

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

June 2017

Kokeqolo Water Project

We still need support towards funding the water project for the village. Please give due consideration to raise the required amount. We have raised \$ 41,000. We need another \$ 39,000.

Commemorating the Reformation

The Lutheran World Federation has had its international Assembly recently. On the agenda was the significance of the Reformation of the sixteenth century for today's church. The theme around which the meeting was arranged was "Liberated by God's Grace: Salvation – Not for Sale, Human Beings – Not for Sale, Creation – Not for Sale!" In these few words major elements of the Reformation were captured in a contemporary context. There is a constant temptation to think that our security comes from affluence. Economic systems are prone to treat human beings as slaves. The natural world can easily be regarded as being exclusively for human exploitation. Parish commemorations of the Reformation which might focus on the importance of Scripture, the priority of grace and on how we share our common home could draw on the theme the Lutherans have developed. The Australian Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue has just published a sixty-page study on *The Petrine Ministry in a New Situation*.

YATRA programme 2017

Mission and Ecumenical is happy to announce that Emma Whitla, Leti Tafuna and Sharlene Malaeimi will be attending from the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa. The Christian Conference of Asia initiative brings together young people from around the Asia region to share stories of their context, to encounter another social reality and to develop their appreciation of ecumenism. In addition to that, friendships are made that can last for years. Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity also has a strong interfaith dimension given the diversity of Asia. As we wish these three young women God's blessing, we look forward to receiving their reports on return.

Operation Refugee

Last year Christian World Service ran a successful pilot of Operation Refugee. 72 people lived on the rations of a refugee for five days and raised \$42,000 for Syrian refugees. This was enough to buy food parcels for 566 families or cover the costs of free medical care for 1,600 people. The money was matched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade allowing us to double the amount sent to CWS

partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees working with Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. It was a great achievement for a pilot effort and now CWS want to do even better. This year they are aiming to raise \$80,000 and hope to have at least 150 people doing the challenge. Methodist Mission and Ecumenical endorses this project which draws attention to the plight of so many refugees. We encourage parishes to advertise this initiative. The challenge is to live on the rations of a refugee for five days and/or to sponsor someone else to do it. For more information, visit the Operation Refugee website at:

<http://www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz>

Asia Mission Conference

This major conference with the theme "Journey Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia" will be held in Yangon, Myanmar from 11th till the 17th October 2017. Associated with the conference will be a celebration of the Christian Conference of Asia's diamond jubilee. The General Secretary of Christian Conference of Asia, Dr Mathews Chunakara writes, "We ardently pray and sincerely hope that this conference will facilitate deeper discussions, and will lead to greater dedication and to relevant and meaningful recapturing and re-articulation of our commitment to the mission, the act of Almighty God... We call upon all member churches, councils and all other partners of the Christian Conference of Asia to observe Asia Sunday on 15 October in the most befitting way and to pray especially for the Christian Conference of Asia."

Goldie College news

There is a real need for good teachers. They are in conversation with the Methodist Church of Fiji for biology, accounting and economics teachers. They ask if there might be a New Zealander who speaks English fluently who might consider spending some time at Goldie College teaching English. Please contact the acting director with any expressions of interest.

On the unity of the church

The Focolare Movement is an Italian Roman Catholic lay community that is devoted to praying for and serving the unity of the church. It has been a force for renewal and openness in its own church. At its recent convention the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches the Rev. Dr Olav Fyske Tveit reflected on the 1925 statement from the

Stockholm Conference: The closer we come to the cross, the closer we come to each other. He said, "The unity of the church is meaningless when it is not a sign and foretaste of all humankind in justice and peace." In this way he demonstrated that faith and order, life and work belong together, inform each other and are part of the wholeness of the gospel.

Revolution of tenderness

On 26 April Pope Francis surprised many by giving a TED Talk. According to an account in the Weekend Herald, he addressed tech. leaders, investors, journalists and academics. He called for "a revolution of tenderness" and suggested to those listening "how wonderful it would be, while we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters orbiting around us." He issued a warning to politicians around the world, "Please allow me to say it loud and clear. The more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly. If you don't, your power will ruin you, and you will ruin the other." Sharing a saying that is well-known in Argentina he commented, "Power is like drinking gin on an empty stomach. You feel dizzy, you get drunk, you lose your balance." He went on to say that "The future of mankind is not exclusively in the power of politicians, of great leaders, of big companies ... The future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognise the other as a you, and themselves as part of an us."

Pastoral visit to Bangladesh

Concerned about a growing wave of religiously inspired persecution, the Christian Conference of Asia sent a pastoral solidarity team to Bangladesh around the time of recent elections in May. Since 2014 religious minorities have been facing unprovoked attacks. During the election minority-dominated villages were subject to attacks. Groups associated with pro-Islamic parties looted and burned property and residences owned by Hindu, Christian and Buddhist communities. Some political parties deliberately used the religious sentiment of ordinary people to intensify communal and religious tensions and polarizations for political advantage. The pastoral solidarity team gathered up testimonies to these incidents and attitudes. The Christian Conference of Asia organised the pastoral visit to accompany churches and other religious communities facing religiously motivated violence in Bangladesh. It discovered that religious minorities live in terror and fear. Violence from extremists has been a recurring problem, where religious minorities are intimidated and threatened, assaulted and killed by extremists. During such seasons of violence minorities are also vulnerable to illegal land grabbing. The Christian Conference of Asia calls on

member churches to remember religious minorities in Bangladesh in prayer.

Resourcing Solomon Islands church

Recently a request came from the General Secretary of the United Church of the Solomon Islands for a new laptop and printer to assist in his work. The Board was pleased to be able to release funds for the purchase of this equipment that is now considered essential to an efficiently run office. The Board is in close touch with the United Church and later in the year President Prince will visit the projects that the Methodist Church of New Zealand supports. He will also renew relationships with church leaders there.

Workshop at Trinity College

On Saturday 29 April Mission and Ecumenical led a workshop at Trinity College for ministry students. Mary Caygill welcomed Mission and Ecumenical to the workshop which was held in the Kinder Library. Uesifili Unasa led the morning on the mission of our church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. He featured the various theological, medical and educational institutions that we support. In the afternoon Terry Wall introduced the commitment of our church to ecumenism – to be Methodist is to be ecumenical. This involved an historical overview of the journey so far: theological priorities and an overview of various documents from our church, the National Dialogue for Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission. Attention was also devoted to the bilateral dialogues at national and international level.

National Dialogue on Christian Unity

At the May 17 meeting of the executive of the National Dialogue for Christian Unity at Tuia, the Anglican General Synod Office at St. John's College, Meadowbank, reports were received from the bilateral dialogues. In recent years there have been three national dialogues between churches in New Zealand; Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue, Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue and the Anglican Methodist conversations. The National Dialogue for Christian Unity exists to serve and foster the visible unity of the church. This was the first time that dialogues had reported together in the presence of each other to the new national ecumenical body.

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

Methodist Church of New Zealand

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**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.

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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.

<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>
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