



New Zealand Women's Fellowship

President's Letter – July/August/September 2010

Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Noa'ia e mauri, Ni sa bula vinaka, Namaste, Mabuhay, Top of the morning, Taloha ni, Namaskaram, Kiaorana, Sabah alkair, Tena koutou katoa, Warm Greetings to you mothers and sisters in Christ.

I hope you are all keeping well at this time of the spring season when new plants emerge, a sign of new life and new beginning. It is true that time is flying faster than I ever imagined. It is just like yesterday when we were commissioned at the National Convention in Hamilton, but now our team is winding down while the new one comes on board.

Now it is appropriate for me to have a very special welcome and greetings to Mataiva Robertson and her Executive members. I wish you all the best in leading our NZMWF for the next two years. May God guide you through out your new roles O outou mama na!!!

I am thankful to God for the privilege to be the National President, and even more thankful for having a team of committed ladies as Executive members. It has been an exciting, enriching, and challenging experience for us all. As we come to the end of our term in office, I wish to share with you a personal reflection on my experience of our journey as the National Executive 2008-2010.

I have also asked a number of questions in this reflection, hoping they might stimulate some thinking and conversations about the mission and the nature of the NZMWF in the future.

It is a privilege to have been immensely enriched and inspired by the lively faith and the undiminishing commitment of the women we have visited around the country. Visiting the Women's Fellowship Districts was a huge learning curve for me through meeting with different women and listening to them as they shared their stories with us. I have even learned new expressions from the senior generation of our NZMWF. In spite of the struggles we have noticed in many Districts like the significant decrease in membership and numbers of Women's Fellowships around the country, long distance to travel, aging membership, fewer women who could take up leadership roles and many others, the spirits of these women are still shining and their faith glow.

As women, how can we continue to provide support and pastoral care for these ladies? How can we improve the MWF networking and communication so that we can keep in touch? As a communal person myself, I felt a sense of isolation from many of the ladies I have visited. By our very nature as Methodists, we are a Family and a Connexional Church, and we must be more caring and communicating with our own members. I believe we need to reconsider how we organize National Executive visits in future.

As a new comer, I am extremely appreciative of the work of the past Presidents, Executive members, and all members of the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship who, in the faces of many changes and struggles, have kept alive the spirit of the Women's Fellowship Mission. The success of the mission of the NZMWF surely cannot be measured against the decrease of its membership and the numbers of Fellowships. It can only be measured by considering the scope and the nature of its tasks and projects year after year, and the wide range of people, churches and organizations, both local and overseas, who have been recipients of the NZMWF mission. How can we continue to carry forward the excellent mission of the NZMWF in a more effective way?

While I sadly but understandably acknowledge the diminishing membership and local women's fellowships amongst the Pakeha Parishes and Districts, I am also hopeful that our



New Zealand Women's Fellowship

younger Pacific sisters will build on the solid work of our elderly sisters, and continue to fan the flame of the Mission of the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship.

How can we help resourced and equipped the Pacific young women to take up leadership and continue to carry the NZMWF flag? How can Pacific young women capture the spirit and the missional nature of the Women's Fellowship tasks? Should we need to reconsider the structure and form of the NZMWF relevant to this age?

I am very grateful to the Methodist Church of New Zealand for the opportunity for service and leadership. This has given me new horizons, challenges, being exposed to new fields, and to get to know other women leaders in some of the Non-Government Women Organizations, and ecumenical experience. I would challenge the Pacific women future NZMWF leaders to get involved with such organizations as the Pacific Women Watch (PWW), National Council of Women NZ (NCWNZ), Pacifica, Oxfam, Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) and many others. I would also encourage ecumenical involvement with other Churches' women organization such as the Association of Presbyterian Women (APW).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the NZMWF and all others in the Connexion who have helped us during our term in office. Your love, prayer and assistance in many ways have enabled us to fulfil our Executive responsibilities.

I would also like to thank all members of my Executive for all the hard work, thoughts, expertise, and their commitment to our calling to serve the Methodist Church of New Zealand through the work of the Women's Fellowship. We have achieved our tasks because you have worked hard individually and together. I believe God has rekindled your spiritual fire and you have used it accordingly to serve His purpose. I pray that our loving God will continue to bless each one of you abundantly.

“The best of all God is with us” – John Wesley.

