

METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

Kokeqolo Water Supply Project

This project was in focus for almost three years since the workmen to do the job were not available. Finally, the United Church office staff have got onto the work. The initial work on the bore hole and the pump house is now complete. Waiting to hear on the next step of installing a water pump and the storage tanks on the hill.



Work on the bore hole for water in progress



Pump House nearing completion

WCC gravely concerned for West Papua – 25 September 2019

The World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit is gravely concerned by the deteriorating situation in West Papua (the Indonesian provinces of Papua and Papua Barat), especially in light of reports from church partners

in the territory that peaceful anti-racism demonstrations by Papuan students have been attacked with lethal force by Indonesian military forces and armed settler militias. In other places we have learned about horizontal violence between Papuans and non-indigenous residents. Tveit said “We call upon the government of President Joko Widodo to stop the violence and human rights abuses against indigenous Papuans by Indonesian military forces and militias”, he added “and to ensure national and international humanitarian access to Wamena and other affected areas as a matter of urgency.”



Village in Sentani lake near Jayapura in Papua province. Photo: Norman Voss/WCC

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-gravely-concerned-for-west-papua>

CONSTRUCTION WORK AT TABAKA RURAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

A report from the principal Mr Joash Lawrence states:

Actual construction work was started on the 15th September 2019 and this picture progress was last taken on the 24th September. Current stage but photo was not taken (provided) was the block laying is up to 5 layers. Timber framing will be constructed up from the blocks ending.

FYI – The construction was started late because of the bad weather and the timber supplies was also delayed. Hopefully the last lot of timber order will be available sometimes this week.

A few photos showing the work in progress:



I declare that this is the true current stage of the abluion project progress. **SIGN** ___ Joash. Lawrence
DATE: _ 2 /10/19

When the construction at the Girls' Dormitory is completed, the work on abluion facility for Boys' Dormitory will begin.

All this is made possible because of the ongoing support of the members the Methodist Church of New Zealand who contribute to the life of the young people in Solomon Islands.

“Do you love me?” It’s a question about global warming - 22 September 2019

In a sermon at Marble Church in New York City on 22 September, World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit asked an elemental yet profound question: “Do you love me?”

Tveit, visiting New York just before the Climate Action Summit organized by the United Nations, reflected that children and young people are asking this question in a new way. “Do you care for our future? Do you love us? Do you love me?”

Today, Tveit noted, we hear this question as it pertains to this greatest concern of our time: climate change. “Denial is not a serious option,” he said. “We address this human made situation and talk about these catastrophes at our dinner tables, in classrooms, in social media, in private and public, in parliaments, in the UN.”

We also address this situation as communities of faith, believing in God, Tveit continued. “We remind others and ourselves about our responsibilities to take care of God’s creation,” he said. “We talk about achieving just peace with creation.”

As we ponder what it means to hope, we also plan for a just and sustainable way of living, locally and globally, Tveit said. “Do you love me?” he asked. “The question comes from all that are created by God, all that are interdependent with one another in what we call nature.”



This is our testing time, Tveit concluded. “What are you doing now, not only saying, to give your children and your grandchildren a future in which they can live, love, and enjoy life together in justice and peace?” he asked. “What are we willing to give to our sons and daughters as our sign of love?”

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/>

As Climate Summit begins, churches call for action now! 23 September 2019

As states gather at the United Nations for the Climate Action Summit, taking place on 23 September, the ACT Alliance, Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches, which together represent 580 million Christians globally,

are strengthening their collective call for climate justice and immediate action.

As we focus on the interconnectedness of God's creation, our churches are urging governments worldwide to take stronger measures and present concrete plans to address climate change – now.

The world is facing the impacts of climate change at an increasing pace, escalating humanitarian needs, and leading to economic free-fall and trauma borne of violent natural disasters: Hurricane Dorian, Cyclone Idai, the Amazon fires, flooding in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, drought in the Horn of Africa. There will be "a next disaster," and the most vulnerable people—those who have done the least to contribute to climate change—are likely to face the brunt of its impact.



Churches are calling for immediate action on the climate justice on the eve of the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. Photo: Joanna Patouris/ACT

As people of faith, we call on the nations gathered at this summit to act ambitiously to address the impact of climate change, and to work with renewed vigour to keep global temperature rise below 1.5C. The time to act is now. Our care for God's creation cannot afford more delay. We shall do our part.

We call on our member churches, organizations, and communities to rise to this most important challenge of our time. We stand united against divisive forces that seek to negate scientific facts and silence the voices of women, of youth, of indigenous people and others who stand to lose everything as climate change ravages their lives and livelihoods.

We stand with the most vulnerable. We call especially for action by developed nations to increase their ambition in meeting emissions targets, in providing financing, and in focusing on adaptation and mitigation for those most affected by climate change.

Climate change has become a climate emergency.

