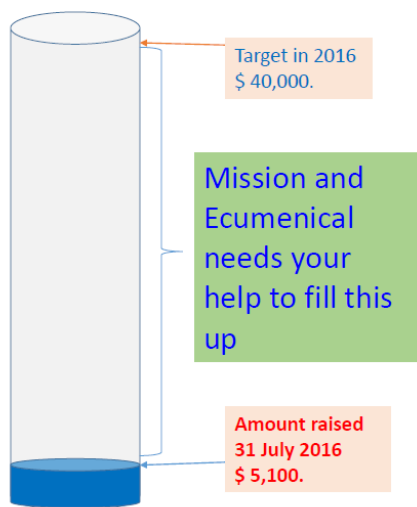


# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## August 2016

### **WATER FOR LIFE - Kokeqolo Water Supply Project - Mission and Ecumenical needs your help**

Annual Appeal 2016 is to support the water supply project in Kokeqolo village in the Western Province of Solomon Islands. Fundraising in 2016 has slowed down compared to the previous projects. I wonder whether this is a reflection of the downturn of economy in the country or not enough attention paid to the needs of the people we support in Solomon Islands. **This project is possible only with the support of the people called Methodists in Aotearoa New Zealand. Please help.** – *Prince D.*



**"GOD HAS BROKEN DOWN THE DIVIDING WALLS"** [If 21 September is not suitable in churches, you may observe it on Sunday 18 September 2016.]

**Each year on 21 September the World Council of Churches calls churches and parishes to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace. 21 September is also the United Nations-sponsored International Day of Peace.**

As it approaches, the World Council of Churches invites people to offer prayers for peace. Observances of the peace prayer day began in 2004 as part of the ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010) after an agreement between the heads of the WCC and the UN.

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the WCC invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations to observe a [World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel](#), starting on 18 September 2016. The theme of the week in 2016 is: "God has broken down the dividing walls"

The Day of Prayer for Peace also falls within the [Time for Creation](#), a reminder of the close connection between peace on Earth and peace with the Earth.

A collection of Prayers for Peace available from <http://overcomingviolence.org/en/decade-to-overcome-violence/about-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for/resources.html>

### **Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU) Responds to Climate Change Crisis**

A regional consultation organized jointly by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) of the Roman Catholic Church, with the participation of the Asian Evangelical Alliance (AEA), agreed to undertake joint actions and concerted efforts to respond to the climate crisis. Known as the Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU) and initiated in mid 1990s by CCA and FABC, the Seventh summit of AMCU took place in Medan, Indonesia from 13 to 15 July focused on the theme, "Crisis of Climate Change in Our Common Home".

Representatives of CCA, FABC and AEA from various Asian countries participating at the Seventh AMCU emphasized the urgency to encourage Asian churches to join in a network of diverse groups, including non-governmental organizations, and to engage in educational programmes that aim to raise the consciousness of the people as well as to engage in advocacy actions to mitigate climate change. Hosted by CCA and its member church in Indonesia, the *Huria Kristen Batak Protestan* (HKBP), the consultation was attended by about 50 participants from various Asian countries. The themes addressed at the consultation included the impact of climate change in Asia, biblical-theological reflections, ethics of eco-justice, Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* and its significance, advocacy to mitigate the effects of climate change as well as plans for joint actions on how to move forward for the ecological renewal and eco-justice in different Asian contexts.

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara, General Secretary of CCA, in his introductory remarks stated that the initiative of AMCU by CCA and FABC since 1994 envisioned joint actions with an aim to foster wider ecumenism not only at the regional level, but also at national and local levels in Asia. As the impacts of climate change increase every day, degradation of ecological balances and risks to both humans and the environment also increase, and in this situation, Christians cannot negate alarming signals of the crisis of climate change.

Fr. William LaRousse, Secretary of the Ecumenical Relations of FABC, said that since the joint initiative of AMCU began, the main focus was on "making visible our unity in Christ" and this was aimed at

studying the theology of ecumenism, sharing vision of Christian unity, and building on what unites while overcoming what divides – all from their respective perspectives including the socio-political issues. The participants in their final analyses concluded that the Church, together with non-governmental organizations, can build a network to help build awareness and mobilize citizens for collection action, as well as promote a change in lifestyle.



Participants from Methodist Church New Zealand – Prince Devanandan, Diana Tana, Betsan martin and Casey Fa’au.

