



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".

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July 2007



Official Communications

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The snow capped pinnacle of Mount Taranaki shone in front of a clear blue sky. Whanau, Methodist Church of New Zealand leaders, and friends gathered on a hill top south of Mokau in Taranaki. Sister Heeni was laid to rest along side members of her family.

The sea quietly lapped on the shore, the air was cold and crisp. As I stood along with Tumuaki Diana Tana, General Secretary Rev. Jill van de Geer, this chorus came to mind 'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad'.

During the days of the tangi, time and again the tributes spoke of the influence that Sister Heeni had had on young women and young men. Men spoke with great respect of the care and leadership in the Boy's hostel in Hamilton when Sister Heeni was the Matron. They were young men attending training establishments that have over the years enabled these men to now hold significant positions in their work or community. Sister was held in high esteem by all her met her. Sister Heeni had a deep friendship with the late Maori Queen Dame Te Atairangikaahu.

Sister Heeni was a niece of the late Maori Queen.

Celebrations take many different forms. Four days later I was in Mount Roskill church in Auckland for the recognition of Rev. Peni Tikoinaka as Superintendent of Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma e Nuisilada. This was a very happy occasion for the Fijian and Rotuman members of MCNZ. Rev. Peni lives in Christchurch but has the responsibilities for the Fijian congregations and fellowships throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. This service brought together aspects of the Fijian culture together with the appropriate order of service for recognition of a leader within Te Haahi. I really enjoyed the choirs that sang. Together with Wasewase leaders, President John, General Secretary Jill and myself took part in the kava ceremony. The occasion concluded with a feast.

Certainly a special week.

Winter often brings coughs and colds as well as icy conditions. I hope and pray that illness or accidents will not be a major concern for each of you.

Sincerely,
Mary

Last year about this time – in the “colds and flu” season – we were putting together plans for coping with a possible pandemic. At that point we were very worried about some form of avian flu virus mutating so as to be highly contagious. I guess now many of us have filed our plans (or perhaps never even finalised them). The pandemic issue has gone from TV screens and largely out of our consciousness.

However, the level of potential threat has not altered. This “colds and flu” time seems to me to be a good time to review our plans, to remind ourselves of the kinds of things we would need to do if a pandemic did occur. So I encourage parishes and other groups in the church to check the level of awareness and readiness – just in case.

This sense of preparedness lies deep in the heart of the Gospel message, as I hear it in the words of Jesus. And it’s an approach that is relevant to so much of life today, including in relation to the impacts of climate change. I was part of a Symposium on water in Timaru last month, as noted in Touchstone. It was fascinating to engage theologically with a hydrologist and a farmer, and others, in looking at water and how we might respond to changes in water flows and water usage. Preparedness was the key...

I also appreciated time in Napier, participating in worship that brought together the Napier and Hastings Palagi congregations and the Napier Tongan Fellowship. The question and answer time before lunch was both worthwhile and a challenge! And involvement with Vice President Mary in recognising Peni Tikoinaka as Waswase ko Viti kei Rotuma Superintendent was very significant and moving.

With other Church Leaders, I met at Parliament with the Leaders of the Opposition, John Key and Bill English. Our aim was to remind them of the Churches’ primary commitment to those who readily get left out of political and economic planning, and to identify some of our core values. The discussion was preliminary and general, but a worthwhile opening conversation. I expect there will be more discussion around core social and political issues with an election on the horizon.

~John



Conference Update

The Conference Registration forms are on their way – technical difficulties have meant a delay for which we apologise. However we hope to get them out to you and on the website by Monday the 16th of July.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact Hannah Flinn at the Connexional Office – Em: hannahf@methodist.org.nz or call 03 364 9427.



News from Around the Connexion

Rev Trevor Hoggard has advised that he is happy for people to contact him via his email address especially if they are lucky enough to be travelling to Rome! His contact email is: methodistchurchrome@virgilio.it.

When are YOU planning your next Study leave?

Do **you** take regular study leave?

What are your interests that could encourage / assist your ministry, your parish / rohe or Hui Poari or Synod? Active lay persons in Ministry may also apply for a grant.

The committee appreciates hearing in advance when applicants may be requesting a significant grant.

REMINDER

Travel and Study Grants

Applications for consideration must be received by August 15th at the Connexional office.

Application forms and guidelines are available on the Methodist Web site.

Final dates for receiving applications are

15th November, 15th February, 15th May, and 15th August.

Please note that late applications will only be considered at the following committee meeting.

If you have questions please contact
maryw@west.net.nz Meeting secretary

An Exaltation of Organs

A history of the four pipe organs of the St. Albans Methodist Churches in Christchurch

By Frank Paine

Organs reviewed
1868 (second Church)
197 (third Church)
1960 (rebuild)
1979 (present organ)

While giving details of the building of the organs, also included is a good deal of associated history.

