

e-Messenger

The Methodist Church of New Zealand ~ Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

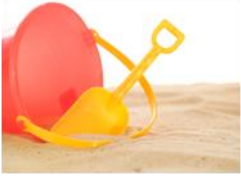
"Our Church's Mission in Aotearoa New Zealand is to reflect and proclaim the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the world. The Treaty of Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis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

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February 2008



Official Communications

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Where did January go?

Youth Conference at Lincoln College with 300 exuberant participants took a few days; Blenheim Parish strategising a few more days (for Brian alone) and Wanganui and the annual Ratana celebrations a few more again for both Barbara and Brian.

Ratana was great theatre and drama with politicians vying for election year visibility, and Ratana elders and others not pulling their punches and expectations.

The Ratana movement and Methodism enjoy a long historic relationship and the value of this partnership was stressed again by both Parishes. Rev. Naapi Waaka greatly assisted our visit.

Whilst in Wanganui we caught up with the expanding and impressive work of the interchurch. “Charitable Social Services Wanganui”, directed by Deacon Shirley-Joy Barrow, and the equally impressive work of Rev Tony Bell and his superintendency of both Taranaki – Wanganui and Hawkes Bay – Manawatu Synods – a daunting load indeed.

Whilst Barbara attended the inauguration of Levin Cooperating Parish (Methodist-Presbyterians), Brian (and Jody) continued a house shift and Parish farewell. Brian will concentrate on the Presidency and some Workplace Support Chaplaincy for the rest of the year, while Barbara will continue her Connexional Office work as well as Vice Presidential duties.

In between the above-mentioned engagements, we have been glad to send greetings to those commencing new ministries and those retiring or transitioning.

Before us in February lies Waitangi Day celebrations, Budget Task Force, and Board of Ministry work, Wesley College’s service of “New Beginnings” and a workshop facilitated by Rev. Andre le Roux on “When you’re Running on Empty”.

Our tanks certainly feel okay, but given the unpredictability at times of demand and supply, it pays to stay topped up!

Grace and Peace,

Brian and Barbara



Warmest New Year greetings all in the Connexion!

The Connexional Office is back in full swing.

The Charities Act registrations have gone well. The only difficulties that have been experienced are where signatures have been omitted or do not match with officers' names. If your Parish or Board has not sent us your registration papers please contact Peter van Hout peterv@methodist.org.nz as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss the deadlines. Thanks to all who have completed their registration promptly.

The concern about registration of Sunday Schools has been clarified and Greg Wright has set this out clearly below. All those who took the time to write to the Government will be pleased with the outcome.

Members of the Church who charge travel to the Connexional Expenses Fund, are asked to, where possible, book the cheapest internet fare before contacting this office to make a booking. We would encourage the use of the House of Travel site, www.hot.co.nz, which has the advantage of showing all the available airlines together. This means on the one booking you are able to choose two different airlines. When you book on the internet take care to get dates etc right as the Connexional Expenses fund is not able to pay to correct mistakes. Any changes to bookings are at the individual's expense unless a meeting date is changed.

Conference 2008 will be held in Manukau District from Saturday 8 November until Wednesday 12 November. The Saturday and Sunday activities will be held at Wesley College. The venue for the weekday business sessions will be notified as soon as possible.

Tauiwi Stationing will be on Thursday 6 November and the Taha Maori and Tauiwi meetings on Friday 7 November.

Grace and peace

Jill

REGISTRATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS AS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES

The Connexional Office notified the Church in 2007 of a possible requirement to register Sunday Schools as Early Childhood Centres. Following a significant number of letters of concern to the Minister we have been advised that the Minister of Education has gazetted a notice in the NZ Gazette at the end of November 2007



advising that certain premises have been defined not to be Early Childhood Centres. *“This includes any premises during any period of use for the education or care of children for any period not exceeding 4 hours a week in circumstances where the children’s parents or caregivers are:*

- i. In close proximity to the children and are able to be contacted; and*
- ii. able to resume responsibility for the children at short notice.”*

The Minister went on to state *“this means that from 30 November 2007 the licensing requirements will not apply to arrangements such as Sunday schools which may operate for fewer than 4 hours per week.”*

This would appear to resolve the position of most Church Sunday Schools which do not operate for more than 4 hours per week. If Churches do operate their Sunday Schools for a period in excess of 4 hours per week, the obligation to register still remains.





