



## METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER -March 2023

### **FAMILIES NEED URGENT ASSISTANCE IN SYRIA AND TURKEY**

Turkey and Syria were struck by a major earthquake in the early hours of February 6, 2023 local time. Thousands of buildings have collapsed. Snow has fallen. Many people have lost their lives and been injured in the devastating quakes. Rescuers and local people are working hard to free people buried in the rubble.

The initial 7.8 magnitude earthquake has been followed by severe aftershocks in the southeast of Turkey and northwest Syria.

People are urgently in need of food, shelter and medical assistance.

Life was already hard. Many people had escaped conflicts and were extremely vulnerable. More than 4 million people were dependent on relief aid before the quakes. About three-quarters of the people living in Syria's Idlib province had fled fighting in other parts of the country.

The people need protection from the bitterly cold winter and cholera. The prices of food and fuel are rising fast. They need practical assistance to survive. If you can, please donate today.

Donations will support local ACT Alliance partners to provide:

- Blankets and mattresses
- Medical assistance
- Food, water, sanitation and shelter protection.
- Ambulances
- Assistance to clear rubble
- Psychosocial support and

Your donation today will help with what people want and need through giving via the Christian World Service website. The MME Board have sent \$1,000 via CWS.

<file:///C:/Church/MME/2023%20M&%20E/Newsletter/Turkey%20Syria%20Earthquake%20Appeal%20-%20Christian%20World%20Service.html>

### **CYCLONE GABRIELLE APPEAL-NEW ZEALAND DIASTER FUND**

Information for New Zealand Red Cross people about our role in supporting current emergencies and how to stay up-to-date. In their information The New Zealand Red Cross advises the following.

#### **Cyclone Gabrielle**

Heavy rain, flooding and damaging winds continue to impact many parts of northern and central Aotearoa New Zealand, and our thoughts are with members and volunteers impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The government declared a National State of Emergency on 14 February to assist in the response. The declaration applies to the regions that have already declared a local State of

Emergency: Northland, Auckland, Tairāwhiti Gisborne, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Hawke's Bay and Tararua District.

### **Staying safe**

We hope you and your whānau are okay and staying safe. If your life is in immediate danger call 111.

Your wellbeing is important to us, and if you have personally been affected by the weather events you can:

### **Contact your people leader**

contact the Health, Safety and Wellbeing team at [hsw@redcross.org.nz](mailto:hsw@redcross.org.nz)

access free counselling support through EAP Services via phone 0800 327 669 or their website [www.eapservices.co.nz](http://www.eapservices.co.nz).

With more power cuts expected; try to keep your phones and laptops charged and learn how to hotspot with your phone.

Please do a risk assessment before travelling or working to undertake critical Red Cross activities in areas where there are warnings.

Road closures can be checked on the Waka Kotahi website.

### **Staying up-to-date**

Please visit our dedicated northern floods and Cyclone Gabrielle page for the latest information on:

Our response to Cyclone Gabrielle – including our Disaster Welfare and Support Team deployments.

Affected services and closures – including Meals on Wheels, fundraising and retail shops.

Preparing for and responding to Cyclone Gabrielle

We also advise following the National Emergency Management (NEMA), and regional Civil Defence Emergency websites and social media channels. They have up-to-date information including the location of Civil Defence Centres. The NEMA website has a handy list of all the regional websites and social media pages.

NEMA website

NEMA Facebook

Download our free Hazard App for useful resources about flooding and other emergencies and for weather warnings and alerts. QBE is the primary supporter of the Hazard App.

Download the Hazard App

Volunteer as a disaster welfare response volunteer

We follow the direction of lead agencies when responding to an emergency. We only deploy appropriately trained Red Cross people as disaster welfare support volunteers.

Apply to join your nearest disaster welfare support team.

As this involves training for the role, you won't be able to assist with the current emergency, but you can help us get ready for the next one.

### **Other types of volunteering**

Our Red Cross members in Auckland can offer their time by completing an online form. Providing your details is not a commitment or guarantee that you will be asked to volunteer. It just tells us:

that you're willing to volunteer your time, and the skills you have to offer.

Complete the emergency response availability form.

We also urgently need Meals on Wheels volunteers. All our volunteer roles are advertised on our website so encourage your friends/family to sign up.

### **Find a volunteer role.**

How your community can help

Making a donation

You can encourage your friends and family to make a donation online. We can only respond to weather events like these in the future with ongoing help from our supporters. By donating to our New Zealand Disaster Fund you are enabling us to train, equip and deploy specialist teams to respond to communities in crisis.

### **Donate now**

How to donate

Donating goods

We are **not** collecting clothes or goods. Sorting, managing and distributing donated items during an emergency takes an extensive amount of time and resources. So an online donation is the best way to help us.

### **More information about donating during emergencies.**

Sharing information

The best way to share information with your networks is from our website or social media channels. See the NZ red Cross Website.

**New Zealand Red Cross** <https://www.redcross.org.nz>

## **THE PRESIDENT'S CYCLONE RELIEF FUND**

22 Feb 2023

In the aftermath of the recent extreme weather events, we have had a number of people contact the Connexional Office asking if they can donate money towards the regions affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Methodist Church of NZ has set up the President's Cyclone Relief Fund and will be making donations to the Mayoral Relief Funds in the hard hit areas. If you would like to donate funds to the relief fund you can donate online:

Account Name: Methodist Church of NZ, Administration Division

Account Number: 02-0800-0766004-03

Reference: Cyclone Appeal

Code: Parish or individual's name

### **THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The annual World Day of Prayer is a time to pray for peace and justice with people throughout the world in services led by women. This year is Friday, 3 March around the country. All are welcome. Women from Taiwan have prepared this year's service, drawing inspiration from Ephesians, "I have heard about your faith". The women share their stories and bear witness to their faith in God. Services are prepared by members of the local World of Prayer committees and the international committee. "The first Friday in March is a special time to connect with people throughout the world and to listen and learn about women from another part of the world. Inviting women from Taiwan to speak or share their own stories could enrich this focus," says Pauline McKay, National President.



Taiwan is made up of more than 100 islands and is situated on the Ring of Fire. Its rich biodiversity is represented in the poster by the Mikado Pheasant, Black-faced Spoonbill and the Butterfly orchid, the pride of Taiwan.



Indigenous people have lived on its islands for more than 6,000 years. Colonisation from China has meant that approximately 2% of the 23.6 million population are members of the 16 recognised indigenous peoples. As a consequence of its history, many governments do not recognise Taiwan as a country. The worship material includes stories from Taiwanese women, for example Pao-Chu who shares her commitment to protecting the environment as well as prayers they have written. There are activities for children, a special music and a Bible study on Ephesians 1:15-20. Offerings from the services will go to the Bible Society, Christian World Service and Interchurch Hospital Chaplaincy as well as costs. The Bible Society plans to assist 3,000 Indian widows with Bibles, counselling, health check-ups, vocational training and other support. CWS will support Developers Foundation to improve livelihoods, protect the environment and prepare for disasters in the Philippines and the Women's Centre working to improve the working and living conditions of factory workers and empower women.



The World Day of Prayer Planning Committee.

The World Day of Prayer is a global movement of Christian women who come together in prayer and for action in more than 170 countries. Begun in the USA and Canada in the nineteenth century, it became a global movement in 1927. Resources including music and materials for children are available on the website: <http://www.worlddayofprayer.co.nz/> Material can be used in other services or for private use. For more information contact your local World Day of Prayer organising group or Zella at [wdpnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wdpnz@xtra.co.nz) February 16, 2023

**MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD**

Methodist Church of New Zealand

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