



Methodist Women's Fellowship



July 2017

Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Noa'ia e Mauri, Nisa bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kia Ora.
and warm greetings

Dear Friends,

I begin this newsletter with very sad news. Nelma Woodfield, our National President October 2004 – October 2006 died on June 19th. We remember her with deep gratitude for all she shared and we remember her family at this sad time.

To those who have taken on leadership roles since your annual general meeting we say thank you for being willing to accept your appointment and we wish you much joy and satisfaction. To everyone else, we ask that you be willing helpers with words of encouragement, eager helpfulness and prayerful support for all of your group members. May God richly bless you all as you begin another Fellowship year.

As President I am looking forward to our first official visit to the South Canterbury District on 17th July. The North Canterbury and South Canterbury Districts meet together regularly.

Philomena Petaia, our national secretary, is waiting for all District Statistic Forms, National Council Recommendations, Tributes and all registration forms.

Our Mission Contacts Una Tikoinaka and Ofa Giblin announce our new Special Projects: "Children are our Hope and our Future". Our NZ Project is Pillars existing to create positive futures for children of Prisoners supporting them to cope with parental imprisonment therefore breaking the cycle of intergenerational crime. Our Christian World Service Project is the South Uganda Centre for Community Solidarity assisting twenty five local associations of caregivers to HIV/Aids orphans. With new rain water tanks the lives of the children are transformed. They are clean, healthy, at school and have hope for a better future. The Project Packs will be available after our Council Meeting.

Roz Wilkie, our Liaison Link, is waiting for all Annual AGM reports to write her next Liaison Link sharing your news throughout the country.

As chosen people called to proclaim we challenge you again to share your faith at your meetings. This month we remember the twentieth anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa (1910 – 1997) who proclaimed "Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." She was born in Macedonia, trained in Ireland and taught at St Mary's Bengali Medium School in Calcutta, India. In 1946 on a train journey she received what she named the "call within a call". This led her to establish the Missionaries of Charity working alone at first then giving "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor" and in 1997 there were 600 foundations in 124 countries of the world. Her Missionaries of Charity continue to work with people dying of HIV/Aids, leprosy and tuberculosis, soup kitchens, dispensaries, mobile clinics, counselling for all age groups, orphanages and schools.

She was awarded the Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She was made a Saint in 2016.

We have five new Trinity College students beginning their studies at the end of this month. Please keep them in your prayers. Nicola Grundy has thanked us for the care and support given faithfully to our ministry students. It is very demanding training for ministry, while working full time, spending time with family and all the other activities students are expected to do. It is helpful for the students to know that they are in special relationships with the church and that people other than their home parishes are thinking, praying for them and supporting them. This is truly a connexional task and very important for the students. All districts will be challenged to support and care for one of our students which involves regular letters or emails and some financial support.

At our Hasting Convention our Missions team was asked to up-date all members on past Special Projects. This month I want to share news of Lauru Land Conference Womens' Programme in the Solomon Islands. In 1998 training courses were set up for crafts, gardening and the protection of land and possessions with two hundred participants a week and the leader was a secretary to the Cabinet and a mining advocate. There was a programme continuing without CWS funding. The work is on-going and there are still funds to be released now that there has been communication with the co-ordinator after difficulties within the parent body, challenges around illegal trespass, logging operations, sale of the land, court cases, changes in leadership, and the isolation of the Choiseul – Sasamuongu area. Today we can report more stable leadership and a long- term vision project is being prepared with a stronger focus on economic and broader empowerment, and the NZ Government will contribute as a Remote Communities Project. The held MWF APW funds will be critical to developing and implementing the new proposal. Trish Murray will be visiting the area soon.

Congratulations to Sina-i-faleu Pupulu who has been selected to attend an Asia Pacific Youth Exchange regional youth programme in Bangkok this month. The programme is sponsored partly by the United Nations and she will work on the Sustainable Development Goal 13 to ensure environment sustainability with her special interest - Climate Change. She was the administration assistant for her Mum Leu and Mataiva in Houston in August – September and in February attended the United Nations Commission of the Status of Women Seminar in New York. The theme was “Womens Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work”. She met with delegates from Samoa, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu discussing how to inform and educate our communities and encourage our young women to speak up. She also attended the National Action on Indigenous Women's Economic Empowerment with speakers from Australia, Canada and New Zealand and Intergenerational Leadership with panellists from Nigeria, Samoa, Tonga and Australia. We can collectively work together to find solutions! What a future we can look forward to with those young MWF members chosen to proclaim around the world on our behalf.

We are looking forward to welcoming some of you at Council Meeting, 8 September.

Keep warm, fit and well as we face our winter days. Thankyou for your support and encouragement. May our growing and proclaimed .faith bring us a sense of God's faith here and everywhere. Dianne Claughton grahamanddianne@xtra.co.nz