'An Exaltation of Organs'

(43 A4 pages and cover)

Will be available from the author at:
Flat 22, 40 Bristol Street, St. Albans
Christchurch 8014
From Saturday, 14th July

Copies of the books may also be purchased on Saturday, 14th July from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Merivale Uniting Church, Corner of Papanui Road and Rugby Street

Cost per copy: \$12.00
Plus p&p: \$1.50

Cheques should be made payable to Frank Paine.

Climate Change

An increasing number of people are asking the question of how the church is involved in matters of ecology and climate change. There is a network of people keeping up with material and news. A newsletter goes out to anyone who is interested. We would like to hear of any project undertaken or question grappled with.

Contact Gillian Watkin on mecology@ihug.co.nz if you would like updates.

THINKING ABOUT LOCAL SHARED MINISTRY IN YOUR DISTRICT?

ENABLING A CHANGING CHURCH

This year in October, the Methodist Church will be running a course for the training of Enablers. This is the second course to be held. Last year 16 participants (Lay and Ordained) found great value in the 5 days at Epworth Camp, near Cambridge. This year the course will be run on the outskirts of Christchurch.

DATES: **Sunday October 7th**, beginning at 4.30pm
 Thursday October 11th, ending by lunch time

VENUE: **Adcroft Retreat Centre**, 550 Buchanans Road, Christchurch
 Set in a peaceful garden, tasty home-cooked meals

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

1. People identified by Synod as potential Enablers.
2. Those who feel a call to enabling churches already doing, or thinking about Local Shared Ministry (LSM).
3. Synod Superintendents who will work with Parishes making a transition to LSM.

OUTCOMES:

- A better understanding of what LSM is
- Understanding why LSM is happening in the Church
- How the Church is managing this transition
- Helping Parishes to consider LSM as an option
- Being equipped to become an Enabler

To express your interest, or for further information please contact your District Superintendent, or the Course Organisers:

Bonnie Heberton: bonhomie@clear.net.nz
Alex Webster: alex49@xtra.co.nz
Jan Fogg: ur.fogg@xtra.co.nz

Advance Notice of
New Zealand Lay Preachers' Association Annual General Meeting
to be held on Saturday 11 August 2007 - 1.30pm to 3.00pm
at Melville Methodist Church, cnr Bader Street and Normandy Ave, Hamilton
following a workshop on '*The Parable of Nature*'
with Joy Cowley
10.00am to 12.30pm

More information from Viv Whimster, email jvwhim@actrix.co.nz
phone 07-578-6056 or any member of NZLPA Executive

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRIES TRUST



Spiritual Directors' Formation Programme 2008 - 2009

This comprehensive and proven, 2 year part-time course is open to mature Christians of any denomination.

It offers:

- Systematic study of spiritual direction
- Regular workshops conducted by an ecumenical team of qualified leaders
- Supervised practical experience

For details contact the Coordinator:

Rev. Sue Pickering

83 Vivian St, New Plymouth

Phone / Fax: (06) 759 2331

Email: sgmtp@xtra.co.nz or visit our website: <http://www.sgm.org.nz>

Applications close **20th AUGUST 2007** - Early applications are appreciated.



Remember

In your Prayers

It was with sadness that Te Taha Maori informed the Connexion that Sister Heeni Wharemaru died early hours on Sunday morning the 24th June in New Plymouth.

The funeral service for Sister Heeni Te Teira Wharemaru was held on the morning of Wednesday 27th June 2007 at Maniaroa Marae, Mokau.

~

On behalf of her immediate family, it was with regret that Eric Russell advised the Connexion of the sudden passing of his cousin, Rev Edith (Edie) Little at her home in Lower Hutt on 29 June.

A celebration of her life was held at Johnsonville Uniting Church at 10.30am on Tuesday 3 July.

Messages may be sent to her daughter Mrs Janice Tomlin, 4 Barraud Street, Avalon, Lower Hutt.



Methodist Mission & Ecumenical

Newsletter July 2007

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

God wants believers to be green

This was the message that emerged from a Vatican conference on climate change which was the latest sign of growing concern by religious groups around the world over the fate of the planet. Scientists, environment ministers and leaders of various religions from 20 countries sat down for two days to discuss the implications of global warming and development. While the scientists spoke of the dynamics of greenhouse gases, temperature patterns, rain forests and exhaust emissions, the men and women of religion discussed the moral and theological aspects of protecting the environment. The conference, organised by the Vatican's Council for Justice and Peace, marked the most significant plunge to date by the Roman Catholic Church - the world's largest Christian grouping - into one of the hottest contemporary topics.

In recent years, the world's major religions have gone more green in the race to save the planet, which they teach mankind has in stewardship and must protect for future generations.

