



# e-messenger

The Methodist Church of New Zealand ~ Te Hāhi 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”.*

## Contents:

August 2005

### OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

- A Message from the President* ..... Page 2  
*A Message from the Vice President* ..... Page 3

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION ..... Page 4

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ..... Page 6

METHODIST MISSION & ECUMENICAL ..... Page 7  
*Methodist Mission & Ecumenical Occasional Paper* ..... Page 9

### SITUATIONS VACANT

*Manawatu Prison Chaplain* ..... Page 11

ECUMENICAL NEWS & VIEWS ..... Page 12

AMENDMENTS TO THE YEARBOOK ..... Page 14

# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

---

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

### Greetings

It is a real privilege to serve God and our Church. July has been another month of new experiences for us. Kay and I had a wonderful week in Samoa attending the Methodist Church Conference there. The weather was excellent, 32 degrees most days, and our memories of living there from 1973 -76 came rushing back especially when we saw the house where we had lived in Apia.

As in Tonga last month, the place of the Church in the midst of society was very present. The Conference services and business featured on TV and in the newspapers. One of the larger department stores advertised on TV its welcome to the delegates to the Methodist Conference, then followed this with the grocery specials for the week!

It was good to have the opportunity to share in worship and bring greetings to another of our partners in the Pacific, and to observe the way they do their business. The election of their President and General Secretary from next year, resulted in the General Secretary for the past 9 years, Rev Afereti Samuelu becoming President - elect. He will replace Rev Dr Siatua Leulua'iali'i at next year's conference. The Rev Tupu Folasa II won the ballot for General Secretary-elect of this 36,000 member Church. Rev Tupu Folasa II is the brother of Mr Lani Tupu a former Vice President of our Church.

Our inter-connectedness with the Pacific became apparent again a week after we returned to New Zealand. News of the sudden death of the President of the Methodist Church of Fiji, the Rev Dr Jione Langi was a shock. I had been with him at the Methodist Consultative Council of the Pacific in Queensland for a week in April. He was always fun to be with. He became President of the Fiji Church in January this year after being General Secretary, and his formal induction was to have taken place early in August at this year's Conference of their Church in Nandi. Jione spent 11 years with our Church 1988 -1999, as well as many years in Australia with the Uniting Church.

It was an honour for me to be able to represent our Church at the funeral in Fiji on 28 July. Along with the Rev Dr Ilaitia Tuwere, a former President of the Methodist Church of Fiji and currently Superintendent of Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma e Niu Sila (our Fiji and Rotuman congregations in New Zealand) and Mr Manasa Rayasi from Wesley Wellington, I took the love, sympathy and support from the people of our New Zealand Church to the people of Fiji and especially to Mrs Riga Langi and her children Etika, Reijeli and Rowena and the extended family. The Rev Dr Ilaitia Tuwere, who had shared a room with Jione at theological college, was the preacher at the funeral service. He finished his address with the the message " the best way for us all to honour Mr Langi, is to follow the Word, live right and love all." Jione's body was laid to rest in a specially built tomb in the grounds of the Davuilevu College.

Grace and Peace

*Ron*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

---

Greetings to all readers.

July started off with a bonus, but not a monetary one. The Council of Conference meeting set down for the first weekend was cancelled so I managed a weekend at home. Sunday 3rd of July Helen and I enjoyed being part of an evening communion service held at St Matthews-in-the - City to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Auckland Community Church.

Thursday 7th July I attended the Ministerial Synod for Vahefouna Tonga and shared some thoughts with them. On Saturday Norman West and I were present for the day time sessions of their Synod meeting. Helen and I attended their church service on Sunday and were then guests at a magnificent meal (feast) afterwards.

It was great to be in Christchurch for the Kennon Callahan Seminar on the 16th and 17th. A really worthwhile presentation on 'Small, Strong, Congregations.' Much helpful material there for those who will make use of it. It is my intention to encourage Waitakere Parish to make use of his material and suggestions next year when I will be more permanent in the Parish. To David Bush, a big thank you for arranging Kennon Callahan's visit and for the excellent venue and well run programme. Thank you also to Linda Bush who helped out in many ways. David's congregation survived my visit and talking on Sunday morning where a 'popping' good time was had. (Ask David about the pop corn!)

