

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

September - 2019

Annual Appeal 2020 for Ablution Facility for Girls' Dormitory at Tabaka Rural Training Institute

Mission & Ecumenical Director received the following message from Joash Law, Principal of Tabaka Institute:

Dear Director Rev Prince,
This email serves to update you with regards to the girls' ablution block project. Due to the bad weather for past months and weeks, our schedules for the activities as specified will be behind schedule as we expected, now we are on its ordering of materials and procurement stage but will try to complete this project by next month October.
Hence, thank you for your understanding.
Joash
Principal.

We now wait for the completion of this work on the Girls' Dormitory Ablution block. Our fundraising for 2020 continues as we look forward to build a similar facility for the boys' dormitory as well.

Kokeqolo Water Scheme

In recent years this has been the subject of a Mission and Ecumenical special appeal. The church in the Solomon Islands has had difficulties in getting this project off the ground. The first site was deemed unsuitable due to its close proximity to a planned road bypass. There have also been technical and logistics issues. We are happy to report that a contract has now been signed and work drilling the bore was scheduled to begin in August. Accordingly, the first instalment of our donation has been sent. Eddie Pratt has written expressing his gratitude for the continuing support of Mission and Ecumenical.

Resistance Theology advocated

"Resistance theology can be a powerful tool in recovering life-giving and life-sustaining indigenous world-views that provide an alternative lens in re-examining dominant theologies." This was the theme of Dr Lily Apura's address to the Congress of Asian Theologians held in Medan in Indonesia in August.

Speaking on "Reconciliation: Toward the Harmony of Creation" Dr Apura said, "In history, imperial drive for power and wealth are the cause of the

subjugation and colonization of weaker peoples and nations throughout the world. Death and destruction, disease and misery accompanied the imperial advances in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In former colonies, Christianity is still associated with hegemonic power." Re-interpreting biblical texts, Dr Apura, Professor of Divinity in Siliman University in the Philippines, visualised a 'feminine God' whose life-giving nature is manifested in all beings in creation.



Revs Prince Devanandan, Joo Hong Kim, Betsan Martin and Rob Fergusson were present from the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

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

Thursdays in Black.

Let us be a silent voice in the movement worldwide to strive towards a world free of rape and violence.

First black woman bishop appointed in the Church of England

It has been announced that the next bishop of Dover is to be the Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilken. For the last nine years she has been chaplain to the speaker of the House of Commons. The Speaker, the Rt. Hon. John Bercow said, "Rose is one of the warmest and kindest and most loving people I have ever met, so she will be sorely missed by Members across the House, the staff and especially me." She will be ordained bishop in November.

World Council of Churches' Faith and Order Commission continues studies

Global dialogues are being supported by the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. The work of the Commission relates especially to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, ecclesiology and moral discernment. The fruit of the Commission's work comes from three study

groups which explore different facets of the church as they illuminate the pursuit of church unity.

The Commission, as it celebrates the diversity of humankind, culture and church rejects any sense that one kind of culture should dominate or that humankind should be rendered uniform. At the same time the Commission works to deepen and share what divided churches hold in common about the nature and mission of the church.

The first study group has released the text "Come and See: A theological invitation to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace." The second study group is analysing more than seventy responses to the text "The Church: Towards a Common Vision." The third study group which concentrates on moral discernment, acknowledges that the churches respond differently to ethical issues. Some of the questions commonly explored include, how is it that ethical responses differ? Why do some ethical topics endanger present unity, while others do not?

- *World Council of Churches Weekly News*

West Papua concerns focussed

In the August issue of *Touchstone* Gillian Southey reported on the visit to New Zealand of West Papuan Rosa Biwangko who spoke at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference held at the University of Waikato. Rosa is an activist who appeals for support for the liberation of West Papua. The Indonesian government seems determined to exploit the resources while the indigenous people seek to defend their land, their culture and their human rights. She calls for the support of New Zealand in their struggles.

Lynne Frith's review of Maire Leadbeater's book *See No Evil* in July *Touchstone* provides a useful overview of the way in which successive New Zealand governments have quietly supported Indonesia. This may not change unless there is a strong groundswell that gives expression to solidarity with West Papuan aspirations.

Protests broke out in Indonesia toward the end of August after videos showed police backed by soldiers, calling West Papuan students at a university "dogs" and "monkeys." The Pacific Council of Churches has asked its member churches to pray for justice and peace for the region. The PCC condemned "institutionalised racism against the indigenous people of West (Tanah) Papua" and "reiterated calls for an urgent investigation into on-going human rights abuses." Why not open a file on West Papua so that you will be well informed about the aspirations of the West Papuan people? Then you can keep your parish up to date with their struggle for liberation

Violence in Norway denounced

After a man shot and injured at least one person in a mosque in Oslo, the World Council of Churches general secretary the Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit denounced the attack and urged all people of goodwill to come together with love and prayer.

"We received the terrible news with dismay and a strengthened resolve to continue inter-religious support and dialogue in the best way we know how." Dr Olav went on to say that "no one should have to pray in fear of attacks such as this. Let us stand together – even in our frustration, sorrow and anger – because ultimately we stand with love for one another."

Eco conference in India

The World Council of Churches' eco-justice team collaborated with the Church of South India to organise the 5th Eco Conference. Held this time in Chennai 1 – 4 August, the conference explored the theme "Greening the Globe for Sustainable Living."

Participants learned about models of sustainable living, life-threatening forces, relevant ecological ministry and inter-facing with vulnerable communities. Indigenous systems of medicine, agriculture, energy conservation and waste management were constantly considered.

Dinesh Suna, convenor of the World Council of Churches water network, drew attention to the Chennai water crisis.

Prayer for re-united Korea

On 11th August, in a mood of hope, people in churches around the world prayed for peace and re-unification on the Korean peninsula.

In Seoul Gospel Church, local worshippers in the South Korean capital were accompanied by a group of 80 young people from all continents. The group was completing a six-day pilgrimage with the theme "Walking with Peace: Reclaiming Hope." The pilgrimage was organised by the Ecumenical Youth Council of Korea in co-operation with its parent body, the National Council of Churches of Korea.

Jess Kim said, "It was a very inspiring moment in the church yesterday and I am honoured to have been a part of the event. I grew up in a family with a passion for reconciliation."

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

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