

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

October 2017

Kokeqolo Water Project

A big thank you to those who have contributed to this special project over the last month. There have been significant donations recently. The church headquarters, school and youth centre at Kokeqolo will benefit from the proposed reactivation of a bore that was sunk by American military personnel during the Second World War. There is still time for you or your group to make a contribution to this exciting project.

Infectious Diseases Ward

Helena Goldie Hospital will now see its Infectious Diseases Ward completed. This is thanks to a generous donation of \$45,000 from the Pitt Street Parish and Trust as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations. David Davies visited the office of Mission and Ecumenical at 409 Great South Road, Penrose to present the cheque. In an accompanying letter written by the Rev. Dr Lynne Frith, Parish Superintendent, she commented, "The grant is a tangible expression both of gratitude for the generations who preceded us at Pitt Street and of commitment to the mission priorities of the wider church." It is hoped that when President Prince visits the Solomon Islands next year he will be accompanied by representatives from Pitt Street who might be present for the dedication of the ward.

Sasamuqa Hospital

The Mission and Ecumenical office recently received news that an outboard motor on one of the sea ambulances had reached the end of its life. Sea ambulances play an important role in the Solomon Islands with its many scattered and remote centres of population. The East Coast Bays Methodist Parish has offered to cover the cost of the purchase of a new outboard motor. A replacement outboard motor will be fitted in the new year. The service of moving patients to the hospital will continue. Thank you.

Commemorating the Reformation

Swiss Lutherans recently gathered in Geneva to mark 500 years since Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg. The general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation the Rev. Dr Martin Junge explored the theme: Bound to be Free. In his sermon he emphasised that the unity of Lutheran Churches was found in the message of justification by grace through faith, which conveys that "we are saved not because of who we are, and what we do, but because of who God is, and what God does." He saw the anniversary of the Reformation as

an opportunity to reflect on this message that speaks to our human condition. "One does not need to live in any special time, nor any special place to be able to receive the Good News of God who has set a tone of compassion, solidarity, justice and peace in our world." The message resonated so well because of the perception that things were "being pushed into the marketplace which do not belong there: forgiveness, life, the future." Explaining the Lutheran World Federation's theme for marking the Reformation anniversary, "Not for Sale", Junge challenged the churches to keep questioning the very notion that everything today is tradeable - including human beings, creation and salvation. The message of justification by grace through faith "today inspires us to address a trend that makes trade become the sole driver of social, communal and political interaction. "A church that preaches the gospel of justification will always be a church that stands without hesitation for freedom." Reformation commemorations were a time for ecumenical accountability for "speaking out how much we hold in common, and how much we long to be healed from the brokenness that affects us." Reformation, he concluded, "is not over, because God's mission is not over. God continues to claim space in our lives, inviting us to live from what is given to us. God continues to set us free from the anxiety of perfection, accomplishment and success, inviting us into a journey of transformation to become who God wants us to be."

Parishes might consider celebrating the Reformation on a suitable Sunday, giving thanks for what we have received from the witness of Luther and Calvin, Zwingli and Knox, near the end of October

Support for CWS

At its August meeting, the Mission and Ecumenical Board endorsed a grant to CWS for the Horn of Africa appeal. The United Nations has reported that six million people are close to starvation and twenty-five million do not have enough to eat. The New Zealand government has agreed to provide a further grant of \$4.85m. The Mission and Ecumenical Board contributed \$1,000 from its Mission Outreach Fund.

12 Faces of Hope

Half a century has passed since the six-day war when Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Despite stalled peace processes and the sufferings entailed by the occupation, people still hope for a better future. The World Council of Churches has long called for Israel to return occupied territories to the Palestinians. To

mark the 50th anniversary of the occupation the World Council of Churches has curated an exhibition entitled 12 Faces of Hope. When President Prince Devanandan was in Geneva for the ecumenical officers meeting in September he was present for the opening of the exhibition. 12 Faces of Hope features twelve Palestinians and Israelis who testify to the hope that their faith provides for a vision of a future where justice and peace, healing and liberation can become a reality. Google 12 Faces of Hope

Conference on World Mission

Organised every decade by the World Council of Churches, the conference will understand mission as multivalent activity. That includes joyful witness in word and deed to the person of Jesus Christ and his gospel; commitment to work for justice and reconciliation among all peoples and with all creation; and to participate in inter-faith dialogue. It will celebrate the unity of all peoples as it marvels at their God-given diversity. It will reflect on missionary practice and seek new ways to be faithful. The conference theme is: "Moving in the Spirit: Called to be Transforming Disciples." It will be held in Tanzania 8 - 13 March 2018.

