

# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## September - 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.

#### Mission and Ecumenical Board Meeting

At its August meeting the Board decided to contribute \$1,000 from its disaster relief fund to assist with recovery after devastating floods in Kerala. The funds to be sent through the Christian Conference of Asia.

The acting director reported on his work over the last three months, highlighting the paper 'Considering Episcopacy as a Sign of Continuity and Unity.' It has been sent to synods and Te Taha Maori and has been generally well received.

A legacy for work in the Solomon Islands had been received from the estate of the late Teaching Sister Myra Fraser. The money has been invested and will be used for a project in the field of education.

It was decided to paint the parsonage and to await the report of a sub-committee charged with making recommendations on the future of the parsonage.

Lesieli Samiu, a member of the Board, gave a report on her attendance at the Asian Theological Academy, sponsored by the Anglican United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Illustrating her report with slides, she said that the academy, held in Sri Lanka, focused on contextual theology. Subjects on the agenda were globalisation, inter-religious dialogue, distinctive features of the Asian context and reading the scriptures with new eyes. Participants divided up into three groups for exposure to the reality of Sri Lanka: one went to explore the fishing harvest, the second to the tea

industry and the third to the port development funded by Chinese investment. Lesieli was struck by the complexity of the issues and said that her experience had been challenging. Hope begins with us!

President Prince reported on attending the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Uniting Church of Australia. Top of the agenda was the church seeking to respond to the new legislation regarding marriage. More can be found on this in the latest issue of *Touchstone*.

#### Re-launch of Thursdays in Black

Thursdays in Black was born in the 1980s during the World Council of Churches' Decade of Solidarity with Women, as recognition of women's movements worldwide. The re-launch seemed timely in light of the issues that have currently been in the media regarding sexual harassment and abuse. Each week women and men, from many parts of the world, will post expressions of their commitment to the campaign on social media under the hashtag #ThursdaysinBlack. Some share prayers, some pick up on recent news to explain why they are part of the movement, while others may publish photos of themselves wearing black to lend their face to the cause. Calling for respect between women and men, Thursdays in Black aims to expose gender based violence. It expresses solidarity with victims of violence and rape and looks to construct a culture of equality and appreciation.

#### 70th Anniversary of the World Council of Churches

Hundreds of people gathered from around the world for an ecumenical prayer service on 23 August at the Nieuwe Kerk, a fifteenth century church in Amsterdam to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Council of Churches, in the very church that the organisation was founded in. With the theme 'Walking, Praying and Working Together', the service featured a procession of pilgrims from all around the world.

World Council of Churches General Secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit preached on the text 'The love of Christ compels us.' He said of those who established the World Council of Churches, "They were convinced that overcoming the forces dividing humanity, and also threatening relationships within and among the churches, would require that they themselves had to be united in love."

Dr Agnes Abuom, Moderator of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, led the congregation in prayer: "Almighty God, help us to open our hearts

and doors to share your love with the poor materially, and to speak truth in humility to the poor rich, to be present with the elderly and lonely people. God our Creator, hear our prayer and have mercy." The Rev. Tony Franklin Ross was present at these celebrations in the Netherlands.

### President Prince preaches before King

On the anniversary of the coronation of the Maori King, President Prince preached a sermon on the text from the book of the prophet Micah 6:8 "He has told you. O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." Here is an outline:

Jesus' words were clear about the need of unity to experience God's love. We are living in a world where divide and rule has become the norm. Throughout history, there have been attempts at breaking up movements that existed to build unity among the people.

The Kingitanga movement has the primary call to hold the people together and speak with one voice. If there is no unity, the people of this land will be aliens in their own land. A couple of years ago when I went to see the Australian Parliament, the structure that attracted me was not the parliament in Canberra, but the leaf hut built by the aboriginal people in front of the parliament. The name on the house was Embassy of the Aborigines of the Land. A clear indication of how they have become foreigners in their own land and therefore they need an embassy. The challenge before any leader is to hold the people together in unity and to establish the fundamental rights of the people.

