



Since the last Gleanings our world here in New Zealand has suffered a series of earthquakes and storms and for some people life will never be the same again. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are now facing long term recovery from the loss of livelihoods, homes and personal security, the effects of such trauma will be long lasting.

In spite of all that has been happening Spring continues to flourish and all around us we see the signs of new life and promise. The words I share with you are the words of Kathy Galloway, a member of the Iona Community, and I feel that they remind us of the wonder of our world.

*Oh the life of the world is a joy and a treasure,  
Unfolding in beauty the green-growing tree,  
The changing of seasons in mountain and valley  
The stars and the bright restless sea.*

*Oh the life of the world is a fountain of goodness  
Overflowing in labour and passion and pain,  
In the sound of the city and the silence of wisdom,  
In the birth of a child once again.*

*Oh the life of the world is the source of our healing.  
It rises in laughter and wells up in song;  
It springs from the care of the poor and the broken  
And refreshes where justice is strong.*

*So give thanks for the life and give love to the Maker  
And rejoice in the gift of the bright risen son.  
And walk in the peace and the power of the Spirit  
Till the days of our living are done.*

**Mary McIntyre,  
National Convenor.**

### Presbyterian Women NZ @ the General Assembly 2010

Presbyterian Women NZ had a clear presence at the General Assembly of the PCANZ held in Christchurch 20 September—3 October 2010. An open invitation was extended to an 'Update on Presbyterian Women NZ' over lunch on Friday and it was an excellent opportunity for Pamela Tankersley and me to speak about the work and focus areas of Presbyterian women. The meeting was well supported and we were delighted to welcome representatives from Christian World Service to the discussion.

On the Sunday morning I presented the recommendation from Presbyterian Women NZ and Diane Gilliam-Weeks was the seconder. It read:

- *That the General Assembly makes a commitment to understand and support the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and to promote this understanding and support throughout the Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand..*
- *That the General Assembly encourages parishes to access CEDAW information and contribute to the Non Governmental report.*

This recommendation was passed unanimously and Presbyterian Women NZ received a number of complements on its social justice work both nationally and internationally.

**Mary McIntyre.**

### A.P.W.

Le Mafutaga e te ata ai pe e te tagi masūsū.  
O le mafutaga e malosī ai le tino, mafaufau ma le Agaga.  
Auā e amata i le Atua, ia fesoasoani mai lona Agaga.  
E fa'aiu iā te ia le foafoaga o mea uma lava.  
Tina, e tūa le Mafutaga e feso'otai ai ma mafanafana tatou uma lava.  
Sau loa, aua e te fiu, Aua e te fa'apalapala.  
E te maua ai le malosī, i le tino, mafaufau ma le Agaga.  
Ma, e te soifua umi ai i lenei Olaga.

*Tusia e Tinā Tiute Fa'asegi Tofilau*

It is the festive season  
To celebrate Christ's birth  
To rejoice in knowing He  
came  
Bringing peace throughout  
the earth  
He came a tiny baby  
Then grew to be a man  
The saviour of the world  
With healing in His hands  
So celebrate this season  
With joy and expectation  
For Jesus is so worthy  
Of our praise and adoration

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## Those stamps!

Each year, APW raises \$5,000 to \$7,000 from the sale of used stamps, which is disbursed through a variety of mission initiatives. Dealing with stamps is time consuming and I want to say a huge “thank you” to the ladies who painstakingly deal with them. Most stamps are saved from everyday postage, but occasionally, an old stamp collection turns up. Some dealers are interested in such collections, and some are not. Recently, such a collection was sold on “Trade Me”. Often there is a call for



stamps like “Pete’s Post”, in fact, anything other than NZ Post, still on the envelope. One group of stamp enthusiasts was able to sort stamps into sets and package them for local sale. A lot of dealers prefer that stamps are carefully trimmed, leaving a border of 4-6mm of paper around each stamp. They no longer want them cleaned.

I would love to hear your stories of how you sell your stamps so I can share them with others.