Over the past year, some evangelical Protestant churches in the United States -- strong conservative backers of President George W. Bush -- have broken ranks with the White House to call for urgent measures to protect the environment. National Catholic bishops' conferences in some countries, including the United States and Australia, have issued statements or pastoral letters on climate change and the need to protect what most religions see as "the gift of creation".

"Climate change is one of the signs of the times affecting the Catholic Church as a global organisation. The Catholic Church must take a stand on this present-day and urgent question," said Bishop Bernard Uhl of Freiburg, Germany. Uhl said the time had come for an encyclical, the highest form of papal writing, on what he called "the future of creation". He said it would "energize" Catholics, other believers and world opinion on climate change. Bishop Christopher Toohey of Australia said believers should "have the courage and motivation under God's grace to do what we need to do to safeguard this garden planet".

Elias Abramides, a Greek Orthodox member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), told the gathering climate change was a "deeply spiritual issue" rooted in the scriptures. "We believe that the solutions to the problem will not only be of a political, technological and economic nature. We believe that ethics and religion will necessarily become essential components on which the solutions will be based," he said. "As Christians ... we need to recognise and accept the intimate ethical and deeply religious implications of climate change. It is a matter of justice, it is a matter of equity, and it is a matter of

love: love for God the Almighty, love for the neighbour, love for creation," Abramides said. *Philip Pullella Reuters 29 April 2007*

Choosing a name for God

Publication of a new version of the Bible in the Solomon Islands Pijin language has generated a discussion on the word or name to be used for God. The Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group (SITAG) is proposing use of the name "lawe". According to SITAG, one of the significant features of the Old Testament in Pijin is that it uses the name for God, "lawe" which is an attempt to reflect the Hebrew Yahweh. From discussion SITAG has noted that names are very significant in Solomon Islands culture. Many people have several names, some of which have restricted use and are known by only a few people. To know a person's name is to know their character, their identity. To know a person's name means that a relationship exists. This cultural value means that in the Solomons there is potentially a greater appreciation of God's name than in many

western countries. Because of many English translations, there is confusion about the name of God in the Old Testament. However, God did not intend that we be confused about his name. Much of the confusion we have today may be due to fear and wrong thinking. In attempting to faithfully translate the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, the Pijin Bible translators have had to think carefully through the issue of translating God's name. The Solomon Islands Christian Association plans to launch the Solomon Islands Pijin Bible in July next year. The Pijin New Testament was first released in 1993. Since that time some 15,000 copies have been in use. Many people have benefited from this translation since they have a much better command of Pijin than they do of English. At the time the Pijin New Testament was published, the Solomon Islands Christian Association asked that the Old Testament be also translated into Pijin. So that a full Bible in Pijin can be published, the New Testament needs some revision. *Solomon Star 19 May 2007*

News in brief

Rarongo work parties

New Zealanders Ken and Brenda Skinner (Waitakere Methodist Parish, Dave Buchan (Te Aroha Co-operating Parish) Geoff Warth (Te Puke/Mt Maunganui Methodist Parish) and Ewen Hutchinson (Greenlane Presbyterian), together with Dave Buchan's daughter Keysha and her husband Kelvin joined United Church of Australia work parties for rebuilding work at Rarongo theological College of the United Church in Papua Guinea in May.

John Carr, the project manager, has circulated a report on what was achieved. The hall was finished, even the toilet floors were tiled and vinyl mats laid. The other two new steel-framed buildings are at different stages and will need a lot more work. The library requires some minor items to be completed. The verandah was constructed, stairs painted & stained, reception & computer desks and rewiring finished, data cabling linked to the administration building. Hoods over the windows, & all areas painted or stained. It looked great. Taylor House is finished. The Principal, Konio, and his wife moved in and were overjoyed. A stove and fridge were installed. The admin Building was taken on by local tradesmen who did all the reconstruction and relining work. The work party did the rewiring, plumbing, joinery & data cabling. The painting was a shared endeavour. The offices had doors and new locks installed. The new verandah and roof

sheeting were being finished when we left. Electrical work was not quite finished. Instructions and money were left for the local electrician to do the rest. Drainage work was completed. Staff and students were overjoyed at what had been done and thanked the work party members profusely with many gifts etc.

Does religion fuel conflicts?

Speaking at the German Protestant "Kirchentag", the largest Protestant gathering in Germany, World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia affirmed that in the midst of conflicts, Christians are called by the gospel to work towards healing and reconciliation. Kobia said attributing outbursts of violence only to religion, even where it plays a role in the conflict, is not correct, since causes of violent conflicts are usually more complex. The current upsurge of new forms of religious fundamentalism "is probably most adequately interpreted as a form of collective resistance against cultural hegemony in the context of globalization," Kobia said.

