

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

July 2018

Special Appeal 2018

New Classrooms for College of Nursing

It is ten years since Mission and Ecumenical last had a special focus on Helena Goldie College of Nursing. After investigating current needs, President Prince has endorsed the design and construction of a new classroom block at the College of Nursing as the 2018 special appeal. The College of Nursing has current facilities for thirty-five students. Due to lack of space every second year the college has had to delay its intake till the next year. Now the College of Nursing is to be integrated into the government health system. The building of another classroom block at the college will be a step toward upgrading facilities and the provision of national qualifications. We appeal to the generosity of individuals, parishes, trusts, MWFs and youth groups to respond to this initiative. The new classroom block will improve facilities and prepare for future development. The details of the project, and the way in which you can give, can be found on the brochure which follows this Newsletter.

President Prince receives letter

After President Prince's April visit to the United Church of the Solomon Islands, he received a letter from John Sasabule, accountant at Helena Goldie Hospital. Part of which reads;

"A lot of cross cutting issues have come our way since you left. When you first gave us your assurance regarding the isolation ward we did not wait but work started straight away and is progressing well. Secondly we had the team of the Rev. Bruce from Uniting Care Australia who visited us and donated a new ECG, Inv. and other most needed medical equipment and to finally settle payment of the College of Nursing's Curriculum... Two weeks ago we had a visit all the way from Seattle, USA by the owner of Tri-Marine International that partly owns Sol Tuna Fish Processing and the National Fisheries Department in Noro, and he gave us the green light that he would fully fund Helena Goldie Hospital's new Emergency Outpatients' Department. Friday last week an engineer came to visit and discussed with us what we require... I did not mean to write this long a letter but as one of our few greatest supporters since from time immemorial the New Zealand Methodist Church deserves to know how the hospital is doing and the blessings it receives. As well put by you in one of our meetings, the miracle is in our hands if we make room for God to work with us. I want to take this opportunity of thanking you once again for your unfailing support to the hospital."

Letter of appreciation from Tabaka

"Praise God for your good hearts for Tabaka youths and nation. Your continual partnership support will always be honoured because in the end it will benefit individuals and the nation as a whole. Rev. Prince, your heart has shown to the people of the Solomon Islands, not only for Tabaka, but for other parts of the country. The generator has arrived and, yes it will solve the problem of over-using the solar-powered unit and shall put the whole campus in lights. Secondly, we thank God, and pray for your preparation and plans for the girls' ablution block. This is a way forward that can promote gender equality in learning and training at Tabaka. May the Lord bless both you and your plans."

Baptists issue statement on West Papua

A very strong statement has been prepared and circulated by the Baptist Union on the plight of the people of West Papua. In outline it reads:

"We the New Zealand Baptist Union, as a whanau of churches who are committed to the justice of God, express our deep concern at the historical record of Human Rights abuses that have occurred as a result of Indonesian occupation of West Papua since 1962.

+ We the New Zealand Baptist Union, as a whanau of churches who believe in humanity's calling as stewards of creation, also declare our deep concern at the on-going exploitation of natural resources that has followed the Indonesian occupation of West Papua.

+ We the Baptist Union, as a whanau of churches who believe in our calling to participate in Jesus Christ's ministry of reconciliation, also declare our unwavering support for peaceful methods to persuade the international community (including Indonesia) to recognise and ensure the political independence of West Papua.

+ As a result of the UN Decolonization committee's rejection of a petition signed by some 1.8 million West Papuans (and verified by reputable international observers), we the New Zealand Baptist Union, as a whanau of churches who believe in the freedom of conscience that the gospel offers in Jesus Christ, call upon the New Zealand government to actively join other Pacific nations and proactively use diplomatic channels to support the legitimate aspirations of the majority of West Papuan people."

This statement represents a model of best practice that the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa might use at its forthcoming conference. It has been estimated that at least 500,000 West Papuans have died in the conflict since 1962.

70th Anniversary of the World Council of Churches

Celebrations of this important landmark are taking place around the world. During July the World Council of Churches will hold an Indigenous Global Ecumenical Gathering at Ohinemutu, Rotorua. After the meeting a service of worship is planned to take place in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Auckland on Sunday 22nd July to give thanks for the witness of the World Council of Churches over seventy years.

The three New Zealand member churches of the World Council of Churches sent warm greetings to Geneva upon the occasion. In part they wrote, "The lives of our churches in New Zealand have been enriched immeasurably and our agendas have been changed by the challenges that we have encountered through participation in the great fellowship."

Pope Francis visited the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva on 21 June to share the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the World Council of Churches. He described his visit as an authentic ecumenical encounter. Gifts were exchanged and worship offered. The Pope reaffirmed the commitment of the Catholic Church to ecumenism.

