But those Boots are rather large ones
And won't fit every one.
Yet we saw another Candidate
In a little Parson's Son.

And when he put his feet in them
He went really out of sight.
And then another suggested one
To fill them stiff and tight.

So another had a try on,
And the Conference in glee
Cried "Oh William! they might fit you
Were you but a little More Lee."

And at last the Vote was taken
In a session packed quite full,
But the other men were nowhere,
And the boots passed on to "Bull".

And we wish him strength to wear them
For many. many days.
May the "Slings and Arrows" vanish
To unbounded honest praise.

The Rev H. Bull - With the Author's Compliments - J. Ellis.

Found in the Archives

Marcia Baker

Methodist Kids' Create a bookmark Challenge

Attention Youth and Sunday School Leaders

We have had positive feedback from the Methodist Kids' Art Exhibition and calendar publication. The Ministry with Children's Work Group wants to build on the enthusiasm and success of that venture through a bookmark challenge.

8 bookmarks will be selected for printing and be sold to promote the partnership of Children and the Church. Other entries will be given to delegates attending the New Zealand Methodist Conference in November. It is hoped that those printed will be used by churches to pass out to Sunday School children, children visiting your church, and/or to encourage children to join the Church Group.

- Criteria:
- a) Theme – Children n' Church or a relevant bible verse
 - b) Ages – 4-14 (individuals)
 - c) Format – 55mm x 200mm, on lightweight white card. The design is to include a 5-10mm white border around the outside edge.
 - d) Bookmark can be a 2D artwork or computer designed. Winning computer designed artwork will be printed from disk so entrants will need to save their bookmark designs until certificates have been issued.
 - e) Closing date for entries 8th July 2004
 - f) Entries to be initialled by artist and accompanied by a completed entry form.
 - g) Please provide cardboard support within the appropriate sized envelope (do not fold)
 - h) Entry forms should be signed by a parent or guardian to confirm that it is the child's own work.

Entries to
Jeanette Boddy
36 Argyle Ave
Palmerston North

Children whose bookmarks are selected for printing will be notified by mail. All entries will receive a certificate.

It is envisaged that the selection and printing of bookmarks will be completed by October. Bookmark order forms will be available in Touchstone and printed bookmarks will be available for sale at Conference 2004.

Please distribute accompanying flyers and entry forms to interested children. (Photocopy extras, if necessary.) .

Methodist Kids' Create a Bookmark Challenge
"Children n' Church"

Entry form

Name:

Address:

.....

Age:

Church:

Synod District:

Verse, slogan or description of Bookmark:

.....

.....

I agree that my Bookmark submission may be published and distributed by the Methodist Church of New Zealand for publication.

Parent/Guardian Signature to confirm it is the child's own work:

8 selected bookmarks will be printed and made available for sale. Entries will be given to conference delegates to promote the Churches ministry for children.

Entries to: Jeanette Boddy
36 Argyle Ave
Palmerston North

**Tauiwi Youth Group
Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa**

Last year a group of people representing the various cultural groups of our church came together to discuss national youth ministry in the Methodist Church of New Zealand. Out of this meeting, a recommendation was made to establish a Tauiwi Youth group that is representative of the different cultural and regional groups of our church. The represented groups include Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Rotuma, Korea, and English speaking. The Tauiwi Youth group will gather at least once a year to continue exploring a vision for young people that includes the cultural dynamics of resourcing and supporting Tauiwi youth ministry in te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

The first meeting is scheduled for the 14 – 16 May 2004 in Auckland. The weekend meeting expenses will be covered by the youth budget of the Methodist church. This includes travel, accommodation and meals.

The following tasks for the Tauiwi Youth group were also discussed at the September meeting – these will be explored further at the May meeting this year:

1. To offer support to the National Tauiwi Resource Person Youth.
This support includes providing feedback and assessment, help to prioritise and set goals, advocacy. Regular face-to-face contact.
2. Visioning projects for Tauiwi youth and feeding ideas back to Tauiwi Resource Person Youth. Ensuring dreams become concrete reality.
3. Carrying out tasks delegated by Tauiwi Resource Person Youth.
4. Providing a communication network:
 - a) between members
 - b) within Tauiwi youth
 - c) to the wider churchand producing distributing a written communication/magazine.
5. Resourcing/ informing and empowering regional/local youth workers and leaders.
6. Ensuring smaller, less powerful groups are included and heard.
7. Report to the annual Methodist Conference.

