

Gleanings



**The gloom of the world is but a shadow.
 Behind it, yet within reach, is joy.
 There is radiance and glory in the darkness,
 Could we but see,
 And to see, we have only to look.
 I beseech you to look.**

American friends shared this thought-provoking piece in their Christmas card. Five centuries later we still need reminding that Christ wants to be found. He wants everyone to know the joy that a relationship with Him can bring.

CONFERENCE

1-3 May 2009

**God calls:
 "Touch the Earth Lightly"**

Our Conference Teacher/Facilitator, Chaplain and Music-maker have met and can now share that they will ground the theme by exploring the idea of 'Sabbath' – What it means for us to celebrate Earth as a sacred space, filled with God's vibrant presence, and to hear God's call to be partners with Christ in the healing of creation. So, *please join us* and keep the registrations flowing in.

REMITTS:

(Please note this issue of Gleanings is a double issue. This is intentional as it gives everyone an idea of what is involved in supporting, or otherwise, Remit No 4).

1. Combined Taranaki APW/MWF

That APW/MWF concentrate on ONE Special Project Theme per year, with the emphasis alternating annually between Overseas and N.Z. Projects.

Rationale

- The time-limit for focus on our Projects is limited to approximately 8 months with Christmas

breaks in between (i.e. the September launch until May when Project monies are expected to be paid) making it difficult to do justice to two themes.

- The duplicity of focus causes confusion as to which interest is being covered.
- A feeling of 'competition' between the two nominated themes.

2. National Co-ordinating Group

That the Women's Study Grant be known as the APW Study Grant, Diane Croft Memorial.

Rationale:

Diane was passionate that women should have opportunity for study, and while National Treasurer, she recognized that there was money which could assist. Through the APW National Co-ordinating Group, she organised the setting up of the Fund.

3. National Co-ordinating Group Hospital Chaplaincy.

That APW write to the Prime Minister and Minister of Health requesting that Government funding for Hospital Chaplaincy be urgently reassessed.

Rationale:

- Hospital Chaplains are on 24 hour call ministering to the needs of all patients and their families, as well as hospital staff.
- With specialist treatment centralized, many people are away from their homes and family support for a considerable time
- Defence and Prison Chaplains are 100% funded by the Government, and yet the Hospital Chaplains, catering for more people, receive considerably less Government funding.

4. NCG & Gleanings Committee

That the Gleanings be enlarged

three times a year to include two A4 sides for the purpose of NCG business and NCG members contact details.

Rationale:

- This will provide the opportunity for NCG news and reports to be included with the Gleanings at regular intervals. In addition the larger, coloured Gleanings will continue to be published once a year.
- Members have expressed some frustration at not knowing the contact details of the NCG. Agreeing to this remit will mean contacts will be published more frequently.

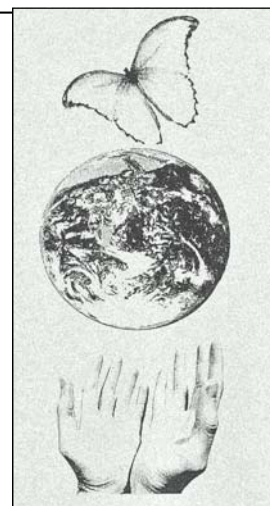
5. NCG & Gleanings Committee

That the position of the Gleanings Editor and Committee rotate around the regions and serve not more than four years at any one term.

Rationale:

- Defining the length of tenure allows the Editor and Committee to know the expectations of the organization.
- The rotation around the regions allows other members to serve and contribute their talents.

**GOD CALLS:
 "TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY"**



Remits continued

6. National Co-ordinating Group

That in the appointment of a new editor for the Gleanings, the NCG may receive expressions of interest or approach members from other Presbyterians and/or Regions.

APW Study Grants Announced.

Six applications were received and five grants awarded towards study in 2009. Congratulations to the following women and we wish them every success in their study: Delwyn Moylan, Emma Keown, Ingrid O'Hagan, Emily Wotton and Sandra Thomas.

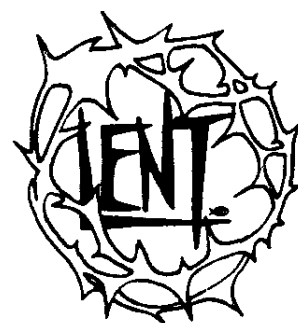
Christine Hegan, (St Columba Presbyterian, Otumoetai) who held a Study Grant in 2008 writes: "I am a very grateful recipient of an APW Study Grant which has enabled me to complete my Bachelor of Counselling at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute, Tauranga. I am pleased to report that I will be graduating in March 2009. The Study Grant was a wonderful encouragement personally and eased the financial burden after four years

of study. I have focused particularly on relationship counselling and have learned so much working alongside experienced couples and family counsellors in my placement in a non-church agency. I hope to continue working in the community and gain more experience in this field where there is such need and such opportunity to make a difference. My Christian faith has enabled me to bring the Lord Jesus into many situations, sometimes overtly, but mostly through prayer cover during and between sessions with hurting people. It has been an awesome privilege to identify with Jesus' heart for the poor, the lonely and the lost in this mission field and to work in partnership with Him in restoring relationships which are key to life. I hope to continue to offer such counselling to people who come seeking help through our church also, and to see what doors God opens for such a ministry. I am very thankful that the APW have stood with me financially and prayerfully through this time."

