



*The Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa*

New Zealand Women's Fellowship

President's Letter – January/ February/ March 2010

Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Ni sa bula vinaka, Noa 'ia e mauri, Namaste, Mabuhay, Tena koutou, Kia ora tatou katoa and very warm greetings to you all our sisters in Christ.

I hope you all have had a wonderful Easter celebration when we commemorated this year the death and the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a special time for Christian families and churches around the world. For some of you it might have been a challenging and a heart searching time, for others a reconciliation, renewal and restoration time, while others still may have had a quiet meditation and reflection on their own faith journey. We give thanks to God for his unconditional love for us and for the ever-presence of the Risen Christ.

February and March have been a busy time for me and some of our Executive members in travelling across the country. We have visited the Districts of Waikato-Thames Valley/Bay of Plenty; Otago, Southland, North and South Canterbury, Nelson-Marlborough, Greymouth, Manawatu-Wanganui, Taranaki and Auckland/Manukau/Waitakere.

It has been an enjoyable and enriching experience for our visiting team. We have had wonderful opportunities to visit some of the shut-in ladies, those in their own homes and other at retirement homes. We consider it a privilege to listen to their stories, share and pray with them. Those are our mothers and sisters who have served the Methodist Women's Fellowship for many years in the past, and we were able to convey to them on behalf of the NZMWF our heartfelt thanks and appreciation of their services.

On behalf of our visiting Executive members, I wish to sincerely thank all the fellowship members who have hosted us, transported us around, took us sight seeing, shared, fellowshipped and worshiped with us. In a real sense, we deeply felt your love and have enjoyed the warmth and richness of your hospitality.

To all whom we have visited, your faith stories have encouraged us in our faith and commitment to the tasks we are doing for the NZMWF. We have all been inspired and enriched in ways that words cannot express. We have also learnt a lot of good things. We hope we have been able in some ways to inspire and encourage you in your faith.

May God richly bless you all
Shalom,

Your servant in Christ,
Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu



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NZMWF Convention 2010

Theme: ***Rekindle the Spiritual Flame/Fire with the NZMWF***
Dates: Thursday 30th September to Sunday 3rd October 2010
Venue: Willow Park Convention Centre (same as National Council)
Costs: \$200.00 for live-in & \$150.00 for live-out
Registration: This will be sent out end of May to Districts once we have Workshops confirmed.

This will also be posted onto our webpage to be downloaded and sent back to our Executive

Get your flights booked while we have alot of **HOT Cheap Specials** on at the moment.

Chita is coming to town – Our guest speaker at Convention is our very own World President she has advised that she will be here in Auckland up until 6th October 2010 if any District would like to have Chita come out please let us know.



Statistic Forms for APW/MWF Districts:

These will be sent out to Districts to distribute to local fellowships and have back to District Secretaries to collate information and send back to **National Secretary by 31st August 2010.**

Information re: WFMUCW ASSEMBLY 2011

The information received by the National Executive for the World Federation Assembly in 2011 from the World President, Chita Millan is as follows:

I am happy to let you know that at long last, we have arrived at the figures for The World Assembly costing. It was a difficult task how to bring down the cost to make sure that attendance to the WA would be more representative of all the Areas and Units that make up the Federation, hence the delay. We are really caught at such period of economic crisis worldwide that prices have jumped to the ceiling. But one remedy we thought of was shortening the assembly dates by one day, so it would start from **August 10, 2011** [arrival and opening ceremony in the evening] and would end on **August 14, 2011** afternoon and the assembly delegates shall depart on **August 15, 2011** morning.

There were others we considered to lower the cost. Now, here are the fees for the assembly which are inclusive of the registration fee and lodging and meals at Indaba Hotel:

Quad	\$1,391.00
Triple	\$1,435.00
Double	\$1,525.00
Single	\$1,800.00



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You can now disseminate this information to your women who must have been waiting, but must have started saving for this big world event. You will find it, too, at our website very soon. So direct queries to our website.

