



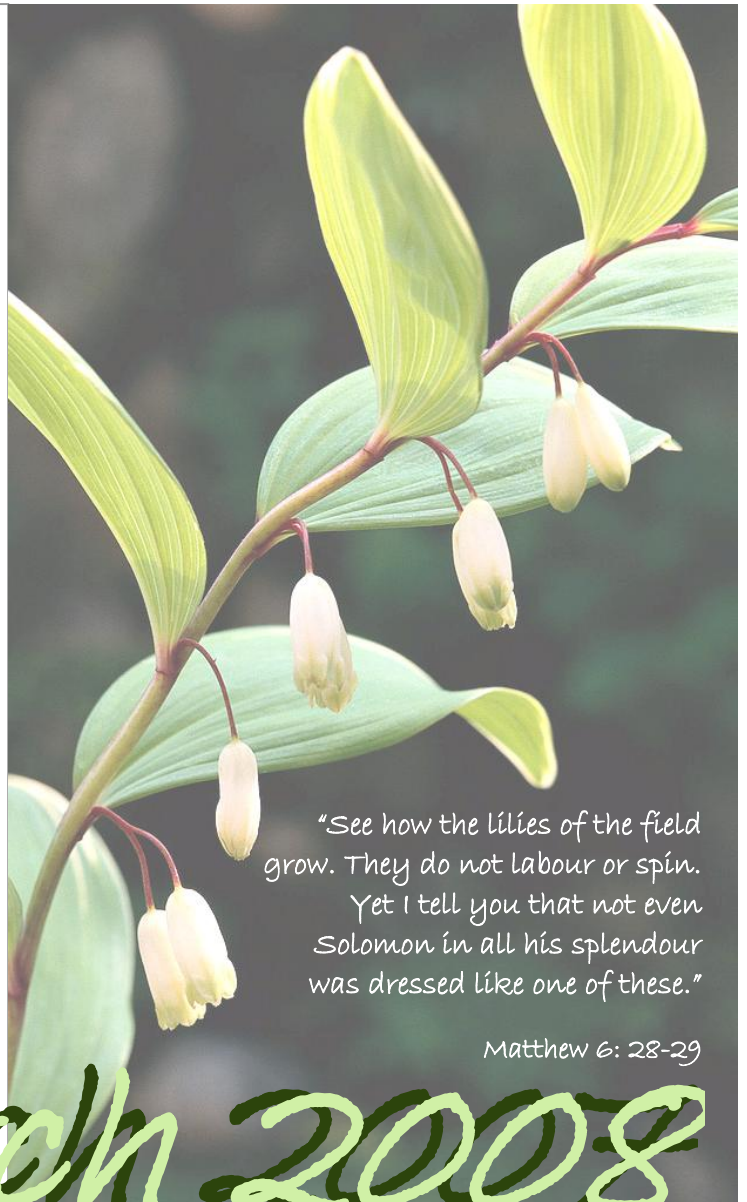
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The Methodist Church of New Zealand ~ Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

"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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"See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

Matthew 6: 28-29

March 2008



Official Communications

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

“In Community” has been a dominant theme for us both this past month, encompassing activities specific to Methodism alone, to the interchurch arena and to the wider community and world of which we are all a part.

The future direction of our Church was a key issue for the Tauwi strategy discussions in Rotorua (Feb 22–24). How that direction, when decided with Te Taha Maori, is resourced with personnel and finance is challenging for the Board of Ministry Commissioner Dr John Hinchcliff and for our Church's Budget Task Group.

Behind and within all this planning are the people and priorities of our Church. These have included in recent weeks:

- The Induction of Rev. Bruce Anderson as new District Superintendent for the Central South Island Synod (with associates Sue Spindler and Norman West) replacing General Secretary Designate David Bush and Associate District Superintendent Betty Watson.
- A meeting of Connexional leaders, including Vahefonua Tonga, to discuss mutual concerns with the Rev. Dr Alifaleti Mone (President) and others from the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.
- The funeral in Ashburton of the Rev. Colin Leadley which was a wonderful celebration of Colin's life as well as support for Audrey and their family.

Beyond our immediate Methodist family there have been important interchurch milestones, notably encouragement from other Church leaders to explore new ways of working and witnessing together. We both attended (half each) the recent Vision Network Congress (held every three years) and appreciated some of the more in-depth analysis of society and applied Christianity that was discussed. The largely white male middle class gathering did however, seem a long way from the more multi-ethnic and more inclusive NZ Methodist Church.

This leads on of course to what we model and make of community in a wider societal sense. It's election year so engagement with politicians and the wider community inevitably hots up. Watch out for some hard hitting position statements and discussion starters from the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services; watch out also for attempts to neutralize the Church's advocacy for Gospel justice. But within as well as beyond an election year, we need to be better equipped to engage with and help build healthier communities wherever we are placed.

This is a key theme for a South Island School of Theology this month and for the Church as a whole.

Kia Kaha – stay strong.

Grace and Peace,

Brian and Barbara

REBATES FOR DONATIONS TO REGISTERED DONEES

Changes that enhance the tax incentives for donations of money made by individuals, companies and Maori authorities were tabled on 17 May 2007 in the Taxation (Annual rates, Business Taxation, KiwiSaver, and Remedial Matters) Bill and passed into legislation on 19 December 2007 with application from 1 April 2008 apart from one small exception to that rule.

This change will affect the Church and we all need to be aware of the changes.