What is required if people of different faiths are to be able to live together as neighbours who share the planet as a common home, is to overcome histories of domination and oppression. For Christians, this includes the need to come to terms with "sad chapters of Christian mission history," in which other religions were oppressed in often violent ways. "If we do not own up to this history, turn around and repent, this part of our past will always haunt the relationships among us and with people of other faiths," said Kobia. *WCC 7 June 2007*

Mobilising for peace in Israel/Palestine

Christian leaders from around the world, meeting in the Jordanian capital of Amman have called for an end to the "illegal occupation" of Palestinian territories by Israel. In a statement issued at the end of a three-day gathering, the leaders said they wanted to work with the Christian churches of Palestine and Israel to build bridges for an enduring peace, "to end these decades of injustice, humiliation and insecurity, to end the decades of living as refugees and under occupation". The conference, convened by the World Council of Churches, launched a "Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum" to help mobilise action to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and to promote inter-religious action for peace and justice. *ENI 21 June 2007*



Methodist Mission & Ecumenical

Occasional Paper No. 37

Fifty Years of Stories from the Christian Conference of Asia

Ron O'Grady interviews those who were there in CCA's half-century. This is an extended paper relating personal stories that were shared at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the CCA at Parapat, Indonesia, March 2007. Reproduced from CCA News March 2007.

They were four young men from different countries who set out in 1957 to change the thinking of Asian churches. Their undisputed leader was a young Methodist minister from Sri Lanka whose full name was Daniel Thambyrajah Niles, only nobody ever used

those names. To everyone he met he was plain 'D.T.'. His assistant was a Burmese layman named U Kyaw Than. The third person was Alan Brash, a Presbyterian minister from New Zealand who was responsible for inter-church aid, and the fourth was M.M. Thomas, a lay theologian from India. Only one of the original four is still alive. I asked him who was his greatest inspiration in those years.

U Kyaw Than

It would have to be M.M. Thomas. He was a layman like myself and he recruited me to the East Asian Christian Conference. I always admired him, he was such a humble person yet he had a great intellect, a very keen mind.

Three years after the original four began they added a fifth member to their team—Soritua Nababan, a young theologian from Indonesia. I asked him the same question.

Soritua Nababan

There were many great men in those years. I respected Visser't Hooft in the World Council of Churches. But most of all D.T. Niles was a very special person. He was an outstanding preacher and a great church leader.

D.T. was the voice of the Asian churches in those early years. His son, Preman, followed him into the ecumenical movement, and he shares some recollections of his father.

D. Preman Niles

I shared my father's ecumenical vision but not necessarily his ideas about the Christian ministry. He was furious with me for not seeking ordination. I was certain that my ministry was to be a theologian and a teacher, but not necessarily an ordained minister. He soon gave up trying to 'bully' me into becoming an ordained minister. One day my wife heard him hold our young daughter, Damayanthi, in his arms, bless her and say, 'One day, my child, you will take my place.' In a few months Damayanthi, who is a professor of theology in a seminary, will also be ordained into the ministry of the church.

My first meeting with D.T. was at the 1964 EACC Assembly in Thailand. I was a young man first time out of New Zealand, totally overwhelmed by the many languages and cultures at the assembly. Sitting at breakfast on the second day I had a shock when the great D.T. came along and sat down opposite me. 'You are O'Grady?' he asked. 'Yes,' I quavered. 'Good—then I want you to write the minutes of this assembly.' With D.T. there was never any question of saying 'yes' or 'no'. The oracle had spoken. So there I was, not knowing the names of anyone and desperately trying to understand what was happening.

With the help of others I finally completed the task and at the end of the assembly this exhausted young man handed the minutes over to D.T. He quickly scanned them and then commented that it seemed all right but I had the introduction wrong. This was not the second assembly but the third. 'But,' I said, 'the previous meeting in 1959 was called the 'inaugural' assembly which means the first, so this has to be the second.'

That was when I discovered that one did not argue with D.T. 'No,' he said with finality, 'this will be the third assembly'—and so it was.

In that early period of the EACC one Indian woman made a simple but quite significant contribution—Shanti Solomon of India.

Corazon Tabing-Reyes

In 1956 an international group of six women toured six Asian countries to strengthen relations between Christian women and try to heal the wounds of war. Shanti Solomon of India was one of the group but she was unable to obtain a visa to enter Korea and the team had to leave her behind in the Philippines. While she was meditating there the inspiration came to have women in every country pray for each other and share their gifts to support those in need. Inspired by the story of the widow's mite, she wanted even the poorest woman to take part and so the Fellowship of the Least Coin was born.

Though it is largely unrecorded, both women and young people made a huge contribution to the early growth of the EACC. Under the guidance of Soritua Nababan and his successors, youth conferences influenced many of the young people who later became leaders in the ecumenical movement. Dumaguete City was the venue for the first regional youth conference, followed by Singapore, at which Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew was a speaker, and then Kuala Lumpur. Ralph Lee of Hong Kong was a member of the youth committee at that time.

