

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

April - 2019


TEAM VIST TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

Mission and Ecumenical Director Prince Devanandan together with Murray Olds, Valmai Horlor, Annette Sharp and Lynne Scott will visit Solomon Islands from 29 April to 8 May 2019. The Mission and Ecumenical Office will be unattended at this time.

A SERVICE TO PRAY FOR THE UNITY OF ALL CHRISTIANS

Anglican, Coptic, Methodist, Orthodox, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches gathering to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Auckland.

WEEK OF PRAYER
For Christian Unity 2019



Justice and only justice you shall pursue
Deuteronomy 16:18-20

All Are Invited

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Sunday 16th June 2019, 5pm
Holy Trinity Cathedral
446 Parnell Road, Parnell

Refreshments served at the end of the service in the Bishop Monteith Visitor Centre.
Plenty of Car Parks, The Cathedral car park is accessible from either Parnell Road,
behind St Mary's-in-Holy Trinity, or from Brighton Road.



WCC condemns terror attacks on mosques in New Zealand, calls for end to violence

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the WCC, stated: "This terrible crime against women, men and children at the time of their prayers is an attack on all believers and an assault on the bonds of shared humanity and peaceful coexistence which unite us all. The WCC stands in solidarity with all Muslims at this time, especially the Muslims of Aotearoa New Zealand, and expresses the strongest possible condemnation of these actions and of the hateful and dangerous ideologies that stand behind them."

Tveit expressed his deep condolences to the Muslim community, and all the people of Aotearoa New Zealand, for this massacre is an attack on the whole nation and its values of inclusion and respect for all its citizens. He added: "We pray that all the communities of Aotearoa New Zealand will come together to support those who have suffered so dreadfully and to reaffirm the nation's commitment to the safety and flourishing of all its people".

Tveit concluded: "At this time the WCC reiterates its long-standing commitment to dialogue and harmony with the Muslim communities of the world. We affirm to all our Muslim friends and partners that we utterly reject such actions and call on all Christian people to follow in the way of Jesus Christ by seeking to live in peace and respect with all our neighbours, and especially committing ourselves to the protection of vulnerable minorities."

CCA General Secretary denounces shooting at mosques in New Zealand (15 March 2019)

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) has denounced a bloody shooting at worshippers in the Al Noor mosque and the Linwood masjid in Christchurch, New Zealand in which 49 people have been reported dead, and 20 injured. The shooting occurred today at 13.40 hrs (New Zealand Standard Time) during a Friday afternoon prayer.

Responding to the tragic incident in New Zealand, the General Secretary of CCA Dr. Mathews George Chunakara stated, "No matter what faith we adhere or ethnicity we belong to, everybody should be able to live in an atmosphere where peace and security is prevailed and sustained; any act of violence must be prevented with all possible efforts."

"We send our heart-felt support to all those who have been affected; we offer prayers to Almighty God for the victims, their families and reach out through our grief and distress to our Islamic brothers and sisters in New Zealand", said Dr. Mathews George Chunakara.



Christian Conference of Asia is an organ and fellowship of churches and ecumenical councils in Asia for initiating and facilitating dynamic Christian witness and action.

The CCA General Secretary further added that CCA shares the sentiments of Rev. Nicola Teague Grundy, Vice President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, who said "to single out one group of people as a focus of an act of hatred affects us all. There is no place ever for this type of attack on people, and we stand by all people, no matter what their faith. All

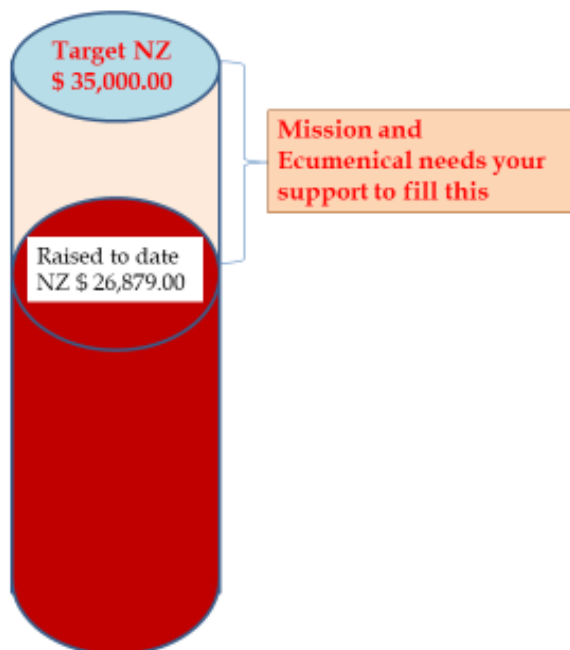
people should be able to worship and live in a place of safety”.