The key features are:

Individuals

- The \$1,890 threshold for which individuals can claim a tax rebate on for cash donations to donee organisations will be removed.
- Donors will be able to claim a 33 1/3% tax rebate for donations up to their annual net income
- E.g.: A donation of \$3,000 under current rules would be limited to a rebate of \$630 (the lesser of \$630 or 33 1/3% of the total donations). Under the new rules the rebate claim would be \$1,000 (33 1/3% of \$3,000), a gain of \$370.

Companies

- The 5% limit on deductions that companies can claim for cash donations to charitable organisations will be removed.
- Companies will be entitled to a deduction for donations made to charitable organisations, limited only by the amount of the company's net income.
- The company deduction is also being extended to unlisted close companies.

Maori Authorities

In line with the changes to the company deduction limit, Maori authorities will be able to claim a tax deduction for cash donations to charitable organisations, limited only by the amount of their net income. The 5% deduction limit will be removed.

Procedure

- Individuals will continue to claim the rebate for donations in the rebate claim form at the end of the year.
- Companies and Maori authorities will claim deductions for donations in their end of year income tax returns.
- There is a need to follow the procedures set out in the Treasurers Manual in relation to Parishes giving receipts to members of the Church for donations made. It is extremely important that records are maintained to show a proper audit trail from the time the donation is made and then banked intact to the writing of the receipt to the Church member.

KIWISAVER CHANGES FROM 1 APRIL 2008

There were changes made to the KiwiSaver legislation which come into effect from 1 April 2008. These changes are very important to Parishes to take into account for future budgets.

Employer Contributions

This is the major change that affects the Church.

From 1 April 2008, employers are required to make compulsory contributions to KiwiSaver in respect of employees who contribute to KiwiSaver. The initial contribution level is 1% of gross salary or wages from 1 April 2008, rising to 4% from 1 April 2011. There are some specific instances when this general rule does not have to be followed. Please ring me directly if you do not believe that you need to make contributions to an employees KiwiSaver account but the general rule is that you must.

Other Changes

For KiwiSaver Funds – Change of Definition

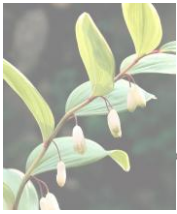
Under the original draft legislation, the definition of “salary or wages” used to determine KiwiSaver contributions was wide ranging and included items such as redundancy benefits.

Redundancy benefits are now excluded from the definition, as are accommodation benefits or allowances and overseas living costs. The exclusion from the definition of accommodation benefits and allowances will affect the employee contribution for Presbyters.

Value of KiwiSaver Tax Benefits

To recap on the tax benefits which are substantial:

- A tax credit for employees that matches their contributions into a KiwiSaver scheme (or a complying fund), to a maximum of \$20 each week (some \$1,040 each year) from 1 July 2007.
- A reduction in the tax rate on the investment income of KiwiSaver schemes from 33% to 30% with effect from 1 April 2008, (which is consistent with the reduction in the company tax rate).
- A tax credit for employers to reimburse the matching of each employee’s contributions into a KiwiSaver scheme or a complying fund, to a maximum of \$20 each week (some \$1,040 each year) from 1 April 2008.
- No SSCWT payment requirement for employer contributions up to the lesser of the employee’s KiwiSaver contribution level or 4% of salary and wages.
- A Government fee subsidy, set at \$40 for each member in each year.
- A Government grant of \$1,000 on an employee’s initial entry into KiwiSaver.



NEWS FROM

Around the Connexion

Clinical Pastoral Education in Christchurch, 2008

A CPE. programme will be offered in Ch-Ch. over 15 weeks, from beginning of April through to July 11, 2008.

There will be a supervisory team of four people, Jo Noble, Helen Roud, Ken Davy and Don Prince. This team offers gender mix and wide life and ministry experience, ensuring care, safety and supervisory expertise in the programme being offered.

There will be one group day each week and it is planned that that day will be on Friday of each week. Group will meet at the St Davids Methodist Church Centre, cnr Wairakei Rd and Spalding St, Bishopdale, Ch-Ch.

The number of participants will be limited to eight people.

If you wish to be considered for the programme please contact any of the supervisory team.

Rev Don Prince

Phone: 03 352 4194

E-mail: dprince@clear.net.nz

Te Aroha Celebration

“Te Aroha Co-operating Parish is celebrating 30 years as a Co-operating Parish on 11th May 2008. There will be Church service at 10.00am followed by a luncheon.

All past ministers and friends are cordially invited to share this day with us. If you have any stories or photos that can be included in a booklet we are preparing, or would like information please contact the parish office, 32 Church St Te Aroha or email Doris Elphick doris.e@paradise.net.nz. “

Worship Leading Opportunities

at the Bay of Islands Uniting Church in Paihia

We offer either petrol vouchers to the value of \$50 or three free nights accommodation in one of our two modern 2-bedroom holiday cottages in exchange for leading two services on the one Sunday. The first service is at Paihia at 9.15 and the second one is at Russell at 11.00.

Please contact Lesley Jones, Worship Co-ordinator, email: aintree@slingshot.co.nz

Message from Trinity College

Trinity College wishes to advise the Connexion that the Reverend Mary Caygill, Principal Trinity Theological College, will be on sabbatical leave as from the 3rd March until the 21st July, 2008.

The Reverend Norman Brookes will be Acting Principal 2 days weekly over this period of leave.

