

# 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](http://www.methodist.org.nz)**

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# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This time last year I was wondering what it really meant to be President of Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa. I was conscious of the honour and privilege afforded, and the trust placed in those whom the church selects for the office of President and Vice-President. I was reasonably aware of the legal duties of the role, and I had gained from conversations with my predecessors a sense of what the year might be like.

I did not expect to enjoy myself as much as I have (ah – all that power, you might be thinking). In fact, it was not “all that power”, which is limited and carries with it significant responsibility and duty. It was the generous hospitality offered by individuals, congregations, and parishes. It was the opportunity to see the church at work where it really matters - in the communities where the church is located. It was the privilege of sharing in celebrations of one kind and another, of sharing times of loss and grief, of grappling with difficult issues.

I’ve witnessed how church leaders, both local and Connexional, work conscientiously and imaginatively at the tasks asked of them. People in positions of leadership often get a bad press, sometimes deservedly, but more often because they have had to make hard decisions that will never satisfy everyone. The leaders in our church, whether Parish Stewards, District Superintendents, members of boards and committees, President or Vice-President, need your prayerful support and encouragement

It seems that our bicultural partnership and multicultural relationships will always be in evolution, as society changes. There’s a great deal of mythology being perpetuated in some parishes about the nature of the Bicultural partnership and about multicultural relationships in the church. There are many pakeha, for example, who still hold to the view that voting is the most effective means of decision-making, with apparent disregard for the fact that such a method always disempowers the numerically smaller or less confident voices.

This year in office has strengthened my opinion that the length of presidential term should be longer, say two or three years. As a church we are not served well in ecumenical or political settings by the annual change of leadership and consequent lack of continuity. A longer term would enable more meaningful engagement around the Connexion, rather than how it presently tends to be – response to crisis or the “first in” invitations. It’s time we let go of our fear of people having too much power in the church, and focused on what are the kinds of leadership roles we now need, and how they might best be enabled.

I wouldn’t wish on anyone the exhaustion, the painful and difficult situations and decisions, the struggle to remain connected to the Parish in which I’m stationed, days on end of living out of a suitcase. I would however, wish for Ron and Kenneth, and all who will in future hold this office, the joy and privilege of meeting with people in their place, of seeing the church at work, of being stimulated and challenged.

I thank all those who have provided generous hospitality, who have given all kinds of both practical and intangible support, who have made sure I have been off duty sometimes, who have been patient with my idiosyncrasies, who have tried to teach me new languages and dances, who have provided fun and laughter.

Grace and peace to you.

**Lynne**

## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK:

Conference is now only four weeks away and preparations are almost complete. A reminder to people that all memorials and notices of motion must be received at the Connexional Office no later than 12 noon Wednesday 3 November, 2004. Agendas and handbooks were posted last Friday so all members should now have received their copy.

Mary Caygill and I attended the World Methodist Council Executive in South Africa in early September. We have included a full report in the Conference minutes under Mission and Ecumenical.

World Methodist Programmes include:

- World Wide Evangelism programmes including training for indigenous evangelism, multiple witnesses, found new churches and developing new resources for Christian mission.
- An annual programme for world exchange of ministers and laity.
- Gathering of youth across national lines by the International Christian Youth Conferences.
- Strengthening family life in the various world cultures.
- Supporting Methodist education and sponsoring the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies.
- Encouraging a number of international Methodist Publications
- Developing worship and liturgical life in the churches.
- The World Methodist Museum at the International Headquarters Building at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Oversight of the Old Rectory in Epworth, England in cooperation with the British Committee.
- Supporting human reconciliation and creating conditions that foster world peace recognising those who make exceptional contributions to the cause of reconciliation and peace with the World Methodist Peace Award.
- Working for unity in the Faith through engagement and bilateral dialogue with other Christian World Communions. The Council's Geneva, Switzerland Office develops and maintains important relationships with Christian World Communions and the World Council of Churches based in Geneva.
- World Methodists join in efforts to respect human rights, to uphold justice and to stand alongside persecuted or needy Christian minorities who suffer because of injustice, want or tyranny.
- 

I am sending in this mailing at the request of the President two statements which were agreed during the Executive meeting and are of wide interest. Further information about the meeting may be viewed on the WMC website - [www.worldmethodistcouncil.org](http://www.worldmethodistcouncil.org).

On the main page – click on "Executive Meeting News Releases" which will take you to a page about the Executive Meeting. There is a link available on that page on which you can click to print a copy of both Statements.

**Jill**

# WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

## STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

### UNITY AND SEXUALITY

The Chairperson, His Eminence Sunday Mbang, in his opening address to this Executive, called for a response to the widespread debate 'within the churches on the subject of human sexuality. He asserted 'the unity of the Church is gradually beginning to suffer' as a result of significant tensions. He observed the impact of new and unfamiliar interpretations of the Scriptures to the confusion of many faithful Christians. We also have record of its adverse effect on our Christian mission.

Several churches have worked for many years to find a way to respond to the pastoral needs of their people in the face of changing attitudes to sexual orientation and sexual practice in our societies and cultures, acknowledging that our sexuality is one of the gifts of God in creation. (The issue is sharpened in many cases where a call to ordained ministry is involved.)

It must be observed that there is no ethical consensus in the world at large on these and related matters. For Christians, there is a tension between the desire to respond in love to all God's creatures in the light of the Gospel's universal promises, and the need to discern God's will in rapidly changing circumstances. Additionally, we must be concerned for the health of the nations and the future of the entire human family.

