

METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Helena Goldie College of Nursing Refurbishments towards a Restart

During our visit to Munda, Solomon Islands in April 2019, we were disheartened to see the dilapidated state of the buildings of Helena Goldie College of Nursing. The Nursing Council of Solomon Islands refused to recognise the training due to the lack of progress with updated curriculum. The college was closed. The buildings were not cared for. Termite attacks were rampant with roof, doors and door frames damaged extensively. It was then I called the church officials to begin a restoration process. I assured that Mission and Ecumenical will fund the necessary restoration work. The team that went with me endorsed my request. Since then Mission and Ecumenical sent the money collected for the administration building. I received the following report from Winston Pitakomoki, health secretary of United Church Solomon Islands by end of May 2020.



New Administration Building

Winston states that 90 percent of the work on refurbishing of the buildings completed. The work completed include repair to windows and nets to stop mosquitos, painting of ceiling and walls. The work on Davinia Taylor Memorial hall includes roofing repairs and roofing sheets replaced, ceiling at the entrance and the pantry repaired and painted. Painting of ceiling and walls completed. Further the shifting of teaching materials and office equipment shifted to the new administrative building so that the old office building becomes an additional classroom facility. Tiling of the bathroom and toilet floors and rewiring is yet to be done. The impact of

COVID19 and the lockdown has delayed this work being completed. Though the attempt was to reopen the college in July 2020, it is not feasible. The reopen date is now rescheduled to be January 2021.



Dormitory building

Development of an up to date curriculum for the College of nursing is on hold. Mission and Ecumenical has funded this programme and we are waiting to see the outcome. Winston notes in his report that “an amount of SBD 40,200 as funding support [for curriculum development] from NZ Methodist Mission & Ecumenical was received on 28 November 2019. Activity is currently pending and Funds will be utilised on the project activity when the option to take is clear.”



Davinia Taylor Memorial Hall

Winston's report includes the following acknowledgement as well.

On behalf of the Project Task Force (PTF) Committee of Helena Goldie College of Nursing

(HGCON), I would like to express words of thanks and acknowledgement to the following people, groups and organizations for their contributions and support towards progressing work and programmes at HGCON.

- NZ Methodist Church and Rev Prince Devanandan for Funding Support on the new Administration Building, and Curriculum for Diploma in Nursing.
- Hon. Silas Vagara Tausinga, Member of National Parliament for West New Georgia and Vonavona Constituency for providing support on hard ware materials for the buildings at HGCON.
- Solomon Islands Government and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services for maintaining Funding and Technical Support for HGCON.
- The following Working Groups; Baraulu Buka and Bisili Aron for work on the buildings, ES Construction Contractor for carrying out Electrical Works, and Kitili Kezaketo for carrying out Plumbing Works.
- The following Committees; HGCON Management, HGH Management and Assembly Office Management on work related to the overall administration and management of the college.

Prince Devanandan – Director.

TABAKA RURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE ABLUTION BLOCK FOR GIRLS DORMITORY

The acting principal of Tabaka Rural Training Institute Robert Tozaka sent me a report on 25 May 2019 to inform about the progress with regard to the construction work. The following tasks with regard to the construction of the ablution block for women is completed: building work, internal and external lining of walls and tiling of floor, wash basins installed and plumbing connected, toilet fittings in place with plumbing completed, laundry sinks in place and ramp for students with disabilities is complete.



Some of the final work is delayed due to the COVID19 lockdown and students were sent home. The institute remains closed.

The work yet to be attended to include an electric pump and pipe fittings, final coating of paint work and cleaning. Robert expressed his appreciation of the support received from the Methodist Church of New Zealand through Mission and Ecumenical for the work with women's ablution facility and the funding to build a similar facility for boys. He further states that the facility was in place at the right time as the new hygienic practice in relation to COVID19 are introduced. The new facility will be of value as a preparedness plan and wash program for the students in the institute.

