

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

May - June 2016

This edition of the newsletter comes as a combined version for May and June. It covers most of the report of the Mission and Ecumenical director's visit to Solomon Islands at the beginning of May 2016.

SEA AMBULANCE - HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL

Mission and Ecumenical fundraising for a sea ambulance for Helena Goldie Hospital turned out to be an abundant blessing for the people of Munda region in the Solomon Islands. The amount collected with the accumulated interest was NZ \$ 49,224.00. The total amount enabled the hospital administrators to buy two boats with two 60HP out board motors. The boats were named 'Marama Davinia' and 'Marama Helena,' the two ladies the people will always remember for their dedicated service in Munda.



One of the boats serve the purpose of ambulance to transfer patients to the provincial hospital in Ghizo while the other serves the health education programmes in the village.



During my stay in Munda I had the privilege of using Marama Davinia for my travel to Sasamuqa.

The five-hour boat trip is now reduced to three and a half hours with the new boat and the 60 HP motor. The hospital staff repeatedly thanked the people of Methodist Church for the blessing of better health service they enjoy.

SASAMUQA HOSPITAL

During my last visit the walls of the wards and the toilets and showers were in a dilapidated state. Assistance from the Solomon Island government enabled the wards and the facilities to be refurbished.



Mission and Ecumenical Annual Appeal 2013 was towards a solar power unit for Sasamuqa Hospital. This is an added blessing to the people of Sasamuqa. The solar power is now providing 24 hours a day uninterrupted power. The wards are bright with energy saver lights and ceiling fans running around the clock. Further, the hospital now got hot water in taps with the help of solar power. People in the community gathering and the hospital staff thanked the people of the Methodist Church of New Zealand numerous times for the generous donations.



The old generator that provided power to the wards is now being used at the x-ray unit for radiography.

purposes only. The generator is started as and when required. This helps the hospital to save money with the purchase of petrol. People in other regions come to Sasamuqa hospital for x-ray and scan facilities.

SEA AMBULANCE FOR SASAMUQA HOSPITAL

The hospital secretary appealed to Mission and Ecumenical for assistance to buy a new boat and a motor for Sasamuqa Hospital due to the one they had nearing its end of use. Mission and Ecumenical was able to assist with the donations received from East Coast Bays Parish. Hospital staff are very happy with the 60 HP motor with the new boat. This has reduced the travel time between Sasamuqa and Ghizo by 2 hours. The photo below is the new boat and the motor at Sasamuqa Hospital.



The words displayed on a copper plate acknowledges the work done by a group of volunteers from New Zealand. I am not sure whether these volunteers ever thought that their work was only a beginning and it would expand this far to cater to 160 students at a time. The little steps taken by these good men and women in 1992 is serving the young people of Solomon Islands in numerous ways. Vocational trainings are in the areas of Mechanical (outboard motor and generator repair and maintenance), Business studies (economy of the home and budgeting), Hospitality, Agriculture, Carpentry, Electrical Wiring and Plumbing. These young men and women are benefiting not only with their studies but also with a skill that will help them to earn a living.



TABAKA RURAL TRAINING CENTRE

There are over 160 students enrolled full time. Year 2 students were away for the first six months of their second year doing practical work in their respective areas of studies in various companies. The second half of the year they will spend at the centre for final assessment and graduation.



The staff and students were very happy over the news about installing a solar power unit by Mission and Ecumenical.

TUBERCULOSIS – A GROWING CONCERN AT HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL

Dr. Hapa, the locum doctor at the hospital stated that the immediate need is to have a separate ward for the Tuberculosis patients as having them in the general ward increases the risk of others getting the infection. There were already six patients in the wards. Hospital secretary George told that they have already got SBD 30,000 (NZ \$ 6,000.) from the sale of the two shipping containers. They are in the process of finding the balance to build a separate ward. I suggested in hope that when they receive the estimated costs from the builder, that it be sent to Mission and Ecumenical. If we have a possibility of funding, we would be happy to support. It is sad to hear that one of the three students Mission and Ecumenical sponsored at the College of Nursing is unable to continue her studies due to tuberculosis and being admitted at the Helena Goldie Hospital.

