METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical (M&E) is the official agency of the Methodist Church of New Zealand (MCNZ) that promotes the church’s overseas mission church relationships, its ecumenical relationships, both local and international, as well as its confessional (Methodist) relationships. “Ecumenism is something that all Christians are called to. Ecumenism is the gospel; it is the historical biblical faith. It is the very true expression of the Christian faith, not just a proclaimed faith, but a faith that is embodied” [Michael Kinnamon]. Mission and Ecumenical ministry places this at its core in carrying out the mission statement made by Conference 2006 –

“To be Methodist is to be ecumenical.”

MISSION

1. UNITED CHURCH IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (UCSI)
Partner mission church relationships with the UCSI continue with the Mission and Ecumenical. The new moderator Rev. Wilfred Kurepitu has settled well into his new role. The struggle of the United Church Solomon Islands continues due to lack of financial resources. Eddison Kotomae, former executive of human resources was elected new general secretary of UCSI. The change of the general secretary is welcomed not only for M&E but also for Uniting World Australia and Methodist Church UK. No visit to Solomon Islands in 2013 as the secretary visits in alternate years. The next visit will be in 2014. The secretary met with Eddison general secretary of UCSI and received an update during the Methodist Consultative Council (MCCP) meeting in Rarongo in May 2013. Over the conversation Eddison stated the developments in Munda and the concerns for UCSI. He added that due to the construction of a new international standard airport in Munda a number of houses in the vicinity of the airstrip were demolished and the people were relocated elsewhere. How the people are settling into their new places is something that we have to wait and see.

2. HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL – MUNDA
Dr. Graham and Jenny Longbottom have returned to Helena Goldie Hospital after their furlough in England for a year. Graham Longbottom has been sending reports about Helena Goldie Hospital and other places during the year.

Graham in his report in May said: we did what we could when we were there. We are of course now back at HGH and there are many needs here. This photograph was taken in the x-ray dept. This department is dangerous to those waiting in out-patients as they all get a dose of x-rays. Despite this, a proposal to renovate the department failed to get funding from the European Union. This view shows the incomplete medical laboratory extension. Beyond this is the out-patient department where patients wait & receive unwanted radiation! The ramp on the right was created with funding from Christian World Service N.Z. Hopefully the laboratory & x-ray departments can be upgraded & redesigned as a single project over the next two years.
This photo shows the new house for the hospital Chaplain. Funding for this was raised by Methodist congregations in New Zealand in 2011 and it was completed in 2012. It is now occupied by Rev Benjamin Pitakoe, Marama Esme and their family. Some of the staff houses need some maintenance and repair.

There are over 100 people living in hospital accommodation, with a large number of children. It seems to be an idyllic place to grow up, with canoe rides and swimming literally on the door-step.

**Opening of New Eye Unit and Eye Surgical Tour 2013**

A new eye unit (the picture below) was opened at HGH. Cataract surgeries are now carried out at this unit by visiting eye surgical teams. This is a greater blessing for the people of the Western Roviana province.

Helena Goldie Hospital is the only source of health care to the 27,000 people living on the islands around the hospital. They are some of the poorest and most vulnerable people on earth. The cost of providing this care has increased significantly over the last few years and the monthly wages for staff are now more than the government grant. The hospital is a service rather than a business, with hospital fees generating about 1% of the total income. Mission and Ecumenical continues to provide the salary of the Director of Nursing Chris Lieve. It also provides some funding for relieving nurses. A request was made by Dr. Longbottom to assist with salary for an accountant for the hospital. M&E is exploring the possibilities to assist HGH with an accountant. We pray for the future of this community and the hospital that struggles to provide appropriate health care due to severe financial constraints.

**3. HELENA GOLDIE COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Work has now started on an extension to the College of Nursing Library. This has been funded by college students fund raising – they go out fishing all night! The fish is cooked on a barbeque and then served with rice & cucumber for lunch – SB$15, which is about £ 1-50. (NZ $ 3.00)
This is a general view of Helena Goldie College of Nursing, showing the office & classroom on the left, Davinia Taylor Hall with library centre and the students’ dining room on the right. Just next to the dining room is a new construction – this will be the area for serving food on the occasion of the graduation of the first diploma students, 16th April 2013, exactly 3 years after the opening ceremony of the college. M&E supported three students over their training for three years. They have successfully completed their training and are working at HGH. In 2014 M&E will support one student from Sasamuqa to be trained as a nurse and another from Munda.

The dormitory (on the right) built by an Australian rotary club last year is now occupied by 10 college students. The solar power system and water tank (to the rear) were fitted in March.

This photograph (on the left) shows Dr Jenny presenting a pulse oximeter to one of the senior nurses at Sasamunga Hospital during the visit with Steve Pearce in early March. A similar instrument has been given to Helena Goldie Hospital; the money for both was raised by the young people at Wilpshire Methodist Church in Blackburn.

4. DAVINIA TAYLOR MEMORIAL HALL
Davinia Taylor memorial hall was damaged due to termite attack. Dr. Graham Longbottom requested SBD 19,000 from M&E for repair of termite damage and treatment. M&E granted NZ $ 3200 with a condition that proper care must be taken to avoid such damage and maintain the building as M&E does not have funds to spend on repairs of this kind. Graham in his reply said: Thank you for the grant to repair Davinia Taylor Memorial Hall. I attach a photograph of Steve Pearce inspecting the damage with me yesterday. It is hard to know how this has been overlooked from our perspective, but the locals do not seem to notice!! I am hopeful that we can set up a regular check of all hospital buildings & staff houses.
5. SASAMUQA HOSPITAL
The total amount raised for the Solar Power Unit through the annual appeal is $32,588.00. Total cost is NZ $58,200.00. The balance to be funded from designated funds for Sasamuqa Hospital. The contractor in Honiara Willies Electrical & PV Solar Power has been paid the initial payment of 60% of the cost to purchase the material at the time of writing this report. The work is due to be completed by October 2013 depending on the weather conditions in transporting the material to Sasamuqa by boat. The secretary and the team look forward to seeing the completed Solar Power Unit during the visit to Sasamuqa in April – May 2014.

