

Gleanings



Reflection

“Small is beautiful” is such a reality. How many times have you been surprised by the ‘small’ this past week – a visit, a phone call, beauty in the garden, a new recipe, an affirmation...? Lovely occasions, and part of the joy is in being able to share the “small surprise” with others.

One of the surprises this past week has been awareness of a number of resources available to all readers of “Gleanings”. The gift of Shirley Murray’s new book of hymns is a delight. *Touch the Earth Lightly* introduces us to a number of composers and new tunes, and offers lyrics which are a treasure in themselves. They offer personal reflections that challenge and stretch the mind – spiritual meditations that are devotional material for meetings. Listen for the strong, encouraging, confident note in *Simply to Be*.

Simply to be, to be in stillness,
simply to trust that God is here,
simply to know the Holy Presence
is to be blessed:
so am I blessed.

simply to hold the given moment,
simply to lay concern aside,
simply to let the heart be speaking,
is to be blessed:
So am I blessed.

So am I blessed within God’s keeping,
so am I freed from pointless stress,
steadied to feel the soul replenished,
given this grace
folded in peace.

(quoted with permission) -Nan Burgess

Other Resources: The earlier publication of the Spring Resource was met by an enthusiastic response from APW groups. Now, another Christmas Resource is available. It is entitled *The Star of Bethlehem*. So hurry to contact Lois Diaper.

Throughout the year expectation of the celebration of one hundred years of mission in North India has been quickened. Our Indian visitors have come and have returned and some have been thrilled to meet with them. In late September the Rev Doreen Riddell met Mrs. Kamla Singh and her husband, David and Drs Cecil and Nayana Harrison of Jagadhri Hospital at Auckland Airport. Over the next three days many people had the pleasure of hearing about the work being undertaken in St Thomas School and Jagadhri Hospital.

Kamla shared some experiences at St Thomas School, including learning teaching skills under the then Principal, Doreen Riddell. Members of the Waikato APW and others interested in the work of St. Thomas were delighted to hear first hand information. The special interests of Drs Cecil and Nayana Harrison were catered for in a visit to Waikato Hospital and the School of Nursing. Arrangements also included interviews at the local community radio and media. In the evenings the Indian visitors shared meals with people who had been closely involved through the years with the work of the New Zealand Presbyterian Mission in India.- Gladys Mead

A flight to Christchurch provided opportunity for our visitors to note the place from which Dr Porteous, the first missionary to India from PCANZ set forth. A morning gathering offered more intimate time with those who had earlier served in India - Lorraine Saunders, George and Neroeli Chisholm, Betty Roxburgh, Dr. David and Rosemary Troughton – organisers of this part of the schedule – and Murray

Laugeson. Another guest was Jean Beattie who with her husband Hugh was instrumental in beginning *Friends of Jagadhri*.

In the evening a special multicultural service of worship was celebrated in St Paul’s. Hundreds attended this special service which combined song and dance and revealed something of our cultural diversity. - Isobel Probert

From Christchurch our visitors were flown to Wellington to attend a special reception hosted by His Excellency the Governor General. On 1 October. This was an occasion of beautiful saris, happy smiles, a continuous buzz of conversation and laughter, renewed friendships as earlier missionaries and their families met our guests. APW was represented by Heather Tate and Jill Little. General Assembly followed where our guests spoke of the valuable contribution that Presbyterians have made in the lives of Indian people. Mrs. Kamla Singh especially thanked the women’s organisations over the years for all the support provided.

To mark this historic occasion a special resource has been published. *Light and Love - One Hundred Years in North India* has been compiled by the Rev. Doreen Riddell on behalf of Friends of Jagadhri and Global Mission. This is a book every congregation will find informative and valuable. The imaginative use of photography unites readers again with people for whom they have prayed over the years; and complements the carefully-prepared text. It is a great read which brings back the past and points us forward in our partnership with the Church of North India.

