

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

June 2013

Target NZ \$
15,000.00

YOUR SUPPORT FOR GOLDIE COLLEGE WATER SCHEME IS GROWING Annual Appeal 2013

Your support helped us to raise the amount for Sasamunga Hospital Solar Power Unit in 2012.

In 2013 we look for M&E to raise funds for the Goldie College Water Supply Scheme. We thank the many Women's Fellowships and individuals who have contributed so far.

We solicit your continued support for this dream of Goldie College to become a reality.

Amount
raised so far

\$ 5,321.00

"TUESDAY EVENING TUTORIALS IN ENGLISH IN THE STAFF ROOM IS A NORM AT HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL IN MUNDA"

- Dr. Graham Longbottom

When Steve Pearce (UK Methodist Church representative for Asia & Pacific) visited the Solomon Islands in March, he was keen to visit the hospital & community at Sasamunga in Choiseul Province. The mission station and church was founded there in May 1905 by the pioneer missionary Rev Rooney, accompanied by Rev Goldie from his base in Munda. The hospital developed from this work, as it did in Munda. For many years Sasamunga Hospital served the whole province and was the only hospital until the early 21st Century.



It is still run by the United Church of the Solomon Islands (previously the Methodist Church) but is now viewed by the Ministry of Health as an area health centre. The Methodist Churches of NZ & the

UK are keen to help the hospital there to function as a hospital again, under the description "Mini-Hospital" perhaps. Whilst visiting the staff at the hospital, the plan to help nurse aides gain entry to a diploma course developed.

Three nurses from Sasamunga have now enrolled on the twin courses run by the University of the South Pacific, Basic Mathematics and Basic English Writing Skills. Twelve nurse aides at Helena Goldie



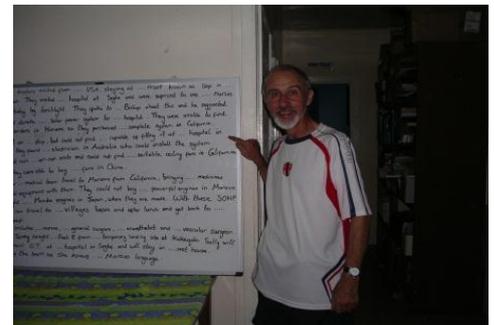
Hospital are now doing these courses, with help from medical staff, medical students and the visiting nurses from Brisbane.

The above photograph shows a Tuesday evening University of the South Pacific course in Basic



writing skills (English) at Helena Goldie Hospital. This course will help the nurse aides to enter the School of Nursing attached to the hospital, which has run a diploma course leading to registered nurse status since January 2010. Many nurse aides are form 3 school leavers, so they struggle with essay writing and mathematics.

These photographs show a recent lesson in the definite & indefinite article. We use the course book exercises and then supplement this with a short story



from recent events. On Friday (24th May) one of the U.K. medical elective students will take the assignments to Gizo for marking. After that, a date will be set for the examination at H.G.H., with Graham as the U.S.P. appointed invigilator! ***

ASIAN ECUMENICAL COURSE - 2013 - Rev. Dale Peach reports

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 tones 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. ***

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO ADDRESS METHODIST CONFERENCE

The Most Revd. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, will address the annual Methodist Conference on Wednesday, July 10. It will be the first time he has addressed the Conference, which this year meets at Central Hall, Westminster.

The Archbishop was invited by the President Designate of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Ruth Gee, who is chair of the Darlington District and worked with Archbishop Justin when he was Bishop of Durham.

Archbishop Justin will talk on the topic, **Resourcing a Search for the Common Good**. An oil industry executive before he entered ordained ministry, and a member of the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards, the Archbishop has written widely on the ethics of business and finance. After his talk, he will take questions from members of the Conference.

The annual Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church, and is made up of 308 lay and ordained full members representing all aspects of the Methodist Church in Britain, plus a number of associate members representing partner churches in Britain and worldwide. It meets in different locations each year. This year's meeting is at Central Hall Westminster from July 4-11.

