



From our National Convenor ...

For over 100 years Presbyterian Women have been functioning in small groups, caring for each other and their communities. At the same time, enormous amounts of money have been raised for special projects at home and abroad. Our horizons have always been global and we thank God for the opportunity to help improve the quality of life for women and families in the world.

While keeping our traditional ways of working locally, a tremendous step in extending our overseas involvement was taken when Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) gained Consultative Status at the United Nations in 1998. This month the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women is held in New York and Pamela Tankersley, UN Committee Convenor, and I will represent Presbyterian Women NZ. We will be active participants in Ecumenical Women (EW) advocacy and planning from a faith perspective. EW is a coalition growing in strength

each year and we have a role to play in that progress.

We know fine well what the Kingdom values are and they are not about narrow religious issues, they are about the basic stuff of human life. They are the stuff of the Sermon on the Mount. The Kingdom values are about money and possessions and power and violence and security.

We know God's will about flowers blooming in wilderness places, about the blind being able to see, it is about drug addicts and the homeless being valued and brought in from the cold. It is good news to the poor, about feeding the hungry and clothing the naked; about liberty and freedom. These are the Kingdom values and we know it well. We cannot say we do not know....we know fine well!
(Erik Cramb, the Iona Community)

- Mary McIntyre

Meeting each other around the country.

I am looking forward to the opportunity of meeting Presbyterian Women around the country and would be delighted to hear from you when your Regional get-togethers are planned. I work in the Learning Support Centre at Cromwell College on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings but would make every effort to meet with you working around those times. I would much appreciate hearing of any special occasions you have in your areas and any ecumenical functions that are happening. Please send details to me, bbmacs@extra.co.nz or Valerie robval653@slingshot.co.nz

Those Stamps—Take 2!



Thank you for those who responded to my piece in the last Gleanings. I have been able to help a couple of people as a result.

For many of us, the stamp collection and sales continues as always, but there are difficulties as the stamp convenors of yesteryear are forced to give up and it is often difficult to find someone to "pick up the baton". St Columba in Tauranga have found a man who is a stamp enthusiast who receives the stamps from the Presbyterian Convenor and goes to no end of trouble to sell them at a good price. Others, as I suspected, are finding

stamps difficult to deal with, but are able to pass them on to other organisations with sorters and sales connections. Even though I would like to see the income coming our way, I commend this common sense solution.

- Rae Simpson

What those stamps can achieve

Rev. Ken Williams has written on behalf of the Talua Staff Council to express their sincere thanks for the generous financial support they have received which has enabled them to employ an Assistant Librarian. This support has made a significant difference to the quality of ministry support the library is able to offer. Sophia Silas, a graduate of Talua, has been appointed to the

role and will work part time in the library with the other half of her time being involved in translation work with the Vanuatu Bible Commentary series.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Stamp Funds and made this appointment possible.



Snippets

- A Presbyterian Women's Pre-Christmas social event was held at Knox Church in Dunedin. This was an opportunity for members of the congregation to become acquainted with the history and work of APW. For the cost of a cup of coffee and a muffin members were surprised to learn that they could be informed about what other Presbyterian Women were doing throughout the country, find out how they may help with projects and discover that our organization is represented on the world stage at United Nations. It was a wonderful evening shared with Christmas cakes and fruit punch.

- Jan Harland

- St. David's APW Night Owls, Palmerston North organized a stimulating Christmas programme. They had impromptu speeches about a Christmas childhood memory; a version of unwrapping the parcel; and a team quiz pertaining to Christmas general knowledge. While they made a Christmas wreath with beads and lace, they talked about the people in the Nativity story. They concluded with the fact that these people were ordinary people like you and me. They were challenged to tell the Christmas story at every opportunity.

- Marjorie Empson

- The ladies of St. George & St. Mark's of Himatangi (29kms south west of Palmerston North) hosted the February meeting of

the Manawatu Presbyterian. This was a first for them and for us. Rev. Silvia Purdie led our communion service in the Anglican church of St. George which had recently been relocated at the St. Mark's church site. The amalgamation with its improved facilities serves this community of 500 people more effectively. The community nurse spoke of her role in delivering health services. A young mother told us how the pre-school group functions. There was some hearty singing lead by Rev. Silvia and her guitar. Lunch was shared. It was a very happy meeting and we were delighted to see God's kingdom in action at this popular beach resort.

- Marjorie Empson

Snippets continued

- **The National Co-ordinating Group (NCG)** is next meeting in Wellington on 19 April 2011. If any group or member has a comment or query of the NCG, please forward it to the Secretary, Valerie, so it can be discussed at the meeting.
- **A combined Christmas Service** was held at St. Margaret's Church, Silverstream. Upper Hutt in December 2011. Wellington & Hutt Valley Presbyterians, together with the Methodist Women's Fellowship filled the church to capacity, chatting to each other and relishing the companionship of the evening. Bright colours of the Christmas tree lights and trimmings added to the festive feel and the splendid echo of voices singing Christmas carols. The theme of the service 'The Crib in the street' was ably acted by the younger women of the parish of St. Margaret's. Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunties and Sisters from the Pacific Island Churches of Newtown and Porirua added to the evening with their wonderful singing.

