



## Methodist Women's Fellowship

### *National MWF Newsletter May 2017*



CHOSEN PEOPLE CALLED TO PROCLAIM.

Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Noa'ia e Mauri, Nisa bula vanaka, Taloha Ni, Kia Ora.

Dear Friends,

Lynne Scott, our Vice President and World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women link, Valmai Horlor our treasurer, Philomena Petaia our national secretary, Una Tikoinaka and Ofa Giblin our Missions Contacts, Rev. Barbara Peddie our chaplain and Deacons Contact, Moe Petaia our National Council of Women Link and Roz Wilkie our Liaison Link all greet you again and wish you and your families good health and warmth as we face cooler days ahead.

As chosen people called to proclaim we challenge you to share your faith at your meetings.

This month we celebrate Wesley Sunday and Susanna Wesley's life story is inspiring showing us today a new intimacy with God. What a wonderful methodical woman, one of twenty five siblings in a Church of England vicarage then as a Vicar's wife and the mother of nineteen babies in Epworth, England. She is known as the Mother of Methodism, who held strong theological views, was resourceful, calm, serene and quietly practical revitalising religion and a quickening of religious thought during the time of a new birth of the spiritual life of England. She daily trusted God, meditating between 5 and 6 every morning and she experienced that typical 'heart-warming experience' and was John's most ardent supporter. She home-schooled for twenty years for six hours a day and led Sunday afternoon services in her kitchen then in a nearby barn for about two hundred people every week. The morning services in the local church almost closed down! She was always gentle, severe and kindly through her forty four year marriage suffering poverty, illness, disease and the deaths of nine children. Her example – her call to proclaim – paved the way for John to include women as workers in the Methodist church, as visitors of the sick, as class leaders and as gifted preachers. The Methodist women mentioned in my last newsletter in our early New Zealand history brought that same faith, those values, attitudes and practices. She is buried in Bunhill Fields London near John Bunyan and Isaac Watts.

How are your Fellowship meetings going? I met up with the Mornington Church ladies in Dunedin at Waitangi weekend unofficially and I was so pleased to acknowledge Sally Weston there who was at my first Fireside meeting as a baby on my Mum's knee at Timaru in 1948! It was also lovely to talk to Jeanette and Colin Gibson who together designed and made our National Banner which hangs in our newly strengthened church at Beckenham in Christchurch.

Your Annual General Meeting is coming soon and a time of challenges and changes in your local and district groups. I know so many of you accept challenges and experience personal and spiritual growth in the leadership roles. Thank-you to all who are concluding their terms of office. May all of you know that God's presence sustains you and we are all richly

blessed through our friendships and learnings month by month in our meetings. Please continue to be willing helpers with words of encouragement, willing helpfulness and prayer support for every member. Ask every woman in your congregation to join!

Congratulations to our new Methodist Church of New Zealand representatives to YATRA: Emma Whitla of Christchurch, Leti Tafuna, Hamilton and Sharlene Malaeimi, Auckland. This is a Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity being held in Indonesia in July for two weeks. Please remember these three young women in your prayers. Pray for encouragement, finances and good health as they prepare for this training course conducted by the Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperation programme of the World Council of Churches. These Christian leaders will contribute towards the building up of just, harmonious and peaceable communities from an interfaith perspective.

Nominations for our next NZMWF President must be received by the National Executive by 30<sup>th</sup> June with the consent of the nominee and with consultation with her district then the nominee's profile must be received by the National Executive by 31 July.

We also await all annual statistic forms, the National Council Registration forms, recommendations and tributes. Our Council Meeting, 8 – 10 September at the Garden Hotel, Christchurch has been planned with the theme "Chosen People Called to Proclaim".

Share our two national projects with your congregations spreading the information and fundraising ideas. Our New Zealand project is the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder supporting parents and caregivers of children who have been exposed to alcohol whilst in the womb. The effects which are hidden and life long include mental, behavioural and learning disabilities. Doctors call this condition a Tsunami – it is serious and the number of children affected is increasing daily. The International project will assist poor rural communities in Nicaragua addressing some of the violence in their communities. The CEPAD teams will assist women to set up businesses and educate on diversifying their home gardens improving their self esteems and financial situations. Please ensure all the funds are sent in by the end of June. The late ones will automatically be allocated to next year's projects.

The World Day of Prayer 2017 service encouraged us to befriend those in our communities from the Philippines. What good news to see that there is a \$2billion, game changing equal pay settlement resetting rest home carers' pay rates.

The Smethurst Team has met. We pray for the nine applicants as they study this year. The next closing date for applications is 20 July.

Every-one of you is chosen and precious. Thankyou for being part of the MWF ministry. God bless you richly every day as you walk and speak proclaiming your faith at every opportunity.

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