Recalling the prophetic affirmation that “Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken” (Micah 4:4), the CCA General Secretary urged: “Let us pray fervently that God will take those killed into His merciful arms and grant them eternal rest. Let there be peace in the hearts of all those who are shattered by this awful tragedy that has destroyed a rather peaceful setting in a religiously tolerant country like New Zealand.”

Annual Appeal 2019 Solar Power Unit for the Goldie College Computer Lab

Mission and Ecumenical launched the Annual Appeal 2019 to raise \$ 35,000 towards the Goldie College Computer Lab for a Solar Power Unit. The boarding school with over 500 boys and girls has no electricity in the Tabaka Bay. Solar Power and generators are the only source of electricity. Our assistance to install a solar power unit will cover the cost of installation while the school’s alumni association funds the balance.

Your continued support will help the school not only for the current student community, but also for another 15 to 20 years. We need approximately another \$ 8,000 to complete this project in Solomon Islands.



The Rev Norman Tendis died in the crashed aircraft of Ethiopian Airlines

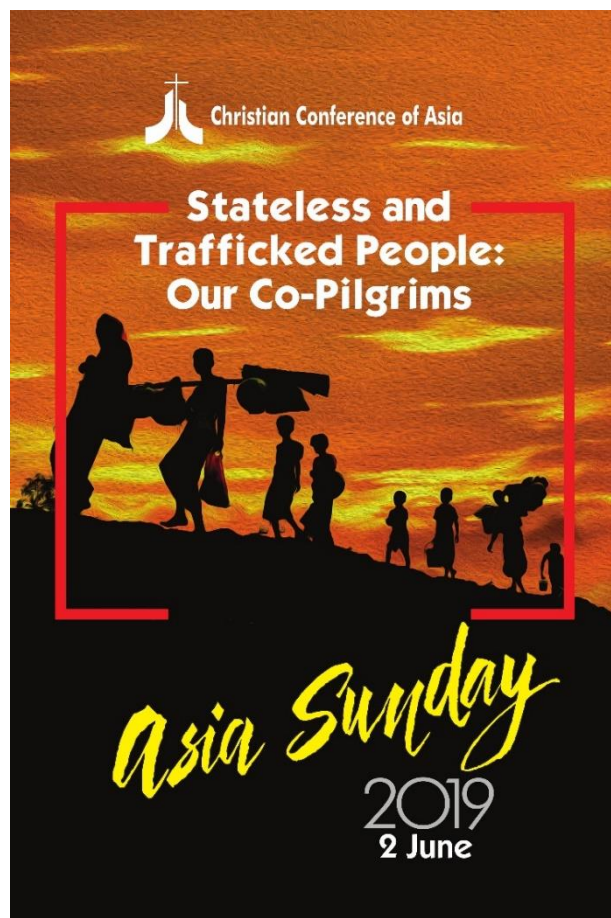
Rev Norman Tendis was on his way to Nairobi, the sight of the UN Environment Programme when his plane crashed shortly after take-off from Addis Ababa. His death a great loss not only to the World Council of Churches staff community, but also for the churches who were to benefit from his work through

UN and the ecumenical movement. Norman was based in Austria, working 50% time for a congregation in Villach and the other 50% for the WCC.

Norman and his colleagues of the Poverty, Wealth and Ecology team had worked hard to finalize a “Roadmap for Congregations, Communities and Churches for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice” which he was to present Monday morning at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi. A copy of his book in PDF format is available from Mission and Ecumenical office.

The general secretary of WCC in his message stated: “Some years ago he reflected on his time as pastor in Villach. The text ended with the following words: "Love is the centre of Christian faith, and it should be at the centre of all our endeavours. 'And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all' (1 Thess 3:12).” We pray, may the souls of those who lost their lives with Norman rest in peace.