Shalom, Soifua ma ia manuia,
Kakasia Vaotane Unasa Samoa Saleupolu

So What's Happening

Prayers and thoughts to our sisters in Christ in the Canterbury / Christchurch Districts

Christchurch features some of most impressive landmarks and monuments in Canterbury and throughout the South Island of New Zealand. Many of these important Christchurch landmarks date back to the 19th century and are extremely well preserved, with many original features. Also, a number of Christchurch's most impressive landmarks and monuments are fairly recent, such as Christchurch Town Hall in the city centre, which was built in the 1970s.

Rich in heritage, Christchurch contains many magnificent landmarks and monuments, such as Cathedral Square, Victoria Square, Christchurch Pier, and the Avon River, which winds through Christchurch city centre.

This is how we remember your beautiful city best and I know for many who experienced the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck their livelihood has left some without homes and I know that for the NZMWF prayers and thoughts is all we can give as we ask the Lord to help you all through this troublesome time.



New Zealand Women's Fellowship

NZMWF Convention 2010

Theme: *Rekindle the Spiritual Fire within the NZMWF to make a Difference*
Dates: Thursday 30th September to Sunday 3rd October 2010
Venue: Willow Park Convention Centre

Keynote Speaker for NZMWF Convention Our World President for WFMUCW Dr Chita Rebolledo Millan all the way from the Philippines wishing you a safe trip here and also an enjoyable stay while here in New Zealand.

The Programme Committee will officially finish their roles at this year's Convention with a special tribute to all those whom have contributed in anyway will be acknowledged in an act of worship and thanksgiving with a special service "Seeds of Thanksgiving" this will be presented by Rev Gloria Zanders, Margaret Birtles and Catherine Dickie.

APW/MWF Special Project launch for 2010-2011 the theme is "Building Holistically for the future." – The overseas portion is supporting Haiti through Act Alliance and Habitat for Humanity in New Zealand.

Induction of Mataiva Robertson and her National Executive – Sunday's service will see us welcome Mataiva and her Executive to take the reins to lead our NZMWF for the next 2 years wishing her well we will also have the Samoan Synod choir to sing at our service in support of Mataiva Robertson and this choir will be lead by Superintendent Rev Tovia Aumua, Director Pasifika Ministries TEO Rev Aso Samoa Saleupolu and 100 members of the synod.

WFMUCW ASSEMBLY 2011

Dates: 10th August to 15th August 2011

Where: Johannesburg, South Africa

Fees: (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

(Currency in USD)

Any queries go to website: - www.wfmucw.org

Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship

On the 31st July 2010 was the deadline for Helen Kim Scholarship and we were fortunate enough to be able to send through 5 from New Zealand Unit, so wishing our young ladies all the best in that we be blessed with another up in coming leader for our Unit.

MISSION NEWS

July

Stumbling blocks and stepping stones "Take your stumbling-blocks, and turn them into stepping-stones." This was the well-known personal byword of Christian statesman and Nobel Peace Prize laureate John R. Mott (1865-1955). Mott, a Methodist layman from the United States, was a key organiser of the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910.



New Zealand Women's Fellowship

Mutual acceptance and appreciation On Sunday 6 June, after the end of a three-hour closing celebration in the Church of Scotland's Assembly Hall, where the historic 1910 gathering took place, four panelists who were involved in the 2010 conference shared their opinions of conference outcomes as well as questions they have been left to ponder.

The end and the beginning Encouragement to exercise loving hospitality towards others and humility in Christian outreach formed the refrain of Edinburgh 2010's closing celebration, which was attended by more than a thousand worshippers gathered at the same venue as the 1910 groundbreaking World Missionary Conference.

August

Mission and Unity Conference One hundred people from around New Zealand attended the Mission and Unity Conference held through two days in mid-June at St John's Theological College in Meadowbank. The coincidental number of participants, representing a range of denominations, was a reminder that conference members were gathering to recognise, consider and celebrate 100 years since a great World Missionary Conference was held in Edinburgh.

Reflecting on the past In his opening address, the Rev. Dr Allan Davidson placed the Edinburgh Conference in its historical context, and with broad brushstrokes created an interpretation of the world-changing events that had shaped the twentieth century in relation to Christianity.

