

# Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

## August – 2019

### A big THANK YOU to all who supported the Annual Appeal 2020 for Ablution Facility for Girls' Dormitory at Tabaka Rural Training Institute

Your generosity with donations made it possible to begin the construction work at Tabaka Rural Training Institute.



### “THURSDAYS IN BLACK”

#### AT CONSULTATION ON STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW63) 11-22 MARCH 2019

– report from Lynne Scott (*Member Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ Delegation at CSW63*)

During CSW63 on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, UN Ecumenical Women ran a two-part parallel panel discussion event – “Men in Black – Link up to End Gender Based Violence” at the Tillman Chapel, Church Centre for UN.

Methodists who have committed to be followers of Jesus Christ represent Him in the campaign against rape and violence by observing

#### **Thursdays in Black.**

It will not only be a silent voice; it will also be an action on our part to call others to join the movement worldwide that strives towards a world free of rape and violence. *Prince D.*

The event facilitated conversations on toxic versus positive masculinity in the faith community and the public square with the male panel members who hold leadership roles in diverse faith communities. Conversation guidelines were – Hold each other’s stories in confidence – Respect each other – Listen to learn from each other.

At the conclusion of the discussion on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> we were led by a drummer in a march down 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue – past the UN – and up the stairs to Tudor Square. An interesting and moving experience which generated a good deal of attention and interest!



Attendees and Panel at “Men in Black” CSW63 parallel event – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### “Men in Black – Part II” agreed conclusions:

- We declare with one voice that violence against women and girls exists in all communities and is morally and universally intolerable.
- We acknowledge that the texts, traditions and values we hold sacred have been used to perpetrate and condone violence.
- We commit to working toward the day when all women and girls will be safe and free from fear.
- We are compelled to work for justice and the eradication of violence against women and girls.
- We call upon all people to join us.

How are others impacted by your behaviour? People model what they see, these toxic spaces model what they experience. Changed behaviour prompts a new experience to grow. We need to create safe spaces. In order to change something, you need to replace what you want to change. What do we need from each other for doing the work and what do we need to stand together? Transformation will be more effective if there is support around it.

When women and girls are the victims of injustice of any kind, it is not only a violation against all women and girls, it is a violation against all humanity in every nation.

### **WCC supports Zacchaeus campaign for tax justice - 12 July 2019**

**The World Council of Churches (WCC) is supporting a new ecumenical campaign advocating for tax justice, called the Zacchaeus Project (#ZacTAX), that was launched 11 July at the United Nations in New York City.**

The project is a part of the New International Financial and Economic Architecture initiative, a joint effort by the WCC, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Lutheran World Federation and Council for World Mission.

The launch was held under the auspices of the UN High-level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals and co-organised by the WCC, World Communion of Reformed Churches, and Council for World Mission together with the Lutheran World Federation and United Methodist Church.

The launch was preceded by a panel of commentators, moderated by Athena Peralta, WCC programme executive for the Economy of Life. "Tax justice is an important and practical means of tackling inequality – which is at levels not seen since the 19th century – and making reparation for the legacies of slavery and ecological devastation, especially climate change-related loss and damage," she said.

The 2019 UN High-level Political Forum is reviewing several Sustainable Development Goals including goal 10 (reduce inequality) and goal 13 (take urgent action on climate change).

### **About the Zacchaeus Project**

The project calls for a global tax and economic system that delivers equity and makes reparation for exploitation and injustice. "Taxation is an important tool for sharing wealth equitably within and across countries as well as for holding corporations and citizens accountable for their responsibility towards upholding the common good, including care for the global ecological commons," states the concept note for the project.

The campaign advocates for tax justice, addressing social and ecological debts, including reparations for colonialism and slavery. The campaign serves both to educate churches about

the issues involved while advocating for tax justice and reparations.

The specific calls of the Zacchaeus Tax Campaign include:

- We call for the enactment of progressive wealth taxes at global and national levels to curb the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of an increasingly powerful few, hand-in-hand with increased public spending to stamp out poverty.
- We demand a stop to tax evasion and avoidance by multinational corporations and affluent individuals.
- We urgently call for progressive carbon and pollution taxes at different levels to protect our only planetary home.
- We call for the immediate implementation of a financial transaction tax on trade in equities, bonds, currencies and derivatives to curb harmful speculative activities.

