

Gleanings



A Reflection

Are you an optimist? Do you see the glass as half full or half empty? Do you smile often or scowl too much? Isn't it wonderful to be in the company of an optimist, who sees your potential, is supportive of your new ideas and who readily laughs with you? Laughter is indeed good medicine. Medical research tells us how much laughter boosts the immune system proving what the Bible teaches us: *A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones Proverbs 15:30.* Some of us are naturally cheerful, laugh a lot and are described as having "a sunny disposition". However, for many of us we need to make a conscious effort to smile more and laugh more. It can begin in childhood. I smile to myself as I hear disgruntled young grandchildren being told by their parents, "to go and find a happy face."

Jesus is concerned with the heart. The apostle Paul teaches us in Galatians that if we are open to the Spirit then we will exhibit the fruit of the Spirit- love, joy, peace... in our everyday lives not only when times are good, but also during the tough times. Jesus promised: *As the Father has loved me so have I loved you... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* John 15:9&11. Let us then be open to His Spirit and through God's grace receive His joy. This is the 'Good News'. Through Christ we can bring joy into the darkest lives. Choose to smile and laugh more!

- Heather Tate



An Appeal to Support Scholarships for Turakina has been Actioned!!

The Business session at the APW Triennial Conference gave a mandate for a special mission project in support of Turakina Maori Girls' College. It has now been agreed that this is an APW and National Church Appeal. After discussion with the General Assembly Office, some Turakina Board members and the APW team it was concluded that fund-raising for Boarding Scholarships is at present the greatest need. A boarding scholarship costs \$7,500 p.a. Twenty boarding scholarships of \$5,000 each over two years would cost \$200,000.

An information pack will be sent to every parish by the end of July. The campaign will occur during the months of August and September and will involve the whole church.

How can Regional Co-ordinators and APW Representatives on Presbytery help?

- Please speak out for action in support of this Appeal
- Explain the importance of providing an opportunity for bringing the Gospel to young Maori women plus a quality education

APW Study Grant - APW is pleased to offer a grant to women in our church seeking Christian training in 2010 to help course costs

Do you know women seeking training?

Would a Study Grant be welcome?

Application forms are obtainable from our National Secretary - Jill Little 06 3238218

Email: jlittleapw@orcon.net.nz

Applications close on 30 September, 2009.

Missions Queries: Recently I have fielded questions from parishes about mission enterprises. One was a question from the past, and the other about a current associate mission project. I was pleased to be able to help in each case. While I don't claim to be 'a fount of all knowledge' if you have questions I am only too happy to try to help. Email me at: l.r.simpson@xtra.co.nz for assistance.

- Emphasize this Appeal is the responsibility of the whole Presbyterian Church.

What can APW members do?

- Check that your parish has received an information pack
- Convince your parish to be proactive in this Appeal
- Pray for God's guiding hand that there will be overwhelming support for this Appeal.

In the *Harvest Field* of 1980 an article by Shirley Murray about Amnesty International concluded with a quote by Edmund Burke: "All that is required for the triumph of evil is that enough good people do nothing" This was the incentive needed for Dunedin Presbyterian to form a group, and over the years our small group averaging twelve members has written many hundreds of letters to heads of governments seeking the release of men and women who have suffered imprisonment, torture and death because of their beliefs, politics, race, religion or colour. These are the prisoners of conscience.

For many years one of our members has been making 'Flower Cards'. The sale of these has realized almost \$8,000 for

Amnesty. Presbyterian members have been very supportive and generous in this fund raising venture. This year marks forty-eight years since the movement began in England, and although the need has never been greater, Amnesty International throughout the world is growing, with members and subscribers of all races and nationalities. Every letter written contributes to the campaign to free prisoners and to stop torture

- Rosemary Thomson

Enough is Enough: If you have been awaiting the full detail of Pamela Tankersley's bible study at Triennial Conference, it is now available from Jill Little.



A fourth issue of *A Braided River of Faith*?

There are many, many stories of women of faith which have not been written. Whose story do you think should be written? Do you know someone who could write this story? NCG favour another publication and negotiations are progressing. If you can assist with names and writers please send your thoughts to -

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