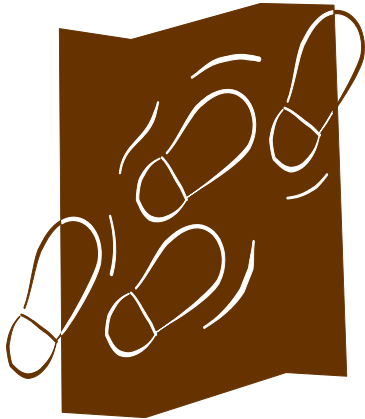


Gleanings

from the people



#79 May/June 2015



FROM GRIEF TO JOY

A personal testimony of my faith journey

Tragedy visited our family several years ago. Out of the blue it came. Our son had shot himself during his University finals. He was a church youth leader. Many struggles with God were endured. Why? Why? Why?. For almost six years I was burdened with this emotional baggage. I would long for something better to happen and would fall back into the same hole again. It was like a cat chasing its tail.. I felt alone, rejected and fearful of cynical comments. My minister said that God would heal me. I was so devastated that I did not even think that it was possible.

Things DID change. I was given a tea towel as a thank you for assisting at an APW Conference bookstall.. The words of 'Foot Prints in the Sand' were printed on it. "During your times of trial and suffering.....it was then that I carried you'. These words jumped out at me. The Holy Spirit got through to me that God did care and that he would never leave me. I wept. Tears of joy ran down my face and a warm feeling enveloped me.. This was my Pentecostal defining moment. God was intervening. Things started to make sense. When I was not coping He was there all the time. God was at work. His spark within me was illuminating the way. The load was lighter, there was energy that was not there before, my step was lighter and I could think more positively because the damaging emotional baggage had been taken away. There was more room in my mind and I was enjoying new experiences. The feeling of joyfulness was a bonus..

Eventually, I found a comfortable place for my son in my soul and I could talk freely and without pain about him and encourage others travelling along the same road. I knew then that God had healed me. I grew to understand the purpose of Jesus' work on the Cross, God's glorious and redeeming work in raising His only son to Life again, followed by the Pentecostal story where people were experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, the Holy Spirit is my constant companion and source of empowerment and I live an abundant life. I continually give thanks to God for the great things He has done and continues to do. His healing power and love is available to all.

Marjorie Empson

2015 PWANZ National Business Meeting

will be held on 26th September 2015

at Newtown PIPC, Wellington.

Plan to be there to have your input into the future of our movement



NCW draft remits are to hand. Members should obtain a copy of these from their local representative so that they can have input into decision making for the good of women and children. Input into the final wording is needed by 15th May. Voting on the remits will take place at NCW conference in September.

If you wish to receive your own copy of Gleanings via email, please contact the National Secretary, Shona Bettany, revsbettany@xtra.co.nz with the following details – Name, Email Address, Contact phone number, Church.

From our Mission Department:-

Mission Birthday Gift is a valuable source of income from members who have a birthday and give a monetary gift. Envelopes are available from Bev Quigley. This money goes into our Emergency Mission Fund and is distributed in times of disaster. We recently gave to Vanuatu after cyclone Pam, Our used Stamp money goes into our Mission Fund and is distributed to other Mission work such as Global mission and Turakina.

Criteria For our Special Project.

Our Overseas component is found by CWS with our approval. .

The NZ part includes the following criteria:-

1. It should involve a National Body of an Organization which extends throughout New Zealand.
2. It should be a Programme that needs financial assistance to initiate and become reality within the Organization. It cannot go into general Funds and be used up in administration.
3. It must catch the imagination of our members so they can participate fully.
4. We must have full co operation from the Organization and work with them in compiling the necessary information to make up our Project Packs

If members have contact with deserving groups that fit this criteria, feel free to contact me.

Joan Roberts
27a Tukapa Street, Westown,
New Plymouth 4310
syjob@xtra.co.nz

Prayerfully work for our present project, "Together We Can", focussing on Youth diabetes and Neythal, protecting the environment and livelihood, Tamil Nadu, South India is nearing completion.

St David's Presbyterian Women Night Owls, Palmerston North conducted a complete church service on 22 nd March. The sermon was based on John Hunt's 'The Drama of Good Friday - The Three Crucifixions' The three themes being, Alone, Rejected and Abused, were read from three different areas of the church and, with the congregation singing one verse of 'Were you there - were you there?' after each reader, a very poignant drama was enacted. A short history of Association of Presbyterian Women followed, highlighting our United Nations status and our many successful projects.. A retiring offering was available for this year's annual projects..

In February, **Waitaki Parish, North Otago** had the honour and privilege of taking part in the Induction and Ordination of our new Minister.

About two years ago, just before our previous Minister retired, a trainee Minister came to our parish to complete her training before ordination. Right away she fitted in so well, we took this big shining girl with a loud laugh to our hearts. She proved to be a hard worker, completely devoted to Christ and his teachings, full of ideas for the future. Therefore, when we decided to Call a new Minister for our parish, she was the obvious choice. We, of course, had to go through all the usual channels for Calling a Minister, but finally with the agreement of the whole parish (completely unanimous), we asked her and she accepted.