Ecumenical Offices meet in Geneva

From 15 - 20 September forty ecumenical officers from churches all around the world met at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey and the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva. They were given in-depth briefings on World Council of Churches programmes, Faith and Order, communications strategy, pilgrimage of justice and peace and the 2021 assembly. President Prince was interviewed for their newsletter. He said he went to represent his church to the World Council of Churches and maintain good relationships with other churches. He also wanted to ensure that the programme and agenda of the World Council of Churches is disseminated to his own church. He was pleased to receive updates on various projects and looks forward to attending the next assembly in 2021. I learnt "to participate in new ways," he said.

The Mission of God

Over the last two hundred years the church's understanding of the Mission of God has gone through a number of revolutions. In the eighteenth century there was a renewed focus of the relationship of each person with God. This was a much needed emphasis in that century characterised as it was by rationalism and deism. John Wesley expressed this impulse when he said to his preachers, "We have nothing to do but to save souls." Faith engaged the emotions as well as the intellect. But Wesley's praxis went beyond saving souls in his concern for the poor, the outsider. He stood on the

streets of London in the snow and collected for the poor, and he established lending institutions to help people start modest businesses. But the Holy Spirit was at work prompting concern for those who were enslaved in the Americas. The struggle against slavery pioneered by Quakers and other Christians was seen to be a part of God's mission. Throughout the nineteenth century there was an awakening to God's concern for factory workers and those exploited by a ruthless economic system. The Christian understanding of God's concern was being expanded by the Holy Spirit. As time has passed our eyes have been opened to other forms of injustice in our relationship to other cultures, and there has been a required repentance. In this century we have come to confront the issues of war and peace, aid and development, the place of women, those excluded and most recently our relationship to the natural world. The Spirit of God has been expanding our appreciation of the Mission of God. As our awareness of the scope of God's salvation has been enlarged, so too has our awareness of the Mission of God. Soteriology defines missiology. We have been learning that the Mission of God has a church to serve God's purposes for healing and shalom personally, socially, economically and environmentally. Now we are faced with developing respectful relationships with people of other faiths. We know that all people are loved by God and new relationships need to be forged. The ecumenical movement has reminded us that the scope of the Trinity's concern is the whole inhabited earth. This does not mean that we abandon concern for the salvation of persons, but it does help us to see that salvation is integral and that we cannot be saved without our neighbour, without just relationships economically and seeing the earth as our common home.

Terry Wall.

Prayer for the Mission of God

We offer you our hands, O Lord, to do your work; our lips to sing your praise; a life to proclaim your glory, and a heart to serve our neighbour; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

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**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Annual Appeal 2017
Kokeqolo Water Scheme Fund**

Life giving water

**The appeal is from United Church Assembly Office to develop a
Reliable water supply for the village of Kokeqolo**

The people of Kokeqolo, the schools and the United Church of Solomon Islands assembly office are dependent on rain water. A recent survey of the area located a bore hole that was used by the American forces during the Second World War. The United Church has requested our help to use this source of water by building a water supply unit. The cost is NZ \$ 80,000. M&E committed to raise \$ 40,000 which is half of the total cost and asked UCSI to look for another donor to cover the other half.

The beneficiaries of this water supply will be

Kokeqolo Primary School



Youth Centre



United Church Office



Methodist Mission and Ecumenical appeals to all to contribute to the

**KOKEQOLO WATER SCHEME FUND
To raise \$ 40,000 in 2017**

... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. [Matt. 5:16]

Mission is possible only with your participation and contribution to the fund.

Mission and Ecumenical Fund is registered with the **Charities Commission**.

Registration Number CC51048. Receipts will be issued for tax rebate on the donation.

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ANNUAL APPEAL 2016 - KOKEQOLO WATER SCHEME FUND

Please remember to send this cover slip for a receipt when you make a deposit.

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| <p>Please send your donations by cheque in favour of Mission and Ecumenical Fund</p> <p>To Rev. Prince Devanandan Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Private Bag 11903 Ellerslie Auckland 1542</p> | <p>You could also make your donation directly into BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03</p> <p>Amount: \$ _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
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