Samoan Methodist Toai Metanoia Tumaai-Vuaali, along with eight other youth, led prayers of intercession at the Ecumenical Prayer Service attended by Pope Francis. The young mother and part-time law student noted that the text she read was particularly significant for her family history. The prayer referred to Jesus' early life as an immigrant and refugee and called for members of God's family to welcome those who are escaping poverty, persecution and war. "My mother's parents were among the first Samoans to emigrate to New Zealand about 70 years ago," said the young ecumenist. "The issue of migration is still relevant today as the cost of living in Samoa goes up and people can't find employment. Some are blessed to be accepted in countries like Australia and New Zealand."

The Theology of Mission

Together Towards Life – Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes, is the latest document (2013) from the World Council of Churches on mission. In June, we looked at section four, Spirit of Pentecost: Good News for All. This month we outline section five, Feast of Life: Concluding Affirmations.

In this section Mission is seen as common witness to Christ which leads to extending an invitation to the "Feast in the kingdom of God." The feast celebrates and is a symbol of the love of God, who intends abundance, overflowing in creation. The feast is a sign of the liberation and reconciliation of the whole

creation which is the goal of mission. Then follow ten affirmations that may guide mission into the future:

+ We affirm that the purpose of God's mission is fullness of life and that this is the criterion for discernment in mission.

+ We affirm that mission begins with God's act of creation and continues in re-creation, by the enlivening power of the Holy Spirit.

+ We affirm that spirituality is the source of energy for mission and that mission in the Spirit is transformative.

+ We affirm that the mission of God's Spirit is to renew the whole of creation.

+ We affirm that today mission movements are emerging from the global South and East that are multi-directional and multi-faceted.

+ We affirm that marginalized people are agents of mission and exercise a prophetic role which emphasizes that fullness of life is for all.

+ We affirm that the economy of God is based on values of love and justice for all and that transformative mission resists idolatry in the free-market.

+ We affirm that the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news in all ages and places and should be proclaimed in the Spirit of love and humility.

+ We affirm that dialogue and co-operation for life are integral to mission and evangelism.

+ We affirm that God moves and empowers the church in mission.

Finally, the report says that "The Triune God invites the whole of creation to the Feast of Life, through Jesus Christ who came "that they may have life, and may have it in all its fullness," through the Holy Spirit who affirms the vision of the reign of God..."

Pray for the whole of humanity

Pray always
for all the learned
the oblique
the delicate.
Let them
not be forgotten
at the throne of God
when the simple
come into
their kingdom.

Evelyn Waugh

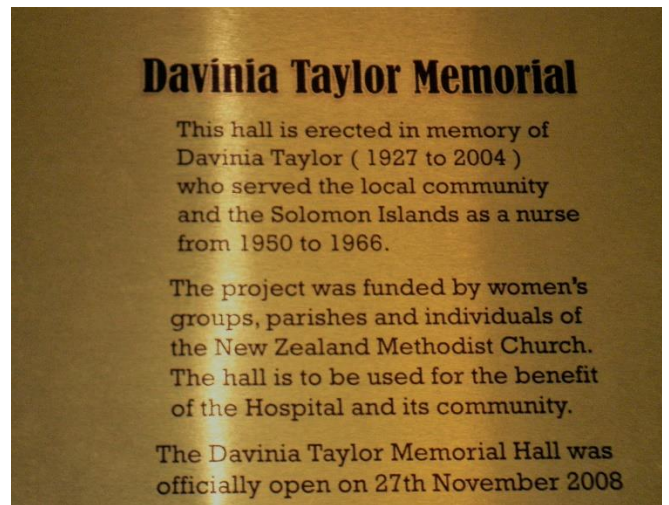
MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD
Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa
Acting Director: Rev. Dr Terry Wall
409 Great South Road Private Bag 11 903 Ellerslie
Auckland 1542
Phone: 09-571 9142 Fax: 09-525 9346
E-mail: mm-e@methodist.org.nz

**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Annual Appeal 2018
Classroom Block
For
Helena Goldie College of Nursing**

The Helena Goldie College of Nursing is to be upgraded to a National College in Munda, Solomon Islands. The infra structure needs upgrading. Our contribution to the upgrading will be to build a new classroom block in 2019 at a cost of NZ \$ 50,000.00.

This is possible only with the support of the everyone who contributes through the Methodist Mission and Ecumenical. The building would be built in 2019, but the service from it will be for many years to come.

The last project at the College of Nursing by Methodist Mission and Ecumenical was in 2008.



**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical appeals to all to contribute to the
Helena Goldie College of Nursing
BUILDING FUND
to raise \$ 50,000 in 2018**

Mission is possible only with your participation and contribution to the fund.

Mission and Ecumenical Fund is registered with the **Charities Commission**.

Registration Number CC51048. Receipts will be issued for tax rebate on the donation.

✂-----
ANNUAL APPEAL 2018 - HELENA GOLDIE COLLEGE OF NURSING BUILDING FUND

Please send your donation by cheque in favour of

Mission and Ecumenical Fund

to:

Rev Terry Wall (Acting Director)
Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Private Bag 11 903
Ellerslie
Auckland 1542

You could also make your donation directly into

BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03

Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please remember to send this cover slip for a receipt when you make a deposit.