



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellowship Friends, Greetings to you All

November 2013

Recently I have had the opportunity to meet many of you and I have enjoyed this very much. It is very important for everyone that the art of 'one to one' conversation is not lost. In this age of great technology we can get carried away with the many things that can happen – but we need to remember that - whenever we engage on line, we are engaging with 'people at machines' not 'just a machine'.

At Methodist Church Conference we gave a power point presentation about the MWF journey and activities. I received a letter from Rev David Bush afterwards expressing appreciation for the MWF contribution over the past 50 years.

Conference congratulates Methodist Women's Fellowship and thanks MWF for their continued service to both church and community. Conference notes the significant contribution Methodist Women's Fellowship makes to leadership training, education, mission and social justice. . Conference encourages parishes to mark the anniversary in appropriate ways.

To mark the 50 years since the Methodist Women's Missionary Union and the Ladies' Guild joined to form the NZ Methodist Women's Fellowship we are asking each District to HAVE A CELEBRATION of some kind.

We also ask that each District compile a 20 pocket clear file folder recording your CELEBRATION and other items of interest including the :

History of the District – When Each Fellowship within the District, including those who may have ceased, was started. A Description of the Churches, size of the congregation, Named Photographs, Memories , Personalities, Activities, Rally Days, Quiet Days, Study Courses, Missionary Contacts, Fund Raising, Special Events

BRING THE FOLDERS TO CONVENTION 11th to 14th SEPTEMBER 2014

We encourage local Fellowships and Parishes to do something similar, to record their history and also have a CELEBRATION.



I was very pleased to meet with members of the Fijian District when they met at El Rancho. The women are very keen to learn about the various activities that Women's Fellowship is involved with.

Fa'fetai Fa'alogo attended a very interesting National Council of Women conference in Wellington. What contact does your group have with NCW?

The Auckland Tongan District, Tali Ui Faka-Sepitema – the Annual Women's Fellowships Roll Call Event was an amazing occasion which Akanesi Havea and I attended. Members of the Samoan District, their Linked District were also there on the Friday night for the fantastic meal and choir festival – 22 choirs. Sunday Service was followed by the District Roll Call with 17 choirs. Truly a memorable experience.

On the Saturday Akanesi and I were very happy to meet with ladies from Auckland and Waitemata Districts. It was so interesting hearing their stories of earlier days, but also talking about ways to have more contact with each other. Some Auckland women meet regularly at Mt Albert and would be pleased to welcome others in the area to join them.

Tongi Nuku and I attended the Forum for Uniting Churches which was held in Hamilton. The theme was "Transforming the Partnership Gene" We enjoyed the opportunity to meet people and talk about MWF. Following that we enjoyed fellowship with Waikato/Thames Valley District members in Matamata and had the privilege of visiting women in their homes. In Tauranga I met members of the Bay of Plenty District, then most unexpectedly joined the Opotiki group at their monthly meeting. I had a pleasant afternoon with ladies from Kawerau and Whakatane.

People everywhere have been interested to hear what happens in other parts of the country which shows that contact between Groups and Districts is valuable. Share your newsletters and programmes.

ADVENT

We wait for the light and prepare ourselves
as we ask God to put new life into us
and make us strong again, to smile on us and save us.
Lord, listen to our prayer and let your light shine



Blessings to You All

Marie Smith

donmariesmith@paradise.net.nz