In December, many of us went down to Dunedin for her Licensing and on 12th February 2015, she was Inducted and Ordained in her very own Church of Eveline. The Church was packed on a warm sunny evening, and the service was so fine, happy and spiritual, we will never forget it. So now we have a brand new Minister, The Rev Jill McDonald – Thanks be to God.

Hazel Bennett

From Port Vila, Vanuatu:-

PWMU REPORT ON DAMAGES CAUSED BY CYCLONE PAM

Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu especially the island of Efate on Friday 13th of March 2015 from 9am to early hours of Saturday 3am. According to Vanuatu Meteorology the cyclone was in its category 5 when it passed close to Efate.

The damages on the PWMU National Project House are:

The part of the iron roof has been blown away and caused the leakage in the whole house (see pictures before and after cyclone). The girls and Matron of the Girl hostels during the cyclone got protection in one of the smallest room until morning.

The NPH is the only PWMU Project House that we have and it accommodates the Girls Hostel, the trainings and conferences. The NPH got the whole roof repaired last year 2015.

Our **immediate need** was addressed to Vanuatu Government through NDMO(National Disaster Management Office) is to get a tarpaulin for temporary cover to protect our things from rain and sun. Until now we haven't heard from them yet and still waiting.

The **needs that need analyzing and then re-build** are:-

- A new roof
- A new computer
- 3 Electric sewing machines
- A glass door

According to Deaconess Enikelen Netine, the Matron, the computers that are used for computer training are safe.

I went examining the damages on the 14th of March in the morning at the moment we still have a hole there but we nailed few hard board to protect the room where the computers are (temporary partitions).

I appreciate very much and acknowledge the overseas partner churches of the PCV, the Vanuatu Family fellowship through Global Mission and Hibiscus Coast Presbyterian Church for being with us and helped us many years.

Please don't hesitate to email me again if you need more clarification.

We are all blessed with God's grace

Eld. Cyrilline Baniuri
General Secretary of PWMU.

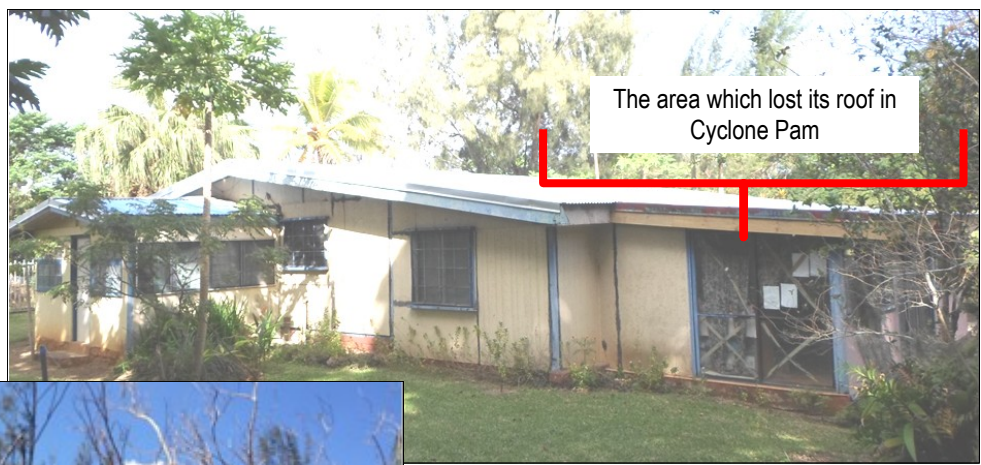


The first photos received from the PWMU are on the next page.

At the time of writing, a small team from the Hibiscus coast and Mairangi Bay Parishes are planning a scoping trip, to double check the state of the course computers and determine the best way to organise repairs in Port Vila, to be followed by a maintenance crew.

Our Moderator, the Rt Rev Andrew Norton and Global Mission Convenor, Rev Phil King, are visiting Vanuatu, to review the total damage to areas where PCANZ is working.

The project house



The area which lost its roof in Cyclone Pam



The wind broke one side of the glass door at the side of the house and lifted the roof.

We have sunshine after the cyclone so Matron dried-up the papers.



The ceiling here fell so the Matron's Office computer got wet and was destroyed. They just nailed back the board.

This is the iron roof blown away and deposited just at the front of the Project house. In late March, matron and the girls used it as a dryer. It has now been lifted back into place, but it is not particularly secure.



"Hat's, Handbags and High Heels at Session"

With this year being the 60th Anniversary of Women being Ordained as Elders in the PCANZ, the 50th Anniversary of Women being Ordained as Ministers in the PCANZ and the 40th Anniversary of women being appointed to Standing Committees in the Presbytery of Ashburton, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ashburton couldn't let these occasions go by without marking them. We choose International Women's Day to mark this occasion. Our morning service of worship was certainly a grand and wonderful celebration of these milestones. As it was Holy Communion the elders were all women. Our Ministry Assistant Dellwyn Moylan served communion to the Minister, Organist and Elders. Dellwyn also preached on our Lenten theme of "The Pointing Finger of Jesus" and for this sermon it was how Jesus points to inclusiveness. Our songs were about women or inclusiveness.

