

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Jan / Feb / Mar 2012  
Issue 5

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Firstly I give all Praise and Honour to our Heavenly Father for bringing us to a new year. 2012 is proving to be quite a year for many of us and I look forward to the challenges and blessings that lie ahead. Since I last wrote we have experienced both sadness and joy. We remember loved ones who have passed, as well as joyous moments and special times with family and friends. I want to also acknowledge the Canterbury Districts as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2012 marked the passing of one year since the earthquake. Later in my letter I will also share some of the memories I have from my recent District visit to Canterbury. I pray all is well both in your local fellowships and District – I look forward to sharing with you about various events from the last quarter.

One of the unfortunate events since I last wrote you, was the passing of our beloved **Rev Judith Parkes**. She was indeed a very special person to us all and was instrumental in my growth within the life of NZMWF. We farewell Judith and thank her for the love, dedication and commitment she gave to the Womens Fellowship. Words cannot express the sadness we feel and also the difference she has made in many lives especially mine. We love you Judith – you will be remembered always for your great personality and faith. Our love and thoughts continue to be with Basil and the family and also the Blenheim local MWF and Nelson Marlborough District.



## District visits

**Wanganui/Manawatu:** Fetalaiga and I had a lovely time in Wanganui. Lottie and her great team along with Rev Tony Bell welcomed us with open arms to the River City. Members travelled from as far as Marton to join us at our Rally. Whilst it was sad to hear of two local fellowships going in to recess, it was great that many of them were still able to join us for the Rally.

**Nelson Marlborough:** Thank you to the Nelson Marlborough fellowship for our wonderful gathering. Siniva and I had the privilege of meeting with many of the NZMWF life members both in Nelson and Blenheim. It was an enriching experience as I heard many stories about NZMWF history including stories about the triumphs many of our members have achieved. One in particular was from Beryl Paine who served on three national executives. She shared about how she fought to keep the Smethurst Fund under the stewardship of the NZMWF, which I am truly thankful for as this has benefited so many women in furthering their education.

The Rally day was held in Murchison - what a blessed day! The rally started with a moving service led by Rev Ian Broddy where we remembered the life of Rev Judith Parkes and other members who had passed on since the last gathering, followed by Holy Communion. An auction was held to help raise funds for the Sasamunga Solar generator, there was something for all to enjoy. Thank you to Barbara Watson and the Executive, not forgetting also the local executives from various MWF for a wonderful time. Thank you especially to the Kane and Wright families for the Nelson homes and Frances Litchfield in Blenheim. Thank you also to Bruce and Bethley for the tour. God bless.

**North Canterbury:** It was wonderful to visit the Garden City again this year. Fetalaiga and I were honoured to be able to visit so many MWF members including time at the WesleyCare Resthome in Christchurch where again we were blessed with many stories from yesteryear which will no doubt help us into the future. While driving through the city, we saw first hand the devastation caused by the earthquake however this has not dampened the spirits of our members who were out in force at our Rally held in Dunsandel. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. Thank you so much to Ruth LeCouter, the executive and entire district for your loving care and hospitality.

**South Canterbury:** From Christchurch we travelled for an hour on SH1 southbound to Ashburton where we were well hosted by Betty Watson and her wonderful team. We took the opportunity to meet with many members who are now resident in rest home care – it is so important to stay connected with our elderly members. Our Rally was held in Temuka and was a great time had by all. (I am sure also the district members were happy to hear of my “connection” to this area – as my husband had played a season for the Mid Canterbury Representative Rugby Team a few years ago!). While in Ashburton, Fetalaiga and I were also blessed with the opportunity to have dinner together with Rev. John and Ruth Bilverstone and Rev. Tevita and Moeia Taufalele. Thank you all for taking such good care of us.



Nelson MWF group



Blenheim MWF group



Rally in Murchison



North Canterbury



South Canterbury



WesleyCare Resthome Christchurch

**World Day Prayer:** This year’s theme was “Let Justice Prevail” and was dedicated to the women of Malaysia. I was in Samoa during this time working on a water project for one of the rural villages so decided to join the local church for this important service – which was truly moving and a blessing to raise funds for this cause. I trust you had a blessed World Prayer Day and thank you for your contributions for our Malaysian sisters. I would like to acknowledge Jackie Langdale-Hunt who has retired from the committee – thank you for your service to the WDP committee, we appreciate your time and effort as one of the NZMWF representatives on the board. We wish Roz Wilkie the very best as she takes up this role.

**Methodist Mission & Ecumenical:** Recently we circulated the MME bulletin regarding Sasamunga Hospital’s request for a solar power generator. I am aware that a number of Districts are fundraising towards this cause so thank you for your generosity and love.

**Remits:** The due date for submitting remits and recommendations is the end of April. Please email/send your remits/recommendations to the National Secretary so they can be distributed to MWF members to discuss before Convention.

**Financial Year:** A friendly reminder that our financial year now ends 30<sup>th</sup> June. Please ensure that Special Project funds and membership fees are submitted before the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Thank you for all that we have received to date.

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**Convention:** We are delighted to inform you that Convention 2012 will be held in New Plymouth at Francis Douglas Memorial College from the 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October. Registration forms have been uploaded on the church website – we look forward to seeing you here!

## PRAYER REQUEST

I would like to respectfully ask that we continue to uphold our members in prayer, especially those who are still unwell such as Margaret Gordon and local members and families.

On a more personal note, it has been a wonderful blessing for me and my family to have my Grandmother (Mataiva Paniolo, 82yrs) with us for the last couple of months visiting from Australia. She hasn't been well these past few weeks but we thank our Almighty Father for His healing hands as she recovers from surgery. My time with her is so special which I treasure just as I do my time with all our elderly NZMWF members. I would like to encourage all members and fellowships to visit our beloved sisters and mothers as often as you can as they look forward to these moments. I have been enriched with history and life experiences by our long serving members and feel a lot of gratitude towards each one as they have imparted knowledge and wisdom upon me to help me with my journey. Many of them have also served on National Executives over the years. Our prayer is that our loving God continues to uphold all of our members who are in rest home and village care.



The National Executive wish you all the very best as we all embark on another journey this year. We hope you are all geared for another eventful year.

May the power of our Almighty Creator surround you as you go about your work this next quarter and throughout this year. Christ is our source of inspiration and the reason we celebrate a new life. We will be heading into the Holy Week soon, remembering His crucifixion and resurrection **“It is no longer I that liveth, but Christ who liveth in me”**. He signed the new covenant with His blood so that we may experience a new life in Him - may He forever be glorified.

May God bless you all and keep you safe until I write again.  
With love and prayers,

**Mataiva Robertson**