



Quilt of Holes

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult; the challenges and temptations I was faced within every day life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth.

My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image; the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, 'Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles.'

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.'

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

God determines who walks into your life - it's up to you to decide who you let walk away; who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.'

Light and Love

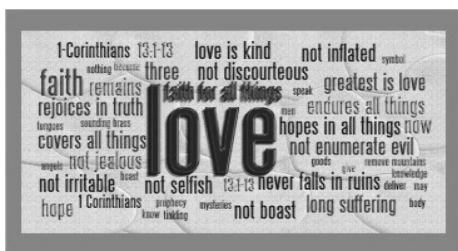
Light and Love is a very interesting coffee table book prepared in 2008 to celebrate one hundred years of missionary work in North India through the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. Many photographs illustrate this heartwarming story of the work of over seventy missionaries and their Indian colleagues and many volunteers. Truly thousands of lives were transformed through knowing and experiencing the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Copies of Light and Love are available for \$25.00 (including postage) from Doreen Riddell, 50/4 Admiral Cres, Hamilton 3210

A Blessing

**Go as far as you dare,
For you cannot go beyond the
reach of God.
Give as extravagantly as you
like,
For you cannot spend all the
riches of God.
Care as lavishly as you are able,
For you cannot exhaust the love
of God.
Keep moving on, for God will
ALWAYS be with you.**

This Blessing concluded the retiring President of the National Co-ordinating Group's (Heather Tate) report.



APW Study Grant

APW is pleased to offer a grant to women in our church seeking Christian training in 2011 to help course costs.

Do you know women seeking training? Would a Study Grant be welcome?

Application forms are obtainable from National Secretary, Valerie Anderson Ph. 03 4488049

email— robval653@slingshot.co.nz

Applications close 30 September 2010

National Co-ordinating Group 2010

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APW Website

www.presbyterian.org.nz
Click on 'National Ministries'
- Assoc. Presbyterian Women

Editor—Braided River of Faith

In the May/June *Gleanings* we requested an Editor to collate the stories submitted. We are pleased to report that we have had a volunteer.

Rev. Judy Bedford
17 Mawae Street,
Wanganui East. 4500
Ph. 06 343.6510
judy.bedford@slingshot.co.nz

All correspondence should now be sent to Judy regarding the stories. We know that more stories are being written, and these should be submitted as soon as possible.

Thank you to the ladies at Pacific Island Presbyterian Church, Newtown, Wellington who supplied the magnificent food for the National Business Meeting held in May, and also for the wonderful workshops in the afternoon. Thank you Lafulafu for organizing it all.



Snippets

- **Paeroa Co-operating Church Women's Fellowship** held a very successful "Egg" programme. People were told the previous month that at the next meeting the theme would be eggs. They were asked to prepare something to say about eggs, and/or bring something along to do with eggs. For morning tea there were egg sandwiches, stuffed eggs, and pavlova. The hall was decorated with decorated painted eggs which were found in a cupboard at the church. It was amazing the stories we got and what people brought along. All sorts of egg cups, most

with a story that made them special. We even had some Kauri snail eggs, and a ship in an egg.

- **Winton APW** support 'Operation Cover-up' providing knitted blankets and other woollen garments for children in the orphanages of Ukraine and Moldova. They have a very devoted group of knitters, who for a time, were receiving donations of wool, but this supply had lessened over time, so they held a fundraising concert with donations going towards buying wool. The concert was an overwhelming success and \$950 was raised to buy wool.

• Donations for Friends of Jagadhri

Now that the work of Global Mission is centred in Wellington all donations to support the work in North India and especially Jagadhri should be sent to Global Mission, PO Box 9049, Wellington 6141. This will enable supporters to claim a tax credit for their donations. The funds will be held in Wellington and distributed on the direction of Friends of Jagadhri. For further information please contact Doreen Riddell, 50/4 Admiral Cres, Hamilton 3210

- Doreen Riddell

CEDAW 2010

New Zealand ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in January 1985. Every four years the New Zealand Government reports to the CEDAW Monitoring Committee and at the same time, NGOs are also encouraged to write the Alternate Report. This reporting process provides a way for New Zealand women to tell the government and the international community if and how they are discriminated against. The 2010 Report will be presented in 2011.

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is facilitat-

ing the nationwide consultation process to produce the Alternate NGO CEDAW Report 2010. This is the opportunity for all women to voice their opinions, tell their stories and debate issues of mutual interest. There are several ways to engage in the project -

- To keep informed join the CEDAW e-group by emailing kjsmith@ncwnz.org.nz.
- Attend a Regional Consultation Meeting to debate the issues. Your local NCW group will have details of local meetings.
- Join the Generations Public Forum to participate in quick polls

and post opinions. This group is divided into Generation S (Senior) and Generation Y and enables NCWNZ to assess the generational differences that exist and how that impacts on social opinion. Access this forum is through the NCWNZ website and information will also be posted in the NCW Circular.

This is the opportunity for all women to voice their opinions, tell their stories and debate issues of mutual interest in all facets of life.

- **Mary McIntyre (United Nations)**

Resources Toolkit

International Council of Women has produced a Toolkit of resources for community education entitled **Women Defending the Integrity of The Planet** with the introduction stressing the crucial role women must play in reducing the effects of climate change. The PowerPoint of the Toolkit is available on the ICW website www.icw-cif.com. It is free for general use with an acknowledgement of the International Council of Women.

Stroke

Would you recognize the symptoms if someone in your group/parish/family had a stroke?

If he/she has trouble with **any** of the following tasks, call emergency services **immediately** and describe the symptoms.

- Ask the individual to *Smile*
- Ask the person to *Raise both arms*
- Ask the person to *Speak a simple sentence* coherently (e.g. It is sunny out today)

ACT QUICKLY

Manawatu Welcomes you

A women's Regional Day
'Precious Living Water'
Saturday 14 August 2010
9.30 a.m.—3.00 p.m.

Speakers:

- The Very Rev. Margaret Schrader - *'Living Water'*
- Judy Seccombe - *Experiences in India & Jagadhri Hospital*
- Ivor & Sala Iosefa - *Rising sea levels in their homeland Tuvalu*

Craft Activities after lunch

Cost \$10.00

Bring your own lunch

RSVP by 6 August

Marjorie Empson - 06 356.529

empsons@inspire.net.nz

Heather Tate - 06 354.9267

hvtate@clear.net.nz

Gleanings Editorial Team

This is the 2nd issue under the new team. Our deadline for each issue is **15th of every second month** and we are stipulating that material received after that date will not be included to the following issue. The team have other commitments and meet together as a team to discuss each issue before going to print.

The deadline for the September/October issue is **15 August**.

All correspondence to Hazel

hazmic.ob@xtra.co.nz

Margaret Hastie

Shirley Fraser

Hazel O'Brien

Lafulafu Ekenasio



Reminder

Annual Statistic forms are out now

Please return these to ...

APW National Secretary

Valerie Anderson

3A Mayfair Grove

Alexandra 9320

(Please note change from what's on the form!)