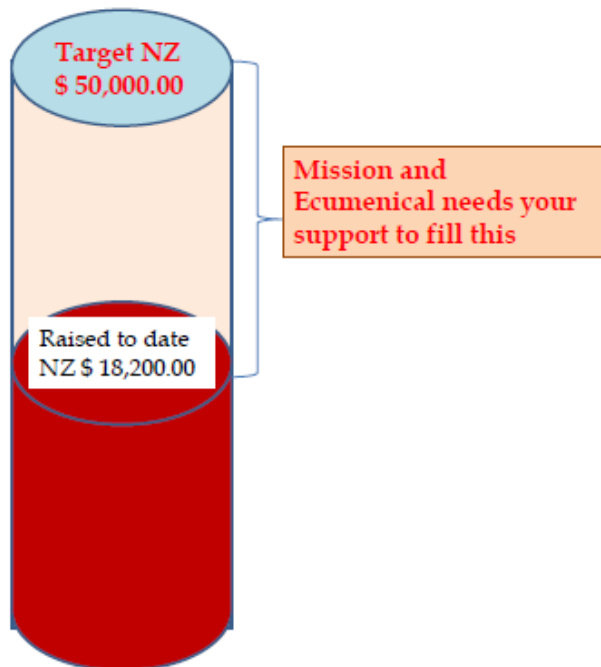


Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

December – 2018

Merry Christmas to all from Mission and Ecumenical

Annual Appeal 2018 Classroom Block for Helena Goldie College of Nursing



Mission and Ecumenical tried to raise NZ \$ 50,000 during 2018 for the new classroom block for Helena Goldie College of Nursing. However, the slow pace in receiving the support during the year has contributed towards \$ 18,200 to date. The College of Nursing still needs our support with regard to the project. They are also putting their effort into raising funds locally in Solomon Islands to complete this building so that the College may get upgraded to a nursing degree programme from its current diploma in nursing. Our support for this project will be of great help for the College of Nursing to achieve its goal. We at Mission and Ecumenical solicit your ongoing support before 2019. Thank you very much for all those who supported to raise \$ 18,200 to date.

RECONCILIATION, RENEWAL AND RESTORATION: DIVINE INDICATIVE AND HUMAN IMPERATIVE

I was part of the Advisory Committee to plan the 9th Conference of the Congress of Asian Theologians which met at the headquarters of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) from 26 to 29 November 2018. I enjoyed the discussions we had from various contexts, pointing to a common goal of reconciliation, renewal and restoration of God's creation. After two days of intense debate on theological themes that form and determine the mission and ministry of the church in Asia, the committee arrived at the theme of 'Reconciliation,

Renewal and Restoration: Divine Indicative and Human Imperative.' This will be the theme for the ninth Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS-IX).

CATS-IX will be held in Kandy, Sri Lanka from 5 to 10 August 2019.

It is envisaged that the conference will bring together approximately 100 Asian theologians of diverse backgrounds of Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant beliefs. This will include teachers, students engaged in post graduate research and those involved in diverse ministries. The advisory committee also decided to open the floor for the young theologians to share their academic work.

The conference will include four thematic presentations. In addition, there will be simultaneous dialogue sessions and panel discussions. There will be perspectives of the theme from the points of view from other major religions as well.

The CATS provides opportunities for Asian theologians including the Asian theologians in diaspora to come together in a common platform, debate common interests and form networks.

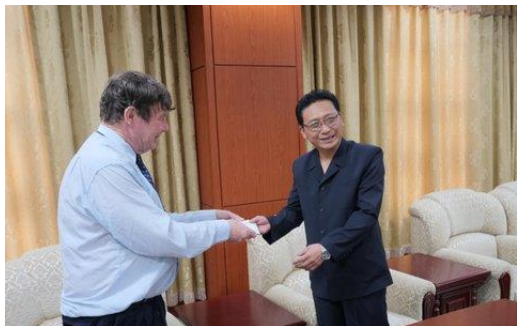
Mission and Ecumenical will make the brochures available when they are received to those who are interested in attending the conference in Kandy, Sri Lanka to apply. **Prince D.*

TWO PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS BEEN IN NORTH KOREA



Presbyterian Church of New Zealand's ministers Revds. Stuart Vogel and Richard Lawrence went on a visit to North Korea from 2 to 9 October 2018. They also carried a donation of NZ \$ 1000 from the Mission and Ecumenical to the Noodle factory and Bakery.