In our review of ecumenical relationships, it is clear that at least one Christian World Communion has been internally disrupted as a result of the actions of certain individuals and conciliar bodies; its survival is at stake. Other with whom we remain in dialogue have firmly reasserted classical Christian teaching on these matters. Some of our own member churches have come to the brink of division or have lost members through precipitate action.

It is acknowledged that this Executive is unlikely to give more satisfactory answers than those which have resulted from long thought and discussion in our churches; it desires only to sound a note of warning. It takes with complete seriousness the issues involved, scriptural and doctrinal, medical and ethical. It urges the churches to apply their energies and best minds to the challenges, as we all seek God's light. It urges the churches to endeavour to preserve the bond of peace and love with *all* their members. But it equally urges the member churches to hold firmly to the centrality of Scripture, to the long Christian tradition of teaching on the order of creation, on marriage and family life, and to exercise immense care as they face choices which could threaten the unity of congregations and churches.

*Adopted by the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council  
Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
September 17 2004*

**STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL**

**WESLEYAN/METHODIST  
WITNESS IN CHRISTIAN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES**

The world's two largest religions, Christianity and Islam, are today perceived by many people to be on a collision course, as a result of militant religious fundamentalism and aggressive secular militarism.

As Wesleyan/Methodist Christians, we believe that Christ Jesus is the Lord of creation and history and the Savior of the world. As followers of Jesus, we believe in the rule of love, the worth of all persons, tolerance of others and his vision of a kingdom of peace. As a consequence, we respect much of what we witness in Islam. We share Islam's strong emphasis on prayer and fasting, the call for the pursuit of personal holiness, and the focus on charity and the dignity of every human being. We are aware that Islam, like Christianity, is expressed in many different ways in different cultures. We recognize the faithfulness of most Muslims as they seek to live lives committed to Allah and free from the perversions of this world. We also appreciate the many great contributions of Islamic culture that have benefited humankind.

We are keenly aware that Muslims have been abused, oppressed, humiliated, and enslaved by the political, economic, and military forces of Western nations and that, even though these nations have functioned primarily as secular entities, they have been associated with the Christian community. Further, we clearly acknowledge that the abuses of Muslims by Westerners connected with the Medieval Crusades, the imperial colonialism of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, and the militarism of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries have often been driven more by greed, self-preservation, and a distorted interpretation of the Christian faith than by the peaceful and loving commandments of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For these abuses by the Christian community, we seek the forgiveness of Islamic people throughout the world.

We are also aware that Christians were abused and enslaved by force in the establishment of the Islamic Empires. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we abhor the terrorism of militant Islam and the militarism of Western governments that are escalating in a tragically violent spiral causing immense suffering, fear and grief throughout the world. We join with peace loving persons of both faiths to reject the use of Christianity and Islam for the abuse and enslavement of persons. The Qur'an and the Bible call us to honor and respect all people, to submit to the will of God in all things and to bring about a just and peaceful society in which love and tolerance overcome hate and fear.

Aggression against people or nations, for any reason other than self-defense or the defense of others, is in conflict with the teachings of Christianity and Islam, in both the New Testament and the Qur'an. We call on all Christians and Muslims to bring an end to the cycle of hatred and violence threatening all persons and creation.

Even though we recognize and affirm some similarities between Islam and Christianity and between the Qur'an and the Bible, we believe the distinctions between us are significant.

While we understand that Muslims believe that Allah is revealed to the world in the Qur'an, we affirm that God is revealed in the Bible and God's ultimate self-revelation is in the person of Jesus Christ.

While we understand that Muslims affirm the absolute oneness of Allah, we believe that God is one and has been revealed to us in three persons as God the Father who gave us life, as God the Son in whom God's complete nature is disclosed, and God the Holy Spirit who abides within us and continues to give us strength and guidance in all that we do.

While we understand that Muslims believe that all of life's realms personal, religious, social, family, political, economic, and military must come under the authority of Allah, Christians affirm God's sovereignty and the Lordship of Christ Jesus over all of life.

While we understand that Muslims believe that salvation comes through complete submission to Allah through affirmation of the declaration of faith (shahada), participation in daily prayers (salat), giving of alms (zakat), observation of the Ramadan fast (sawm), and participation in the pilgrimage (hajj), Wesleyan/Methodist Christians believe that salvation comes through justification by grace through faith in the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the singular, unique event in human history which makes the salvation of all human beings possible. This salvation received by grace is lived out in a life of discipleship seeking holiness of heart and life. In a world ripped apart by sin, fear, hopelessness and meaninglessness, we believe that the coming of God in Jesus of Nazareth and the teachings, sacrificial death and miraculous resurrection of Jesus offer healing, hope and salvation for all. This salvation provides escape from the bondage of sin, meaningful new life, the reconciliation of persons, the renewal of all creation and the hope of eternal life for all who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that God calls us to affirm the dignity and wholeness of every human being, and we respect the right of all persons to worship God in the way that is most meaningful to them. Therefore, we hope and pray that governments will not impose laws that infringe on the religious rights of their citizens. We affirm that if it is acceptable to build Mosques in Christian cultures, it should also be acceptable to build Christian Churches in Islamic cultures. As Christians, we also believe that we are called to share God's love, forgiveness, and gracious action in the person of Jesus Christ with everyone.