Conference Wearable Art Reminder

Presbyterians and individuals please start getting creative and bring something of wearable recycled art on 1.May.

Congratulations to the Communication Committee. APW Conference has made the top news item on PCANZ website news bulletin with very good links to our own website. Well done Lafu for keeping on being persistent!



Book Review ...

'Three cups of Tea'

Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Peilin, Viking, Penguin, USA, 2006

Separated from his climbing companions, Greg Mortenson strayed from the known track as he descended from an unsuccessful attempt to climb K2. Lost on his descent he stumbled into a little known mountainous village of Korphe in Northern Pakistan. He was befriended and nursed back to strength.

In response to his question, addressed to the elder of the village, of repayment for their kindness, Greg was asked to build a school for the children of Korphe. Greg's promise that he would build a school, changed his

life. New Zealanders are rightly proud of the great humanitarian endeavours of Sir Edmund Hillary in Nepal. This book, *Three Cups of Tea*, engages and informs the reader as one school at a time is built – fifty-three schools in all – in the Northern Pakistan and Afghanistan mountain villages. With every school was the insistence that girls as well as boys were to be educated. This insistence was of particular importance following the repressive regime of the Taliban.

Three Cups of Tea is an arresting and intriguing title. It carries deep cultural understanding of developing trust. The extent of trust is a repeating joy in this book. External factors of tribal jealousies, religious bigotry the cultural and violent turmoil of the Taliban and the international political alliances that proved unreliable threatened to thwart

the endeavours of Mortenson, but trust surmounted and dispelled obstacles.

This is an inspiring book which also opens to the reader an appreciation of living in conditions so unfamiliar to us. This book is a read you will remember.

– Nan Burgess



Regional News

South Canterbury

On a bright summer New Year's Eve morning, several women of Chalmers, Timaru arrived promptly to set up the Car Boot Sale at Glenmark Motor Camp to raise funds for the Project, "Here and There" as they have been doing for the Projects every New Year's Eve since 1993. The management is very friendly and displays an advertising poster in the kitchen, showing campers the time, place and the targets of the fund-raising.

In a little over half an hour \$314 was raised from the sale of baked goods, jams, pickles, veges and potted small plants and cuttings.

The well-appointed motor camp is fully booked at this time of the year, and the campers are most appreciative of the opportunity to buy fresh home-made produce. Following the packing up of trestles and boxes, members proceeded to a delicious morning tea hosted by Chalmer's Linking Committee President, Tonia Lee, in her home.
– **Maureen McRae**

"Come Light the Candles"

Women from the Southland region enjoyed an Advent Programme in late November, prepared by the women from the Central Southland, Limestone Plains and Riverton Union parishes.

Candles, Christingles, Carols, Colour and Cotton (in the form of breathtaking patch work and quilts) Candy canes, Cards and Card-making, Challenge (and coffee and cake) were all part of the programme.

The guest speaker was Mr. Darren Fraser, the Salvation Army Youth Worker in Winton. He has established his own business, *Micah Clothing* out selling T-shirts and jeans using cotton purchased through Fair Trade outlets. Darren's passion to see an end to the injustice to disadvantaged producers was felt by everyone. He challenged those present to become Fair Trade Congregations and for us to lobby our local supermarkets and cafes to stock and sell Fair Trade coffee, tea and cocoa. We have an opportunity to make a difference. Check your supermarket shelves and look out for cafes who serve

Fair Trade coffee –you will be surprised who is supporting this initiative.

Such days together are not complete without hearing about some good books. Here are just three. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer; *Twenty Chickens for a Saddle* by Robin Scott and *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch.

Children's stories are a wonderful source of Gospel truths and discussion starters for groups and the following are no exception. *Out of the Egg* by Tina Matthews (claimed a 2008 Book Award in N.Z.) and *The Short and Incredibly Happy Life of Riley* by Colin Thompson and Amy Lissiat. (comes from the Children's Book Council of Australia and was the Picture Book of the year in 2006.) We shared these stories as part of the programme and they offered us food for thought, in the midst of preparing to celebrate God's Gift to us, amid the maddening crowds and the merry-go-round of consumerism

From our gathering we made a contribution to the re-establishment of a chicken farm in Myanmar, decimated by a virus outbreak.

– **Nola Stuart**

Parents Christian Duties

1. Pray constantly for your child.
2. Instruct your child in the ways of the Lord
3. Be a living example of Christ to your children.
4. Discipline our children in the same way the Lord disciplines us.

Te au akaueanga keretitianao a te au Metua.
(Cook Island translation)

1. E pure no taau tamariki i te au taimerao
2. Apii i taau tamariki i te au mataara meitaki o te Atua.
3. Kia aiteite toou tu mei to lesu rai ki te taau tamariki
4. E apii i taau tamariki mei ta lesu i apii mai ia tatou.

