

# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## March – 2019

### Annual Appeal 2019 Solar Power Unit for the Goldie College Computer Lab



Mission and Ecumenical has launched the Annual Appeal 2019 to raise NZ \$ 35,000 for Goldie College Computer Lab Solar Power Unit. Thank you very much for all those who supported to raise \$ 24,959.00 to date. We look forward to your continued support to reach the target of this project.

### Projects at Tabaka Rural Training Centre for Youth, Solomon Islands

The work carried out in Tabaka Rural Training Centre for youth in 2017 -18 period is promising to the youth who come to be trained in various skills. The principal Joash Law wrote to the Mission and Ecumenical in February. The following was his email:

*New year greetings from Tabaka RTC community. Brief report about the solar power and the generator. Currently the generator is supplying electricity power to 12 buildings including a water pump that pumps water to one of the old storage fibrocement tank near girls dormitories.*

*We will just need to upgrade the water supply system that will cater to supply proper sanitation. The good news about it is the water supply pressure was still strong at the current school kitchen near the school hall funded by your Methodist church community. Solar power was also help to source electrical power for laptop computers and a printer/copier during the day.*

*These funding has put direct impacts to the lives of those youths who have no chance to continue their education. Some might come from marginal families from our local communities around the Solomon Islands.*

*With that I on behalf of the church and the community would like to thank your congregation around the region who have directly impacting the development of the lives of the communities.*

*Thank you*

*Joash*

*Principal*

The people called Methodist in New Zealand who supported these projects must realise that the little drop we put into the bucket goes a very long way. Our donations however small, are having a larger impact of life changing effects on the youth. Let us continue to do all the good we can, by all the means we can to the youth and children of Solomon Islands.

### National Dialogue of Christian Unity

The annual forum of the National Dialogue for Christian Unity was held at the Catholic Centre in Wellington on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. The four member churches are the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, the Catholic Church, The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hahi Weteriana O Aotearoa and the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and The Salvation Army maintaining an observer role. Keynote speaker the Most Revd. David Moxon spoke on "Receptive Ecumenism." Bishop Moxon highlighted the following points:

1. To recognise that in becoming all that we are called to be, we must own the responsibility that we can only change ourselves rather than others, that we are being resourced for this, and that this task takes time.
2. To learn from and across our denominational differences in a mutually enriching way that fosters growth within traditions by finding the beauty of another tradition's focus.
3. To summon churches to return to their core callings in fresh ways that appropriately cohere with the form and patterns of received tradition.
4. To engage a future-oriented understanding of the Christian tradition as a dynamic web that is open to growth and change.
5. To emphasize that ecclesial dimension of conversion included the ongoing development of the organizational, structural, cultural and practical aspects of the church.
6. To embrace the unilateral willingness of ecclesial conversation for the sake of the ongoing flourishing one's own tradition in love.

7. The church is always in the service of the truth of Christ's Kingdom, which must be lived out with attentive hospitality of the life and flourishing of other traditions.
8. To call churches to grow visibly together in structural and sacramental unity with the Triune God.

Participants were encouraged and challenged by the what Bishop Moxon stated. The fact remains that unless we unite, we will not be able to witness effectively to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Papua human rights situation, religious freedom, focuses of WCC delegation visit to Indonesia**

An ecumenical delegation coordinated by the World Council of Churches (WCC) visited Indonesia on 15-22 February, including the provinces of Papua and Papua Barat - where increasing violence and discrimination against indigenous Papuan people was recently highlighted in [a joint statement by five UN human rights mandate-holders](#).

The purpose of the ecumenical delegation's visit was to express solidarity and encourage member churches and related organizations in their efforts for justice and peace in Indonesia. Organized as part of the WCC's 'Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace', the visit focused on issues concerning religious freedom and inter-religious harmony in Indonesia, and the human rights situation in Papua. The delegation was hosted by the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) and the Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua (GKI-TP).

The delegation was concerned to learn that due to migration and demographic shifts, indigenous Papuans now form a minority in their own land. Land grabbing, environmental degradation and accelerating destruction of the forest and river resources upon which Papuans' livelihoods traditionally depended were frequent complaints heard by the delegation. According to Papuan counterparts the prevailing development model in the territory "is for others, not for us." Indeed, Dr Emily Welty, vice moderator of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, observed: "Papuan people seem to be systemically marginalized and excluded in all areas of life."

