



NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

"We Are God's Hands, Reach Out"

President's Letter

January, 2015

Dear Sisters and Friends in Christ,

From the beautiful cool breeze of sunny Hawkes Bay, I just want to say Kia Ora, Talofa Lava, Bula Vinaka, Malo e Lelei and Warm Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Welcome to this New Year 2015, we have made a safe transition from the busy 2014 to 2015, all because of our good Lord's leading grace and guidance.

I believe that we have all had a restful and refreshing time to recharge our physical, psychological and spiritual batteries ready for another year. A time of reflection and sharing with families and friends as we celebrated the birthday of the Christmas baby, our Saviour Jesus Christ. In the busyness of the festive season and its celebrations, I am aware that there has been anxiety, sadness and hurt due to ill health and so many other different reasons but mainly due to the loss of loved ones, and loss of so many innocent people through violence as we often witness on television, we remember them in our prayers. We especially express our love and prayers to Rev John and Diana Roberts and their family on the passing of their beloved daughter Helen Powell, this week. As the bible says, *"Nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow, not even the power of hell can separate us from God's love."* God is the only source of our strength.

We are in the time of new beginnings, a time of contemplating God's Will for us, so we can plan, and journey through with Him. So we can be equipped, enriched and empowered to serve His people in this world, guided by His grace.

It is also a new beginning for some of our Presbyters and their families who are being stationed to new parish families and communities to start their new ministry, as well as those who are in new appointments within the MCNZ and those who are retired. We remember them all in our prayers as they serve our Lord in new parishes.

Past, Present and Future Events:-

Since Convention Marie Smith our past President and I represented NZMWF at the Methodist Church of New Zealand 2014 Conference. Marie presented our NZMWF report and introduced the new president of NZMWF to the Conference and it was well received. Your

ongoing support and contribution to the MCNZ Mission & Ecumenical Outreach work through Special Projects was acknowledged by Rev Prince Devanandan, Secretary of Methodist Mission & Ecumenical. Letters of thanks and appreciation of your great contributions were received from the recipient groups and these are attached for you. Well done, thank you for being God's hands, reaching out to bless others and may the glory be to God.

During conference Marie Smith, Rosa Faafuata and myself were able to have a short meeting with Peter Van Hout from the Church Administration office who informed us of the changes to Charities Commission regulations and how these new changes will affect our Fellowships. Peter Van Hout will be attending our March Executive meeting to talk about these new changes and what we need to do to be compliant with the changes. We will keep you informed after that meeting.

Things that you need to know for forward planning:-

- ***National Council meeting will be held in Hastings, Hawkes Bay on Friday 11th to Sunday 13th of September, 2015. Registration at 2.00pm on Friday and finishes at 2.00pm on Sunday. This is for you to do early and cheaper travel arrangements. I would really like to have everyone present at the beginning and the closing of our National Council meeting, please keep this in mind when you do your bookings. Registration and other details will be sent through in our next newsletter.***
- ***The 13th World Assembly will be held in Houston, Texas on the 29th of August – 4th September, 2016. I will keep you informed when I receive more information and the Executive will work on putting together a travel package to help cut costs. But its time for you to plan and start saving into your Piggy bank.***
- ***Nominations for NZMWF President: I encourage our Fellowships to start thinking about who you can approach to nominate for our next NZMWF President. The nominees must give their approval to be nominated and their profiles must be submitted to the National Executive by the 31st of July, 2015.***
- ***Remits: Please forward any District remit/recommendations to the National Executive by the end of May 2015 so that they can be circulated to all Districts for discussions before National Council in September.***
- ***President's visits:- Thank you to those Districts who have sent the invitations for the President's visits so we can do forward planning for this year. We look forward to hearing from other Districts.***

- **World Day of Prayer:** *Is on Friday 6th of March, this is a much needed special prayer day to reach out to people, especially who are suffering from so many tragic events, violence, struggles and challenges of life and who are in need of God's Peace and healing Grace.*

The first three months have gone by since the new Executive have been in office, we are feeling our way through and I would like to say thank you so much for your love and your prayerful support for our new team. It is our prayer that our Provider continues to guide us down the path that can bring renewal and strength at times when we feel exhausted and when we face challenge after challenge of life. Let's plan with God so we can have a fruitful and blessed year, remembering that we are God's hands, so let's reach out to be a blessing to others.

Ia manuia/Blessings

Peace and Grace

Olive Amani Tanielu

NZMWF National President