CONNEXIONAL NEWS

"FOR OTHERS WITH LOVE" BY MARCIA BAKER

"For Others With Love" by Marcia Baker is the story of early Sisters and Methodist Deaconesses written to mark the occasion of the centennial of the founding of the New Zealand Order of Methodist Deaconesses in 1907.

Copies are still available from Fred and Marcia Baker, 11 Merton Place, Christchurch 8053 (email fm baker@ihug.co.nz) Price \$25-00 plus p&p \$4-50.

After costs are met, proceeds will be given to the Sister Rona Collins Fund to assist needy families.

Thanks

Marcia & Fred Baker

NZMWF SMETHURST TRUST FUND

"WOMEN in congregations with a NZ Methodist Church component, are you doing a course of study this year??"

The NZMWF Smethurst Trust Fund may be able to assist you financially.

Information and Application Forms are available on this website under - other organisations - Methodist Women's Fellowship.

Applications CLOSE 20th MARCH 2008"

TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT AVAILABLE

A reminder for all those who are beginning tertiary study this year that there are Chaplains in all our NZ Universities and some of our Polytechnics.

If you want contact details for the Chaplaincy service in your University or Polytechnic please contact the institution directly or email Greg Hughson greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz.

Information about the Aotearoa-NZ Tertiary Chaplains Association can be accessed via www.anztca.net.nz.



TRAVEL AND STUDY GRANTS 2008 APPLICATION FORMS

Applications for consideration at the 1st Meeting must be received by **15 February 2008.**

Please send applications and enclose references to:

Mary West
8 Sherwood drive
Hamilton
Email maryw@west.net.nz

Late Applications will be held until the next meeting.

**APPLICATION FORMS AND GUIDELINES ARE AVAILABLE NOW ON THE
METHODIST WEBSITE**

Visit www.methodist.org.nz

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Combined Lower N.I. Synods are having a "***School of Theology***" on an Inter-Faith theme.

It is a live-in event at Wanganui Girls College starting on Thursday the 24th of April and finishing on Saturday the 26th at lunch time. Sister Catherine Jones will be presenting on Islam, there will be presentations on Ratana, Judaism, and hopefully on the Order of the Home of Compassion. President Brian will lead a session on the Statement of Religious Diversity and a recreation time is planned!

ALL WELCOME!

As it's over Anzac it will be easier for those folk who are not in parish appointments. The early registrations will get a room to themselves with a door!! (*The rest have curtains*).

A Programme and registration form will be available soon.

All enquiries to Tony Bell tony-bell@paradise.net.nz.



OTAGO – SOUTHLAND AND CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND SYNODS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY 2008

Lakeland Park, Frankton Arm, Queenstown
9 to 12 March (Sunday evening to Wednesday morning)



This is an invitation to all presbyters, deacons, lay preachers and any other interested lay people to join in this annual event near Queenstown.

OUR PRESENTERS THIS YEAR WILL BE:

Brian Turner and Barbara Peddie, President and Vice President of Conference, on Community Engagement a theological rationale and strategies to engage significantly with the wider communities of which we are a part.

Jan Fogg and Mark Gibson, Christchurch presbyters, how we might “green” our ministry and mission in theology and practice in response to the critical challenges of peak oil and climate change.

Nigel Hanscamp and Aso Saleopolu, Ministry directors, on healthy churches and mission focussed churches

Te Rito Peyroux, tauiwi youth facilitator, on Conference decisions related to Youth Ministry, and the guide for developing future youth ministry possibilities.

Jim Stewart, recently ‘retired’ presbyter, on the characteristics of liberal theology

**Come and join us on the shores of beautiful Lake Wakatipu.
Cost of meals and accommodation: \$35 per night.**

Full programme and registration form available from Stuart Grant,
parish@methodistconnect.org.nz. Ph. 03 466 4600

PLEASE REPLY by Monday 25 February. Numbers are needed by this date for catering and accommodation purposes.





THE INTERCHURCH COUNCIL FOR HOSPITAL
CHAPLAINCY AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
*Te Kaunihera Whakawhanaunga
o nga Minita Hohipera, Hauora*

ECUMENICAL HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Waitakere Hospital and Mason Clinic of the Waitemata DHB

Applications are sought from experienced chaplains and other suitably qualified ordained clergy for a full - time chaplaincy position covering the **Mason Clinic, in Avondale** and the **Waitakere General Hospital in Henderson**. This position is being offered on the basis of a 2 year term initially. The duties involve spending half of each week in the psychiatric services and the other half in the general hospital.

