



## **NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

*"We Are God's Hands, Reach Out"*

**President's Letter**

**May, 2015**

Warm Greetings on this cold evening of early winter to all my sisters and friends in Christ,

For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten son to die for us, and we must sing His praises and glorify His name always, for Christ is Risen and yes He is RISEN indeed!!! And we are free if we choose to be.

We are now into the 5<sup>th</sup> month of the year and certainly the year is running away from us, and running out of time and energy to do things we want but fortunately God does not and will never run away from His beloved people. He never runs out of energy, nor patience or love for us all no matter who we are, and no matter what we do, whether we are good or bad. So we must always remember to glorify His Holy name for all He has done and continuing to do for us.

We are now in the challenging season of the year, but we are nowhere near the suffering that the people of Nepal and Vanuatu are going through as result of cyclones, typhoons, earthquakes and many more natural disasters. Many lives have been lost and many more with no shelter or food or water.

I ask our Methodist Women Fellowships to please remember them all in our prayers, and I would also like to encourage us all to support the appeal that has been launched through our church to help the people in Nepal and Vanuatu.

Last Sunday the Mother's Day service we were encouraged to pray for those who are victims of the earthquake, the helpers who are working tirelessly to help and support the thousands and thousands who are still suffering in body, mind and soul. Let us put our hands out by donating to the appeal so we may reach out to the people of Nepal who are so desperate for a single drink of water and a piece of bread.

Within our own Methodist Women Fellowship family we have lost some of our courageous members who had faithfully served the Lord through the New Zealand Women's Fellowship. We give thanks to God for their lives. One of those women was Edith Sealey who passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 and her funeral was held in Morrinsville, led by Catherine Dickie from Waikato/Thames Valley district.

Edith served as the National Treasurer twice, first on Elaine Deprose and then Mary West's National Executives. She was a lady of many talents and she made great use of those talents & gifts to serve her Lord through the community and NZMWF. Praise be to God.

My deepest sympathy and prayers to all our members, families and friends of those who have gone before us.

### **What's Up!**

#### **Past, Present and Future Events:-**

##### **Solomon Island 3<sup>rd</sup> National Assembly**

An invitation was received from the Solomon Islands Women Fellowship to their third National Assembly which will be held in Sasamonga on the 1<sup>st</sup> till the 8th of June 2015. All Presidents and Leaders of the South Pacific Women Fellowships have been invited. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend as the invitation came late and also I have had difficulties getting information from the Solomon Island leaders. I have sent my apologies as well as prayers and best wishes for their National Assembly on behalf of the NZMWF. I am aware that the President of the South Pacific Area, Lyn Scott will be attending, so we uphold her in our prayers that she may have safe travels while she shares her stories and times with our sisters in the Solomon Islands. They are expecting 3,000 plus women at the assembly.

##### **MCNZ representatives to YATRA:- Congratulations!!!**

The day of our April meeting we received some exciting news that the two younger members of our National Executive Committee, namely Ruta Faafuata and Tumema Faioso have been selected to represent the Methodist Church of New Zealand to the Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity (YATRA) in Cambodia in June this year for two weeks. We give thanks to our Almighty God for these great opportunities to "***Be His hands in foreign lands***".



Please remember Ruta and Tumema in your prayers as they prepare for this special mission. May they be encouraged, empowered, equipped and embraced by the Holy Spirit so they may reach out to those who are in need of God's grace.

**Presidential Visit with Sinoti Samoa Women's fellowship District:-**

I was invited by the Mafutaga Tamaitai Sinoti Samoa Women's Fellowship to their biannual fono (meeting) that was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015. Most of the National Executive were present on Saturday morning so they were introduced to the fono, it was a great opportunity for the members of the MTSSEMNS to put a face to a name. It was very encouraging to see more young women attend the fono and numbers have increased this year. The District had a full on programme of bible study, workshops, serious business, fun and laughter.

On Saturday night Vahefonua Women's Fellowship District leaders were special guests at the Sinoti Samoa Women's fellowship biannual fono. We had a great night of sharing God's love, had palagi style dinner then shared their cultures, entertainment through music, dancing, talents and gifts. It was well supported by most Presbyters of Sinoti Samoa and some men from Auckland and Manukau regions. It was a great honour to be part of these two cultural districts who came together to fellowship as part of their linked district in the last year. Oh how great and beautiful it is when people gather in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sinoti Samoa Women's Fellowship District executive committee members.