What you are required to do as an English speaking representative:

1. Attend all Tauiwi Youth group meetings.
2. Prepare and present reports (where possible and appropriate) for the Tauiwi Youth group meetings and for English speaking District Synods.
3. Communicate regularly with:
 - a. members of Tauiwi Youth group
 - b. regional youth workers in English speaking districts
 - c. English speaking youth

If you are thinking about being an English-speaking representative on this group, please consider the following questions:

- Are able to be committed for more than 1 year?
- Are you confident?
- Are you in touch with English-speaking:
 - Are you able to articulate your opinions?
 - Do you have youth ministry leadership experience?
- Do you have a passion for youth ministry?
- Are you committed to the development of young people in te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa?
- Are you willing to learn and experience new things?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then that’s a good start! Write a paragraph or two about yourself. Include why you would like to be an English speaking representative on the Tauiwi Youth group, and also the skills and qualities you believe you have to offer the group. Forward this to your regional youth worker or to the Tauiwi Resource Person Youth: Fuailalagi Samoa Saleupolu, Private Bag 11903, Ellerslie, Auckland City or taiwiyouth.Methodist@paradise.net.nz by Monday 3 May 2003.

MISSION RESOURCING

Private Bag 11903, Ellerslie – 409 Great South Road, Penrose, Auckland
Phone (09) 525 4179 – Fax (09) 525 4346 – email: Methodist@kcbbs.gen.nz

Mission Resourcing has a variety of resources to help parishes plan well for the future:

Are you thinking of having a Parish review or a goal setting day for your congregation?
Not sure where to start or what sort of process to follow?

Written booklets:

Mission Resourcing can provide your parish or district with written guidelines for ministry reviews as well as comprehensive outlines for a goal setting day which include plenty of creative exercises you can easily adapt to your particular needs.

If you would like copies, or more information, please contact Alison Molineux at the Great South Road offices on (09) 5719148 or email the 2als@xtra.co.nz

People resources:

I am also able to lead workshops with your parish or district on, for example, how to create constructive processes which help congregations to move forward.

Alternatively I am available to (co-)facilitate reviews or goal setting days.

Mission Resourcing also offers workshops on developing facilitation skills and consensus decision making.

For any of these workshops the parish is asked to cover my travel costs.

Feedback and resource sharing:

Many of you will already have been involved in successful and creative parish planning exercises. I would be delighted if you passed these resources on to me with a view of making them available to the wider Connexion (suitably acknowledged of course)

One such exercise that I have found works well in a variety of congregational settings is the **“treasure in clay pots”** exercise.

Sometimes using a metaphor helps a group detach themselves enough from the feelings/tensions around the question “who are we now as a congregation” so that they come up with an answer that is both more honest and more “fruitful”

One such metaphor, with a Biblical basis is “treasure in clay pots” (2 Corinthians 4:7-9)

Assemble a collection of containers from the beautiful to the purely functional; china through to plastic and paper. Include those that are chipped or otherwise less than perfect. Think outside the square: cans of baked beans, batteries and boxes of matches are all containers and powerful metaphors, as are rubbish bins!

Invite people to choose one that in some way speaks to them about how they are as a congregation. Share responses. Facilitator jots down all qualities mentioned. Time to look at the responses and reflect.

People can then be invited to choose, or draw etc., a container that represents something of how they would wish the congregation to be. Again the responses are shared and reflected on.

A useful story to end this exercise is: The Indian Water Carrier (anonymous folk tale)

A water bearer had two large pots. Each pot hung on the end of a pole that he carried across his neck. One pot was perfect, but the other was cracked. Every day the water bearer filled the pots from the stream and carried them to the master's house.

A full portion of water was delivered from the perfect pot, but only a half portion of water arrived from the leaky, cracked pot. That continued for two years.

The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. After all, it was performing perfectly—doing exactly what it was created to do. But the cracked pot became more and more discouraged and ashamed of its imperfection. It seemed it was only fulfilling half of what it had been created to do.

Eventually, the cracked pot apologized to the water bearer. "Because of my flaws, you have had to do extra work and you have not received full value from your efforts." The water bearer was sympathetic but responded only by saying, "As we walk to the master's house today, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

As they made their way up the hill, the cracked pot took notice of the beautiful wildflowers on one side of the path and was cheered somewhat. The despondency returned, however, as they came to the end of the trail and it was evident that half the water supply had leaked out once again.

But the water bearer spoke to the cracked pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other side? That's because I have always known your flaw and took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. You have watered them every day while we walk from the stream. For two years now, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers and decorate the master's table. If you were any different from the way you are, he would not have had this beauty to grace his home."

What other types of resourcing would benefit your parish?

Please let me know of other areas of parish life where you feel mission resourcing could be offering written and people resources. Or perhaps of an area in which you have developed resources that could be more widely used.

I see one of my tasks this year as highlighting the depth and variety of resources and resource people out there that people throughout the Connexion can call on. Each of us is part of that.

