

Noa'ia e Mauri, Ni sa Bula Vinaka, Talofa Lava, Namaste,
Malo e Lelei Kia Orana, Tina Kotou Katoa Leana
Warmest Greetings to you all

National Council 2005 is over and a new MWF year has begun.

We are grateful to Waiwhetu Uniting Church for use of their lovely venue. National Executive sincerely thanks the Hutt Valley members who so generously provided for us – billets, meal servers, am & pm teas and excellent organisation allowing a free-flowing timetable.

Thank you to all Fellowships who sent their Presidents to Council. Do ask your leaders to tell you all about it! Our thanks to all who upheld us in prayer at this important time.

Congratulations & best wishes to Lynne Scott, of Christchurch (North Canterbury District), **our new President-Elect for NZMWF** for the term 2006 – 2008. We pray God's guidance and blessing for you as you seek out members for your committee Lynne.

Convention 2006 – North Canterbury's kind invitation has been gratefully accepted and plans announced that the venue will be St. Andrews College, Papanui Road, Christchurch . Date: Thursday 28 Sept. - Sunday 1 Oct.'06.

Thank you to everyone for the money raised during the year.

\$24,648-17 Interchurch Hospital Chaplaincy.
\$10,563-49 Middle East Council of Churches in Palestine and Israel given through Christian World Service.
\$3,140-85 Fred Hollows Foundation from Medical and Educational Fund
\$6,217-83 Mercy Ships from the Stamp Fund.
\$1,324-00 Helen Kim Scholarship-sale of Bible Puzzle Books.

Membership Fees of \$4.00 are now due.

11th World Assembly of Methodist & Uniting Church Women
KOREA 11th – 17th July 2006
(Ramada Plaza Hotel, Jeju Island)
Theme: 'Women Making a Difference'
B 1 2 B there!

Full payment before 30th Jan 2006 US \$1,000
(late payments are penalised).

All information, including registrations forms, are available on the World Federation website. www.methodistandunitingchurchwomen.org

If you are unable to download a registration form contact Rosalie or Nelma. If you intend going please let us know ASAP. So far about 10 women have expressed interest. The intention is to travel as a group.

ABUNDANT BIBLE PUZZLES - BOOK TWO

Did you ever wonder why the blue covered fund-raiser booklet was called *Abundant Bible Puzzles Book One*? Well, pink covered BOOK TWO was sitting around quietly waiting to appear. The introductory 'launching quiz' proved that the Pacific Island women at Council Meeting knew far more about *Bible Mothers* than the Palangi present. 'Book Two' is the same format as 'Book One' and contains 40 new puzzles.

A fun gift for yourself or those you visit. Fab for increasing general Bible knowledge. Great for entertaining kids in church. If your young people are sitting Sunday School exams these puzzles will help them remember Biblical facts concerning who's who and what's where.

Both booklets retail at \$5 each BUT please note if sent BY POST they cost \$6 each to cover the cost of envelope and stamps. Be warned, if postage is not included you will get fewer books than ordered (any surplus on your cheque will be treated as a donation to the Helen Kim fund). When ordering please state which volume you want (Book 1 blue; Book 2 pink) and don't forget to include your cheque made out to NZMWF.

Post to Rosalie Sugrue, 47 Manawa Ave, Raumati Beach 6010.

STOP PRESS: Happy News! Wedding Bells!

We extend our warmest congratulations and good wishes to Revs. Barbara Miller and Phyl Taylor on the announcement of their engagement. A wedding is planned for February, 2006.

Revs. Gloria Zanders and Barbara Miller lead us in a very special **Service of Holy Communion** on the closing morning of Council. In her message Barbara told us how watching an "Incredible Journey" programme on Tv. had reminded her of our theme "**Moving On In Faith**" and how "**life is a grand adventure or it is nothing at all**"! She said, "We are part of a wonderful adventure with the Lord our Travel Guide. Whatever stage of our faith journey we are at, we have the joy of committing ourselves to God every day, in all that we are, all that we think and say and do..... We all receive abilities to contribute to the well-being of our community, to strengthen its life as a whole. Learned and inherited talents enriched by the Spirit and spiritual gifts given by the Spirit combine to bring strength and richness to our faith community. We are all important and all have a role to play." Thank you Barbara,

Of special joy was the full participation of the four women from each of the Samoan and Tongan Districts – which cover the whole country. As they communicated their enthusiasm, we were further enlightened in the art of encouraging all women to be part of MWF.

Each year the WFMUW produces a study intended for use on '**World Federation Day**' - the last weekend of October. It commemorates the signing of the original charter of the *World Federation of Methodist Women*, 26th October 1939. Being our *Labour Weekend* this causes difficulties for us. However, I thoroughly recommend the material. There is no need to stick to this date! As this year's study consists of nine A4 pages we are not sending it out to the Districts but will be pleased to photocopy and post to any group that would like to use it. Like any 'programme material' it can be modified to serve your particular needs and circumstances. It could be used within a local Fellowship, but it particularly lends itself to a larger gathering, such as a combined meeting, rally day or a church service. Many Fellowships accept responsibility for the occasional service and this year the material really lends itself to this use, involving quite a few people in roles that are not too demanding.

The theme is Gender Justice. NZ is a world leader in this area but discrimination still occurs. Even though we have women in 'high places' the average Kiwi female earns less than Kiwi males. Fewer men attend church than women, but males tend to hold the power and make the decisions. Women often have less choice than men in employment opportunities and in matters of family responsibilities. Some NZ women experience violence or are oppressed by male relatives or employers. We mustn't become complacent

about gender inequalities in our own county, and we need to be vigilant in doing what we can to free women from the oppressive structures that exist in other countries. Raising awareness is one thing we can do. **Gender Justice 2005** does this by providing useful background material, good prayers, creed, and hymn suggestions. It also outlines two simple, but effective sketches, and gives ideas as to how ordinary people can share ordinary stories about their life roles and gender implications.

Write to World Federation link Rosalie Sugrue,
47 Manawa Ave, Raumati,
or email sugrue@paradise.net.nz

Do remember the funding that is available from MWF Grants:

Kurahuna – for Methodist Maori Secondary School girls.

Friendship Scholarship for Pacific Island girls who reside in NZ.

(Year 12/13: 6th and 7th Formers. Closing date 25 Nov.)

Smethurst – for girls and women – new forms available.

(See the yellow flyer on your church notice board).

Special Project 2005 – 2006: Overseas section: Church of Uganda –
Grassroots Development. NZ Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust.

By the time you receive this you will be thinking about Christmas.

As we again celebrate the wonderful news of the birth of Jesus, our Saviour and Lord, let us give thanks for salvation in Him, for all the good things He has given us to enjoy and all His answers to prayer. The National Executive join me in wishing you a happy and holy Festive Season.

With love in Christ, Nelma Woodfield.