



NZMWF'S EXECUTIVE e-NEWSLETTER

THE NZMWF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY *E-NEWSLETTER*

IN THIS EDITION

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Proclaim life & hope

Dear NZ MWF Sisters

Grace and peace to you. I pray that you are well and more so, in good spirits, despite the uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

I have waited for a bit to write to you all this month, attempting to find the 'right words' to say to you all in light of the outbreak of the Covid19. To some extent, there are no words. For in a season of chaos and trauma, in a time of un-ease and disease, emotions are high, and responses varies, and yet, to not say anything is equally concerning. With the extent of the pandemic spreading worldwide and nationwide, I am confident that there are those among our MWF members who have been directly impacted - especially among the elders, and like many viruses, covid-19 affects the most vulnerable greatly. We have no precedent for its challenges, but we do know that our best response relies on the sort of sisterhood

empathy, cooperation, and community building that sit at the heart of our family, our faith, and our human interconnectedness and the responsibilities that we have to one another.

May I share with you the assurance of God's protection in Psalms 91, which offers words of comfort for any emotion we are experiencing in God's presence at this time. ³*For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;* ⁴*he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.* ⁵*You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,* ⁶*or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.* (Psalm 91: 3-6)

We have experienced lockdown for a few days, and we see and hear the news everywhere around the world how the epidemic spreads rapidly throughout the global communities. Some of the major responses to containment is lockdown and teleworking from home. For many that is a wise

option. However, as national news had reminded us, for some, home is not a very safe place. So, what then is our alternative as women who are called to proclaim life and hope in situations of brokenness where there are constraints that people faced.

In our current situation may I call us all to stand in unity as MWF members to:

- prayerfully consider the current situation and be alert to the implications of each option available to us
- to use relevant precautionary measures available to us, and as emphasise by Government and Ministry of Health – Stay home, Be Kind, and Save Lives
- to use the gift of slower-pace wisely and we can ask ourselves what some things are whether it be work or ministry related that needed to be minded but it does not have to be the same! Could this be the chance to re-focus or to re-group even. If so, consider this time and period as a gift, and not as a burden.
- to consider closer networking established to assist those who are impacted. This may be the opportunity to strengthen ties with, improve upon,

or establish a relationship with our MWF women group as ‘shelters of life and hope’ to understand how what exists may be improved. In some instances, this may require **virtual networking** to see how MWF networking may be encouraged.

We are proving that, even in a time of social distancing, we can celebrate our sisterhood bond by prayerfully coming together online to share our stories and information.

I pray God’s blessings and healing grace upon us all and I leave you with the following words from Prophet Isaiah –

Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

It is my hope and prayer that it comforts you as it has done for me through many difficult times.

Grace and Peace,
Stay Safe, Be Kind, and Save Lives

Siniva
National President



A PRAYER FOR GOD’S PROTECTION

PSALM 91

***You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD,
“My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”***

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,

No evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us to **live by faith and not by sight**. Apostle Paul addressed Corinthians on this important issue two thousand years ago. Today we lose faith with the Corona-virus Pandemic, and the world are in fear of the health outcome.

Medical researchers are on-going in many countries to find cure for this pandemic. Who are we listening to? Jesus in many of his teachings challenge us with 'ears to hear'. We need to realign our thoughts and hearing to listen to the voice of God who understands his plans for us, plans of good and not evil, to prosper and give us future.

God wants us to obey him and he will give us the guidance to all our needs and the desires of our hearts. When we get guidance from Him, then we will get this "life" stuff right and sorted too. We have been in many life's traumas because we tried to avoid the stillness-small-voice of God speaking to us through his Words. Let us not fall into the trap of not having "ears to hear". Those who obey what they already know of God have their ears opened to more; and those who have their ears open are readily obedient. Therefore, the life of a person with "faith" is a life of an obedience, and a life of obedience is a life of a person of faith.

The root of any problem is that we do not look up to God for an answer. When we lose our 'ears to hear' we tend to fall back on human wisdom. That is the time we never match our biblical heroes. Human wisdom would not have pushed Abraham up a hill to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Moses would not have led God's people to the edge of the Red Sea, with Pharaoh and his mighty army in pursuit.