ARAB CHRISTIANS HAVE BUILT HOPE IN HOPELESS SITUATIONS



Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan

"We do not live in the mentality of the ghetto, nor in the mentality of a minority complex, nor do we live as *dhimmi* (dependent) people," said Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan. "We have always been, as Arab Christians, building our societies, loyal to our countries and nationalities, bringing hope in hopeless

situations."

A Palestinian Christian from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, Younan was speaking at the joint World Council of Churches and Middle East Council of Churches conference on the Christian presence and witness in the Middle East, on 22 May in Beirut, Lebanon.

In his speech, Younan said that the process of reform continues to be at the heart of every Arab and Middle Eastern Christian. Their hopes, he said, will not end until they see the Middle East transformed through the values that Arab Christians cherish. He particularly stressed a stronger engagement between Christians and Muslims. "Dialogue is important in some contexts, but we need full engagement. We need engagement with all monotheistic faiths, especially Muslims," he said.

"We must engage with our Muslim neighbours on the question of the proper relation between religion and state. We must advocate for equal citizenship with equal rights and equal responsibilities that can be secured by stable and secure states with reliable constitutions."

"We advocate for these values for the sake of building pluralistic societies that respect all diversities. This is the reason we refuse today to continue to be divided into sects, or millets, or religious groups," Younan continued. "This is not a political conversation alone, but a perspective established in our faith that all people are children of God." More information at –

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/arab-christians-have-built-hope-in-hopeless-situations>

METHODIST CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF THE PACIFIC 2013

The biennial meeting of the MCCP was held in Rarongo School of Theology and Mission from 13 to 17 May 2013. President Rex Nathan, Rev. Dr. Susan Thompson and Rev. Prince Devanandan attended the meeting representing the Methodist Church of New Zealand.



Participants at the MCCP 2013 meeting. Rarongo School of Theology and Mission classroom block in the background

The hosts United Church of Papua new Guinea chose the theme for the meeting to be 'Climate Change: God's Pacific People.' Concerns over rising sea level and the threat to lives of the people living in the small islands were in focus. Bible studies and theme presentations reflected the need to act in mitigating the rising sea level.

The main concern was about the island of Tuvalu. The presentation from Fiji highlighted the relocation of a low lying village on a higher elevation to provide a new livelihood for the people. The new village was named Canaan as it offered them a new life in a new location.

Proposed Action on Climate Change

Delegates talked about what action could be taken. Possible actions focussed on telling the story and sharing it with the 170 Methodist Churches worldwide. Also, it was suggested churches identify contacts in each of our churches to be the spokesperson or contact on this issue. The sharing of resources and theological reflections was also encouraged. The next MCCP meeting should address Climate Change as part of its agenda.

The meeting also included a day of visits to the mission stations in the island of New Britain. The places we visited were 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. ***

M & E SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND BOUGAINVILLE REGION

My scheduled biennial visit to Papua New Guinea was organised in conjunction with the MCCP meeting. In addition to the MCCP meeting the visit to Rarongo School of Theology and Mission I looked at the M&E programmes.

Three students who received scholarship for training have passed out from the school. Another two students were chosen by the principal to receive scholarships in 2013. M&E has already sent the money for these two students. The librarian pointed out that M&E has purchased over 700 books for the library over the past few years. Rev. Dr. Keith Carley helps with the purchase of the books.

During the visit to Bougainville region I was informed about the need to establish a vocational training centre for women in Kekesu. Over the conversations I learnt that it is very important to have such a facility and asked the church staff to begin a sewing centre for women in one of the available facilities until a new building is put up in Kekesu. The Bishop Tim Arthur and the team are looking into the possibilities to establish a training centre for women in the near future.

In addition the church in the Bougainville region is looking forward to upgrade the only secondary school to the level of a high school by 2018. I was invited to preach at the Buka Town Centre Congregation of the UC PNG on Pentecost Sunday 19 May. The service ended after about 3 hours. –
Prince Devanandan