



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

June 2013

Dear Fellowship Friends Greetings to you all

"Each part...helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing" – Ephesians 4:16

Throughout the country our Fellowships have been supporting many people, projects and activities in various ways. Some have been learning experiences; others achieved happy and successful outcomes.

Thank you for all the work that you have put into promoting the Special Projects within your Fellowship meetings and your Congregations. Some have followed their usual pattern of sharing the information and fundraising. Others have ventured into new ways and been encouraged with the success of these.

Many of you will have had the thrill of recognising people shown in the power point presentation about The Ama Takiloa programme in Tonga. I am sure that the Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network Aotearoa New Zealand have made us aware of some of the difficulties that church buildings pose for people with disabilities. At Waikanae we do have ramps for access, so felt that our buildings were accessible. However we now realise that the ramps are quite steep and are not easy access for a person in a wheelchair, even more difficult for a self-propelled wheelchair.

Fellowship Annual meetings will be held soon. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in so many ways in co-ordinating the Local and District gatherings. Where possible do encourage others to undertake new tasks. Invite those who have recently retired or shifted into your area and mentoring is really important at this time. 30 June is the end of the financial year for all groups and banking the cheques directly into the appropriate account avoids late deposits or lost cheques.

A copy of the Annual Report and Financial Statement should be given to Leaders' Meeting or Parish Council. The District Report and Financial Statement should be given to the Synod.



In March I was pleased to attend at Wesley Church Wellington, the Inauguration Service for the Fijian & Rotuman Synod (Wasewase Ko Viti Kei Rotuma) which included the Establishment of the Fijian & Rotuman MWF District. Mrs Unaisi Tikoinaka is the President. A very moving and well attended occasion. I had the pleasure of speaking with Susau Strickland, a previous NZMWF President.

In April I was able to join the Mafutaga Tama'ita'i Sinoti Samoan District at their biennial meeting at Willow Park, Auckland. A very encouraging gathering and opportunity to meet and share.

Merrill Baker and I attended the Business Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand at St. John's Wellington. The Convenor is Lafulafu Ikenasio (PIC Newtown) and Deputy Convenor Leautuli Sauvau (Porirua).

Next year it will be Fifty years since the formation of the NZ Methodist Women's Fellowship. Have you got any written history of your Local Group/s or your District Council? Have there been any recorded interviews with your members, or those who have held leadership roles? Does your 'District Books' have this information? We would be pleased to have your comments. The Book 'Out of the Silence' was written by Ruth Fry. It would be good to have a sequel.

National Council of Women - NCW- Wherever possible try and have a representative go to the local meetings and receive a report from them. It is important that we are aware of the many issues that are discussed. If you do not have a contact and wish to receive information, let me know.

Nominations for Incoming NZMWF President 2014- 16 are required now. Recommendations for Council to consider need to be forward by 20June. The Council Meeting will be held at El Rancho, Waikanae 6-8 September.

*"Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him.
See that you go on growing in the Lord" Colossians 2.7*

Blessings to You All
Marie Smith