6. GOLDIE COLLEGE
The Mission and Ecumenical special appeal in 2013 is for a water supply unit for the Goldie College. Parishes, Women’s Fellowships and individuals are continuing to support the project. At the time of writing of this report one third of the target amount has been reached. We look forward for more support for the installation of a submerged water pump and a storage tank for the students in the hostel and the staff of Goldie College.

7. UNITED CHURCH IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (UCPNG)
M&E partnership with the United Church in Papua New Guinea continued in 2012 – 2013 with the new moderator Rev. Bernard Siai now leading the church. UCPNG looks forward for continued support from the M&E. Papua New Guinea has been in the focus of the media in the recent times due to the asylum seekers arriving by boats to Australia being sent to Papua New Guinea. What the UCPNG will do in this situation is something we have to wait and see. Refugees in Nauru refugee centre have rioted to draw attention on the processing of their asylum claim. ABC correspondents in PNG reported that asylum seekers were likely to meet with increasing resistance, especially if they received advantages paid for by Australia but not available to many locals. Former PNG Opposition Leader Dame Carol Kidu said there were already too many displaced people in a nation facing enough problems of its own. Oro Province Governor Gary Zuffa warned the move could be "very divisive"[NZ Herald 23/07/2013]. While there is a major concern about poverty in PNG the facilities and assistance of the detainees in Nauru may make the local people of PNG angry. UCPNG is not in a position to provide pastoral care of these people in the detention centre as the resources are limited for them.

VISIT TO PNG
The secretary M&E visited Papua New Guinea in May 2013 as part of partnership with UCPNG. The visit coincided with the Methodist Consultative Council of Pacific meeting in Rarongo. President Rex Nathan and Susan Thomson travelled with Prince Devanandan as they attended the Methodist Consultative Council of the pacific meeting in Rarongo from 13 to 17 May 2013. The delegates of the MCCP received a warm traditional welcome extended by the students and staff of the Rarongo School of Theology and Mission (RSTM).

PROTESTANT CHURCH OF WEST PAPUA
Protestant Church of West Papua Region The Evangelical Christian Church of Tana Papua has requested the secretary Mission and Ecumenical to pay a visit to their region on a fact finding mission. Life of the people of West Papuan region has turned out to be more vulnerable under the Indonesian military operations to protect the mines. Mission and Ecumenical secretary made an attempt to visit West Papua from Papua New Guinea. Due to visa restrictions to the region and travel difficulties this was not possible. The Rev. Brian Turner has been in touch with the secretary Mission and Ecumenical on this matter and has passed on the information as and when reaches him. Secretary Mission and Ecumenical has had conversations with Jan Rumbrar vice chairperson of the Evangelical Christian Church, Tana Papua when met in meetings overseas and has maintained email communication. Mission and Ecumenical would get involved in this mission when feasible and finance for such mission is available. Mission and Ecumenical thanks Brian Turner for the assistance and his interest in the mission.

8. THEME OF MCCP: CLIMATE CHANGE AND GOD’S PACIFIC PEOPLE
The theme for 2013 was chosen by UCPNG. Rev. Bernard Siai in his opening message in the morning service focused on the rising of the sea level and the shoreline coming inland. He said “The weather could be predicted in the past, but not now. There were more natural disasters such as surface floods, cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons and many others as a consequence of global
warming. Cyclones in the pacific tropical region are an ongoing scenario. Amidst these vulnerable situations the MCCP conference must rise up and say something to the world. The reason God called us to this meeting is to speak as leaders of the church. The churches are silent about the climate change. Only the Roman Catholic Church is speaking out. Now the women are beginning to gather to raise their voices by demonstrations calling the government to respond." Bernard's message highlighted the issues of PNG and also in a general way the silence of the churches in the region.

There were 14 representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. The overseas director of the British Methodist Church for Asia and Pacific, Steve Pearce was also present. MCCP meets biennially.

In 2011 the meeting was in Honiara, Solomon Islands on the theme of Diaspora. The participants in the past meetings expressed their dissatisfaction over the lack of minutes of the meetings. In an attempt to recollect the proceedings of MCCP meetings it was pointed out that MCCP was established as the members are part of the same church. There were tensions between Methodist Churches in the Pacific and the Methodist churches of Australia and New Zealand. There were also concerns about the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga establishing its congregations in Australia and New Zealand. The extra ordinary circumstances the Methodist Church was in led to the forming of the MCCP.

The meeting started with Bible study on climate change led by Rev. Kolomo Maka. The focus of the study was on climate change and God's creation. Reports from the countries that were represented were shared. The reports highlighted issues relating to sexual abuse in the churches, and how the churches must respond. Whether it must be reported to police or whether it should be dealt within the church is a question before the people. The churches decided to ask for assistance from the Methodist Church of New Zealand and Uniting Church of Australia on how to handle issues of abuse.

Conversations continued on the subject of "Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change". A discussion was held on what will be the future of the people of Tuvalu. Bruce Mullen from UCA stated that a request was made to Australian government to grant open visa to the people of Tuvalu in 2010. There was no follow up and waiting to hear Australian government's position. A request was also made to the president of the Methodist Church of New Zealand to take up this matter with the New Zealand government to consider the possibilities of taking the climate refugees of Tuvalu.

