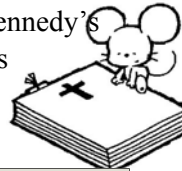




Snippets:

- **Lafulafu Ekenasio** represented APW at the opening of the national conference of the Catholic Women's League in the newly built St. Joseph's Church, Wellington—a beautiful complex shaped like a 'koru'. Approximately 200 women together with families and supporters attended the Mass of the Holy Spirit conducted by the Archdiocesan Chaplain. The theme for the 2006 Conference was *Church, Culture, Identity*. The special guest was the Hon. Annette King. The conference was 3 days.

- **General Assembly, APW representatives** will be Mary North and Julia Buckingham and Natalie Watkin will be a member of the local arrangements committee.
- **Fellowship of the Least Coin.** If your group supports this organization, please check your container for 5c pieces, and ensure they are banked by the end of October.
- **Please note** Heather Kennedy's change of email address jhkennedy@xtra.co.nz



KIRSTEN BEVIN, recipient of Conference Thank Offering writes

It was such a pleasant surprise to receive your letter. I want to thank the Association of Presbyterian Women for taking an interest in and supporting my plans to teach music in Vanuatu next year. Please pass on my thanks for the generous donation towards my work.

*Your support is really encouraging and I know the students at Onesua will benefit from this money which will be put towards purchasing instruments for the school. I am really excited about my plans for next year and feel really blessed to have this opportunity and to be supported by so many people. Thank you again.
Kind regards, Kirsten*

Honouring the Past and Embracing the Future:

Recently I was given *A Braided River of Faith Vol. 3*. As I delved into the stories recorded in this volume I was once again deeply impressed by the stories of women's loving service, faithfulness in prayer and dedicated action. The APW is part of a long history of women's work in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before. Let us value the people and the tradition from which we come, honour those who have gone before us and embrace the future with confidence that God will provide all we need. Read Paul's prayer for his readers in Ephesians 3:14-21 (You may like to use 'The Message', Eugene Peterson's translation). When you pray give thanks for:

Those who have gone before us preparing, guiding, loving and praying.

Those who are currently in positions of leadership as they work to find meaningful ways to move forward.

Ask that God's Spirit will be at work within us as we journey into the future.

Gladys Mead

(For those in Co-operating Ventures, please alter the wording to include your partner churches)

Resources available from Margaret Clow:

- Copies of the new APW Guidelines/Constitution (No charge)
- New Book of Devotions \$10.00
- Centennial Harvest Field \$5.00

All cheques to Margaret Clow & Diane Croft should be made out to APW

SPECIAL PROJECTS 2006/2007

New Zealand Focus The Stroke Foundation

Stroke is the third highest cause of death and ongoing disability in New Zealand and the Stroke Foundation, which celebrated its 25th year last year, set out to '*reduce the incidence of stroke and gain and provide the greatest benefits for the stroke-affected community to improve their quality of life*'. There is a National Council and four Regional Councils while 70 Stroke Clubs throughout NZ offer support to those affected by stroke. Mark Vivian, CEO of the Stroke Foundation writes "*I am very pleased to have the support of the APW/MWF Project sponsorship over this year. It's going to assist us a great deal, increasing the awareness of stroke – its preventability and the specific issues for young people.*" Funds raised will assist with the production of new educational resources.

Overseas Focus – East Timor

East Timor, or Timor Leste, is one of the most seriously impoverished countries in our region. Christian World Service supports the work there of a group of Timorese and Filipino Dominican Catholic Sisters who care for a group of young people, teaching them sustainable food production including fishponds and organic vegetable gardens, and who also run a training programme in Dili for unemployed young people. They will need support for some years yet and the money we raise will help maintain this support.

Leatrice McIntyre

APW/MWF groups should receive resource packs
in September

Regional News



Operation Cover up:

St. Philip's & St. Andrew's, Birkenhead ask – Are you knitting too?

Our APW in Birkenhead picked up knitting blankets three years ago. Many other women's groups have joined us since. The knitting needles are moving fast. Every year our group has been able to send more than 30 blankets to the Ukraine, plus warm clothing and other necessities. It is amazing how the ball started rolling and now people in eighty towns in NZ are knitting blankets. Last year a 40ft. container was sent to the Ukraine and a 20ft. container to Moldova. It all started with a little boy called George who was sponsored by Liz Clarke of Taupo. When she visited the orphanage she was appalled by the poor conditions for the children did not have enough clothing or blankets to get them through the very cold winter where temperatures sometimes fell to -20°C

Knox Women's Fellowship, Whakatane recently sent four crocheted rugs to North India to Sano Diyo – 'Little Lighthouse', a family home for abandoned girls, which was set up under the auspices of I.N. Network. Arpana and Prasanna Khaling, house parents, visited Knox in 2005 and made a lasting impression. It is the desire of Knox to supply a rug for each of the 18 girls currently in residence. In July Knox hosted a successful 'Hymn Sing'. A good attendance from neighbouring churches swelled numbers and they rejoiced in singing old Hymns of Faith. Friends from the Salvation Army provided an organ recital, and tenor soloist. A happy, noisy afternoon tea followed.

Margaret Gurr

Rangiora ... Recently 40 women from various church women's groups in Rangiora, Woodend and Cust came together at the John Knox Centre to hear John and Lesley Holden speak of their work as missionaries in Japan. John presented an interesting power-point presentation while Lesley spoke of the work they have done in recent years helping to repair small Christian Churches in Japan to give them a new lease of life, and the people they have come to know through this work. Lesley also ran cooking classes and card making classes. The Holdens are about to retire so they are travelling round N.Z. to thank those who have supported them for 15 years. This is an annual event in Rangiora which is hosted by Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican and Roman Catholic Groups. **Annette Paterson**

Church Celebration - 135 years Marlborough

A special service was held which included the baptism of two little girls who are descendants of the first couple married in the church, Alexander and Annie Sharp. Our church historian, Thelma Feist, with the help of Women's Fellowship members staged an historical pageant. Descendants of the founders of the church and the outposts of Ruakopātuna, Tūturumuri and Burnside spoke briefly of their families' involvements with the church. Narrations were inter-spersed with little skits, such as measuring out the site for the church; the first Sunday School when '*Hear the Pennies Dropping*' was sung; and the preparation for a bazaar with goods prices at 1/-, 2/6 and 10/- The celebration looked to the future with the singing of '*God who sets us on a journey*'.

Did you Know?

Throughout the Bible significant events in history and culture of the Israelites occurred on mountains.

What happened at:

Mt. Nebo (Deut 34.1)?
Mt. Gilboa (2 Sam 31.1)?
Mt. Tabor (Judges 4. 6-15)?
Mt. Ararat (Gen 8.4)?

St. David's, Palmerston North

APW Night Owls combined with Godsown (Sunday School) to take a combined All Age Worship Service with the theme 'The Family of God'. The Grandparents raising Grandchildren project was introduced and the congregation responded very generously to the coin trail. As a follow on we were able to connect one of our Night Owl members, who is raising two teenage children, with the GRG Trust. In July, the Night Owls compiled resource material for Diversional Therapists and Recreation and Activity Rest Home Officers. These clear files will be given to people who have connections with our congregational members who are in care. This idea was seeded at the Presbyterial February meeting where we were challenged to make one clearfile. This is now being circulated to each parish. We took the pages from old calendars and put an inspirational verse on them. Even humorous short poems were included as well as autographs and Iona blessings. It is amazing what the members turned up.

Marjorie Empson

My thanks to contributors.
Space necessitates some abridging.
Copy closes 15th every month.
I look forward to your news.
Nan Burgess - Editor