Applicants should have completed a minimum of one CPE Course and have experience in parish or other relevant ministry positions. Experience working with psychiatric patients in a forensic psychiatric unit will be a considerable advantage.

The ability to provide spiritual health care to people with a range of health needs and from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds, and to participate in multi-disciplinary health care teams, consistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, is absolutely essential.

The successful applicant will become a member of a very busy two Chaplain team alternating between the two hospital sites and Work Foundations. They will also share in the training, supervising and leading of a small team of volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants providing Christian ministry, spiritual support and pastoral care to patients, families and staff. They will also take their turn on the on-call after hours emergency and worship service rosters. A good team player is essential.

An appointee who is not already an accredited healthcare chaplain will be required to work towards accreditation and become a fully accredited Healthcare chaplain within 5 years of appointment.

No assistance with relocation expenses can be provided. Applicants residing overseas will not be considered.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Monday 3 March 2008.

An information pack is available from:

National Executive Officer
Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy
PO Box 6427
Marion Square
WELLINGTON 6141

Phone: 04-801 8008

Fax: 04-381 4842

E-mail: admin@ichc.org.nz





THE INTERCHURCH COUNCIL FOR HOSPITAL
CHAPLAINCY AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
*Te Kaunihera Whakawhanaunga
o nga Minita Hohipera, Hauora*

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

(Tikanga Pakeha) at Middlemore Hospital and Counties Manukau DHB

Applications are sought from suitably qualified Ministers for this full-time position in the Ecumenical Hospital Chaplaincy team based at the **Middlemore Hospital**. This position is funded by the Auckland Anglican Diocese. Given the diverse cultural and ethnic make up of South Auckland the membership of the chaplaincy team at Middlemore Hospital reflects the ethnicity of the main patient groups. The appointee to this position can expect that most of their time will be spent serving Pakeha patients, but not exclusively, as all chaplains are required to assist anyone who requests their assistance.

Applicants must be Ministers of Religion in "Good Standing" and appropriately licensed to offer Christian ministry by the Anglican Diocese of Auckland. They must have theological qualifications and experience in parish, hospital chaplaincy or other relevant ministry positions. Preference will be given to those who have already completed one or more Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) courses.

The successful applicant will be required to participate as a full member of a busy team of full and part-time chaplains and chaplaincy assistants, from a range of ethnic backgrounds and denominations providing Christian ministry, emotional support and pastoral care to patients, families and staff in the large Middlemore Hospital and in other health units in the DHB. The Chaplain will be required to share in training, supervising and leading a small team of part-time voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants. They will also be required to take their turn on the on-call emergency, and Sunday service rosters.

An appointee who is not already an accredited Healthcare Chaplain will be required to work towards obtaining accreditation. Chaplains are required to become fully accredited within 5 years of appointment.

The position is being offered on the basis of an initial term for 2 years.

No assistance with relocation expenses can be provided. Applicants residing overseas will not be considered.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Monday 3 March 2008.

An information pack and application form is available from:

The National Executive Officer
Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy
PO Box 6427
Marion Square
WELLINGTON

Phone: 04-801 8008
Fax: 04-381 4842
E-mail: admin@ichc.org.nz





THE INTERCHURCH COUNCIL FOR HOSPITAL
CHAPLAINCY AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
*Te Kaunihera Whakawhanaunga
o nga Minita Hohipera, Hauora*

ECUMENICAL HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Pacific Island (Samoan) at Middlemore Hospital and Counties Manukau DHB

Applications are sought from suitably qualified Samoan Ministers for this **full-time** position in the Ecumenical Hospital Chaplaincy team based at the **Middlemore Hospital**. Samoan patients are the largest Pacific Island group served by this District Health Board and the appointee can expect that most of their time will be spent serving Pacific Island patients, but not exclusively.

Applicants must be Ministers of Religion in "Good Standing" and appropriately licensed or authorised to offer Christian ministry by their denomination in New Zealand. They must have theological qualifications and experience in parish, hospital chaplaincy or other relevant ministry positions and an ability to speak and lead worship in the Samoan language. Preference will be given to those who have already completed one or more Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) courses.