On Friday 17 May the participants were taken on an exposure tour of the Rabaul district to fathom the missionary past and the church's ministry at present. This included visit to the old city of Rabaul which was buried in ashes in the eruption of Rabaul volcano in 1994. They also visited George Brown High School at Vunairima, School of Education at Gaulim, School of Skill and Leadership at Malmaluan and the war memorial cemetery in Kokopo. These visits gave the participants the opportunity to learn what happened in the region in the past and how life is continuing at present. It also highlighted the state of poverty and the needs of the people and churches.

9. M&E WORK WITH RARONGO SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION
In the current academic year 59 students have been enrolled of which 58 males and one female. In addition women are taught dress making, housekeeping, home economics, cooking and caring for children. They are trained as support persons to pastors. Rev. Garo Kilagi is the acting principal since Rev. Dr. William Longgar left in October 2012. Moderator Bernard and Acting Principal Garo requested that Mission and Ecumenical provide scholarships for two final year students in 2013 as they are unable to pay to complete their studies. Mission and Ecumenical PNG Kina 13,200/- (NZ $ 7,200.00) for the two students for 2013: Kingsley Moria and Peniasi Youwalela.

BOOKS SENT TO THE LIBRARY FROM MISSION AND ECUMENICAL
The secretary Mission and Ecumenical asked about the use of the books and the amount of books that have been received. The librarian showed the inventory of the books. The library has received
over 600 books from Mission and Ecumenical over the past decade. A request was made that Mission and Ecumenical sends books in specific areas of need. The acting principal and the librarian were asked to prepare a list of the books they need and send it to M&E.

INTERNET FACILITIES FOR RARONGO SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION (RSTM)
Telecom has laid the cables right into the premises of the college. From the curbside the college has to pay for the rest of the wiring. This had been a subject of conversation since the secretary Mission and Ecumenical visited Rarongo in 2011. There has been no action on the part of the RSTM. Acting principal Garo said that he will check on this with Telecom and let Mission and Ecumenical know the progress. The five computers installed in the library are outdated. Constant power failures means, they have to run on uninterrupted power source. The power failures may result in the computers crashing. Laptops with battery backup may be the way forward. The RSTM will have to come up with solutions. A fax machine that was operating on a wireless frequency is now out of service. There is no communication with outside world except with cell phones.

10. M&E SECRETARY’S VISIT TO BUKA, BOUGAINVILLE
From Rabaul the secretary Mission and Ecumenical travelled to Buka in Bougainville while other MCCP participants travelled to Port Moresby. After arriving in Buka, Bishop Tim Arthur and the office staffs served afternoon tea. Thereafter a general conversation followed about the church and the work. During the conversations it was mentioned that the graduation for the first batch of lay pastors at Kekesu was held. Other matters discussed were:

1. Bishop Tim Arthur's second term in office will end in 2014. Whether he will go into a third term depends on how people will vote in the election.
2. Bougainville is preparing to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of the gospel in 2016. Tentative dates of the celebration are 12 to 25 of September 2016.
3. New Zealand missionaries who served in Bougainville or their children are expected to attend the centenary celebration. Bishop Tim requested Mission and Ecumenical secretary to contact them and inform about the celebration. And invite them to Bougainville.

After the meeting the bishop invited secretary Mission and Ecumenical to preach on Sunday morning in the Buka city center church. It was Pentecost Sunday 19 May. The service started at 9 am and continued till 11.45 am. The secretary Mission and Ecumenical preached on the theme of Pentecost. After the service the congregation had organised a fellowship lunch.

In the afternoon another meeting was held with Rev. Enoch Abbey – United Church health secretary for the region, Misiri Omepa - United Church education secretary of the region, Andrew Seau – United Church regional treasurer, Marama Miriam Arthur - advisor of the women's fellowships of UC and Bishop Tim Arthur.

The staff shared the success stories of Kekesu Ministry Training Unit and gave copies of the photographs taken in the Graduation ceremony in April. They also requested that M&E support them to get books to the library in the Lay Ministry Training Institute at Kekesu.

WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PLAN
A major project is at the planning stage to have a vocational training centre for women at Kekesu. This will be primarily to train women who come out of intermediate and high school without academic qualifications to receive training in self-employment programmes. Kekesu is chosen as there is land available for such a facility and it will enable the centre to complement the lay ministry training with the spouses of the students receiving vocational training. The project will include programmes on dress making, weaving and crafts that would assist women with earning an income to support the family. Possibilities to have computer education to be explored in the future when PNG Power provides power to the region. To begin with, an initial sewing and dress making centre to be setup in a parish church. This will then be moved to Kekesu. Application for funding to build the centre in Kekesu is made to the PNG national government. To buy sewing machines to setup the initial training centre, a request has been made to Mission and Ecumenical. The secretary has asked the Bishop to work out a budget for the cost of manual sewing machines and submit it to Mission and Ecumenical for possible funding.
The need for such vocational training has risen as there are no programmes for school leaving young women to receive any vocational training in the area. A micro finance credit system is in place for women to borrow money to start income generating self-employment projects, but there is no training in skills available for them to have an effective income generation programme. A vocational training centre for women will fulfill this need in the region.

11. APPRECIATION
Mission and Ecumenical appreciates the considerable support it receives from Methodist Women’s Fellowship groups, parishes, and individual church members, for mission activity in the life of the United Church in the Solomon Islands, and the United Church in Papua New Guinea. The second mile giving enables us to do so much more in assisting our partner mission churches. In particular we acknowledge the generous support of the Korean Methodist Congregations of Auckland and the East Coast Bay Parish for their ongoing support.