Joshua and the Israelites would not have marched around Jericho seven times and blasted the trumpets for the wall to fall. Human wisdom would not have matched David and Goliath in the valley. Or even have had Christ died on the cross in order to save a wretched world. Women and Readers, it is entirely up to us to make our preference to live by human logic that results from losing our ears to hear. Or would we prefer the cutting-edge, risky-but-real life of a true, radical believer?

The Bible is full of their sweet stories. They Lived by faith, and not by sight.

God bless you All.
Rev Lute Pole
 Chaplain

NEWS: SOUTH PACIFIC AREA LEADER'S MEETING
FRIDAY 6TH TO 8TH MARCH 2020

Brief Introduction: Since the last Weaving Together meeting held in July 2018 at the last South Pacific Area Seminar in Fiji, the New Zealand Unit offer to host the South Pacific Area Leader's meeting. MWF at its Council meeting held last year, allocated some funds towards this SPA Leader's meeting. The implication of that provision made by the New Zealand Methodist Women Fellowship Unit made a huge difference in ensuring that this very important meeting of the South Pacific Area Leaders was undertaken for the first time, over the past decade.

From the time of the leader's arrival at the airport, to transport them to the accommodation, and hosting them throughout the duration of the weekend meeting and its programme, to the time the delegates depart Auckland - everything went as planned and as organised by the Local Arrangement Committee, which



South Pacific Area Leaders Meeting. Friday 6th – Sunday 8th March 2020. Auckland

happened to be the NZMWF Executive Committee. Then, the National Treasurer, Amelia Hoglund and President Siniva Vaitohi's being the LAC representatives for the weekend manage to continue with taking care of the group. The Holiday Inn was the venue for this meeting. All programme was held onsite. The SPA Leaders meeting was so special due to the presence of her Majesty, Queen Nanasipau'u of Tonga as the

Unit Leader and President of the Tongan Women Fellowship. This has never happened before and her presence uplifted the spirit of Pasifika women to a higher level and standard, especially in terms of the sharing, discussions, and all the thoughts and the deliberations undertaken over the weekend.

From the Meeting: There were 11 Full Members of the SPA Leaders meeting for 2020. The current SPA Office-holders – SPA President Joy Jino & Vice-President 'Ilaisaane Kapani Vaea, the SEVEN Pacific Nations Unit Leaders: (i) Tonga Unit Leader - Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u; (ii) Australia Unit Leader - National Chair United Church Adult Fellowship, Janet Woodland; (iii) Samoa Unit Leader - Fialelei Leti; (iv) Fiji Unit Leader - Rev Sainimere Degei; (v) United Church in the Solomon Islands Unit Leader - Audrey Ngumi; (vi) New Zealand Unit Leader – NZMWF, Siniva Vaitohi; (vii) Papua New Guinea Unit – Rev Gloria Gima Marke; as well as the Incoming President Elect Olive Amani Tanielu from NZMWF; and Vice-President Elect - Gloria Marke who is also the representative for PNG Unit.

Also present were few observers due to requests received from some leaders wishing to bring an observer, in their own expenses for the whole duration of the meeting, and President Joy Jino gave them the okay.

The programme included reports from all Units which was truly an amazing experience to hear the women's work undertaken around the Pacific - the challenges and the blessings, the positive stories and the needs. A Report was also received from the SPA President and Vice-President regarding their journey since the last SPA Seminar in Fiji.

Some important committee's deliberations were particularly on AREA MATTERS including:

- Nomination Process and Election Procedures for SPA Positions - President and Vice-President – for discussion at the 2023 SPA Seminar that will be held in the Solomon Islands.
- SPA Executives and how to finance the SPA positions. World Contributions and Area Contributions. Transitional Period and Handover of roles. Frequency of SPA Leaders meeting.
- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women - Membership Fees - World Officers on matter like membership fees & South Pacific Area Units Fees.
- WFMUCW Empowerment Grant for new initiatives. Application due in May 2020. One Application per Area. Completed Form to be sent to the Area President, for submission to the Finance Committee via World Secretary
- The 14th WORLD ASSEMBLY: 10 – 15 August 2021, Gothenburg, Sweden – for distribution to all Units. Helen Kim Scholarship (2 per Area); Bossey Scholarship; World Assembly Information: Open to all (self-sponsored), Unit leader's accommodation/food, Activity per Area – report/item (20 – 30 mins), Endorsement of incoming Area Leaders during World Assembly (Area Leaders handing over).
- With the SPA Report for the World Federation - The_Samoan Unit to prepare the cultural item for the World Federation and to share the information with the remaining of the 6 Units (on what to prepare and to bring!).



