

# METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER

March 2020

## **YOUR HELP TO BUILD ABLUTION FACILITIES FOR TABAKA RURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE**

Your generosity and the commitment of a few donors have contributed to raise NZ \$ 67, 800 to date. We are in need of another \$ 2,200 to reach our target of \$ 70,000 for the two ablution blocks, one for the girls and the other for the boys at Tabaka Institute. Mission and Ecumenical Board has already sent a sum of \$ 27,413 towards the first phase of the construction. The photos depict the facility being built up to the roof level and now waiting for the tiles to be laid and for the fittings to be installed.

Thank you very much to all who supported this project. Please continue to do what you can where you are with what you have.



*The exterior of the building as it looks now*



*The interior of the Ablution and Shower facility under construction at the Tabaka Rural Technical Institute*

**“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.

An Ecumenical Service will be held on Sunday 24 May 2020 at 5.00 pm. The venue to be confirmed.

## **WCC LEADERSHIP POSTPONES CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN LIGHT OF CORONAVIRUS - 28 February 2020**



Photo: Albin Hillert/World Council of Churches

**In light of concerns about and implications of the current international spread of COVID 19, the coronavirus, the leadership of the World Council of Churches (WCC) central committee has decided to postpone the upcoming full WCC central committee meeting, currently slated for 18-24 March, along with the executive committee meeting that was to precede it.**

The new date for the central committee meeting will be 18-25 August, and the new date for the executive committee will be 15-22 June. The executive committee will also meet 17-18 August, prior to the central committee meeting.

“The decision is a prudential one, taking into account all relevant information and assessing the total risks for the participants, the WCC as an organization, the integrity of a meeting of the governing bodies under these circumstances, and

for the health of all involved in such a gathering, directly or indirectly,” said WCC moderator Dr Agnes Abuom.

The central committee leadership has been assessing the situation with regard to the scheduled meetings in March, also consulting closely with World Health Organization staff, monitoring the global health situation in light of the epidemic. The virus is already having a wide-reaching effect on international travel, necessitating extensive precautions in large international meetings and contingency plans for international organizations of all kinds.

Postponing the meetings incurs its own costs, both institutional and financial. The executive committee must appoint an acting general secretary to fill the vacant position as of 1 April, for the time after the departure of the present general secretary.

**The leadership of the central committee decided to appoint WCC deputy general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă as acting general secretary for the period from 1 April until the Executive Committee meets in June.**

In her letter announcing the decision Abuom wrote: “Arriving at this decision of postponement of the meetings, we will continue to work closely with you, staff, and relevant authorities to monitor the situation, manage its consequences for our fellowship, for the other plans for meetings and activities for staff and other groups in the organizations, and keep you informed of all related developments.”

Leadership of the central committee consists of Abuom, vice-moderator Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, vice-moderator Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, and general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit.

-----  
**Rising from the Ashes . . . NCCI Statement on Delhi violence** - February 26, 2020

**Humanity has been knocked down one more time. Our houses burnt. Our kindred killed. Our peace destroyed, and future betrayed. We have not learnt from our past. In what happened in parts of New Delhi, our national capital, we have been brought down to ashes once again.**

Many sections of the Christian community observe **Ash Wednesday** today. To them it is a day of beginning a season to revisit the past, make amends where necessary, and resolve to move on ...an opportunity to **rise from the ashes**.

On a day such as this we appeal to the members of the different Christian traditions to facilitate each other, and all others of different faith traditions and ideological persuasions in their neighbourhoods, to rise from the ashes. We will not be cowed down. We will rise.

We condemn the dastardly attack on the vulnerable and the weak in different locations of Delhi, the explicit or implicit complicity and tacit approval of those in power and authority, and the blame game to cover inaction and poor response to early warnings.

We appeal to the Churches and Christian Organisations in the vicinity of the affected areas to respond appropriately to those in need.

