

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

June 2018

Special Appeal 2018

New Classrooms for College of Nursing

It is ten years since Mission and Ecumenical has had a special focus on Helena Goldie College of Nursing. After investigating current needs, President Prince has endorsed the design and construction of a new classroom block at the College of Nursing as the 2018 special appeal. The College of Nursing has current facilities for thirty-five students. Due to lack of space every second year the college has had to delay its intake till the next year. Now the College of Nursing is to be integrated into the government health system. The building of another classroom block at the college will be a step toward upgrading facilities and the provision of national qualifications. We appeal to the generosity of individuals, parishes, trusts, MWFs and youth groups to respond to this initiative. The new classroom block will improve facilities and prepare for future development. The details of the project, and the way in which you can give, can be found on the brochure which follows this Newsletter.

President Prince visits the Solomons

In the last week of April President Prince paid a pastoral visit to the Solomon Islands. At the May meeting of the Board, Prince presented a detailed report of his visit extending to eight pages. David Davies who was one of the party from the Auckland Methodist Central Parish, also filed an interesting and informative report to the Board.

Lucy Money Memorial Hall

During his pastoral visit to the Solomon Islands President Prince saw the Lucy Money Memorial Hall. It has been relocated and is being refurbished to bring it up to date and to make it a modern facility for use as a community centre at Sasamuqa.

Decisions of the Board

In the light of President Prince's pastoral visit to the Solomon Islands and after hearing his report, the Board at its May meeting made the following decisions:

- + To fund the purchase of a generator for the Tabaka Rural Training Institute
- + To provide funding for a student nurse to do a degree course at the National University in Honiara
- + To fund the construction of a Community Based Rehabilitation Unit at Sasamuqa Hospital at an estimated cost of \$NZ15,000
- + To fund bi-monthly trips of Dr Hapa to visit Sasamuqa Hospital at a cost of \$3,600 per year.

Kokeqolo Water Project

President Prince was given information at Sasamuqa about the water scheme that had been the focus of Mission and Ecumenical during 2016-2017. The appeal total came in at a very commendable \$67,959. Thanks to all contributors. Prince learnt that work of drilling the bore could start by the end of May.

70th Anniversary of the World Council of Churches

Celebrations of this important landmark are taking place around the world. During July the World Council of Churches will hold an Indigenous Global Ecumenical Gathering at Ohinemutu, Rotorua. After the meeting a service of worship is planned to take place in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Auckland on Sunday 22nd July to give thanks for the witness of the World Council of Churches over seventy years.

The World Council of Churches has announced the visit of Pope Francis to the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva on 21 June. The visit is seen as "a gift to the churches." "The visit of His Holiness to the World Council of Churches in this our 70th year is an historic milestone in the search for Christian unity, and for the co-operation among the churches for a world of justice and peace," said the Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, in a press release. "This is a unique opportunity to share our gifts of fellowship with one another and with all the churches around the world. Relationships locally and globally will not be the same after the event. We in the World Council of Churches are immensely grateful that he has accepted our invitation." Dr Olav went on to say that "it is possible to have a wider horizon than our own church or people; it is possible to share a vision based on Christian faith that brings us together and makes us able to do a lot together for this world."

The Theology of Mission

Together Towards Life – Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes, is the latest document (2013) from the World Council of Churches on mission. In May, we looked at section three, Spirit of Community: Church on the Move. This month we outline section four, Spirit of Pentecost: Good News for All.

The first part of this section highlights the call to evangelism: "Witness takes concrete form in evangelism – the communication of the whole gospel to the whole of humanity in the whole world. Its goal is the salvation of the world and the glory of the

Triune God.” This is spelled out in the following paragraphs. Sharing one’s Christian faith with other people and inviting them to discipleship takes central place.

Living and witnessing in a multi-religious world is seen to carry challenges. Though witness does not stop, the document wants to point out that there are inauthentic forms of evangelism. A helpful list of attitudes and approaches is offered in paragraph ninety to guide witness in non-threatening and respectful ways.

The context in which we witness is taken seriously when it states: “We live in a world strongly influenced by individualism, secularism and materialism and by other values that challenge the values of the kingdom of God. Although the gospel is ultimately good news for all, it is bad news for the forces which promote falsehood, injustice and oppression.” Then follow insights related to dialogue with people of other faiths, and the new sensitivity to the way in which cultures can incarnate the gospel in diverse ways.

Death of Rev. Dr James Hal. Cone

As we mourn the death of the Rev. Dr James Cone, who died on 28 April, the World Council of Churches also commemorates his great scholarly and church leadership contributions. Cone, known as the founder of black liberation theology, was also the Bill and Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary. We also recall that he was a member of one of our founding churches, the African Methodist Church, a church that has carried the globally known vision and legacy of freedom and justice, a legacy that is now just as important as ever.

