

# Gleanings

from the people

#78 March/April 2015



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord, in this 51st year of our movement. As I write, NCG is preparing to meet, and prepare for our future which will unfold on P3 of this paper. My own group had its annual outing on Thursday 9th Feb to the home and garden of our new member, Lucie, at Kaukapkapa. As we left, she presented us with a poem, which to me speaks of the way we should face our future. The last verse says:-

*For the pathway that lies before me  
My Heavenly Father knows -  
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments  
Just as He unfolds the rose.*

May we trust our heavenly Father to unfold our movement's future  
Rae

## Easter Resource - Devotions

From Johanna Warren—

First published in Harvest Field, February 2005

You will be reading these devotions in Lent which began with Ash Wednesday on 18 February. During Lent we concentrate on the reality of our salvation, on the truth or who we are and what God does for and among us. Among the Sunday readings, are several from Romans.

Romans is the letter of an experienced preacher, who is writing to people he does not know personally. Paul introduces himself by expounding the Gospel. Essentially he writes: I am not ashamed of the Gospel for indeed it is God's message, and through it God brings us all into rightness with God, through faith (see Romans 1: 16-17). We can look at Jews and at Gentiles and see that everyone is unable to reach God by work or merit, so we need this message of God's grace (2:21-24).

God's grace is given through the life and death of Jesus. Sin is a power that came into the world through Adam and affects everyone; grace is a gift of God which is more powerful than sin and comes through Jesus and is available to everyone. The law was an intermediary gift which showed us more clearly how all pervasive sin is. Grace breaks all the power of sin and death, and supersedes the law. Grace bring us into a new life. Grace gives us the Spirit of Christ, which works in us to overcome the sin controlled way of life, and build new ways of living founded on Godly love and hope (see 6:5-11, 7:6, 8:9-11, 12: 9-13).

So now to particularly look at Romans 5: 12-21:

Adam sinned, and that sin brought death into the world (5:12 CEV). The name comes from the Hebrew word for the surface of the earth, adamah, and implies that Adam is representative of all human beings. His act of disobedience gave birth to a power which affects us all, a power called sin, which we cannot overcome on our own. But Jesus lives a sinless life and goes to his death so that in dying and being raised he can bring into the world a power called grace, which can overcome sin. We do not earn grace; we can't. God freely gives grace, through Jesus to everyone.

We may not have broken a command of the law, but we are all sinners through our humanity, through descent from Adam. However the gift of grace is equally offered to all, through inclusion with Jesus into God's family. We can't make ourselves right with God, we can't make ourselves Good, in the holy sense of like God, but Jesus can give us his spirit and the Spirit will teach us how to live into Goodness or godliness.

I write this as we hear more and more news of death around the world. I hear people ask, where is God? Look at Romans 8: 18-25, all creation groans as we wait for the fullness of grace. At present we are in time, like the time of Lent, where sin is still present, where suffering and evil are present no matter how good we work to be. However the Christian message is that even when death seems to be winning, grace is at work and we may live with faith, hope and love, through Jesus.



(Our Easter meditation continues with a poem on P2)

## GETHSEMANE

Drops of sweat, like blood, betray  
your agony, in the garden there,  
as alone you go to pray,  
knowing with all certainty  
the path ahead that must be trod,  
the path of inevitability.  
Your spirit, in perfect clarity,  
knew before time what must be done;  
the price that only you could pay,  
because you are God's only Son.  
Yet you were created human too;  
like us you flinched from fear and pain  
that in foreboding surely grew.  
Your mind in anguish set apart  
those human feelings that betrayed  
the limitations of your heart.  
You took the bitterness to him  
who calms all fears and heals all pain,  
offering up your humanity,  
submitting yourself to God's will again.  
Alone you took that bitter cup,  
to show each one of us the way  
our sorrows must be lifted up,  
that by example we might see  
the way to glorify your name—  
that we too may be free.



**HIBISCUS COAST PARISH** continues to fundraise for PWMU computer and sewing courses in Port Villa. Helped by our men folk, we sold sausages outside The Warehouse, Silverdale, with a sign, telling the public about our Vanuatu venture. Quite apart from the money raised, this gave us an opportunity to tell the public of our venture. Some people offered us machines, but we had to decline because we buy our equipment in Vanuatu for servicing purposes & to save freight costs.

