

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

October 2014

WATER FLOWS FROM TAPS IN GOLDIE COLLEGE

The work on the water supply scheme was completed and launched on 18 August as scheduled. It was a joyful occasion for the entire community of Goldie College.



The principal ceremonially opens the tap for the water.



The students enjoy drinking from a tap

The deputy head boy Kalivati Mamani in his speech at the ceremony thanked all the people who made this project a success. Excerpts from his speech: "Today marks another achievement for Goldie College. We have witnessed the launching and commissioning of the ground water project which again brings pride and joy to our school. For a long time some parts of Goldie College are in desperate need of water, but this year I am proud to mention we have a double blessing of water.

- (1) Miss Solomon has donated us with the MISS SOLOMON TANKS which one can see around the school campus. Our blessing from the sky is stored in these tanks. [Miss Solomon 2013 Tema Wickham is an old girl of Goldie College. She used her beauty contest victory to supply a dozen water tanks to Goldie College.]
- (2) Our two guests with their expertise in their field who did all the engineering work on the ground that finally enabled water to be distributed fairly by means of standpipes to the Eastern end of the school and especially to the boys. Our blessings from the ground are pumped using the submersible pump to refill water into the Green Tank.

These solved the problems the students encountered over the past years. These are now solved.

GOD KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR SCHOOL. HE SEES OUR NEED.

At this juncture I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank leading figures behind this ground water project. For such a project to take shape, finance is the foundation. Therefore first and foremost our sincere gratitude goes to Rev. Prince from Methodist Church of New Zealand who has taken the initiative to fund this project with assistance from his other Christian friends. Though he is not here we salute him in spirit. **Long live the Kiwi hearts who have their hearts for the island hearts.** The students only wish that he is present here today. ... Long live Goldie College and long live friends of Goldie College. May God's continuous showers of blessings be upon our school."

The speech by the deputy head boy highlights the need that was in Goldie College for many years and his gratitude on behalf of the students to all who contributed from Methodist Church of New Zealand to make this project a success.

I am delighted to state that we had some left over money from the water scheme which we donated to build a new classroom in Goldie College. Let our good works continue in caring for the needy in Christ's love. -Prince D.

WSCF Pacific Sub regional Women's Programme

The World Student Christian Federation Asia-Pacific (WSCF-AP) and the Student Christian Movement Aotearoa (SCMA) invites you to apply for the 2014 Pacific sub-regional women's programme on the theme **"Agents of Healing: healing ourselves, our communities and our planet"**.

The programme will prioritise workshops and presentations on issues that are urgent for women that include but are not limited to: gender and identity, culture, post-colonisation, commercialisation, gender equality and eco-justice. This programme will be an opportunity to bring together young women, senior friends and partners from around the Pacific to share their experiences of social and political engagement in local and global contexts, to reflect theologically on the Christian faith through a feminist perspective, and to provide participants with concrete skills and tools to be agents of healing within their own contexts.

When: **4-9 December 2014**

Where: **Puketeraki Marae, 520 Apes Road, Karitane, Otago,**

Cost: **Registration fee (\$100) + travel to Dunedin** (limited travel scholarships will be available)

Applications close October 15th 2014

Due to limited space, we will be considering all applications and selecting 20 NZ participants. If accepted you will receive programme information and account details for payment.

To fill out the **Application:** To fill it out, visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19Qq05dnKu-kIcqJk48r8of4R4Wlg2XpE3JfjrRqftYs/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

For any questions, please email natsec@scm.org.nz

Islamic State cannot be defeated by military action alone, say major Church leaders

Some insights from the British Church leaders' statement for our churches

<http://methodist-news.org.uk/BVI-2TWJ1-DE6MZ07J35/cr.aspx>

Leaders of two of Britain's major Churches say that the UK Government must not give into the rhetoric that Islamic State can simply be bombed out of existence. In a statement released, leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Methodist Church in Britain say that the case for military intervention can only be supported as one part of a broader political and economic strategy to tackle the ideology of IS. The Churches have issued a briefing on the issues and are urging their members to pray and to write to their MPs asking the Government to offer greater support to refugees from Syria and Iraq as part of such a strategy. The full statement follows:

The UK Government must treat with caution suggestions that Islamic State could be defeated primarily through military action. An ideology – even one as dangerous and perverse as that of IS – cannot be defeated by the use of weapons. Military action could help to protect persecuted minorities and prevent IS from expanding its control in Iraq.

But countering extremist violence in Iraq requires that Iraqis effectively address the underlying grievances that provided support for the rise of IS. The situation in Syria is more chaotic and the effectiveness of external military intervention less certain. Both nations face difficult challenges for which there are no easy solutions.

Military intervention carries huge risks. Any intervention must be legally justified and can only be supported as one part of a broad political and economic strategy which must have the support of countries in the region. It is not certain that the most crucial elements of such a strategy are in place. We recognise the Government's attempts to involve Iran, but would like to see this on a much broader front, and there are a number of unanswered questions that must urgently be addressed. For example, what is the level of commitment among countries in the region to take steps to prevent the funding of violent extremism - not only in Iraq and Syria but more broadly? The international community also has a key role to play in documenting human rights abuses and challenging the culture of impunity that allows such atrocities to occur.

We are grateful that the Government has agreed to provide resettlement for some Syrian refugees, but to date only a handful have been resettled in the UK. This does not even begin to scratch the surface of the level of need and further support must be extended to displaced people from both nations, in the UK and elsewhere. Meanwhile we welcome the contribution of the UK Government to the support of millions of displaced persons and refugees who remain in the region.

As Christians we stand with those who are abused, persecuted and marginalised, whatever their faith or ethnicity. We pray that leaders in government who grapple with seemingly impossible situations will be guided by God's wisdom and peace. We will continue to pray for peace, to work towards greater understanding between peoples of all faiths and none, and to advocate for the needs of those most marginalised.

The Revd Lynn Green
General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

The Revd Ken Howcroft
President of the Methodist Conference

Ms Gill Dascombe
Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

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