World Council of Churches News Service

Anglican Methodist Relations

At its recent General Synod, the Anglican Church passed a resolution expressing its desire to move toward mutual recognition and interchangeability of ministries. The resolution reads as follows:

That this General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui 2018
+ Reaffirms its recognition that episcopate is exercised within the Methodist Church of New Zealand through the office of President
+ Reaffirms the covenantal hope to work toward a united and interchangeable ministry between the Anglican and Methodist Churches
+ Invites the Methodist Conference to consider how it might give more explicit expression to the personal and enduring nature of episcopal ministry on those who are ordained to that office
+ Commits to responding in an open and generous way to the Methodist Conference should it be able to give effect to such an expression of episcopal ministry

The Faith & Order Committee plans to bring a report to July Synods responding to this positive, constructive and generous initiative from the Anglican Church. Part of the mandate of Mission and Ecumenical is to work for the unity of the church, so that the church will be better engage in mission.

Pilgrim Prayers for Women

People across the world will have an opportunity to join in a special prayer for women who are standing strong in the face of gender-based violence. Each Thursday, beginning 31 May, the World Council of Churches will release via its website and social media, a prayer by members of its ‘Pilgrim Team’. The team has been visiting communities of conflict and hearing stories of women who face sexual harassment, rape, domestic violence and other injustices. The weekly prayers will be shared as part of ‘Thursdays in Black’, a global movement resisting attitudes and practices that perpetuate violence.

Attacks on Indonesian Churches

Dr Mathews George Chunakara, general secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, expressed deep condolences to the families of victims and stated that the attacks carried out against communities during Sunday worship is a heinous crime, which cannot be justified by the teachings of any religion. Three Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal churches were targeted. He added that the 13 May attacks on churches in Surabaya, Indonesia’s second largest city, “are an attempt by forces of evil in Indonesia that aim to destroy the country’s long nurtured and cherished values of religious harmony.”

Prayer for New Life

Come, Holy Spirit
transform with newness
the world you love
that all creation may
rejoice in freedom with you.

Come Holy Spirit
enthuse and renew us
fill us with song
so turning from loss,
we join your dance of life.
Together Towards Life, resources p. 49

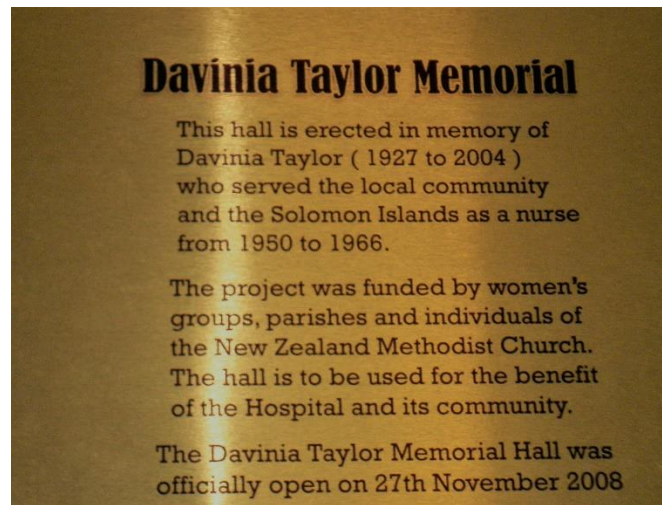
MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD
Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa
Acting Director: Rev. Dr Terry Wall
409 Great South Road Private Bag 11 903 Ellerslie
Auckland 1542
Phone: 09-571 9142 Fax: 09-525 9346
E-mail: mm-e@methodist.org.nz

**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Annual Appeal 2018
Classroom Block
For
Helena Goldie College of Nursing**

The Helena Goldie College of Nursing is to be upgraded to a National College in Munda, Solomon Islands. The infra structure needs upgrading. Our contribution to the upgrading will be to build a new classroom block in 2019 at a cost of NZ \$ 50,000.00.

This is possible only with the support of the everyone who contributes through the Methodist Mission and Ecumenical. The building would be built in 2019, but the service from it will be for many years to come.

The last project at the College of Nursing by Methodist Mission and Ecumenical was in 2008.



**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical appeals to all to contribute to the
Helena Goldie College of Nursing
BUILDING FUND
to raise \$ 50,000 in 2018**

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 2018 - HELENA GOLDIE COLLEGE OF NURSING BUILDING FUND

Please send your donation by cheque in favour of

Mission and Ecumenical Fund

to:

Rev Terry Wall (Acting Director)
Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Private Bag 11 903
Ellerslie
Auckland 1542

You could also make your donation directly into

BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03

Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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