



The Methodist Church of New Zealand  
Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa

## New Zealand Women's Fellowship

### President's Letter – July / August / September 2009

Talofa lava, Tena koutou, Malo e lelei, Ni sa bula vinaka, Noa 'ia e mauri, Guten morgen, Namaskaram, Kamusta, Sabah-Al-Khair, Mangwanani akanaka, Taloha ni, Top of the morning and  
Warm greetings to all dear mothers, sisters and friends in Christ and others yet to be in this fold.

Well!! Spring is here new buds and new flowers are emerging out with their own natural colours, scents and fragrance. How beautiful! How sweet! How great the things He has done!!! It is with thankful hearts to our loving God, for guiding and keeping us safe through a cold winter season. It is well! It is well! It is well with our Lord. I hope we may all feel renewed in experiencing this new season that waken us from spiritual hibernation and to entice us to venture out of our cave of disillusionment and discouragement. Yes, there is hope and courage when we feel the warmth of our God's embrace that rekindles the spiritual fire within us, women of faith with passion to serve our Lord's mission.

The National Executive sisters and I are looking forward to meeting with you at the National Council in early October. It is one of important events in the life of our NZMWF, when representatives from various Districts and different Committees gathered to share, discuss issues and make decisions on behalf of our women. I pray that our loving Father will protect and guide those who travel from near and far. For our sisters who cannot attend, may God's love surround them and still be with us in spirit.

#### **The theme for NZMWF National Council 2009:**

*"REKINDLE THE SPIRITUAL FIRE WITHIN NEW ZEALAND  
METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"*

#### **Sympathy**

We remember with love and gratitude the loss of our faithful past National Executive members who have dedicated their lives, their God-given gifts and their precious time to serve our God through the ministry of the Methodist Women's Fellowship. We pay our tribute and honour the memory of those who have died during the year: Ruth Overland Dolejs and Jean Mary Waugh of Nelson/Marlborough; Dawn Wright of Manawatu / Wanganui; Irene Girven of Wellington and Audrey Leadley of South Canterbury. We also remember with deep sympathy the Tongan people who lost their lives in the Princess Ashika tragedy and all our loved ones who have departed this world. May God's comforting Spirit abide with their families and friends. Our Lord assured us that he would be with us till the end of time. God is faithful and he will never leave us alone.

**Arohanui, Vaotane Unasa Samoa Saleupolu**

\*\*\*\*\***What's happening out there**\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Thoughts to our Tongan Community:-**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009 news rocked the Pacific & the world after hearing the sinking of Princess Ashika in Tonga, so thoughts and our prayers can only be extended to our brothers and sisters of the Tongan Community and pray that they receive some closure and stay firm in their belief in the Lord who will comfort them during this hard period of mourning for those that seek an end to this nightmare.

A letter was sent on behalf of the NZMWF to the Superintendent of Vahefonua Tonga o Aotearoa Rev Setaita Kinahoi Veikune and also the President of the Tongan NZMWF District to give our support and prayers to them and the Tongan Community.

We have received a letter from Rev Setaita Kinahoi Veikune to thank the NZMWF for the heartfelt letter that was sent and the words will provide comfort and strength for the Tongan Community.



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### **Thoughts to our Fijian Community:-**

We can only offer support and prayers to our Fijian brothers and sisters as we hear of the accusations that have been thrown at our Fijian Ministers back in Fiji and under scrutiny by the Bainimarama Regime we can only hope that the Lord will comfort them during this unsettled period they are in at this point in time.

Charles Wesley, the great Methodist hymn writer, may have penned his famous words "O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer praise" almost 270 years ago, but it seems just singing these words today in strife-torn Fiji could destabilise a whole government. The military government of interim prime minister Commodore Frank Bainimarama has agitated the normally harmonious voice of Fijian Methodists by attempting to stop the church's conference from taking place in late August. **(extracted from the Ecumenical Aug, 2009)**

### **Church youth activity in the Solomon Islands**

In June the United Church in the Solomon Islands held a week long celebration to mark 50 years of youth work, with the theme "lumi tugetha buildim iang pipol for Christ" (Together we build young people for Christ). **(extracted from the Ecumenical Aug, 2009)**

### **HIV and AIDS: fighting diseases of the human spirit**

Faith and civil society groups campaigning on HIV and AIDS have urged United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to step up efforts to combat discrimination and criminalisation of HIV and AIDS sufferers.

### **Mission project updates (extracted from September Ecumenical)**

#### **United Church Solomon Islands**

Construction of the **Children's and Youth Centre** at Munda, funded by Mission and Ecumenical, is expected to be completed by October with an official opening in December.

**Copra Project** at Vonunu on Vella Lavella Island has been affected by the world economic recession which has led to a downturn in the international copra market. We have agreed to provide some additional financial assistance to help the project ride out the recession.

**Helena Goldie Hospital** has taken several cost cutting measures in 2009 due to a reduction in Solomon Island Government funding brought about by the world economic recession.

**Helena Goldie College of Nursing** will replace the former Nurse Aide Training School at the beginning of 2010. The Davinia Taylor memorial building, funded by Mission and Ecumenical will provide the teaching base for the new college of nursing.

#### **United Church Papua New Guinea**

**Rarongo Theological College** has received sixteen cartons of donated biblical and theological books sent by Mission and Ecumenical. Further new book purchases have been made. Scholarships for four new students have been provided.

**Bougainville region** is to establish a Leadership and Ministry Training College this year and is to send a proposal for Mission and Ecumenical's financial support.

**Mission anniversary** takes place in December 2009. In December 1959, New Zealand Methodist missionary Rev Cliff Keightley journeyed into the Nipa Valley in the Papua New Guinea Highlands to begin a new mission. Cliff went on to become chairman of the Highlands District and in 1965 moved to the district headquarters in Mendi, leaving behind a growing church. Some family members will be attending anniversary celebrations.

### **Building an interfaith community**

Religious diversity is an unavoidable reality today – and an opportunity, according to the participants of an interfaith seminar held in July at the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Institute at Bossey outside Geneva, Switzerland. The three-week course, which had the theme "Building an Interfaith Community", was attended by young Christians, Jews and Muslims from all over the world.



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### **Tributes to our beloved ones who we can only acknowledge for their commitment with NZMWF –**

We can only pay tribute to our loved ones in the last few months to our ladies who showed commitment to the NZMWF not only within their Districts but to the NZMWF and we have can only pray for their families and offer our condolences in the passing of their loved ones and we acknowledge these wonderful ladies in Nan Farrant in Christchurch, Audrey Leadley from South Canterbury, Floss Dawson from Christchurch. Those that have known these remarkable ladies will cherish forever in their hearts the wonderful things these women did to impact their lives. Blessings to the families and May they find comfort in our Lord to seek comfort.

### **Acknowledgement of thanks from**

#### **The family of the Late Nan Farrant**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> July we sent a letter of condolences to the family of Nan Farrant in hearing of her passing we received a card of thanks from her family for the offer of support and prayers during her passing.

#### **Rev Tau & Alisa Lasi and family**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August we sent a letter of condolences to Rev Tau Lasi and his family in the recent death of his father Manutuila Lasi in Samoa and he has sent a letter of thanks to the President and NZMWF for the words of comfort that was given to him and his family during their time of sorrow.

#### **The family of the late Rev Owen Woodfield**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> September we sent a letter of condolences to the family of the late Rev Owen Woodfield and we have received a card of thanks for our prayers of support at the time of their father's death.



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