Deep seated transformation must happen now.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/as-climate-summit-begins-churches-call-for-action-now>

Time to act: Solidarity with Palestine Resolution of the Provincial Synod Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA)

Stiaan van der Merwe, a key Global Kairos for Justice Leader reports from South Africa:

"The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA), under the leadership of Archbishop Thabo Magoba, today (27 September 2019) resolved to adopt a bold and comprehensive motion in solidarity with Palestine. (ACSA is the church of the well-known Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu)

The motion was adopted unanimously with no abstentions. Some Churches in South Africa have adopted similar resolutions. This is however a first comprehensive resolution of its kind. Moreover, it is a first of its kind for a church in Southern Africa. Countries represented in ACSA include: Angola, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa and St Helena. The prayerful commitment to promote non-violent forms of resistance including Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions further adds to the boldness and uniqueness of this resolution.

It has been noted that alternative pilgrimages played a telling role for many a church leader and other members of the church in visiting Palestine and Israel. It is hoped that the matter will be on the agenda for the global meeting of Anglican community in Lambeth, 2020". The resolutions are available at

<http://anglican.ink/2019/09/27/anglican-church-in-southern-africa-synod-adopts-anti-israel-pro-bds-resolutions/>

**"They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2)
Solidarity in aiding migrants informs
upcoming week of prayer for unity**

12 September 2019

Maltese creators of the newly available materials for the upcoming Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have focused on hospitality to the stranger as their theme, evoking the shipwrecked Apostle Paul's statement that

“They showed us unusual kindness” there (Acts 28:2).

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between Ascension and Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere and between 18 January and 25 January in the Northern Hemisphere. Each year ecumenical partners in a different region are asked to prepare the materials, including chiefly an ecumenical opening prayer service and biblical reflections and prayers for the eight-days of the octave, employed by churches around the world.

The choice of Malta this year has special significance, says Rev. Dr Odair Pedroso Mateus, director of WCC’s Faith and Order Commission.

In recent years the tiny Mediterranean island has become a major destination and transit point of migrants from North Africa and the Middle East, he notes.



Photo: Sean Hawkey/WCC

“When the Mediterranean becomes a graveyard of people and civilization, Christians in the Mediterranean island of Malta remind us the words of the author of Acts of the Apostles following Paul’s shipwreck in that island: he wrote about the local people that they ‘showed us unusual kindness.’ In 2020 we will pray for unity in communion with those who, despite growing xenophobia, show ‘unusual kindnesses to the vulnerable.”

With roots going back over 100 years, the dedicated octave of prayers has been jointly commissioned and prepared since 1966, after the Second Vatican Council, by the Roman Catholic Church’s Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the WCC’s Faith and Order Commission.

This year’s materials are available in English, Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer/week-of-prayer>

IN KOREA, YOUNG ‘STEWARDS OF HOPE’ FORGE AHEAD TOGETHER - 19 September 2019

As the Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity opened at the Yonsei University Chapel in South Korea on 18 September, participants were already learning to live into the theme “Stewards of Hope, Seekers of Harmony.”

For the first time, the training includes not only young people from Asia but from across the world, and is being co-coordinated by the World Council of Churches (WCC) Programme for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, the Council for World Mission, and youth representatives from the ecumenical movement.

Sudipta Singh, Council for World Mission’s mission secretary, said that the young participants are creating a new hope. “You are the today and the future of the world,” said Singh. “So let’s start this journey, and build a new world with all religions and all faith traditions, a space where all can live, whether they are human or otherwise, and can thrive.”

Rev. Dr Peniel Rufus Rajkumar, WCC programme executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, explained why Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity is abbreviated with the word “YATRA,” which refers to “pilgrimage” in many Indo-Asian religions and languages. “A pilgrimage that started for young people around the world after the WCC Busan Assembly and that would have been incomplete without our brothers and sisters from different faith traditions,” Rajkumar said. “Here we are today sharing a vision that leads towards a future of excellence and commitment to the wellbeing of humanity and also our creation.”

Lita Vatuvei and Felicia Muliaina from the Methodist Church of New Zealand participated in YATRA 2019 in Seoul, South Korea.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/in-korea-young-stewards-of-hope-forge-ahead-together>

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

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**Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Annual Appeal 2020
Ablution and Shower Facility for Tabaka Rural Training Centre**



Tabaka Rural Training Centre was started by a group of volunteers from the Methodist Church of New Zealand in 1992. It was established to train youth in a skill which would enable them to earn a living. Over the past 27 years this centre has grown to technical institute with over 250 students, boys and girls receiving technical training in eight different areas.

The work of the institute has expanded, but not the facilities for the youth who live in the dormitories. There is no proper toilet and shower facility for the students. During the annual visit of the Mission and Ecumenical director and the team in consultation with the principal decided to act immediately to build a toilet and shower facility for the Girls' Dormitory as the first stage and to build a similar facility for boys the following year.

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Board appeals to all to become partners in mission by supporting the

ANNUAL APPEAL 2020 to raise \$ 35,000 in 2019

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 2020 - TABAKA ABLUTION FACILITY FUND

Please send your donation by cheque in favour of Mission and Ecumenical Fund to:

**Rev Prince Devanandan(Director)
Mission and Ecumenical Board
Private Bag 11 903
Ellerslie
Auckland 1542**

Alternately, do a bank transfer directly to:

02-0800-0766004-03

stating reference as **"Tabaka Fund 2020"**

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

Amount: \$ _____

Name -----

Address -----
