



Gleanings

Remember the days when people had Scripture texts on the wall? My grandmother gave me one when I was a child and it read: *"I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears"* Psalm 34.4. I have never forgotten that verse and there have been many times when I have been reminded of its truth.

One such time was when we were walking as a family on the Routeburn Track. A drizzly rain started and it was rather refreshing in the bush at the time. Soon, however, there was a thunderstorm and the rain came down in torrents causing our party to hurry as the guide warned that the rivers rose quickly. They certainly did. Our son, then aged twelve, was swept off his feet as the party attempted to cross a

swiftly flowing stream. The rest of us were not allowed to cross there, so, after ascertaining that he was all right, we detoured to cross where the stream was wider and thus not so dangerous. None of us voiced our fears, but I heard my daughter singing hymns. Yes, in her way she had sought the Lord too. Eventually we were reunited as a family, but not before we had crossed a bridge knee deep in water, and had formed a human chain to wade a waist-deep stream which was usually crossed on stepping stones.

It is at times like this when our faith can be tested; but what a comfort to know that in seeking the Lord, we also know His peace. We need never be alone.

— *Lois Diaper, Resource Convener.*

APW Triennial Business Meeting & Study Conference 1-3 May, 2009

The Steeple Conference Centre, Kingsgate Hotel, Palmerston North.

God Calls: "Touch the Earth Lightly"

Please put this date in your diary for next year. NCG are planning a programme which is topical and thought-provoking. Accommodation on site includes affordable economy shared units

Calling for Remits/ Recommendations:

Presbyterians please send these to Jill Little by **30 August, 2008**

NCG News

Warmest Greetings, Firstly we note with sadness the passing of Diane Croft on 17 April. Owing to her health struggles over the past year, Diane had reluctantly resigned as National Treasurer. It was good that some past and present members of NCG, many APW members and other friends were present. We quote a few attributes recalled by Jeanette Luxton *"Integrity, trustworthy, straightforward, gentle, kindly, compassionate ... This is Diane ... who made a great contribution to the work of APW within NZ and overseas."*

Natalie Watkin followed with her tribute: *"Diane was always ready to listen ... ready to learn. Diane was passionate about making good*

use of available money ... She suggested that a scholarship fund be set up to assist women planning theological study. This has happened. It is a special legacy to a fine and wonderful woman." Our prayers are with David and the family.

The NCG met in April and were very pleased to confirm the nominations of Rae Simpson as Missions Convener and Lois Diaper as Resources Convener. We congratulate them and welcome them to the team. Rae Simpson, 12 Kotanui Ave, Army Bay, Whangaparaoa,
E-mail: l.r.simpson@xtra.co.nz

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

We endorsed a **Praying for the nation campaign** initiated by Catherine Hollister-Jones. Catherine offers people a little paua shell chip accompanied by the NZ National Anthem as the prayer to be placed on a mirror, a dashboard, the computer, or near the kitchen sink etc. Catherine's letter plus copies of the prayer (suitable for photocopying) have been distributed with the pink and blue forms through Regional Coordinators. You may wish to be part of this great idea for this year of parliamentary elections.

Continued

NCG News cont'd.

Congratulations to the Editorial Team of Gleanings for a fine May Gleanings publication in celebration of 100 years of our Church's mission work in India, and to those distributing the special issue.

APW Study Grant: APW is pleased to offer a grant to women in our church seeking Christian training in 2009 to help with course costs. Application Forms may be obtained from - Jill Little, Ph. 06 323 8218 or Email: jlittleapw@orcon.net.nz Applications close on 30 September, 2008.

APW National Survey: Thank you to all the parish groups who responded to the survey. We would have liked many more replies, but we are hopeful of gaining some useful results for our future planning. The numbers of surveys received are now down to a trickle. We expect to begin work on them shortly.

United Nations Committee: United Nations Development Fund For Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. UNIFEM was created by a UN General Assembly resolution in 1976 and, due to its proven and valued operational track record, its expertise is valued by governments and women's agencies around the world. In New Zealand, UNIFEM annually supports the celebration of International Women's Day & the White Ribbon Campaign, works in the area of violence against women and is involved in Pacific Region programmes.

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO)

Founded in 1948, CONGO facilitates the participation of NGOs in United Nations debates and decision making. It has worked tirelessly to en-

Devastation in Myanmar: APW is responding with a donation of \$1,000 from our Emergency Aid Fund. We count our blessings in our land of plenty and freedom.

- *Heather Tate, National Convener.*

Future Events:

South Island Regional Conference, 5-7 September, at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ashburton. The conference will begin on Friday evening with a service of worship and will conclude after Sunday lunch.

Theme "Many Branches, One Burning Bush" Keynote speakers: The Very Rev Michael Thawley and The Rev Dr Graham Redding.

The conference will be a time of fun, fellowship, food, singing, study, and inter-active workshops from some of the cultures that make up our communities. The Saturday evening conference dinner will begin with an Address to the Haggis and Scottish

dancing celebrating our proud Scottish heritage. There will be entertainment from the Cook Island Community.

Registration forms will be out in June. For more information contact Dellwyn Moylan, Convener. ph 03 3086598

Email: dgmoylan@clear.net.nz

Auckland Regional Day: "I am the Bread of Life" 30 August, 2008 - 9.30 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.

Venue St John's Presbyterian Church, Mt Roskill.

An invitation to all women of the church to share in a day of learning and fellowship.

Come and respond with us to this "I AM" statement of Jesus.

A special thanks goes to all the Indian ex-missionaries who shared their experiences in the last issue of Gleanings.

sure that NGO voices can be heard throughout the international arena.

APW is a member of both these organizations at a cost of approximately \$500 per year. Membership of CONGO and UNIFEM is important to APW to ensure effective use of our consultative status at the United Nations. As a way of assisting the APW United Nations work, Presbyterians and groups are invited to make a donation towards membership fees. Please forward donations to Jocelyn Hannay National Treasurer, P.O Box 489, Feilding 4740 - *Mary McIntyre.*

Regional News: Knox Women's Fellowship, Whakatane Margaret Garr writes:

At the recent World Day of Prayer service at Knox, a magnificent metre high woven flax cross and floral arrangement greeted visitors

in the foyer. Adorned with plaited ribbons depicting the colours of the flag of Guyana, a dove and flowers, it was a stunning sight. The flax floral arrangement at the base of the cross also depicted the red, green, gold, black and white colours of the flag of Guyana. The arrangement was designed and created by Mrs. Biddy King of Taneatua and we are grateful to her for sharing her God-given talent with us. At the front of the church a stand of illuminated tropical palms, trickling water fountains and power point slides of Guyana all highlighted the Caribbean theme of the service. Following the service a wide variety of local church representatives gathered in the lounge for a time of fellowship over supper.

First Presbyterian Church of Otago APW We will hear about your news in the next issue.

Please keep news flowing to my computer—Nan Burgess, Editor.
Email: n-burgess@xtra.co.nz