



“We Are God’s Hands Reach Out”

President’s Letter

October 2015

After days of plentiful rain drops that moistened and fed the thirsty soil and its many contents, we are now admiring and enjoying the beautiful blossoms of spring flowers covering the trees, the lush green pastures and the extended grounds. These are all God’s beautiful and rich creations that we are enjoying which give us a breath of fresh air every day.

We give thanks to our God for all He has provided for us all.

It is with deep sadness to hear of the death of Lana Lazarus who has been the Convenor of the Kurahuna Scholarship Committee right up until her death. She was also a former Vice President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. She will be greatly missed, as she was one of the young vibrant leaders of Te Taha Maori and our MCNZ family.

We remember with gratitude and with love those who have died recently, namely Barbara Gaitland and Dianne Claughton’s Mother and those whom we are not aware of. We uphold their families and loved ones in our prayers. Cards of condolences will be sent to the families.

National Council 2015

This year NZMWF National Council was held in Hastings, officially the most beautiful city in New Zealand, in September. It was a privilege to have the Vice President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Dr Arapera Ngaha present; she gave the reflection at the official opening of the National Council. It was an honour too, to have the His Worship the Mayor Bill Dalton and Mayoress of Napier at our service.



L-R: Rev Iakopo Faafuata, Ex-President Marie Smith, Mayoress, Mayor Bill Dalton, Rev Alisa Lasi, President Olive Tanielu, CWS rep David Lawson, Rev Setaita Veikune

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40 women attended National Council this year.



Leu Pupulu, Treasurer of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women and our Helen Kim Scholar Lise Wikitera were also present during Council. Members of Council were privileged to be entertained by Leu's stories of her experiences during her travels around the world, but behind all that there was a serious and challenging message that members of Council picked up and responded with love and support. Council unanimously agreed to donate US\$1000.00 to WFMUCW to assist some of our sister Units in the South Pacific Area to continue their affiliation membership with the WFMUCW. We acknowledged and thanked our members on the World Federation Office for their contribution and commitment to our World Federation mission. We offer our prayerful support and God's blessings as they prepare and organise the World Assembly in 2016.

Next year in August/September will be the World Assembly, to be held at the same time as the World Methodist Church Conference in Houston, Texas. The NZMWF Unit is nominating Mrs Itamua Mataiva Robertson to the election of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women's Secretary role. We thank Itamua Mataiva for allowing her name to be nominated for this post. We wish our sister Itamua Mataiva our prayerful support and God's blessings as she prepares for the nominating process.

NZMWF Unit is also nominating Ruta Faafuata for the Helen Kim Scholarship selection in 2016. This will not stop other young women from our wider Methodist family to apply if they wish to apply as long as they meet the criteria. Our prayerful support to Ruta and all our young women who will be applying for the Helen Kim Scholarship.

President elect for 2016 – 2018 It is my pleasure to announce the President Elect of the NZMWF for 2016 - 2018; she is Mrs Dianne Cloughton from the North Canterbury District. Congratulations and our prayers for Dianne as she plans and put together her executive committee to lead our organisation in the next two years.

What has been done: -

I am so pleased to say that NZMWF are using the new financial format called Tier 3 as required from the Charities Service, officially starting next year. Any new change comes with challenges and I

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really commend our treasurer Rosa Faafuata for her commitment and hard work together with Marie Smith's full support through a tricky process, it is so true that anything is possible with God's support. Fia Young our NCW link attended the NCW conference in Wellington and she really enjoyed it and came back feeling empowered and equipped with new ideas and a better understanding of the NCW mission.

Special Projects 2014/2015: -

Thank you so much for all your contribution and your great effort in raising the monies for our outreach mission and being God's Hands in this world.

We raised a total of \$29,145.79. For the overseas project through CWS, NZMWF donated \$20,402.05 for South India and \$8,743.74 to the Diabetes Youth NZ.

Our Almighty God has blessed us abundantly, and we thank Him as we share His great love with our extended families and communities both nationally and abroad.



L-R: CWS rep David Lawson, MCNZ Vice President Dr Arapera Ngaha, NZMWF Missions Convenor Saunoa Tulou

Our new projects for 2015-2016 are: - International project: Philippines post-typhoon Haiyan - to help rebuild their livelihoods that was destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan, and the National project: The Young New Zealander's Foundation for printing the "GEM STONE 2" which is a resource material for schools which focuses on reducing the rate of suicides and cyber bullying among our young people. This resource material will help teachers/educators who work with the most vulnerable young people in Year 7 & 8.

Presidential Visits

Thank you to some of our Districts who have invited me and some of the executive members to visit and fellowship with District members, I am looking forward to seeing you all.

On the 18th of October I will be visiting the Tongan District in Auckland, then the Waikato/Thames Valley District in the very beginning of November and finally I will be attending the Fijian District AGM in Auckland. In the New Year I will be visiting North Canterbury, Nelson/Marlborough District, and Manawatu/Wanganui.

It is my prayer that our God will guide and journey with us in where ever we will be.

What's Ahead of Us: - (Please read and take note!)

Convention 2016: - After communications with the General Secretary of our Methodist Church, I have agreed on behalf of NZMWF to shift the NZMWF's 2016 Convention time to early November,

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2016. This was discussed at the National Council and agreed to as plan "B" in case Conference needs to be in the first week of October due to important reasons, and that's how families work. At present we are looking for venues and then we will confirm dates and venue with you all as soon as possible.

World Assembly: - August 2016 in Houston, Texas, USA

Have you decided yet whether you want to go for a holiday at the same time as enjoying the fellowship with our other sisters from around the world, sharing God's love?

We have been asked to start applying for visas and get registered so please let our World Link Tumema Faioso know ASAP. If you want to do your own arrangements that is ok too. Please let us know if you ladies, who will be going would like a table for a stall, they allow 1 table per Unit due to limited space and we have to pre book otherwise we will not get one when we get there.

Overseas Correspondence:

Your kind donation that was given to WFMUCW for our other sisters supported our sisters from Namibia, Angola and Burundi Units; it has paid for their membership for 5 years from 2012–2016. Australia and Great British Units have done the same towards our South Pacific, South Asia and Europe Continental Areas. Thank you so much members of NZMWF for helping to keep our World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church family together so we can stand strong to make God known to the world.

I have also received an email from the President of South & East Area that we have supported, acknowledging with gratitude and appreciation the financial support that will definitely enable our sisters in the areas as mentioned above.

WIDER INVOLVEMENT

Pacific Women Watch

NZMWF is a member of the Pacific Women's Watch which is based in Auckland. We acknowledge the commitment and participation of our representatives on the PWW. A special thank you to Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu who has resigned due to family relocation. We welcome Leu Pupulu as our new representative with Fumi Schaaf.

National Council of Women

Our members are very involved with this organisation in our local and national level. It is a great opportunity for our members and NZMWF to be involved and have a voice on a lot of social issues that involves our families, community and women. NCW annual conference was held on the 26th of September in Wellington and Fia Young our NCW link represented NZMWF. Thank you Alison Kane for looking out for Fia as it was her first conference.

Thank you for being God's Hands in this World in so many different ways, and may His Grace continue to equip, empower and enable us all so we can continue to reach out to people in need of Gods healing Grace.

Reaching out sometimes it's not the strength but the gentleness that cracks the hard shells. May God's peace and grace continue to abundantly bless us all so we can be a blessing to others.

Soifua lava

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