Please note  
Bev Quigley's new email address:-  
bquigley1@kinect.co.nz

## Honouring our Centenarians!

Dunedin Presbyterial Region's last meeting in 2014 was a very special day because they celebrated and honoured two of their members who had recently turned 100 years old. Another unbelievable fact was that both ladies were still living independently in their own homes.

Dawn Ibbotson, CBE, BHSc, ATCL [Speech] is a woman of many skills and talents, and has given a lifelong service to the Presbyterian Church and the community, particularly in education, the welfare of women and Amnesty International. Dawn was made a Life Member of the Dunedin Branch of the National Council of Women and a Life Member of the National Body after many years of service. She represented the National Council of Women on many Government committees, including the NZ Standards Council and attended conferences in Vienna, Vancouver and Seoul. In 2013 in conjunction with the National Council of Women, Dawn set up the "Dawn Ibbotson Essay Award" for secondary school girls. Dawn has been an active member of First Church since 1955, serving as President of the APW, convenor of the sesquicentennial Tapestry Team which produced the beautiful tapestry that hangs in First Church. Since 1990 Dawn has produced 'floral cards', the sale of which has raised over \$70,000 for over 30 organisations. In addition she has established two awards – New Horizons for Women and Dunedin Local Hero Award.



**Mrs Dawn Ibbotson and Mrs Daphne Galloway**

Daphne Galloway is also a remarkable woman and has been for many years an active member of Coastal Unity St Margaret's Green Island Presbyterian Church. She has been a loyal and hard worker in every aspect of the life there especially among children. For many years she was a Girls' Brigade Captain, and later a commissioner of Girls' Brigade both regionally and at a national level. She has also been active in outdoor and indoor bowls, Country Women's Institute and other activities in her community. She has been a long standing member of the APW and now the PWANZ, still attending their meetings as well as weekly church services.

Joan Sinclair  
Dunedin Presbyterial Region

**TURAKINA MÄORI GIRLS' COLLEGE**  
**PRIZE-GIVING 2014**



Nick and I have attended a large number of prize-givings over the years, representing *Friends of Turakina* and also as members of both Board of Proprietors and Board of Trustees.

In many ways the 2014 event was no different to others we have attended. It was opened with Karakia by Rev Hariata Haumate. The guest speaker was Karissa Wallbank, a former student. We have always been impressed with the enthusiastic support of all the students for their peers receiving awards, and also with the high standard of both the head prefects' and guest speakers' speeches. This year was no exception.

Although Dr Kathy Irwin, acting Chairperson of the Board of Proprietors, was not able to be present, her very informative and encouraging message was read by Tumuaki Mrs Terehia Channings. Kathy has worked, and continues to work tirelessly for the good of the school and its students, and this is very much appreciated by all.

Ms Piri-Hira Tukapua, co-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, also addressed the school and whanau on the work and responsibilities of the Board for the 'school side', as opposed to the running of the Hostel, and all that is entailed there, which is the responsibility of the Board of Proprietors.

Mrs Channings' Principal's address included thanks to all who work so hard for the continuing life of the school, particularly the staff for loyalty and commitment, and was pleased to be able to report that there were a number of new enrolments for 2015. An increase in student numbers is crucial to the successful running of the school.

There were a large number of **Endeavour Awards** in each year group, followed by the **Merit Awards** and **Special and Cultural Awards**. **Scholarships** awarded were the **Helen Jackman Tertiary Study Award** of \$1000, the **Margaret Watt Scholarship**, two of \$1000, and the **Friends of TMGC Scholarships**, four of \$1000 each.

After the announcement of the Prefects Team for 2015, the Aspiring Prefects Team for 2015, the House Captains and the School Dux, the school performed a rousing haka, and Rev Hariata Haumate closed the proceedings with prayer, which was followed by the singing of the Turakina Vesper.

Jan Thomson  
for *Friends of Turakina*

**St David's Night Owls, Palmerston North** is a small group of active members who include the congregation in their planning.