Christians seek to live in a world community that is shaped by the reign of God, and we pray for and expect the kingdom of God, righteousness, peace and love to come on earth as it is in heaven.

Therefore, all Wesleyan/Methodist Christians are called by God, first, to lovingly accept Muslim brothers and sisters as persons of faith; second, to stand firm against violence and hatred in all its forms; third, to stand with persons who are being persecuted and are suffering for their faith; and fourth, trusting in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to share with all persons, including Muslims, the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ through our words, deeds and signs by the power of the Holy Spirit, and invite them into life-changing relationships with God through Christ

*Adopted by Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council*

*Port Elizabeth, South Africa*

*September 18, 2004*

# A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL OF CONFERENCE

## ISSUES TO SHARE WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

The final meeting of the Council of Conference for this year was held on 10-12 September 2004. The issues from this meeting the Council would like to share are:

1. Tovia Aumua and David McGeorge led the Council in the *Theology Session*, which was based on a *Bicultural / Multicultural* seminar held at Manukau District Synod in July. The keynote speakers were Tovia and Percy Rushton.

The Council was invited to discuss in groups a number of questions and then David shared Percy's notes that reflected his part in the Bicultural Journey (from a Pakeha perspective). Percy noted the impact of the journey has taken place at National Church level whilst at grassroots congregational level there has been little change.

Tovia then gave his view of Multiculturalism in our Church. The view he expressed related to his personal New Zealand Methodist journey started at the 1982 Conference.

2. Viv Whimster and Alison Molineux facilitated a workshop on *Immigration*. The Council addressed questions relating to our origins, our place in the world, our relationships with other cultures, with a particular focus on people who have immigrated to Aotearoa-New Zealand.

The Council considered the benefits immigrants bring as well as the losses both individually and socially. This also clarified how Tangata Whenua and the Treaty Partner felt about the presence and place of immigrants in our country. Biblical stories were also used to understand the place of immigrants and how they might be treated.

The Council has made a commitment to continue discussing this topic at a future meeting.

Our thanks and appreciation to Viv and Alison for their time in addressing this important issue.

3. David McGeorge shared his journey and reflections about his time as Vice President. He spoke about the places and people he has met as well as the challenges he has experienced. David further shared what the role entails and his personal views on Vice President.

# CONNEXIONAL BITS 'N PIECES

The Connexional Office has a new telephone system with direct dial numbers for staff, these are listed below for your convenience:

The main office number 03 366 6049

## Archives

Marcia Baker 03 366 6049 (archives@methodist.org.nz)

## Accounts

Financial Services Manager – Leah Scales 03 364 9433 (leahs@methodist.org.nz)  
Assistant Accountant – Sarah Shadbolt 03 364 9428 (saraha@methodist.org.nz)  
Fund Administrator – Gail Smith 03 364 9432 (gails@methodist.org.nz)

## Airline Bookings

Stacey Cochrane (reception) 03 364 9434 (stacey@methodist.org.nz)  
Viki Forscutt 03 364 9427 (vikif@methodist.org.nz)

## Connexional

General Secretary – Jill van de Geer 03 364 9424 (jillvg@methodist.org.nz)  
Superannuation/HR David White 03 364 9426 (davidw@methodist.org.nz)  
CB&L - Ruth Le Couteur 03 364 9429 (ruthl@methodist.org.nz)  
Viki Forscutt 03 364 9427 (vikif@methodist.org.nz)

## Insurance

Greg Wright 03 364 9423 (gregw@methodist.org.nz)  
Sarah Shadbolt 03 364 9428 (saraha@methodist.org.nz)  
Noelene Allen 03 364 9421 (noelenea@methodist.org.nz)

## Methodist Trust Association/Investment Board

Greg Wright 03 364 9423 (gregw@methodist.org.nz)  
Noelene Allen 03 364 9421 (noelenea@methodist.org.nz)

**The Office is open between the hours of 8.30am to 5pm daily. All Staff are encouraged to take morning and afternoon tea together. Morning tea is 10 – 10:15am and afternoon tea is between 3 – 3:15pm**

**Information Leaflets** – the following are now available on the website <http://www.methodist.org.nz/>

No. 34 – Supernumerary Fund Annual Report to Members for the Year Ended 31 January 2004

No. 67 –Parish Liability

**Conference Agenda** – if you are registered for Conference you should have received your Conference Agenda and Handbook in the post. If you have not received it please contact Viki on (03) 364 9427 or email [vikif@methodist.org.nz](mailto:vikif@methodist.org.nz).



## *Travel to Conference*

If you are travelling to Conference we have a seat available in the van, leaving Christchurch on Monday 1 November. You will be travelling with Rev Stanley Barnes who would enjoy some company on the long journey. The only cost to you would be the ferry fare. If you, or anyone you know would be interested, please contact Viki on (03) 364 9427 or [yikif@methodist.org.nz](mailto:yikif@methodist.org.nz)

## **CHURCH BUILDING AND LOAN FUND Material for Meetings**

**Attention to those who are involved in approval processes with the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee.**

The Church Building and Loan Fund committee is endeavouring to stream-line the process and presentation of material for its monthly meetings and would be grateful if you could assist us by submitting your material electronically.

To enable us to do this you will need the ability to access email to send and receive material electronically (plans and working drawings will still need to be received in hard copy). Parishes are instructed to email copies of the material to District Property Convenors and District Superintendents.