Alison Molineux,
Resource Person, Mission Resourcing



METHODIST FIJI-INDIAN FELLOWSHIP

26 DENBIGH AVENUE
MT ROSKILL
AUCKLAND 1004 NEW ZEALAND

Telephone 64 9 6205677
Fax 64 9 3732444

FIJI FLOODS APPEAL

Due to the recent flood and storm devastations in Fiji, many families have damaged homes, belongings and are without food.

The Methodist Fiji-Indian Fellowship has launched an appeal in New Zealand to raise money and send it to our Church authorities in Fiji so that basic food items and clothing could be purchased and delivered urgently to the needy families. Your generous assistance with the above appeal would be greatly appreciated.

All donations should be made and sent to:

Methodist Fiji-Indian Fellowship
c/- Balchand Karan
26 Denbigh Avenue
Mt Roskill
Auckland 1004

Phone: (09) 6205677

Email: balkaran@ihug.co.nz

Or deposited directly into our ANZ Bank, St Luke's Branch, Auckland

Account No. 010 142 006 3859-50

Yours sincerely

BALCHAND KARAN
Co-ordinator

April 2004

Dear Friends

Thank you for the steady supply of goods with which we have been able to continue forwarding cartons to the Helena Goldie Hospital; the schools and the Women's Fellowships. Such is the spread out nature of the Islands we have attempted to get as even a distribution as possible by addressing boxes to each parish. In a letter we received back a minister thanks us for a typewriter. We have more typewriters on hand that could be sent but for the lack of new ribbons. Note, **Desk typewriters** are too heavy to pack. Also, **electronic typewriters**, can't be used through lack of electricity in most villages.

We pack a box for a village school centred around about 30 reading books for their library. School Journals aimed at the lower Primary age using words and pictures are excellent, as are those graded through to upper primary. Our thanks to those who buy exercise books, pencils, biros, rulers etc. As available we also pack in ½ a ream of copy paper. National Geographics are excellent for the teacher to read and describe to the children.

Women's Fellowships appreciate the variety of materials and craft goods they can turn into useful and beautiful articles. In both Bougainville and the Solomon's it has been the women's groups that initiate peace moves and go a long way towards holding their society together and in Bougainville help rehabilitate youths involved in the killings.



Medical Aid Abroad centred in Green Lane Hospital have used us to move medicines and equipment to Helena Goldie Hospital, Sasamunga Hospital and Seghe Health Centre. Manufacturers usually stipulate a 2 year use by date. The USA Army checked up on this and found it was costing them unnecessary mega-bucks as many medications remain potent for 9 years. Mission doctors will in any case double check on their quality.

Most of the used clothes sent to the hospitals are for their gala sales. It is appreciated if you hold **heavy clothes** for your op shop. They may be comfortable in a 16C summer day in Dunedin but are unwearable in the Solomon's humid climate at 6 degrees from the equator.

Seghe Seminary have an intake of about 60 men and women. Most are there to receive training as lay pastors and just a few are chosen to go on to higher training. Bibles in today's English and William Barclay's commentaries are very suitable. Books of theology and pre-20th century bible translations are of little use. We spread **McDonald's** toys in the odd corners in most cartons.

*Please have **couriered goods** addressed to our home address at:*

12 Melandra Road
Whangaparaoa 1463
Email phildavinia@paradise.net.nz
Phone 09 424 3059



Gifts of cash be made out to Helena Goldie Hospital and sent to Rev John Roberts whose address is:

24 MacLaurin St, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland 1007

This money is being used to build improved living quarters for the top trained staff, such as Chris Leve. John, as secretary for Methodist Mission and Ecumenical, produces a monthly broadsheet that is full of up-to-date news on the state of play in Church and Community in the Solomon's and because of his appointment to WCC, the wider ecumenical happenings. He is happy to supply you with this material through email. His email address is: mm-e@clear.net.nz

Our drop off point in Papakura from towns south of Auckland is:

16 Liverpool St

at the home of Alex and Kath Smith. Leave the Southern motorway at the Papakura turnoff and proceed towards the Great South Rd, and straight through the second lights. Liverpool St is the first on your right. Leave on their front porch.

Note our Mission Secretaries have new addresses. The Rev Andrew Bell of Presbyterian Global Missions is to be found at *St Heliers Presbyterian Church, St Heliers Bay Rd.*

The movement of the Peace Keeping Forces into the Solomon's has many major benefits: inter-island commerce can flourish; the former high-flying criminals are being apprehended; the N.Z. defense force have built a new police station at Munda. But the N.Z. and Australian policy makers appear determined to undermine internal commerce by opening up these islands to the global economy. That means import taxes on goods coming in are reduced and much cheaper goods displace what is produced locally. Tariffs at the moment are a main source of government income. Are the Solomon's condemned to being even more dependent on overseas aid as inter-village trade is undercut? Sad if this is the case!