OUR THANKS -

On behalf of the Mission and Ecumenical Board I sincerely thank the members of the Methodist Church of New Zealand who generously contributed to complete this project for Tabaka institute. Without the support of the people from the Methodist Church this project would not have happened. I also express my gratitude to the team that visited Solomon Islands with me: Murray Olds, Valmai Horlor, Annette Sharp and Lyn Scott. Their support for the project is immeasurable.

Prince Devanandan- Director

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES POSTPONES ITS ASSEMBLY IN ORDER TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE OF THE WIDER FELLOWSHIP AMID COVID-19 - 03 June 2020

The executive committee, on behalf of the central committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC), has decided, in close consultation with the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and other host churches and local partners, to postpone the 11th assembly, originally planned for September 2021 in Karlsruhe, Germany, until 2022.

The decision, announced on 3 June, was made because of the gravity and uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hoped that an assembly in 2022 will provide a better opportunity to secure the full participation of the ecumenical fellowship. The location in Karlsruhe will remain the same. New dates for the assembly in the second half of 2022 are currently being discussed and will be decided upon together with the Karlsruhe

exhibition centre, Messe Karlsruhe. The plans, which are already well advanced, will be revised and restructured for 2022.

A WCC assembly normally take place once every eight years and is the highest decision-making body of the WCC. It has the task of determining the overall policies of the WCC and electing the WCC central committee, the main governing body between assemblies.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/world-council-of-churches-postpones-assembly-to-be-more-inclusive-of-wider-fellowship-amid-covid-19>

FLOYD MURDER BY POLICE OFFICER IS AN OUTRAGE, SAYS NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES USA - Posted May 29, 2020

*The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,
A stronghold in times of trouble.
And those who know your name
Put their trust in you,
For you, O Lord, have not
forsaken those who seek you. ~Psalm 9:9-10*

Washington, D.C., May 29, 2020—The National Council of Churches USA is outraged by the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer who mercilessly pinned him down with his knee on his neck until Floyd died. Floyd, who is Black, could be heard repeatedly saying, “I can’t breathe,” to the officer, who is white. Onlookers also begged the four officers on the scene to let Floyd up from the ground, video footage showed. Floyd was handcuffed at the time.

This incident adds to a string of occurrences in the last few weeks and too many incidents to count in the U.S. over hundreds of years, where racism and bias coupled with policing are a lethal combination for Black people. Deplorably, while the coronavirus has infected the U.S. and been the cause of death for more than 101,000 people in less than three months, racism has infected this country since its beginnings and this virus has seeped into every aspect of American life. There is still no vaccine for the racism and white supremacy that is so pervasive in our society. There is still no cure. As people of faith, our fight and struggle against this evil that has all of us bound continues.

As the investigation into what happened continues, NCC urges swift and decisive action to bring justice to George Floyd and his family, including prosecuting officers for their egregious disregard for human life.

We are aware that riots have now broken out in Minneapolis and protesters in Louisville were shot by unknown assailants while rallying against the death of Breonna Taylor, who was killed in her bed after officers entered the wrong home. The words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ring loudly: “Riots are the language of the unheard.” Our nation needs healing but there can be no healing without justice.

NCC also calls on member congregations to be beacons of light in their own communities by addressing racism where they are, acknowledging the trauma experienced by those in the Black community and working tirelessly to end racism and white supremacy once and for all.

“In a moment like this, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, ‘silence is betrayal,’” said Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, NCC Chair and president and general minister of the United Church of Christ. “We must not sit in our privilege or comfort zones but do everything in our power to end this evil that infiltrates our nation.”

In addition to the A.C.T. Now! to End Racism initiative, predominantly white churches within the NCC have also been working together to do their part to end racism and white supremacy, including agreeing on a definition of what white supremacy is.

“We are all responsible for doing the hard work to end racism and white supremacy, especially white people. The burden cannot always be on our African American brothers and sisters. These are not just ideologies or individual opinions. These are the systemic issues at the core of American society and it is deadly, said Jim Winkler, NCC President and General Secretary.