The successful applicant will be required to participate as a full member of a busy team of full and part-time chaplains and chaplaincy assistants, from a range of ethnic backgrounds and denominations providing Christian ministry, emotional support and pastoral care to patients, families and staff in the large Middlemore Hospital and other health units in the DHB. The Chaplain will be required to share in the training, supervising and leading a small team of part-time voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants. They will also be required to take their turn on the on-call emergency, and Sunday service rosters.

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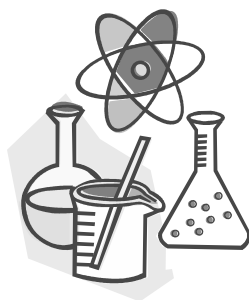
Fax: 04-381 4842

E-mail: admin@ichc.org.nz



Special Appeal 2008

Science equipment for Goldie College, Solomon Islands



About Goldie College

Goldie College is a United Church Solomon Islands school established in 1952. It sets a high educational standard and has produced a number of Solomon Island leaders. Goldie College students are sought after by many employers including the government.

Earthquake 2007

The earthquake that struck the western Solomon Islands on 2 April 2007 had a major impact on Goldie College. Many of its buildings suffered major structural damage, and school equipment was destroyed. The school was forced to close for a time. In 2008 it is fully functioning at all levels but with makeshift buildings while a rebuilding programme gets underway.

Science Department

Most of the school's science equipment was lost and destroyed in the earthquake. College principal, Mr Levi Davo, says "A quick replacement and re-equipping of the school's science department is very much needed." Mr John Peniop from the University of the South Pacific has assisted the school in identifying the minimum requirements of the science department.

Equipment needed

Science equipment needed includes a refractometer, beakers, volumetric flasks, crystallizing dishes, conical flasks, graduated pipettes, petri dishes, test tubes, dissecting trays, bunsen burners, thermometers, syringes, forceps, desiccators, biology models, and much more.



Goldie College science equipment appeal 2007

Please send your donation to:

John Roberts
Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
22a Penney Avenue
Mt Roskill
Auckland 1041

Amount: \$ _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

Cheques should be made out to Methodist Mission and Ecumenical



INTERACTIVE DRAWING THERAPY ADVERTISEMENT – NEW ZEALAND 2008

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	UNIT ONE	UNIT TWO
Dunedin	Feb 21-22	Apr 10-11
Christchurch A	Feb 28-29	Mar 27-28
Auckland A	Mar 6-7	Apr 3-4
Wellington A	May 1-2	Jun 5-6
Palmerston North	May 22-23	Jun 26-27
Napier	Jun 12-13	Jul 24-25
Hamilton	Jun 19-20	Jul 31-Aug 1
Tauranga	Jul 3-4	Aug 14-15
Whangarei	Aug 21-22	Sep 25-26
Auckland B	Sep 18-19	Nov 13-14
Wellington B	Sep 18-19	Nov 6-7
Christchurch B	Oct 2-3	Nov 20-21

Enrol now - www.InteractiveDrawingTherapy.com

**NZ Advert 08 v6B
30 October 07
130 x 86**

WORLD FEDERATION SOUTH PACIFIC AREA ASSEMBLY – TONGA – 14-18 SEPTEMBER 2008:

We have obtained a quote for air fares from Air New Zealand. To take advantage of this group booking you will need to make a commitment by 8 February 2008. At that stage a deposit of \$50.00 is required.

There has been no communication from the Area President. We do not have registration forms, or detailed information on the Seminar.

If you are interested in attending the South Pacific Area Seminar in Tonga and have not yet contacted Lynne, please do so urgently (lyn@middleton.school.nz)



MESSAGES FROM TRINITY COLLEGE

Trinity College is pleased to announce the appointment of Marissa Alix as the Trinity College Administration Officer, as from Monday 14th January. Marissa has been based at the Ministry Training Unit and will now be based at the College office at 202 St Johns Road. Contact details for Trinity College are as follows:

Nicola Grundy (Business Manager)
Phone: 09 521 2073 or 021 570 383
Email: nicolag@stjohns.auckland.ac.nz

Marissa Alix (Administration Officer)
Phone: 09 521 2073
Email: malix@stjohns.auckland.ac.nz

Dear Friends

Many parishes will have now received a copy of Signs & Wonders edition 5. Some have yet to receive it.

We hope you enjoy it.

TCol resources are free on the web, but Signs & Wonders picks up some articles for those who don't have access. Worship leaders, lay preachers, presbyters and deacons and folk interested in theological trends and opinions often find it valuable to have the print version.