Your Majesty, King Tuheitia, whenever I visit the sacred Marae Turangawaewae, I look at your flag. I am always happy to see your flag flying. It reminds me of the message of the prophets in the Bible. Your flag flies as a symbol of hope, a symbol of promise and a symbol of new life.

I speak with knowledge and experience as one who has come from a country where there was ethnic war and tyranny. One fraction of the people fought for autonomy. People and unity will never come if justice is not given. The prophet Amos' message was, "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like ever-flowing streams." If not, peace and unity will not happen.

When our people suffer injustice, we as leaders have to stand up for their rights.

Today in our economy greed-fuelled men ensure the accumulation of their wealth. There needs to be loving-kindness.

The prophet calls us to walk humbly with our God. These three basic imperatives unite a people to be the embodiment of God's love, not only among iwi, but also in every context.

### Book Review

Rediscovering Values – In the City, our Towns and in Your Community, by Jim Wallis, 2010  
Pub. Hodder & Stoughton

This book was written by Jim Wallis to help American Christians make sense of the global financial crisis. He demonstrates that all economies are informed by ethical foundations. It matters a great deal what ethics we are working with.

In chapters that are easy to digest the author exposes the ethics that have informed recent economic activity in the United States. He claims that in recent decades the cultural messages have been; "greed is good; it's all about me; and I want it all, and I want it now." The global financial crisis, which he describes as the Great Recession, "is the result of a moral crisis." (p. 27)

His main thesis is outlined in chapter two where he sees capitalism as worshipping the market. Drawing on theologian Harvey Cox 1999 article in the *Atlantic* magazine "The Market as God", we see that the market is now serving to provide meaning and purpose in the place of God. This leads to the market being all-powerful, all-knowing and always present in our lives. These are attributes that have been ascribed to God. Jim Wallis, along with other theologians, wants to claim that for the United States, the market has become an idol that is worshipped.

In subsequent chapters the consequences of this idolatry are identified. The market cannot be questioned; the market defines how we are expected to act, the market prescribes values of ruthless competition and who will be the casualties. In all of this the banks play a leading role in managing the flow of funds to those in privileged positions and are the subject of sharp critique.

The author reveals how far the United States has departed from the vision of its founding fathers. He also shows how far his society has strayed from the values of the gospel. This is an illuminating book which has clear implications for New Zealand society as we struggle with what priorities our economy should serve.

What is really encouraging is that not only does Jim Wallis analyse what is wrong, he also offers a prescription for a way out of the captivity to idols!

Terry Wall

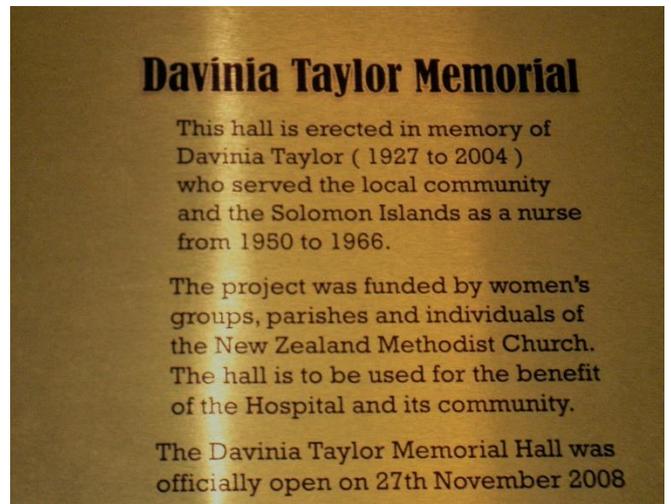
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**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical  
Annual Appeal 2018  
Classroom Block  
For  
Helena Goldie College of Nursing**

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.

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**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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