Richard upon his return wrote to Mission and Ecumenical: I'm very late adding my voice of thanks to Stuart's. I was very appreciative of the fact that we were able to visit the KCF in Pyongyang, DPRK, with a gift for the Bongsu Church bakery that was largely a result of your generosity. It felt and was substantial. Thank you to you, and to the Methodist Church.



Stuart handed over the donations to the Noodle Factory and Bakery.

Stuart and Richard in their report made the following observations:

1. The economic, housing and education advances in Pyongyang are clear and easily seen. There was apparently much more on sale. This was less the case in Wonson.
2. The Mass Gymnastic and Art Performance was incredible. It rivalled and possibly bettered any Olympic Games opening. The nature of DPRK Society as a culturally homogeneous and regimented society allows this to be possible. This contrasts with New Zealand.
3. We were warmly received at the Church. There were not as many people there as I was expecting, perhaps 80 people. We were taken to the Theological College which is beside the Church. There are currently 12 students and we met three. The buildings are attractive and practical for the purpose. The "library" is virtually non-existent with few volumes. There seemed to be online access not only through DPRK intranet.
4. The bakery has not changed from previous visits. We took \$2,500.00 from NZ donations to present. The food we saw was of high quality and there is no reason to doubt the important role that the bakery plays.
5. The visits to the Museums are of course obligatory and designed to express the DPRK's point of view. This is understandable. One wonders how the Chinese veterans of the 1950 to 1953 war might feel however, when their contribution to that war is not even mentioned in the accounts of the course of the war. Truth and accuracy are important and at some point, the accounts of what happened must collide.

The information shared by the two ministers certainly give us a different picture of North Korea.

Their first-hand experience and observations are different from what we hear in the popular media about North Korea. We hope and pray that there will be reconciliation between the two factions for the Koreans to live as one people. – *PrinceD*

OUT BOARD MOTOR TO SASAMUQA HOSPITAL – an email of appreciation from Sasamuqa

Rev. Prince on behalf of Medical Board Members, Hospital staff, patients and community at large, thank you for a new Out Board Motor. It will be a great benefit to staff, patients and guardians for referral cases. Would you please convey our greetings and sincere thanks and appreciation to the Methodist Church and Mission and Ecumenical Board. God Bless. Grace and Peace. Rev. Kotali.

In August, Rev Kotali wrote to Mission and Ecumenical to advise that the out board motor was out of action and that they were trying to fundraise to buy a new one. He asked Mission and Ecumenical for assistance. Upon receiving the request, the message was relayed to the partners of Sasamuqa – East Coast Bays Parish. The finance committee of the parish decided to pay their quarterly koha in advance so that Mission and Ecumenical could assist with the purchase of a new out board motor. It is all done and the hospital is waiting for the delivery of the new motor at a cost of NZ \$ 10,600.

MISSION IS THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTIAN LIFE, SAYS ORTHODOX THEOLOGIAN

15 November 2018



"Mission is not an action or activity we can choose. It is an expression of daily life. It belongs to the whole church and is not the function of just a few or of an agency," says Father Ioan Sauca, deputy general secretary of the

"Mission is not an action or activity we can choose. It is an expression of daily life. It belongs to the whole church and is not the function of just a few or of an agency,"

World Council of Churches. Sauca, who serves as director of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, made his comments during a meditation on the biblical text Mark 3:13-15 presented to church leaders from francophone Europe attending the Francophone Christian Forum.

The event held 27-31 October in Lyon, France was a regional gathering of the Global Christian Forum whose mandate is to gather Christians from diverse perspectives for shared reflection. Attendees included representatives of Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Pentecostal churches.

“We are witnesses to our faith but people are free to choose, to decide. Conversion, church growth and the salvation of the world are not our responsibility. Nor is the ‘success’ of our witness. Conversion and salvation are entirely God’s work.”

In describing the Orthodox Church’s understanding of mission, Sauca noted:

“We are witnesses to our faith but people are free to choose, to decide. Conversion, church growth and the salvation of the world are not our responsibility. Nor is the ‘success’ of our witness. Conversion and salvation are entirely God’s work.”

The Romanian Orthodox academic concluded his presentation by citing Mahatma Gandhi’s book on the message of Jesus Christ in which Gandhi wrote that a rose doesn’t need to preach, its scent is the sermon.