All material needs to be in this office ([ruthl@methodist.org.nz](mailto:ruthl@methodist.org.nz)) by the Wednesday preceeding the meetings. A list of the meeting dates are available in the green pages and also on the web [http://www.methodist.org.nz//index.cfm/Administration\\_Division/Key\\_Dates](http://www.methodist.org.nz//index.cfm/Administration_Division/Key_Dates)

If any District Property Convenors or Superintendents do not have access to email could you please advise us of an alternative person to receive these.

Emails to be sent to Ruth Le Couteur [ruthl@methodist.org.nz](mailto:ruthl@methodist.org.nz)

Thank you for your attention to this matter  
Ruth Le Couteur.

**NO e-messenger in November  
(due to Conference)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### **Hui on Theology of Ministry – A residential event**

The Board of Ministry has been successful this year in negotiating funding which will allow for the proposed 'Hui on Theology of Ministry' to take place on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2005.

This gathering will be held at the Saint Francis Retreat Centre, Mt Roskill, Auckland and will be facilitated by Bruce Hanson and Margaret Schrader, both former Moderators of the Presbyterian Church, who are skilled and experienced facilitators well able to hold together the diversity of conversation that will need to take place.

The Board of Ministry will be inviting people to attend from the diverse cross-section of Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa. All participants will be required to live in.

The purpose of the gathering is to engage in a sustained conversation in order to discern more clearly some of the key directions that the Board of Ministry might establish in its task of engaging with appropriate models of ministry and mission for Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

## IMPORTANT ADVANCE NOTICE

### **North Canterbury Synod – Ministerial Synod**

*April 13 -14, 2005*

Rev Dr Clive Pearson systematic theologian  
From the Uniting Church Theological College in Sydney  
Will run a two day event in Christchurch on the theme

### **“HAS THE ROCK ON WHICH WE STAND CRUMBLED?”**

The event will be a mix of lectures, group work and time for reflection. Any lay or ordained person of any denomination is welcome to attend

The total cost for the two days will be \$30. Registration forms and further information will be available in February.

## *50th Anniversary*

**St Lukes Union Church  
Halswell, Christchurch**

*14th November, 2004*

**NB change of date**

Worship at 10:00am followed by a meal and time to reminisce  
Further enquiries to Val De Rooy (formerly Niven)

Ph.322 8356

How often have you heard little bits of the Gospels read in church?

Well ...

Here's a chance to hear the whole  
**Gospel of Mark**  
read to you in one sitting.

It's a remarkable Gospel,  
the earliest, and shows Jesus at his most active.

You are invited to hear the whole Gospel of Mark,

St Albans Uniting Church,  
corner of Rugby St & Papanui Rd, Merivale

Thursday, October 21

7pm

Light refreshments will be served.

# Wesley Wellington Parish 75 Taranaki Street



[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

## 125<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gen.wesley@clear.net.nz)

Postal address: PO Box 6133, Marion Square, Wellington

**Discover historic Wesleyan sites of  
South Auckland and the Awhitu Peninsula.  
with an**

### **HISTORIC BUS TOUR, Friday 28 January 2005**

In association with the

### **Wesley Historical Society's South Pacific Conference**

to be held at

### **Crossroads Methodist Church Papakura**

*Friday evening 28 January to Monday afternoon 31 January 2005 to mark the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

A day tour will depart from Papakura at 9am and will travel through Waiuku via Karaka and Mauku, including the heritage Anglican Church of St Bride.

Among other historic places, we will visit Pehiakura, the site where, by 1842, Chief Te Rangitahua Ngamuka, whose baptismal name was Epiha Putini, had built a large raupo chapel.

Lunch will be served at Awhitu and we will then travel to Orua Bay where Missionaries William and Jane Woon set up camp with their family.

We will arrive back at Papakura at approximately 3pm.

If you would like to join in this interesting excursion please ring Rev Audrey Matthews, (09) 235 7861.

## *Weaving the Unfinished Mats*

### **Wesley's legacy: conflict, confusion and challenge in the South Pacific**

Following on from a successful Oceania conference held at Wesley College Paerata in 1987, the Wesley Historical Society (NZ) has for some years been investigating the possibility of a further conference. A small committee of the society has now been meeting regularly to plan the gathering.

From these planning meetings, the Pacific tradition of weaving of mats has emerged as a theme, around which the Conference will be shaped.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the complex interweaving of cultures and influences has produced a society with much to be admired, but also a host of inter-relational problems. The founding document of the nation, the Treaty of Waitangi and the partnership between the British Crown and Maori, is still the subject of much debate and the massive migration of peoples from the Pacific and Asia is complicating this debate even further. People in the Pacific area and Australia face the consequences of missionary enterprise from Britain and Europe as it spread through the region, catching up indigenous people in an evangelistic effort that at times reflected the imperial expansion of various nations.

The conference, sponsored by the Wesley Historical Society (NZ), will examine the many threads that have led to the situation we face in the South Pacific today. The date of the conference coincides with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WHS (NZ). Commencing with an evening session on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January, the conference will conclude on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005. The venue will be convenient to Auckland at Crossroads Methodist Church Papakura where adequate accommodation, meeting and parking facilities are available close by.

You are warmly invited to join the Conference which will begin on Friday evening with a Powhiri and meal, followed by the opening address by Professor Andrew Walls of Edinburgh.