SPA President **Joy Jino** (middle front row) and the members of the South Pacific Area Unit Leaders.

- Nominations of World Leaders (2021 – 2026)
- South Pacific Area Seminar – 2023. Hosted by the Solomon Islands. Will be held on the second week of June 2023.
- Tree of Life News - downloaded from the World Federation website. Study Day Materials

The meeting was concluded with President Joy Jino thanking all involved, followed by a Holy Communion Service led by the two Reverends – Sainimere Degei & Gloria Marke.

President Joy Jino commented the success of the meeting in achieving the target goals for the weekend and for that, she was extremely happy, **and she extended her gratitude to the NZ Unit as follows ...**

“Finally, a huge vote of thanks to the host Unit, the NZ MWF and their President and Executive Committee, for all the organisations and the pre-planning that goes towards ensuring that all Unit Leaders are well looked after from the time of arrival, to hosting us in this beautiful venue as our accommodation, and I can assure you that we are well nourished here in this place. Your commitment to hosting this meeting had enabled this dream to occur. We have seen the need for the Unit Leaders to have an opportunity to meet and discuss our Area matters, which is very crucial for our SPA. Thank you so much NZ sisters for the financial support and your kindness in meeting the costs for hosting this very important meeting. You have started this good work for us Leaders, and we certainly hope that this meeting will continue as a practice for the SPA.”

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk



For this year’s World Day of Prayer, the South Pacific Area Leaders paused their meeting on Friday 6th March at 7pm so that they could attend the World Day of Prayer service held at the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga located on Favona Road, Mangere, Auckland. This WDP service was organised by the greater Auckland Tongan Women Inter-denomination Committee, under the leadership of the Auckland Manukau Tongan Methodist Women Fellowship. The women inter-religious community take turns in hosting the interdenominational WDP service every year. This year’s WDP service was hosted by the women of the Free Constitutional Church of Tonga. More than \$2,200 were collected during the offering for the Zimbabwe Women WDP 2020



Members of the South Pacific Area Leaders attending the World Day of Prayer Service, Friday 6th March 2020.



Photos from the World Day of Prayer service with proud supporters of the Zimbabwe costumers.

UN CSW64 – NEW YORK

Despite the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women being cancelled it's not stopping those PWANZ delegates, Pacific Women Watch and MWF delegates from engaging their time in NYC. **12th March News:** President MCNZ - Rev Setaita Kinahoi Veikune and President NZMWF Siniva Vaitohi attended a meeting with the Secretary of United Methodist Women, Harriet Olson to talk about the Women's global ministry, Women projects, and Women matters. Fellowship at its best!



Mr & Mrs Vaitohi, Secretary UMW Harriet Olson, Mr & Mrs Kinahoi Veikune



9th March News: Sadly, the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations this year was been cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. 16 delegates from New Zealand were in NYC. Anyway, the two of us met up to go to church for the Ecumenical Service at the **United Nations Church Centre** with **Rev Dionne Boissiere** and then we attend one of the **parallel events organised by the Salvation Army on Justice for Women and Girls.**



DISTRICT NEWS



**Let the Children Live:
Palestinian Women and Children, with CWS.
& The St John's Ambulance, NZ**

2020 SPECIAL PROJECT

**Palestinian Women & Children, with CWS
The St John's Ambulance, NZ**

**All donations and contributions towards the current Special Projects
are due in on the 30th June 2020 from All Districts.**

SMETHURST TRUST GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Smethurst Trust Grants Committee is looking at hosting an online meeting on the 7th April to discuss applications for this round.

The updated Committee members are now as follows:

Convenor - Dianne Cloughton Secretary - Valmai Horlor National Treasurer - Amelia Hoglund,
Two new members - Pat Reu and Lyn Frater National President - Siniva Vaitohi

WORLD FEDERATION COLUMN

YATRA 2020 APPLICATION – extended deadline

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alison Judd <world.president@wfmucw.org>

Date: Sat, 29 Feb 2020, 10:03 PM

Subject: Update to YATRA- extended deadline

To: All Officers <all.officers@wfmucw.org>

Dear Sisters,

Your World Secretary has received notification from World Council of Churches (WCC) that the deadline for applications to YATRA has been extended to the end of March. I first sent you details in an email on 22 January 2020. The course is now also open to young people from outside Asia and has been renamed Young Adults Training for Religious Amity. The next course will take place in Fiji 15 to 27 May 2020. The focus will be 'Youth in the Frontline of Transformation'.