In November, several members visited Mr and Mrs Gordon Koberstein for an evening meeting to thank them for the times they represented the Methodist ladies in our combined efforts. They now live in Tau-ranga.

Again the congregation responded generously to the Christmas gift appeal for the families of Women's Refuge, and Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Society.

At our February meeting, we invited the congregation to a Chinese smorgasbord and particularly targeted members who live alone so that they could enjoy company while partaking of a restaurant meal.

Marjorie Empson



**For Your Prayers:-**

- The future of our movement. Specially pray for NCG as they plan towards our national business meeting later in the year.
- Rev Carol Grant and the team as they attend United Nations, New York - 09 - 20 March, 2015 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.



**Presbyterian Women  
Aotearoa New Zealand  
National Contacts  
2014-2015**

**National Convenor**

Lafulafu Vanila Ekenasio  
93 Yule St,  
Lyall Bay,  
Wellington 6022  
04 387 8265  
021 075 4815  
[lafulafu@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lafulafu@xtra.co.nz)

**Deputy Convenor**

Le'autuli'ilagi Sauvao  
33 Beaumaris Cres,  
Ascot Park,  
Porirua 5024  
04 235 9091  
021 025 96649  
[leautuli.sauvao@whitireia.ac.nz](mailto:leautuli.sauvao@whitireia.ac.nz)

**Secretary**

Rev Shona Bettany  
P O Box 239,  
Levin 5540  
06 367 2067  
027 460 8795  
[revsbettany@xtra.co.nz](mailto:revsbettany@xtra.co.nz)

**Treasurer**

Ngaire Pearce  
102 Mountain View Road,  
Gleniti,  
Timaru 7910  
03 686 1834  
021 259 1646  
[jim-ngaire@clear.net.nz](mailto:jim-ngaire@clear.net.nz)

**Missions Convenor**

Joan Roberts  
27a Tukapa Street, Westown,  
New Plymouth 4310  
06 757 4520  
021 251 3355  
[syjob@xtra.co.nz](mailto:syjob@xtra.co.nz)

**Resources Convenor**

Bev Quigley  
11 Birch Street,  
Timaru 7910  
03 686 1207  
[bquigley1@kinect.co.nz](mailto:bquigley1@kinect.co.nz)

**United Nations Convenor**

Rev Carol Grant  
35 Sutcliffe Street, St Clair,  
Dunedin 9012  
Home: 03 425 8865  
Mobile: 027 296 2011  
[nandcg@clear.net.nz](mailto:nandcg@clear.net.nz)

**Global Mission Coordinator**

Rev Phil King  
PCANZ Assembly Office  
P O Box 9049  
Wellington 6141  
04 381 8294  
021 250 6467  
[phil@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:phil@presbyterian.org.nz)



**(CSW59) - United Nations, New York - 09 - 20 March, 2015 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York.. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attend the session.

**This year Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand will have a delegation of twelve attending. Carol Grant plus five self funded adults and six self funded young women are all from the South Island. Members of the delegation will attend United Nations, UN Women and UN Ecumenical events, network, and make international connections and decisions that will affect NZ Government and global policies.**

**Themes**

The main focus of the session will be on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Commission will undertake a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.

The session will also address opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

**Gender Equality**

In spite of a global effort to assure the respect of human rights and the strengthening of women role within our societies, full gender equality has not been achieved yet. On the contrary, women are still discriminated and their potential remains largely unexploited. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment do not only respond to the universal duty of respecting human rights, but represent major tools for fighting extreme poverty and realising political, economic and social development for all.

**For further information contact the UN Convenor The Rev Carol Grant.  
Phone: 03 425 8865 or email: [nandcg@clear.net.nz](mailto:nandcg@clear.net.nz)**



***World Day of Prayer 2015***

*Friday 6th March*

***Jesus said to them***

***"Do you know what I have done to you"***

This is an ecumenical event planned by women for Christians world wide. Plan to be at your local service.

The 2015 service is planned by women from the Bahamas

**Material for the next issue of Gleanings**

Is due by Monday 13th April  
To Rae Simpson -[lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz)  
12 Kotanui Ave  
Whangaparaoa 0930

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