Registration forms available from: Rev Barry Neal, [thehuianeals@clear.net.nz](mailto:thehuianeals@clear.net.nz)  
or phone (09) 811 8054

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION

## New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship

### Convention 2004 September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Convention 2004 has come and gone and with it a change of personnel. Over one hundred women from Whangarei to Invercargill and most points in between converged on Wesley College, Paerata, to share together their Faith, and to be in fellowship with one another in this special year in the life of MWF.

We were privileged to have with us as guests of Convention, the President of the Church, Rev. Dr Lynne Frith and Tumuaki, Rev. Diana Tana. Our Keynote Speaker was Andrea Williamson, a former Vice President of the Church. Mr Ron Malpass, President-elect launched the New Zealand component of the 2004 – 2005 Special Project, which is Interchurch Hospital Chaplaincy.

Andrea led us in three searching and thought-provoking sessions on sharing our Faith and our Fellowship, within our churches, cross culturally and in our communities, which were followed by in depth discussion groups where rich sharing took place.

Chaplain to the National Executive, retired Deacon June Higham, created soul-refreshing early morning quiet times in our dormitory areas. She also led our Morning Devotions on Friday and Saturday, setting the tone for the day.

Sunday morning Tumuaki Rev. Diana Tana led us in our devotions – changing seasons and living with change.

President of the Church, Rev. Dr Lynne Frith reflected on the three women as recorded in the first chapter of the book of Ruth, the special bond between them and the different choices each made, but which were right for each of them. President Lynne led us in the Communion Service that concluded a memorable Convention.

Special Project 2004 – 2005 is entitled – “God’s Love over All.” Offering comfort and support through ICHC and Seeking peace and justice in Palestine and Israel. We seek the support of the Church as a whole for this project.

A Love Gift to commemorate 40 years of MWF was dedicated at the Official Opening of Convention and the over \$4,000.00 received will go into the President’s Overseas Travel Fund, thus ensuring that our President, Mrs Nelma Woodfield will be able to attend on our behalf, the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women’s Conference to be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2006.

From the very moving opening with a Powhiri to the also very moving closing Communion Service, Convention 2004 was successful. The work of the Local Arrangements Committee, the former National Executive and the wonderful assistance from Mr Ian Faulkner and his staff at Wesley College, combined to make this a Convention to remember.

The Waikato National Executive under the leadership of Mary West thank the women of MWF and the Church as a whole for the support they have received during their two years in office. We hand over the reins into the loving hands of Nelma Woodfield and her Wellington Executive, and pray for them the same level of support that we received.

## From the Archives ...

We have a request from Greenhills Historic Church Charitable Trust, c/- P.O.Box 55, Bluff. The restoration of the 1886 Greenhills Church is now almost complete. The exterior has been refurbished, and now it is planned to furnish the interior. The original pews and organ are still in the Church but the baptismal font originally given by Bluff's Anglican Church was returned to the Bluff Co-operating Parish when Greenhills Church closed. The Trust is now seeking a baptismal font that may be spare or possibly from a parish that has closed. Can you help? This Church is the first site on the Bluff Heritage Trail and receives many visitors. If you can help please contact Jan Mitchell (Mrs) at the above address.

Another call for help from Rev Nancy Jean Whitehead, 406 Thames St., Morrinsville, e-mail [morrinsville.methodist@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morrinsville.methodist@xtra.co.nz)

Sister Lucy Money is now living in a retirement home in Morrinsville and wanting to write the story of her ministry in the Solomon Islands. She needs some help to do this. She is frail, but alert and has much information to share and letters and other resource material. Do you know of anyone who has the expertise to help her in this gathering together of a historical goldmine which will be of immense value to the Methodist Church of New Zealand and the United Church of the Solomon Islands. If so, please contact Nancy Jean.

If your Church is celebrating a special milestone and a history is being written please remember that it is helpful to have an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) which is free of charge. This number is a world wide identification code and enables a book of more than four pages to be easily located. A publisher is required by law to supply two copies of each new book to the National Library within thirty days of publication. Fact Sheets about writing books are available - ask at your local library.

## Marcia Baker

**"You Go Where?"** The story of a New Zealand Family in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea 1969 - 1973, and back in New Zealand 1974 - 1975 (*written by Marcia Baker*).

This book of 280 pages and more than 100 photographs will be available at the end of October. We offer it as a thank you to the Methodist Church of New Zealand for the Missionary experience of living in a Stone Age society for five years. It was first written thirty years ago when we returned to New Zealand but has never been published. Now, after help with a computer and scanner, and publishing it ourselves, we feel it is the time to share it with as many people as possible. It follows on from the story of the Keightley family

**"In the Beginning... A Six Year Mountain"** which was published earlier this year, and the second printing is now available.

This book tells of the founding of the Nipa Station in 1959 and contains a copy of the diary which Cliff Keightley wrote in the very first months, and then tells of Noreen's experience caring for the family, her literacy and translation work and other involvement for the next six years.

These books are available as follows

**"You Go Where?"** Pre-publication orders \$22.50 in October. From November \$25, plus postage \$4.50

**"In the Beginning... A Six Year Mountain"** \$20

Any proceeds after expenses have been met will be forwarded to the Highlands area of the United Church of Papua New Guinea. (Both books ordered together \$40 plus postage \$4.50 until the end of October)

These books can be ordered from Marcia Baker,  
11 Merton Place, Christchurch 8005 [mbaker@ihug.co.nz](mailto:mbaker@ihug.co.nz)

# The Evangelical Network

The Methodist Church Of New Zealand  
Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa.

