

### Kokeqolo Water Supply Project

The initial construction is now complete with the pump house. M&E is waiting to hear about the next stage of installing water tanks to store water supply to the village.



*Pump House completed*

From Kokeqolo – Eddie Pratt wrote: Rev Prince, we are still waiting for the BOQ from Isaac [contractor]. General Secretary has contacted him to speed up this work. Meanwhile we are temporarily connecting a petrol pump to supply water to the Youth Centre water tanks to support daily water need for the Women Seminar, more than 2000 are gathering here at the moment. I will get an update today from GS with regards to Isaac's work.

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### CONSTRUCTION WORK AT TABAKA RURAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

I am delighted to see the way the work at Tabaka Rural Training institute progress. The principal Joash Lawrence sends periodic reports and photos of the work in progress. A few photos received in October is below. Weather permitting, this construction work must be completed by end of November or early December.

Once again, this was made possible because of the generous support from members of the Methodist Church who continue to support the partnership in mission with Solomon Islands. I am happy to invite interested people to join me in my next visit to Solomon Islands in 2020 to see for yourselves the work Methodist Church of New Zealand is engaged with partnership in mission.

We go on holidays that enhance the profit for companies that provide the service. Travel of this nature with basic facilities to stay and share whatever the food people offer is a way of enhancing and adding joy to the lives of people in Solomon Islands. No profit, but transformation is assured for the visitors and the visited. If you are interested, please contact me. *Prince Devanandan*



*Side elevation of the Ablution block*



*Rear elevation of the Ablution Block*



*Front elevation*



*Boys digging the septic tank and the soak away hole.*

## Inaugural meeting of interfaith officers in Wales deepens ecumenical dialogue -

05 November 2019

A group of 35 participants from different parts of the world were selected to participate in this meeting. I consider it a privilege to represent the Methodist Church of New Zealand and the National Dialogue for Christian Unity. Besides the discussions and plans for future, reports from different regions highlighted the challenges in each of those context. An ongoing question is how we engage in interfaith dialogue while the churches are also actively converting people to Christianity. In addition, will the interfaith dialogue for peace in community be a barrier to the preaching of the gospel is another question. In addition, churches were asked to complete a survey about inter religious work in member churches of the WCC.



*Girls performing a traditional dance*

In addition to the meeting, I am one of the few privileged to attend a Diwali Festival celebration held in Cardiff, Wales. It was a gathering of over 500 participants with various cultural expressions through dance and music and of course, the food.



*Attendees of the Cardiff Interfaith Leaders meeting with the Diwali festival organiser*

The report below from World Council of Churches highlights various aspects of the meeting.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and Churches Together in Wales held the first-ever meeting of interfaith officers involved in

interreligious engagement. The gathering, from 31 October to 3 November, was held in Cardiff, Wales, and explored the theme “Towards Fostering Dialogue Ecumenically.”



*Photo: Joseph Wandera*

Speaking to the group, WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit reflected that the churches in the world have to work on their relationships with people and communities of other faiths. “This is our call to be peacemakers and our call to welcome the other in our own contexts,” Tveit said. “This new network among those assigned to lead the work of the churches in this respect will be an asset for all of us, and particularly for the work of the WCC.”

Tveit noted that we all live somehow in a context of religious pluralism. “This must be dealt with as a challenge and a task, but also as a way to understand and develop our own faith communities and faith expressions,” he said. “The interfaith relations must be built on principles and structures of mutual accountability, for what we say and what we do, developing qualities of relations of trust and transparency.” He added: “In all that we do in relation to people of other faith, we must affirm that our basis is that we all are created in the image of God and all belong to the one, human family.”

The meeting begins to build a network of interfaith officers to explore and engage with the ecumenical dimensions of interreligious engagement. Those gathered also established a platform for exchange and encounter, as well as mapped the current status of interreligious engagement within the ecumenical fellowship. Rev. Dr Peniel Rajkumar, WCC programme executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, said that the meeting enabled people engaged in interreligious ministries across the global fellowship to come together and identify common synergies as well as discern strategies for mutual accompaniment.

