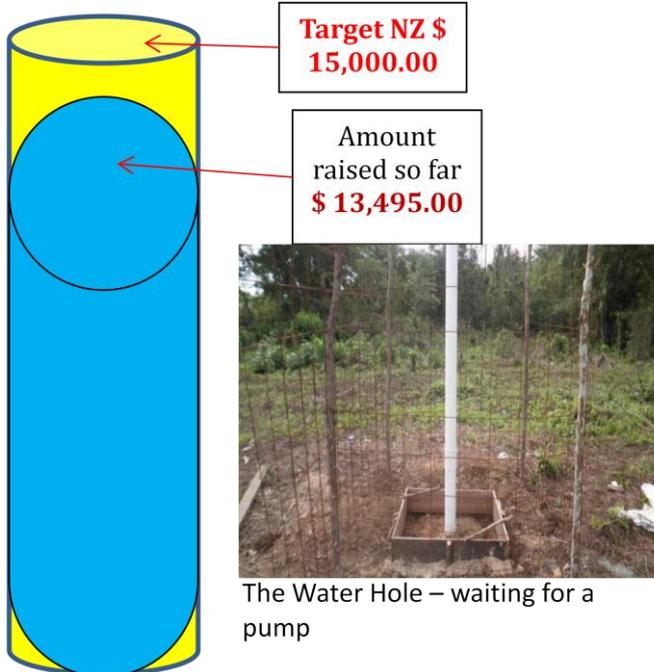


Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

September 2013

SUPPORT GROWS FOR GOLDIE COLLEGE WATER SCHEME

Your contributions are making this project a reality. We have reached 90% of our target and waiting to complete it with 100% with your continued support.



PACIFIC FORCE IN MUNDA AT HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL

Dr. Graham Longbottom sent this report to Mission and Ecumenical.



The Pacific Force is composed of army soldiers and naval personnel from Australia, the U.S.A. and New Zealand. They visit developing countries in the Pacific and in South East Asia. This year they were able to come to the Solomon Islands in three large vessels – including *Pearl Harbor* from U.S.A. and *Canterbury* from N.Z. It was strange to see about 30

soldiers sleeping in their tents in Davinia Taylor Hall at the hospital. They said that it was more comfortable than their lodgings in Afganistan! They soon set to work on the water supply, the electric supply to theatre and the hospital “bomb-hole”



(waste disposal site). They also gave daily instruction to nurse aides and student nurses on resuscitation, as seen above demonstrating the defibrillator in the yellow case that was previously used in Leeds (U.K.)

The water supply to the hospital has been a problem for many years and a number of teams have visited with the aim of providing a continuous supply every day. This was the task facing the Pacific Force and they certainly tried hard but in the end they were unable to achieve their aim. They did manage to install four new tanks to collect rain water and left us with four more to be installed at a later date. They managed to do a number of other jobs including the installation of a new emergency electric supply to theatre from a generator that has been waiting for connection for some time, repair the x-ray processor and fit lead screens in the x-ray department reducing the scatter of radiation to out-patients which has been a problem for many years.



Farewell to the team after 10 days of hard work at Helena Goldie Hospital and College of Nursing. They plan to return in 2015. ***

WCC Pre-Assembly Gathering of the Indigenous People

Dr Arapera (Bella) Ngaha reports on her participation in the preparatory meeting for the Indigenous People's Forum:

October 28 & 29, 2013, the two days prior to the WCC Assembly, are dedicated to gatherings of particular groups of people who will also be part of the main assembly. This year there are Pre-Assembly gatherings of Indigenous people; women, youth and people with disability. It is my privilege to be a member of the Organising Committee of the Indigenous peoples gathering along with fellow facilitators Dr Luna Dingayan, Phillipines; Bishop Mark MacDonald, Canada; Rev. Miguel Salanic, Guatamala; Prof. Sarah Augustine, USA; Dr Wati Longchar, India and assisted by Deenabandhu Manchala, staff of WCC in Geneva Office.

(16 August) I travelled to Bangkok and spent two and a half days in meetings with Luna Dingayan, Wati Longchar and Deenabandhu Manchala to pull together the programme for this gathering. In spite of the very short timeframe, this was a very productive meeting. We were assisted greatly by having the notes from a meeting in March, in Geneva, where the other facilitators met with members of the Geneva office and minutes from a meeting in New York at the UN where issues of concern to Indigenous peoples were raised and discussed. The theme for the WCC Assembly is *"God of Life, lead us to Justice and Peace"* and the theme for the Indigenous Peoples Pre-Assembly links into that *"God of Life, Renew the people of the land."* The central tenet being that land *'papatuanuku'* and the indigenous people are inextricably linked – when *papatuanuku* is defiled, so too are the people; when *papatuanuku* is cared for the people are empowered and justice and peace will prevail.

I thank the church for allowing me the privilege of serving in this capacity. ***

PROMOTING INTERFAITH HARMONY

For Mataiva Dorothy Robertson the course provided a wide understanding of multi-faith relations. The 34-year-old Robertson, from the Methodist Church of New Zealand, shared that initially she feared compromising her Christian faith identity. These fears arose from her traditional upbringing in the South Pacific. "My understanding of faith was somehow restricted to 'my truth' only. However, I ended up embracing the interfaith community wholeheartedly," she said.