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## Presbyterian Women National Coordinating Group

The National Coordinating Group (NCG) met for the first time on 5 October 2010 in Wellington and our time together sharing business and a meal was a very positive and encouraging time for us all. Topics for discussion included individual membership, administration forms, Gleanings, Study Grants, ECOSOC status, Turakina Girls College and Triennial Gathering. We shared Convenor’s reports and spoke about the Convenors’ roles. We welcomed Faaolataga Leasi in the new role of Pacific Island representative and benefited greatly from the input that she and Tali made from the Pacific Island perspective. Outcomes from this meeting will be shared over the months ahead.

## Snippets .....

- **Mairangi Bay, Castor Bay Mission Group & North Shore APW** are fulfilling the desperate need of knitted garments & toys for Middlemore Hospital. Originally the group were knitting for the fish & chips babies but found it difficult to find someone to transport these overseas.
- **Thank you** to everyone who has contacted Gleanings regarding knitting for premature babies, hospitals, and others in need. Keep up the good work.
- **Mission Birthday Envelopes** are available through Rae Simpson (09 424.4274) and Bev Quigley (03 686.1207).
- **Cambridge Union Parish Women’s Fellowship** have been raising funds for various projects, including Jaghadri, Helena Goldie, the Air Ambulance, Turakina, and much more. Thank you. Sorry space does not allow us to print the great photo of you all.
- **‘Light and Love’** is a very interesting coffee table book prepared in 2008 to celebrate 100 years of Missionary work in North India through the Presbyterian Church of N.Z. Many photographs illustrate the work of over 70 missionaries, their Indian colleagues and many volunteers. Copies are available

from Doreen Riddell, 50/4 Admiral Crescent, Hamilton 3210. Cost \$22.00 (including postage).

- **St David’s, Richmond hosted the Nelson Regional Day** in September. The day began with an enlightening and somewhat heart rending interview with a refugee originally from Myanmar. Prior to that we could not have imagined the severity of the hardships these people experienced for many years before they finally arrived in New Zealand. The young lady interviewed had spent 19 years, from a very early age, in a Thai Refugee camp, where refugees were exploited. They actually found themselves a tourist attraction as they were the Karin tribe, who wear neckbands of beads. To be free in NZ was one thing but the changes were a huge culture shock to them and took a lot of adjusting. There were two demonstrations during the day. One was the art of pressing flowers and using them to decorate cards, candles and other objects – quite a delicate task. The second demonstration was of preparing hanging baskets, with good tips on

watering, which was useful information.

The final speaker was a man who had given years of VSA work in Vanuatu. He was an engineer who, became a “Mr Fix It” but not before he had to overcome the suspicion and hostility of the locals. His healing prayer was really his greatest ministry and really endeared him to the people of Vanuatu.

The day ended with afternoon tea. The St David’s ladies provided all the food for the day, which was beautiful. Each person was asked to bring \$7 to cover the cost of the food and a donation to Refugee Resettlement. A great day was enjoyed by all.

**Lois Diaper**

## The next issue of Gleanings will be MARCH/APRIL 2011

**The Editorial Team wish you a very Happy and Safe Christmas & New Year.**

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 February please.

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## Rae's Story ....

At the North Shore Presbyterian AGM, I told members a little of my mind blowing experiences in Kolkata, India. Our team was working on staff accommodation for Freeset Trust which provides employment for women and girls who want to get out of prostitution. Freeset teaches the girls to sew. The main industry is bag making, but a few of the best girls make high quality tee shirts. As well as sewing, the girls are taught basic living skills and reading and how to handle money - the things that are organised for them in a brothel. Some will never be good enough to handle sewing machines and work is found for them in the finishing and packaging department. Some girls are in the grips of money lenders as well, and Freeset is in the process of setting up a fund which will pay off the debts, then manage the repayment free of interest.

With the Commonwealth Games situation in Delhi in the spotlight, much of what I saw comes flooding back. What we saw in Kolkata, is obviously repeated in Delhi. There

is no doubt that beggars target foreigners and can be very pushy, but it breaks your heart to see a child who is too small to walk, with his hand out for a coin. We made friends with the kiddies who scavenged at the rubbish dump and gave them treats. Some of these people, living on streets slept in the open and were vulnerable to rat bites. It is people like this who are being relocated so they can't disturb the Games clientele. But I am more concerned about the merchants and taxi drivers. They work extremely hard to make a living. The merchants are shrewd and pushy, and very hard to shake off. The taxi drivers who seem to maintain their own vehicles drive a hard bargain - they would rather carry passengers for a fixed price than use their meters. A fixed price ride was quicker than a metered ride, but traffic jams were inevitable and taxi drivers who got lost were common. Although we had no problems with taxis breaking down, we did wonder about their safety.