Let us hold each other in prayer as we all work for the WA, a gigantic task, indeed.

MISSION NEWS

February

MISSION AND UNITY: EDINBURGH 1910-2010

The World Missionary Conference of 1910 was one of the earliest significant gathering of Christians from many different churches. They met to think strategically about the world-wide mission of the Church. Concerns about Christian unity were raised, and paved the way for ecumenical cooperation. In 2010 Christian churches are challenged by secularisation, the communications revolution and inter-religious relations. These issues must be addressed as Christians work together to share news of the love of God and to witness to Christ in defending the poor, struggling for justice and reconciliation, and protecting the planet. A world still wounded by division needs a gospel message that can bring people together. The 2010 Mission and Unity Conference to be held in Auckland in June is a response to that call for a commitment to unity in the cause of mission.

NEWS FROM THE SOLOMONS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The February Mission & Ecumenical Newsletter gives updates on: the earthquake in the Solomons, the Children and Youth Centre, Helena Goldie and Sasamunga hospitals; the Copra Project; Goldie College; and a March visit to the Solomons by NZ Methodist Vice President Lana Lazarus. The death of Ivy Bui Vagipo is noted. There is news from Rarongo Theological College, the Ministry and Leadership training Centre in Bougainville, and the 50th anniversary celebrations of the PNG Highlands Nipa mission begun by Rev Cliff Keightley.

March

PACIFIC CHURCHES FEEL BETRAYED BY CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Rev Tofiga Falani, president of the Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (Christian Church of Tuvalu) shares his country's worries about the threat of rising sea levels to the tiny island nation, whose highest point is only 4.5 metres above sea level. Added to this concern is the fear of drought. If the regular afternoon tropical downpour fails to arrive for a few weeks the whole population faces a crisis in the supply of drinking water. Rev Falani was a member of the World Council of Churches delegation to Copenhagen, where he felt betrayed by the indifference of the conference. But he won't give up: "We are still shouting for the world to hear us. We pray that other voices will join us."



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ORTHODOX LEADER CALLS FOR CHURCH UNITY

There are some among the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians who are bitterly opposed to the ecumenical movement. The Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomeus I, a key Orthodox leader, counters that opposition with a Lenten encyclical - a letter read in Orthodox churches worldwide on 21 February 2010. "Orthodoxy is called to dialogue with the outside world in order to provide a witness. We must first converse as Christians among ourselves, in order to resolve our differences, so that our witness to the outside world may be credible", urges Bartholomeos. He says if the Orthodox Church is enclosed within itself and not in dialogue with those outside, it will fail in its mission and become a ghetto on the margins of history.

NZ SOLOMONS RELATIONSHIP

The New Zealand Foreign Affairs minister Murray McCully visited Nusa Roviana near Munda in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands on 18 February to open a New Zealand funded primary school. A local Member of Parliament, Aquila Talasasa, told the minister that the relationship between New Zealand and Munda started during the missionary days. "The relationship between New Zealand and this part of the Western Province was initially established in 1902 when the first Methodist missionaries arrived on these islands," Mr Talasasa said. Mr Talasasa thanked the New Zealand government, NGOs, and the churches for their support to help develop their society.

Tributes to our beloved ones who have passed on

We take this time to acknowledge the loss of our beloved ones from far and near and that our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have to adjust their lives without their loved ones.

The National Executive acknowledge those we have been notified with a letter of thoughts and prayers to the bereaved families and knowing that we as members of the NZMWF have them in our prayers during this difficult time.

For those families we have missed please know that prayers are also mentioned for all our unsung matriarch's that we have not been able to acknowledge.

May you have a truly meaningful celebration of Lent.
Happy EASTER!

Apology for the lateness of this edition of the President's Letter:

Apology for the delay in this Presidents Letter not been sent out earlier due to circumstances beyond control have only been able to send out this month.





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