

Gleanings



Meditation

As I look from my deck over the small stand of native bush on our property, I never cease to be amazed by the beauty of the various trees and shrubs which are there. When I walk through the bush, I see it from a different perspective. Either way there are many varied branches, some tall and straight, others forked and bearing many leaves which provide shelter for the young ferns and mosses beneath. There is not a major vine, as Jesus pictured in John 15, but the trees in the bush as a whole are made up of many branches, and the bush has evolved with care and pruning. Over the years some trees have not weathered storms, some have fallen victim to parasites, and others have died off for no apparent

reason. It is the same piece of bush that it always was even though the surroundings have changed, and it has matured.

As I think of my life as a Christian, like the bush, there have been changes in my surroundings. New Christian friends have entered my life, and sadly, others are no longer with me. Some need careful nurture and others have been a support for me when I've needed them and Christ is constantly there. How has your Christian life been in the changes that have taken place over the years? Are you like the manuka bush that blew out in the last storm, or are you standing strong?

-Rae Simpson, Missions Convener.



tals in the city – an extraordinary undertaking. An annual occurrence is a Fair Trade morning tea on Mothers' Day when members of the APW sell goods supplied by the Dunedin Fair Trade Shop. Usually, around \$300 is raised and with donations is given to the Fair Trade Shop.

-Nan Rickard.

Most APW groups will have completed their project fund raising efforts. Would you like to share your endeavours and so share ideas. Please send news along |- Nan Burgess

Regional News

'A Trip Down Memory Lane' At our April meeting four long-time members gave interesting insights into the life of First Church, Otago over many years. Win Pearce was baptized in 1922; Joyce Dyer has been a member since 1930; Olive McFarlane has been a choir member for 65 years; and Dawn Ibbotson an active member since 1953. All have held responsible roles in the life of the parish – Sunday School, Youth, PWMU/APW, floral art and craft. All have shared their many skills and talents – culminating in a total of 284 years of service. A remarkable achievement.

There was a time during the 1960-70s when over 500 posies were made on Christmas Eve and delivered at 8.00 a.m. Christmas Day to the Public Hospital and other hospi-

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Snippets

- **The Rev Charles Styles** of Master-ton will be remembered as the first male who consistently attended APW Conferences with his wife, Jean. Recently Charles died quietly whilst visiting an APW friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Charles' family and friends.
- **Reminder:** Interest in the APW Study Grant to assist training – Please refer to the June Gleanings.
- **Please remember** NCG's request for conference remits
- **Are you looking** for Programme ideas? Good material is awaiting you. Packs of six assorted older APW programmes – mainly Easter and Christmas – are free to a good home. Available from the Resource Convener, Lois Diaper. (See address list of NCG.)

Bridgebuilders Report:

The Bridgebuilders 5th International Consultation was held in Taiwan in conjunction with an "Asian Church Women's Conference from May 29 – June 2, 2008. About 120 women from 25 Asian and Pacific Rim countries attended. There were three main topics:

1. The urgent problem of continuing trafficking of women and children in most Asian countries.
2. The inequality of the sexes in many cultures which cause women much suffering and heart-ache.
3. The growing gap between the generations also seemed to be a widespread problem. (Because NZ has laws which provide equality for women and men in employment, and where Human Rights apply to all citizens, it is looked upon as a "paradise" especially for women!)

The newly elected Bridgebuilders International Committee is in Samoa where the 6th Triennial Conference will be held in 2011.

– *Lynne Milne.*

Point Seven Campaign:

The campaign to increase N Z's overseas aid.

In 2000, New Zealand was one of the 189 members of the United Nations who committed themselves to achieve a series of goals aimed to significantly reduce global poverty by 2015. To help achieve this NZ agreed to increase its level of overseas aid and repeated an earlier promise to provide 0.7 % of Gross National Income – a United Nations target first agreed in 1970. New Zealand is now one of three OECD countries not to have set a time-frame for reaching this goal. In 2007 NZ announced 0.30% of Gross National Income in aid and has committed to reaching 0.35% by 2010. However, there is no timetable for reaching 0.7% by 2015.

Why NZ should increase overseas aid?

- We need to meet the commitment we have made as a fair and globally responsible nation.
- The world must do more to eliminate poverty and NZ must contribute its fair share.
- New Zealand aid is effective. Quality must be matched with quantity
- To help people to achieve their basic human rights.

Aid that reduces poverty will help build peace and security.

APW groups and individual members are encouraged to lobby the NZ government to increase overseas aid, especially in the build up to the election. This is a direct way of assisting in the empowerment of women and children through the reduction of global poverty and the promotion of peace and security.

Information on the Point Seven Campaign is found on

www.pointseven.org.nz

Information will be sent out to APW groups from UN Committee

– *Mary McIntyre, Convener.*

United Nations Committee:

The connection between National Council of Women and APW is an important one. To strengthen communication between the two organizations, it is planned to develop a network of contacts around the country to link into and report to the Convener of APW United Nations Ctte. Within APW groups throughout New Zealand, there are women who are members of NCW, and it is proposed that these women will feedback to the UN Ctte in order to develop an APW voice at the NCW nationally. NCW contact information gained from the APW survey will be collated and contact made with these women. I am asking women involved in NCW who would like to contribute to the APW voice to please contact me. In October, 2008 I will be representing APW

at the NCW Conference in Master-ton, and I would appreciate an understanding of APW members' opinions before that time.
– *Mary McIntyre.*

Auckland Presbyterial Day:

Saturday 30 August, St John's Presbyterian Church, 422 Mt Albert Rd, Mt Roskill. Speaker will be The Right Rev Pamela Tankersley.

"I have you written on the palms of my hands," says our God, "you are honoured and precious in my sight." An invitation to ALL WOMEN to share a day together, - 9.30-4p.m.

Cost \$10 (including lunch) RSVP 15 August to Mary North, 6A Corta Bella Pl, Golflands, Manakau 2013, ph 09.2770201, email dagme@xtra.co.nz