

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

September 2016

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE – 21 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. [More information about this event...](#)

TIME FOR CREATION 01 SEPTEMBER 2016 TO 04 OCTOBER 2016

From 1 September - the first day of the Orthodox church year - to 4 October - the feast of Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, in the Catholic tradition - churches are called to become involved in the Time for Creation.

September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. The Orthodox church year starts that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. On 4 October, Roman Catholics and other churches from the Western traditions commemorate Francis of Assisi, known to many as the author of the [Canticle of the Creatures](#).

The proposal to celebrate a Time for Creation during

these five weeks was made by the [Third European Ecumenical Assembly](#) in Sibiu in 2007. The following year, the [WCC Central Committee](#) invited churches to observe Time for Creation through prayers and actions. [More information about this event...](#)

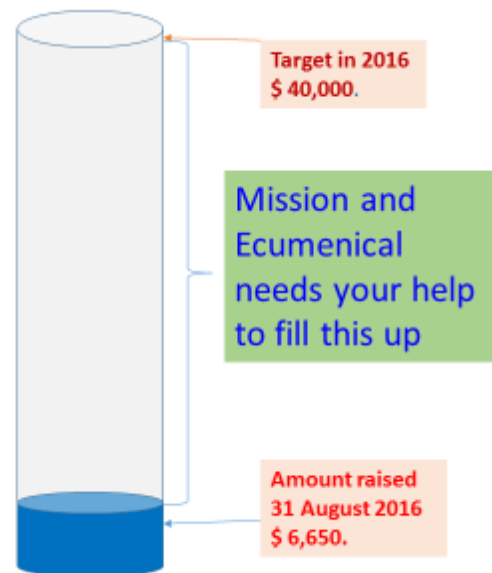
ROLE OF DIRECTOR, MISSION AND ECUMENICAL

Rev. Dr. Terry Wall will be acting as Director of Mission and Ecumenical from 1 October 2016 till Prince Devanandan completes his term as President and returns to the role of Director. Contact telephone number for the Mission and Ecumenical office will remain the same. The email address will be mm-e@methodist.org.nz

Terry will work three days a week - Tuesday to Thursday.

WATER FOR LIFE – Kokeqolo Water Supply Project –

Annual Appeal 2016 is to support the water supply project in Kokeqolo village in the Western Province of Solomon Islands. **This project is possible only with the support of the people called Methodists in Aotearoa New Zealand. Please help.** – *Prince D.*



INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY: CAN IT TRANSFORM INJUSTICE INTO JUSTICE? 01 September 2016

"We worship in different languages and cultures, yet all one in Christ. This is an immensely enriching experience," said Dr Jude Long, principal of Nungalinya College, in Darwin (Northern Territory), Australia, as she explored spirituality with indigenous people from across the world this week.

Long helped lead prayers and biblical reflections along with Australian indigenous staff and students at the college as part of a World Council of Churches (WCC) Indigenous Spirituality and Theology Consultation on 27-31 August.

The location of the consultation is especially meaningful as indigenous people in Australia — particularly young people — are over-represented in Australia's justice system. Indigenous Australians account for less than 3 percent of Australia's national population yet they make up more than half of all children in juvenile detention.

The picture is even more stark in the Northern Territory where, in 2015, 97 percent of youth detainees were indigenous. Compounding this is rampant inhumane treatment of people in detention centres, which has this year been defined as a national crisis in Australia.

Not only in Australia but across the world, the theme of the consultation, "Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace: Shaping Landscapes of Hope Together," was especially illuminating as people shared their very personal struggles for recognition, survival and the right to exist as distinct and self-determined people within their local context as well as an international one, said Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams, WCC programme executive for Mission and Evangelism.

"Being present, hearing the stories from across the world, has given me more hope than ever that the realities of injustice indigenous people face can be changed by through spiritual practices and theological beliefs that bring us together on a path toward justice," she said.

On one hand, the consultation starkly illustrated that Indigenous people experience continuing injustice through colonization, political oppression, economic exploitation, violence against women and children, and landlessness.

On the other hand, the gathering brought together indigenous theologians from around the world who articulated indigenous spiritual and theological understandings of what a pilgrimage of justice and peace means. "I saw first-hand how participants planned strategically and proactively how Indigenous spirituality and theology can effectively contribute to and impact the ecumenical movement now and into the future."

As participants met in small groups, they shared stories of their history and, together, they considered questions such as: How do we heal? When do we forgive?

The consultation is the first of a series intended to inspire and strengthen the building of indigenous

people's ecumenical networks, both regionally and globally.

"Injustices against indigenous people are unacceptable, in all places and all contexts," said Tahaafe-Williams. "We have gathered here to issue a worldwide call for renewed political and humanitarian effort and commitment to make justice a reality for all."

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/indigenous-spirituality-can-it-transform-injustice-into-justice>

CCA DECIDES TO CELEBRATE DIAMOND JUBILEE IN 2017

The executive committee of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), which met in Medan, Indonesia from 18 to 22 July, decided to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee in October 2017 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of CCA. CCA was founded in Prapat, Indonesia in 1957 at an Asian church leaders' consultation.