ASIA SUNDAY 2019 – 2 June 2019 Theme: ‘Stateless and Trafficked People: Our Co-Pilgrims’



Asia Sunday is observed every year on the Sunday before Pentecost, and the **Asia Sunday-2019 falls on 2 June**. For Asia Sunday Worship Resources, please click to download and use in your services:

[Asia-Sunday-2019 \(Word Format\)](#)
[Asia-Sunday-2019 \(PDF Format\)](#)

The service order can be used on Asia Sunday on 2 June 2019 or on a Sunday nearer to Asia Sunday in your congregations.

From Conflict to Communion: The future of Christians together in the world – 01 April 2019

(LWF Communication) – **How have relations between Christian World Communions that have adhered to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification changed over the past two decades? How can they make more visible the new trust and friendships that have grown up between them? And how can they put their powerful message of reconciliation at the service of a deeply divided world?**

Those questions have been at the heart of a consultation, which took place at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, United States from 26 to 28 March. The gathering brought together ecumenists from the five global Christian communions who affirmed the [Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification \(JDDJ\)](#), a landmark 1999 agreement which effectively resolved the central, church-dividing conflict of the Reformation era.

Originally signed by leaders of the Catholic Church and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the agreement has since been broadened to include the World Methodist Council, the Anglican Communion and the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

All these communions now agree on the core message of salvation in and through Christ. Standing together on this basis, participants expressed a new urgency to bring this life-giving message to today's world, while continuing their theological work towards the goal of Christian unity.

On the opening day, participants heard presentations from the five communions, reflecting on how their commitment to begin "always from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division" can help them find solutions to remaining obstacles, including recognition of ministry and Eucharistic sharing.

Later, at an ecumenical prayer service in the University Basilica of the Sacred Heart led by local priests and pastors, participants renewed their baptismal vows and pledged to continue their shared journey. In a concluding statement, participants highlighted the way in which the JDDJ process led to the overcoming of centuries-old controversies. They also noted how its method of differentiating consensus, which allows for core agreement while maintaining different confessional expressions, can

be used to deal with past, present and future obstacles relating to both doctrinal and ethical questions.

They recommended the development of shared resources, including online materials, that can be used for ecumenical education and formation. They also called for the creation of common resources for the celebration of baptism and renewal of baptism vows, where this does not already happen. A steering committee, comprised of members of each communion, will be set up to carry this work forward.

Junge: Breakthrough and strong sense of shared ownership

LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge described the meeting as "a breakthrough" which demonstrated "a strong sense of shared ownership" of the JDDJ. "It is no longer a bilateral agreement that others have adhered to," he said, "but it is now owned and shared equally by all five communions." A tangible result is that increasingly "we no longer look at each other from the perspective of what that church is lacking, but rather how it is an effective instrument to proclaim the gospel of Christ calling people to faith hope and love," he said. He stressed that "Our message of justification by grace through faith alone is a timely and urgently needed response to the individualisms, commodification and short term approaches" of the contemporary world.

With this in mind, participants at the consultation also focused on the three sub-themes of the Twelfth LWF Assembly in Namibia: Salvation not for Sale, Human Beings not for Sale and Creation not for Sale, asking how this framework could help engage humankind with the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ as it relates to current existential questions and challenges. General Secretary Junge concluded: "We need to define our identity, not in opposition to but together with the others, based on the significant common ground we have identified - our salvation in Christ by grace through faith alone."

The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification was the result of over three decades of ecumenical dialogue between the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church.

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD
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Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Annual Appeal 2019

Solar Power Unit for the Computer Lab

Goldie College is a secondary school in the Western Province managed by the United Church of Solomon Islands. The school hostel is home for over 500 students and the staff who live in the premises.

The Principal Mr Brian Bird with the help of the Alumni has set up a modern computer lab with 32 work stations for computer literacy and learning through technology. The need of the school is a solar power unit to run the computer lab. During the visit of the Director in April 2018, the principal made a request to assist the school with a solar power unit.

Mission and Ecumenical Board is trying to raise NZ \$ 35,000 for this project.



Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Board appeals to all to contribute to the

Goldie College SOLAR POWER UNIT FUND to raise \$ 35,000 in 2019

You are invited to be a partner in mission with a contribution to the school.

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 2019 - GOLDIE COLLEGE SOLAR POWER UNIT 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

or bank directly to: 02-0800-0766004-03
using reference "Computer Lab"

Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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