



NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

“We Are God’s Hands, Reach Out”

Talofa lava, Kia Ora and Warm Greetings to our Te Haahi o Weteriana o Aotearoa Whanau.

As one of the songs that we sang at the World Assembly says, “What an awesome God have I, awesome in every way!” How true this is, as with His grace, love and strength, He has greatly influenced, guided, empowered and strengthened us as we have lead the Methodist Women’s Fellowship journey in the last 10 months. It has been an eventful and inspiring year in so many ways, and it is a great sign that the New Zealand Methodist Women’s Fellowship is very much alive and flourishing to serve our One God! To God be the Glory for great things He has done!

Tributes

Although we are saddened by the death of a loved one, a family member or friend and some members of our NZMWF family, we give praise to God for their lives and their faithful years of service to the NZMWF and the Methodist Church of New Zealand, being God's hands and feet in this world. We remember them with love and gratitude appreciating the work they have done. As one saying goes, “As we face the future with Hope, we need to acknowledge the past in order to cherish the present”.

These ladies were some of the great leaders of the NZMWF who served on past National Executives.

Joyce Dey	Waikato/Thames Valley	National President	1976 - 1978
Betty Parker	Nelson/Marlborough	National Treasurer	1980 - 1982 1986 - 1988
Barbara Gatland	Manukau District	National Secretary	1984 - 1986
Lynley Whitton	Wellington District	National President	1988 – 1990
Robin Nacagilevu	Nelson/Marlborough	National Executive	1996 - 1998
Dorothy (Yvonne) Gilbert	Waikato/Thames Valley	National Secretary	2002 - 2004
Adele Forrester	Wellington District	National Executive	2004 - 2006

What’s Up?

One of the highlights of my term in office as the President has been meeting some of our local fellowships during their annual general meetings, some of their special events and celebrations. The main issue that I often heard when I visited our Districts is that our membership numbers are declining due to age, but when I met and talked with most of the ladies in the Rest homes and in their homes, it was clear that there is no age to the spirit, and it’s very encouraging. I have especially enjoyed meeting these members who are unable to physically participate in ongoing fellowships programmes due to age and ill health. They may not be physically able to participate but they are very much present in mind and soul, through their prayerful support. I believe that it is not the quantity but it’s the quality that is important, keep up the faith and continue to be God’s Hands in this world, reach out to your neighbour and to those who are in need of God’s amazing Grace. My first presidential visit this year was Christchurch where Thelma our National secretary and I arrived half an hour earlier before the earthquake hit and we saw the traffic lights shaking madly and Rev Neti’s van was shaking us about and around, I thought someone drove in to our vehicle. Apart from that episode it was a great time of fellowshiping with north and south Canterbury districts. We did a lot of home visits to our devoted members who are retired and are house bound due to ill-health. We attended the Wanganui/Manawatu district AGM as well as the Wasewase ki Rotuma district executive meeting that was held in Auckland. We were invited to the Waikato/Wairariki district annual meeting that was held in Te Awamutu after our Smethurst committee meeting in November last year where I visited some of our members at the Tamihere Retirement village in Hamilton. In March we visited the Nelson/Marlborough district AGM that was held in Nelson. It was a great time of sharing news/stories, creative ideas of fundraising to raise funds for special projects.

At present our Presbyterian Women Association are going through structural changes that is having an impact on some of our fellowships in Union parishes/congregations but it will be discussed at Convention to see how we can better support those who are affected with the new changes

In early August, I was invited to the Bay of Plenty District AGM that was held in Rotorua, where we welcomed and celebrated the birthing of the new Methodist Women Fellowship in the Bainbridge Methodist Church in Rotorua. The membership of this new fellowship is a mixture of Europeans, Fijian, Tongan, Samoans and Zimbabwe women and although they are from different cultures and background, they have come together as one to serve the ONE God, our awesome God and to make Him known to the world. There could be more fellowships starting soon, which is the sign of the Holy Spirit moving within God's daughters, calling them to be His hands to reach out to the community.

I have been invited to speak to three other groups of women in Auckland who are seriously keen in becoming members of the NZMWF; I will be meeting with them on the 24th of September. It is my prayer that God's Spirit continues to inspire and empower more women to be His hands and feet in this world and may His holy name be glorified in everything we do.