Shalom

Phil & Davinia Taylor

12 Melandra Road,
Whangaparaoa 1463

Phone: 09 424 3059

Email: phildavinia@paradise.net.nz

The Rev Aaron Bea of Munda is revising the Roviana Old Testament. He wants to up-date his Gestetner Duplicator with a model 400 or 420. Can you help? If so, please contact us. We need only one but we do need many stencils that are no longer being used.

**FRIENDS of
HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL
MUNDA
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Letter No. 114 June 2004

NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Presidents Letter April-June 2004

HOPE

Make our hope, loving God, as tall as the faith of Christ and as deep as his love. Keep us **amazed** in a stable, **adoring** beneath a cross, and **jubilant** by an empty tomb. With such a hope possessing us, let us serve you boldly, efficiently and merrily, for your love's sake.

From Australian Prayers by Bruce D Prewer

Sharing Faith and Fellowship

Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them.

Yes --where 2 or 3 MWF members are gathered together MWF is still alive and well. I have had proof of that in the past 2 months.

Numbers are not the most important part of a Fellowship. However, so often that is our perception, and as numbers dwindle the often too easy option is to say, 'We are too few, too old, let us go into recess'.

Is that what you **REALLY** want? Sometimes the answer is No, but what else can we do?

Please do not feel that your small fellowship must close because it is no longer able to find officers or can raise huge funds for the Special Project.

Focus on the positives and that is **Sharing your Faith and your Fellowship**. MWF has been the central place for friendship and fellowship for so many Methodist women for a very long time and I encourage you to continue.

What can you do?? It's all right for me to sit at my computer writing this but it may not actually 'touch' your situation. I will try to give some ideas and suggestions you may like to try.

Can you persuade a member to make minimal notes of attendance,- note any finance changes. -Look at the time or place of meeting; try something new. eg. Meet in a member's home, take your lunch, spend time **TOGETHER** -maybe pray, this is a real gift that older members have, 'the Time to Pray'. Above all **ENJOY** your friends, and focus less on what you have done in the past, but enjoy the **NOW**.

I have had wonderful experiences as I have visited many Districts, who have graciously welcomed myself and either Catherine Dickie or Joan Shaw.

I have met amazing MWF members at individual Fellowship meetings and District Rally days, but the women that have made real impact have been the past members, some now physically not able to attend MWF. I have been to visit a variety of Rest Homes/ Hospitals and those who still maintain their independence in their own homes.

I do have a **request** though!! Every one of the past members that I visited made me feel very humble as they thanked me for visiting them. **PLEASE** wherever possible can the members who arranged for me to meet these women ensure that those women that are able to read the President's letter do receive a copy. I don't recall that any of these women regularly get MWF news and they are interested. **THANK YOU**.

The 40 years celebrations of MWF are varied and exciting.

I have been very interested at the different ways in which Districts spend the precious time at Rally days. These vary from **NO** business to **LIMITED** business to **VERY** business focused.

I know that what suits one District is not right for all, **BUT** what is the purpose of District or Rally Days?? It was great to be a part of a 'country day' **MWF has very creative leadership**.

I have been asked how do we encourage the younger women of the Church/ Community to join? I do not have the answers, BUT here are some thoughts-

- What does the name of your Fellowship conjure up? I have met groups called Anna, Ruth and Rebecca, how about a group that is called **Leg's** Ladies Evening Group then again Guild. Perhaps you may choose to use the name of your suburb. MWF unfortunately often seems to be thought of as the Fellowship for the older women of our congregations. Let us change that.
- Do you plan for several months in advance and **INVITE** your congregation when there is a particularly interesting speaker?
- Do you invite your 'men folk' and involve them at all? They can be very good in the kitchen if asked!!
- Do you share with your sister Fellowships e.g. APW for anything more than launching the Special Project? Combined Communion services can be very special and meaningful.

I can hear many groups saying, "We do all those things you suggest." That's wonderful, keep on keeping on, and remember, - **Each day is a day that the LORD has made let us REJOICE and be glad in it.**

With my Christian Love and Prayers

Mary
April 2004



CONVENTION 2004 UPDATE

All District officers have received the Bulletin in which I explained that the cost of the Convention is to be \$200 per person.

Registration forms and all relevant details will be mailed out by the end of May to enable cheap flights to be purchased.

Reminder: REMITS for inclusion at Convention must be received by 31st May 2004. This enables the National Executive to distribute them to all Districts for adequate discussion prior to Convention.