The Faith and Order Committee warmly welcomed me to their meeting at Remuera on Thursday 21st. Some interesting conversations were held and I found the meeting most helpful. We are well served by this small group of people who do a lot of the hard thinking for our church and prepare various discussion papers to help our understanding of issues, so a big thank you to the members of the Faith and Order Committee.

The away from home events for the month ended on another high for Helen and me which was our visit to Tauranga where I preached on Sunday morning and led the Table Talk session in the evening. This parish is in great heart and enjoy being who they are and Janet's encouraging presence with them. It was a delightful surprise to meet up with the ever smiling Ken Fay and also Roger and Kathy Hey. So to Janet and the Tauranga Methodists thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality.

The month ends with our return to Glen Eden on the 31st. Our first time since the funeral there on Friday the 15th of our dear friend and long time organist at Glen Eden, Viv Shapcott.

With every good wish and God Bless.

*Kenneth*



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNEXION

---

## LECTIONARIES –

These are still available from the Connexional Office for \$2.00 each.

If you would like copies of the Lectionary contact Hannah on (03) 366 6049 or email [hannahf@methodist.org.nz](mailto:hannahf@methodist.org.nz).

Congratulations to the Rev David Pond who has been awarded a Ph.D (Hons) together with a Doctorate in Counselling from the Ecole Superieure de Sorbon University, France. His thesis was entitled "Clinical Supervision"

---

## NEW ZEALAND LAY PREACHERS' ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

---

Bainbridge Methodist Church, Old Taupo Road, Rotorua

**Saturday 24 September 2005**

**Colin Gibson**, the well-known hymn-writer and composer, is also Editor of the NZLPA magazine *Word and Worship*. He is travelling up from Dunedin to run a workshop on music in worship; this is open to any who would like to join us.

Cost for Training Day and lunch is \$10. Please bring a small plate for morning/afternoon tea

### Programme

**9.30 am** Register for Training Day & hot drinks

**9.45 am** Workshop with Colin Gibson

**11.00 am** Morning Tea

**11.20 am** Workshop with Colin Gibson

**12.45 pm** Lunch

**1.30 pm** AGM

**3.00 pm** Afternoon Tea

**RSVP to register for Training Day by  
Saturday 17 September to:**  
Mary Rose, Unit 2, 15 Matai Crescent,  
Putaruru

Apologies for AGM to:  
Viv Whimster, 49 Rimu Street, Tauranga

Epworth Books will be providing us with a bookstall with resources for worship and other helpful background reading.



A Message from Wesleycom:

## Resources for Parishes on Parenting

The issue of positive parenting is vital to the wellbeing of our families and our communities. Again this issue is in the media as Parliament has recently considered legislation concerning Section 59 of the Crimes Act.

Last Conference discussed this matter as a result of a recommendation in the Churches Agency on Social Issues report. One outcome of this discussion was that Wesleycom inform Parishes of current resources that are available to support effective parenting. This message outlines two ways of supporting good parenting and effective outcomes for children and how Parishes can access these.

### **SKIP (Strategies with Kids: Information for Parents)**

---

This Government initiative is designed to get practical information and support out to families. It does this in two main ways;

1 – **resources** – a range of colourful and well written resources are available directly from SKIP. These cover such practical aspects as, ages and stages, tantrums, supermarket survival, jealousy and fighting, tips on stress ... and so on. To order these resources contact SKIP by –  
ringing 0800 226 440 or  
emailing [customer.service@wickliffe.co.nz](mailto:customer.service@wickliffe.co.nz)

2 – **providing funding for community initiatives** – A local initiatives fund has been established that supports a wide range of parenting programmes throughout New Zealand. If you would like more information on this fund contact Barbara Lambourn 04 916 3531 or e-mail [Barbara.lambourn008@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Barbara.lambourn008@msd.govt.nz)

*SKIP is in Family and Community Services in the Ministry of Social Development.*

### **Every Child Counts**

---

This is a broad based campaign whose goal is to see children at the centre of policymaking in New Zealand. It is focusing on four objectives;

- To put children at the centre of Government planning
- To give Children a good start
- To reduce child abuse and poverty
- To end child poverty

