



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

February 2014

Dear Fellowship Friends Greetings to you at the start of a New Year.

A time of reflection, anticipation and planning. A time to enjoy the beauties of nature but also to be aware of the need to care and protect our environment.

At this time we are very mindful of the destruction brought by the cyclone in Tonga. Our prayers and thoughts are with the families there and in NZ. I know many of you have been busy collecting items and money to send there.

Our sympathy goes out to those Congregations and families who have recently lost loved ones. We give thanks for their lives and all that they have contributed. Some of the women have been members of previous NZMWF National Executives and we will have a special tribute to them at the Convention. Would Districts please send a copy of the tribute to Merrill.

February is a time when several Parishes have new Ministries starting, for some it will be their first year as a Probationer. I know that Fellowship members will give special support and encouragement to them.

We are delighted to learn that Liliuokahlani Teofilo from Auckland has received a Bossey Scholarship to attend a Seminar, 23-27 June in Switzerland
"Green Churches: Ecology, Theology and Justice in Practice."

Friday 7th March is The World Day of Prayer – the service prepared by the women in Egypt has the theme ...'Streams in the Desert'... I encourage everyone to attend a service in your area. It is not just for women – as it used to be.

July 8th-12th the WFM&UCW - South Pacific Area Seminar (SPAS) will be held in Brisbane. Lynne Scott - South Pacific Area President, Leu Pupulu - World Treasurer and 33 other women from the NZ Unit will be attending.

South Pacific Area President and Vice-President – 2016-2021: We need to take Nominations for these two positions to the Seminar. Are there women whom you would like to nominate – please let me know by 20th May.

ARE YOU A SONG WRITER?? Each Unit is asked to submit a song and these will be voted on at the SPAS. The winning song will be used in the SPA presentation at the 2016 World Seminar. I will be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in submitting a song. Final entries to me by 20th May.



The NZMWF Convention will be held at El Rancho, Waikanae 11-14 September. Does your District have a Remit or Topic for Discussion that they would like to submit? Please send a copy to Merrill before 20th May.

I have been delighted by the way in which so many Fellowship groups have been researching their history, having celebrations and lots of laughs marking 50 years of NZMWF. Has your District started to compile a 20 pocket clear file folder of District History and Activities to bring and share at Convention?

Merrill and I enjoyed a lovely warm visit to Nelson/Marlborough District in November. 27C in Blenheim. Visiting women in their homes is always a privileged and these ladies have such interesting stories to tell. Nelson women travelled to a District meeting in Blenheim. We shared meals with Fellowships and Executives in Blenheim and Nelson. Alison Kane and I went Scottish Country Dancing in Nelson while Merrill met with friends who had shifted.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS –WFM&UCW have suggested that Fellowships in the South Pacific Area focus on these three Goals

Achieve Universal Primary Education. –Hope for Learners

Improve Mental Health – Hope for Mothers

Ensure Environmental Sustainability – Hope for Creation

These goals also align with the Methodist Church theme 'Let the Children Live' I would encourage you to include at least one in your programme.

Many of us are striving towards these goals within our communities – pre-school activities often use church facilities, parents support groups, encouraging good health and nutrition awareness by living simply and wisely and being active.

The **Special Project** is aimed at giving new hope to women and children and it also makes us more aware of what is happening and how we can help.

*The night is the cover of your peace, O God,
The rhythm of your rest for all your people.
In faith we go to sleep and leave our life to you.
In child-like trust we end our efforts of this day.
In our sleeping, be our company.
In our waking, be the gift of our new day.*

Blessings to You All

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