Superintendent:  
Rev. Nigel Hanscamp  
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19 September, 2004

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is an open letter to those 'in Association' with the Evangelical Network. I want to bring you up to date with the background to, and explanation of, the memorandum of understanding which was suggested at Methodist Conference 2003.

A Memorandum of Understanding was suggested at Conference 2003 as a way forward for those who oppose the ordination of gay and lesbian persons. The opening paragraph of the President's and Vice President's letter explains how the work towards the Memorandum of Understanding occurred and who was involved.

The Memorandum of Understanding was agreed to by representatives of the Evangelical Network, Sinoti Samoa, Vahefonua Tonga 'O Aotearoa, Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma e Niu Siladi and Te Taha Maori, along with the General Secretary, the Tumuaki, and the Taiwi Executive Officer.

The Evangelical Network's position on human sexuality is:

"We affirm celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in marriage. We do not believe that people living in de facto, adulterous, multiple sexual or same sex relationships should be in leadership in the Church"  
[as printed in the Evangelical Network's report to Conference 2003]

As one of the parties who do not support or endorse the ordination of gay and lesbian persons, the Evangelical Network wants to make clear that the Memorandum of Understanding:

1. Acknowledges this stance as a legitimate part of our church.
2. Allows that where a parish or congregation is "In Association" with the Evangelical Network, stationing would seek to match the parish or congregation with a presbyter who was appropriate to the congregation's theology. This means that a gay or lesbian minister will not be placed in an Evangelical congregation or parish without the agreement of the parish.
3. Allows that where a group within a congregation is 'In Association' with the Evangelical Network this will also be taken into account when stationing Ministers.
4. Allows that where the District Superintendent is not the appropriate person to be involved in a local situation, alternative arrangements will be made.

The Evangelical Network executive is pleased that this Memorandum has been drafted and is in place. We realise it will not satisfy everyone, but believe that it gives us a place where we can stand tall in our beliefs. We believe that it also provides protocols that will enable us as evangelical people to continue to participate fully in the life of the church without compromising our integrity.

The Evangelical Network executive is preparing a brochure outlining its aims and objectives. This will explain the mission objectives, faith essentials and tasks of the Evangelical Network. It also explains the benefits and responsibilities of being 'in Association'.

We have appreciated your ongoing prayers on all the things we have worked on this year, and especially the



memorandum. As the executive have worked this year, it has become very clear that our highest priority is to resource and encourage the Church, and especially evangelicals, to take the gospel beyond the church's walls into our communities.

We look forward to participating further with you in this mission.

Grace & Peace

Rev Nigel Hanscamp  
Superintendent of the Evangelical Network  
[On behalf of the Executive]

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### **Resources for Parishes**

- 1.** A Booklet containing 9 Carol Services and 2 Christmas stories has just been produced by Waikato Waiariki District. Copies available at the low cost of \$5 plus \$1 postage.
- 2.** Reprints of a Booklet produced in 2003 containing 9 Pageants and Plays for Christmas and Advent also available for \$5 plus \$1 postage.
- 3.** "Journey On CD" a resource for families choosing music for funeral services. Copies of this double cd with 26 songs and hymns still available from Waikato Waiariki District for \$36.15 including postage. All resources can be ordered via email from Bonnie Hebenton [bonhomie@clear.net.nz](mailto:bonhomie@clear.net.nz). An invoice will be posted with the resource.

### ***Reminder from the Smethurst committee ...***

The final date for receiving applications for the last distribution of the Smethurst Trust Fund grants for 2004 is 20th October.

Applications to:

Mary West  
Smethurst Trust Fund Convenor,  
8 Sherwood Drive Hamilton.  
Phone 078505711 email [mary@west.net.nz](mailto:mary@west.net.nz)

**N**orman Olds looks back and reflects on his ministry and shares this open letter with Presbyters and Parish Councils.

I'm an elderly 'Super', looking back on my ministry, with some satisfaction, but not a few regrets. I hear from a number of old parishes from time to time and I hear a lot of positive news – congratulations for building so well on the past to meet the needs of today.

I and I know a lot of my contemporaries pray for you all, constantly, for God's blessing, particularly in difficult circumstances.

Our old professor of Old and New Testament studies, Rev Dr Harry Ranston, brought the Old Testament Prophets alive for all of us in Trinity. He called Jeremiah, "Israel's Greatheart who preached for 40 years without a convert" but millions have heeded his message since. John Wesley said ... "Go not to those who need you, but to those who need you most". Let's be honest, we still are not reaching those who need us most. Parish Councils could well spend some time in prayer, that God will bless us with his ministry. But there's something we could do immediately, I suggest.

It's so simple that I never thought of it when in Ministry. An additional Notice Board, well sign, written, attractive with something like the following:

**Are you lonely, a little lost, troubled, exhausted, discouraged, despairing, stressed out, misunderstood, at the end of your road?** *(Far too many words I know, but it's just an indication of what we could ask)*

**We've been there too, and Jesus has answered our needs, what He's done for us He can do for you. Come in and have a chat, over a cuppa perhaps. Or ring ....., we are here** *(give the hours someone is in attendance). Any signwriter would know which words to have in large size, and the rest only need be small.*

"Stupid, mate, it won't work". You don't know that! Try it! Or try something else! Let's do something, anything for those who need what Christ can do!