Increasing support for parenting and families is an emphasis that supports these four objectives. Your church may wish to join this campaign or access its resources. Every Child Counts can be contacted via

Phone 04 385 7560

Email [everychildcounts@barnardos.org.nz](mailto:everychildcounts@barnardos.org.nz)

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

Any questions re this information contact David Hanna ([dhanna@wesleyca.org.nz](mailto:dhanna@wesleyca.org.nz) )



## *Remember in your prayers*

---

Rev Esau Tuza died suddenly on Monday 18th July, at his home near Munda in the Solomon Is. Esau is well known to many in New Zealand, Methodists in particular, for his ministry of leadership in the United Church in the Solomons, his teaching at Rarongo Theological College and research and writings on Church history in Melanesia.

Messages of sympathy can be sent to his widow Mali c/o the Methodist Church office, PO Box 82, Munda, Solomon Islands, or to his three children (Steven, Simon, and Keriwen ), all resident at 57 Mardon Rd, Hamilton, NZ.

---

Rev Jione Langi, passed away on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> of July in Suva, Fiji. We ask that in your prayers you please remember Rigamoto, their three children, and their extended family as they come together during this time of such sudden loss and sadness.

---

Sister Dorothy Pointon (Retired Methodist Deaconess) passed away on June 18th at Auckland Hospital.

---

Helen Robertson, wife of Peter Robertson, Te Awamutu Parish, passed away on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

---

John B McDougal former Principal of Wesley College 1974 - 1988 passed away Wednesday 10 August in Pauanui. His funeral will be at the Pauanui Community Church at 11am on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>, and a memorial Service will be at Wesley College on Sunday at 10:30am.

*<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for **nothing**, but in everything by prayer and **supplication** with THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known to God.*

*<sup>7</sup>And the PEACE of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Phillipians 4: 6-7*



Secretary: John Roberts, 22a Penney Avenue, Mt Roskill, Auckland.  
Phone 09-626-3771 Fax: 09-626-6137 E-mail mm-e@clear.net.nz

## **Killing knives into bush knives**

THE presence of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) has enabled Solomon Islanders to see the importance of interdependence once more, said Church of Melanesia, Archbishop Most Reverend Sir Ellison Pogo, when speaking during the Thanksgiving Service to mark RAMSI's second anniversary. He said during the tension there was no interdependence, instead the opposite happened. "During the ethnic tension ploughshares were turned into swords, pruning hooks into spears. ... The instinct to destroy, the instinct to control, the instinct to judge, seemed to rule in these islands. ... The sin of isolationism, like the sin of racism or the sin of tribalism, is a ludicrous distortion of the facts of human life" RAMSI's presence in the country had forced people to see what has been there all the time - interdependence. It has enabled them to see that the human longing for life, love and respect is stronger than the human longing for destruction.

The Archbishop went on to say that through RAMSI "We see people from other countries leaving their homes and families, not for the purpose of trade or conquest, but to turn swords into ploughshares, or guns in planters, killing knives into bush knives. ... We are not learning war anymore. In this anniversary, we see that racism, denominationalism, islandism and tribalism are false gods that must be thrown away, for what happens to you, happens to me, what happens to my children, affects your children," Sir Ellison encouraged all Solomon Islanders to be dedicated in the ongoing task of reclaiming the country's peace. "The commitment of our neighbours to Solomons Islands, the commitment of Solomon Islanders to peace and interdependence is a sign of maturity, a healthy sign that at last we are growing beyond narrow thinking, and growing into the larger body, the larger concept of being a nation, of being a place in the world where all God's people play their part."

Solomon Star 26 July 2005

## **Women's band raises money for rally**

A group of women between the ages of 20 and 65 formed a band and have been performing around Honiara recently. They come from Wagina, Choiseul Province, call themselves Mos-band and have been going around town on request to raise money for the United Church Women's Fellowship regional rally to be held in their village of Nikumaroro next year in June.

Mos-band coordinator Teramira Tabao said more than 400 United Church women around Choiseul are expected to attend the rally therefore, it is important they prepare now rather than "last minute". "There is not many of us in our village to host this big rally so we feel we should start preparing now to avoid last minute preparations which could lead to many problems," Ms Tabao said.