Financial accountabilities and changes in Charities service requirements have been explained to our districts and local fellowships, including the new financial year which is from the 1st of July to the 31st of June.

President's letters and newsletters have been posted on the Methodist Church of New Zealand website of the ongoing events within the surroundings of the NZMWF, for anyone who is interested to read. Please be informed that the World Assembly events and photos are also found of the World federation website and face book, happy reading.

Mission Outreach Work

Special Projects:

The total amount of money raised for 2015 – 2016 is \$30,100.00. Every year our fellowship members, with the support of our local parishes raise money for our outreach mission through Special Projects within New Zealand and overseas through our close working relationship with the Christian World Service and Methodist Mission & Ecumenical Secretary. I am so grateful for the spirit of giving through the money raised each year, especially the creative ways of raising these monies for God's outreach mission.

The two Special Project recipients for the year 2015 - 2016 are: the CWS - Post Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines who will receive 30% of funds raised and the Young New Zealander Foundation for printing the GEMSTONE Two which is a tool for teachers who are working with high risk children, who will be receiving 70% of the money raised.

Special Projects 2016 - 2017

The theme for the new Special Projects is “**Let God's Light Shine**” to those who are in need of His Grace.

- The Overseas Special Project is for Nicaragua to help prevent gender-based violence around the Pacific Rim. According to the Pan America Health Organization, about a third of women have experienced violence from their partners and more than 15% sexual violence. Women are concerned that the femicide (the deliberate killing of women because they are female) is rising.
- The National Special Project is FASD CAN, supporting parents and caregivers of the victims of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). FASD is a term that describes adverse development that can occur when a baby is exposed to alcohol whilst in the womb. These effects include mental, behavioural and learning difficulties and in small number of exposed children physical damage can also occur. FASD is a hidden, serious disability that is lifelong. Most of these children as they get older they end up in jail due to being misdiagnosed. We encourage our Parishes, Congregations and our Te Haahi o Weteriana whanau to be involved in these projects, to have more understanding so we may be able to help those in need and support the families/caregivers who could be a neighbour or a friend.
- New Zealand Methodist Women Fellowships also supported our sisters in the Solomon

Islands who asked for financial support to enable their Unit President to attend the recent World Assembly in Houston. It was a humbling experience to meet and witness the tears of joy and appreciation on my sister in Christ's face from the Solomon Islands.

- **Medical & Education Fund:** Total amount that was raised this year is \$2,414.75 and the Stamp fund is \$2,105.07. Both these funds will be recommended to go towards the Solomon Islands Women Fellowship Unit in response to their request for a new computer and overhead projector for their administration work. It will also assist in helping them stay connected to other sisters around the world. The NZMWF's response will be affirmed at Convention in November.
- NZMWF continues to support the Helen Kim Scholarship programme for young women through the World Federation of the Methodist Women & Uniting Church Women. We have had two young women who have been recipients of the scholarship: Mataiva Robertson and Lise Malaeimi-Wikitera.
- Since last year NZMWF started to support and sponsor other Units/Areas of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women who are struggling to pay their annual membership fees due to the impact of war, natural disasters and other economic issues. Districts & local fellowships contributed \$2,047.50 and the NZMWF donated US\$1000.00 from its uncommitted funds from the last financial year. This was allocated to the South & East Africa areas and the Fiji Units in the South Pacific Area.
- Within our own Te Haahi o Weteriana o Aotearoa family NZMWF have much pleasure in supporting our theological students who are preparing for ministry.

It is great to know too that our local fellowships are continuing to reach out to their local communities and parishes, to the hospitals and hospices sharing God's Grace to those in need.

Grants and Scholarships:-

Smethurst, Friendship and Kurahuna funds continue to provide financial support for young girls and women in their education and for their ongoing professional development for those in careers.

World Assembly 2016 in Houston, Texas 29 August – 3 September 2016:

Well what an awesome and moving experience that was, meeting so many members of the extended Methodist family from different parts of the world, with different gifts & talents, from different races, cultures, languages and backgrounds but one belief, one faith in Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Saviour. All who gathered to lift up God's holy name, sharing His grace and singing His praises. The bible studies were amazing, inspirational and fulfilling for my/our spiritual growth. It was a great learning experience and an opportunity to listen to different theologies. The assembly members were reminded that we women are ORIGINALS from God, not a "photocopy". We were also reminded that we are aliens in this world and we need to work hard to become citizens of God's kingdom!