In Wamena and Jayapura, delegation members met internally-displaced people who had fled from conflict and Indonesian military and police operations in the Nduga region following an incident on 2 December 2018 in which 21 road construction workers were reported killed by an armed group. The total number of IDPs is unknown, but many are thought to be still taking refuge in the forest without support. Bishop Abednego Keshomshahara of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania said, "it was painful to see so many child victims of this violence who fear to return home because of the presence of military and police who should be the ones protecting them in their villages and schools."

During the visit to Papua the delegation received a joint appeal from the leaders of four churches in Papua – the GKI-TP, the KINGMI Church in Tanah Papua, the Evangelical Church in Tanah Papua (GIDI), and the Fellowship of Baptist Churches of Papua – calling for international ecumenical support for a comprehensive political dialogue for the resolution of the situation in Papua. "It is clear," said Rev. James Bhagwan, general secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, "that dialogue without preconditions is the only path forward in such a situation as we encountered in Papua." Let us continue to pray for the people of West Papua and their freedom. Full report is available at <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/papua-human-rights-situation-religious-freedom-focuses-of-wcc-delegation-visit-to-indonesia>

### **Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace – a call for the people in the churches to be involved and share in the work of justice and peace**

The World Council of Churches, an expression of the worldwide Christian fellowship, calls on churches everywhere to walk together, to view their common life, their journey of faith, as a part of the pilgrimage of justice and peace, and to join together with others in celebrating life and in concrete steps toward transforming injustices and violence.

The shared faith and commitment of Christians everywhere are necessary, affirming the God of life and the resilient hope offered to us in the life, the cross, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians are called to affirm, sustain, and protect life. This is an ecumenical calling. One God of life, one creation, one humanity calls the one church of Jesus Christ to commitment and engagement where peace and justice are threatened or destroyed.

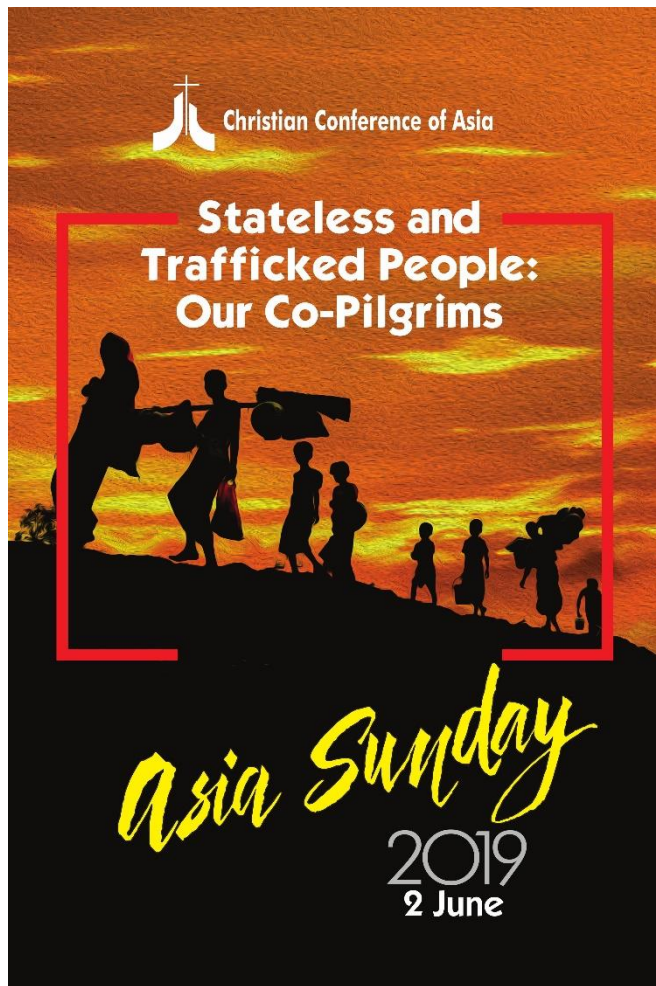
**Become involved in the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace:** an initiative of the WCC member churches "to work together in a common quest, renewing the true vocation of the church through collaborative engagement with the most important issues of justice and peace, healing a world filled with conflict, injustice and pain."