12. METHODOIST ECUMENICAL CONSULTATION (MEC)
MEC continues to meet twice a year. This includes representatives of the Mission and Ecumenical Committee, the Faith and Order Committee, and Mission Resourcing. It is a forum for conversations regarding Methodist ecumenical endeavours which spread across three Methodist committees. It is not a decision making body but informs each other of the work carried out and also identifies the areas where the work overlap.

13. NATIONAL DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
Church representatives continue to discuss the need for a national ecumenical entity that will promote the visible unity of the church. The first meeting for 2013 was held on Monday 4 March 2013 in Wellington. The meeting reviewed the process thus far. Several years ago Conference of the Methodist Church requested a new ecumenical initiative. Since then the National Dialogue for Christian Unity is in place and a basis of unity was drawn to form the Churches Forum for Christian Unity. The consensus for the forum was from Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches while Salvation Army continues to be a participant in the dialogue. Other churches who came to the initial meetings withdrew from becoming part of a forum.

The dialogue group identified the international bilateral dialogues between the participating churches. The group opted to look at the Methodist - Roman Catholic dialogue and the Anglican - Methodist dialogue. The group looked at the following documents to draw insights to strengthen the unity among the churches.

c. Receptive Ecumenism.

In addition a paper presented to WCC by the Council for World Mission and Evangelism “Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes” and the Roman Catholic Response to it were circulated. The dialogue group also noted that the recently concluded Anglican – Methodist global dialogue report will be available in 2014.

Rev. Dr. Trevor Hoggard was invited to the meeting on 4 March 2013 to lead a discussion on Methodist Roman Catholic bilateral dialogue.

International Catholic-Methodist Dialogue
Trevor explained the series of meetings and the Synthesis document and also referred to the Durban report 2011. He explained the points of view as Roman Catholics saying ‘We will never change’ and the Methodists saying ‘there will be no change in my lifetime.’ Though these two views were there in dialogue there is so much of common ground for both churches to consider, e.g. paragraph 5 points to “religion of the heart is the heart of religion.” There is so much of harmony in existence with regard to the fundamentals of the two churches. There is not much of
agreement on other doctrinal issues. Both churches have agreed that ordination is by the grace of God, and the church’s call to unity is not an option but an important aspect of being church. Trevor’s presentation and input to strengthen the unity dialogue was appreciated very much and the group thanked him being present at the meeting.

National Dialogue for Christian Unity continues to meet twice a year with a hope of inaugurating the Churches Forum for Christian Unity. The delay is due to the Anglican Archbishop getting appointed to Rome as Anglican representative and the election of a new Archbishop. The new Archbishop is elected and the group is looking forward to the next meeting.

14. ANGLICAN METHODIST DIALOGUE
Meetings were held regularly. Detailed report of the proceedings is covered in the Faith Order report.

15. ECUMENICAL COURSE 2013
The ecumenical course was held from 8 to 13 July 2013 at St. John’s College as “Looking Beyond Divisions: winter school on Ecumenism”. There were 16 registered participants out of which 5 were graduate students counting the course for credits towards their degree programme. In addition there were another 10 present for the symposium on Saturday 13 July. The programme was successful and its impact is spelt out in the evaluation forms received. The feedback shows the extent of the value of holding such a course. One of the participants wrote in his email after the course the following:

“Just wanted to send you a brief word to thank you for last week's course at St Johns - stimulating, refreshing and timely. To have brought together such an eminent group of ecumenists from around the world to NZ is impressive in itself, the quality and depth for the most part was equally impressive. Yes it was a shame that so few people were free to come for the week or the Saturday Symposium, but then Jesus started with 12 and numbers we now learn are over 2 billion! It was good to meet and share with those who did come. Few of us ever appreciate what's going on behind the scenes in organising such a week but you clearly indicated at the end that there was a lot of outside help in resourcing the week both financially and in terms of speakers and content. So thanks for making it all possible."

The course and its input is highly appreciated and commended. The following tutors from overseas made presentations:

Rev. Prof. Michael Kinnamon – former general secretary of NCC – USA
Rev. Prof. Robert Gribben – Centre for Ecumenical Studies, Charles Sturt University
Rev. Prof. James Haire - Centre for Ecumenical Studies, Charles Sturt University
Rev. Dr. Ray Williamson - Centre for Ecumenical Studies, Charles Sturt University
Dr. Tamara Grdzelidze – Orthodox lay theologian working for Faith and Order Commission – WCC

The following tutors from New Zealand added to the presentations:

Rt. Rev. John Bluck, Rev. Dr. Janet Crawford, Bishop Peter Cullinane, Sr. Catherine Jones, Rev. Dr. Trevor Hoggard, Rev. Dr. Terry Wall and Rev. Richard Hancock.

It was a privilege to have all these eminent ecumenical leaders from New Zealand and overseas to be present in the ecumenical course.

The challenge was meeting the costs. The amount of money collected by way of fee charged was not up to the mark of meeting the expenses. Mission and Ecumenical will not have any financial gains but an excess of expenditure. That is the nature of mission that is costly. That is the calling for the ecumenical mission.

The Centre for Ecumenical Studies (CES) of Charles Sturt University, Canberra paid for the air tickets of the five overseas lecturers. We thank the Centre for Ecumenical Studies for the financial contribution. We thank all the tutors for their profound academic input into the programme.
M&E proposes to hold the ecumenical study programme biennially and to hold the Saturday Symposium of ecumenism annually in the future.

16. INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS
There is nothing significant to report in this area during the year. The Mission and Ecumenical Secretary has continued to attend regular meetings of the Council of Christians and Muslims. There were a few educational and sharing of information meetings. No action to follow.

**ECUMENICAL - INTERNATIONAL**

17. WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

**ASIA REGION PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETING - 19 TO 21 MARCH 2013**

Asia Region meeting of the delegates to the World Council of Churches Assembly 2013 was held from 19 to 21 of March 2013 at the Christian Guest House, Bangkok. There were 49 Church representatives from various parts of Asia. They were all nominated by their respective churches to be delegates/participants at the assembly. From the Methodist Church of New Zealand Diana Tana, Lana Lazarus and Prince Devanandan were the participants. Emily Colgan and Brent Swann participated from the Anglican Church of New Zealand. The meeting was organised to prepare the delegates for the general assembly in October – November 2013. Introductions were made to the conduct of the assembly, the inputs are to be informative and educative for the benefit of the participants and the details of operational parts of the WCC.

The meeting also introduced the participants to the documents to be considered at the assembly. They are:
1. Church: Towards a Common Vision
2. Statement on Unity

**CHURCH: TOWARDS A COMMON VISION**

Church: Towards a Common Vision is a convergent document that will be tabled at the WCC assembly in Busan in 2013. This document is a follow up of the earlier one: Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry. Church: Towards a Common Vision is an extensive work by the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC. The general secretary of WCC says that this document will have an important role in the coming years for discussing the next steps toward visible unity. The preface states: For twenty years, the delegated representatives of the Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican, Evangelical, Pentecostal and Roman Catholic Churches ... have sought to uncover a global, multi-lateral and ecumenical vision of the nature, purpose and mission of the church. This document is another step toward that goal.

**STATEMENT ON UNITY**

Thus far the statements on unity are known as traditional western statements of unity. The new document is looking at diverse forms of unity of Christians from various other contexts. In that way the document will be more appealing to churches throughout the world.

The meeting was organised in an excellent setting in the Christian Guest House. Bible studies and input sessions helped to understand an Asian perspective of theme at the WCC Assembly. It was an excellent preparation to fully participate in the assembly. The meeting also highlighted the discrepancy of the theme and the lack of action to follow. The theme “God of life, lead us to justice and peace” is more a prayer rather than an action. Asian religious and spiritual life is always looking for action through prayer and meditation. Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza of Philippines said, “for Asians it must be to bring about justice and peace, we are not just to pray, but also to advocate and do and work for total salvation.” For the Asian Churches and participants the theme of the assembly is much bigger than a prayer. It is a reminder and a call to action on naming injustice and pursuing justice to restore peace.

The meeting helped the participants to gain a better understanding about the assembly of the WCC as this will be the first time for many of them to attend such a global meeting. Mission and Ecumenical thanks the Travel and Study Committee for the assistance by meeting the airfare. The
WCC Asia Desk and the Church of Christ in Thailand met the local expenditures of travel in Bangkok, food and accommodation cost.

10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches - 30 October to 8 November 2013, Busan, Republic of Korea
The 10th Assembly of the WCC will be held from 30 October to 8 November 2013, in Busan, Republic of Korea. The theme of the WCC Assembly is “God of life, lead us to justice and peace.” Diana Tana will be the representative of the Methodist Church of New Zealand together with Prince Devanandan as the ecumenical officer and resource person for the participants. Bella Ngaha will be the representative of the indigenous people of the land. Tony Franklin –Ross, Lana Lazarus and Soana Muimuiheata will be participants. Jill Hawkey will be the New Zealand presenter of the Madang. Filo Tu will be a youth resource person at the assembly and also be part of the organisers of the stewards’ programme.

Madang at the WCC Assembly
Madang in Korean language means ‘a courtyard, a place of gathering of people to exchange, learn and share’. Madang will take place parallel to the assembly in the same premises. This word is picked for the meeting place where sharing of information and churches’ ministry from various contexts and countries will be on display by way of PowerPoint presentations, videos, books, posters etc. The working group has picked 86 workplaces in Madang out of which 26 are from Asia. The presentation at Madang from New Zealand will be a joint one with Japan. These two contexts were affected by the earthquakes. The presentation will highlight how the church’s mission in each of those contexts changed to cater to the needs of the people in the aftermath of the earthquakes. Jill Hawkey from Christchurch is collating the information around the situation in Christchurch while Rev. Dr. Naoya Kawakami coordinates from Fukushima – Sendai region in Japan.

Indigenous People’s Forum
Arapera (Bella) Ngaha
Prior to the general assembly the Indigenous People’s Forum will take place along with many other meetings in Busan on the 28 and 29 of October 2013. It is an honour for the Methodist Church of New Zealand to have Arapera (Bella) Ngaha being selected to serve in the organising committee of the Indigenous People’s Forum. Bella attended a preliminary meeting in Bangkok in August to prepare for the forum in October. Bella together with Lana and Diana will attend the Indigenous People’s Forum prior to the assembly in Busan.

18. Christian Conference of Asia
Visit to CCA Office
After the Asia Region pre-assembly meeting of the WCC Assembly in Bangkok Diana Tana, Lana Lazarus and Prince Devanandan made a visit to the office of the Christian Conference of Asia in Chiangmai on 22 March 2013. The team from New Zealand were taken to CCA office in the campus of the Payap University that belongs to Church of Christ in Thailand. The general secretary Henrietta Hutabarat-Lebang and staff extended a very warm welcome. In her comments Henrietta recalled the strengthening relationships between Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Christian Conference of Asia. In response Diana acknowledged the welcome in the traditional Maori way followed by a waiata. In her introduction Diana conveyed the greetings of the Methodist Church of New Zealand and the people of Aotearoa. Lana introduced herself to the group with a brief note about herself and her background. There was no need for Prince to introduce himself as every one of the staff knows him from previous meetings. All participated in a brief worship. Diana was able to teach two hymns in Maori as printed in the CCA hymn book ‘Sound of the Bamboo’.