Ralph Lee

Young people at the Kuala Lumpur consultation were most unhappy at the authoritarian way the leaders ran the conference. They were not going to be obedient. After inviting the leaders into the hall, they locked the doors and demanded change, saying that the doors would remain locked until there was an agreement to have proper consultation. The confrontation went on for two or three hours and one American missionary became so distressed he considered jumping from the second-storey window. Finally, the leaders relented and apologised and the conference continued.

The young people were making the point that they wanted to be included in the real decisions of the EACC.

The middle period of our history was a time of great activity. In 1973 the name East Asia Christian Conference was changed to Christian Conference of Asia and the office was centralised in Singapore. Fourteen years later, the Singapore government suddenly closed the office leaving the staff scattered throughout the region. In 1991 they came together again in a new office in Hong Kong. The three general secretaries who led the churches through this time of change were all at the jubilee celebration.

Yap Kim Hao

The 1973 assembly brought significant transition to the life of the churches. The East Asia Christian Conference became the Christian Conference of Asia, which

reflected the common understanding of where we were working. Changes took place in the leadership and I negotiated with the Singapore government to have the headquarters established there. After almost fifteen years of decentralised operation, the office was now fully centralised. This gave a closer coordination and enabled us to greatly expand the ecumenical programme in Asia.

Sang Jung Park

The decision of the Singapore government to banish CCA from their country was an unexpected event. I was out of the country at the time and came back to have my passport confiscated and unable to return to my office. Over the next period there was little I could do. Local Christian people did not want to know me. But I have always remembered the kindness of a Buddhist friend who had sold me my car when I first went to Singapore. He went out of his way to be helpful, ensuring that I could dispose of my old car and organise my affairs. He even gave me his Mercedes-Benz car to use while I was sorting things out. He was a true friend. I left Singapore and have not flown Singapore Airlines since.

John V. Samuel

The scattering of the staff after Singapore was a traumatic experience for everyone in CCA and morale was at an all-time low. After I became general secretary my first task was to bring the staff together again as a team. Despite some opposition we explored possibilities and finally decided to go to Hong Kong. The churches in that place were enthusiastic and there were many gains in financial efficiency and ease of travel. It also made us closer to the churches in China. Thanks to the support of many churches we raised the necessary funds and the staff became a team again. I think of it as a kind of experience of our new life in the CCA.

One of the most popular CCA staff was Toshitsugu Arai of Japan. It seemed everyone knew and liked Tosh. As secretary for education and later associate general secretary he travelled widely in the region.

Tosh did not need to tell a story. His presence at Parapat was itself the story. Suffering from a severe illness, he could barely talk and needed help to walk. But he was determined to attend the CCA celebration and take part in every event. His presence was an inspiration to all present.

The 1970s were not just difficult for CCA but also for the whole Asian church. Many Asian countries were ruled by dictators who were abusing the basic rights of ordinary people—the Marcos family in the Philippines, Park Chung Hee in South Korea, Indira Gandhi in India.

There was political ferment in Taiwan and in most of Southeast Asia. Against this abuse of human rights, many church men and women risked prison and even death in their stand for freedom and justice.

CCA can be proud of the fact that it supported these Christian leaders in their time of persecution. And it became very personal when CCA associate general secretary Harry

Daniel was imprisoned in Manila and the youth secretary, Carmencita Karagdag, was forced to go underground to avoid arrest.

Carmencita Karagdag

I was just an ordinary young housewife when I was invited to become the youth secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia. While I was still in Manila, my good friend and colleague Harry Daniel came to the Philippines and had a meal with one of the community workers who was on the most wanted list of President Marcos. I joined them for the meal but the police became aware of the meeting and Harry was subsequently arrested. I was in the kitchen when he was arrested so avoided capture but had to go underground. It was a difficult time trying to work out what action could be taken. Harry's arrest caused an international storm of protest and the CCA sent a high-profile team to meet with President Marcos. In the end Harry was released and I had permission to leave the Philippines. Many of our friends spent the Marcos years in prison and I was able to work for them on the outside.

During this difficult decade the Urban Rural Mission (URM) program of CCA worked directly with social action groups in many Asian countries. Working with the Catholic Church they initiated many programs to assist the poor. Long-serving chair of some of these groups was Malaysian lawyer Victor Oorjitham

Victor Oorjitham

The Urban Rural Mission committee met regularly and often in countries where there were difficult issues. When we met we usually arranged for some of the local people to come and speak to us about their experiences. I especially remember one of these meetings which took place in the Philippines. The woman who came to us was a farmer's wife working with communities in the rural area. With great emotion she told of the way her family were at home having a meal when the door burst open and armed men with balaclavas entered the house. In the presence of the children they brutally shot her husband and walked out. The horror of this event and the cruelty of having children witness the murder of their father made a big impact on us all. Such stories gave strong incentive to URM to continue its work for the poor.

