

## NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Saviour. It is in the name of Jesus Christ that we gather, so may He be glorified and praised forever – AMEN!

It has been a great year and we honour our Heavenly Father for His divine intervention and guidance.

The NZMWF theme for 2010 – 2012 is “**DON'T GIVE UP – ENGAGE!!**”

It is amazing how quickly the last 12 months has gone by. I have been in this role for just over half the two year term and yet it seems like only yesterday that my executive team and I were inducted into office. The last 12 months have not been without its challenges but I praise God for using me to serve Him through this role and blessing me with the many relationships that have been created, renewed and reinforced as a result of me being placed in this position. I am surrounded by a wonderful group of women who whole heartedly join me in serving God through the NZMWF – the members of the current NZMWF executive team are:

- **Mataiva Robertson** (President / Co-Mission )
- **Kerry Upson** (Vice President / Chaplain/Diaconate link)
- **Leu Pupulu** (Vice President / World Federation Link)
- **Naofetalaiga Etimani** (Missions / UCANZ Link)
- **Siniva Isaia** (Secretary)
- **Suluama Feaunati** (NCW link / Treasurer)
- **Miriama Kauvadra** (Distribution Secretary)
- **Jeanne Misikei** (Minute Secretary / Liaison Link)

### NZMWF Structure

The NZMWF is made up of 19 Districts located across the country from the far North to the deep South as listed below:

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Northland               | 11. Wellington           |
| 2. Waitemata               | 12. Nelson / Marlborough |
| 3. Auckland                | 13. North Canterbury     |
| 4. Manukau                 | 14. South Canterbury     |
| 5. Waikato / Thames Valley | 15. Greymouth            |
| 6. Bay of Plenty           | 16. Otago                |
| 7. Hawkes Bay              | 17. Southland            |
| 8. Taranaki Combined       | 18. Samoan District      |
| 9. Manawatu / Wanganui     | 19. Tonga District       |
| 10. Wairarapa              |                          |

The Samoan and Tongan Districts are representative of the Sinoti Samoa and Vahefonua Tonga Womens' Fellowships respectively and hence have affiliated fellowship groups located throughout the country.

### Tributes

I would like to pay tribute to NZMWF members who have passed away during the past year. We remember with gratitude and love those who served in their local and district fellowships. A special tribute to past NZMWF Executives namely **Isobel Burns** from Taranaki and **Doreen Hill** from North Canterbury District. We give thanks to God for these special women for their work and service to advance Gods Kingdom.

We also pay tribute to those in the Canterbury area who were affected and continue to be adversely affected by the earthquakes and continued aftershocks.

## **District Visits**

During the last 12 months I have had the privilege of being able to visit and engage with several districts including: Wellington, Northland, Bay of Plenty, Auckland/Waitemata/Manukau, Taranaki Combined, Samoan District and the Tongan District. On each visit I was accompanied with a different member of my executive committee. Each visit has been special in its own right and I have cherished the opportunity to meet and fellowship with so many wonderful women of God. Thank you all for your warm hospitality. It is with regret that I advise that the Northland District has officially gone into recess due to various reasons. However I was so pleased I was able to visit them to thank them in person for their service to the NZMWF over the years. I am looking forward to visiting many other Districts during my remaining time as President.

## **Missions / Special Projects**

Although membership is still in steady decline and given the fact the 2010-2011 financial year was only 10 months long (as a result of a NZMWF decision to change the financial end of year date from Aug 30<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>), significant funds were still raised by every District that will benefit greatly our 2010/11 Special Project recipients – The Redevelopment of Haiti (International Project) and Habitat for Humanity (National Project).

The total Special Project money raised for distribution was **\$26,008.21** with this amount disbursed in the following fashion:

<b>International Project (30%)</b>	
Redevelopment of Haiti	\$7,802.46
<b>National Project (70%)</b>	
Habitat for Humanity	\$18,205.75

The 2010-2011 “Stamps & Coupon” and “Medical & Education” funds raised (combined total of **\$4,632.86**) was donated to the Trinity Theological College students as support towards their 2011 trip to the Holy Land. We were blessed to have two students report back on their experience in person when they attended our National Council in late September.

The “Stamps & Coupon” and “Medical & Education” funds raised during 2009-2010 have now been reallocated to Papauta Girls College School in Samoa.