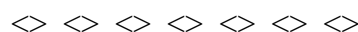
Remember too the Craft Stall!! How about something to commemorate our 40 years? Something Red perhaps? It is a good idea to start preparing our articles for sale early. Things get a bit rushed nearer the time.

ALSO – The Local Arrangements Committee are looking for a suitably qualified person to be the "First Aid" person for Convention. Is there a woman out there who would like to fill this important position? If so Joan Smith and the LAC would love to hear from you.



SMETHURST

Thank you to all Districts for ensuring that parishes received the Application forms and information data. The response has been huge. The next final date is **20th June 2004** so please put reminders in your Parish bulletins.



ANNUAL RETURNS

Yes it is almost that time of year again. The forms have been posted out, - Blue forms are for Local Fellowships and Pink for Districts. **PLEASE** ensure that **ALL** details are included and that the forms reach your District Secretary by the requested date.

Please if at all possible have the Annual report typed, each District President makes her report from YOUR report and in turn I read every District report.



WESLEYCOM!!

Wesleycom?? Just what is Wesleycom? Wesleycom **was** the Methodist part of the Special Project 2002-2003 and is the focus for the Social Services of the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

I have been asked to invite all Fellowships / Parishes to “write YOUR story” of outreach within YOUR community. “Why?” You may ask, “we know what we do and why we do it.” BUT!! Wesleycom have a web page and they NEED your stories.

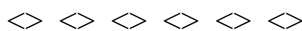
What is a web page? This is a ‘news sheet’ on a computer and it can be read by anyone who chooses to, both within NZ and worldwide. So PLEASE write your story TODAY and send it to me and I will get it to the ‘Editor’ of the web page. As Editor, he will have the final word as to which stories he uses and how he shares each story. THANK YOU ALL!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for

- ◆ The functions that are focused on the 2003-2004 Special Project’s. These help many Fellowships and congregations gain a greater knowledge of the topics and the people who need our help. Also for the Mission convenors of APW and MWF as they decide on the Special Project 2004-2005. The work that is involved is IMMENSE, and it is so easy to take the packs for granted.
- ◆ The Special Business meeting of the APW to be held on 30th April and 1st May 2004. We need to pray that what ever changes are made to their structure do not disadvantage Fellowships and Districts that are functioning well as combined groups.
- ◆ Each Fellowship as they approach their AGM, that they have the Leadership that is relevant for them, and that they do NOT feel bound by the past, but have the encouragement, the courage and the enthusiasm to try something different.
- ◆ For Nelma Woodfield and the Incoming Executive as they prepare to take the responsibilities of NZMWF for 2004-2006.



PROFILE.

This letter we profile our most senior member (by just a few months)!

Hilda Schroeder is a Vice President and Co-convenor of Missions,

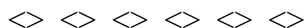
Hilda writes:

Being Co-convenor of Missions is a busy job – but Catherine and I work in well together and we share the Special Project responsibilities with our two A.P.W. friends, Cath Peel and Joy McFall.

Much of my time seems to be involved with Church related activities, what with our Bargain Bin and Hospitality Room, Lay Worship Team, participation on the Methodist City Action Committee and M.W.F. However, I do have other activities (hobbies) like sewing (with machine and over locker) and recently I unearthed my elderly knitting machine. It surprised me that it still works, and I have a reasonable relationship with it.

My husband, Len and I enjoy getting out walking, either in the many beautiful bush walks around the Waikato, or beside the River.

We enjoy keeping in touch with our families, in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch and being aware of their activities. We also enjoy travel, and keeping in touch with friends all over the world.



From your LIAISON OFFICER

Mid-March, Mary and I had the privilege and pleasure of visiting North and South Canterbury, Otago and Southland District Councils. Talking and sharing with members at the rallies and smaller meetings, and individually in their homes or retirement residences, gave us a very clear overall picture of what MWF has meant, and still does mean, to women over these past 40 years. Many women too have precious memories of the Ladies Guild and the Women’s Missionary Union. What shone through in our visits to the older women was their wonderful spirit. They loved the visits and their reconnection to the ‘Old Days’. Fellowships have a wonderful ministry to these women.

Throughout the visits we were delighted to celebrate with so many the 40th Jubilee of MWF with fellowship, song, praise and food.

Concerns expressed are nationwide – decreasing membership, increasing age and the non-involvement of younger women. Fellowships and District Councils are dealing with these issues in varying ways. Each group needs to find an answer with which they feel comfortable.

The President’s Visits.

At the end of April, Mary and Nelma Woodfield (incoming National President) will attend the APW meeting in Wellington. We pray that their members will find a way to meet their challenges.