For any matters that would normally relate to the Principal's work please use Norman's email address either NEBrookes@xtra.co.nz or his Trinity College email which is normanb@stjohns.auckland.ac.nz. Matters relating to administration and general information should be directed to Nicola Grundy or Marissa Alex.

EARLY WARNING!!

Wanganui will be celebrating 160 of Methodism. We will do this over the weekend of 18th-19th October. All welcome. More details later.

Rev. A.N. (Tony) Bell
P.O. Box 4195
Wanganui 4541

CBA

Dear Parish Leaders,

Could you please commend the CBA Easter programme to your congregations and order the appropriate number of appeal envelopes so that we can help to cover the costs of this mainstreamed Easter broadcast. Over the years, I have tried to financially support CBA at least once per annum and this is a particularly appropriate season in which to go the extra mile, as surely did our Lord.

**Grace and Peace,
Brian Turner, President**

Seeking your assistance

Dear church leader / church communications representative,

Each Christmas and Easter, we broadcast a 12-hour radio special reaching very large numbers of non-Christian listeners throughout New Zealand.

To raise funds to cover our costs, we ask churches of all denominations to help us by handing out our appeal envelopes to members of their congregation.

We're finding, as time goes by, that it's getting harder and harder to get through. Maybe we've done it too often, or maybe there are just too many requests from so many worthy causes. We've also found, over the past several years, that the average number of envelopes that churches are taking has reduced significantly.

We have worked very hard over the last several weeks to email or phone every church on our database of 1400 churches. The results are as follows:

- Churches who've said YES: 1014
- Churches who've said NO: 142
- Churches who've not responded, or we've not managed to make contact after five attempts: 201

We had 100,000 appeal envelopes printed. In the past, churches have averaged 110 – 120 envelopes each – so on that basis we would have reached our target easily.

To date however, the 1014 churches who've said yes comes to 88,000 envelopes, which means that we still have 12,000 left, and we've pretty much exhausted our database.

We'd love to find homes for the remaining 12,000 appeal envelopes, so we don't waste money on printing costs.

We understand there are something like 2,5000 churches in NZ, so at best we're only reaching about 60% – possibly far fewer.

We're wondering if you might be willing to help us by emailing the following text to the churches of your denomination.

If you'd be willing to help in this way, THANK YOU! Please simply cut and paste the following text in to a new email and forward on, perhaps with an opening remark from yourself.

Many thanks and God bless,
Phil Guyan
Managing Trustee

Subject : Please help CBA reach 300,000 Kiwis this Good Friday

This Good Friday, more than **300,000 people** will tune in to CBA's Easter programming on New Zealand's largest **secular commercial** radio network (12 hours from 6am-6pm, nationwide.)

CBA has brought together some of New Zealand's most experienced Christian broadcasters - and Christian communicators from around the world. (For more details, please see the bottom of this email.)

They are asking for your help in a practical way (not asking for your money!).

CBA has printed an appeal envelope that they'd like to ask you to **hand out** to members of your church (to raise funds to cover their production costs.) Then it's over to each individual to decide if this is something they want to support.

There's a good chance they've already been in touch with you – but if they haven't, and if you'd be willing to help, here's what to do:

Email erin@cba.org.nz with your name, the name of your church, postal address, and the number of envelopes you require (i.e. how many bulletins do you normally hand out at your Sunday service(s)?)

CBA will post you the appeal envelopes and a poster within 24-hours of receiving your email.

You can find out more information and download resources from www.cba.org.nz/appeal including a PowerPoint slide and a very short movie clip (1min 45seconds).

Thank you!

Optional reading below:

CBA's mission is “to communicate the essentials of the Christian faith to those who have never understood.”

CBA produces world-class programmes designed specifically for SECULAR COMMERCIAL radio audiences. Commercial radio provides the most cost-effective mass media opportunity for Christians to reach those who would never set foot inside a church.

87% of radio listeners in NZ tune in to commercial radio... and NewstalkZB leads the radio ratings. As long as NewstalkZB remains the market leader, that's where CBA will continue to broadcast.

- CBA makes a Christian impact on the **secular airwaves**... 86% of NewstalkZB's listeners do not regard religion or spirituality as a primary interest in their lives [Research International 2006].
- They are reaching 180,000 people every week day
- Each Christmas and Easter CBA broadcasts on two major networks for the whole day, reaching 200,000 – 300,000 listeners.
- Their weekly programme on NewstalkZB, “Real Life with John Cowan” reaches 20,000+ listeners nationwide every Sunday night from 8pm. This programme has consistently gained the number one rating for its time slot for the last 3½ years.
- CBA's team of presenters includes high-profile Christian communicators such as Rob Harley, Ian Grant, Petra Bagust, John Cooney, John Cowan and many

others. Programmes feature guests such as Sir Cliff Richard, Tony Campolo, Philip Yancey, Nicky Gumbel, Chuck Colson and Dr James Dobson.

- For every one dollar they receive, CBA will reach over 2,000 people with a positive Christian message through our Scrubcutter series.
- They've produced over 2,700 programmes in the last ten years.
- CBA's programmes are replayed on other networks and websites around the world.
- They have a Prayer Task Force of over 850 people who pray regularly for CBA.
- CBA produces programmes that compete on an artistic level with the best in the industry, having gained several awards over the years.
- CBA is an interdenominational trust supported by ordinary Christians of every mainstream denomination in New Zealand and endorsed by all denominational leaders.

Halswell Union Parish

The Methodist Church of New Zealand is seeking to appoint a Presbyter to serve in the Halswell Union Parish. This suburban parish is situated in the rapidly growing south western part of Christchurch.