### **Learn more about the Zacchaeus Project** at

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-supports-zacchaeus-campaign-for-tax-justice>

### **Council of Christians and Muslims Auckland**

The annual general meeting of the CCM was held on 22 June 2019 at Al-Masjid Al-Jamie (Ponsonby Mosque). The council elected co-Presidents Aarif Rasheed and Stuart Vogel, along with several new committee members.



*A brilliant day at Peacenic 2018. Stay tuned for details of Peacenic 2020.*

During the discussions, a concern was raised by the Muslim brotherhood regarding the shooting incidents in Christchurch and the lack of respect for the religious observances in some of the government offices. Legal proceedings are scheduled to be held on Fridays when the Muslims attend the Mosque for their weekly worship. The question is why can't the officers choose another day of the week for the court proceedings and leave Friday for the religious observances of the victims of the shootings. It is a matter for the caring

Christians to write to the minister of justice to draw his attention.

The meeting concluded with a discussion forum reflecting on the tragic events in Christchurch on 15th March, and the relevance of interfaith work in this situation.

### **World Week for Peace highlights humanity and equality - 20 July 2019**



*A fence marks off the nearby area, as a group celebrate Easter Sunday on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.  
Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC*

**Under the theme “Humanity and equality in God’s creation”, people of faith all over the world are encouraged to bear common witness by gathering in prayer and acts of support during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. This yearly manifestation of solidarity and hope takes place 15 – 22 September and as usual it includes the International Day of Peace on 21 September.**

“The situation in Palestine and Israel is unchanged and people continue to suffer. It affects the future of everyone in the region, denies the equal human dignity of all people, and in all aspects of God’s creation. Though we are all created equally in God’s image, the military occupation and its discriminatory practices are obstacles to the fullness of life for all in God’s creation”, says World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit.

**This year’s theme has been chosen to challenge racism, xenophobia, stigmatization, exclusion driven by populist policies and other growing of inalienable human rights of all trends.**

The aim is to inspire and revive concern for the human dignity of all people equally, regardless ethnic, religious or political differences, and the struggle for the realization of the equal and inalienable human rights of all.

During the World Week for Peace, he hopes to see people of faith unite in worship services, educational events and acts of support for a just

and sustainable peace for both Palestinians and Israelis.

“The theme has a special immediacy in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the unfulfilled search for sustainable peace based on the recognition of the inalienable human rights of all people in the region”, Tveit adds.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/world-week-for-peace-highlights-humanity-and-equality>

### **WCC general secretary condemns demolitions in Wadi-Al-Hummus – 24 July 2019**

**World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit called on Israel to stop the illegal demolitions immediately. “Israeli authorities have demolished 16 Palestinian buildings, containing some 70 apartments, in Wadi Al-Hummus, in occupied East Jerusalem. This is against international law.” Over two hundred people have already been displaced in East Jerusalem this year.**

At the 41st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, held in Geneva on 24 June to 12 July, WCC delivered a statement calling on the government of Israel to cease demolishing Palestinian homes and structures. In Wadi Al-Hummus in southeast Jerusalem, 16 large buildings which are home to 500 Palestinian people were given demolition orders with a request to self-demolish by 18 July.

“We await the explosives demolition of a 10-story apartment building,” tweeted Peter Prove, director of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) yesterday, quoting on-site reports from EAPPI participants. “The Israeli forces’ presence was overwhelming.”

EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel) participants described at least ten buses of soldiers and 10 bulldozers that began arriving at about 3:00 am. “People were forcibly removed with tear gas, pepper spray, sound bombs and several were literally carried out by soldiers,” Prove reported. “The soldiers have declared the area a closed military zone with no vehicle access in or out.”

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD  
Methodist Church of New Zealand  
Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa  
Director: Rev. Prince Devanandan  
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 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**

<p><b>Please send your donation by cheque</b> in favour of Mission and Ecumenical Fund to:</p> <p><b>Rev Prince Devanandan(Director)</b> <b>Mission and Ecumenical Board</b> <b>Private Bag 11 903</b> <b>Ellerslie</b> <b>Auckland 1542</b></p> <p><b>Alternately, do a bank transfer directly to:</b> <b>02-0800-0766004-03</b> stating reference as <b>"Tabaka Fund 2020"</b></p>	<p><b>Please remember to send this cover slip for a receipt when you make a deposit.</b></p> <p><b>Amount:</b>     \$ _____</p> <p><b>Name</b> -----</p> <p><b>Address</b> -----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
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