Please regard this as a free copy but if you would like to contribute \$25 to ensure others have access to the information we will be very grateful.

In future we will have to charge parishes for this resource, so if you would like to receive future print editions please contact Nicola Grundy
nicolag@stjohns.auckland.ac.nz

Thanks, and good reading.

Rev Dr David Bell
Director, Ministry Development Programmes
Trinity Methodist Theological College
www.tcol.ac.nz



CONGRADULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Ted and Grace Baker on their 60th wedding anniversary!!

HEARTFELT THANKS - Valmai Horlor

A huge thank you to everyone for the prayers, letters, cards and flowers sent following the devastating fire at my home early in November. Your love and support has been overwhelming, but greatly valued and appreciated.

Although repairs are progressing slowly, I have been able to return to live in my home. At the moment however, I am taking a break in Australia with family. Once again, thank you so much for your caring concern.

CONNEXIONAL OFFICE - INTRODUCING NEW STAFF MEMBERS AMY STODDART AND VICTORIA SERGEL



Amy Stoddart

Amy has begun work as PA to the General Secretary. She brings to the office a wide experience in legal offices including most recently working in London for twelve months. She comes from an Ashburton farming family and is looking forward to establishing a home in Christchurch with her fiancé Simon.

Victoria Sergel

Victoria is a qualified accountant re-entering the work force after raising five children who are now all school age. She has extensive experience in financial accounting for large corporations which she believes will assist the Accounting Team as it seeks to provide further accounting services to parishes and Boards.





REMEMBER

In Your Prayers

We were sad to learn of the sudden death of Graeme McIver's grandson, Harrison (Harry) James McIver Leikis.

Harry was born April 7, 2003 and died January 12, 2008.

Graeme's contact details are: gmciver@xtra.co.nz, 50 Scarborough Road, Sumner, Christchurch, 8081.

~

We wish to inform the Connexion of the death of Samoa Pogai Sofala, father of Rev Sui Te'o.

He died on Wednesday 18 December 2007 in Samoa aged 78 years.

He is survived by Sui's mother Sauimalae Samoa Sofala and their 10 children.





Reflection

Dear Ordained

*As 'Leading Lay Preacher' I had a dream
That all Worship Leaders feel part of a team,
Be the minister, Deacon or Clergy or Lay,
On-training together is the very best way.*

*The worker is worthy of his/her hire,
Yet travel-cost covered is all LPs require,
But Presbyter, mentor, and leader of church,
If we're not valued you could be in the lurch.*

*To cherish Lay Preachers is wisely a must,
So honour the second Sunday in Au-gust,
And do LP 'up-dating' in each December,
Cert dates on your wall will help you remember!*

*Friend Clergy, it is you, who must do the applying
For Long Service Certificates to come a-flying;
Watch out for new talent, and prevent parish waning
Run 'Lead Worship' courses and get your folks training.*

*Presbyters and Enablers, show that you care
Sit in your own pews, at least twice a year!
With dream part-achieved, I say thanks, and good-day
For Dorothy of Southland now leads Preachers Lay.*

Rosalie Sugrue ☺

Please contact Dorothy Willis for Lay Preacher matters
Dorothy.E.Willis@xtra.co.nz





Methodist Mission & Ecumenical

Newsletter February 2008

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

No room for complacency on HIV and AIDS

In 2008 Mission and Ecumenical highlight the issue of HIV and AIDS in the Pacific including Aotearoa New Zealand. The newsletter begins the year with three articles in this topic.

Faith-based campaigners and religious leaders say churches should not relax their efforts to deal with the HIV and AIDS pandemic despite United Nations figures showing a drop in the number of people worldwide living with the virus.

"This is not the time for complacency nor apathy," said South African Anglican Archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu in a 30 November statement released by the World Aids Campaign to mark World Aids Day on 1 December 2007. "It is the time for compassionate leadership."

Statistics released in November by UNAIDS and the World Health Organization have revised the estimated number of people living with HIV down from nearly 40 million to 33.2 million. "We welcome any indication that fewer people are living with HIV, whether it is through more accurate statistics or because a strong response in some areas is making a positive impact," said Linda Hartke, coordinator of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. "But in no way can we relax our efforts. HIV remains a devastating disease not just for individuals, but for families, communities and nations."

In London, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who is leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, also said there was no room for complacency and that churches needed to be honest about their own failures in language and practice. "The churches have not always challenged as they should the stigma that is attached to HIV and AIDS in many countries," he said. "They have failed to say that those living with HIV and AIDS are God's beloved children, with dignity, liberty and freedom."