The water situation is concerning.

We only drank bottled or filtered water, but because of the heat, we needed 8 litres per day to avoid dehydration.

The filth is unbelievable. Rubbish dumps on the roadside diminished quite rapidly as the crows, rats, cats, dogs and human scavengers took what they could. Efforts are being made to clean up the city, but old habits die hard!

Kolkata, like Delhi is a city of contrasts. Away from the slums, there is wealth and shopping complexes with really tight security. Although we felt quite safe, we were aware that the missionaries always accompanied their children too and from school. It is right to be concerned about safety in such cities.

**Rae Simpson**  
Missions Convenor



## Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) at the United Nations

The granting of Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) to Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) in 1998 was the result of wide reaching vision and an enormous amount of work. It is now 12 years since this status was gained and we are no longer newcomers to the Commission on the Status of Women sessions held each year. Over the years the representatives from Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) have made a very positive and constructive contribution to the work of the Commission and used the role of consultative status wisely and effectively.

In 2008 Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) became a member of Ecumenical Women (EW), a coalition which advocates, from a faith based perspective, for women's equal participation in society. Grounded in faith and commitment to global justice, EW affirms God's will that "we may have life and have it abundantly" and his concern for the marginalised and voiceless. Each member of EW works within its own traditions to raise the status of women and work for gender equality.

Being a member of EW means that Presbyterian Women NZ (APW) joins a group of other Christian voices in advocating at the United Nations and empowering members to work within their own communities. As a respon-

sible and effective UN participant we have the task of increasing awareness of gender equality and to be actively concerned people in our own communities and further afield. Our voice may be small but many small voices combine to become a much more powerful voice on the world stage and we gain strength and impetus by working together.

If you have any queries about the United Nations work please contact :

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### National Council of Women New Zealand (NCWNZ) Conference

Rotorua, 30 September -3 October 2010

Presbyterian Women New Zealand (APW) was represented by Jan Harland at the recent National Council of Women New Zealand conference in Rotorua.

The theme of this conference was Positive Mental Wellbeing and was attended by 87 delegates and 12 observers from around New Zealand. This was opened by the Mayor of Rotorua and followed by Elizabeth Bang's Presidential address. Jane Pritchard reported on the Commission of the Status of Women held at the United Nations in New York, March 2010. The Presbyterian Women New Zealand's brochure on HIV Aids was distributed to all participants at the conference.

Presbyterian Women New Zealand (APW) submissions for the remits were received and all the following remits carried: The government was urged to raise the alcohol consumption and purchasing age to 20 years; provide early intervention programmes for families with multiple problems; provide special social and

medical care and accommodation for under 65 year olds with disability; prepare initiatives for NZ for increasing effects of climate change; decline of oil production; ensure that child support payments were made.

Presbyterian Women were encouraged to join NCW branch meetings and engage with topics to give a voice to drafting submissions for discussion documents and parliamentary bills. In particular Presbyterian Women were invited to become a correspondent to the Justice & Law Reform standing committee. If you wish to find out more contact [Harland-rusher@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Harland-rusher@xtra.co.nz)

A seminar was held on the court system regarding mental illness and an 83 year old woman, who rises at 5.30 a.m. each day for work, discussed mental health for older people. She spoke of "Flourishing" and importance of connecting with people, being active, taking notice of everyday things, learning and giving.

Three keynote addresses covered *Alcohol Action* (Prof. Doug Sellman, National Addiction Centre); an urgent remit was passed to reduce the Blood/Alcohol level

for drivers from 0.08 to 0.05 followed; *Abuse* (Lesley Elliott) described the classic signs of the perpetrator and importance of Women's Refuge when a relationship is breaking up. *Suicide* (Judge McLean, NZ Chief Coroner) believes there is a need for gently opening up publication. Those at risk of suicide are aged 20-24, 40-49, 10-14 and 85 plus.