According to Rev. Aundrea Alexander, NCC’s Associate General Secretary for Action and Advocacy and the staff person to the Racial Justice Task Force, “The stain of racism that pervades our systems and structures continues to be most horrifically expressed in state sanctioned murder and abuse. It is long overdue for us to put an end to police brutality targeted at Black people. We’ve had enough and all of us have a responsibility to speak, to act, and to work for justice for the people who’ve lost their lives brutally and unnecessarily.”

For more information on the NCC’s A.C.T. Now! to End Racism initiative and to access a list of resources, click [here](#).

<https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/floyd-murder/>

CHURCHES AMPLIFY URGENT CALLS TO ADDRESS VIOLENT RACISM IN US - 31 May 2020

As protests erupted in more than 30 cities across the US in the wake of the death of George Floyd, churches in the US collectively expressed anger combined with a clarion call for a change—once and for all—in a nation that has tolerated violent racism for too long.

The National Council of Churches USA called the killing an outrage. "There is still no vaccine for the racism and white supremacy that is so pervasive in our society," reads a statement. "There is still no cure."

United Methodist Bishop Bruce R. Ough, resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area, said there is more than one pandemic ravaging Minnesota and our country at this time. "In addition to fighting COVID-19, we are besieged by a pandemic of racism, white supremacy, and white on black or brown violence," Ough wrote. "The pervasive culture of racism and white supremacy, increasingly incited by political rhetoric, grows each day."

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/churches-amplify-urgent-calls-to-address-violent-racism-in-us>

THOUSANDS ACROSS THE WORLD PRAY IN UNISON AT CCA'S ASIA SUNDAY; 'GOD, HEAL US AS WE ARE VULNERABLE'

In lieu of the shutdown of churches across Asia under COVID-19 containment measures, in a unique, first-of-its-kind online worship service organised by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in observance of the Asia Sunday, thousands of people prayed in unison on Sunday 24 May afternoon (Bangkok Time); 'God, Heal Us as We are Vulnerable'.

A specially prepared liturgy was used for the worship service, which was led by 22 ecclesiastical and ecumenical leaders from 20 Asian countries, with over 19,000 participants and viewers on the CCA's social media pages in addition to registered participants on Zoom. "In faith we come before you, asking for mercy and forgiveness for our sins against you and your creation. In this time of anxiety and distress, we lift up to you the COVID situation throughout the world. At this time of our fragility, fear, and death, we cry out to you. Heal our sick, console those who are bereaved, protect those who care for us. We lift up our prayer to you, Lord, and

trust in your infinite mercy. God, heal us as we are vulnerable", they prayed together while being located at different time zones in different parts of the world. [See More:](#)

CCA GENERAL SECRETARY EXPRESSES SYMPATHY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY CYCLONE AMPHAN

The General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), Dr Mathews George Chunakara, expressed sympathy and grief for those affected by Cyclone Amphan that struck on 20 May 2020.

Affecting the Bay of Bengal region, the catastrophic cyclone has killed 84 people and has ravaged many cities and districts along the east coast of India, particularly the states of West Bengal and Odisha, and the Sunderbans delta area in Bangladesh.

The super-cyclone, initially classified as a Stage 5 cyclone, subsequently turned into a Stage 3 cyclone as it made landfall. It has been termed the worst natural disaster that the region has seen in decades. The CCA General Secretary urged member churches and councils as well as regional ecumenical organisations around the world to uphold in their prayers all who were affected, express solidarity, and urgently respond to the grave humanitarian crisis. *See more at*

<https://www.cca.org.hk/news-and-events/cca-general-secretary-expresses-sympathy-for-those-affected-by-cyclone-amphan/>

REV. PROF. DR IOAN SAUCA CONFIRMED INTERIM WCC GENERAL SECRETARY - 03

June 2020



Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca has been confirmed interim World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary by the executive committee at an online meeting held on 3 June. Sauca will hold the post until the WCC central committee meets in June 2021.

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

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