The twenty-one women have been divided into two groups called the Mos-young Band and Mos-Kara Band and they have performed religious songs, action choruses, custom dance or Tamure and a concert which saw them playing instruments and singing with guitars, drums, tambourines, and flute. "We have been going around villages in our area and with confidence we decided to come to Honiara," she said. The group was amazed with the response from the Honiara public.



United Church Women's Fellowship Women's Work secretary Joy Jino said what the women did around Honiara indicated their strong faith in their women's fellowship programme. "They are housewives who have many things to do around their homes at this time but they also put time aside to prepare for the regional rally. "So I want to thank their families at home for allowing them to come to Honiara. It shows that these women came to Honiara with big support from their community which I am very pleased with," Mrs Jino said.

United Church Reverend Mareta Tahu said these women have been preparing since last year to come to Honiara with their message and had seek their own funds for the trip to Honiara. "It might be very expensive for them but with the support of God and people like Reverend Joseph Susu and Superintendent minister Rev Kalep Kotali these women are able to achieve what they are here to do, which is to raise money and to spread the message of God through songs and dances," Rev Mareta said.

*Solomon Star July 2005*

## **More Solomons news**

### **SICA welcomes reconciliation plan**

The Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) peace office is welcoming news of a proposed major reconciliation ceremony between Guadalcanal province and the national government. It will be the first major reconciliation process to occur since the ethnic tension ended with the signing of the Townsville Peace agreement in 2000. The secretary-general of SICA, Reverend Eric Takila, says the country will be able to move forward once reconciliation is achieved. "As far as SICA is concerned, we see that it's a very positive step in this whole area of reconciliation. We are very supportive of it and we would like to see more of it happening in the Solomon Islands." Rev Takila is warning however, that unless the underlying issues over land and justice are resolved, reconciliation will mean little.

Judith Fagalasuu of the Solomon Islands Christian Association has been part of a 15-member Pacific delegation to a New York based global effort to prevent violent conflict throughout the world and build peace. Two of the Pacific's leading human rights and democracy fighters, Reverend Akuila D Yabaki of the Fiji Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF) and 'Akilisi Pohiva, currently the People of Tonga's number one Representative to Parliament, travelled with the Pacific delegation to present the Pacific Report, which contains the summaries of several national consultations that were held throughout the Pacific.

### **NZ donates computers**

The Youth First Computer Centre in Honiara has received computers and accessories from New Zealand. High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Brian Sanders handed the computers and accessories worth more than SBD50,000 to Chairman of the Rural Development Volunteers Association, Allan Agassi. In receiving the computers Agassi said young people and children in East Honiara will use the centre to further their education and be connected to the rest of the world. The hand over ceremony of the computers and accessories coincided with the opening of a four-day computer training workshop for rural email operators from the provinces. The Commonwealth Of Learning funded training aims at equipping trainers with basic computing skills to train women's groups, students, businessmen and young people in the provinces. *Solomons PFNet July 2005*

### **NZ war vets in Honiara**

New Zealand war veterans will be in Honiara this month. Their visit coincides with the World War Two celebrations in Honiara. Together with New Zealand Defence Force personnel they will commemorate VJ Day. The group consists of 80 Veterans. There will be services at Henderson Field, Memorial Garden, and the US Memorial. *Solomons PFNet July 2005*



## Secretary's engagements

In the lead-up to Conference in Christchurch in November the secretary, John Roberts, has prepared the Mission and Ecumenical report and will present it at the Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast and Northland Synods. He has also spoken of Mission and Ecumenical activities at Henderson and Huapai Churches, and to Women's fellowship groups at Upper Hutt and Waitemata. He has attended the Christian World Service National Council meeting and a meeting of the Conference of Churches executive and will attend a meeting of the Churches Agency on International Issues this month. Future engagements are lined up for Paihia and Russell, and Helensville. The secretary will also be a guest speaker at the Diaconate Convocation this month, with two presentations on the theme: "All people are God's people".