There are many facets to the work of the EACC/CCA. Since its beginnings the leadership has sought to develop a more indigenous and Asian style of Christianity. D.T. Niles actively promoted the publication of the first book of Asian Christian art, which led to the formation of the Asian Christian Art Association. He also promoted and helped edit the first EACC hymnal which was one of the actions leading to the formation of the Asian Institute of Liturgy and Music.

I-to Loh of Taiwan is an ethnomusicologist who has been active in developing Asian music for many years.

I-to Loh

As I moved around Asia I met many remarkable people working with indigenous

music. I recall a special meeting with a man called Justin Ekka, who lives in the Indian city of Ranchi. For some years he worked with All India Radio. This man is a singer and dancer who also plays the violin. At last count he has written more than 4,000 songs in four different languages. We spent the day together and as I was leaving he said that he had written a song for me. Since we had been together all the time I asked how he could have written it for me. And he replied that he had composed it in his head while we were talking to the children. Ekka was a remarkable person. Despite his skills he was a poor man living in humble circumstances. Whatever spare time he had he gave as a volunteer working with blind children. When I remember him, I am reminded of the hymn of Fosdick which describes some people as 'rich in things but poor in soul'. Ekka was the opposite. He was 'poor in things but rich in soul'.

During the years of EACC/CCA many national crises became regional issues. For several years the war in Vietnam dominated Asian thinking. CCA joined with the World Council of Churches in opposing the war and initiated many aid programs to assist in post-war development. Dr Mathews George Chunakara headed the Indochina program of CCA (1996–2000) and is now Asia Secretary of the World Council of Churches. He shared an amusing story of the chaos in post-war Vietnam.

Mathews George Chunakara

Each visit to Indochina was under tight control. On one visit we took a high-profile delegation to meet officials. We had the help of a local pastor who was anxious that we should get to Hanoi and meet with government officials. To do so required a special visa and when we went to apply for it, one of our team realised that he did not have a photograph. 'No photo no visa,' we were told. The others in the team had photos and a colleague from Hong Kong had several. 'Here,' he said, 'have one of mine.' Despite the fact that it looked nothing like him, the official was happy. He had his photo and let him through.

For many years China was closed to the outside and unable to take part in international Christian gatherings. Great changes are now taking place.

Tso Man King

I had been living and working in the United States for twenty-five years but was always concerned for my Chinese homeland. Soon after the pro-democracy movement and confrontation at Tiananmen Square I had the opportunity to visit China and meet the people. In Guangdong province I had my first encounter with the Christian community when I went to a large church in the town. The church had seating for over 1,000 people and all the seats were occupied well in advance. They brought some plain benches in as well and soon we were all jammed up together in the church. What impressed me most was the sense of awe and devotion on the part of the people. They had arrived early and most were silently praying. I left with a great appreciation of the Chinese people but with the big question—how soon will there be complete religious freedom?

There are still many more stories to be told. Let me give you one final one from my own experience in the CCA.

In the late 1970s the general secretary of the Korean Council of Churches, Rev. Kim Kwan Suk, was imprisoned for subversion. As associate general secretary of the CCA I was making many trips to Korea during that time to support him and some others who opposed the tyranny of President Park Chung Hee. Landing in Seoul friends told me that Kim Kwan Suk was unexpectedly being released that very day and was looking forward to seeing me. I went straight to his home where he had only just arrived. It was a hugely emotional meeting with both of us weeping at the joy and wonder of his release.

We talked for a while about his experiences. It had been a hard time for this gentle man. Korean prison cells in those years were primitive and cruel. Kwan Suk was allowed only one book in the prison so naturally he took a copy of the Bible. He said that he survived in the cell by treating his time there as a religious retreat at which he had daily readings, periods of silence, prayers and hymns. And then he said some words which I have never forgotten. 'And sometimes,' he said, 'sometimes I would dance.'

I leave you with this image of a senior Christian leader quietly dancing in a prison cell as the symbol of the unquenchable spirit of Asian Christianity.



ECUMENICAL

NEWS & VIEWS

Christian World Service

Emergency Appeals:

Gaza alert - CWS partner ACT International (Action by Churches Together) has been supplying food and medicines to families in Gaza and the West Bank. Financial aid is still needed to continue to provide much needed medical services and cash assistance to families for the coming months.

Darfur Emergency Appeal - Please give generously to this appeal and support the work of CWS partners ACT International and Caritas Internationalis, providing shelter, health services, education, drilling boreholes for water, sanitation, hygiene and much more.