The Parish seeks a full time presbyter who will work with them to develop ministry and mission.

Initial enquires to:

Rev Nigel Hanscamp, Director Mission Resourcing, Private Bag 11 903,
Elleslie, Auckland.

Ph 09 525 4179 e-mail nigelh@methodist.org.nz



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

ECUMENICAL HEALTHCARE CHAPLAIN

to

**Timaru and Talbot Park Hospitals
of the South Canterbury DHB**

&

**Aged Care Homes and Hospitals run by
Presbyterian Support South Canterbury**

Applications are sought from experienced chaplains and other suitably ordained clergy for the above **full time position** covering these healthcare facilities in Timaru and Temuka. This position is being offered on the basis of a 2 year term initially.

Applicants should have completed a minimum of one CPE Course and have experience in hospital chaplaincy, parish or other relevant ministry positions.

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

The successful applicant will co-ordinate a small team of voluntary chaplaincy assistants who assist in providing Christian ministry, spiritual and emotional support and pastoral care to patients, residents, their families and staff in the hospitals and rest homes.

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

The closing date for applications is Monday 31 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 to Maori

Palmerston North Hospital, MidCentral DHB

Applications are sought from experienced chaplains and other suitably qualified ordained Maori clergy for the **part - time** (8 – 10 hours per week) chaplaincy position to Maori as part of the Ecumenical Chaplaincy Team covering the Palmerston North Hospital. The position is being offered on the basis of a 2 year term initially.

Applicants should ideally have completed a CPE or equivalent course and must have experience in hospital chaplaincy or other ministry to Maori in parish or other relevant positions. An ability to speak and lead worship in English and Te Reo Maori is essential.

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 a multi-disciplinary health care team, consistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, is also absolutely essential. Chaplains must be willing to minister to people irrespective of their faith or culture.

The successful applicant will become a member of a chaplaincy team of 1 Full-time and 3 part-time chaplains, providing Christian ministry, spiritual and emotional support and pastoral care to patients, families and staff. They may also be required to share in training, supervising and leading a small group of voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants. The ability to work as part of a team is essential.

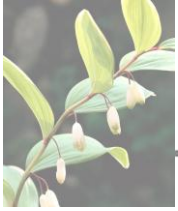
Healthcare chaplains are required to work towards obtaining accreditation within 5 years of appointment.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is to Monday 31 March 2008

An information pack is available from:

The National Executive Officer
Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy
PO Box 6427
WELLINGTON 6141
NEW ZEALAND

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



REMEMBER

In your Prayers

It is with sadness that we write to inform the Connexion that Mrs Gilmore, the widow of the late Rev. Les Gilmore, died peacefully on Sunday afternoon 17th Feb 2008 at Elmwood Hospital, Hill Road, Manurewa.

Mrs. Gilmore was also the mother of Mrs. Margaret Zieglar, Manukau Synod member and parish steward for the Manurewa Methodist Church.

~

It is with sadness that we inform the Connexion that Reverend Colin Leadley died peacefully in Ashburton Hospital on Tuesday evening, 26th February 2008.

Colin is survived by his wife Audrey and four adult children.

~

It is with sadness that we inform the Connexion that Nellie Cramond, wife of the late Reverend George Cramond died peacefully on early Monday morning, 25 February 2008.



Methodist Mission & Ecumenical

Newsletter March 2007

Secretary: John Roberts, 22a Penney Avenue, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041

Phone 09-626-6130 Fax: 09-626-6137 E-mail mm-e@clear.net.nz

Call to confront differences honestly

Churches should be prepared to confront their differences honestly and to examine them in the light of the scriptures, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos I (the Istanbul-based patriarch considered by many to be the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians) said at a service to celebrate 60 years since the founding of the World Council of Churches (WCC). "The bonds of friendship between divided churches and the bridges to overcome our divisions are indispensable, more now than ever. Love is essential, so that dialogue between our churches can take place in all freedom and trust," said Bartholomeos, preaching at Geneva's St Pierre cathedral during a meeting of the WCC central committee in February.

The WCC has 349 member churches, principally Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant. The Catholic Church cooperates with the Geneva-based church grouping in some areas.

Patriarch Bartholomeos I acknowledged the existence of turbulent periods in the life of the WCC, but said that dialogue that resulted from those difficulties has paved the way forward. He noted that in 1920 the Church of Constantinople had issued an appeal to churches around the world, "inviting them after the fratricidal First World War to form a League of Churches". This coincided with similar initiatives by Anglican and Lutheran leaders in Europe and the United States. "It can be stated that the concerted action by Orthodox, Anglican and Reformation churches in the 1920s laid the foundations for the modern ecumenical movement," he said.

Patriarch Bartholomeos recalled that almost 60 years had passed since 23 August 1948, when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, in Amsterdam formally declared that the WCC was established. "This inter-church platform has been at the service of its member churches and dedicated to increasing the spirit of the Gospel, seeking Christian unity and encouraging cooperation by the churches in their social and diaconal work as they confront the acute pressing problems of humankind," the Patriarch said. "Are we today prepared, as member churches, to reaffirm the role of the Council as a privileged ecumenical space, where the churches will freely create networks for diakonia and for defending and promoting certain values?" he asked. "And where, by dialogue, the churches will continue to break down the barriers that prevent them from recognising one another as churches confessing a common faith, administering the same baptism, and celebrating the Eucharist together?"