I do hope I haven't wasted your time – have a good day.

Sincerely

**Norman W Olds**

# ECUMENICAL NEWS & VIEWS

## CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

### **World Food Day**

October 16 is World Food Day, drawing attention to the huge problem faced by most people in the world who don't have enough to eat. All through the year CWS is highlighting this issue and the activities of partners around the world aimed at ensuring food security for their people. The year will culminate in the Christmas Gift Appeal, with the theme Plant Seeds, Plant Hope, which underlines the importance of secure food supplies for all aspects of people's lives – not just to quell their hunger. CWS has a video, The Global Banquet, which explains the huge problem of world food supplies. Available by contacting CWS and stating the date you wish to borrow a copy. [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)

### **Christian World Service Christmas Gift Appeal**

Don't forget to send your order forms in to CWS for Christmas Appeal resources. All parishes should have received a Resource Kit. Posters and other orders are now being sent out. Contact CWS for more information, phone 0800 74 73 72/03 366 9274 [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)

### **CWS Calendar 2005**

Christian World Service Calendars have arrived. Stunning photos of CWS partners with a reflection of 60 years of Christian World Service's action against poverty. Great Christmas gift. Only \$12.50. Order now from CWS: phone 0800 74 73 72 or email [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)

### **Darfur Crisis**

Christian World Service reports continuing attacks in Darfur, forcing thousands more people from their homes and into relief camps. Over 1.5 million people have now been displaced by the ethnic violence. People are fleeing for their lives without food or water. Most arrive in the camps where CWS partners are providing relief with few or no belongings. At the moment, there is no shelter, food, water, sanitation or medical care available for new arrivals. "More relief aid is urgently needed. We ask New Zealanders to give generously to the Sudan appeal," says Jonathan Fletcher, CWS National Director. To donate phone 0800 74 73 72. CWS can provide display materials, appeal leaflets and further information if you wish to promote the appeal in your parish.

## **You are invited to a Retreat Day with**

**Joyce Rupp**

entitled

**'The Liberated Heart'**

**Saturday 27 November, 2004 9:30 am – 4:30pm**

**Bishop Julius Hall, 90 Waimairi Road**

**Ilam, Christchurch**

**Cost \$35 waged, \$30 unwaged.**

To register: <http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/aet> or phone (03) 348 3912 or 03 377 7139

# Resources for Worship and Study from the Presbyterian Church Office

## Preaching Notes and Prayers kits

**Preaching Kit 8 –Pentecost 19-Reign of Christ** for October 10-November 21 has been written by the Rev Dr Bob Eyles and is now available both in printed form (\$4 plus postage ) and on our web page.

As with all the preaching notes, which cover every Sunday and special day of the Church year, these are based on the 3 year Common Lectionary readings. They are suitable for both lay and ordained preachers or can be used by groups either preparing worship or wanting to do some Bible study.

The notes contain exegetical material on each of the lectionary readings, and preaching suggestions. These and other lectionary resources are also available on our web page [www.presbyterian.org.nz](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz) in the “Find a Resource” section.

We have a wide range of authors lined up to write notes for the new lectionary year starting with Advent, and if you are interested in receiving the kits in print form as they are produced please pre-order by sending \$40 which includes GST and postage. Writers include Revs Mark Chapman , Mua Strickson Pua, Roger Wiig, Pamela Tankersley, Martin Stewart, Judy Bedford, John Currie and Frank Glen and Graham Millar.

## Christmas and Advent Resources

As usual we have a variety of resources available for the season. Resources are available both in printed copy and on the website.

A series of 4 studies by Rev Doug Rogers is available-“**A Present for Christmas -Reflections on Famous Christmas Stories**”- \$4 plus postage. The stories used are “A Christmas Carol”, “The Gift of the Magi”, “The Grinch who Stole Christmas” and “The Story of the Other Wise Man” with each related to Bible stories and reflections.

The Very Rev John Murray is writing a series of lectionary based studies with contemporary music and prayers. They are called "Why are we waiting?" These will be available by the end of October also for \$4.

A resource kit with a wide range of resources for worship, drama, pageants, prayers, and creative special occasions is available. The resources have been used by a range of parishes and have worked well so are being shared more widely. The kit “**Advent and Christmas 2004**” is \$9 plus postage. It and other resources are available on the website [www.presbyterian.org.nz](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz)

## Order Form –October 2004

(Please add postage to all items purchased – 90 cents for 4 items, \$1.80 for 5 items plus)

Quantity	Title	Amount
	Preaching notes and prayers Kit 8- R Eyles\$4	
	Preaching notes and prayers-pre-ordered for 2004-5 \$40 including postage	
	A Present for Christmas \$4	
	John Murray’s studies \$4	
	Advent and Christmas Kit \$9	

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Courses and Resources, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ, PO Box 9049, Wellington.  
Ph (04) 801 6000 Fax (04) 801 6001 Email: [assemblyoffice@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:assemblyoffice@presbyterian.org.nz)  
(Please make cheques payable to Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand)



*Selected items from Broadsheet 98, October 2004:*

## **Citizenship rights should be secure but fair**

CASI has opposed the significant tightening of citizenship qualifications in a submission to the Government Administration Select Committee recently.

Our submission said 'these proposed changes have ostensibly been aimed at preventing terrorists from becoming based in New Zealand and for dealing with people who intend to rip off the system.

