

# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## April 2013

### LOOKING BEYOND DIVISION

**A six day winter school introducing the study of Ecumenism**

**Monday 8 to Saturday 14 July 2013**

St. John's College Meadowbank Auckland  
**Applications close on 31 May 2013.**

The course is to be held in association with the Centre for Ecumenical Studies of Charles Sturt University, Canberra. Course content and details of registration is available in the M&E office. Cost – undergraduate and post graduate level: \$ 300.00 Audit - \$ 150.00. This fee includes course material and lunch during the course.

Resource persons for the course from Charles Sturt University will be Rev. Prof. Robert Gribben (co chair of International Anglican Methodist Dialogue) and Rev. Dr. Ray Williamson (director of Centre for Ecumenical Studies). For further details, please contact Prince at the Mission and Ecumenical office [mm-e@methodist.org.nz](mailto:mm-e@methodist.org.nz)

Private Bag 11903 Ellerslie Auckland 1542

Those who wish to get course fee from Travel & Study Committee must submit their application to Travel & Study Committee before 15 May 2013.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2013

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2013 explores what "God requires of us." In the southern hemisphere the observance will be from **12 to 19 May 2013**. Material and liturgical resources available from

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/xi-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-resources/resources/2013-worship-and-background-material.html>

### FROM HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL, Solomon Islands

Dr. Graham Longbottom sent the following report and photos from Munda, Solomon Islands:



This view shows the incomplete medical laboratory extension. Beyond this is the outpatient department where patients wait & receive unwanted radiation! The ramp on the right was created with funding from Christian

This view shows the incomplete medical laboratory extension. Beyond this is the outpatient department where patients wait & receive unwanted radiation! The ramp on the right was created with funding from Christian

World Service who is based in Christchurch N.Z. Hopefully the laboratory & x-ray departments can be upgraded & redesigned as a single project over the next two years.

This 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 Esmie and their family.



Steve Pearce (of U.K. Methodist Church) inspected the termite damage to the Davinia Taylor Hall during his visit in March. The N.Z. Methodist Church has agreed to pay for termite treatment and repairs as the hall was built with a bequest from a N.Z. midwife, Davinia Taylor. 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.

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





This photograph shows Dr Jenny presenting a pulse oximeter to one of the senior nurses at Sasamunga Hospital during our visit with Steve Pearce in early March. A

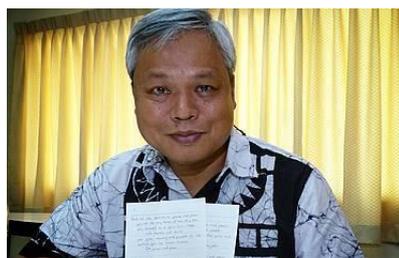
similar instrument has been given to Helena Goldie Hospital; the money for both was raised by the young people at Wilshire Methodist Church in Blackburn.

Helena Goldie Hospital provides 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 less than the government grant. The hospital is a service rather than a business, with hospital fees generating about 1% of the total income. An Australian Business Volunteer devised a bed sponsoring scheme when he was working here in early 2012. This is designed to bring extra income to the hospital, but so far only 4 beds have been sponsored for one year. We pray for the future of this community and the hospital that struggles to provide appropriate health care due to severe financial constraints. \*\*\*\*

**WCC Assembly theme sparks a poem from Asian bishop**

For Asian churches, the theme of the upcoming World Council of Churches (WCC) assembly is more than a prayer, a reminder to the church or harbinger of the future.

The WCC 10th Assembly will be held from 30 October to 8 November, in Busan, Republic of Korea. Its theme is "God of life, lead us to justice and peace."



*Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza*

For 49 Asian church representatives meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 19 to 21 march 2013 nearly eight months in advance of the assembly, the theme presents an opportunity to reflect on how God's kingdom can be made present in the world today. [Diana Tana, Lana Lazarus and Prince Devanandan from the Methodist Church and Emily Colgan and Brent Swann from the Anglican Church attended the meeting from New Zealand.] Bishop Marigza of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines has even gone so far as to expand the theme so that it becomes an active



Participants from Aotearoa New Zealand – Brent Swann, Emily Colgan, Diana Tana, Lana Lazarus and Prince Devanandan

journey in faith, and not just a starting point toward justice and peace.