The Rev. Hielke Wolters, the WCC's director of justice, diakonia and responsibility for creation, noted that the majority of the 33 million people living with HIV are believed not to know they are HIV positive. "These reductions in estimates cannot lower our commitment and our focus to overcome this preventable and treatable disease," said Wolters, adding that the rate of 6800 new HIV infections every day particularly in low and middle income countries and among women and youth demonstrated that urgent and intensive actions are still needed.

"Numbers are important as one factor that give an indication of the extent of the problem and the scale of the response needed," said the Rev. Christo Greyling, chair of the African Network of Religious Leaders Living With or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS. "Lower prevalence numbers for people living with HIV does not



reduce the stigma which prevents people from accessing services and affects the lives of children and adults affected with HIV."

ENI News www.eni.ch 30 November 2007

Awareness raising in Solomon Islands

People in the Solomon Islands Western Province are seeking voluntary HIV testing. The tests were carried out at Munda and Noro as part of events to mark World Aids Day on 1st December 2007. "In the fight against stigma and cultural norms, seeing people engage in voluntary testing is a huge step forward for the community," said counsellor Joyce Gumi. Ms Gumi is a member of the HIV and AIDS committee set up at Helena Goldie Hospital (HGH) to raise awareness in the communities. Ms Gumi said their awareness programme culminated with a drama, a video show and provision of free HIV tests. "This year's events were a huge success and met with enthusiasm by the communities involved," she said.

World AIDS Day has been celebrated in Munda and Noro for the past two years. In 2007 things got bigger and better. Awareness programmes took an entire week. Six touring teams began educating in November, each one conducting awareness in a different village every day. With teams in Munda, Noro, North New Georgia, Vona Vona Lagoon, Rendova and Roviana Lagoon, touring covered all of the major population centres in Health Zone 3, an area HGH is responsible for.

"Having found generators and DVD players in many of the villages, teams also showed documentaries on the AIDS crisis next door in Papua New Guinea," Ms Gumi said. "With Solomon Islands in the unique position of still being able to prevent an epidemic, it is important that people now begin routine testing in addition to stopping risky behaviour. "This was communicated clearly, with emphasis on the immediate availability of free testing in Munda and Noro."

On World AIDS Day in Munda, a song competition drew a crowd of between 300 and 400. A large stage was built and decorated in the centre of the market for Friday and Saturday's activities, and the sound system carried youth's songs about prevention far into the night. Four judges scored participants on musical ability, performance and relevance to HIV and AIDS. The winner walked home with \$500 and a new guitar, the second \$300 and third \$200. "Cheap fish barbecue, heartfelt entertainment, and a cool, clear evening all made this year's competition a monumental success in making HIV a part of Munda's community dialogue," Ms Gumi said.

Solomon Star 7 December 2007



Leading from the pulpit in PNG

There are signs of many churches abandoning their ingrained reluctance to address the subject of HIV and AIDS and to pull their weight in the community. It has always seemed remarkable to us that a country such as Papua New Guinea (PNG) with its loudly trumpeted network of Christian believers and church organisations should have been so appallingly slow to address this issue. HIV and AIDS, its spread and its sufferers would seem to be the ideal opportunity for all churches in this country to demonstrate a co-ordinated and proactive approach.

But most churches have proven to be deplorably slow in reacting to the epidemic. It seems that many church leaders found the subject distasteful, or even in some cases, proof of God's power to destroy the wickedness in our midst. The latter belief, although thankfully not widespread, has created a sub-culture of PNG believers who accept that extraordinary notion and image of Christianity.

A workshop ended in the capital last week and in winding up proceedings, the National Capital District Governor Powes Parkop told the churches to "take ownership of HIV and AIDS". We applaud that comment and only hope that the church representatives present, mainly pastors and their wives, absorbed the full impact of his remarks. He told the delegates that AIDS must be a subject to be preached from the nation's pulpits. This echoes a concern often expressed in *The National*. The many hundreds of pulpits of this nation would seem to be the ideal source of information and appropriate Christian attitudes towards this illness and its victims. Instead, many ministers and pastors have flatly ignored the subject, whether through personal embarrassment or fear of a backlash from their congregations, it is impossible to say. Is that the measure of Christianity? It is not – and even the most superficial knowledge of the foundations of the Christian faith make that abundantly clear.