Ladies from the Vahefonua Women's Fellowship District at Sinoti Samoa gathering.



Young women of the Sinotoi Samoa Women's Fellowship District at their Biannual fono

**Coming Events:- Things to remember!**

1. ***Nominations for NZMWF President:-*** A gentle reminder that all nominations for National President must be received by the National Executive by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, with the consent of the nominee and with consultation with the District which she is a member. Nominees' profile must be received by the National Executive on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July please.
2. At our March meeting we met with Mr Peter Van Hout, Manager of the MCNZ finances department and ex President Marie Smith. He spoke about the new changes with Charities Service which affect our local fellowship as well as our Districts. This means that local Women's Fellowships will have to submit their annual finance statement at the end of the financial year to their Parish Treasurer so their finances will be included in the parish's annual finance review or audit, and the District to their Synod Treasurer.

- *He was also talking about going around parishes to do training on the Xero programme and also workshops on these new changes. I think it will be ideal if he could come and speak to the National Council in September so members of NC can ask questions and report back to their districts and local fellowship.*
3. *The Mission conveners have been working hard on our Special projects for 2015 – 2016, and we are in the process of putting together the packs. The Theme for this year Special project is :-**“Empower to Restore”***
- *The national project is the Young New Zealand Foundation **GEM2.***
  - *The overseas one is the Phillipines post Typhoon Halyan:-**“ Rehabilitation and Development of their Livelihoods”***
4. *An invitation was received from the Minister for Women, Hon Louise Upston, encouraging organisations or individuals to nominate women you know who give freely of their time and resources to assist others. Honours are awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the community or nation, and on merit and achievement in whatever fields going beyond the normal requirement of duty or office.*

*The Honours Unit at the Department of Prime Minister is currently receiving nominations for the New Year’s Honours 2016. [The closing date is 31 May, 2015.](#)*

*Nominations may be made by any person by completing nomination form. Nomination forms and information on the honours system are available from the Honours Unit, Members of Parliament and Electorate offices.*

*Well it’s time to do serious business.*

**Remits & Recommendations:**

***Remits:-*** *Must be received by National Executive by the end of May please.*

**Remit: from Taranaki District:-**

*Attached is the remit from Taranaki District. Also attached is an information sheet from Te Taha Maori in regards to the explanation of this remit.*

*After much thoughts and prayers and also some consultation about this remit, I consulted with the Tumuaki of Te Taha Maori for her thoughts about the remit. That’s how this information came about. I hope it will help with your District discussions of the remit. At the end of the day the MWF National Council is charged to make the best decisions as stewards of these funds to benefit the people we are serving.*

**Recommendation:-**

1. **The National Executive would like to recommend the name of Mataiva Robertson to be nominated to the WFMUCW for the position of Secretary.**

Mataiva was approached about this and she has considered it and prayed about it, and agreed for her name to be put forward. She is happy to serve God in whatever opportunities that's opened to her. We believe that she has great leadership qualities, and she has a strong faith in her Lord that she would be able to master the job if she is elected, as the song says " **Nothing at all is Impossible with God**". Most of our members know her as a former president of NZMWF, Mataiva has great passion for the MWF mission and very committed in every work she is asked to do.

**Important dates to remember:-**

- All reports from Districts, Conveners and National Executive Committees and tributes must be received by National Executive Committee **by 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 2015** please. District leaders can you please send photos with each tribute to go on the screen please
- Attached is the National Council registration form which you can register online, please read carefully the information on the form, so you won't get stranded at the bus depot or the airport.

**President's visits :-**

- What a great name these districts have come up with, Manukau, Auckland and Waitemata are getting together for the 3Sistricts Rally on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015 at the Epsom Methodist church, 12 Pah Road, Epsom. Rosa, Alisa and myself are looking forward to this 3 Sistrict Rally.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August I will be visiting the Wellington District and Waikato/Thames Valley district on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.
- In March 2016 I will be visiting the Wanganui/Manawatu district.
- We look forward to hearing from other Districts, so we can do some forward planning.

We continue to pray for God's guidance, peace and unconditional love to journey with us as we plan our daily chores, so we may have the strength to overcome the challenges of life.

As we continue to journey through life, "**Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore**" (Psalm 121: 8).

Peace and Grace to you all.

***Olive Amani Janielu***

NZMWF National President