As the leader of our NZMWF unit it is a great pleasure to officially announce that Itamua Mataiva Robertson is now the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women's Secretary for the next five years. And more great news is that Leu Pupulu has been elected again to be the Treasurer of the WFMUCW for another five years. The election of the Treasurer wasn't straight forward, due to an unusual situation, but God's peace over ruled it.

All of us who were present at the time felt very humbled and shed tears of joy and thankfulness to our God for the great things He has done for us all. As the Mayor of Houston said whatever we do at the end of the day we must lift up God's name.

Congratulations Itamua & Leu on your new roles, go well, do your very best and let God do the rest. May God abundantly equip you, encourage, enrich, empower, enable and embrace you both in His Grace as you take up your duties to serve Him. Thank you for allowing yourselves to serve God through the WFMUCW.

The new World Federation officers for 2016 - 2021

President	Alison Judd	Britain & Ireland Area
Vice President	Matilda Johnson	West Africa Area
Secretary	Itamua Mataiva Robertson	New Zealand Unit, South Pacific Area
Treasurer	Leu Pupulu	New Zealand Unit, South Pacific Area.

Thirty-six members from the NZMWF unit attended the World Assembly this year, this included Lyne Scott who attended as the President of the South Pacific Area, Leu Pupulu as the World Treasurer and with her P.A. Sina Pupulu who is also a member of the NZMWF and Itamua Mataiva Robertson as the facilitator of the Helen Kim Programme and our nominee for the election of the World Secretary. We were very honoured to have with us our Vice President of Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, Dr Arapera Ngaha, who joined our delegation in most of the special events that we participated in, such as the official opening, the South Pacific Area meeting, report presentation and the installation of the WFMUCW new office bearers.

On behalf of our NZMWF unit delegation I would like to acknowledge and thank all members of our MCNZ who were representing our church at other conferences under the same roof but were all supporting our delegation: Rev Dr Susan Thompson, Rev Iakopo Faafuata, Rev Neti Petaia, Tumema Faioso, and Taotua Joshua Robertson, Mataia Tanielu and our two body guards, Corie and Aoe'e Isaia. Also the General Secretary Rev David Bush, Rev Tony Franklin -Ross, Rev Trevor Hoggard and Rev Metui Tafuna. The Hilton Hotel was full of the MCNZ people supporting our unit and our South Pacific Area delegation right from the beginning of the World Assembly.

It is very fitting too to acknowledge and pay tribute to Mrs Lynne Scott from Christchurch for the job well done in leading the South Pacific Area delegation as the President at the World Assembly. And to Lise Malaeimi-Wikitera who was one of the Helen Kim Scholars for the last five years. Thank you for all that you have done to serve our Lord. God's blessing in your future endeavours.

It is a great pleasure for me to express our word of thanks to Leu Pupulu acknowledging her hard work in the last five years of a challenging time for the WFMUCW financial crisis. Thank you for your patience, perseverance and commitment to God's mission. Thank you for accepting the challenge of continuing for another five years to complete the task. "Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your faithfulness."

As we come to the end of our term next month, I would like to acknowledge all those who are representing our NZMWF in different committees such as Pacific Women Watch, National Council of Women of NZ, World Day of Prayer Committee and many more committees with our Methodist Connexion. Your contribution and commitment is very much appreciated.

APPRECIATION

As we approach the end of our term in office as National Executive, I wish to say thank you to the church for your ongoing support. Thank you Wendy, Peter Van Hout and your team for your support in regards to the new changes with the financial reporting, we really appreciate your help any time we picked your brains for advice/guidance.

Thank you everyone for all your prayerful support, encouraging messages and your hospitality shown to our team during the Presidential visits, as well as the challenging emails at times that had kept the brain cells ticking.

Thank you to my Executive Committee for their commitment and dedication and service to the mission of the NZMWF.

The NZMWF biannual Convention will be held in Hastings Hawkes Bay from the 10th –13th of November.

We pray for God's blessings on Dianne Claughton, the Incoming President and her Executive Committee as they lead our NZMWF for the next two years.

Soifua

Suggested decision:

1. That the report be received.