

Marcia Baker's book, "For Others With Love", is a collection of stories of the early sisters and Methodist Deaconesses. Copies are available from Marcia, 11 Merton Place, Christchurch 8053. \$25.00 per copy – plus \$4.50 for postage.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

At the recent National Executive meeting of NCWNZ my proxy was Joan Hawley. Her presentation on the Stroke Foundation, for whom we raised \$23, 418 as part of our 2006/2007 Special Project, was very well received and over 60 attendees were given the new fridge magnets which we have financed. Joan detailed the latest research on stroke recognition and explained the importance of early medical attention for victims of stroke. She also highlighted our concern for social justice in our recent donation to Christchurch Central Mission. The theme of the meeting was "Inspiring Influential Leadership" and an additional concern was how family violence could be reduced. Remits supporting a ban on cluster munitions, the establishing of accessible emergency housing for people with disabilities, research into the process of reporting and investigating sexual violence complaints and also opposing the sexualisation of children, were all passed unanimously. After much debate, the remit supporting juries' right to be informed of previous relevant crimes committed by defendants was defeated, but the meeting approved the Board of Management's remit that NCWNZ supports the extension of paid parental leave to 12 months. It was agreed that this would be worked for, over time.

REMEMBERED WITH LOVE ...

It is with great sadness that I note the deaths of Joan Shaw, Hamilton, and Gladys Larkin, Christchurch, on Friday 19 October. Joan was Liaison Link on Mary West's National Executive 2002-2004. I was blessed when I travelled with Gladys to the Solomon Islands in 1992 and saw and experienced firsthand the mutual love and respect and acknowledgement of the huge part she had played in many peoples lives. We thank God that these women were so dedicated, willing and generous gifting their talents and time in their work and witness for Him. Joan and Gladys will be greatly missed.

To each and everyone who has suffered a bereavement over recent weeks, may the Lord give you a special measure of His strength and peace. May your precious memories of loved ones sustain and comfort you.



President: Lynne Scott, 52 Acacia Avenue, Christchurch 8041
Phone 03 348 9826x707(daytime) 03 348 4378 (evenings)
email – lyn@middleton.school.nz

Treasurer: Valmai Horlor, 9 Logie Place, Christchurch 8062
Phone 03 389 3108 email – valmajj@hotmail.com

Minute Secretary: Rita Reid, 1/85 Epsom Road, Christchurch 8042
Phone 03 348 9423 email – chch_dolphin@xtra.co.nz

*The Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa*

Women's Fellowship



President's Letter – October/November/December 2007

Warmest greetings to everyone ... Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava,
Noa'ia e Mauri,
Ni sa bula vinaka, Namaste, Taloha Ni, Kia Orana, Kia Ora

For a variety of reasons, this letter has taken a long time to "flow off" the computer! September was a wonderfully busy month – National Council and Celebrating 100 years of the Deaconess Order in New Zealand (both in Christchurch), attending the Uniting Church of Australia Adult Fellowship Celebration (Caloundra, Queensland) and a wonderful weekend in Auckland at the Tongan Women's Fellowship Camp (Ponsonby). (Malo a pito!) Council and Convocation reports are contained in this newsletter. Racing on in to October I received notification of a "surgical date" within the public health system! I was greatly blessed following surgery (nasal passages) to be "pain free", but have only just returned to "getting right back into things"!

I am sure I do not need to remind anyone of the rapid approach of Christmas! For some, the Christmas season is a difficult time. For others, it is a wonderful season of spending time with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued loving prayer support for me and my Executive. The Lord has truly blessed us! My thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you. May you have strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the future. May the Lord continue to bless, encourage and enrich my precious sisters and brothers in the Lord.

Lynne Scott

WORLD FEDERATION SOUTH PACIFIC AREA ASSEMBLY – TONGA – CHANGE OF DATE – NEW DATES – 14-18 SEPTEMBER 2008:

Meleāna Puloka, South Pacific Area President, advises that the dates for the Seminar have been changed to fit in with the school holidays in Tonga next year. The venue for the Seminar is Queen Salote College, Methodist boarding school. While in Australia last month I spoke to Ann Connan, South Pacific Area Vice President. Ann will be spending some time in Tonga this month and expects to have information to Units in November. New Zealand will be allocated 50 places. Please contact Lynne if you are planning to go to Tonga as these places will be allocated on a "first come" basis.

NATIONAL COUNCIL and CELEBRATIONS OF 100 YEARS OF DEACONESSES

The Council commenced on Friday evening at Aldred Church, and was attended by representatives from 15 Districts, including the Samoan and Tongan Districts. Apologies received from 4 Districts. Also present were the Immediate Past President, representatives of Smethurst and Programme Committees, sister organisations and a number of people holding significant roles within the Methodist Church. Other invited guests included Mark Vivian, CEO Stroke Foundation, and Jonathan Fletcher, National Director of Christian World Service.

