

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

February 2016

NATIONAL DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY INAUGURAL ANNUAL FORUM **25 February 2016**

A new initiative to promote Christian Unity in Aotearoa New Zealand is to be held on 25 February 2016. The National Dialogue for Christian Unity (NDCU) will hold its inaugural annual forum in Wellington on 25 February 2016 at 10.30 am. The annual forum is a meeting of the representatives of the Anglican, Catholic and Methodist Churches together with the invited observers and representatives of ecumenical entities. A service of celebration will be at 5.00 pm on 25 February 2016 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Wellington. Cardinal John Dew of the Catholic Church, Archbishop Philip Richardson of the Anglican Church and Rev. Tovia Aumua president of the Methodist Church will officiate. All are invited to attend the service of celebration.

Anglican, Catholic and Methodist Churches have agreed to form the ecumenical entity to pursue closer ties and share understandings. The dialogue will lead to formal ecumenical collaboration among the churches and other groups in society that want to see progress on issues that are a concern of all New Zealanders.

ALL are invited to
An Ecumenical Service of
Celebration
5:00 pm on 25 February 2016
Sacred Heart Cathedral Wellington

Ecumenism and Spirituality lived and practiced by young people



From the 23rd to the 29th of November the World Council of Churches hosted a seminar in Salatiga – Central Java, Indonesia based on Ecumenism and

Spirituality lived and practiced by young people. The seminar saw over 30 young people from more than 10 different countries come together to share their knowledge, experience and stories about what is happening in their home country. Each day individuals shared their presentations based on topics about Christian spiritualities and secularization, Spirituality in multi-religious and multi-cultural context and spirituality and social context. The seminar was a huge eye-opener for me, learning about how many countries have managed to stand united no matter their beliefs and faiths is heart-warming considering what the world is going through at this present time. It was thought-provoking learning about the many different ways of how spirituality can look, feel and be for each individual. We came to understand that spirituality cannot be learnt within a day, week or two but is an ever-changing understanding depending on your situation, your surroundings, life and morals. Throughout the week we were blessed to have Esther Widiasih and Andrew Donaldson to help and run devotions where we learnt a number of songs from around the world. During the week we were able to converse with one another about many issues that young people face within individual context regarding growth in Spirituality; the dialogue was very open and of very intellect exchanging of thoughts, ideas and opinions. It is important that young people understand that within the age that we are living in now we must not jump to conclusions, we must not believe everything we see in the media but rather think, understand and research much needed information to form own opinions rather than formulating opinions from one source.

Janice Au'ava attended the seminar from the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

Sad to note: Hospital theatres closed **Lives at risk, say doctors**

By BIRIAU WILSON SAENI Solomon Star News – 5 February 2016

TWO of the three Operating Theatres at the National Referral Hospital have been closed for repair since December. And despite assurances from health authorities to do the repair work sooner, nothing has been done since.

“We are now into the third month of closure,” Dr Paul Hitchin, an Orthopaedic Surgeon from Sydney, Australia, told the Solomon Star, Wednesday. Dr Paul is a visiting surgeon assisting local doctors at the hospital. “The closure of these two operating theatres means more patients are expected to miss out on important surgery in the coming days, weeks or even months if the renovation work is delayed,” he added.

“This is an urgent problem that needs to be addressed as soon as possible to allow patients that need surgery to have access to the operating Theatres. “Many patients booked to undergo surgery have had their bookings cancelled since the theatres closed last December.”

Dr Paul said with only one theatre available, priority is currently given to emergency cases only while the rest will have to wait. “At the moment patients need to wait patiently, but then waiting patiently in this case means suffering,” he said. Conditions inside the operation theatres were made worse by water leaking through the ceiling as well as leakages within the building itself. The Solomon Star was told authorities kept assuring the doctors that the “repair will start next week but it never happened”. The hospital’s chief executive officer Dr Steve Aumanu could not be reached for comments.

[<http://www.solomonstarnews.com/news/national/9524-hospital-theatres-closed>]

We hope and pray that the authorities will act immediately to remedy the situation by doing the needful to help the patients.

THE TABAKA SOLAR POWER FUND - To light up the young lives - ANNUAL APPEAL 2015

We thank all those who are continuing to support our assistance to Solomon Islands. We look forward to your contribution to complete the Tabaka project as well.

Symposium focuses on religion, violence, extremism 04 February 2016

To promote open discussions on the theological and practical discourse, narrative and experiences on implications for the work of the multi-religious organizations on religion, violence and extremism, the World Council of Churches (WCC), along with the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church and the General Conference of Seventh-Day

Adventists promoted the 2nd Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-Based Organizations in International Affairs, under the theme of “Religion, Violence and Extremism”.

The event took place on 1 February, at the United Nations (UN) Secretariat, in New York City and was co-sponsored by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force for Engagement with Faith-based Organizations, Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. Attended by more than 130 participants representing faith-based, UN and civil society organizations, the event addressed key issues on violence, religions and the intersections of religion and violence. Presenters and participants also debated on the multi-religious perspectives on violence in the name of religion and the role of religion in countering violence and extremism. More information at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/symposium-focuses-on-religion-violence-extremism>

YOUTH IN ASIA TRAINING FOR RELIGIOUS AMITY



The Annual YATRA for youth in Asia will be from 29 May 2016 to 11 June 2016 at the Jakarta theological Seminary, Indonesia. Youth who attended the programme in the past have shared their experience and encourage others to attend. Expressions of interest from youth below 30 years must be forwarded to the Director, Mission and Ecumenical Board before 25 February 2016.

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 send your donation by cheque in favour of

Mission and Ecumenical Fund

to:

Rev Prince Devanandan

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical

Private Bag 11 903 Ellerslie

Auckland 1542

You could also make your donation directly into

BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03

Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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