

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

May 2018

Special Appeal 2018

New Classrooms for College of Nursing

It is ten years since Mission and Ecumenical has 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 again appeal to the generosity of individuals, parishes, trusts and MWFs to respond to this appeal. 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 visits Solomons

In the last week of April President Prince paid a pastoral visit to the Solomon Islands. He was accompanied by Ronnie Matafeo and Barbara and David Davies from the Auckland Central Methodist Parish. During his time there he visited a number of church institutions, consolidated relationships and was brought up to date with recent developments.

New Infectious Diseases Ward Blessed



President Prince led a prayer service for the blessing of the new Infectious Diseases Ward at Helena Goldie Hospital, Munda on 25 April. Though the heavens opened, a good attendance of local people were present including Dr Richard Hapa, retired Swiss couple who are working there for three years Dr Rukchell and Dr Ehard. Thanks were expressed for

the generosity of the Auckland Central Methodist Parish in funding the ward. President Prince heard that they cope with malaria, pneumonia and occasionally leprosy.

Helena Goldie Hospital



During his visit to Helena Goldie Hospital he heard that the hospital is in good heart, serving the people of the Western Province. Mission and Ecumenical will continue to contribute the salary of the director of nursing, Andrew Telokana. The hospital has 68 beds plus another ten in the newly blessed ward. In addition to this, there are three rooms with three beds for fee paying patients. The outpatients' department and the dental clinic operate effectively. While the visitors were present, surgery was performed and a life saved of a local person caught in an accident. The full time chaplain is the Rev. Alofitu Maka.



The Swiss doctors negotiated with Swiss authorities to procure an ambulance for their work in the Solomon Islands. They were fortunate in being gifted the ambulance which has now been transported to Munda where it is used to carry those in need of care to the hospital.

College of Nursing

The delegation of four visited the College of Nursing with which we have had a long association, adjacent to the hospital. Funds have been raised locally to construct an administration centre and office for the principal. There remains a shortfall and it is yet to be completed. Final year students on placement, will complete their training in June and return to the hospitals from where they came in July. It is expected that the next intake of students in July will number 24.

Tabaka Rural Training Institute

Our party led by President Prince, received a traditional welcome by student warriors. Principal Joas Lawrence guided the group around the Institute. In 2018 there are 153 students in the first year with twelve fulltime staff, one of whom is visiting from Australia teaching carpentry with power tools. There are 52 young women among the students taking courses such as hospitality and electro-technology.



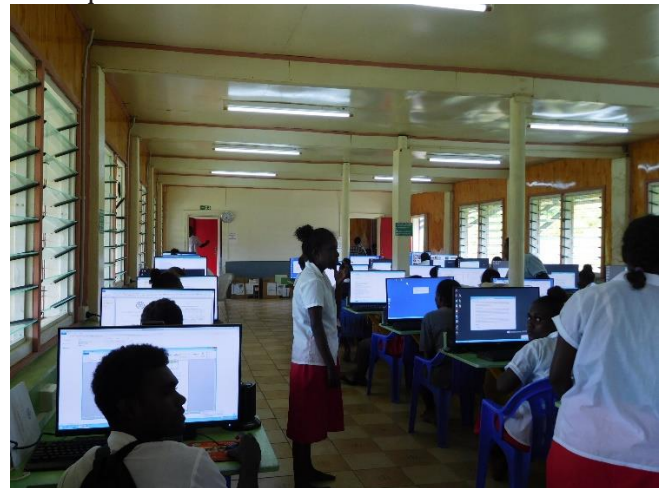
Young men follow courses in automotive engineering, repair of outboard motors and generators, carpentry and plumbing. The Institute appreciated the installation of solar power panels for regular use and thanks the Methodist Church of New Zealand. It was noted that there is need of a generator to teach the use of power tools, which cannot operate on solar power. Mission and Ecumenical will look at providing this capacity.



Goldie College also visited



Half an hour boat journey along the coast took the visitors to Goldie College. The principal warmly welcomed the guests. Supported by alumnae, a new laboratory with 32 computers has been opened, which is operated by generators. There are plans to double the number of computers - one third of funds has been raised, with NZ\$50,000 remaining. Since it is the only secondary school in the region, its service is unique.