Reflecting on the present and the future The first of two panel discussions followed, chaired by the Rev. Uesifili Unasa. Filipo Motulano, the Rev. Maua Sola, and Joan Alleluia Filemoni-Tofaeono spoke on the questions of mission in their own particular and diverse contexts and the challenges facing their cultural communities, including that of working ecumenically from a Pacific migrant perspective. This panel produced considerable discussion and feed-back. The second panel, facilitated by the Rev. Dr Stuart Vogel, included Kukiko Wakui Khaw, the Rev. Cheng Cheen Khaw and the Rev. James Lee, and addressed similar issues from Asian migrant perspectives.

September

Religious leaders commit to action on HIV and AIDS In the middle of thousands of researchers and activists from around the world, religious leaders gathered in Vienna in July to reaffirm their pledge to fight stigma and discrimination, promote effective prevention and ensure quality treatment and care for those living with HIV and AIDS.

Churches Week of Action on Food It is now time to start reflecting and preparing for activities for the Churches Week of Action on Food from 10-17 October. During the Week thousands of people, churches and communities around the world will participate in a movement calling for change in the way food is grown, sold, distributed and shared.

Queuing for water and sanitation While Guinness World Records still needs to officially verify the results, the organisers of the World's Longest Toilet Queue are already celebrating a new World Record: The goal of the event was to demand real change and commitment from the world's politicians to solve the global sanitation crisis. The lack of access to clean water and basic sanitation is the main reason why many children die every day from preventable water-related illnesses such as diarrhoea, typhoid, cholera and dysentery.



New Zealand Women's Fellowship

Young Jews, Christians and Muslims as peace facilitators Participating in the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland month-long summer course called "Building an Interfaith Community" the 32 participants from 20 countries forged a sense of community out of their religious diversity. A new dimension to the July course for 2010 included exploring "how to overcome conflict and restore good relations".

Final words from your NZMWF National Executive 2008 – 2010

"It is a privilege to have been immensely enriched and inspired by the lively faith and the un-diminishing commitment of the women we have visited around the country" **Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu – President**

"Thank you to the entire Local and District treasurers of our Fellowship, for the diligent work you provide voluntarily, it is much appreciated" **Leu Pupulu – National Treasurer**

"I was stunned by the generous distributions of MWF members towards our Mission work and for that I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all" **Rosa Fa'afuata - Vice President/Mission**

"Life is a journey and like all journeys, they begin at a certain point and end at a certain spot" **Leungseu A Faleatua – WFMUCW**

"I have enjoyed all the correspondence through e-mail, letters and phone calls. It has been a great honour to serve you all through this role" **Rev Suivaia Te'o – Vice President/Chaplain/Liaison Link**

"It was an exciting experience when we visited the life members of the Women's Fellowship in Rest Homes and in their own homes" **Olive A Tanielu - Programme/Diaconate Link/Uniting Congregations**

"This role has been a great learning experience not only about NZMWF but it has also given me the opportunity to learn more about the Methodist Church of New Zealand." **Matila Muliaina - Minute Secretary**

"As a member of the Manukau branch it never ceases to amaze me how much time and energy the Branch members volunteer for different projects" **Lila Tu'i – National Council of Women**

"The people I have met face to face, spoken with over the phone, correspondence by letter or converse via email has been just overwhelming." **Tui Salevao - National Secretary**

"Thank God for technology some would say, but really we can't forget the magic of what we young ones call snail mail these days" **Lautalie Aumua – Distributing Secretary**



New Zealand Women's Fellowship

Words cannot express the gratitude we as your Outgoing National Executive 2008-2010 for all your support throughout our 2 year term and that during our term we have made friends with many people and hope that we will continue this new relationship formed and hope we meet you in the years to come.

So we bid you farewell and if you see us don't be strangers to us and that goes to us to you all.....Alofaaga mo outou uma

Your Servants in Christ signing out in our

Last Presidents Letter

President: Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu, 24 Redoubt Road, Goodwood Heights,
Manukau 2105, Phone (09) 263 4484 email vaotane@slingshot.co.nz

Treasurer: Leu Pupulu: 23 Solent Street, Mangere, Manukau 2022
Phone (09) 275 4757 email leupupulu@mangeremethodist.org.nz

Minute Secretary: Matila Foepapa-Muliaina: Unit 32 Peverill Cres, Papatoetoe, Mnk 2025
Phone (09) 279 9447 email anne.muliaina@wpi-international.co.nz

National Secretary: Tui Salevao: 22 Awatere Street, Flat Bush, Manukau 2023
Phone (09) 917 7561 email tui.salevao001@msd.govt.nz