After my return I shared this with a couple of colleagues. Rev. Lynne Frith informed me that the Pitt Street Methodist congregation is happy to raise the funds to build the ward as their 150th anniversary project. I am waiting to receive the estimated costs for the new ward.

MISSION AND TRANSFORMATIVE DISCIPLESHIP

The seminar is scheduled to be held from 16 to 22 October 2016 in Rosario, Argentina. The main objective of the seminar is to orient missionaries and staff belonging to various mission organizations and different denominations to a better understanding of the contemporary context concerning the witness to Christ as participants in the *Missio Dei*.

The emphasis will be on transformative discipleship as a central theme of the WCC statement on mission and evangelism [Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes](#). The seminar is coordinated by Dr Marina Behera, professor of Missiology at the WCC's Ecumenical Institute and Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum, director of the WCC Commission on Mission and Evangelism.

For more information, application forms and the costs involved please contact: ECF@wcc-coe.org

Deadline for applications: 16 July 2016

ISRAELI TREATMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES AT AIRPORT UNACCEPTABLE – World Council of Churches - 09 May 2016

After traveling to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv in the last week for a climate justice meeting, World Council of Churches (WCC) staff and partners were detained or deported in a manner that WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit terms both unprecedented and intolerable.

"The WCC protests the excessive, unreasonable and wholly unwarranted treatment by the Israeli authorities of these representatives of WCC member churches and staff traveling to engage in discussions on climate change and environmental stewardship, at the invitation of and hosted by WCC's member churches in the region," he said.

Members of the WCC's Working Group on Climate Change from as many as 13 countries reported they were held for hours of interrogation, including tough intimidation and detention in prison-like conditions for up to three days — a very difficult experience, Tveit said. "We react in different ways emotionally to experiences like this. For all of them, I think it was totally unexpected and very disturbing, for most of them shocking, as they have never experienced anything like this before."

Although there have been small incidents in the past, there has been nothing approaching this level of intimidation, Tveit added.

The members of the Working Group on Climate Change had travelled to Israel in a spirit of ecumenical solidarity to address shared global challenges in environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Travelers were detained, interrogated and intimidated. Expressing his concern about the effect of such treatment on people, Tveit said he had no reason to believe there would be any problem for people traveling to this meeting, particularly since there have been other such meetings over many years, not only related to climate change but also to ecumenical relations, peace-making and theological reflection. For many years, the WCC has drawn on resources and counterparts from both Palestine and Israel to promote peaceful relations and coexistence.

All traveling WCC participants from the WCC working group are safely out of Israel. The WCC called on the government of Israel for an apology as well as to desist its aggressive behaviour toward WCC member churches and staff in the future. "We believe that it is also in the interest of the government of Israel to address these very unpleasant incidents for future visitors to this country, and to prevent their recurrence," said Tveit and added "We are ready to meet and discuss these issues."

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-israeli-treatment-of-representatives-at-airport-unacceptable>

SISTER MARY IN BOUGAINVILLE AND SOLOMON ISLANDS

It is with sadness that we note the death of Mary Russell, nee Addison, at age 91. Mary was known as Sister Mary to many people whom she served in the Solomon Islands and in Bougainville from 1956 through to 1967. Mary's funeral was held on 21 April 2016 in Tawa Union Church.

For the last seven years Mary had lived in Longview Home in Tawa, and a biography was recently prepared by Tawa Union Church minister Claire Lind for the parish magazine [attached]. It is also available online at <http://tawaunionchurch.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Link-December-2014.pdf> We express condolences to Mary's family and friends.

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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 Mission and Ecumenical Fund To Rev. Prince Devanandan Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Private Bag 11903 Ellerslie Auckland 1542	You could also make your donation directly into BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03 Amount: \$ _____ Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ _____
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