Participants need to send in complete applications (forms are posted on WCC website) and fulfil criteria of age – 20 to 35 - and studies (completed bachelor or equivalent), and need an endorsement from their church or organisation (all is part of the application form). A staff team at WCC selects participants with specific regard to the applicants' motivation (expressed in the essay), and tries to establish a group with gender, regional and confessional balances.

If you know someone in your Area who would be a suitable candidate, please invite them to send all their completed forms and documents to the World Federation World Officers as soon as possible so that we can endorse their application.

See attachments to be forwarded for applicants.

Many thanks for your co-operation. It would be good to use this special opportunity if possible.

Blessings,

Alison Judd

World President, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

www.wfmucw.org

INFORMATION FOR THE 14th World Assembly - REGISTRATION

----- Forwarded message -----

From: WFMUCW Secretary <world.secretary@wfmucw.org>

Date: Thu, 12 Mar 2020, 9:06 PM

Subject: 14th World Assembly - REGISTRATION

To:

Cc: Alison Judd <world.president@wfmucw.org>, Matilda Johnson <memmeh58@gmail.com>, Ann Connan <amconnan@hotmail.com>, Leu Pupulu <world.treasurer@wfmucw.org>

Dear Sisters,

I pray that this email finds you all in good spirit despite the challenges many are facing due to the Corona virus. It is unfortunate that the UN CSW64 gathering was cancelled however given the devastating impact this has on many of our countries, we must take precautions. Please continue to uphold each other in prayer and stay safe. God bless!

As promised, please read on for the first update regarding the 14th World Assembly registration. **PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO YOUR UNITS**

14TH WORLD ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION

For the first time, the WFMUCW Assembly will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden. From the 10th – 15th August 2021, the 14th World Assembly for the WFMUCW will celebrate the diverse, vibrant and energetic women from

around the globe with a gathering that will showcase the diverse voices, thinkers and worship within our global faith tradition.

Mark your calendars today for this awesome event!

The theme for the 2021 Assembly is "Go and bear fruit – fruit that will last" John 15:16
The World Officers have presented two (2) registration options for the 14th World Assembly.

OPTION 1 Registration, meals and accommodation (six (6) nights).

- **SINGLE** USD \$ 1,930.00
- **TWIN** USD \$ 1,486.00
- **TRIPLE** USD \$ 1,366.00

OPTION 2 Registration and meals only (own accommodation).

- **USD \$ 856.00 per person**

**** Outings and airport transportation will be additional to the registration.**

More information will be shared on the website and upcoming Tree of Life publications. The official online registration will launch in **SEPTEMBER 2020** so watch this space!

If you have any questions, please contact me via email on world.secretary@wfmucw.org

Every blessing,

Mataiva D Robertson
WORLD SECRETARY
World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women
world.secretary@wfmucw.org
www.wfmucw.org

NOTE: PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Date	Events
21 - 23 Feb 2020	Tonga District Convention 2020 - Willow Park
6-8 March 2020	South Pacific Area Leader's meeting
9 – 20 th March 2020	UN Commissioning for Status of Women (CSW64)
Sat 28 March 2020	Wellington Area, (Waiwhetu Uniting Church) – cancelled due to Covid 19
Mon 6 th April 2020 (6 - 8pm)	NZMWF EXECUTIVE Meeting – Zoom Meeting due to Covid 19
7 th April 2020	Smethurst Meeting (Linwood Avenue Union Church, Christchurch) Zoom Meeting due to Covid 19
29 April—3 May 2020	UCAF National Celebration West Beach Parks Military Rd, West Beach, SA Ph: 8355 7323
Sunday 3 rd May 2020	Let the Children Live Program
Monday 4 th May 2020	NZMWF EXECUTIVE May Meeting

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**NZMWF'S EXECUTIVE
e-NEWSLETTER**

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If you have any news you would like to share, please feel free to contact the Missions and Media Link, Seini Taufa on seini@moanaresearch.co.nz