

# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## July 2015

### Ecumenical Service to Commemorate 70 years of Korean Armistice

An Ecumenical Service to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean Armistice will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 5.00 pm at the Takapuna Methodist Church, Lake Road Takapuna. The service will be in Korean and English. Very Rev. Ray Coster, member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches will be the preacher. All are welcome. Please share this information with the war veterans of the Korean War and their families.

### CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI SEEKS ACTION TO END NUCLEAR THREATS

In early August, World Council of Churches (WCC) representatives will embark on an unusual pilgrimage. A group of church leaders will travel to two cities devastated by the deadliest of weapons 70 years ago, then visit governments still willing to destroy thousands of cities in similar fashion today.

The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE WCC MISSION TO END NUCLEAR THREATS**

were attacked with atomic bombs on 6 and 9 August 1945. A lifetime after that fearsome

destruction, **40 governments still rely on nuclear weapons.** Nine states possess nuclear arsenals and 31 other states are willing to have the United States use nuclear weapons on their behalf.

Church leaders from eight of these countries will make the WCC pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where they will listen to survivors, pray with local churches and reflect with other faiths on the plight of the two cities. Then the bishops and church presidents will bring calls for action home from the two cities. One key step is to urge their governments to join a new inter-governmental pledge to "close the legal gap" and establish a formal ban on nuclear weapons. This humanitarian initiative already has the support of 110 countries.

"The 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings is a significant milestone," said Peter Prove, director of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. "It is timely because most of the survivors of the 1945 attacks are now in their 80s. Their cries of 'never again' must still be heard. It is urgent because the nuclear powers are all modernizing their nuclear weapons instead of abolishing them as promised. It is also hopeful because a growing international majority is

forming to ban nuclear weapons and WCC member churches are involved." *More details from <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/church-pilgrimage-to-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-seeks-action-to-end-nuclear-threats>*

### Young ecumenical leaders examine religion and violence in Asia

**Young ecumenical leaders from Asia have met in Siam Reap, Cambodia to examine how religious traditions can offer resources to overcome religious violence in a changing Asian context.**



*Tumema Faioso and Ruth Fa'Afuata – the two New Zealand Methodist participants with others.*

Some 25 young Asian ecumenical leaders are engaged in the World Council of Churches (WCC) Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity (YATRA) programme, from 7 to 20 June.

"The YATRA training is an important emotional and spiritual learning experience," said Marietta Ruhland, WCC staff member and co-organiser of the YATRA programme. "For many of the participants," she added, "this is the first time they have travelled alone, on a flight, outside their country. But here they have found a second, broader family - that of international ecumenical fellowship."

The consultation is organized by the Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperation Programme of the WCC in close cooperation with the Cambodia-based Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS). With the support of various WCC member churches in Asia, the YATRA course is designed to equip member churches with a new generation of inter-religiously competent ecumenical leadership.

Among questions they face is that of religions playing a responsible and response-led role in peace-building and conflict resolution in Asia. They are also looking at how modest yet remarkably resilient stories of hospitality and hope found in several Asian countries engender transformation in situations characterized by religious conflict.



Participants of YATRA 2015 pose with their symbols on the opening day in Metta Karuna Centre, Siam Reap. © Juyeol Yun

"Asia is a region of diversity, hope, promise. Together we face significant challenges in conflict such as the stateless Rohingya and the South China Sea, where regional tensions are pervasive", said Emma Leslie, the executive director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. *More details at <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/young-ecumenical-leaders-examine-religion-and-violence-in-asia>*

### The good and the not so good from Helena Goldie Hospital – Munda, Solomon Islands

Dr. Graham Longbottom wrote to director of Mission and Ecumenical Board: "We left 5 weeks early as Dr. Jenny's mother was not well. This was a shock to the [UCSI] Assembly and also to the senior staff at HGH, especially Andrew Telokana, the senior nurse from Sasamunqa. He took a week or two to come to terms with the fact that he would have to take on the responsibility of Superintendent, both clinically and administratively. Apparently he ran General and Children's ward, while the experienced mid-wife (Ireen, also from the Sasamunqa) ran Maternity ward. Despite promises to send a doctor, none arrived, other than a weekly visit for the day from Gizo. The staff managed fairly well by all accounts, but were very pleased to see Dr. Jenny when she arrived at the start of this month. Andrew promptly took some leave and Soraya [hospital secretary] announced that she was leaving to go and work at Gizo Hospital. Her post has been advertised, but only one applicant who may or may not be suitable. A management meeting was held 2 weeks ago... A Board meeting should have been held last week but apparently there was no representation from the Assembly. ... An academic committee meeting was held at the college yesterday, so you should be receiving information on the students that you sponsor soon."

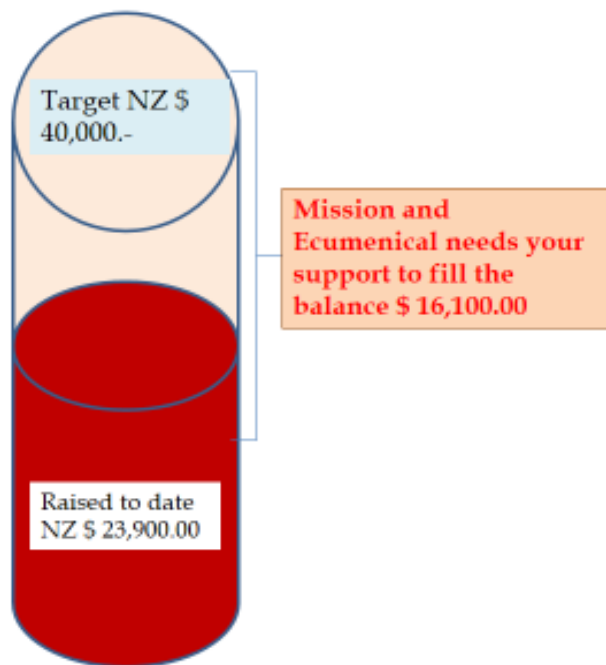
The not so good part is the desperate search for one or two doctors to serve in the Helena Goldie Hospital for at least a year. The moderator of the UCSI Rev. Wilfred Kurepitu wrote: "we will receive Dr Jenny back in June or July only for 3months. There has been a couple identified for 2017 onwards from Swiss. Therefore I bring to you to look for a way for someone to come and help after Dr Jenny leaves and before the Swiss couple come in 2017 either for three month basis or six." This is the need that we are finding hard to assist. If any doctor is available to serve in this part of the Pacific as a service to humanity please get in touch with Prince. The remuneration and travel costs will be covered. Please pray for Helena Goldie Hospital and its needs.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Director Mission and Ecumenical, Prince Devanandan will be visiting Papua New Guinea from 23 July to 2 August 2015. He will be attending the regional synods of New Ireland and Orokololo Circuit.

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE TABAKA SOLAR POWER FUND - To light up the young lives

We thank all those who are continuing to support our assistance to Solomon Islands. We look forward to your contribution to complete the Tabaka project as well.



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