EASTER PROGRAMME

'Rainbows in Lent'

Free on line
Or \$1.20 for printing and postage
(stamps preferred)

Lois Diaper
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Stoke, Nelson
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Because of limited space, the Gleanings Team try their best to get as much news as we are able, into Gleanings. For this reason we do apologize for not printing all the news we receive, and the wonderful photos you send us. However, if you have access to a computer, more of our parish women's stories have been placed on the website.

www.presbyterian.org.nz

- Click on National Ministries

- Presbyterian Women (APW)

- Gleanings newsletter

When the day draws to a close
may you find God thanking your
soul for this day
And when the dusk settles over you
may the word call your name as it
did at the beginning of time
And when the sun sets as it slips
over the horizon
may the spirit of tomorrow tempt
you with the promise of a new dawn

abbotsford.org.uk
'Mucky Paws'

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APW Website

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

Please note new phone No. below

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APW Study Grants Recipients

Joanna Matheson (Dunedin)

I am entering my 5th and final year of university study, having completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and this year will complete a Bachelor of Social and Community Work. Long term I am interested in doing community development work in East and Central Africa. I am incredibly grateful for the grant you have awarded me and your support of my academic study. Thank you.

Cate Burton (Katikati)

I am the Children & Families Pastor at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Katikati, Bay of Plenty. In 2010 I began a Graduate Diploma with Otago University, having already completed a Bachelor of Ministries with Laidlaw College. I have decided to undertake further study as I

am currently testing the call to National Ordained Ministry with the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. The study grant from APW will be put towards two theology papers I will be taking in 2011. I would like to thank the APW for their generosity.

Erin Pendreigh (Cromwell)

As I am studying full time by distant learning it is extremely beneficial to have course books on hand for assignments and study and therefore I have chosen to use my grant for course books this year. This is my second year at Otago working towards a Bachelor of Theology. I am thankful for the prayer support and encouragement I received from my local APW group last year. Thank you so much for this support.

Lynne O'Brien (Upper Hutt)

I am in my final year of study for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Anthropology at Victoria University, Wellington. The study grant awarded to me by APW has been put towards papers that I will be studying this year. I intend to return next year to complete a one year honours post-graduate programme. I hope to work in an environment which recognizes the values and beliefs of individuals and groups as inherently significant to meeting the needs, and understanding, deeper underlying social issues. I am hugely appreciative of APW's endeavour to support myself and fellow students to achieve our goals.

**You can see the full stories on
our website**

Our Prayer for the people of Christchurch

Lord, at times such as this,
when we realize that the ground beneath our feet
is not as solid as we had imagined,
we plead for your mercy.

As the things we have built crumble
about us,
we know too well how small we truly
are
on this ever-changing, ever-moving,
fragile planet we call home.
Yet you have promised never to forget us.

Do not forget us now.

Today, so many people are afraid.
They wait in fear of the next tremor.
They hear the cries of the injured
amid the rubble.
They roam the streets in shock at what
they see.
And they fill the dusty air with wails
of grief
and the names of missing dead.

Comfort them, Lord, in this disaster.
Be their rock when the earth refuses
to stand still,
and shelter them under your wings
when homes no longer exist.

Embrace in your arms those
who died so suddenly this day.
Console the hearts of those who
mourn,
and ease the pain of bodies on the
brink of death.

Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion,
we who watch from afar,
as the poorest on this side of the earth
find only misery upon misery.
Move us to act swiftly this day,
to give generously every day,
to work for justice always,
and to pray unceasingly for those
without hope.

And once the shaking has ceased,
the images of destruction have
stopped filling the news,
and our thoughts return to life's daily
rumblings,
let us not forget that we are all your
children
and they, our brothers and sisters.
We are all the work of your hands.

For though the mountains leave their
place
and the hills be tossed to the ground,
your love shall never leave us,

and your promise of peace will
never be shaken.

Our help is in the name of the
Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
now and forever. Amen.

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This prayer was written for the people of Haiti after the earthquake in 2010, but it seemed so appropriate for the people of Christchurch. The thoughts and prayers are with you from all over New Zealand, and from the Gleanings Team.



The next issue of Gleanings will be

MAY/JUNE 2011

Gleanings Editorial Team

Margaret Hastie Lafulafu Ekenasio

Shirley Fraser Hazel O'Brien

All information for the next issue to be
in the hands of Hazel O'Brien **no later**
than 15 April please.

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