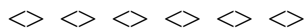
After participation in the Diaconate Convention at Wanganui in June, Mary will visit Hawkes Bay and then Manawatu/Wanganui Districts. It is interesting to note that at Hastings in March, for devotions, parallels were drawn with the floods in Manawatu and the loss of bridges and roads, with consequent loss of communication, and the PARS project, “Bridging the Gaps” for families cut off from a parent in prison.

On Mary’s behalf, Carol and Catherine attended the Vahefonua Women’s (Tongan) Annual meeting in March where they received a very gracious welcome.

In April, Hilda and Catherine attended the Mafutaga Tamaitai (Samoan District) Annual meeting on Mary’s behalf. They were both warmly received and enjoyed a great time of sharing with their Samoan sisters.

Keep me up to date with events in your District! National Executive always appreciates hearing your news – as do other Districts.

Yours in Fellowship,
Joan Shaw



FLOODS

As many of you know, Mary and Catherine saw first hand, the devastation of the flooding in Manawatu, Wanganui and Wellington. It will be a very long time before people in these areas find a sense of normality in their lives. Life will never be the same for many!

We ask that all members continue to remember them in prayer and especially pray for members of our Fellowships and their families who have been affected by the storm. Thank God for the stoicism and tenacity of the people and do what you can to assist.



ECUMENICAL NEWS & VIEWS

MAKING GOOD DECISIONS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Stem Cell Research, Cloning and Genetic Information

The Interchurch Bioethics Council, representing the Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican Churches, has written a study, designed for groups or individuals, on these important areas. These are very topical issues, as they fall within the HART (Human Assisted Reproductive Technology) Bill. This Bill is presently under discussion by the Parliamentary Health Select Committee, and a report will be released to the government about June 8th, 2004.

The study is in four parts, covering stem cell research, cloning, the use of genetic information and privacy issues. Each part is written in the form of a stimulating and challenging dialogue, which raises the significant ethical, spiritual and cultural issues related to assisted human reproductive technologies. There are bible studies for each topic, and ample questions to encourage discussion.

Study books are available for \$5 from the Interchurch Bioethics Council chairperson, Dr Audrey Jarvis, 143 Old West Road, RD 4, Palmerston North.. The study may also be downloaded (free) in PDF form from the CASI (Churches Agency for Social Issues) website, www.casi.org.nz Enquiries, Audrey Jarvis at the above address, phone (06) 357 3089 or jarvis.ab@xtra.co.nz



SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRIES TRUST

Spiritual Directors'
Formation Programme

2005 - 2006

This comprehensive 2 year course is open to Christians of any denomination. It offers:

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- Regular workshops conducted by an ecumenical team of qualified leaders
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For details contact the Co-ordinator:

Rev. Sue Pickering ,
83 Vivian St, New Plymouth
Ph/fax (06) 759 2331
E.mail : sgmtp@xtra.co.nz or
visit our website : www.sgm-nz.org

Applications close 20th August 2004.

CANTERBURY TERTIARY EDUCATION CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

Applications are invited for the position of Senior Chaplain at the University of Canterbury. The position is half time (0.5).

The Senior Chaplain, normally an ordained person, is part of a tertiary education ministry team and has oversight for chaplaincy at the University of Canterbury.

The ministry is ecumenical, supporting academic freedom, the spirit of inquiry, choice and diversity, and at the same time respectful of the particular heritage of a university. The Committee is open to innovative work practices in order to fulfill the key functions of the position.

Accommodation adjacent to the university is provided.

It is desirable that the appointee take up the position at the beginning of August, 2004.

Applications close on 30 June 2004

A job description and person specification is available from the Secretary of the Canterbury Tertiary Education Chaplaincy Committee: Mr J. M. Carson, Registry, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch. Ph (03) 364 2640 jonathan.carson@canterbury.ac.nz

Bill Shepard
Chair, Canterbury Tertiary Education Chaplaincy Committee

4 May 2004

Dear Colleague

This is immediately in front of us today and tomorrow. Please let us know if you are making any statements this week and use the attached resource to encourage congregations to respond.

SEABED AND FORESHORE QUESTION

The Seabed and Foreshore question is one of the most significant issues faced by our nation in this decade. The Conference of Churches stands alongside member churches and local congregations as they study the resources available, engage with Maori in the Hiko and other forums, and make representations to MPs and Government.

We invite member churches and local congregations to tell us your stories, send us copies of letters, submissions and representations and give us visual images of your involvement.

The CCANZ web site contains a wealth of information. Go to www.ccanz.net.nz and click on Resources on Race Issues in NZ and Treaty of Waitangi. We have drawn deeply on resources provided by the Ecumenical Coalition for Justice, Peace Movement Aotearoa, Churches Agency on Social Issues and Te Opi Mana o Tai.