**Share your ideas and learn from fellow pilgrims:** Personal reflections on the pilgrimage theme, how it relates to the lives of the churches in various parts of the world, and to justice and peace issues that Christians are confronting in their communities, are being posted for discussion at [blog.oikoumene.org](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/blog). More information available at:

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/pilgrimage-of-justice-and-peace>

**ASIA SUNDAY 2019 – 2 June 2019**

**The Theme: 'Stateless and Trafficked People: Our Co-Pilgrims'**



Asia Sunday is observed every year on the Sunday before Pentecost, and the **Asia Sunday-2019 falls on 2 June.**

The member churches and councils of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), as well as churches and ecumenical partners around the world, observe Asia Sunday annually as an occasion to offer special prayers and organise worship services with focus on the Asia Sunday theme.

While highlighting the importance of this year's Asia Sunday theme, 'Stateless and Trafficked People: Our Co-Pilgrims', CCA General Secretary Dr. Mathews George Chunakara stated, "As the consequences and impacts of statelessness and human trafficking are enormous, the Christian response warrants to address these contemporary problems of dehumanisation with urgent priority".

The CCA General Secretary further stated, "The observance of Asia Sunday with a focus on this particular theme will be another attempt of CCA to sensitise and mobilise Asian churches to be aware that the Church, as an instrument of caring for God's creation, must protect those who have been

trafficked to exploitation and those who are forced to live in our midst as stateless".

"There are numerous issues linked to statelessness and human trafficking as well as movement of people within and beyond borders including the rampant rise of inequality, ethnocentrism, racism, violence and extreme nationalism. All these dehumanising factors are increasingly evident in Asia and degrading the image of God and the basic dignity deserved by every human being. It is important for the churches in Asia to be concerned about migrants, trafficked and stateless who are our co-pilgrims and sojourners intimately connected or interdependent in our human family", said Dr. Mathews George Chunakara.

Statelessness and human trafficking are grave and widespread human rights problems of the contemporary world; statelessness puts a person at greater risk of becoming a victim of trafficking.

Forty per cent of the identified stateless population of the world live in Asia and the Pacific. The Rohingyas are the most vulnerable stateless people in Asia. According to the UN estimates, 2.5 million people are in forced labour, including sexual exploitation, of which 1.4 million are in Asia and the Pacific. A large number of trafficked people also become 'stateless'.

As part of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP), the year 2019 will have the PJP focus on Asia with a common theme 'Building Peace and Human Dignity'. Statelessness and Trafficking in persons are among the priority concerns addressed as part of the PJP Asia Focus.

An international consultation on 'Stateless and Trafficked People' will be jointly organised by the CCA and WCC from 20 to 23 May 2019, and held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

For Asia Sunday Worship Resources, please click download

[Asia-Sunday-2019 \(Word Format\)](#)

[Asia-Sunday-2019 \(PDF Format\)](#)

These service orders can be downloaded from the websites and used on Asia Sunday on 2 June 2019 or on a Sunday nearer to Asia Sunday in your congregations.

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# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Annual Appeal 2019

## Solar Power Unit for the Computer Lab

Goldie College is a secondary school in the Western Province managed by the United Church of Solomon Islands. The school hostel is home for over 500 students and the staff who live in the premises.

The Principal Mr Brian Bird with the help of the Alumni has set up a modern computer lab with 32 work stations for computer literacy and learning through technology. The need of the school is a solar power unit to run the computer lab. During the visit of the Director in April 2018, the principal made a request to assist the school with a solar power unit.

Mission and Ecumenical Board is trying to raise NZ \$ 35,000 for this project.



Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Board appeals to all to contribute to the

## Goldie College SOLAR POWER UNIT FUND to raise \$ 35,000 in 2019

You are invited to be a partner in mission with a contribution to the school.

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 2019 - GOLDIE COLLEGE SOLAR POWER UNIT FUND

Please send your donation by cheque in  
favour of

Mission and Ecumenical Fund

to:

**Rev Prince Devanandan(Director)**

**Mission and Ecumenical Board**

**Private Bag 11 903**

**Ellerslie**

**Auckland 1542**

or bank directly to: 02-0800-0766004-03  
using reference "Computer Lab"

**Amount:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

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