Peter Kenny, ENI, www.eni.ch

News roundup

World Day of Prayer

This ecumenical event takes place around the world on the first Friday in March. The order of service for 2008 has been prepared by church women in Guyana with the theme "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding" World Day of prayer is a movement of prayer involving people of many denominations around the world, who observe a common day of prayer each year. It is initiated and carried out in 170 countries, bringing together various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action. Prayer is offered in more than 1000 languages beginning at dawn in the Tonga and finishing more than forty hours later in Alaska. Join your local World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 7 March.

UCPNG marks 40 years

The United Church in Papua New Guinea launched its 40th anniversary celebrations on 19 January in Port Moresby. The launching by Governor-General Sir Paulias Matane, marked the beginning of celebrations to be observed by United Church congregations throughout the country. Sir Paulias touched briefly on the history of the church, "Its history is a story of pain and gain, triumphs and trials. Let us look back over the 40 years of service to this beautiful country of ours and count our blessings with gratitude and humility."

Year of the Bible in Solomon Islands

Following a meeting with a delegation from Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) and Solomon Islands Full Gospel Association (SIFGA), the Solomon Islands Prime Minister Dr Derek Sikua has endorsed 2008 as the Year of the Bible. The endorsement of 2008 as the Year of the Bible coincides with the planned launch of the Solomon Islands pijin bible this year. Martha Matzke of Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group (SITAG) said "The pijin bible will give many Solomon Islanders access to God's word in a language that is easy for them to understand The Solomon Islands Philatelic Bureau will honour the year with a stamp commemorating 30 years of Bible translation in this country.

Seasonal workers programme

The Solomon Star newspaper reported on 21 January that 103 workers from the Solomon Islands would be heading to New Zealand for seasonal work. Three New Zealand companies had recruited workers in Honiara. The companies recruiting agent stated that those selected would be in New Zealand for up to six months working in apple fields, factories and pack houses. The Solomon Star later reported that when the Solomons Prime Minister Dr Sikua visited New Zealand in late January he was successful in getting the New Zealand government to include the Solomon Islands in the category of Pacific Island nations to receive special treatment to facilitate the recruitment of such labour. In 2007 the Mission and Ecumenical secretary had unsuccessfully lobbied the Minister of Labour for the Solomon Islands to be given such treatment. It is good news that the government has now responded positively.

Human rights anniversary

2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Participants at an international ecumenical consultation called by the World Council of Churches last December were told it will be a "fantastic opportunity" for churches to re-

connect with the endeavour of protecting and promoting human dignity. "It will be a 'kairos' - an appropriate time - for the ecumenical movement to re-connect with the cause of human rights" said Peter Prove, of the Lutheran World Federation. The 60th anniversary can be an opportunity for human rights evangelism, he said. According to Prove, churches have moral authority, broad reach, capacity for education and ability to build bridges with other faiths and civil society. "All that puts them in a unique position to make an impact on international mechanisms for the protection of human rights."

Persevering towards unity

Speaking during the recent Central Committee meeting of the World Council of Churches, moderator Rev. Dr Walter Altmann issued a renewed call to "visible unity" in the church. Unity in Christ, Altmann said, is a gift from God. Receiving that gift and responding to it "in the koinonia of brothers and sisters in the one church," he said, is the primary purpose of the ecumenical movement.

A decision of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Conference 2007 acknowledged the completion of work by a Strategic Thinking Group towards a new ecumenical commitment in Aotearoa New Zealand. With no consensus from churches on the way ahead, the Mission and Ecumenical Committee is working on another strategy. It hopes to encourage leaders of traditionally ecumenically minded churches to come into an ecumenical space to see if it is yet possible to find new ways of relating to each other and seeking greater cooperation between churches.

Climate change – act now!

The World Council of Churches Central Committee has again spoken out on the pressing issue of climate change, urging member churches and others to "Be stewards of God's creation" and to "take action now". As stewards of God's creation, churches and religious communities "can take key leadership roles" for what is "both an environmental issue and a matter of justice". The statement urgently calls the churches to strengthen their moral stand on the issue and calls for a profound change in the way humans relate to the earth. It encourages the sharing of knowledge and experiences and urges churches to set aside a special time to have prayers and action related to the stewardship of creation. It proposes 1st September as an annual date. Theological schools and seminaries are asked to "teach stewardship of all creation" as part of their curriculum.

40 years of occupation

"Palestine: 40 years of occupation" This is the latest in the Hot Topic series of the Churches Agency on International Issues. It covers: our reluctance to act; illegal Jewish settlements; children in prison; the Hafrada wall; Jerusalem – Holy City? the siege of Gaza; Christian Zionism; non-violent protest; and taking action for justice. It can be downloaded from www.cws.org.nz, with hard copies available on request from Christian World Service, P O Box 22652, Christchurch 8142; e-mail international@cws.org.nz

Neighbours not Strangers

Methodists exploring relationships
with people of other religions (80 pages)

Author: John H Roberts

Publisher: Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
2008

Areas covered by this book

An introduction to the religious scene in Aotearoa New Zealand.

A survey of how nine scholars in the Methodist tradition view Wesley as an interreligious resource.

An outline of the insights of five 20th century pioneers: James Moulton; Stanley Jones; D T Niles; Geoffrey Parrinder; Wilfred Cantwell Smith.

An outline of the insights of four contemporary scholars: John Cobb; Kenneth Cracknell; Wesley Ariarajah; Diana Eck.

Brief notes on thirteen other Methodist scholars working in this area.