OTtiute faa-Kerisiano o Matua
(Samoan translation)

1. Tatalo e le aunoa mo lou alo
2. A'oa'o lou alo aio I ala o le Ali'i
3. Ia aveia oe ma faata'ita'iga o Keriso mo nai ou alo
4. Faatonu ma A'oa'i fanau e pei ona faata'ita'i mai e le Ali'i ia i tatou.

– **Lafulafu Ekenasio**

New Resource:

Encouraged by the request of forty people for the Christmas programme, the Resource Committee has prepared Easter material entitled "In Loving Memory". The usual fee on line or \$1 posted is the only cost. Please order early in March as Lois will be overseas later in the month. Congratulations Lois.

Contact: Lois Diaper,
7 Wordsworth Place, Stoke.
Nelson.
E-mail elljayd@clear.net.nz

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of her ordination to the Deaconess Order of the PCANZ ON 29 January, 1959, members of the APW congratulate Nan and acknowledge her ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament fifteen years later.

Nan is widely respected and valued by women and men throughout the church for her rich contribution as a Parish Deaconess at Knox Church, Christchurch; Principal of St Oran's College, Lower Hutt, teaching at the Theological Hall where she was interim Principal on three occasions; and her involvement with the Deaconess Order; various Assembly Committees and with the APW especially at National level.

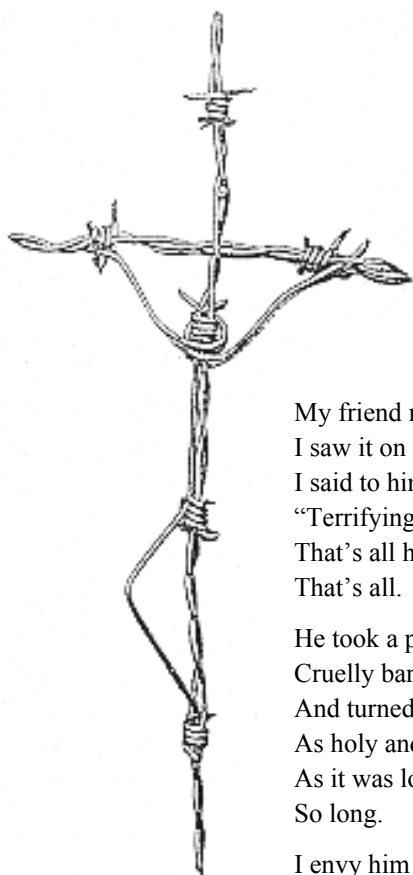
Nan has also made a rich contribution through her writing. Her doctoral thesis on Dimensions of Spirituality in New Zealand Short Stories, *Looking into the Depths*, was published in 1996. Nan has also written the history of the last fifteen years of the Deaconess Order in PCANZ, *Except a Grain of Wheat*; and edited the three volumes of faith stories of NZ Women

entitled *A Braided River of Faith*.

Thanks be to God for Nan's creative and imaginative contributions over the years and we wish her a continuing happy and fulfilling retirement.

- Doreen Riddell

(Needless to say this tribute was not solicited; but I thank you for these generous words. This year of ordination places me alongside twenty other women in the PCANZ who were ordained 'Deaconess' fifty or more years ago. Thank you - Nan)



My friend made a crucifix
I saw it on his wall.
I said to him, "That's beautiful"
"Terrifyingly," he said:
That's all he said,
That's all.

He took a piece of common wire,
Cruelly barbed and strong.
And turned it into sorrow,
As holy and mysterious
As it was long,
So long.

I envy him that savage wire,
The agony of hand and heart.
In the shame and grief and sorrow
That I do not have words for,
Let me have a part,
My part.

National Co-ordinating Group::

Hon Pres.

Right Rev Dr. Graham Redding

National Convener:

Heather Tate,
458 Featherston St, Palmerston North. Ph 06. 3549267

Email: hvtate@clear.net.nz

Secretary:

(All Mail) Jill Little,
PO Box 489 Feilding 4740 Ph 06 3238218

E-mail: jlittleapw@orcon.net.nz

Deputy Convener:

Marjorie Empson,
131 Ruamahanga Cres., Palm. Nth. Ph 06.3567529

E-mail: empsons@inspire.net.nz

Treasurer:

Jocelyn Hannay,
1A Regent St, Palmerston North. Ph 06 3541146

E-mail: jaykayh@hyper.net.nz

Missions Convener:

Rae Simpson,
12 Kotanui Ave, Army Bay, Whangaparoa. Ph 09 4244274

E-mail: l.r.simpson@xtra.co.nz

United Nations Convener:

Mary McIntyre, 18 Hall Rd,
Bannockburn R.D.2 Cromwell, Ph 03 445 4709

E-mail: bbmacs@xtra.co.nz

Resources Convener:

Lois Diaper,
7 Wordsworth Place, Stoke, Nelson Ph 03 547 1456

E-mail: elljayd@clear.net.nz

Communications Convener:

Lafulafu Ekenasio,

93 Yule St, Lyall Bay,

Wellington, 6922

Ph. 04 387 8265,

E-mail: lafulafu@xtra.co.nz