Gaynor Larsen
for CCANZ Presidium



Decade to Overcome Violence - Tekau Tau Hei Parenga Aainga Tuukino: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace in Aotearoa New Zealand

DOV News from the Conference of Churches (CCANZ)

April 2004

Kia ora - Easter Greetings

"The search for justice, the rebirth of an authentic spirituality, and the search for Christian unity are essential and inseparable elements of the ecumenical vision which underlies the Christian understanding of reconciliation.

- John W de Gruchy, University of Capetown

There is a question that I for one will hold, as I make my way from the empty tomb through the Easter season. It was first addressed to the women who gathered at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning, but it has an eternal ring about it. I'm referring to the question: "Why are you seeking the living among the dead?"

The Decade to Overcome Violence - Tekau Tau Hei Parenga Aainga Tuukino encourages us to move beyond the entropy of what so many people increasingly experience in their lives and, yes, sometimes in churches today. Seeking to overcome all that violates and destroys our relationship with God, with our communities and indeed with the whole of the creation is surely be a wonderful opportunity "to live as fully as possible into our power to god" - to become the people moved and shaken by the irrepressible, energetic Spirit that was present at Pentecost.

I wonder what questions accompany you from the empty tomb through the Easter season?

Robyn Cave

CCANZ DOV Coordinator

New Format for DOVeMAIL

It's **OUT** with the DOVeMAIL as an *Attachment*, and it's **IN** with a simple *Email* format to help streamline the communication of DOV news in Aotearoa New Zealand. The change has also been made in recognition that there needs to be greater flexibility in the frequency of communication. From now on, DOVeMAIL can respond to demand, and become a more effective conduit for DOV information and news. You are invited to bring your DOV news and events to the notice of the DOV Coordinator, Robyn Cave at any time.

DOV in word and deed; story and storytelling

Thanks and appreciation is extended to Parihaka kaumaatua, Huirangi Waikerepuru for Te Reo title for the Decade to Overcome Violence. In the classical beauty of the Maori language, "Tekau Tau Hei Parenga Aainga Tuukino" reminds us, that building a culture of peace in this Decade is to become part of a riverbank that stands against the continuing force (of violence).

Alongside the WCC DOV logo that accompanies the resources, an image of an albatross feather held in the cupped hands of a worker has been chosen to communicate the DOV locally in Aotearoa New Zealand. The raukura (feather) worn on the head is part of the story and the emblem of the people of

Parihaka. In wearing it to this very day, they continue to bear the legacy of non-violent resistance from their tipuna (ancestors), Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kaakahi. May the symbol of the raukura offer us all strength and imagination as we make this journey together.

National distribution of a DOV Kit

Last month 1500 Information Kits for the DOV (or DOVE as it is becoming known) went to print. With the help of a local Christchurch School, St Margaret's College, the kits were compiled and made ready for mailing. (See the April issue of the Methodist newspaper, TOUCHSTONE).

All the member churches of CCANZ have received their free copies. Negotiations are now being made to ensure the often forgotten ministries in the wider community are also kept in the loop, encouraging them to share their efforts to overcome violence (See "Bully Busting" article below).

Extra copies of the DOV Kit, complete or in part form are available from the CCANZ Christchurch Office. For prices including a larger A3 poster refer to: www.ccanz.net.nz/dov/resources

CCANZ would appreciate any feed-back on the kit's use by sending their remarks to dov@ccanz.net.nz

Bullying in the Workplace

Overcoming violence in the workplace has been the recent initiative sponsored by Workplace Support (Waikato), formerly part of the ecumenical organisation known as ITIM. General Manager, Lindsay Cumberpatch reports that last month 90 people attended two days of workshops presented by Hayden Olsen of Workplaces Against Violence in Employment (WAVE).

Keri the Kereru makes a trial DOVE visit to school

Although unexpected delays in obtaining Permission Rights for one of the stories recorded on the CD has caused frustration to the DOV Coordinator, time has not been wasted. During Lent, Keri flew into St Margaret's College, a church school in Christchurch and introduced several of the stories that feature on the CD called "Sowing Seeds of Peace with Keri the Kereru". At the mid-week chapel services when the 750 strong community gathers together, Keri the DOVE peacemaker was warmly received and return visits were called for by the students. See www.ccanz.net.nz/dov/stories

* As the CD prepares Don't give up looking for the flock of kereru on the map. See www.ccanz.net.nz/dov/kidsstuff

Share your Passion

A look at the Easter issue of magazines published by the churches makes evident the divergent opinion on Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ" screening in our movie theatres at present. It seems somewhat ironical that a decision to lower the independent viewing age to 15 years of a film described by some to be so violent to "shock" and "numb" is made simultaneously as TVNZ begins "to plan action on reducing screen violence after a report found TV2 had more violent incidents per hour than any other free-to-air channel" (The Press, 8 April 2004). Recent research shows that the violent content of television has tripled since 1995; 40 - 90% of programmes show violent incidents, the highest percentage viewed on kids TV.