A conclusion bringing together the collective insights of John Wesley, the 20th century pioneers, and the contemporary scholars.

Comment on the book

“Methodist scholars around the world have been working on the theological issues that are raised by our encounter with other religious traditions. The great service that this work performs is to provide the reader with an ordered overview of the range of perspectives that Methodist scholars have taken up. The accumulated insights of this book will encourage readers to see that the Methodist tradition has an on-going and distinctive contribution to make at the theological level to interfaith dialogue.”

Rev Dr Terry Wall, Convener, Faith and Order Committee, Methodist Church of New Zealand

Availability and cost

Available from Epworth Books, P O Box 17 255 Karori, Wellington 6033; 157B Karori Road, Marsden Village, Karori, Wellington; Free Phone 0800 755 355; E-mail sales@epworthbooks.org.nz. Cost: \$15 plus \$2 post & packing.

Neighbours not Strangers

METHODISTS EXPLORING RELATIONSHIPS
WITH PEOPLE OF OTHER RELIGIONS

John H Roberts





Methodist Mission & Ecumenical

Occasional Paper No. 36

Secretary: John Roberts, 22a Penney Avenue, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041
Phone 09-626-6130 Fax: 09-626-6137 E-mail mm-e@clear.net.nz

Making a difference together –then and now

World Council of Churches 60th anniversary

Celebrating a 60th birthday for some is a milestone marked by visions of retirement - celebrating achievements and dreaming of new endeavours. The World Council of Churches (WCC), however, on its 60th "birthday" in 2008, does not want to rest on past feats as it looks ahead to the challenges of the 21st century. The largest, most inclusive fellowship of churches in the world, and the pre-eminent face of 20th century ecumenism is grappling with a very different world today - politically, economically, religiously - than the one it faced following the second world war.

The WCC came into formal existence on 23 August 1948 in Amsterdam, where the delegates of 147 churches from 44 countries met to participate in the first and founding assembly. While the gathering was impressive for its unprecedented diversity, with representatives from Anglican, Old Catholic, many Orthodox and nearly all Protestant churches, the inauguration was also notable for the absence of the world's two largest churches, the Roman Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church.

In practice, the WCC already existed. In 1938 a provisional committee had been formed by church leaders to establish a structure for the new body and organize its first assembly set for 1941. But the outbreak of war had scuttled those plans. Instead the provisional committee had served to maintain links between churches on both sides while assisting prisoners of war and refugees and preparing for post-war reconciliation and aid.

At the Amsterdam assembly, the experience of war set a tone that was both humble and defiant as the world's tragic disunity called for radical reconciliation. Willem Visser 't Hooft, the first WCC general secretary, spoke to the fear of creating a "superchurch" and announced the vision of making a difference together: "We are not forming this Council in a spirit of ambition and in order to join in any struggle for power. We form it in a spirit of repentance for our failure to be the Church together and in order to render clearer witness together to the Lord who came to serve all."

In many ways the witness of the WCC over the past decades can be clearly enumerated - tangible contributions to the formation of the United Nations and the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; landmark theological work on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry and significant contributions to missiological reflection; prophetic work on issues such as sustainable development, racism, interreligious dialogue and climate change before they became popular platforms.

Few achievements came without controversy. During the 1970s, many evangelicals distanced themselves from the Council over what they considered weak efforts regarding mission and evangelism. Meanwhile, the Programme to Combat Racism was a lightning rod for criticism in the face of its unflinching support for the anti-apartheid movement in Southern Africa. But when the WCC celebrated its 50th anniversary at its 1998 assembly in Harare, Nelson Mandela, one of the programme's "beneficiaries", spoke of the programme as an expression of "true solidarity" that was "not merely the charitable support of distant benefactors, but a joint struggle for shared aspirations. To us in South and Southern Africa, and indeed the entire continent," he said, "the WCC has always been known as a champion of the oppressed and the exploited."

Yet, talking to those touched by the WCC over the years, its greatest achievement has not been a particular issue, programme or publication, but the fact that despite all that could have torn it apart, the member churches have held together, maintaining the fellowship they share through the Council. As an Asian ecumenical leader says: "The relationships built between churches are the WCC's finest accomplishment. It's not unity in the strict sense, but in building a knowledge of heritage and customs and awareness - like a family."

And the WCC is growing. It now brings together 347 churches and denominations in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world. The Russian Orthodox Church joined in 1961, and the Roman Catholic Church works closely with the Council in many programme areas and is a full member of the commissions on Faith and Order and on Mission and Evangelism.

The growth of the WCC is a sign of success and a challenge to the future, as it demonstrates the changing face of ecumenism and Christianity itself. Most of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, although churches from other regions were also amongst them; today most members are located in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

The breadth of its membership creates the living challenge of ecumenism - connecting, assessing, changing to more truly reflect unity. Intensive dialogue between Orthodox churches and other traditions over the past ten years allowed the fellowship of churches to realise that some practices comfortable to most Western members felt unfamiliar and disempowering to many others. Significant changes in how the WCC conducts its business followed, notably with the introduction of consensus decision-making.

Setting programme priorities for the WCC's work does not come easy, as member churches face different realities in their own contexts. Yet a common thread emerges that builds upon the essence of the WCC from its formation. As one European theologian states, "The WCC's role is to be the one place where Christian voices can be unified."