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to Leautulilagi Sauvao who has successfully launched her first book, *Solo o Sulatoga*. The launch took place on 20 September at PIC House, Porirua. It was a day to remember and all felt overwhelmed by the blessings of the Lord. Leautulilagi's family, Whitireia staff, members of the community and children shared this milestone. The book documents the author's passion for writing in Samoan and her intimate knowledge of fine mats. The

solos of Sulatoga embrace the most precious fine mats of the Samoans, and this book is an initiative to lead forward for Samoan mothers and daughters in the presentation of fine mats. Indeed, the solo to embrace the Lord's grace and glory for a gifted mother and sister in Christ. La manuia le galuega! La manuia le Tusi ma lona faitauina!

– **Faaolataga Leasi.**

2008-2009 Project

By now parishes will have received resource material concerning the 2008-2009 Special Project. Please correct a tiny error in the resource for Lauru. In the first paragraph the Helena Goldie Hospital and the Helena Goldie College are wrongly located. They are situated in Munda

General Assembly:

Assembly began with a most joyous and inspiring Induction Service of the Rev Dr. Graham Redding, our new Moderator. Speaking rights in Assembly have changed and no longer can APW speak as of right. Speaking time is allowed when presenting a recommendation, and Heather and Mary took full advantage of the five minutes they were allotted! As a result several women asked to become members of APW.

As part of the Global Mission section of the programme, APW presented the following recommendation:

1. *That the Assembly acknowledge the serious challenge HIV/AIDS poses to health in New Zealand and the Pacific, and commits the PCANZ to address issues of poverty and gender equality which are major factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS.*
2. *That Assembly support the initiative of the Association of Presbyterian Women and the Global Mission Office to increase understanding and awareness of HIV/AIDS among church members and the wider community in New Zealand and the Pacific.*

The vote in favour was passed unanimously.

HIV/AIDS infection rates have increased in Oceania and the potential for epidemic growth in the Pacific is very real. The Christian church in NZ and the Pacific has an important role in responding to the pandemic and preventing further spread of the virus. The world needs Christians who be-

come the people of God providing compassion, love belonging and hope to sufferers, families and carers. - **Heather Tate.**

Resource: This year, in conjunction with the Global Mission Office, a revised HIV/AIDS brochure has been printed and copies will be distributed throughout NZ. Mary asks that you make yourself familiar with the brochure and distribute and use it within your own areas of connection. Copies have also been sent to Ecumenical Women in New York, of which APW is a member and to other contacts made through the work of APW at the Commission on the Status of Women.

Availability of Resources:

Touch the Earth Lightly - Epworth Books. Cost \$36.00

Light and Love, Global Mission Office, 1/22 Station Rd, Otahuhu, Auckland 1062. Cost \$20.00

The Star of Bethlehem, Lois Diaper, 7 Wordsworth Place, Stoke, Nelson 7011, Cost \$1.00 posted, or free on line at elljayd@clear.net.nz
Stamps are acceptable as payment.

Sola Sulatoga, Mrs Leautulilagi Sauvao, c/- PIC House, Christ the King, Porirua.

Special Project, Rae Simpson, 12 Kotanui Ave, Army Bay, Whangaparoa 0930, l.r.simpson@xtra.co.nz

HIV/AIDS Brochures, Mary McIntyre, 18 Hall Rd, Bannockburn, RD2 Cromwell 9384 or bbmacs@xtra.co.nz

Snippets

- The MWF Convention was recently held in Hamilton. Mrs. Vaotane Sale'upolu was elected President with all Samoan members making up the new National Executive which will be based in Auckland. APW wishes them well as they hold office and we look forward to continuing our close ties with MWF.
 - The Very Rev Pamela Tankersley very graciously stepped down from being Moderator at General Assembly. Her message of "Christ – Centred, – Community-Facing" influenced the vision for 'mission' across the Church in a positive way. General Assembly expressed its recognition of Pamela's hard work and achievements with a standing ovation.
- **Heather Tate**

