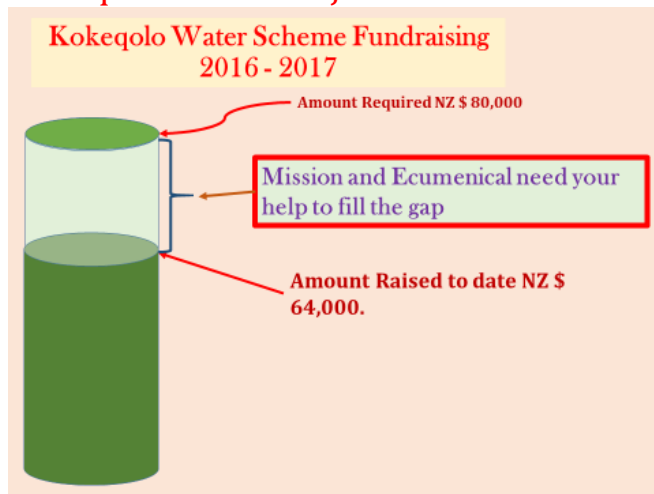


# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## December 2017

### Kokeqolo Water Project



Recent news from Kokeqolo has informed us that a contractor, who is evidently associated with the church, has offered to drill the bore of the disused facility, without cost. This will mean that there will be a considerable saving in the overall costs of the project. A big thank you to all those persons, parishes, fellowships and trusts which have contributed to this successful special appeal. The appeal has run over two years and around \$64,000 has been raised. The renewed supply will ensure a clean and reliable source of water for the primary school, youth centre and the office of the church.

### Infectious Diseases Ward

It is hoped that Helena Goldie Hospital will now see its Infectious Diseases Ward completed by the time President Prince makes a pastoral visit to the Solomon Islands in April. It has been made possible by generous funding from the Auckland Central Methodist Parish to mark the celebration of their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Visits to parishes

In November the acting director of Methodist Mission and Ecumenical visited the Whangaparaoa Parish. It has become the custom for a pot luck dinner to be held, the proceeds from which are donated to the special appeal of Mission and Ecumenical. A good number attended, the food was good and three speakers addressed the work in the Solomon Islands. Phil Taylor shared his experience of work in the Solomon Islands and Barbara Miller-Taylor introduced Pat Jacobson's work of bringing together the diaries, letters and journals of Ada Lucy Lee (Endali). Extending to almost four hundred A4 pages in two columns and well-illustrated, the work gives a vivid impression of Sister Ada's ministry.

Terry Wall spoke of the work being supported by Mission and Ecumenical today. At the end of the evening it was announced that \$844.00 had been raised.

The second parish to be visited in November was the East Coast Bays Methodist Parish. The acting director, Terry Wall spoke about the extent of the work of Mission and Ecumenical, showed slides and presided at the Eucharist. We remain grateful for the gifts that come from parishes for the work that Mission and Ecumenical is able to support.

### Ecumenism in the United States

In a significant development the dialogue between the United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church has adopted a draft proposal for full communion between the two churches. The document, entitled "A Gift to the World: Co-Labourers for the Healing of Brokenness" is a new development in the conversations between the two churches. Closer partnership in mission and witness to the love of God is the goal. The document tells the story of each church, laments the divisions related to slavery, charts common roots and looks forward to the unity that Christ wills for the Church.

### Methodist Catholic Dialogue

In November the Methodist Catholic Dialogue met in Napier. Trevor Hoggard gave a report on his recent visit to Rome where the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church was celebrated. We examined a chapter in the latest document to emerge from the international dialogue. Trevor reported that the theme for the next five years of conversations would have a focus on reconciliation. David Poultney presented an interesting paper on renewal movements in the Church of England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He compared and contrasted the Evangelical revival with the Oxford Movement. Both were concerned about ecclesiology, holiness and the church being renewed. We met with representatives of the inner city churches of Napier who have enjoyed a covenant relationship since 1987. They have joint prayer, worship and study, service and witness. This covenant relationship provides an attractive model for mainstream church in ecumenical endeavour.

