

## From Mary

Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious statesmen and silent friends, You accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God, You shouldered and suffered the cross.

Early in the morning a voice in a guarded graveyard And footsteps in the dew, proved that you had risen, That you came back for those who had forgotten, denied and destroyed you.

Early in the morning in the multicoloured company of your Church on earth, We celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection and your love for us.

Since I wrote to you in the last Gleanings my life has taken a very different direction as I have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Because I am now focussing on treatment and my own wellness, I am standing aside from the role of National Convenor and Jan Harland, Deputy Convenor, is taking over the role. I am grateful to Jan for accepting this position and I know that she is well supported by all the NCG members. It is with great sadness that I share this news with you and I look forward to hearing news of Presbyterian Women NZ over the months ahead.

• **Mary McIntyre**

## From Jan Harland Acting National Convenor

At our recent National Convenors Group meeting held in Wellington on 19 April 2011, we were saddened to record that Mary McIntyre has sent her resignation as Convenor as she has developed a serious illness.

We are keeping her informed about all matters regarding Presbyterian Women New Zealand and all care about what is happening to her. We now ask that everyone involved with Presbyterian Women New Zealand take some time to keep Mary in their thoughts and prayers as she attends to her personal needs..



## Friends of Jagadhri

- Alice Henderson, one of pioneer missionaries of the PCANZ to India, first worked in Madras from 1896-1909 and then in the Jagadhri District in the Punjab from 1910-1931. To honour the rich contribution Alice Henderson made to the Christian community in the Punjab, a new school for girls in Kharar, about 100kms from Jagadhri was named after her. Ian Henderson, a great-nephew of Alice Henderson recently visited Jagadhri and Kharar and has written of his experiences in the April 2011 'Friends of Jagadhri' newsletter.
- Mrs. Kamla Singh retired in February after over 40 years of dedicated service to St. Thomas School. Kamla joined the staff as a fresh graduate in 1970, and in 1990 was granted a Church of North India Scholarship to study M Th at the

Louisville Seminary in the USA. Kamla was appointed Principal of St. Thomas School, Jagadhri in 1993 following the retirement of Doreen Riddell. She leaves the school with about 2,000 girls and boys from Pre-primary to Year 12, having begun her career at St. Thomas' with about 100 students.

- Mr. Rodrick Rajive Lal has been appointed Principal as from April this year.
- We are currently raising funds for a \$20,000 Haematology Counter for the hospital and for continuing to help needy students receive an excellent education at St. Thomas School. In the past ten months \$25,791.74 has been received as donations. An additional bequest of \$20,000 to be divided equally between the school and the hospital has been received. We are now able to fund the Haematology Counter.

## An Interpretation of the Lord's prayer from the Aramaic words of Jesus by Neil Douglas-Klotz

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,  
Focus your light within us - make it useful.  
Create your reign of unity now -  
Your one desire then acts with ours,  
as in all light, so in all forms.  
Grant what we need each day in bread  
and insight.  
Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,  
as we release the strands we hold  
of others' guilt  
Don't let surface things delude us,  
But free us from what holds us back.  
From you is born all ruling will,  
the power and the life to do,  
the song that beautifies all,  
from age to age it renews.  
Truly - power to these statements -  
may they be the ground from which all  
my actions grow: Amen.

## UN Commission on the Status of Women for 2011

A full report is on the web site:

[www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/presbyterian-women](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/presbyterian-women)

The Association of Presbyterian Women was granted NGO status at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2000. This status gives the APW the right to be present at the annual sessions of the Commission, to advise the NZ delegation its opinion on the issues being discussed and to participate in NGO briefings at the time. We are one of the very few *national* NGOs that have such status.

This year I attended CSW 55, with Mary McIntyre, the previous UN Convener for the APW. (Sadly, ill health has necessitated Mary's stepping down from her current role as National Coordinator for Presbyterian Women.) This overlap was excellent as the systems that operate at the UN, with NGOs in attendance, are complex and a novice could waste much time and energy figuring it all out. Mary was a great mentor! We were both able to attend, thanks to funding from the Council for World Mission.

The Commission on the Status of Women is the primary global policy-making body of the UN devoted entirely to examining the state of progress for women in member states.

Women still comprise the majority of the world's poor and those without access to education. In addition, there are huge disparities in equal pay for equal work and unpaid work, continued high maternal mortality, prominent HIV/Aids infection, a pandemic of violence against women, high frequency of genital mutilation and appalling sex trafficking/slavery of young women. These issues determining the rights of women are *human* rights issues and the CSW is calling all member states to implement a commitment to progress.