Within that common space, churches are addressing together some of the challenges they face today: responding to threats to life like poverty, climate change and HIV and AIDS; exploring traditional and newer dimensions of spiritual life; promoting

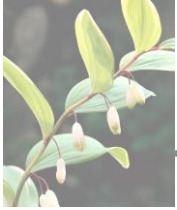
interreligious dialogue and cooperation; reaching out to Christian traditions long sceptical of ecumenism; re-envisioning ecumenism in the 21st century.

As the 60th celebration theme underlines, *Making a difference together* is not about the anniversary of an institution, but a fellowship, a movement and a vision. Six decades ago in Amsterdam, the participants confessed, "We are divided from one another not only in matters of faith, order and tradition, but also by pride of nation, class and race." While this reality persists, so does the ecumenical vision. "But Christ has made us his own, and he is not divided," the Amsterdam message continued.

The WCC is not just celebrating a birthday, but the visible and viable commitment of the churches, which despite all their own and the world's divisions reclaim the 1948 affirmation: "We intend to stay together."

Sara Speicher WCC News Feature 28 January 2008





Christian World Service (www.cws.org.nz)

Global Encounter for Young People

As part of the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence, CWS is bringing young people together to discuss their experiences of conflict and examine ways to build peace both here and overseas.

Youth representatives from Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Zealand will attend hui where they will share the effects of living with violence in their own country, ideas on how to prevent violence and ways to build a peaceful community.

The live-in youth conferences will be held at Te Maungarongo Marae, Ohope (18-20 July), Camp Wainui, Wellington (25-27 July) and Cracroft Guide Centre, Christchurch (1-3 August). Young people aged 15-25 years are invited to attend but places are limited. Contact youth@cws.org.nz/phone 0800 74 73 72 ext 108 for further information and to register your interest in attending.

Worship Resources available from CWS

Talking about Toilets: Sanitation Worship Resources prepared for World Water Day, 22 March, which can be used on any Sunday. Download from <http://www.cws.org.nz/Resources/Worship-Resources.asp>

Check out the archive of worship resources on the CWS website for other social justice topics. CWS worship materials can be adapted to your own needs and used at any time.

Solomon Islands documentary NOW available

Lauru Our Land: Solomon Island Women Face the Future, filmed by CWS last year, has been released. It features CWS partner, the Women's Programme of the Lauru Land Conference, as it assists women to improve their well-being and livelihoods and protect their land against foreign logging interests. The documentary can be borrowed in DVD or video format and is accompanied by a study guide. 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.

APW/MWF Special Project

CWS partner, House of Passage, a programme working with at risk girls in the streets and slums of Recife, Brazil is being supported by this year's APW/MWF special project.

CWS can provide further information on the work of the House of Passage, including a DVD on their work (*A Path to Citizenship*). Speakers are also available to address your church group. Contact cws@cws.org.nz or phone 0800 74 73 72

Web design Opportunity

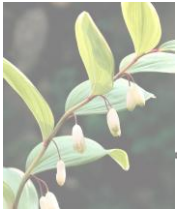
CWS is planning an overhaul of its website with a more user friendly and updated site to be launched in July. The web development is currently up for tender. Please contact communications@cws.org.nz if you are interested in looking at the Statement of Requirements or know of anyone who may be able to help. If you have any comments or suggestions on improving cws.org.nz please email them to: communications@cws.org.nz

Fair Trade Fortnight 08

The growing rise of support for fair-trade will again be a focus from 3-18 May. Parishes are invited to join or organise events in their local community and hold “a Fair Cuppa” after worship one Sunday in the fortnight. Resources will be posted on the CWS website and to those interested after Easter.

To register interest contact: Gillian.southey@cws.org.nz





MARCH AMENDMENTS

TO THE YEARBOOK

We currently still hold a few 2005 & 2006 Bound Reports & Decisions which is a complete set of the Conference Agenda, Decisions & Yearbook. If you would like either one of these, they are free of charge until we run out. Just pay for postage or you can come in and collect one.

Email Amy at amys@methodist.org.nz to check for availability.

Diary Dates for 2008 (pg 1)

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Thursday: 6 March 8 May 26 June 3 September
11 December

METHODIST TRUST ASSN / INVESTMENT BOARD / P.A.C.T. 2086

27 February 19 April 25 June 10 September 3 December

- The Executive meets the evening before the meeting.
- Agenda for the meeting closes 10 days before the date of the Meeting.

Connexional Offices - Directory (pg 5)

WESLEY COLLEGE

Wesley College, P O Box 58, Pukekohe

Principal: Mr Ian Faulkner
[H] 09 238 7502 [O] 09 237 0224 [Em] ian.faulkner@clear.net.nz

Chaplain: Rev Sylvia 'Akau'ola-Tongotongo
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Connexional Boards & Committees (pg 8)

COUNCIL OF ELDERS:

Tauwi:
Janet Marsh 15a Brookfield Terrace, Tauranga 3110 [Em] jpm1966@kinect.co.nz
[H] 07 576 9749

DIACONATE TASK GROUP:

Secretary:
Dcn Edna Evans 18 Tupaea Place, Cherrywood, Tauranga [Em] georgeandedna@wave.co.nz
3110
[H] 07 570 0013

WESLEY COLLEGE TRUST BOARD

General Secretary: (Delivery Address Wesley College State Highway 22 Paerata near Pukekohe)
Christopher Johnston P.O. Box 58 Pukekohe [Em] chrisj@wesley.school.nz
[P] 09 237 0224 [F] 09 238 3582

Tauivi (pg 13)

SYNOD SUPERINTENDENTS

Waikato / Wairiki:

Rev Alex Webster 15a Brookfield Terrace, Tauranga, 3110 [Em] aww@kinect.co.nz
[H][O] 07 576 9749

SYNOD CANDIDATES CONVENORS

Waikato-Wairiki

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[H][O] 07 576 9749

Taranaki-Wanganui:

Rev Anthony Bell (Tony) P O Box 4195, Wanganui 4541 [Em] tony-bell@paradise.net.nz
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Otago-Southland

Rev Stuart Grant P O Box 2391, South Dunedin 9044 [Em] scch.grant@xtra.co.nz
[H] 03 453 6762 [O] 03 466 4600

Vahefonua Tonga O' Aotearoa

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[H] 09 6272820

Wasewase ko Viti

Rev Peni Tikoinaka 12 Gilberthorpes Road, Islington, [Em] penitikoi@yahoo.co.nz
Christchurch 8042

Ecumenical Boards & Committees (pg 20)

NZ LAY PREACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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[H] 03 348 1654

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Elizabeth Cant 7 Owens Terrace, Upper Riccarton, [Em] gandecant@xtra.co.nz
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Editor, Word and Worship

Colin Gibson 28 Mitchell Avenue, Maryhill, Dunedin 9011 [Em] colin.gibson@clear.net.nz
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1997	4	'Akau'ola-Tongotongo , Sylvia; Chaplain, Wesley College State Highway 22, Paerata 2340 P O Box 58, Pukekohe [Em] sylviaa@wesley.school.nz	[M] 027 750 3538 Ph [O] 09 237 0224 Ph [H] 09 238 7420	2830
2006	5	Barber , Laurie H (Dr) The Manse 102 St John Street Opotiki 3122	[H][O] 07 315 6176 [H/F] 07 315 6186 [Em] petraA@xtra.co.nz	3240
2008	1	Barber , Petra The Manse 102 St John Street Opotiki 3122	[H][O] 07 315 6176 [H/F] 07 315 6186 [Em] petraA@xtra.co.nz	3240
1980	CHP20	Cumberpatch , Lindsay E; 60 Malcolm Street, Hamilton 3216 [Em] lcumberpatch@hotmail.com	[O] 07 856 8638 [H] 07 858 3977 [F] 07 856 8637	3330
1951	1988	Gilbert , Geoffrey T, 11/13 Nursery Place Westown, New Plymouth 4310	[P] 06 753 6633 [Em] geoffnjoy@actrix.gen.nz	4010
2008	1	Lei'ataua , Tulaga Iosefa 79 Nikau Rd Otahuhu, Auckland 1062	[H] 09 276 0899 [Em] faleiosefa@clear.net.nz	9575
2000	5	Marsh , Janet 15A Brookfield Terrace Tauranga 3110	[H] 07 576 9749 [O] 07 578 8493 [F] 07 578 8463 [Em] jpm1966@kinect.co.nz	3190
2008	1	Norman , Peter 14 Atkins Street Motueka 7120	[O] 03 528 7752 [Em] pete-norman@xtra.co.nz	
1969	1995	Pate , Heremia H 68 Kawaha Point Road Kawaha Point Rotorua 3015	[M] 021 216 2780	3160
2008	LAY1	Peddie , William S, (Bill) 30 Gibbs Cres, Red Hill, Papakura 2110	[H] 09 298 4249 [O] 09 373 2869 [Em] doccrock@xtra.co.nz	2010

1992	5	Peterson, Brian C; 806 Chapel Road Shamrock Park Manukau 2016	[H][F] 09 537 1363 [Em] bpeterson@paradise.net.nz	2410
1992	2007	Peterson, Marion J; 806 Chapel Road Shamrock Park Manukau 2016	[H][F] 09 537 1363 [O] 09 533 0229 [Em] marionjp@paradise.net.nz	2410 2450
1983	2003	Rosewell, Wendie, 56 Old Creamery Road Opotiki 3198	[H] 07 315 5518 [Em] rosewell@clear.net.nz	
1950	1988	Schroeder, Leonard P, 34/621 State Highway 1 RD 3 Hamilton	[H] 07 856 1398 [Em] hschroeder@xtra.co.nz	3080
1999	CHP2	Taufu'i, Hausia, 2 Hulverstone Drive Avondale, Christchurch 8061	[M] 021 0272 1651 [Em W] hausia.taufui@cdhb.govt.nz	
2008	1	'Uhila, 'Alipate 18 Premila Drive Pukekohe 2120	[H] 09 238 5214 [O] 09 238 6768 [Em] Wesley@ps.gen.nz	
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Parish Listing (Pg 49)

Motueka Uniting Parish

PO Box 265, Motueka, 7143
Business Phone: (03) 528 9625

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Church\Worship Centre eMail: acdunkley@xtra.co.nz

St Johns Union Parish Opotiki

PO Box 268, Opotiki, 3162
Business Phone: (07) 315 6176 Fax (07) 315 6186

Barber, Laurie H, Rev Dr
Barber, Petra, Rev

St Johns, Opotiki

102 St John Street, Opotiki, 3122
Business Phone: (07) 315 6176 Fax: (07) 315 6186
Church\Worship Centre eMail: saintjohn@xtra.co.nz

Chartwell Co-operating Parish

[Remove St Mary's Gordonton – as this is now a separate entity]

Widows & Widowers (Pg 92)

Moore, Elsie M, Mrs

c/- Allan H Moore, 986 Papamoa Beach Rd, Mt Maunganui 3118