## MM&E Occasional Paper

No.24 August 2005

# A new quality of interreligious dialogue

*By Gibert Friend-Jones for World Council of Churches 8 June 2005*

A broad group of religious leaders, academic specialists and grassroots activists from virtually all the major world faith communities recently gathered in Geneva to reflect on a "critical moment" in interreligious dialogue.

Like the proverbial blind villagers trying to describe an elephant, conference participants began the meeting by identifying, from their various perspectives, different aspects of the "post-modern" challenge they face. Economic and cultural globalization, the massive migrations and dislocations of people, the growth of the "culture of violence", the confluence of religious extremism with political agendas, the abuse and impoverishment of millions of people - all factors accelerating the process of social change and religious upheaval in the world.

### Beyond adventurous spirituality

This moment in history is "critical" for all religious communities. Many of the faith leaders hope to push the phenomenon of interreligious cooperation to new levels of relevance for a world in crisis. Their appreciation of the "adventurous" spirituality that dialogue has enabled in recent decades is exceeded only by the conviction that interreligious cooperation must now move further to involve more people in more creative ways to overcome divisions that threaten humanity.

Reminding participants of the World Council of Churches (WCC) 30-year history of interfaith dialogue, general secretary Sam Kobia asked, "How can we live together our diversity and differences in one world?" WCC moderator, Catholicos Aram I, went further, urging the conference to help the world's religions to move beyond coexistence into genuine community, and into nurturing a spirituality of reflecting, living and working together. "Religions must act, they must act together and urgently. Let us participate in God's transformation of His world, our common household. Let us commit ourselves to make humanity more humane. The new world situation with its complexities, uncertainties and challenges calls for a credible dialogue, greater partnership and closer collaboration between the religions," he appealed.



## **Widening presence at the table**

Yet the gap between dialogue and local realities can seem striking. Dr Wande Abimbola, a high priest of the Yorùbá religion from Nigeria, was sharply critical of much interreligious dialogue which, he said, has too often been half-hearted and insincere, and often excluded authentic representatives of the worlds primal religions. "Even today Christians and Muslims continue to seek to convert adherents of indigenous religions; they wantonly destroy temples, icons and holy relics of traditional religions," he deplored. Abimbola urged the presence of all religious traditions at the table of dialogue and insisted that their contribution be taken seriously in efforts to solve problems facing the world.

Dr Heba Raouf Ezzat, an Egyptian Muslim political scientist and writer for the "Islam Online" website, sketched a different vision of the postmodern age. In our hunger for identity, she said, growing numbers of people are returning to faith, but not necessarily to organized, institutional religion. The real conflict is not between civilizations or religions, but between humanity and anti-humanity, she pointed out. We share a common human condition, and the role of religion is "to preserve, foster and secure civility" in an age that is extremely hostile to it. Ezzat argued that we must move to a "post-conversion" era, in which faith communities go beyond proselytism to transformation. Religions must not be concerned just with blatant eruptions of violence such as war, but with structural violence that governs many societies and relationships. People desire a return to a sense of community in response to the modern world, she said. All faiths share common values and live within the same modern conditions which both underline and undermine traditional understandings. Religions must give passion to people as a way of taming the sweeping capitalization of the world, she said. "We must keep the human heart beating. We will need each other to help people to respond."

Kobia echoed her concern, saying that if there is a "missionary impulse" today, it must be to convince people of our common community and values. "If there is anything that we need to convert, it is the mentality of people to become true human persons," he said. "Our common missionary vocation is to transform the world to be truly human, to recover our common humanity."

## **Towards a new quality of dialogue**

Conference participants articulated a common concern when they urged a new quality of interreligious dialogue. Can dialogue enable the religions to identify common values for our common humanity? Can it strengthen the moral authority of religion in the public arena? Can it move from words to actions, and from actions to a deeper level of shared commitment? In the words of Swami Agnivesh, an Indian spiritual leader and social activist, "after a century of inter-religious dialogue, we now need a new approach. Dialogue must be seen as a spiritual tool, and not an end in itself. Our horizontal dialogue with each other must be directed by our vertical dialogue with God. We must integrate correct words with creative deeds, and so unleash the spiritual power that would liberate the people and transform societies. Nothing less than this is acceptable as the goal of the inter-faith movement for the third millennium."

