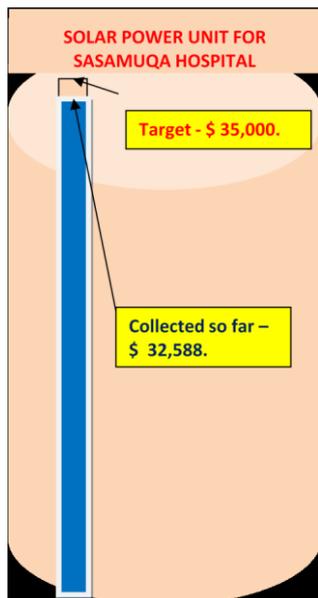


Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

February 2013



M&E says THANK YOU

Thank you to all for the generous contributions made towards the Solar Power Unit for Sasamuqa Hospital. We have received a total of \$ 32,588.00 to date. Your donations towards the solar power unit at Sasamuqa Hospital have made it possible to install the unit at Sasamuqa. We are waiting for the work to commence now at Sasamuqa. This was possible because of all

your support.

ANNUAL APPEAL 2013 - Goldie College

Annual appeal for 2013 is to raise funds for a water supply scheme for Goldie College. Brochure for the appeal is attached to this newsletter. M&E looks forward for your continued support.

ECUMENICAL STUDIES 2013

As proposed by Mission and Ecumenical and decided by Conference 2011 a week long course of **Ecumenical Studies** is planned to be held in Auckland. Details:

Monday 8 to Sunday 15 July 2013

St. John's College Meadowbank Auckland

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 will be made available by March 2013. 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). Cross credits for the course work for undergraduate and postgraduate studies will be through Charles Sturt University. For further details, please contact Prince at the Mission and Ecumenical office at

mm-e@methodist.org.nz

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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**. Week of Prayer enters into congregations and parishes all over the world. 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>

Churches celebrated Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Drawing on the Indian churches' experience of Christian disunity in the realities of casteism, churches around the world are celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a particular focus on justice as integral to the unity they seek.

Developed by an ecumenical group gathered by the Student Christian Movement (SCM) in India, the preparatory resources for this year's week of prayer focus on the theme, "What does God require of us?" (Micah 6:6-8).

The week of prayer was celebrated from 18 to 25 January in the northern hemisphere.

Canon John Gibaut, director of the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order, preached at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebration at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland, on 21 January.

He said that through the preparatory resource young people of the SCM in India "named where Christian disunity hurts the most in India today: casteism. Casteism is an issue that divides Indian churches from each other, but also Christians within churches."

The students from India, said Gibaut, have named "casteism not only as a theological issue, but as an ecclesiological one. For within the Christian community it contradicts the biblical vision of what it means to be Church, and oneness with one another in Christ that Paul proclaims to the Galatians."

Churches together in Britain and Ireland celebrate this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity considering the theme a call for churches to "respond to the obligations to act justly in the world". Partnering with the charity Christian Aid, they put the theme in relation to Christian Aid's global work on poverty and advocacy for justice. More information available from

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/churches-celebrate-week-o.html>

Grief transcends faith boundaries in Newtown

As the Dec. 16 televised interfaith service made clear, the response in Newtown, Conn., to the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School has transcended religious boundaries.

Representatives of Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i and various Christian traditions — United Methodist, Congregationalist/ United Church of Christ, Lutheran, Episcopal, Roman Catholic and Community Church — took part in the service, which included an impassioned eulogy by President Obama.

While all mourn the loss of lives in this incident a question that rises about Christian unity is, why that religions coming together happens only after grief and not otherwise. Working together across the boundaries to prevent such incidents would be a better expression of unity.

More on this is available from

<http://firstfridayletter.worldmethodistcouncil.org/2013/01/grief-transcends-faith-boundaries-in-newtown/>

WCC assembly, an opportunity for praying, listening and sharing

"The World Council of Churches (WCC) 10th Assembly will be an opportunity for praying, listening and sharing together. The event will provide participants a chance to listen for the voice of God, leading them to justice and peace in the world."

These were the words of Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, the WCC general secretary, who spoke with the press in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 29 January.

Along with Prof. Dr Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima, vice-moderator of the WCC Central Committee and moderator of the assembly planning committee, Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat Lebang, general secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, and WCC staff members, Tveit is in Seoul finalizing plans for the WCC assembly.

The WCC 10th Assembly will be held from 30 October to 8 November this year in the Korean port city of Busan. More on this at

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



On Sunday evening, 27 January, Tveit preached at the Myung Sung Presbyterian Church in Seoul, which is one of the largest Presbyterian congregations in Korea. **The worship service was attended by more than 12,000 people.**

Dare to believe peace is coming

"Peace is something radical, something that has to be told – and has to be believed, so that it may become possible," said the Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in a Sunday evening sermon at the Myung Sung Presbyterian Church in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 27 January 2013. More information available at

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/dare-to-believe-peace-is.html>

A prayer towards WCC General Assembly 2013

On the way to Busan, may we humbly walk with you God of life.

On the way to Busan, guide us as we gather, pray and deliberate as disciples of Christ.

On the way to Busan, lead us in the way of justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL

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