Asia Mission Conference-2017: The executive committee has also decided to hold the Asia Mission Conference (AMC) in conjunction with the 60th anniversary. A preparatory workshop to develop the theme and subthemes of AMC, with the participation of the members of the Working Group on Mission in Unity and Contextual Theology together with selected Asian theologians and missiologists, will meet in September.

Programmes and Activities: The executive committee received a report of programmes and activities of CCA since the last meeting. Rev. Kim Kyrie, chairperson of the programme committee, reported that, during the past 9 months from October 2015 to July 2016, CCA organised 26 programmes in 10 Asian countries and all those programmes were conducted in collaboration with CCA member churches or national councils of churches in respective countries. "The new strategic plan for 2016- 2020 largely reflects the vision that CCA has for shaping a new ecumenical paradigm in Asia together with member churches and councils", said the Chairperson of the programme committee.

"The issues and themes covered through the programmes include ecumenical leadership formation to nurture grassroots ecumenism, gender justice, human trafficking, peace building, youth and women's leadership development, Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS), Asian Women Doing Theology, eco-justice and climate change, advocacy at the U.N, peace and reconciliation in Korean peninsula, building up sustainability in HIV and AIDS competent churches and communities, as well as several other public issue responses as part of

prophetic Diakonia and advocacy initiatives,” added Rev. Kim Kyrie.

Finance and Income Generation: The newly constituted Finance Committee of CCA has presented various reports and recommendations to develop new finance policies and guidelines for membership contributions as well as income generation strategies within Asia, which will ensure more sense of ownership by member churches and councils.

The Treasurer of CCA, Augustine Dipak Karmakar, in his report, told the executive committee that CCA’s future financial sustainability will depend upon member churches’ and councils’ increased level of contributions in future as well as the hosting of more programmes with locally generated income. He also reported that in 2015, the Asian churches’ contributions have increased to 29 per cent and that this was mainly due to the generous support of CCA member churches who came forward to host CCA programmes and activities during the past year, including generating and supporting substantial contributions by member churches in Indonesia to host the 14th General Assembly and pre-assembly events of CCA. The executive committee approved a budget for 2017 with provisions for new staff appointments and decentralised working arrangements.

ROOTS OF RELIGION AND VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE EXPLORED IN ECUMENICAL REVIEW 18 August 2016

The latest edition of Ecumenical Review, the quarterly journal of the World Council of Churches (WCC), features a discussion of the roots of religion and violence in the Middle East.

Five presentations drawn from three WCC-sponsored conferences of recent years explore aspects of the religious concepts of “promised land,” the “theology of land” and how to go about “reading the Hebrew Bible in solidarity with the Palestinian people.” Authors include Mouchir Basile Aoun, Jamal Khader, Ulrike Bechmann, Mark Braverman and Luis Rivera-Pagán.

Theodore Gill, editor of The Ecumenical Review, explains that “religion and violence” is a primary focus for 2016 of the WCC programmatic emphasis on a common “pilgrimage of justice and peace” while geographical centre-stage this year is the Middle Eastern region. The theme for this issue of the journal, he says, “touches on both key topics of our conversation.”

In addition to themed articles, the issue offers a recent lecture by German ecumenical theologian Jürgen Moltmann on “The Future of Theology” and lectures on related topics by WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit and WCC inter-religious dialogue

coordinator Dr Clare Amos. More information available at

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/ecumenical-review-religion-violence-middle-east>

CONSULTATION ON ‘WOMEN BUILDING PEACE AND TRANSFORMING THE WORLD’

Organised by Christian Conference of Asia

17-21, NOVEMBER 2016 CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

The consultation will focus on women’s participation in peace-building, combating violence against women, and initiating a network in furtherance of advocacy among Asian women - **Ecumenical Women’s Action Against Violence (EWAAV)**. It is expected that the consultation will help to evolve strategies to initiate a broader network of committed organisations and Asian women who are interested in peace-building and to work on violence against women.

The participants of this Consultation will be invited and selected from member churches and councils of CCA, as well as representatives from other ecumenical organisations in Asia. It is expected that the nominated representative of each church/organization will have adequate involvement and experience in addressing the concerns of women’s participation in peace-building and advocacy on violence against women, especially the commitment to initiate follow-up actions related to the establishment of EWAAV at respective local, national and sub- regional levels.

CCA will be responsible for the board and lodging of the selected participants of this consultation. Travel costs need to be found by the sending organisation.

Women in the Methodist Church interested in participating in this programme please forward a brief profile of yourself with a description of your involvement in peace-making to the Director, Mission and Ecumenical by emailing to mm-e@methodit.org.nz before 20 September 2016.

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD
Methodist Church of New Zealand

Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa

Director: Rev. Prince Devanandan

409 Great South Road Private Bag 11 903 Ellerslie
Auckland 1542

Phone: 09-571 9142 Fax: 09-525 9346

E-mail: mm-e@methodist.org.nz

**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.

✂-----

ANNUAL APPEAL 2016 - KOKEQOLO WATER SCHEME FUND

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

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