

METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER

February 2020

From Sasamuqa to Solomon Islands National University

Elvis Varukete has completed the entry requirements for a Bachelor of Nursing study at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). Elvis is given a scholarship for his studies by Mission and Ecumenical Board with help from the East Coast Bays Parish. Elvis sent a note to the office saying "Thank you so much for the sponsorship arrangement." Rev Caleb Kotali, secretary of Sasamuqa Hospital sent a note saying, "Thank you for supporting Elvis' studies, please convey our greetings and thanks to your Board. Elvis will be boarding in SINU from Sunday 9 February 2020."



In April when director Mission and Ecumenical visits Solomon Islands, Elvis will sign an agreement to assure five years of service to Sasamuqa hospital after completing his degree and receiving the registration as a nurse. – PD

ANNUAL APPEAL 2020

Ablution and Shower Facility for Tabaka Rural Training Centre

With the assistance from a few people's generous donations, the ablution and shower facility for the girls' dormitory in Tabaka Rural Training institute is nearing its completion. We solicit your continued help in 2020 to build a similar facility for the boys' dormitory as well. This will be our Annual Appeal 2020.

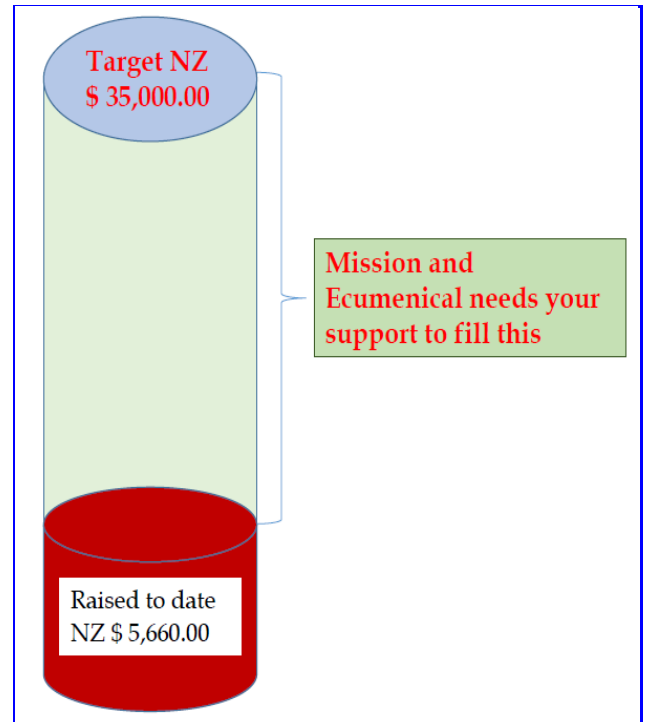
Out of the \$ 35,000 raised in 2019, the funds were sent to Tabaka Rural Training Centre to complete the work on the ablution block for the girls.

Mission and Ecumenical is facing the difficulty of not getting the support as in the past towards the work in Solomon Islands. The reasons may be more than one. The depleting number of our donors is one of them. It may also be due to inflation rates and not having sufficient income.

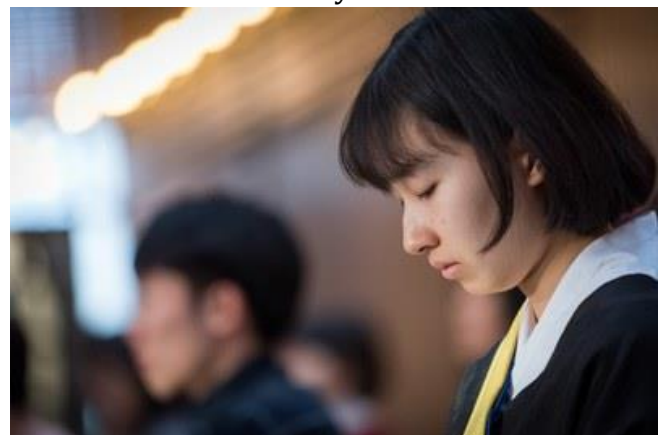
Amidst all the challenges, mission is

Do what can, where you are with what you have.

We look forward to your ongoing support to complete the project in 2020. Our sincere thanks to all who supported us.



"We Pray, Peace Now, End the War!" - 70 days of global prayer announced for Korean Peninsula - 05 February 2020



Prayer for peace on the Korean Peninsula in the Ecumenical Centre chapel. Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

A global prayer campaign for peace on the Korean Peninsula will occur from 1 March – 15 August, lasting 70 days and inviting hundreds of thousands of people worldwide to say: "We Pray, Peace Now, End the War!"

The campaign will begin with a preliminary live-streamed event on 6 February hosted by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva, with corresponding events the same day in Washington, DC, and Seoul.

Representatives from the Korean Christian Federation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and from the National Council of Churches in the Republic of Korea will be invited to reflect on the significance of 70 years, and share their hope for the future. The campaign will also issue a clarion call for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula as part of a nuclear-free world.

"The ongoing 1945 division and the unfinished 1950 Korean War have become a socio-geopolitical 'original sin' against Korean people's life security," said Rev. Dr Hong-Jung Lee, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea. "In our daily lives, we concretely experience the division and war as a sin against God, humanity and nature, and as a paradigmatic reaction in violation of the divine covenant for building a life-abundant Korean oikoumene. We believe that the prayer campaign will be a key of peace to open the gate of God's grace, a breath of peace to cultivate forgiveness and reconciliation, a fountain of peace to revitalize a global ecumenical solidarity, and a milestone of peace toward the God-recreating Korean oikoumene."

WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit underlined "This is the time to remember the 70 years without peace for the Korean people. The many who have suffered from this situation, the many who have died without seeing peace, the many who continue to thirst and long for peace - they all will be in our prayers at this time. Prayers bring the deepest desires for God's transforming grace, prayers show the highest form of solidarity with one another, and prayers widen the embrace among us." He added "May God of life give the churches around the world to pray together for the Korean people these days!"

A toolkit of resource materials, including prayers and Bible studies, will be available to bring a global dimension to the activities of the peace process, including advocacy material for social media plus a booklet, "70 stories of Love, Justice and Peace."

The significance of 70 days

The 70 days of prayer correspond with a commemoration of 70 years since the Korean War, and religious leaders worldwide will pledge to redouble their ongoing efforts for stronger peace and reunification. On 18 November 2019, the National Council of Churches in Korea held its 68th General Assembly at Jeongdong First Methodist Church in Seoul. Those gathered decided to proclaim 2020 as a

"jubilee year" marking 70 years since the Korean War. The National Council of Churches in Korea also vowed to continue its efforts for a permanent and solid peace regime and reunification, declaring a formal end to the Korean War and replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty.

Since the 2013 WCC 10th Assembly in Busan, the WCC has renewed and strengthened its support for and commitment to increased ecumenical efforts for peace, reconciliation, and reunification of the divided Korean people.

Each year, Christians are invited to join in a prayer for peace and reunification of the Korean Peninsula. Prepared by the National Council of Churches in Korea and the Korean Christian Federation, the prayer is traditionally used on the Sunday before 15 August every year.

The 15th of August, celebrated as Liberation Day in both North and South Korea, marks the date in 1945 when Korea won independence from Japanese colonial oppression, yet ironically it also was the day when the peninsula was divided into two countries.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/we-pray-peace-now-end-the-war-70-days-of-global-prayer-announced-for-korean-peninsula>

A Prayer for the Peace of our Youth and Young People

"The 70th Anniversary of the Start of the Korean War: Prayer for the Reconciliation of the Korean Peninsula"

Eternal God,
Koreans are still suffering from the scars of war. We often see the painful wounds of the past in the present whenever ideologies of division and confrontation, hostility and conflict block reconciliation and threaten peace.

God, who leads us to hope,
We pray that you give us the power of the Holy Spirit to restore all the broken things so that we may go forward to reconciliation and peace in the face of frustration and pain.

Just as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are united, and give the grace of eternity,
We pray that you give us a new day of grace for the South and the North to become one.
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pray for the national reconciliation. Amen!

- Presiding Bishop, Wisconsin Annual Conference, UMC
- President, General Board of Global Ministries, UMC

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/light-of-peace/prayers-for-korea>

WCC general secretary calls Trump-Netanyahu plan for Palestine and Israel an ultimatum, not a path to peace – 29 January 2020



Life in the Old City, Jerusalem. Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC, 2018

World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit on 29 January urged the international community *not* to support a proposal by US president Trump and Israeli prime minister Netanyahu for dividing up Palestine and Israel - a plan developed with no meaningful participation from the Palestinian people.

“WCC urges members of the international community not to support this proposal or to recognize its implementation unless and until a better plan has been negotiated and agreed with representatives of the Palestinian people and in compliance with the principles of international law regarding belligerent occupation and human rights,” said Tveit. “This proposal was developed without meaningful participation by representatives of the Palestinian people, and primarily in line with long-stated Israeli objectives.”

The proposal, called “Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of Palestinian and Israeli People,” was presented on 28 January.

“It constitutes an ultimatum, rather than a real, sustainable or just solution,” said Tveit. “Ultimately, any ‘solution’ that is not based on justice and negotiated agreement will be an imposition and an instrument of oppression.”

The WCC continues to study the document and to receive analysis and reactions from member churches and partners in the region. “This proposal recognizes might as right, and disregards principles of international law, justice and accountability,” said Tveit. “The territories ‘allocated’ to Palestinians under this plan are small isolated enclaves with no territorial contiguity, separated by Israeli settlements and connected only by bypasses under Israeli control.”

The WCC holds the ‘two-state solution’ to be the best path forward towards peaceful co-existence for both Palestinians and Israelis. “But it must be a real two-state solution, entailing the establishment of a viable, independent, self-governed Palestinian state, as foreseen in relevant UN resolutions, not simply renaming the current system of occupation and control as a Palestinian ‘state,’” said Tveit. “We call upon the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority the recommit to a process of dialogue and negotiations on these foundations.”

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-general-secretary-calls-trump-netanyahu-plan-for-palestine-and-israel-an-ultimatum-not-a-path-to-peace>

“They showed us unusual kindness.”

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed from 24 to 31 May 2020 in the southern hemisphere. The theme for 2020 is “They showed us unusual kindness” from Paul’s words in Acts 28:2.

The materials for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (*Christians Together in Malta*). On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year’s Week of Prayer. ...

Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It is a practice that calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, important though this is, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith.

Resources available from Mission and Ecumenical for use throughout the year.

**MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD
Methodist Church of New Zealand**

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Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Annual Appeal 2020

Ablution and Shower Facility for Tabaka Rural Training Centre



The Centre in operation since 1992



Girls' Dormitories without the toilet facilities

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 into a 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. Since the Mission and Ecumenical annual visit, the director and the team 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

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 donate via bank transfer directly to:</p> <p>02-0800-0766004-03 stating reference as "MME Tabaka Fund 2020"</p> <p>Alternately you may send your donation by cheque in favour of</p> <p>Methodist Church Mission Fund to:</p> <p>Rev Prince Devanandan(Director) Mission and Ecumenical Board Private Bag 11 903 Ellerslie Auckland 1542</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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