Sasamuqa was the last port of call



President Prince was the only kiwi to make the journey to Sasamuqa. Leaving at 5 a.m. in the sea ambulance with Dr Hapa, chief nurse Andrew and United Church Health Secretary Nehemiah, the group braved choppy waters on a rough voyage that

took five and a half hours. The breakfast provided upon arrival was welcome. They met with the board chairman, Daniel Pitakoe, who commented that “every time Rev. Prince visits, something new happens for us – we thank you and the Methodist Church for on-going support.” They also expressed thanks for the scholarship funding for Lucy Jaja, over four years. Prince saw the safety rails that had been funded by Mission and Ecumenical, now also being used for therapy for stroke victims. Consideration is being given to build a community based rehabilitation centre for stroke patients. After a full day’s work, the party returned in quieter seas to Munda. President Prince is being nick-named Superman for being the only person to arrive who has made the visit to Sasamuqa and returned the same day!

Kokeqolo Water Project

The next day saw President Prince learning that the Kokeqolo water scheme is ready to be started. As the old bore is too close to the site of road extensions, a new bore is required. A local company has offered to do this work without charge. Work on this should start by the end of May. This is a major project and will transform the provision of clean and reliable water supply to the village, school and church headquarters. It was the special appeal of Mission and Ecumenical in 2017 – 2018 that has made this possible.

70th Anniversary of the World Council of Churches

The latest issue of the theological journal of the World Council of Churches, the *Ecumenical Review*, features articles which commemorate the seventy years since the first General Assembly held in Amsterdam in 1948. Under the title “Walking Together: Serving Justice and Peace”, the editor draws on writing from each of the seven general secretaries who have served the organisation. Each chapter represents different perspectives on the ecumenical movement from different decades. Common themes emerge: “the tension between the World Council of Churches as a movement for renewal and as a gathering of the churches; the meaning of fellowship as mutual accountability for the churches that have committed themselves to the World Council of Churches; the widening ecumenical fellowship beyond the member churches; and the image of the ‘pilgrim’ people of God.

The World Council of Churches general secretary, Dr Olav Fykse Tveit writes, “The call to unity is the basis of all that we do, and we have to remind ourselves continually what this calling implies in terms of commitment to really overcome our historical divisions and to work for a unity that represents

both justice and peace. This is not a superficial exercise; it reaches deep into our lives and priorities. It has a price; it is costly – if we are serious.”

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 April, we looked at section two, Spirit of Liberation: Mission from the Margins. This month we outline section three, Spirit of Community: Church on the Move.

The document affirms that the life of the Trinity is at the heart of the life of the Church. “The life of the church arises from the love of the Triune God... The Triune God’s overflowing sharing of love is the source of all mission and evangelism.” (para 55) There is an indissoluble relation of unity to mission. The simple claim is made, “To fulfil God’s missionary purpose is the church’s aim.” (57) This places the *missio Dei* at the centre of the church’s self-understanding. “...it is not that the church has a mission but rather that the mission of God has a church.” (58)

The presence of division and disunity is seen to harm the church’s ability to participate in the mission of God. “The lack of full and real unity in mission still harms the authenticity and credibility of the fulfilment of God’s mission in this world.” (61) Christ is taken to be the model of the mission of God, whose humble self-emptying is the example that the church is called to embrace. In co-operation with the Roman Catholic Church and evangelical bodies, there is an emerging commitment that “together we share a common concern that the whole church should witness to the whole gospel in the whole world.” (65) In fact, unity in mission is seen as a test of authentic life in Christ. (67)

Mission theology involves “a rediscovery of the work of the Holy Spirit in healing and reconciliation...” (68) This missiology has implications for ecclesiology: “...unity in mission is the basis for the visible unity of the church.” (69) There follow paragraphs about the mission of the local church emphasizing God’s hospitality. “Liturgy in the sanctuary only has full integrity when we live out God’s mission in our communities in daily life.” (74)

Call to pray for the two Koreas

As leaders of North and South Korea prepared for their summit at the end of April, the third in eleven years, staff at the Christian Conference of Asia headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand organised a prayer service. They prayed that there would be a favourable outcome that would pave the way for a successful meeting later of President Trump and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. Christian Conference of Asia urged member churches to pray for

reconciliation that would lead to peaceful co-existence on the Korean peninsula.