Mission and Ecumenical Work With CCA
The main topic of the conversation was “What is the missionary call to the churches in their mission to the people on the move?” CCA – FMU (Faith Mission and Unity Department) proposed to hold a roundtable conversation for the churches of Asia to focus on this aspect of mission. This is a unique subject and very little work has been done toward the issue thus far. The objective of the meeting will be to call the churches and ecumenical bodies to adequately form mission and
ministry models to assist the people on the move and to lobby with governments on difficulties faced by the people who move. Suggested date for the meeting is 10 to 15 January 2014 and the venue to be New Zealand. New Zealand Methodist team responded positively to host the meeting saying that they will consult the church officials and confirm our role.

Since then the request was made known to the general secretary David Bush and the Council of Conference was informed. Mission and Ecumenical together with Diana Tana is working towards finding the money to host the consultation in Auckland.

The second part of our meeting has been for Diana to meet with the secretary of EGY (Ecumenical Formation Gender Justice and Youth Department of CCA). Since 2010 Diana has been the moderator of this cluster of work in the CCA. This was the first time she met Sunila Amar the secretary of the department.

**Constitution and Structural Review Committee**

Due to rising costs and very limited resources CCA has to curtail its operations and prioritise its work. Hence there is a need to revise the constitution to downsize the representations and the number of staff in each area of work. The work is ongoing and the next meeting of the CSRC is scheduled to be held in August 2013. Prince Devananda, representative of the member churches in New Zealand to the general committee of CCA is a member of the Constitution and Structural Review Committee.

Proposed changes to the constitution and structures of CCA were sent out to the member churches. Mission and Ecumenical elected a subcommittee to study the changes and make recommendations for the Methodist Church of New Zealand to respond to the proposed document. The recommendations made by the subcommittee were then conveyed by the general secretary and president to the CCA.

**Asia Ecumenical Course 2013**

Dale Peach from the Methodist Church of New Zealand attended the Asia Ecumenical Course 2013 held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 10 to 23 May 2013. Dale shared her learning and experiences: I had the privilege of attending this year’s Asian Ecumenical Course held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 8-20 May. There were 24 people from 12 Asian countries, and about 13 different denominational traditions. Theme of the course reflected the theme of the forthcoming WCC Assembly - ‘Called to be Life-Givers to the World’ and focused on Asian issues relate to ‘Justice and Peace’. After discussions the participants identified the following justice and peace issues in Asia (in no particular order): discrimination; poverty; corruption; capitalist ideology that makes people self-centered; unemployment; inter-faith conflicts; political tensions; barriers to women leadership; attitudes to the poor, especially to indigenous people and immigrants; and environmental crises. Many of the speakers addressed these areas of concern.

We spent majority of the days in the classroom. We also spent a day visiting three different Mission Fields. Our first visit was to Bantar Gebang - the Jakarta Dump, where we saw some of the current recycling efforts and environmental care. We heard of their future expansion plans. However, these efforts still only process a small fraction of the about 6,000 tons of rubbish that arrive every day. There are huge concerns regarding the future welfare of the 7,000 people who currently live at the dump and make their living from what they retrieve from the rubbish. Our second visit was to a church that is also taking small steps to take better care of the environment. One of the inspiring projects they shared was their paper recycling innovations. The third stop was to a pre-school in a slum area of Jakarta run by a Trust, making a significant difference to the lives of the children.

One of the highlights of the course was the visit by the WCC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Olav F. Tveit who spoke on the theme of the October WCC Assembly. Rev. Dr. Tveit also launched a new book - the ‘Asian Handbook for Theological Education and Ecumenism’. The cultural evening was another highlight, as I imagine it is with every AEC. Many of the participants attended in their national dress and we had fun as we shared things from our cultures. One outcome of this course was a new song that celebrated our ecumenical unity - titled ‘Enjoy’. Hopefully CCA will find a way to share this song of joy.
TRAINING OF YOUTH ON JUSTICE AND PEACE BUILDING
A training programme for youth under the theme of “Justice –Peace for Life: Sowing the Grains of Peace” will take place from August 11-17, 2013 in Hong Kong. Henry Hoglund from Vahefonua Tonga and Janice Au’ava from Sinoti Samoa have been nominated to be the participants in this programme. Mission and Ecumenical hopes that their attendance at this programme will enhance their ability to be resource people for youth in the Methodist Church of New Zealand and beyond.

19. FINANCIAL REVIEW
Mission and Ecumenical appreciates the arrangement by Connexion to provide financial advices and accounting services through the services of Jane O’Neill. Mission and Ecumenical thanks Jane for the commitment she has made for the work of Mission and Ecumenical and the trouble she takes to travel to Auckland to attend the meetings. Mission and Ecumenical also thanks the Connexion for covering the cost of travel for Jane.

The committee is concerned about continual drawdown from its accumulated funds for the operating expenses of Mission and Ecumenical and the implications this has for the future of the committee’s work. Mission and Ecumenical has been receiving just $3,000 p.a. from the Connexional allocation. Financial forecasting indicates that at the present rate of draw-down from the accumulated fund and without additional funding the work can only be carried on for about 5 more years. Committee members have been exploring this matter with Connexional leaders.