We urge our constituents everywhere to stand in solidarity with victim communities in their locales and foster an atmosphere of peace and human security across the country. We will not be overcome. WE SHALL OVERCOME. On Ash Wednesday, we resolve to **rise from the Ashes** ...

Our prayers remain with the bereaved, and also with the injured persons and their families. The NCCI stays committed and available to the amelioration of the sufferings of the individuals, families and communities affected in the violence of the last few days in Delhi.

**In solidarity**, On behalf the NCCI Leadership,  
**Rev. Asir Ebenezer**  
General Secretary

-----  
**FAITH-BASED GROUPS CREATE PRAYER CHAIN IN RUN UP TO COP26**

27 February 2020

In the ten months leading to the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), faith-based organisations, including Christian Aid, ACT Alliance, and Lutheran World Federation are inviting people to a period of intense prayer for the climate.

The COP 26 summit is scheduled for Glasgow in November. During Lent, a time in which ecumenical organisations intensify prayer, Christian Aid and the other organisations are encouraging all to include prayers for the climate and to influence policymakers at any level accessible to them to increase political will.

In the face of devastating loss and suffering by those who mostly had very little to do with causing climate change, the organisations are calling on all to pray and reflect on the diversity of creation.

Abena Afari of Christian Aid said: “Let’s think about impoverished communities, women, children, indigenous people, migrants, refugees who historically

have generated a low carbon footprint, yet bear the fury of the rich and powerful as well as the anger of the climate, when it's displayed in full force. If we truly care about bridging the inequality gap between the rich and the poor, one of the best ways to do this is through climate negotiations which will yield consensus and reflect the highest ambitions."



Photo: Albin Hillert/ WCC

During the Earth Summit in 1992, the United Nations, together with governments and civil society, agreed to a framework to battle the emission of greenhouse gases which cause climate change. The UN Convention on Climate Change provides a framework through which discussions are held with all global players with respect to humanity's current challenge of tackling the climate crisis.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/faith-based-groups-create-prayer-chain-in-run-up-to-cop26>

## **PRAYER CAMPAIGN TO END 70-YEAR KOREAN WAR GAINS GLOBAL MOMENTUM**

27 February 2020

As the World Council of Churches (WCC) global fellowship embarks on prayers for peace on the Korean Peninsula from 1 March to 15 August, the world is ready for an era of permanent peace, said Rev. Dr Hong-Jung Lee, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea.

But "in 2019 all the reactions from the US government have impinged upon our sovereignty, as we see all our peace-making attempts blocked," Lee said. "Furthermore, it has been frustrating that we see both major political parties in the US manipulating the Korean issue merely to gain the upper hand in the midterm elections and the presidential election, which then stifles the progress the two Koreas might have made."

Lee urged, at this very critical juncture, that US leaders should respect inter-Korean sovereignty.

"I sincerely wish that the global prayer campaign will break through the frozen silence of the present Korean peace process, reawakening the global citizen's peace consciousness, particularly reflecting on the 70-year long Korean War," Lee said. "Let us end the Korean War, and establish a peace agreement on the Korean Peninsula in 2020. Peace is the only possible way of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the world."

The global prayer campaign for peace on the Korean Peninsula will invite hundreds of thousands of people worldwide to say: "We Pray, Peace Now, End the War!"

During the campaign, 70 prayers and stories will be published, corresponding with a commemoration of 70 years since the end of the Korean War. In cooperation with the National Council of Churches in Korea, prayers will be published online each week.

"This year, 2020, marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. Seventy years! Koreans in the North and South have lived in pain and hatred for a long time," WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit said.

"During this period of prayer, churches around the world will hear the heart-breaking stories of those who have gone through the suffering from the division. They will also hear about the people who have already lived out lives of reconciliation and peace beyond the division."

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/prayer-campaign-to-end-70-year-korean-war-gains-global-momentum>

**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



The Ablution Block for Girls is nearing completion



The interior view with construction work in progress

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.

✂-----

#### ANNUAL APPEAL 2020 – TABAKA ABLUTION FACILITY FUND

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