We had a delightful skit written for the occasion called "Hat's, Handbags and High Heels at Session". It was a three part drama, firstly the Women at PWMU praying and discussing the forth coming General Assembly in 1954, scene two was St Andrew's Session in 1973 discussing allowing women to be elders and receiving the first nomination for a woman to be ordained as an elder on St Andrew's Session – that woman was Miss Dorothy Seaton. The final scene was following the Ordination service and how it was one small step for women and one giant leap for the church. It was also noted that Dorothy who had just been Ordained was not wearing a hat for the occasion. The drama drew lots of laughter with the male's views on ordaining women. Though it was noted it was not the view of the males in the drama or the males of the parish

Rev David Brown read excerpts from a booklet that has been written telling some thing of the story of these three important and significant events in the life of the church in this area and beyond. The booklet is also called "Hats, Hand Bags, High Heels at Session". It is currently being proofed but will be for sale later in the year. Each woman elder present received a corsage. After the service one of our older and longest serving elders Helen Coldicott along with our youngest and one of the newest elders Dellwyn Moylan planted the rose "Special Occasion" to mark the special occasion and then a fancy morning tea was held in recognition of our lady elders.

In the afternoon St Andrew's had invited the 100 women elders from our local Presbyterian Churches to join together for a High Afternoon Tea. Twenty one women elders joined together for a wonderful time of fellowship. As part of the afternoon Rev David Brown on behalf of the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand the Right Rev Andrew Norton brought greetings and gratitude to our lady elders. David also shared something of how women came to be ordained and the feelings of some of those in the church at the time. We did have some laughs at some of views held at the time and the comments made by some of the men such as "*Men are more fair-minded and independent, able to make far reaching decisions....*". David thanked the ladies for the work they had and continue to do for the church and the leadership they offer. He then led a prayer of thanksgiving. The jubilee cake iced in Presbyterian blue and decorated on the theme "Hand Bags, Hats and High Heels" was cut by a woman elder from each parish present - Judith Nichols (St Andrew's Ashburton), the late Dot Barnes (St James), Mary Smith (St Paul's), Anna Reith (St David's Union) and Pat Withers (Mayfield), Following a photo of all those gathered, there was time for afternoon tea and lots of friendly conversation.



The four women elders present at this occasion from St James Parish also received corsage. They were the same as the St Andrew's ladies had received, as Dellwyn Moylan who had made the St Andrew's ones is the Interim Moderator for St James. They were made up of diamond coloured flowers for the Diamond Jubilee of Women Elders Ordination, blue berries for the anniversary of the Ordination of Women Ministers in the PCANZ and ruby flowers for the fortieth anniversary of women being accepted onto Standing Committees in the Presbytery of Ashburton.

Sadly, shortly after our gathering ended, St James' longest serving elder, Dot Barnes suffered a massive stroke and passed away the following morning. At her funeral St James Parish Clerk Almond Royds spoke of our gathering, the last event Dot, who was such a loyal member of the church attended, then placed her corsage on Dot's casket, a fitting way to honour such a faithful servant of the church.

**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

Deputy Convenor

Le'autuli'ilagi Sauvao
33 Beaumaris Cres,
Ascot Park,
Porirua 5024
04 235 9091
021 025 96649
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

Treasurer

Ngaire Pearce
102 Mountain View Road,
Gleniti,
Timaru 7910
03 686 1834
021 259 1646
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

Resources Convenor

Bev Quigley
11 Birch Street,
Timaru 7910
03 686 1207
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

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



CSW59

Commission on the Status
of Women
9-20 March 2015

IMPLEMENTING THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Twenty years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, no country has achieved equality for women and girls, and significant levels of inequality between women and men persist. Critical areas of insufficient progress include access to decent work, closing the gender pay gap, rebalancing of the care workload, ending violence against women, reducing maternal mortality, realising sexual and reproductive health rights, and participation in decision making at all levels. .

This year at the Commission there was a high level of frustration at the slow progress being made, and the urgent need for transformation of structures, institutions, and norms - economic, social, and political - that are holding back progress on gender equality. It is fine to have policies but to be effective these must be backed by implementation and action.

The twelve strong delegation of women and girls from the South Island took every opportunity to participate in the events and debates at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. It was challenging for many, and heaps of work for all those attending, but ultimately enlivening for everyone who attended this year.

For more information contact: the Rev Carol L Grant, United Nations Convenor. Phone 03 425 8865. or email nandcg@clear.net.nz



Members of the Presbyterian Women
of Aotearoa Delegation 2015

Material for the next issue of Gleanings

Is due by Monday 15th June

To Rae Simpson -lestrsimspon@xtra.co.nz
12 Kotanui Ave
Whangaparaoa 0930

I feel that a three year term is right for me as editor of Gleanings. With the business meeting being held in September, I feel that this would be a fitting time to finish.

Anyone interested in editing Gleanings, or being part of an editorial team, please contact myself, or Shona Bettany, revsbettany@xtra.co.nz, the national secretary.