In a poem he crafted while listening to the discussions about the theme, Marigza realized that to make the theme come alive, the church must also be led from injustice and the lack of peace to doing justice. Marigza said to the group, that it was not enough merely to request that God "lead us to justice and peace," but must add, "Lead us to see injustice in Asia and in this world, of people against people, of people against nature, of structures and systems that dehumanize and ravage creation."

"To bring about justice and peace, we are not just to pray, but also advocate and do and work for total salvation," Marigza wrote. More on this at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/wcc-assembly-theme-sparks.html>

**Poem written by Reuel Norman O. Marigza as reflection on the theme of WCC Busan Assembly**

**God of Life, Lead Us to Act**

God of life, lead us to justice and peace;  
 you are the very Source of our very lives  
 you created us in your own image  
 with dignity and worth  
 you gave meaning and purpose for life  
 without you we cannot achieve  
 full justice and peace.

God of life,  
 lead us from injustice and un-peace.  
 to justice and peace;  
 lead us to see injustice in Asia and in this world  
 of people against people  
 of people against nature  
 of structures and systems  
 that dehumanize and ravage creation  
 lead us to realize that there can never  
 be peace where injustice exists.

God of life,  
 lead us to do justice and peace;  
 you chose to call out a people  
 to witness and manifest your will,

awaken us to the truth;  
that we are to work together with you  
to bring about justice and peace;  
that we are not just to pray  
but also advocate and do  
and work for total salvation  
which you worked out ahead  
for humanity  
and for the world.

March 19, 2013, Bangkok  
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### **Commission on mission and evangelism prepares for WCC assembly**

To strengthen Christian mission and witness, it is essential to evolve creative ways of implementing a new statement on mission, issued last year by the World Council of Churches (WCC), in the lives of churches.

With these reflections the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) prepared for the upcoming WCC 10th Assembly at a meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 8 to 13 March. The assembly will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea, later this year.

The new mission statement, "Together towards life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes," was discussed extensively by the CWME members who gathered in Rarotonga concluding their seven-year terms of service.

The statement formulates a renewed understanding and practice of mission and evangelism, drawing insights from Protestant, Evangelical, Orthodox and Roman Catholic mission theology.

In the meeting, CWME members developed study and policy guidelines, as well as training modules on the statement. They agreed on the importance of making the statement relevant for the congregations globally.

"A challenge for new CWME members coming in after the WCC assembly will be to make sure that the 'new missiology of life' in the statement is translated into concrete actions," said the Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum, CWME secretary.

"Implementation of this statement will take time, and it needs to be incorporated at various levels within the structures of churches and mission actors," Keum added.

In his address to the commission, CWME moderator Metropolitan Dr Geevarghese Mor Coorilos discussed several events marking the work of the commission in recent years.

"The commission was blessed to organize and be part of significant events, such as the centenary celebration in 2010 of the Edinburgh World Mission

Conference and the 50th anniversary of the integration of the International Missionary Council and the WCC in Ghana, 2011," said Coorilos.

He also mentioned the centenary issue of the *International Review of Mission*, a WCC journal, and the CWME pre-assembly mission event in the Philippines, 2012.

"The commission can be proud that it has contributed to the WCC's new mission statement. Indeed it is a historic achievement of the CWME during this period," added Coorilos.

The CWME members were hosted by the Cook Islands Christian Church for the first time after the church became a WCC member in 1975.

The commission has proposed to hold the next World Mission Conference in 2018.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/commission-on-mission-and.html>

### **Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) - Theological education initiatives at WCC assembly**

Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) will take place in Seoul and Busan, South Korea from the 25 October to 9 November 2013, alongside the World Council of Churches' 10th Assembly.

A special curriculum developed by the Ecumenical Theological Education programme of the WCC will be used at the GETI. The GETI will be held at the time of the WCC assembly in Seoul and Busan. Around 150 theology students will participate in the initiative.

The WCC assembly will take place from 30 October to 8 November 2013 addressing the theme, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace."

"The curriculum attempts to deepen intercultural perspectives in theological education and develop a sense of belonging on mutual concerns of dialogue, justice, mission and evangelism," said the Rev. Dr Dietrich Werner, WCC's programme coordinator for ecumenical theological education... "Only if churches take up their mandate for higher education of their ministers and promote a strategic coalition between lived spirituality of Christian faith and education and critical reasoning, they will have a chance to counter religious fanaticism spreading around the world," he added.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/wcc-assembly-to-host-init.html>

Information on GETI available from  
<http://www.globethics.net/geti>

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