Education for Peace

The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) of the Vatican and the office of Interreligious Dialogue and Co-operation of the World Council of Churches met in Geneva in 16-18 April for their annual meeting. Staff from the two offices united in prayer, fellowship and joint work on a document entitled, "Education for Peace in a Multicultural World."

Iona Community leader dies

The Revd Ian Fraser, last surviving founder of the Iona Community, Scotland, and former World Council of Churches staff worker, has died at the age of 100. The Iona Community is a Christian ecumenical community focused on the renewal of worship, the healing of relationships and work for justice and peace. While a parish minister in the Church of Scotland in Rosyth, Ian Fraser wrote a book, *Bible, Congregation and Community*, in which he sought to empower all the baptised to live out their ministries in their homes, places of work and in their neighbourhoods.

Bible Societies Report

In 2017, the United Bible Societies reported it assisted in scripture translations in 49 languages spoken by more than 580 million people. Twenty of those languages – collectively spoken by 14 million – were newly translated in 2017, and seven communities received their very first full Bible in their own language. In 2017 Bible Societies in 32 countries received Braille projects to meet the scripture needs of blind readers.

Global Day of Prayer to End Famine

The World Council of Churches, World Evangelical Alliance and the All Africa Council of Churches, are promoting Sunday 10 June 2018 as the second annual Global Day of Prayer to End Famine to be observed in congregations around the world. The day will unite faith communities worldwide as a prayerful and spiritual movement to:

- + promote prayer, reflection and action with information and suggestions,
- + bring awareness of famine's impact on the most vulnerable children and families,
- + develop awareness of and assist churches to address the root causes of famine,
- + connect church-related and other humanitarian organisations to bring immediate relief,
- + help congregations uphold each other in prayer and support by sharing experiences and solutions.

*Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;
He led them by a straight way,
and they reached an inhabited town.*
Psalm 107: 4 - 7

The letter of invitation says, among other things: "After years of steady and remarkable progress on reducing world hunger, the number of hungry people has started to climb - a startling reversal less than three years after global leaders collectively agreed that achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals demanded that no-one be left behind. Famine, drought and armed conflict, are making millions of our sisters and brothers hungry, homeless and vulnerable to conflicts, violence and abuse.

In a world where there are more than enough resources and food for all, less than 50% of needed resources to address these challenges is being collected... Let us observe Sunday 10 June 2018 as a Global Day of Prayer to End Famine. May our prayers join the millions of our sisters and brothers as they cry to the Lord to be delivered from their distress. May we, together, make a straight way, to sustained peace, wellbeing and abundance!"

Statistics:

Twenty million people in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria are living on the brink of famine. With concerted effort last year famine was averted or rolled back, however in 2018 the risk of famine remains or has increased in danger.

Prayer from the Melanesia

O Jesus Christ,
be the canoe that holds me up in the sea of life,
be the rudder that helps me in straight currents,
be the outrigger that supports me in temptation.
Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me each day.
Keep my body strong so that
I can paddle steadfastly on in the voyage of life.
Amen.

Anglican Missions, *Partners in Prayer Manual* 2018

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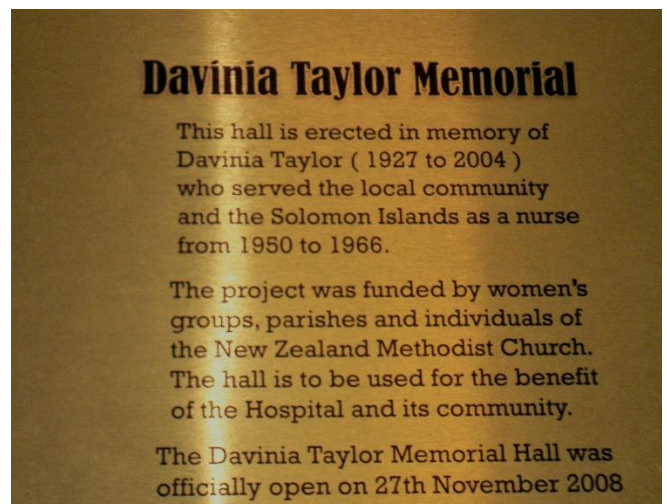
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**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Annual Appeal 2018
Classroom Block
For
Helena Goldie College of Nursing**

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.