### Mission and Ecumenical Board meets

The Board of Mission and Ecumenical met on 22 November. We welcomed Grace Moon who works for the Christian Conference of Asia. She spoke about

her work assisting in the formation of a new generation of ecumenical leaders. She prepares resources for Christian education, conferences and liturgy. Grace spoke about the new emphasis on drawing on the traditions and thought forms of Asian cultures in worship and spirituality. She drew our attention to the challenge that V. S. Azariah, an Indian Anglican clergyman placed before European delegates to an evening session of the 1910 Edinburgh Mission Conference.

“Through all the ages to come the Indian Church will rise up in gratitude to attest the heroism and self-denying labours of the missionary body. You have given your goods to feed the poor. You have given your bodies to be burned. We also ask for love. Give us FRIENDS!”

Grace reminded us that the Christian Conference of Asia continues to be an ecumenical body which gives priority to friendship across many boundaries. The meeting received financial reports and agreed to proceed with painting of the parsonage. The Board is looking to replace one member who has resigned. Expressions of interest can be sent to the acting director by January 20.

President Prince gave an illustrated report on his participation in the Ecumenical Officers’ Meeting in Geneva.

### **WCC express concern about Jerusalem**

In November 17-23 the World Council of Churches executive committee met in Amman, Jordan. The meeting issued a statement expressing concern over the ways in which church institutions and property in Jerusalem are threatened as a result of contracts of disputed legality, the efforts of radical settler groups, and policy of the government of Israel.

“The executive committee expresses its solidarity and support to retain church buildings and ownership in Jerusalem, including properties currently under dispute in the Jaffa Gate area, for the future survival of the Christian presence of the region.”

The executive also expressed great concern over legislative initiatives under discussion in the Knesset that would give Israel the authority to override historical ecclesiastical landlord and ownership rights.

“Initiatives that threaten the delicate historic set of religious rights and obligations encompassed in the status quo arrangements risks further destabilization of the situation in Jerusalem and the Holy Land,” reads the statement.

World Council of Churches News Service

### **Reformation in Latin**

Martin Luther rejected the theology of glory which meditated on God as God is in Godself and embraced what he called the theology of the cross, as the only sure revelation of the nature of God. Not surprisingly he employed Latin terms in which to speak of the theological discoveries that he was making.

#### *Sola scriptura*

Luther came to believe that every theological assertion needs to be consistent with scripture. No other authority had precedence, whether that be tradition or pope or reason. It was in scripture that God’s revelation was to be found.

#### *Cognitio peccati*

Conversion began for Luther with the knowledge that one is a sinner, that we have fallen short of the mark. This awakening was itself the work of the Holy Spirit deep within each life.

#### *Sola gratia*

Salvation was by God’s grace through the gift of faith. We cannot earn salvation by our own strength. We cannot earn salvation by multiplying devotions or by earning merit through good works.

#### *Semper reformanda*

Luther taught that the church must always be open to reforming its own life. The church has never reached a perfect shape in life or witness. The community of faith needs to be critiqued and renewed. This is a call for a church humble and open to learning and transformation.

### **Celebrating Incarnation**

Christmas celebrates the Word of God becoming flesh in Christ. It is the work of the Spirit of God. The Spirit brings to birth the life of God in Jesus. What is the Spirit of God bringing to life in us? Is it wonder and reverence, compassion and healing? The Spirit of God brings the life of Christ alive among us for the life of the world. In this way we participate in the mission of God.

Terry Wall.

### **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

All creation blesses you, O Lord. Exiles offer you worship. Pilgrims hallow your name. Saints adore you. Humanity offers its praise. And we, your servants, lift our hearts and voices to you in joy and thanksgiving. Amen. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

Methodist Church of New Zealand

Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa

Acting Director: Rev. Dr Terry Wall

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](mailto:mm-e@methodist.org.nz)

**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical  
Annual Appeal 2017  
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 2017**

**... 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 <b>Mission and Ecumenical Fund</b></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 <b>BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03</b></p> <p>Amount: \$ _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
---	---