



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

January 2013

Dear Fellowship Friends

Greetings to you all at the beginning of this New Year. I trust that you have had an enjoyable Christmas period and celebration of the Birth of Jesus. We now look forward to the New Year and we know that whatever our circumstances and wherever we are God has a bright and glorious future for us.

We live in Waikanae and I have just come back from a bike ride down the Waikanae River bank to Otaihanga and back. It is so lovely seeing the birds and butterflies, blue skies, green hills and fields and hearing the water babbling on. It is wonderful to be able to enjoy God's bounty in this country of ours.

Most of you will have a meeting in February and for some it will be a time of reflection because of the death of a member since you last met so there will be changes. Sadness, but remember the happy times together and the contributions these members made.

A New Year is an opportunity to do things differently. Have a social activity, go for a picnic but let the whole congregation know and invite them to join. Remember there may be people who have recently retired, or shifted into your area, invite them to join you.

I would like to introduce members of the NZMWF Executive.

Merrill Baker lives in Paraparaumu is a Vice-President, the Corresponding Secretary and Liaison contact

Brenda Baker lives in Waiwhetu and is the Minute Secretary.

Akanesi Havea who recently shifted to New Plymouth from Lower Hutt is the Treasurer

Fa'afetai Fa'alogo lives in Naenae is a Vice-President and the Link with the Diaconate.

Tongi'aepau Nuku lives in Tawa is the contact for the Uniting Congregations and the Distributing Secretary

Lute Taufalele-Vute lives in Alicetown and is the Missions and the NCW Link person.

Lise Malaemi who lives in Wellington is the Helen Kim Scholar and the Link person for the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW)

The WORLD DAY of PRAYER is on Friday 1st March. The service this year prepared by a group of women in France is entitled 'Welcoming the Stranger.' There will be a service in your area - find out the details. If you need information email Raewyn Dawson on wdp@xtra.co.nz Invite all your congregation to share this service.



The SPECIAL PROJECT - "Ama Takiloa" run by the Tonga Community Development Trust in Tonga is helping to relieve hardship in the area. The Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network Aotearoa New Zealand (DSF) will be producing a printed manual and website of disability. This manual will be made available to churches in NZ will contain:

- a contemporary theology of disability
- invisible as well as visible disabilities
- the latest regulations on building access for disabled folk
- a building check-list particularly designed for churches

Share the information about both of these projects *with your congregation*.

SMETHURST – funding is available for women members of the congregation, members who are undertaking study of some kind – it may just be a short course in pastoral care, worship leading, lay preaching or a university course. Age is no barrier and they do not need to be Fellowship members. Application Forms are on the Methodist Women's Fellowship web page which is in the Methodist Church web site www.methodist.org.nz. Next closure date for applications - 20 March 2013.

NZMWF COUNCIL MEETING will be held Friday 6th, Saturday 7th, and Sunday 8th SEPTEMBER at EI RANCHO – Waikanae Christian Holiday Park.

The Council Meeting is for District Presidents, previous National President and Convenors of Smethurst, Kurahuna and Friendship committees. The airport at Paraparaumu has return Air NZ flights to Auckland. Other airlines go to Nelson and Blenheim. Further information and costs will come next month.

Remember our theme **'Encourage Effective Communication'**

Enjoy your Fellowship gatherings, invite someone else to join you.

There are so many ways to spread the Good News.

Blessings to You All

Marie Smith

President

18 Sunny Glen

Waikanae 5036

04 905 7229

President.nzmwf@methodist.org.nz

Treasurer

c/o 18 Sunny Glen

Waikanae 5036

Secretary

2A Cypress Grove

Paraparaumu 5032

04 902 4134

Secretary.nznwf@methodist.org.nz