### **In humility and hope**

"Recasting interreligious dialogue as a practice of humility and hope offers a way of building greater trust," concluded participants in the international conference on a "critical moment in interreligious dialogue" convened by the World Council of Churches (WCC), 7-9 June 2005.

The conference outlined specific strategies which aim to shift the emphasis of interreligious relations from dialogue to common action, including new education and training programmes and exchanges which foster a culture of dialogue.



The conference enabled open discussion of divisive issues, notably those of religious violence and conversion, and called for repentance and humility that "opens a way to move from a dialogue of strangers to a dialogue of neighbours".

Participants expressed caution about understandings of dialogue that diminish particular identities and traditions, and that generate suspicion and hostility to dialogue within religious communities.

"Dialogue with other faiths has become a core issue for the WCC," confirmed general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia. "We can only be effective and successful in our search for hope if we work together. Together, we can go far towards restoring hope for another possible and better world in which all people may experience abundant life in dignity."

The conference organizer and WCC specialist on interfaith issues Rev. Dr Hans Ucko underlined the specific nature of this event among the many global multi-faith initiatives. "This event was unique because it sought to assess dialogue, and looked at ways of fostering relations which are more realistic and less idealistic. We confirmed the commitment of those involved, and this adds impetus to our own Christian engagement in dialogue."

## SITUATIONS VACANT

---

### VACANCY – MANAWATU PRISON CHAPLAIN

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

#### **Manawatu Prison**

Manawatu Prison has a regional role with a special emphasis on training opportunities and community involvement, housing remand, minimum and medium security sentenced male inmates. There are four residential units with a maximum capacity of 278 male inmates.

The Alpha Unit is a 20-hut unit that provides a supportive environment for inmates committed to the Principles, Values and Attitudes programme. This programme is run by the Chaplain and is based on the spiritual values of the Christian faith.

Applications are sought from experienced chaplains and other suitably qualified persons who have:-

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

For further details, job description and application forms contact the Executive Manager, David Connor  
e-mail: david@pcsan.org  
phone: 09 379 3017  
PO Box 109516, Newmarket, Auckland 1031

**Applications close 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005**



## BEFORE YOU VOTE

- a backgrounder on the coming General Election from the Churches' Agency on Social Issues.

This four-page leaflet explores some of the principles and values underlying policies being put forward in the election on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Contents include:

- Faith and community action
- What sort of society do we want?
- Is there still a rich-poor gap?
- Sustainability – a challenge for churches and voters.

Also included are suggested questions for voters and for candidates, and short specially-written prayers. A covering note offers some brief pointers for those holding election meetings, and a guide to 'analysing the rhetoric' of political messages.

Depending on their size, parishes are being sent 10, 20 and 50 copies of *Before You Vote* in the first week of August. The format is such that part or all of the document can be easily photocopied, or further printed copies can be ordered. It is also available in PDF format on the web, [www.casi.org.nz](http://www.casi.org.nz).

CASI is also gathering more detailed election material from a variety of sources to create an 'election pack'.

Email inquiries to [casi@casi.org.nz](mailto:casi@casi.org.nz), or phone 04 381 8295, or write to CASI, P O Box 9049, Wellington.

## NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES

---

The members of the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) are Anglican Care, the Baptist Union, Catholic Social Services, the Methodist Church, Presbyterian Support New Zealand and the Salvation Army.

"In the context of buoyant economic times it is easy to overlook that some New Zealanders are struggling in the face of very difficult living circumstances. In this election year, it's important to look beneath the glossy statistics and upbeat remarks of some politicians and media commentators, and focus on the people in our society who, often through no fault of their own, cannot enjoy the 'good times' most of us can.

We've had requests from members asking if Council would prepare some notes on a range of issues. "

NZCCSS have compiled a number of topics covering issues that they are concerned about – "**Genuine Options for Parents**", "**Services for Families and Children**", "**Income Support**", "**Aged Care Workforce**" – just to name a few. This can be found at their website – [www.nzccss.org.nz](http://www.nzccss.org.nz) – along with an interesting brochure on what the major political parties have to say about caring for our older New Zealanders in the future.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIACONATE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR – DCN SHIRLEY-JOY BARROW

---

I am on my way home from attending the DIAKONIA Foundation which is a World Foundation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities. I was privileged to attend the Assembly as a Methodist from the New Zealand Methodist Church.