20. MISSION AND ECUMENICAL SECRETARIAT
Since February 2012 Mission and Ecumenical secretariat is operating in the building of 409 Great South Road. The secretary says that the facility at 409 is great as it gives collegial support and gives the space to liaise and coordinate with other officials of the Methodist Church. Meeting the staff and executives in the building and sharing views is part of the work. The facility also reduces the cost of telephone and internet services for Mission and Ecumenical as these services are provided at a very low cost for the users of the building. Further, facilities such as photocopying, heating of the building, board room for meetings and dining room facilities are also made available to Mission and Ecumenical. these resources enhancing the operations of Mission and Ecumenical very much and the communication with partners overseas have become accessible by far.

21. STRATEGIC PLAN
Our vision
Our ministry is shaped by two dimensions. Our action for mission comes out of Jesus’ words in John 10:10 - I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. Our calling for ecumenism is drawn from the expression of Michael Kinnamon: “The church is inherently one. Division not only contradicts the church’s witness to the reconciling love of Christ, it is denial of the church’s very nature.” Mission and Ecumenical continues to stand on these two principles in carrying out the work of Mission and Ecumenical within the Methodist Church of New Zealand and beyond.

Our vision is for the church to put mission and ecumenical activity at the very core of its existence: mission given expression at the global as well as the local level; existing partner church relationships being further developed, and new relationships made possible; ecumenical thinking and action to be seen as integral to our churches life through the affirmation of existing ecumenical relationships while looking for new expressions of ecumenical life.

Key goals
- Looking forward into the future to work for visible unity of the church based on the documents “Church: towards a new vision” and “the statement on unity” that will come out from the 10th assembly of the WCC in October – November 2013 in Busan South Korea.
- Build a new generation of ecumenical leaders in Aotearoa New Zealand through ecumenical studies and symposiums.
- Host the CCA’s mission roundtable on people’s moving in Asia and Pacific in January 2014 together with the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches.
- Continue to use the “Transforming Mission” and the “To be Methodist is to be Ecumenical” papers as working documents that provide a theological base for the work of the committee and secretary.
• Support and strengthen the world-wide mission of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, in particular the partnership relationships with the United Church of Papua New Guinea and the United Church of the Solomon Islands, through personal visits, regular correspondence and sharing of resources.

• Identify contexts to which Christ's call is discerned where there are conflicts and violence that cause suffering of innocent people with a particular focus on West Papua and the asylum seekers detention centers in Papua New Guinea.

• Promote and strengthen relationships with ecumenical agencies of which the Methodist Church of New Zealand is a member: Christian World Service, Christian Conference of Asia, and the World Council of Churches.

• Further facilitate the National Dialogue for Christian Unity and work towards forming of the Churches Forum for Christian Unity as agreed in Conference 2011.

• Promote an awareness of religious diversity within Aotearoa New Zealand and the fostering of good relationships between religions.

• Promote the relationships of the Methodist Church of New Zealand with world Methodism.

• Further develop effective communication with parishes, rohe and uniting congregations, through visits and presentations during Sunday worship services, monthly newsletters, occasional papers, information leaflets, articles in “Touchstone”, visits and speaking engagements, and increased use of MCNZ website.

Suggested Decisions:

Report
1. The report is received.

United Churches in the Solomon Islands and in Papua New Guinea
2. Conference affirms the significant relationships with the United Church in the Solomon Islands, and the United Church in Papua New Guinea, and the assistance being provided to them through Methodist Mission and Ecumenical.

Ecumenical
3. Conference affirms the discussion and work to date and the ongoing dialogue toward the formation of a Churches Forum for Christian Unity in Aotearoa New Zealand.
5. Conference affirms the positive outcome of the ecumenical studies winter school held in July 2013 with assistance from Ray Williamson, James Haire and Robert Gribben of the Centre for Ecumenical Studies of Charles Sturt University, Canberra. Conference acknowledges the colossal contribution made by the Centre for Ecumenical Studies of Charles Sturt University financially and in teaching; requests the President to express appreciation in writing to Ray Williamson, Robert Gribben and James Haire.
6. Conference thanks the members of the organising committee of the ecumenical studies winter school: Derek Tovey (Anglican), Pat Lythe (Roman Catholic) Terry Wall and Prince Devanandan (Methodist).
7. Conference affirms Diana Tana as the representative and Prince Devanandan as the ecumenical officer of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in October 2013 in Busan.
8. Conference affirms the participation of the following from the Methodist Church of New Zealand at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in October 2013 in Busan: Lana Lazarus, Tony Franklin-Ross, Arapera (Bella) Ngaha, Jill Hawkey, Soana Muimuiehata and Filo Tu.

Committee membership
The last year has been one of trying new things for Christian World Service. We began the calendar year by staffing the shoppers’ storage at the Ellerslie Flower Show and our participation was funded through a grant from the PAC. Its main purpose was to recruit new donors and this we did. Though we felt the most beneficial experience was the interaction that staff had with volunteers as we staffed the storage areas to together.

**Targeted Appeals**
A couple of opportunities have enabled CWS to venture into on-line fundraising and target appeals to specific interest groups. We did an on line only campaign to support our Indian partner EKTA. The funds raised were used to finance their activities as part of the UN campaign of One Billion Women Rising, to promote safety and security for women from violence.

The collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Savar, Bangladesh, in April prompted the CWS International Programme Coordinator to contact the Bangladesh Garment Workers Union to see if we could help. Over 1100 factory workers died when the multi storey factory collapsed despite the owners having got a clear warning of building failure only the day before. They replied that they wanted help for the surviving families and the injured workers. CWS was able to put the case to New Zealand Trade Unions and two responded by making sizeable donations. These funds will be used to help the families of those who were affected by the collapse of the building. It has also raised important issues about the working conditions of people employed in the clothing trade in countries like Bangladesh.

**Syrian Refugees**
For World Refugee Day in June, CWS focussed on the plight of Syrian Refugees and the work of our partner the Department for Services to Palestian Refugees (DSPR). Money raised will be sent to partner agencies trying to meet some of the many needs of more than 1.5 million refugees, mostly women and children. CWS partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) working in Jordan and Lebanon is struggling to provide food, water, accommodation, psychosocial support and medical assistance to refugees once forced out of Palestine and now from Syria. CWS global partner the ACT Alliance is working through its member the Syrian Orthodox Church. In April two Bishops of the Syrian Orthodox Church were kidnapped and their driver killed, on their way back from a humanitarian mission in Aleppo.

**Cyclone Evan**
Just before Christmas 2012, Samoa and Fiji were hit by a cyclone and funds raised by CWS were given to support families repairing homes and other buildings for general community use.

CWS is part of a seven NZ NGO agency consortium working on disaster risk reduction simulation exercises in Vanuatu, Tonga and Fiji. The Tonga Community Development Trust, CWS partner in Tonga will be the agency the consortium will work with in Tonga.

**Christmas Appeal and Other Fundraising Initiatives**
Besides these appeals, the Christmas Appeal is still CWS major fundraiser. In 2012 we focussed on land grab and in 2013 the focus will be on Water. It will feature the work of partners in Sri Lanka, Palestine, Uganda, Nicaragua and Tonga.

While the Christmas appeal has been a CWS tradition for 68 years, we are always exploring new ways of fundraising and some of these have been outlined. We are strongly encouraging people to consider becoming regular donors. This regular income enables us to plan better and to give some more security of income to our partners.

As mentioned in last year’s report we have developed a new product – Direct Partners whereby faith communities can support the work of one specific CWS partner. I would like to acknowledge with thanks, Mornington Methodist Church in Dunedin, who were one of the first churches to take up this challenge and raised $3,489. They have the advantage of having Colin Gibson as their choir master and to raise funds the Choir put on a concert featuring songs based on Margaret Mahy’s poems, with music composed by him. The funds raised will go towards the installation of 52 water cisterns in Palestinian villages across the West Bank so they can collect their own
rainwater and have control over how they access and use this to meet their domestic and community needs.

This year we will also be participating again in Live below the Line whereby people are encouraged to feed themselves on $2.25 per day to raise funds for a CWS partner. The recipient of these funds will be the Women’s Resource Centre in Madurai, India. The resource centre works with Dalit (sometimes known as Untouchables), Tribal people (indigenous) and now Gypsy (Navrikurvar) communities.

New Governance Structure
At the 2012 meeting of the CWS Council it adopted the recommendations of the Board regarding the changes to CWS Governance structure in the future. The Council will no longer exist. The Board will have direct representation from supportive churches and will be drawn from across New Zealand, not just Christchurch. Besides the Church representatives on the Board it will have others chosen for their expertise and skills. It will meet six times a year, two of which will be face to face, the other four will be conducted using SKYPE. The AGM will rotate around the country raising CWS profile in centres outside of Christchurch. These changes will come into effect later this year.

World Council of Churches
In November last year CWS hosted Rev Dr Kim Dung Sung, Asia Secretary for the World Council of Churches. He made a visit to Christchurch at the request of the General Secretary of the WCC in solidarity with the Churches in Christchurch in the aftermath of the earthquakes. He also introduced us to the concept of the greed-line. The focus is usually on the poverty line; why not focus on the greed line or unbridled greed, in a world where the gap between the rich and poor is getting wider than ever before. This will be the subject of one of the ecumenical conversations at the 10th WCC Assembly to be held in Busan, South Korea later this year.

I have been a member of the Assembly Planning Committee, representing the specialised ministries, the aid and development wings of the member churches of the WCC. My role in the Assembly is to be a rapporteur for the ecumenical conversation – Compelled to serve: Diakonia and the changing developing paradigm. This changing paradigm includes the shift in geo-political power to the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), the millennium development goals post 2015, the marginalisation of civil society, the youth bulge and the promotion of the private sector as a key player in the delivery of official development assistance. Many of these issues we have highlighted in articles in Touchstone and in my speech to the conference, last year.

Government Funding
You may note that I have said very little about government funding. Something that was once a major feature of CWS is now becoming less so. We are striving to be a more donor based organisation with any monies received from government to be considered a bonus. We have been successful in one grant for a Tongan partner and are considering whether to apply for funding under the new partnerships scheme. However, it is a lottery whether you receive the money or not. The heavy compliance workload and often micro management from MFAT officials means that staff resources can be fully occupied with little return. We still need to engage with the scheme though in order to have some influence to try and change it.

Finally I would like to thank you for your on-going support of CWS and the work of its partners. Special thanks to the General Secretary, Rev David Bush and the staff at the Connexional office, Rev. Prince Devanandan, Methodist Mission and Ecumenical and the Methodist Women’s Fellowship who faithfully raise funds for us through the special appeal, in conjunction with Presbyterian Women. I would also like to thank Paul Titus editor of Touchstone for providing us with a monthly platform from which we can inform Church members about our work and concerns.

Suggested Decisions:
1. The Report is received.
2. That the Methodist Church of New Zealand encourages its parishes and members to continue to support the ministry of Christian World Service and in particular its annual Christmas Appeal.

Pauline McKay, National Director