



“We Are God’s Hands Reach Out”

President’s Letter

December 2015

Talofa lava and greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Christmas baby who has been, who is and will always be our Guide, Rock and Saviour.

As we are now getting closer to the celebration of the birth of our Christ, we reflect back on our journey as NZMWF, we have had times of happiness, achievement and celebrations, we have had challenges that stirred our faith, some of our members have been suffering from ill health and we have lost some of our loved ones, our sisters in Christ who gave their lives to serve God through the mission of NZMWF. All these things we give thanks to our God for He has always been our strength at all times.

MCNZ Conference:-

In November Thelma our National Secretary and I attended the Methodist Church Conference in Blenheim. On the Tuesday night NZMWF led the closing devotion, conducted by our chaplain Rev Alisa Lasi and it was based on our two-year theme **“We are God’s Hands, Reach Out”**. All members of NZMWF who were present at Conference were invited to join in to sing our songs and some took part with readings etc. We thank the organising committee for the opportunity given to us. On Wednesday morning I presented our report and introduced our President Elect and highlighted some of our work especially our Special projects this last year 2014 – 2015. Your outreach work was acknowledged by the Mission and Ecumenical Secretary Rev Prince Devanandan.

The new Presidential team for 2016 – 2018 are Rev Prince Devanandan as President and Mrs Viv Whimster from Tauranga as Vice President. Congratulations to the new elected Presidential team, our prayers and blessings are with them as they prepare for their term in office.

Conference have passed to trial two yearly conference, so after conference in 2016 there will be no conference in 2017 but 2018 and 2020.

Presidential Visits:-

In early November, Rosa and I visited the Waikato, Waiariki and Thames Valley District after the Smethurst Trust Committee meeting on the 30th of October. It was a great privilege to meet, fellowship and share our stories and information with members. We were treated to dinner at the Swiss Restaurant with the company of Marie and Don Smith the ex-President, by Mary West & Hone Tafuna the co-facilitators and some members from Hamilton.

On Sunday we attended the morning service at Melville Methodist Parish in Hamilton where I was asked to do the prayer of intercession. It was a special day because All Blacks won the World Cup and Hone was so excited as was everyone else.

We were taken to see the Tamihere Retirement Village Complex and Catherine Dickie our host and tour guide, who is also a member of the Tamihere Trust board, took us for lunch at the restaurant within the compound. It is a great set up that is available for visitors and families and also the residents. After lunch we visited some of our members who are in the hospital side. It was a special time and it is always the highlight of my visits, having the opportunity to see some of the ladies who have paved the way for us all.

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On Monday we went to the District AGM that was held at Te Awamutu and what a lovely drive it was from Hamilton to meet with the beautiful ladies at Te Awamutu. Devotion was led by Chaplain Rev Gloria Zanders. It was a great fellowship with members from different parts of the District. We were updated with the new changes to the Presbyterian Women Association of New Zealand by Rev Alice Hill, we remember and uphold them in our prayers.

The Waikato Waiariki District also celebrated the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Womens Day and made a special offering for our outreach project to support and enable our sisters in other areas of our WFMUCW family who are greatly affected by the impact of ongoing violence and natural disasters, to maintain their memberships. I would like to thank the Waikato Waiariki & Thames Valley District and other Districts for your love and monetary donations to support this worthy project. I also encourage all our Districts to pray for our extended World Federation Officers and their great work and especially our extended WFMUCW fellowship family in this special time of celebrating God's great gift to the world, His son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Let us reach out and share God's love with those who are in need; remembering that "We Are God's Hands in this World so Reach out!"

At the end of November Thelma and I attended the Wasewase Koviti Ke Rotuma District executive meeting in Auckland. It was a lovely time of sharing information on the structure of NZMWF and its work and fellowshiping with our Fijian sisters. The Executive Committee members came from different parts of the country, from North to the south island. Some of them are new to the NZMWF but they have been working within their local fellowships. We sold 25 Tree of Life pendants to our Fijian ladies and most of the ladies who were at the meeting will be travelling to the World Assembly, which is very exciting.



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Future Events:-

Dates to remember:-

- World Assembly in Houston, Texas, USA: **29th of August – 4th September 2016**
- Convention will be held in Hastings, Hawkes Bay: **10th – 13th November 2016**
Other information on registration will be sent out early in the New Year.
- Smethurst applications closes: **20th March 2016**
- Please remember our \$2.00 per member to assist with our nominee's expenses to the World Assembly 2016.
- A reminder for all the members who are travelling to the World Assembly please check your passports, apply for your visas now and take note of payments for your airfares, registrations and accommodation while you have plenty of time.
Please always contact Tumema Faioso our World link who is coordinating all our travel plans and communicating with the World Officers and Arrangement Committee in Houston if you have any questions and if you need any help. Tumema has been keeping everyone updated frequently with any new information.
- Attached is the letter from the WFMUCW Anne Connin.

As we are at the end of the year, I would like to extend to you all my sisters in Christ my appreciation for all your work, your time and effort too. I acknowledge your commitment in serving God through the NZMWF mission.

To my Executive Committee, I want you to know that I value and appreciate each of you and your passion, support, contribution and commitment in serving our Methodist Women Fellowship family. Thank you so much, may all the glory and praise be to the Almighty God.

As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour, may the baby Jesus be born in our hearts and souls and may we feel the real deep meaning of Christmas. May we continue to be God's hands in sharing the plentiful of His Grace to the neighbour, needy, victims of violence, those who have lost loved ones, children with no parents, the orphans, homeless and the world, for all those who are struggling with poor health. I especially ask to uphold them all in our prayers during this festive season.

Lastly I would like to wish you all and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas, may God guide us safely to a fruitful and a blessed New Year.

Manuia le Kirisimasi



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