Participants visited the campus of Universitas HKBP Nommensen in Medan to plant several trees as a small gesture to engage in small efforts to mitigate climate change.

<http://cca.org.hk/home/news-and-events/asian-movement-for-christian-unity-amcu-responds-to-climate-change-crisis/>

### **CCA Executive Committee Commits to Revitalising the Ecumenical Movement**

The recently concluded meeting of the executive committee of CCA affirmed its commitment to reshape the ecumenical identity in Asia and discussed possibilities on how to revitalise the ecumenical movement as CCA move towards the 60th anniversary of its founding in 2017. Founded in 1957, CCA became the first Regional Ecumenical Organisation in the world, and today covers a vast geographical area starting from Iran in West Asia to Japan in East Asia; from Nepal in the North to New Zealand in the South.

The moderator of CCA, Archbishop (Ephorus) William Simarmata, in his opening address stated that “Asia today faces numerous challenges and when people of various Asian countries are passing through difficult situations in the midst of violence and terrorism, churches and the ecumenical movement have special responsibility to be in solidarity with the affected people and communities”. CCA General Secretary Dr. Mathews George Chunakara, in his report to the executive committee, told, “the geopolitical threats now have

topped the risk index, overtaking the financial crisis, and what is being experienced now is an ‘*annus horribilis*’ in the geopolitical arena, especially in terms of increasing conflicts, violence and threats to peace and security”.

He added that religious extremism has emerged as the most serious threat to democratic values, peace and security in most Asian countries. A growing concern is that the spread of terrorism orchestrated in the name of certain religions has become the most immediate threat to people’s security in Asia. Such a situation warrants concerted action to overcome violence and promote religious harmony and peace. In addressing concerns of the current state of affairs of ecumenism, the CCA General Secretary raised a question “has the ecumenical movement become more divisive and less effective?” He said that “the Asian ecumenical movement is not detached from the global ecumenical movement. We believe in one ecumenical movement and the need for affirming and strengthening the value of one ecumenical movement. However, we see today more visible expressions of lack of coherence and coordination within the ecumenical movement”.

The General Secretary’s report recollected that “CCA has been providing the Asian churches a sense of togetherness and a common responsibility in doing Mission, as well as helping churches to discern Christ’s presence in Asian history in terms of its socio- religious, economic and political context. Mission in action involves the participation in all forms of struggles and it cannot be merely interpreted as adding numerical numbers or church planting. The purpose of God for the Church in Asia is life together in a common obedience to him for the doing of God’s will in the world”. The CCA General Secretary expressed the hope that “ecumenism in Asia will grow and flourish to face the challenges that Asia faces today, and CCA will be instrumental to bear witness to the truth in Asia”.

The executive committee expressed its deep concern over the increasing problems of religious intolerance and hatred, which lead to persecution and acts of violence that cause untold sufferings to people of all faiths, especially religious minorities, in Asia. The executive committee meeting from 18 to 21 July 2016 was hosted by the *Huria Kristian Batak Protestant Church* (HKBP), Indonesia.

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD  
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**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical  
Annual Appeal 2016  
Kokeqolo Water Scheme Fund**

*Life giving water*

**The appeal is from United Church Assembly Office to develop a  
Reliable water supply for the village of Kokeqolo**

The people of Kokeqolo, the schools and the United Church of Solomon Islands assembly office are dependent on rain water. A recent survey of the area located a bore hole that was used by the American forces during the Second World War. The United Church has requested our help to use this source of water by building a water supply unit. The cost is NZ \$ 80,000. M&E committed to raise \$ 40,000 which is half of the total cost and asked UCSI to look for another donor to cover the other half.

The beneficiaries of this water supply will be

**Kokeqolo Primary School**



**Youth Centre**



**United Church Office**



Methodist Mission and Ecumenical appeals to all to contribute to the

**KOKEQOLO WATER SCHEME FUND  
To raise \$ 40,000 in 2016**

**... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. [Matt. 5:16]**

Mission is possible only with your participation and contribution to the fund.

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 2016 - KOKEQOLO WATER SCHEME FUND**

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

Please send your donations by cheque in favour of <b>Mission and Ecumenical Fund</b>  To Rev. Prince Devanandan Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Private Bag 11903 Ellerslie Auckland 1542	You could also make your donation directly into <b>BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03</b>  Amount: \$ _____ Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ _____
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