A copy of the appeal flyer can be downloaded from the CWS website. A PowerPoint to promote the DARFUR appeal that can be used by parishes is available from CWS. To arrange use of this please contact: cws@cws.org.nz

Please give generously to both these appeals. Donations can be made online, by ringing 0800 74 73 72 or by post to PO Box 22652, Christchurch

Upcoming Events:

Wipe Out Poverty – September 2-9th is CWS's annual youth fundraiser - an opportunity to combine fun, and service and fundraising through art auctions, car washes, cake stalls, chocolate sales, mufti days and much more. Funds raised will go to support CWS partner Neythal, working with fishing communities in Southern India. It's not too late to sign up your youth group. Contact Liz at youth@cws.org.nz or phone **0800 74 73 72** to register and receive a free kit to help plan your event.

CWS Resources:

CAII – the Churches' Agency on International Issues – Hot Topic 6, **Pacific Paradise Lost? Seeking a healthy future in the Pacific.** Available for download from www.cws.org.nz/Resources/international.asp

CWS Update – for July – Read about **Palestine** - How much more suffering? **Pacific** - Public hearing on climate change; **Bougainville** - What future?; **Africa** -Water on the agenda; Updates on **Sudan - Darfur** and the **South** where anger grows at lack of progress; **Sri Lanka** - Human rights crisis and new life for a village, and read about giving hope for the poorest women in **India**. For a FREE copy refer to the CWS website or email: cws@cws.org.nz

@World – Read about CWS partners from **Bougainville, Haiti** and the **Solomon Islands**; an update on the **Make Poverty History** campaign and how you can keep pressure on the NZ government to commit to the **0.7%** of GNI in funding international aid, and an update on the **Solomon Islands** emergency appeal.

To order a FREE copy phone: **0800 74 73 72** or email: cws@cws.org.nz

Youth Topics - Climate Change, What does it matter? *"A child born in a wealthy country is likely to consume, waste, and pollute more in his/her lifetime than 50 children born in developing nations. Our energy-burning lifestyles are pushing our planet to the point of no return "* says George Care, former Archbishop of Canterbury. This youth topic explores Climate Change and helps us discover what it is we can do to make a real difference. A Poster resource for young people 12-18yrs is available now, contact: youth@cws.org.nz

Peace Sunday Resources - for Hiroshima Day (August 6th) will be available for download from the CWS website later this month.

CWS Speakers:

We can provide a speaker to visit your parish, community group, or special event. CWS staff recently visited partners in: East Timor, Bougainville, Pakistan and the Philippines. There are plenty of inspiring stories to share and partners work that needs our support!

To request a CWS speaker contact: cws@cws.org.nz or phone **0800 74 73 72**

Media Advisory

Pacific public hearing on climate change, sea level rise, migration and uprooted peoples

The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) has hosted a public hearing on climate change, sea level rise, migration and uprooted peoples, in conjunction with a meeting of church leaders in Fiji 2-6th July.

The hearing brought together a panel of five judges from the region (a prominent church leader, human rights/environmental lawyer, economist, journalist and geographer) knowledgeable on ethics, law, climate change, sea level rise and the effects this is having on migration.

What are the economic, political and cultural implications for people who could become environmental refugees?

The idea of such forced migration and displacement has many implications for those whose very security is threatened by sea level rise.

The PCC invited representatives of its member churches from **Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands** to state their cases about the impact of climate change on the future of their societies, their peoples and the environment. In addition the PCC also invited Green Peace Pacific and the WWF South Pacific Programme to strengthen the cases with further research and international documentation of climate change in this region.

Participants were requested to prepare visual documentation on the effects of sea level rise and other impacts on the environment. They were also asked to outline what church leaders and politicians in the region believe is of crucial importance for the future of these island nations, such as:

- A regional immigration policy (with full citizenship rights);
- Negotiated regional quota on emissions reduction and an
- Inter-regional sea level rise financial assistance scheme.

The aim of the hearing was to raise further awareness and further regional discussion of the implications of sea level rise on the future of the citizens of Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands and to make recommendations for the role of neighbouring countries, including New Zealand, in light of a real need for future migration.

Christian World Service sent one member of staff to record the stories of those participating in this public hearing. For more information about the hearing, or to arrange an interview with a CWS staff member, please contact:

CWS Media Officer - Ruth Greenaway

Ph: 03 366 9274 mob: 021 238 7710 fax: 03 365 2919

Email: communications@cws.org.nz / www.cws.org.nz

Communication for Peace Award

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) promotes communication for social change. It believes that communication is a basic human right that defines people's common humanity, strengthens cultures, enables participation, creates community, and challenges tyranny and oppression. Being WACC means 'taking sides'.

WACC will present a Communication for Peace Award during its 2008 Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, to a woman or man who has consistently, dynamically and creatively demonstrated the value of communication for peace in a particular context. Consistent with WACC's *Christian Principles of Communication*, she or he will be a person of faith and be recognised as a public voice of conscience.

