



## METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER - April 2021

### A SNAPSHOT FROM HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Te Rito Peyroux, a member of the MME Board, has shared the following from her nephew Maekera Oगतuti, who is a recent Nursing Graduate in the Solomon Islands. Maeky's nursing training led him to a time of placement with Helena Goldie Hospital.

*Helena Goldie Hospital is situated approximately 5 minutes by public road transport from Munda township, the hospital is spread out with separate low level buildings housing various medical departments.*

*Working for the first time in a rural setting had been an eye opener where the ability to improvise and make do with whatever equipment one has on hand in order to comfort and treat patients is a necessary skill every day.*

*The hospital has two experienced doctors, an obstetrician/paediatrician and a general practitioner on call at any given time. Both also handle general medical practices and emergency procedures.*

*During the two months I spent there, the outpatient department handled on average around 50 patients per day which we consider as busy but not overwhelming. The General Ward houses approximately 30 beds and it was rare to turn away patients due to lack of beds.*



Road leading to the hospital



Operating Theatre entrance



Hospital transport – boats



Hospital transport – land vehicles

*The Hospital consists of separate single-story buildings spread out in the compound. On the exterior, the buildings could use a facelift and perhaps minor renovations; but on the inside, the wards are clean and well ventilated with plenty of fresh air and very comfortable.*

*The maternity ward has 2 delivery cubicles and 10 beds for post-natal mothers. Caesarean Sections cases are referred to Gizo Hospital as the surgical theatre is not equipped for such procedures.*

*Transportation of referral patients to Gizo hospital is very efficient with fuel always on standby.*

*There is no blood bank at Helena Goldie Hospital and a shortage of life saving and resuscitation equipment such as ventilators and defibrillators.*

*There is no morgue and bodies are laid in the open chapel. The understanding is that bodies remain there long enough to enable relatives to come get their loved ones.*

*Despite the shortage of equipment and staff the hospital copes well with its limited resources and maintains excellent communication network with Gizo hospital.*

### **WORLDWIDE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR COVID-19 – March 22 – 27**

As shared in the March newsletter, we have marked the anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring COVID 19 as a global pandemic. The World Council of Churches called for a Week of Prayer for COVID 19 Pandemic during March 22 – 27, 2021. Working in collaboration, the prayer resources help galvanize mutual solidarity and support as we affirm our common human fragility which this pandemic has exposed.

This call for prayer was taken up in different ways across Te Hāhi; for example, elements were incorporated into various parish Sunday services and weekday prayer meetings. I particularly acknowledge the Methodist Women's Fellowship who organised a week of evening prayer services on Zoom, with different sections of MWF taking leadership for particular prayer services.

A resource was prepared from MME based on the WCC material – aside from the Week of Prayer, this resource is available for other suitable occasions.

[http://www.methodist.org.nz/mission\\_and\\_ecumenical/resources2021](http://www.methodist.org.nz/mission_and_ecumenical/resources2021)



*screenshot from a MWF Zoom service for the COVID Week of Prayer*

## **DECREASED ACCESS TO SAFE WATER: CHALLENGES TO HUMAN SECURITY – Christian Conference of Asia consultation**

Connected with the observance of World Water Day, the Christian Conference of Asia coordinated a consultation to highlight the right to water and challenges to human security due to decreased access to safe water. Speakers were drawn from a range of church and NGO organisations. Tony Franklin-Ross participated from MCNZ.

60% of world population is in the wider Asia-Pacific region. By 2050 people in cities will grow quickly to 0.7 billion. Water security is a growing issue; along with stress from climate change. Freshwater access presents a problem in realising sustainable development goals especially in relation to health.

What is 'affordable' and 'sufficient'? 50-100 litres per day per person, and source within 1,000 metre or 30 minutes. Cost of accessing water should not exceed 3% of income. For parts of Asia and Pacific this is not being achieved, and Papua New Guinea being most challenged on these objectives.

Information was shared on the example of the Mekong River commission established in 1995 to coordinate water quality and management issues across the different governments and countries covering the Mekong basin. There are now 48 stations for monitoring 19 parameters.

We heard of China – with 20% of world population, but only 6% fresh water resources; plus an uneven distribution and affordability, particular of rural compared to urban areas. In 2009 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of population was accessing unsafe water.

The banner features the Christian Conference of Asia logo, a 'Virtual Conference' icon, and a Facebook LIVE icon. The title is in large blue letters, followed by the date and time in orange. Below are eight speaker portraits with their names and affiliations: Mathews George Chunakara (CCA), Evariste Komlan (WASH/UNICEF), Ansye Sopacua (UNDP, Indonesia), Kongmeng Ly (Mekong River Commission), Reginald Vallejos (WPN, Philippines), Farah Nadeem (WWF, Pakistan), Theresa Carino (Amity Foundation, China), and David A Das (Ecumenical Water Network). The website www.cca.org.hk is at the bottom right.

## **ASIA SUNDAY – 16 May**

Asia Sunday is observed annually on the Sunday before Pentecost by member churches and councils of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA). This year, Asia Sunday falls on 16 May 2021. CCA will focus the Asia Sunday–2021 with the theme, 'I am the God who Heals You and Restores Your Health' (Exodus 15:26).

Dr Mathews George Chunakara, the CCA General Secretary, explained the significance of this year's theme saying, "The observance of this year's Asia Sunday is designated as a special occasion to once again pray for all who are suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 more than a year ago, millions of people have been infected by the novel coronavirus, which has left a trail of death and devastation around the world. ... Let us continue to pray together, without losing hope, for God's mercy and healing for the sick, and for health and strength for all who care for them."

CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai will facilitate a virtual Asia Sunday Service on 16 May 2021 which will be led by church and ecumenical leaders from across Asia. The virtual Asia Sunday-2020 was viewed by more than 22,000 people across the world through various social communication platforms. For this year too it is hoped that there will be wide-ranging participation.

Resources are available from the MME web pages.

[http://www.methodist.org.nz/mission\\_and\\_ecumenical/resources2021](http://www.methodist.org.nz/mission_and_ecumenical/resources2021)

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – 16 to 23 May**

The southern hemisphere observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is in May. If you are planning ahead for local ecumenical services, or looking to incorporate the theme into your Sunday parish worship, the international resources are available online, and the New Zealand variations available.

Parishes are encouraged to explore this observance both within their own worship and also in ecumenical partnership with other denominations. Besides a worship or prayer service, there are other opportunities that can be explored for ecumenical fellowship and experience.

The 2021 resources were prepared by the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, who chose the theme "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" (cf. Jn 15:5-9). It expresses their community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/events/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity>

### **NATIONAL DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – annual forum *postponed***

The 2021 Annual Forum for the National Dialogue for Christian Unity has been postponed, with the *new date Wednesday 18 May 2021* at the Loaves and Fishes Hall, Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Hill Street, Wellington from 10.30 a.m. till 3.30 p.m.

#### **MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD**

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