

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Apr / May / June 2012
Issue 6

First of all I give thanks to our Father in Heaven that we have reached the half-way point of this year. This is my second to last President's Letter as we count down to Convention in October where a new executive team will be inducted. Time has flown by so quickly, and I thank God for accompanying me and my team all the way! The last three months has been another busy period in the life of the NZMWF executive, one also filled with times of both happiness and sadness.

Margaret Gordon

Firstly it is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of our beloved **Margaret Gordon**, who went to be with our Father on the 12th April 2012. Margaret, of the Auckland District had also previously served as President of the NZMWF as well as President of the South Pacific Area. Even in her final days, Margaret's commitment to serving the Lord was evident. We are extremely grateful to Margaret Gordon's family for allowing one of her final wishes to be fulfilled – in lieu of funeral flowers/gifts etc. the family asked that instead, monetary gifts be given to the NZMWF Special Project Fund. Margaret was indeed a very special person to us all and will be dearly missed.

District visits

Waikato / Thames Valley:

In mid-April I was fortunate enough to be able to visit the Waikato / Thames Valley District. I was accompanied on this District visit by Jeanne Misikei (NZMWF Liaison Link). It was great to be able to attend their Rally and meet so many members. The District Rally was held on the same day as the late Margaret Gordon's funeral so we also remembered the life of the late Margaret Gordon with a special commemorative service led by Mary West. During our visit we met with many of the shut-in members so were fortunate to spend time with all. A special thank you to Dorrie Hosking for your wonderful hospitality. Jeanne and I thoroughly enjoyed our time with the Executive also.



Auckland / Waikato Fijian Fellowship:

On the 26th May I attended a combined Auckland / Waikato Fijian Women's Fellowship gathering which was held in Mt Roskill, Auckland. Leu Pupulu (World Treasurer) and Miriama Kauvadra (NZMWF Distribution Secretary) joined me also at this special gathering. It was a truly wonderful experience sharing about the NZMWF with our Fijian sisters. Vinaka vaka levu (thank you very much) to Losalini, Jesi and all the Fijian women from Auckland, Waikato and Waiariki for their tremendous hospitality.



National Council of Women

Thank you for your ongoing dialogue regarding remits/recommendations that have been circulated by the Secretary.

One such issue is the *Parental Leave and Employment Protection (Six Months Paid Leave) Amendment Bill*, which to if enacted would extend the current entitlement of paid parental leave (PPL) from 14 weeks to 26 weeks (six months) which is in line with the World Health Organisation recommendations.

I encourage you all to send in your responses of support to NCW regarding this proposed bill amendment.

Convention 2012

A reminder that registration forms for Convention 2012 can be downloaded from the church website. Convention will be held from the 4th – 7th October in New Plymouth. We look forward to hosting you then!

World Federation

I am pleased to announce that copies of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women Handbook 2011–16 have now arrived. Each District will be sent a complimentary copy. If you wish to purchase further copies please contact our World Link - Mrs Leu Pupulu.

Prayer Request

I humbly ask that we continue to uphold each other in prayer, especially those who are unwell, those who have lost loved ones or need support in any way.

During these cold winter months, be sure to keep warm! Do not be discouraged when the rain continues to fall and wind won't slow down. Let us remember that the Lord is in control of all things, even the weather! *Mark 4:39, 41 "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm....and they said...even the wind and the sea obey him."*

May God bless you all and keep you safe until I write again.

With love and prayers,

Mataiva Robertson