

# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## September 2014

### GOOD NEWS FROM GOLDIE COLLEGE - continues

The work on the water supply scheme was in progress in August with the hope of launching the project on 18 August 2014. The entire student body got involved in assisting with the installation of pipes and the pump.

Students help to dig trenches for the pipeline



Pipes laid for water supply



Water pump is being tested

The principal Brian Bird wrote to Mission and Ecumenical secretary on 19 August saying, Hi Rev Prince, yesterday was a jubilant day for Goldie College. The borehole water project was finally launched and commissioned. Thanks to your ministry. For the faith that helped move mountains. Your act of faith in help funding the project speaks out a living memory for Goldie, present and the future. May God richly bless your ministry.

The report is encouraging and the communities in Goldie College now have water in taps. This is because of the tireless help from the people in the Methodist Church of New Zealand. We very specially thank the Methodist Women's Fellowships and the cooperating parishes and women's fellowships for their continuing support for the work of Mission and Ecumenical.\*\*\*

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

We invite all the congregations to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace on  
**Sunday 21 September 2014**

Each year on 21 September the World Council of Churches calls churches and parishes to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace. 21 September is also the United Nations-sponsored International Day of Peace.

As it approaches, the World Council of Churches invites people to offer prayers for peace. Observances of the peace prayer day began in 2004 as part of the ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010) after an agreement between the heads of the WCC and the UN.



"Visions & Dreams of Building Peace" is the theme adopted for Peace Day 2014 by On Earth Peace, a United States-based agency rooted in the Church of the Brethren. Prayers, pictures and stories are already being shared on the [On Earth Peace blog](#).

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the WCC invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations to observe a [World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel](#), starting on 21 September 2014. The theme of the week is: "Let my people go!"

The Day of Prayer for Peace also falls within the [Time for Creation](#), and this year coincides with the [Interfaith Summit on Climate Change](#) held in New York ahead of the United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon's Climate Summit. The theme for Time for Creation 2014 is: "Joining the pilgrimage of justice and peace."

[More information about this event...](#)

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace>

## World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations around the world to join together in 2014 for a week of advocacy and action in support of an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Congregations and individuals around the globe who share the hope of justice shall unite during the week to take peaceful actions, together, to create a common international public witness.

The theme of the week in 2014, to be observed during 21-27 September, is: **"Let my people go!"**

More information at

<http://pief.oikoumene.org/en/world-week-for-peace>

### "WE HAVE TO BUILD NEW BRIDGES"



Archbishop emeritus Anders Wejryd, Dr Geoff Tunnicliffe and Fr Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot at the Mission Respect congress in Berlin, Germany. © Mission Respekt 2014

**More than 250 mission workers and church leaders from around the world gathered in Berlin, Germany, 27 to 28 August, for the Mission Respect congress which reviewed the 2011 document *Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World - Recommendations for Conduct*.**

The congress explored how mission and evangelism can be conducted in a responsible way, showing respect for others' beliefs and cultures. The document being discussed is a landmark statement addressing the conduct of Christian witness and was released 28 June 2011 by the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) after five years of work.

With an expressed awareness of inter-religious tensions and the difference in religious convictions, the document is meant to be a tool for churches, ecumenical organizations and mission agencies rather than a policy or theological statement. Mission Respect congress is sponsored by the Council of Christian Churches in Germany (ACK),

which includes the Catholic Church together with a number of Protestant and Orthodox churches, and the German Evangelical Alliance, as well as three large Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical associations of mission organizations.

"The purpose of the document *Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World* is to encourage churches, church councils and mission agencies to reflect on their current practices and to use the recommendations in this document to prepare, where appropriate, their own guidelines for their witness and mission among those of different religions and among those who do not profess any particular religion," Rev. Christoph Anders, director of the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions (EMW), said at the opening of the congress. **"It is hoped that Christians across the world will study this document in the light of their own practices in witnessing to their faith in Christ, both by word and deed."**

"The document invites all of us to mutual respect and solidarity," Archbishop emeritus Anders Wejryd, the WCC president for Europe, said in the opening session. **"Christians are called to commit themselves to work with all people in mutual respect, promoting together justice, peace and the common good. Inter-religious cooperation is an essential dimension of such commitment."**

Wejryd added, "The meeting today in Berlin is one output of the document. I'm grateful to be part of the congress and grateful to the organizers who brought us together to share and to listen to one another." Fr Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue added, "The document is important, but much more important is that we have to come together, we have to witness and we have to discuss. I'm looking forward to the ongoing discussion among different churches and different religions."

"We have to build new bridges. But we have to remember, build one bridge at a time," Dr Geoff Tunnicliffe, general secretary of the WEA, said. "All of us have a responsibility to go home and build bridges. Let's talk, let's meet, let's discuss - but it is also important to remember that we have to listen and to be listened to when criticism is not justified."

More information available at

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/201cwe-have-to-build-new-bridges201d>

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