



## Methodist Women's Fellowship

### *National MWF Newsletter February 2017*

Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Noa'ia e Mauri,  
Nisa bula vanaka, Taloha Ni, Kia Ora.



Dear Friends,

Lynne, Moe, Philomena, Roz, Barbara, Una, Ofa and Valmai join me in greeting you and wishing you and your families God's richest blessings every day of this new year.

Thankyou to Olive for your final National newsletter and report of our very successful and memorable Hastings Convention. Thankyou to you and all of your Executive for a wonderful two years of ministry and mission challenging us as God's hands reaching out in mission.

Let us continue to pray for all of our sisters in Feohi'anga Vahefonua 'a Metotisi Tonga 'I Nu'u Sila. We were all very saddened by the Wharerata bus accident on Christmas Eve and the loss of three lives from Mailefihi Siulikutapu College in Vava'u. We pray for the other twenty-seven members of the tour group. Death is not putting out the light.... but extinguishing the lamp because the dawn has come.

Fellowship has commenced again. Thankyou all for your commitment, energy, time encouragement and enthusiasm. Please continue to pray regularly for new life and new strength in your group and all of this wonderful MWF ministry.

Our national theme is the theme of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women "Chosen People Called to Proclaim" from 1 Peter 2:9 – 10. Four of us on the National Executive attended the Thirteenth World Assembly in Houston, Texas 29 August to 4 September last year with eight hundred members from 107 countries and I challenge each of you to meditate on these words and speak out to others actively spreading the good news. Our motto is "To know Christ and make Him known" and I want to encourage all those rostered on Devotions to use our theme as the basis of your meeting sharing times.

Take time to search into your Fellowship files and find "In the Steps of Susannah - Methodist Women in Aotearoa". and share the stories of past leaders again. Sister Rita Snowden was one of my favourite mentors. I once thought I would apply for a teaching position in the King Country and follow in her footsteps and ride a motor bike like her trusty John Wesley!

With Waitangi Day and the bi-cultural celebrations let us consider the life of the Maori girl, Tarore who knew Christ and made Him known bringing peace to the iwi throughout our country in the 1830s.

The Bible Society has published two Tarore books by Joy Cowley for all school children receiving religious education under the leadership of the Churches Education Commission teachers. Tarore lived in the Waikato and at the age of twelve attended the Mission school of Alfred and Charlotte Brown. They gave her the Gospel of Luke which she wore as a precious taonga in a kete around her neck. She knew that they were precious words of peace for all people. With a group of twenty-one children lead by Ngakuka she travelled to Tauranga but Tarore did not escape as she slept.

A warrior killed her and stole her book and kete. Later in Rotorua he read the book and the message "Love your enemies". He went to Ngakuka and asked for forgiveness then the words of that little book spread around the North Island and the people gave up war to live the Christian way of peace.

Soon the good news reached Otaki and the great chief Te Rauparaha heard the message and built the Rangiatea Church. Then his son and nephew took the good news to the South Island.

Today the Tangata Whenua say the missionaries brought Christianity to this country but it was their people who gave it to each other.

All this happened through Tarore who was a chosen child called to proclaim. I have just holidayed at an International Girls Brigade Camp in Whangarei and enjoyed visiting Waitangi, the Kaeo Wesleydale cairn and the Kerikeri Kemp House reminding me of the early missionaries and the Maori history of Northland.

Mission outreach reminders:

Who are your closest Deacons? Please do as much as you can to support them this year.

Share our two national projects with your congregations spreading the information and fundraising ideas.

Consider the Let the Children Live projects in your Synod areas.

Save your Least Coins for the Fellowship of the Least Coin collections at your meetings. Shanti Solomon began this movement of prayer, ingathering, stewardship and networking in 1956. Each time you set aside a coin pray for peace, justice, and reconciliation through gender issues, literacy and education, health and social concerns, violence against women and children and poverty alleviation anywhere in the world every day. \$8000 was sent from New Zealand to the bank account in Geneva last November to be distributed to project applications from all over the world. Have you a New Zealand project? Your treasurer will have the contact information.

Mark your Diaries:

Friday 3 March: Support the annual ecumenical World Day of Prayer service in your local area. This year the theme is "Am I being unfair to you?" prepared by the Philippines women. Encourage your congregation – men and women – to attend. A

big thankyou to Roz Wilkie and Leatrice McIntyre for working on the New Zealand National Committee making this special world wide movement of prayer and worship happen since 1920. There will be services in 170 countries in 1000 languages beginning at dawn in the Pacific and ending 40 hours later in Alaska.

Friday 8 – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September: Our 2017 MWF Council Meeting is being held in Christchurch. Our planning is well underway.

Let us walk this way together, with Jesus in our midst. Our hands are open to receive, our hearts are open to give, our minds long to learn, our voices are ready to proclaim as we reach out to each other in love.

Yours in His service  
Dianne Claughton.