"Conversations with my Muslim and Jewish brothers and sisters gave me the knowledge I lacked," stated Robertson.



From left: Mataiva Dorothy Robertson, Yusef Syed and Oriya Gorgi; participants in the "Building an Interfaith Community" programme in Bossey, Switzerland.

This dialogue, she stressed, reinforces the need to be respectful of other faiths, an attitude that can help foster mutual understanding and trust. Robertson referred to Scriptural Reasoning sessions as one of the highlights in the course.

"In-depth insights from Bible, Quran and Torah showed me how religions share common values of humanity which can be used to build interfaith harmony, justice and peace in communities."

"When I return home I hope to collaborate with interfaith networks in New Zealand," she added.

More about the programmes is available at

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/youth-create-multi-faith-community-in-bossey>

CHURCHES TO OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE ON 21 SEPTEMBER

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is calling its member churches to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21 September.

This year parishes and individuals are invited to pray using the theme of the WCC 10th Assembly, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace". The assembly takes place in Busan, Republic of Korea 30 October to 8 November. The International Day of Prayer for Peace is commemorated by the WCC in conjunction with the United Nations-sponsored International Day of Peace on 21 September.

"There's fresh news each day of injustice, violence and suffering, and the WCC assembly theme itself is a prayer for peace," said Jonathan Frerichs, WCC programme executive for peace-building and disarmament. "It's an active prayer – a witness to faith, a cry of hope and a pledge to be disciples for peace together. May God hear us from International Peace Day to the assembly and far beyond."

Churches are invited to pray for peace and to also share their prayers via Facebook or Twitter (#peaceday).

The peace prayer day began during the ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence. The idea was born in a meeting between the WCC general secretary and the UN secretary general in 2004.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/churches-to-observe-international-day-of-prayer-for-peace>

10th ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA 30 October to 8 November 2013

10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches will be held from 30 October to 8 November in Busan, South Korea. Member churches of WCC in South Korea are preparing to host the assembly with over 5000 participants from all over the world. The theme of the Assembly 2013 is **“God of life, lead us to justice and peace”**.

The assembly will be preceded with Indigenous People’s Forum, Gender Justice Forum and many other groups on the 28 and 29 of October. Arapera Ngaha, Diana Tana and Lana Lazarus will be participants in the Indigenous People’s Forum from the Methodist Church of New Zealand. Diana will also be the Methodist Church’s representative while Arapera represents the Indigenous People of Aotearoa in the assembly. Other participants at the assembly would be Prince Devanandan (ecumenical officer), Tony Franklin-Ross and Soana Muimuiheata from Vahefonua Tonga. In addition Filo Tu from Methodist Church of New Zealand will be a resource person and organiser for the Stewards Programme during the assembly.

Participants at the assembly from New Zealand including the Anglican and Presbyterian representatives met in two occasions. These meetings gave an opportunity to get a better understanding of the assembly and the roles the participants have to play.

Materials relating to the assembly are posted on the assembly website for churches and parishes to get involved with this once in seven years world event.

These resources are available at the “Pilgrimage to Busan” website

<http://wcc2013.info/en/resources/pilgrimage-to-busan/pilgrimage-to-busan>

The two major documents that are to be looked at in the assembly:

1. The Church: Towards a common vision
2. Together Towards life: Mission and Evangelism in changing landscapes.

These and other documents are available on the WCC website for downloading for free.

<http://wcc2013.info/en/resources/documents>

In addition a live stream of the events of the Assembly will be available over the Internet for people from all over the world to access.

WCC CALLS CHURCHES TO SPEAK AGAINST CORRUPTION

“Micah Challenge International”

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites its member churches to join a global call to action against corruption – which impacts poor people the most. Studies have shown that every year over 1 trillion US dollars go missing from the global economy through bribes, dishonest deals and tax evasion.



With its central emphasis from 14 to 20 October, the global call to action **EXPOSED 2013** will engage people around the world in raising their voices against corruption. The initiative is organized by a coalition of Christian organizations known as the Micah Challenge International.

The campaign offers suggestions for positive and practical engagements of resisting corruption. It aims to hold 2000 vigils with the poor across the globe, while collecting 1 million signatures for the campaign and presenting a million more at the G20 meeting set to take place in November 2014. “The WCCs’ concern and response to the issue of corruption is founded on God’s preferential option for people in poverty,” said Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, the WCC general secretary.

“Corruption is rooted in and propagated by our prevailing economic structures, cultures and value systems” which are driven by “greed, relentless pursuit of power, profit and material gain by corporations, political bodies, administrators and individual actors,” he said. “Confronting systemic corruption is therefore a matter of upholding God’s justice,” Tveit added. ... “Micah Challenge International” takes its name from Micah 6:8, “...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” More information at

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-calls-churches-to-speak-against-corruption>

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