“If the message preached isn’t matched by a life that embodies what is being preached, the message won’t pass, will have no impact, and may even be rejected,” Sauca says.

Full version of Fr. Sauca’s talk is available at <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/mission-is-the-essence-of-christian-life-says-orthodox-theologian>

EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN GERMANY CALLS FOR QUICK AND FAIR WITHDRAWAL FROM FOSSIL FUELS - 15 November 2018

“The Synod advocates a swift exit from coal-fired power generation (lignite and hard coal), which complies with the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and contributes to achieving the German climate targets as soon as possible”, reads a statement released by the 12th Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), on 14 November.

“In the short term, half of the coal-fired power plants, primarily the oldest and most inefficient, have to be taken off the grid”, the text states.

In the decision, the Synod demands a socially acceptable structural change that opens up perspectives for the regions concerned. The churches also want to actively participate. A socially acceptable and supply-safe coal exit is necessary and possible by 2035 at the latest.

“The longer the beginning of the structural change is delayed, the greater the danger that the climate goals will be missed and there will be socially incompatible structural breaks,” reads the statement.

The news from Synod, convened in Würzburg 11-14 November, was warmly welcomed by ecumenical climate pilgrims who are walking from Frankfurt towards Potsdam and Berlin to advocate for climate justice as part of preparations for the upcoming 24th United Nations climate change conference, 3-14 December, in Katowice, Poland.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/evangelical-church-in-germany-calls-for-quick-and-fair-withdrawal-from-fossil-fuels>

ROUNDTABLE FOR PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA CONVENES IN ATLANTA - 14 November 2018

A Roundtable for Peace on the Korean Peninsula convened in Atlanta, Georgia (USA) on 8-12 November, building on decades of progress by the Korean Methodist Church, United Methodist Church, and World Methodist Council, as well the Korean Christian Federation and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The roundtable sought to generate contributions that will specifically help enable next steps for the church in fostering peace in the aftermath of the achievements of this year, including the Panmunjom Declaration of 27 April, and the Singapore summit of 12 June between the leaders of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the United States.

More details at

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/roundtable-for-peace-on-the-korean-peninsula-convenes-in-atlanta>

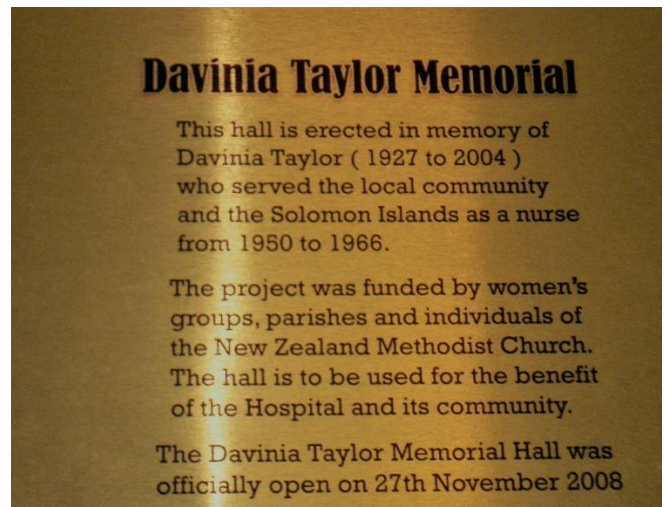
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**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Annual Appeal 2018
Classroom Block
For
Helena Goldie College of Nursing**

The Helena Goldie College of Nursing is to be upgraded to a National College in Munda, Solomon Islands. The infra structure needs upgrading. Our contribution to the upgrading will be to build a new classroom block in 2019 at a cost of NZ \$ 50,000.00.

This is possible only with the support of the everyone who contributes through the Methodist Mission and Ecumenical. The building would be built in 2019, but the service from it will be for many years to come.

The last project at the College of Nursing by Methodist Mission and Ecumenical was in 2008.



**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical appeals to all to contribute to the
Helena Goldie College of Nursing
BUILDING FUND
to raise \$ 50,000 in 2018**

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 2018 - HELENA GOLDIE COLLEGE OF NURSING BUILDING FUND

Please send your donation by cheque in favour of

Mission and Ecumenical Fund

to:

Rev Terry Wall (Acting Director)
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.