Special Project funds presented – Stroke Foundation \$23,418.34
Timor Leste Dominican Sisters \$9,907.87 (qualifying for a 4:1 Government subsidy)

Tributes were made in honour of the following former members of National Executives who had died during the year – Kay Buckner, Nelson/Marlborough; Marie Chapple, Taranaki; Beryl Farr, Wellington; Beryl Hughes, Auckland.

Rev Jan Fogg (Hornby/Riccanton Parish) led a time of worship reading from Jeremiah 18:1-11, a creation story. As the clay is responsive to the creating hands of the potter, so we are responsive to God's creating and are part with Him in the creating process, both individually and collectively.

Rev Michael Greer (Christchurch Methodist Mission) challenged us in an inspirational address when we were made increasingly aware of the needs of our communities. In view of the stand being taken by the Christchurch Methodist Mission not to accept any funding from the gaming proceeds, it was agreed to allocate \$3,000 from the Stamp and Coupon Fund to the Mission affirming their action. Should other Methodist Social Service Organisations make a similar stand in the future, that funding could be similarly applied. \$525 from Stamp and Coupon Fund to the Christian Broadcasting Association.

\$4,044.60 had been received for the special appeal to Fellowships to assist Solomon Islands students at Wesley College whose families had been affected by the tsunami. The response was overwhelming and thanks are conveyed from the Principal, Ian Faulkner, and Chaplain, Rev Sylvia 'Akau'ola Tongotongo, to all who contributed.

Mrs Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu, Samoan District, was appointed President 2008-2010. Waikato/Thames Valley District will host Convention 2008 at the Diocesan School for Girls, Hamilton, 2-5 October.

A number of recommendations were considered including concern regarding the distribution of Tree of Life. However, we have established good communication and been assured of improvements in the future.

Concern has previously been expressed regarding the cost of Conventions and related travel and a discussion paper was presented by the National Executive. Districts are encouraged to discuss the contents. There was support for the retaining of the present policy of Council and Convention in alternative years.

In line with the request of Convention 2006 the National Executive approved an increase in Travel Allowance from 25c per km to 40c per km.

It was agreed that in view of the complexity of NZMWF Investments and General Funds it was advisable that a previous National Treasurer should be appointed as a mentor to the National Treasurer.

Medical and Education Fund \$2,922.90 to Sasamugga, Solomon Islands, following information and guidance from Rev John Roberts.

Special Project 2007/2008 – "House of Passage" Recife, Brazil, and "Chaplaincy in State Schools in New Zealand" were introduced by CWS and the Chaplains.

Peter van Hout from the Connexional Office presented information on the Charities Act. Local Fellowships funds are to form part of Parish returns. Office bearers are

required to be members of the Methodist Church. Audits are not required to be complete unless income is in excess of \$2.5m. Reviews only needed if income is in excess of \$250,000.

Smethurst Committee – new members – Leah Taylor, Otago, and Gloria Zanders, Bay of Plenty.

Programme Committee – currently working on a "banner making" booklet and "planning a service" leaflet. HIV and AIDS programme is being translated from Tongan to English. This will also be available in Samoan.

World Federation – Special thanks to Mataiva Robertson, Helen Kim scholar, who has served the Fellowship in New Zealand wonderfully well during this year.

The Council ended with a communion service conducted by Rev Jan Fogg on Sunday morning. This was only the beginning of the climax of the weekend, as that evening marked the launching of the Deaconesses Centennial Service at Durham Street, well supported by the district and beyond.

On Monday retired Deaconesses, Deacons and their supporters met with MWF at Papanui Church. After a Maori welcome and reply we were privileged to have Rev Diana Tana speak. She was supported by 10 representatives from Te Taha Maori. Diana's talk was very challenging. She commented "... they will listen to us, but will we please listen to them?"

After lunch we experienced a 'Diversion' – a short presentation of some aspects of the Deaconess work. Mention was made of Rita Snowdon's motorbike, John Wesley, (and lo and behold a motor bike appeared in the church aisle). We were also told how the Deacs cycled around as they travelled. Who will forget the appearance of Rona Collins, in uniform, as she rode her bike down the aisle? Some Deacs rode horses through river beds and at times through deep mud as they travelled the country roads.

Rev John Roberts showed a power point presentation of work in the Solomon Islands from the early 1920's. MWF, and prior to that the Missionary Union, supported the work of the Sisters, both in New Zealand and in the Solomon Islands.

A bus tour of Christchurch on Tuesday morning visited the churches Deaconess trainees were appointed to. After morning tea at Morley House, the Connexional Office, built on the site of Deaconess House in Latimer Square, the next stop was the Catholic Cathedral, Barbadoes Street. The cathedral is built on the site of the first Deaconess House and a car sales occupies the second site! Some of the Churches are no more, and others are used for different activities. Over the hill to Lyttelton Harbour and then Rapaki where Deaconesses used to take services. Bikes on the train to Lyttelton and then cycling to round to Rapaki! Amazing women!

Convocation ended with an inspirational Communion Service led by Rev Michael Greer. The organising of Convocation has now been handed over the Deacons and we look forward to celebrating another 100 years of sacrificial service in 2107!!

Thanks be to God for the memories that have been rekindled through these experiences, and congratulations to the hardworking organisers!