Criteria

An individual who, as a communications professional, has:

- shown sustained dedication and commitment to communicating and promoting a culture of peace, social justice, and the alleviation of conflict;
- demonstrated extraordinary and exemplary initiative in advancing peace with justice and steps toward reconciliation;
- contributed to a substantial effort toward winning or preserving peace and justice for groups of people whose circumstances make them vulnerable to prejudice, discrimination, or injustice.

Nominations

Nominations must be accompanied by evidence of activities and achievements of the nominee and sent to WACC (AWARD@waccglobal.org) before 1st September 2007.

Please disseminate this call for nominations as widely as possible.

But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

~Isaiah 40:31





Job Opportunities

Methodist Mission Northern

Methodist Mission Northern (MMN) is a significant provider of community and social services in the upper North Island. Committed to a vision of a socially just and inclusive society, the organisation's purpose is to combine word and deed, providing services that redress social disadvantage and dislocation, and address the fundamental, underlying factors in society that lead to these.

Community Services General Manager

The Community Services General Manager will provide exceptional leadership to a talented and dedicated team of over 280 FTEs and volunteers to drive organisational developments and further enhancement of operational efficiencies. Reporting to the Executive Director, this position requires a seasoned leader to contribute to the organisation's significant strategic plan while developing a sustainable portfolio of the Mission's services and activities. Leading the community activities and managing key relationships with government agencies and funding providers are vital to this role.

This is an outstanding opportunity for an inspirational leader with well demonstrated strategic management experience. Encouraging a healthy and innovative culture of well-being, while promoting competency development is highly regarded at MMN. Compelling evidence of your superior relationship management abilities coupled with your commercial intellect is essential. Vital to your success in this role is a solid cross cultural understanding, with an inclusive non-judgmental way of working with people. A relevant tertiary qualification is preferred, but not essential.

Closing date: Friday 13 July. Reference: 42660

Apply online at www.sheffield.co.nz or contact the relevant consultant, quoting the position reference number. Emails will be electronically acknowledged and further correspondence may be by email.

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Community Development Leader

As Community Development Leader, you will use a strengths based community development model to engage with communities, identifying opportunities both for advocacy and for the introduction of new services. You will work closely with the Community Services General Manager to develop funding streams for new programmes, as well as protecting funding for existing services. With a researcher reporting to you, you will be closely involved with research projects that ensure the mission continues to be 'knowledge led'. As a senior member of MMN, you will develop and maintain networks with key stakeholders and actively advocate for the communities the Mission serves.

We are looking for a passionate community development practitioner with a track record of successful service innovation, advocacy and leadership. To succeed in the role you will be known for your ability to drive creative initiatives. You will be naturally collaborative, and able to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds. In addition, strong management skills including budgeting, project management, and contract negotiation will be essential. You may be looking for a step up into a more senior position where you can have more impact – MMN will certainly give you that opportunity. **Closing date: Friday 23 July. Reference: 42661**

Apply online at www.sheffield.co.nz or contact the relevant consultant, quoting the position reference number. Emails will be electronically acknowledged and further correspondence may be by email.



Our Youth Services are growing and we are seeking...

- **Houseparents** (one couple to live in our youth home)
- **Foster Caregivers** (singles/couples) full and part time

If you can work with adolescents and:

- form solid relationships and set clear boundaries and stick to them?
- provide excellent role modelling about positive behaviour?
- work well in a team and be self motivated?
- cope with pressure in a positive way?
- appreciate the challenges that trauma can have on a young persons life?

Then Wesley will provide:

- a realistic income;
- professional development opportunities;
- a great team environment;
- outstanding social work support

**To find out more about joining the great team at Wesley, check out our
web site: www.wesleyca.org.nz**

Or for application pack contact:

Andrea McKenzie, Manager Youth Services
PO Box 9932, 57 Courtenay Place
385 3727 ext 889

amckenzie@wesleyca.org.nz



JULY AMENDMENTS

TO THE YEARBOOK

Connexional Addresses:

Ministers/Deacons Addresses:

1980	2002	Evans, Edna 18 Tupaea Place Cherrywood, Tauranga 3110	[H] 07 570 0013 [Em] georgeandedna@wave.co.nz	
2004	2007	Stephens, Barbara (<i>supply</i>) 3 Park Ave Oxford	[H] 03 312 4547 [M] 025 284 7929 [Em] barbarastephens@xtra.co.nz	8210

Parish Addresses:

Mangapapa Union Parish:

PO Box 2146, Gisbourne, 3801
Business Phone: (06) 867 9665 Fax: +64 (06) 868 3162

Patrick, Stewart, Mr

Mangapapa Union Church

71 Atkinson Street, Gisborne, 3801
Business Phone: (06) 867 9665 Fax: +64 (06) 868 3162
Church/Worship Centre eMail: mangapapa-union@xtra.co.nz

If you have any amendments or updates to the yearbook please feel free to email Hannah at hannahf@methodist.org.nz with the updates and they can be published here for the information of the Connexion.