On the other hand, it is evident that countries with greater gender equality have more competitive and faster

growing economies, the presence of women in leadership in peace-making, increases the possibility of harmonious outcomes and greater security and infant and maternal mortality is raised. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals is enhanced.

The theme for this year's CSW was "the access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work"

A highlight of the week was the Launch of UN Women (The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women). This drew together the four areas of UN work for women into one entity, under the leadership of Ms Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile. She becomes Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women.

The NZ government delegation was led by Rowena Phair, Chief Executive, Ministry of Women's Affairs. We were well served by our delegation: we had had a meeting in Wellington prior to leaving for the UN, and in New York, their enthusiastic consultation with us as NGOs and the exchange of feedback between government and NGO delegations was significant as we met for debriefing at the end of each day. The presentation made by the NZ delegation was honest and reflected women's employment and education status in NZ well. The point was made that though we now have more women under 50 better educated than men, women are not as well represented in science, technology, engineering and maths, and the high number of women graduates has not resulted in women receiving equal pay or equal status in the work force. It would seem that while education is necessary for the full and equal employment of women, it is not sufficient. In addition to this, it is clear that among Maori and immigrant women, (particularly Asian and Pacifika),

educational standards are lower and employment results in significantly lower wages.

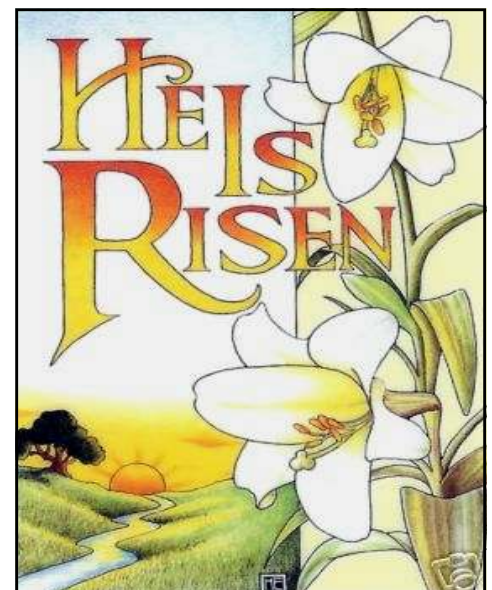
In past years, Mary McIntyre had made significant connections with the group 'Ecumenical Women', an alliance of women of faith, coming together for the CSW. The warm welcome from those Mary had met before, and the opportunity to work in a bigger group to formulate a programme of advocacy, from a faith perspective was great. We joined the Ecumenical Women at the beginning of each day for worship and when we could for briefing and explanation of what the day would bring.

We will continue to keep in touch with this group, in order to prepare for next year's CSW, whose theme is "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development, and current challenges".

I also attended the CSW NGO orientation, where the issues for the CSW55 Sessions became clear.

We chose to focus on workshops over a limited range of topics, specifically: Asia and Pacific regions, climate change, maternal health, mentoring young women, women's spirituality and rural women.

- Pamela Tankersley



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### APW Website

[www.presbyterian.org.nz](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz)  
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- Assoc. Presbyterian Women  
- Gleanings newsletter

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The next issue of Gleanings will be JULY/AUG. 2011

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All information for the next issue to be in the hands of Hazel O'Brien **no later than** 15 June please.  
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## Study Grant recipient ....

I am writing to convey my very grateful thanks to those concerned for receiving study grants in 2009 and 2010 towards my Spiritual Director's Formation programme.

I have now completed the study and have been commissioned into the role of Spiritual Director.

The grants were a great encouragement and a huge help towards the costs of the

course and related costs such as travel and books. One of the reasons I had put off this training was of the cost involved. Spiritual Direction has been a call on my life for some time and I have benefited personally so much for finally stepping out in faith and going ahead with the training.

I have been able to minister to directees one on one as well as to run retreats for our local Church and to the wider Christian commu-

nity. It is a privilege to help people pay attention to what God may be communicating and to facilitate growth in their relationship with God. May you know God's blessing on your work in enabling women to study and further the work of God's kingdom in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- Sandra Thomas

## Regional Day ....

- Hutt Valley Presbyterial held a Regional Work Day on Saturday 30 April at St. Margaret's, Silverstream. Despite clashing with a number of other activities in the area on the day, a reasonable number of women enjoyed a day of fellowship and learning together.

The morning began with devotions led by Rev. Lynn Russell, minister at St. Margaret's. Workshops available were 'Learning new hymns', Crafts by the Cook Island ladies, Floral Art, 'Eco-friendly products you can make in your own home'. All the workshops proved popular.

More photos on our website.