In another context, we have repeatedly pointed out that by downgrading women, trashing their public arena aspirations and treating them as objects and possessions rather than as partners, we savagely limit PNG's capacity to move forward and claim a place as an honourable and widely admired nation. And if our churches choose to dismiss or ignore the issue of AIDS in our midst, we deny the very love and healing power of the Christian religion that is supposedly one of the very foundations of this country.

So let there be sermon after sermon thundered from each and every pulpit in the land. And let that message lead to alerted congregations made suddenly aware of the huge task that lies unattended at their doorsteps. And may that awakening awareness lead to a new approach to this disease and to those who often, through no moral fault of their own, have fallen victim to its clutches.

It is 20 long years since AIDS claimed its first victim in our country. An observer exposed to the reactions of some of our people might be forgiven in assuming that the disease had only just struck PNG. The PNG churches should be leading the fight against AIDS and against community antagonism, stigma and apathy. Let them show by their actions the true love of God.

The National 18 January 2008 (Editorial)





ECUMENICAL

NEWS & VIEWS

Christian World Service

Kenyan Crisis: Urgent Appeal

As the violence and civil unrest in Kenya continues, increasing numbers of refugees are fleeing over the border to Uganda. CWS partner, the Church of Uganda, urgently needs US\$60,000 to meet the needs of Kenyans, mainly women and children, seeking a safe haven. Already more than 2000 refugees are temporarily sheltered in schools and churches at the border. Many more are staying with family and friends. The Church of Uganda needs to provide them with food, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, blankets, clothing, water supplies and sanitation services.

Christian World Service has already sent US\$10,000 from its emergency funds and is appealing for member churches to support the appeal so more families can receive relief and ongoing support. To donate: phone 0800 74 73 72 or go to www.cws.org.nz

Christmas Appeal Thanks

Thank you to everyone who promoted and supported the 2007 Christmas Appeal helping CWS partners to build a better future. Donations continue to come in steadily. To enable CWS to receipt people in a timely manner, it would be appreciated if parishes could send in their donations as quickly as possible.

Youth Topics #13: No where safe to go

Did you know that over 2.6 billion people – 41% of the world's population - lack access to latrines or basic sanitation facilities leaving them vulnerable to preventable deadly illnesses, such as diarrhoea? Every 20 seconds a child dies as a result of poor sanitation - 1.5 million preventable deaths each year. The latest CWS Youth Topic, a fun poster based activity sheet aimed at 12-18 year olds, explores the issues of water and sanitation and their importance to health, development, education and well-being. It includes a worship workout. If you have not received your free copy, please contact youth@cws.org.nz or call Liz Whitehead on 0800 74 73 72

New documentaries available

Two new documentaries will soon be available on video and DVD:

A Path to Citizenship is a lively story of the work with young girls forced by poverty and violence to live on the streets in Recife, Brazil. It profiles the work of CWS partner, House of Passage, as they empower girls to improve their own lives and give themselves hope for the future. Available 1 February.

Lauru Our Land: Solomon Island Women Face the Future was filmed by CWS last year and features CWS partner, the Women's Programme of the Lauru Land Conference, as it assists women to improve their well-being and livelihood and protect their land against foreign logging interests. This documentary with study guide will be available from 1 March.

Contact cws@cws.org.nz /phone 0800 74 73 72 for video/DVD orders stating the format required (video or DVD) and the date you wish to use them.

Ban Cluster Munitions

CWS has joined the Aotearoa/New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition, part of a global movement calling for a total ban of these indiscriminate weapons. When dropped, cluster bombs scatter hundreds of untargeted bomblets over an area the size of two or three football pitches. They kill and injure civilians during attacks and continue to take life, limbs and land long after conflict has ended when unexploded bomblets become as dangerous as landmines. The A/NZ Cluster Munition Coalition is working to ensure that the New Zealand government takes strong leadership in the disarmament process. A series of global conferences, including one in Wellington in February are working towards an internationally legally binding ban. For more information or to sign the petition to ban cluster munitions see: <http://www.cws.org.nz/Campaigns/Stop-Cluster-Bombs.asp>

Palestine Update

The Churches Agency on International Issues (CAII) has just released a Palestine Update to the hugely successful backgrounder on the Israel Palestine conflict. The *Palestine: 40 years of occupation* Hot Topic examines the impact of occupation and includes actions, questions for reflection and non-violent, interfaith responses. The Hot Topic and original backgrounder can be downloaded from <http://www.cws.org.nz/Resources/international.asp> or contact CWS to go on the CAII mailing list. cws@cws.org.nz/ph 0800 74 73 72





February Amendments

TO THE YEARBOOK

As there have been many amendments made to the yearbook for 2008 we are unable to include them all here. It is recommended that you purchase a new copy of the Yearbook (details below) if you require a completely up to date edition.