### **The aims of the DIAKONIA Foundation are:**

- To further ecumenical relations among diaconal associations and diaconal communities.
- To reflect on the nature and task of diakonia in the biblical sense and;
- to further the understanding of the diaconate.
- To strengthen a sense of community among its members.
- To render mutual aid.
- To undertake common tasks.

Every four years members from all over the world gather together and this year I attended as the one of the five founder members of Diakonia, Aotearoa New Zealand Association. For the last four years after attending the 18th Assembly in Brisbane a number of Deacons within the Anglican Church and contacts being made with the Catholic Deacons, the Lutheran Church in New Zealand and the Presbyterian Church it was decided that this Association would apply for membership to the Diakonia Foundation. On Thursday 21st of July in the Gala Theatre in Durham we were welcomed by the President into the Foundation. We are the only Ecumenical Association in membership. A blessed, ponamu fish-hook was given to the President and a waiata sung by the five foundation members and their spouses.

The Conference theme was "Diakonia at the margins - Challenge and Hope. Held in Durham, a centre of pilgrimage for Christians since the 6th Century and called the "cradle of Christianity" in Britian.

Special guest speakers were the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev'd Tom Wright, the President of the Methodist Conference the Rev'd Tom Stuckey.

From Wednesday 20th July until Wednesday 27th July 420 Deacons, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers worshipped, attended World Focus Sessions, workshops, visits to projects within the Newcastle and Durham area and a visit to Lindisfarne Island for a very special Eucharist within the broken walls of the Priory.

Arohanui and God Bless  
Shirley-Joy

## ***Wipe Out Poverty Week 5 –11 September***

It's not too late to get involved! This year promises to be bigger and better with new suggested activities and more groups taking part. Wipe Out Poverty Week is the annual CWS youth fundraiser in support of groups like House of Passage, Brazil. House of Passage gives young girls from poverty-stricken, violent communities a new chance at life – with food, health care, a safe place to spend the day, vocational education, counselling and training opportunities. Girls gain confidence and receive the respect and affection they need to find a more hopeful future. NZ youth groups, churches and families can give them a hand – have a cake stall, car wash or overnight wipe-out. Join Wipe Out Poverty Week. Contact [youth@cws.org.nz](mailto:youth@cws.org.nz) or ring (03) 366 9274 and speak to Liz Whitehead. Full fundraising kits available now

## **Make Poverty History Sunday**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2005, CWS is asking churches to take a Sunday to explore the issues behind the Make Poverty History Campaign in light of the United Nations meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and hold a special day of worship and prayer for the millions of people trapped in poverty. We will have resources available for churches by 21<sup>st</sup> August. Some banners are available for your front fence and CWS has white 'Make Poverty History' bands to sell. For more information and copies of the resources call Liz on 366 9274 or check out [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz) from August 21.



# AMENDMENTS TO THE YEARBOOK

---

## July/August 2005

**Page 26** – NB no longer has a fax number

**Andrews**, Robert (Bob) S;  
2/64 Golf Road,  
Tahunanui, Nelson 7001

Ph: 03 548 5206

### **Page 41**

**Reeves**, Marica [O] Ph/Fax: 00 679 672 5680  
P O Box NAP 10346, Nadi Airport, Fiji Islands  
(Home: 16 Fasa Ave, Namaka)  
Fiji [Em] reeves@is.com.fj

### **Page 42**

(as from 22 August 2005)

**Samuel**, Leatua L T  
P O Box 36385  
14 Greenslade Crescent  
Northcote, Northshore 1310

[O] 09 419 2473

[Em] da.reav@xtra.co.nz

### **Page 45**

**Tucker**, W Geoffrey  
87 William St, Petone

[H] (04) 386 3229  
[Em] g.tucker@xtra.co.nz  
Wellington

**If you have any articles, news or information for next month's e-Messenger,**  
you can send them in to Hannah Flinn at the Christchurch Connexional Office:

Email: [hannahf@methodist.org.nz](mailto:hannahf@methodist.org.nz)

Postal: PO Box 931, Christchurch