"The meeting reaffirmed the importance of the WCC's convening role in fostering interreligious dialogue ecumenically," said Rajkumar. "The conviction that ecumenical witness in today's world is inextricably linked to being sensitive and responsive to the challenges and opportunities opened by our multi-religious realities was acknowledged by the participants."

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/inaugural-meeting-of-interfaith-officers-in-wales-deepens-ecumenical-dialogue>

### **Roman Catholic Church presents formal response to "The Church: Towards a Common Vision" 24 October 2019**

**The Roman Catholic Church has presented a formal response to "The Church: Towards a Common Vision," the fruit of three decades of international ecumenical conversation about what it means to be the church.**

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity worked towards providing this official Catholic response, as requested by the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission. "This process has involved consultations with episcopal conferences around the world, as well as consideration of responses prepared by individual theologians, including both lay and ordained, academic study groups, and ecclesial movements," reported the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. "After due study of these contributions by the members of the drafting team, several working sessions were organized in Rome and a draft of the response was prepared."

After further improvements by experts and editors, the official Catholic response was approved by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. "The response shows that 'The Church: Towards a Common Vision' synthesizes well the growing consensus in the field of ecclesiology in the current ecumenical dialogue," reported the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. "At the same time it points out various aspects which need further reflection on the nature and the mission of the church, as well as on the vision of its unity."

#### **Received with joy**

WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit said "The Church: Towards a Common Vision" is a landmark in the ecumenical movement and the dialogues towards visible unity. "Significant common ground has been established and many common features in our traditions have been identified," said Tveit. "Many churches have contributed to the reception process," he said,

adding that the response from the Roman Catholic Church is another landmark in this process.

"The response builds on a very comprehensive and wide process in the Roman Catholic Church," noted Tveit. "The response is a sign of how we are walking, working and praying together. We have more to do, and more need to pray for the unity of the church. But we are committed to make it a unity that can be sustainable in its diversity and mutual accountability." Tveit continued: "The WCC receives this text and all responses with gratitude and hope, as we take our role as convening agent in the one ecumenical movement, building the viable road to visible unity, together with the Roman Catholic Church."

Rev. Dr Susan Durber, moderator of the WCC Faith and Order Commission, said that the response from the Roman Catholic Church has been received with great joy. "It is encouraging to read a response that affirms how far we have come in common understanding and that exhibits such strong commitment to continuing on the journey towards visible unity, promising to 'spare no effort'," said Durber. "There are some notes that might surprise some readers; a call for more on 'a personal encounter with Jesus Christ', an encouragement that a theology of priesthood needs to be related to a theology of baptism, an emphasis on the local church, and affirmation of the essential missionary nature of the church."

There are important invitations too, added Durber: "to explore more together the meaning of sacramentality, to reflect on ecumenical spirituality, and to see more fully how we have often been looking in different ways at the same reality." The response from the Roman Catholic Church has a sense of hope, faith and real commitment, said Durber. "The Faith and Order Commission of the WCC, on which Roman Catholics serve as full members, is deeply grateful for the gift of this response, a gift to the ecumenical movement."

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/roman-catholic-church-presents-formal-response-to-the-church-towards-a-common-vision>

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**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical  
Annual Appeal 2020  
Ablution and Shower Facility for Tabaka Rural Training Centre**



Tabaka Rural Training Centre was started by a group of volunteers from the Methodist Church of New Zealand in 1992. It was established to train youth in a skill which would enable them to earn a living. Over the past 27 years this centre has grown to technical institute with over 250 students, boys and girls receiving technical training in eight different areas.

The work of the institute has expanded, but not the facilities for the youth who live in the dormitories. There is no proper toilet and shower facility for the students. During the annual visit of the Mission and Ecumenical director and the team in consultation with the principal decided to act immediately to build a toilet and shower facility for the Girls' Dormitory as the first stage and to build a similar facility for boys the following year.

**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Board appeals to all to become partners in mission by supporting the**

**ANNUAL APPEAL 2020 to raise \$ 35,000 in 2019**

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 2020 - TABAKA ABLUTION FACILITY FUND**

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**Rev Prince Devanandan(Director)  
Mission and Ecumenical Board  
Private Bag 11 903  
Ellerslie  
Auckland 1542**

**Alternately, do a bank transfer directly to:**

**02-0800-0766004-03**

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

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