



April 2013

Dear National Liaison Officers

Warm Greetings to you all as we head into cooler temperatures with Autumnal weather changes.

I want to say thank you to those of you who have made contact with me by email or post giving me information about your Districts/ Fellowships and thus keeping the links connected between us.

It is wonderful to receive news from you and to hear of the events and happenings in your Districts and Fellowships.

Also thank you to those who have sent copies of their District meetings thus keeping Your National Executive informed and up to date with what is happening throughout our network..

Items of interest can be sent to me preferably by email but by post if necessary and I would like to share with you some of the interesting things that have come in.

From Bay of Plenty: They were saddened by the death of their President, Veronica Lowe in December. They are now glad to report that Mrs Alison Kehely has taken on the role of Facilitator. She can be contacted at 65 Townshead Crescent, Tauranga 3110. Phone: 07 577 1441. Email: Kehely@xtra.co.nz They also have a new Secretary. Mrs Isobel Ashmore. Email: Isabel.ashmore@gmail.com Shona Middendorf is now their Distributing Secretary.

From Lindisfarne: They have the Southland District Book in their keeping. Their membership is 19 and they enjoy meeting monthly for fellowship and friendship. They link with other groups for World day of Prayer and sometimes at Christmas.

From Manawatu – Wanganui : Several members reported back about Convention in New Plymouth Some of the activities they have held during the year were a visit through a garden, a soup and savoury lunch followed by a talk about the special project. Clocks or watches was a subject for another meeting.

From North Canterbury: They were saddened by the death of their President Ruth Le Couteur in February.

Their District Folder has been returned to them. An enjoyable Country Rally was held at the Woodend Methodist Church hall they were transported by bus and as a "bonus" the ladies were taken on a tour of the new Pegasus Village. They are extremely limited as to venues for meetings as the Methodist Church continues to debate the future of damaged buildings and sites where churches have been demolished. They continue to link with South Canterbury District whenever possible. They joined them for an early celebration of 50 years as MWF. (it is 50 years in February 2014 since MWF began) Lynne Scott has been to Brisbane to help plan for the South Pacific Area Seminar to be held in July 2014. She would really appreciate your prayers for the Seminar and planning leading up to this event.

From Nelson/ Marlborough :

Some time ago they had two interesting women come to speak to a Fellowship group about their experiences as Evacuees during World War 11. There are other Evacuee Groups in New Zealand and Doreen Bateup wonders if others would be interested in hearing about their experiences. She has forwarded to me an article about the two ladies who spoke in Stoke and I will attach it to this letter for your information.

From Waitemata: On Feb 11 a District retreat was held at the Point Wells church. They have paired local fellowships within their District. They were sad to hear of the death of their former Treasurer, Dorothy Sparke in March.

continued

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From Wellington : Rosalie Sugrue has sent out to the Fellowships a resource kit reflecting on Disability. This is for consideration as a devotional / worship resource for use in keeping with the National Special Project, supporting the Faith, Disability and Spirituality Network. She initially prepared this for Convention in New Plymouth.

As you can see there are many interesting things happening out in our Districts / Fellowships and in keeping with our National theme , we want to promote and :

"Encourage Effective Communication"

Warm regards
Merrill Baker
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LEARNING ABOUT WORLD WAR 2 EVACUEES.

The guests at a recent meeting of the Stoke MWF (Nelson) spoke to us of their time as Evacuees at the beginning of the Second World War in Britain. Both ladies had very different experiences in that one went overseas and the other moved to what was considered a safer place in Britain.

Eira's parents were Doctors in the Liverpool area and they arranged for their four children aged between 14 and 6 to go to Canada. This left the parents able to continue their work which was so essential and to know that their family were out of harms way. When there were air raids the parents went to different shelters so that if one was hit there would still be a chance that one of them would survive for the children to come home to. Eira and her brothers and sisters first home was in Toronto. They were in Canada for four years and over the time did have some changes in the families that they stayed with but she spoke of great affection of her time there and how she had been back to visit with her own family and had kept in contact with them all.

Barbra lived in London and so very early in the war joined her teachers and classmates in Norfolk to begin with. She did move around the northern part of England until such time as that became unsafe owing to the bombing. In the time that she was away from her home she said her Mother was only allowed to visit once a year and because of troop movements and the railway lines being targeted she would just arrive when she could without any warning.

Nelson has an evacuee group which get together to talk and write about their experiences.

These two women were very interesting and helped to extend the knowledge of our younger members. Maybe other groups may like to follow up any WW2 evacuees.