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The 2008 Yearbook is Now Available

Extra copies of the Yearbook are available at a limited supply – bound and unbound. Prices are as follows (GST inclusive):

Bound Reports & Decisions Is a bound complete set of the Conference Agenda, Decisions and Yearbook	\$56.25
Unbound Yearbook Is a shrink-wrapped set of the Yearbook – Dates, Addresses & Decisions of Conference	\$39.38
Addresses Is comprised of the Green Pages, Diary Dates & Connexional Addresses hole punched and stapled	\$11.25

If you would like to order copies of any of these you can contact Amy at the Connexional office by email at amys@methodist.org.nz, phone (03) 364 9427 or fax (03) 364 9439.

Diary Dates for 2008 (Pg 1)

CONFERENCE (MANUKAU) 8 November – 12 November 2008

- 6 November – Taiwi Stationing
- 7 November – Taiwi & Te Taha Maori Meetings
- 8-12 November – Conference (commencing on Sat 8th, concluding 4:00pm on Wed 12th)

NORTHLAND SYNOD DATES 2008

Churches together in Northland

CTN February 9 Celebrating Diversity: co-ordinated by Win Blyth - UCANZ FORUM report part and a taste of life in three CTN parishes, with plenty of time of interaction 9.30am for 10am start for Forum; CTN Council meeting to follow at 2pm.

CTN May 3 Celebrating Rural Ministry: co-ordinated by Robyn McPhail and team who attend Trans-Tasman Forum in Marlborough/Nelson. Forum and Council meeting schedule tba.

CTN August 2 Celebrating Ministry – Forum and Council meeting details tba.

CTN October 4 Celebrating Northland – Forum and Council AGM details tba.

Officials of Conference (Pg 4)

President of The Methodist Church of New Zealand:

Rev Brian Turner [H] 03 381 6131
17 Ngarimu Street [M] 021 677 467
Avonside, Christchurch 8061 [Em] president@methodist.org.nz

Ministers Names & Addresses (pg 26)

2002	1	Devanandan, B. Prince 18 D Penruddocke Rd Half Moon Bay Manukau 2012	[H] 09 533 5147 [O] 09 576 2407 [Em] princd@orcon.net.nz	2410
2008	1	Franklin, Anthony G (Tony) 29 Anglesea Street Freemans Bay, Auckland 1011	[P] 09 376 3303 [O] 09 302 5390; or [O] 09 912 9670 [M] 027 550 5472 [Em] tonyf@mmn.org.nz	2020
1998	8	Gibson, Mark 27 Remuera Ave, Christchurch 8022	[H] 03 980 5002 [O] 03 332 0699 [Em] stmarks7@clear.net.nz	8020
1999	CHP2	Taufu'i, Hausia, 2 Hulverstone Drive Avondale, Christchurch 8061	[H] 03 382 5578 [M] 021 0272 1651 [Em H] hausia@paradise.net.nz [Em W] hausiat.taufui@cdhb.govt.nz	
1965	2006	West, Norman J 29 Sycamore Close The Oaks Rangiora 7400	[H] 03 310 7676 [O] 03 327 7082 [M] 027 627 7612 [Em] glenorman@clear.net.nz	

Parish Listing (Pg 49)

St Lukes Methodist Parish Northcote:

16-20 Greenslade Crescent, Northcote, North Shore City, 0748
Business Phone: (09) 419 2463

Dine, (Merv) Mervyn L, Rev

St Lukes Methodist Church, Northcoate

16-20 Greenslade Crescent, Northcote, North Shore City, 0748
Business Phone: (09) 419 2463 Fax: +64 (09) 443 8299
Church\Worship Centre eMail: nmethodist@callplus.net.nz

Waitakere Methodist Parish:

Henderson Methodist Church

PO Box 20273, Glen Eden, Auckland, 0641
Business Phone: (09) 838 9244 Fax: +64 (09) 838 9244
Church\Worship Centre eMail: waitakere.parish@actrix.co.nz

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