NZMWF continue to support the Helena Goldie Hospital and College in the Solomon Islands.

The Trinity College “Student Adoption” scheme continues to operate whereby MWF Districts are allocated a student to support during the course of his/her study.

## **2011/12 Special Projects**

As is customary, our selection of a new international project has been made in consultation with Christian World Services. It has been decided that the International overseas project for 2011-2012 (70% of funds raised) will be “Maternal Health in the Palestine” where there is much hardship and great need for care. The national project (30% of funds raised) is to provide assistance for “Children’s Ministry” funding for resources and workshops to encourage churches to become more children friendly.

## **WFMUCW World Assembly 2011 – South Africa**

“Bambalela - Never Give Up, Christ is our Hope” – was the theme for the 12th WFMUCW World Assembly which is held every 5 years. I travelled together with fourteen other NZMWF members to Johannesburg for this once in a lifetime experience. With over 800 attendees from all over the globe, five days was hardly enough time to enjoy the richness of the different cultures present. However the common culture of belief

and faith in God that we shared was definitely celebrated intensely. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals and specific action plans were discussed in workshops during the Assembly. The fight against social injustices was again one of the major focus points for the gathering. Inspirational speakers led bible studies which reinforced the biblical principles upon which our social justice goals are based. We are so thrilled and proud that our very own Leu Pupulu and Lynne Scott were elected as the new WFMUCW World Treasurer 2011-2016 and South Pacific Area President 2011-2016 respectively. Congratulations to you both. May God bless you and equip you to undertake your new roles. Congratulations also to Lise Malaeimi who is the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar for the South Pacific Area.

### **National Council 2011**

From the 30th September - 2nd October, the biennial NZMWF National Council was held in New Plymouth. The venue for the gathering of NZMWF District leaders and representatives was the Belt Rd Camp site which overlooks the beautiful Taranaki coastline. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship during which time we were able to discuss important NZMWF business, elect a new NZMWF President elect, enjoy bible studies and devotions together and still find time for a bus tour of some of the new Plymouth's most beautiful sites. Some of the decisions made at Council include reviewing the Smethurst Trust Deed, working more collaboratively with the National Council of Women to push for Central Government international aid funding (which was recently discontinued). It was passed also that the NZMWF Convention 2012 be held in New Plymouth.

Our combined Sunday Service with the combined Taranaki Methodist Parishes (and shared lunch) was a fitting end to the National Council weekend. Congratulations to **Marie Smith** who is the new NZMWF President Elect.

### **Grants and Scholarships**

The following Trusts assist the educational development of Methodist girls/women. Committees for the various Trusts meet routinely to assess the applications received for the various grants/scholarships available.

**Friendship Scholarship Trust** – A Trust set up to assist Pacific secondary school pupils in Years 12 and 13.

**Kurahuna Trust** – A Trust set up to assist Maori students

**Smethurst Trust** – A Trust set up to financially assist Tertiary students

The Grant and Scholarship funds distributed in 2010/11 are as follows:

<b>Smethurst</b>	\$ 28,136.00
<b>Kurahuna</b>	\$ 7,650.00
<b>Friendship</b>	\$ 10,950.00

The figures disbursed have increased (for all three Trusts) from the previous year's disbursements.

### **Communication**

I have continued with the distribution of a President's Letter (quarterly) to keep all members updated with what I've been up to and ongoing progress. The "Liaison Link" newsletter also continues to be distributed quarterly with stories about district meetings and various events and ongoing from around the NZMWF network. Email and hard copy correspondence to the various District representatives is another means of communicating with our members. The WFMUCW "Tree of Life" newsletter is downloadable from the internet [www.wfmucw.org](http://www.wfmucw.org) however we do still receive requests for hard copies from those who either do not have internet access or are not too familiar with using computers.

### **Acknowledgement / Thanks**

Thank you to all NZMWF members and the wider Methodist Church of New Zealand for your prayers of support. Thank you to all who sacrifice so much in order to serve on different committees/groups at various levels within our Church. I would also like to acknowledge one of our NZMWF members **Mrs Olive**

**Tanielu** who is the Vice President Elect of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. We wish you and **Rev John Roberts** all the very best for your upcoming Presidential term.

May God bless you all.

Mataiva Robertson  
NZMWF President

**Recommendation**

That this report be received