There is a place for views to be shared on the DOV website. What is your view? Share your "Passion", sending your response to robyn@ccanz.net.nz

What's Happening?

National Visit by International Peace Activist in September

Plans are being made for International peace activist from Germany, Hans de Boer to come here in early September this year. Speaking in Auckland and Hamilton in March 2001, it is hoped Hans speaking engagements this time will be extended to other main centres.

More information will come to hand soon.

Christchurch region

Inter-faith Mediation

People of all faiths are welcome at 7.30 - 8.15pm on the first Friday of the month in the chancel of the Christchurch Cathedral in the Square. With a focus of human peace and unity, coordinator Clarice Greenslade says that each month someone shares a treasure from their own tradition before a 30 minute period of silent meditation. For more information ph. (03) 329 9675 or email cgandpg@paradise.net.nz

New Zealand Peacekeeping and the New Zealand Defence Policy Framework: The title of an address to be given by The Hon Mark Burton, Minister of Defence at Redcliffs School Hall, Main Rd Redcliffs on Friday 28 May at 7.30 pm. This event is hosted by the Sumner-Redcliffs-Lyttelton Union Parish Public Questions Committee.

Greater Auckland region

"Overcoming Violence" will be explored in the Henderson Methodist Church of the Waitakere Methodist Parish through the month of May, commencing on the 11th and will be held on every Tuesday at 7.30 pm. Presbyter of the parish, Prince Devanandan already brings ecumenical experience of the DOV from his work as Secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission of the National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka, and acting as the General Secretary of the NCC-SL. Prince intends to make use of the WCC Study Series, "Why Violence? Why not Peace?" and is eager to see this opportunity available to the churches and interested individuals in the Henderson - Waitakere area.

For further information, please email Prince Devanandan devanandan@paradise.net.nz

Come on other regions around the country - make use of this space to share your news and events

Playback Theatre and the DOV

Playback Theatre (PBT), a contemporary form of spontaneous, improvised theatre used in numerous social contexts, was enjoyed by the young people at the SCM Live-In Theological Experience held in December last year (see Easter 2004 issue of Anglican Taonga pg.39). Soon, it is hoped regional DOV initiatives will benefit from the gifts of "story-telling", long recognised for its ability to raise awareness and assist personal and social change. As we look closely at the Gospels of Christ, should we be surprised? Watch this space!

In the meantime, there are Playback Theatre Companies in all the main centres of the country. Here are two who offer public performances over the next month:

Wellington Playback Theatre: Drama Christi 75 Taranaki Street, Wellington.

Saturday 24 April, 7.30pm - "*Freedom*"

\$12 waged, \$8 unwaged, \$6 children, \$25 family

Christchurch Playback Theatre Company, University Theatre (The Free Theatre), Arts Centre on Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch.

Friday 30 April 2004, 7.30 - 9.00pm "*War and Peace*"

\$10 waged, \$5 unwaged, \$2 children

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on a DOV theme

Did you know that this year churches, including the Orthodox churches celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on the same day, 30 May 2004? What a great opportunity to break down the barriers that divide by inviting a church community you have not gathered with before, to meet together for reflection and prayer between Ascension and Pentecost.

This year's resources have been prepared by an ecumenical group from Syria, a region of ongoing suffering and conflict. (See the World Council of Churches story: "The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: A "good news story for today" and other resources on <http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/faith/wop2004.pdf> Biblical Reflections adapted for local use will become available from the CCANZ Office and from this website after Easter. An Ecumenical Service for the evening on the Day of Pentecost or thereabouts, may be found in the recently distributed DOV Kit with a supplement resource for worship planners. You can download this liturgy found in pdf file from

www.ccanz.net.nz/dovresources

Please share your ecumenical celebrations with the DOV Coordinator.

Other DOV News available on the website

Read the NZ Bishops' Statement on the Treaty of Waitangi: February 2004

Church Social Issues Agency Supports fair treatment for Ahmed Zaoui

Back issues of the DOV Newsletters are available on the web

PLEASE ENSURE MY ADDRESS IN YOUR ADDRESS BOOK IS: robyn@ccanz.net.nz or dov@ccanz.net.nz
The robyncave@clear.net.nz will be discontinued from the end of April 2004.

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Robyn Cave
Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand
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