'But it seems to us that many of the changes will not be fair to those least able to stand up for themselves – refugees and children.'

'We believe that most New Zealanders want such vulnerable people to be treated with justice and compassion,' CASI said.

'Extending the qualifying period of residence for a grant of citizenship from three to five years could cause considerable psychological problems for refugees, many of whom will have experienced great anxiety about their futures on a daily basis for years before coming to New Zealand. They may well have been homeless and stateless for long periods of time. What they need above everything else is security about their future.

'Any use of terms of imprisonment in other countries as a bar to obtaining New Zealand citizenship is most likely to discriminate against refugees and those who most need the safe haven that New Zealand is proud to promote. Active criminals and terrorists are unlikely to be barred by these measures – they will have the resources to conceal any wrongdoing.

'Many outstanding Christian leaders overseas, who would make a great contribution to New Zealand, have been imprisoned by harsh and oppressive regimes. It would be unjust if our laws hindered such people from beginning a new life, and in effect endorsed the injustice of the regimes they have fled from.

'Denying citizenship rights to children born here seems a draconian measure to gather in a small number of exploitative arrivals. It would be much better to address this relatively small problem through strengthening the APP border security system. The emphasis should be on preventing or deterring people from coming to New Zealand simply to give birth, rather than punishing the children who are in no way culpable.

*'A secure system of passport issue is desirable, CASI, said. But if this is achieved at the cost of treating refugees insensitively or unjustly, then our passport system will not remain one of which we can be proud.'*

## **Homosexuality in leadership**

Delegates at the Presbyterian General Assembly voted on a number of overtures and recommendations relating to homosexuality in leadership. A summary:

- Council of Assembly's recommendation that the decision on homosexual leaders in the Church be left to individual parishes and presbyteries was lost.
- 63 percent of those voting at Assembly ruled the Church would not accept for training, license, ordination or induction, anyone involved in a sexual relationship outside the faithful marriage between a man and a woman. As part of this decision, a motion was passed indicating that, in relation to homosexuality and in the interest of natural justice, this ruling would not prejudice anyone who, as at the date of this meeting, has been accepted for training, licensed, ordained or inducted.
- Assembly voted for this proposal to be sent to presbyteries and parishes under the Barrier Act. In an additional vote, Assembly also agreed to make the decision effective immediately.

More from [www.presbyterian.org.nz/2754.0.html](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/2754.0.html)

## **The ageing Kiwi**

Did you know 1 October was the designated International Day for people aged over 60? There are now about 600 million people in this age group around the world. The number will double by 2025 and reach virtually 2 billion by 2050, when the vast majority will live in the developing world. More from [www.who.int/hpr/ageing](http://www.who.int/hpr/ageing)

## **Ensuring safe shelter**

The Centre for Housing Research, Aotearoa NZ (CHRANZ) has released an independent report, *Accommodation Options for Older People in Aotearoa/NZ*. The research analyses the housing situation of people aged 65 and over in NZ and the housing options which are open to them, both at the present time and in the future.

The report finds the older age groups (80 years plus) are increasing most rapidly, with women predominating. Currently, elder households are small, comprising mostly single people and older couples. This applies also to Maori, despite the traditional preference for extended family living. A high proportion of older Pacific people, however, continue to live with their kin.

A growing proportion of older people with special needs for care and support are remaining in the community, in mainstream housing or accommodation specially for older people.

In the future, the report finds the ageing trend will be particularly rapid for the age group 85 and over. A no-change scenario would see a doubling of numbers of older people in residential care by 2021. But a reduction in residential care provision, resulting from "ageing in place" policies, will bring considerable savings in Vote: Health. Such a reduction would need to be matched by adequate community-based options in terms of both housing and care. Lower levels of homeownership will increase requirements for public sector rental accommodation for older people even further.

The special needs of older Maori and Pacific people require attention, the report says. These groups share the aspirations of older people in general for housing which is comfortable, warm, safe and accessible, located close to amenities and which helps to preserve family and community contact. However, special cultural requirements and the preference to live with other older Maori and Pacific people suggest that the "social village" model would be appropriate for many people in these groups.

## **The Changing Face of Female Gambling**

Female gamblers now account for more than 50 percent of gamblers calling the Gambling Helpline. Also, calls from male "significant others" - including husbands, partners and fathers - are on the rise, at nearly 30 percent in 2003 compared with just over 20 percent in 1999. The Gambling Helpline received more than 20,000 calls in 2003.

## **CASI is working on...**

- A resource on child discipline, safety, parent education and the repeal of S 59 of the Crimes Act.
- Issues surrounding the revision of the Resource Management Act. We are particularly looking for local examples of RMA processes, good and bad, for a submission when the opportunity arises.
- Continuing support for the Ecumenical Coalition for Justice in their race relations resource development. Next section due this month.
- Completing our library catalogue so YOU can view what we have for loan, and make arrangements to borrow items.

## **Resources available**

*Thinking through Immigration* – a four-part study and discussion guide. 12 pp. \$3 per hard copy including p&p, or downloadable from our website.

The *Social Issues Resource Kit* (\$12 incl. p&p) and its accompanying *Research Workbook for Church and Community Groups* (\$2). Each parish/congregation in the four CASI churches is receiving one copy of the Kit free of charge; Methodists will receive theirs at Conference in November. You can also go to [www.casi.org.nz/publications](http://www.casi.org.nz/publications) and download the section you want.