

Gleanings

The Journey of Life.

Innocent and oblivious is how you start off

A bundle of joy full of sweetness
Adorable and exquisite, God's priceless gift

So cute and precious unaware of the dangers.

Wild and curious is the next stage.
Ready to experiment, not caring of consequences.

Impulsive and impetuous,
young stubborn know-it-alls ungrateful,
with selective hearing
Facing the world.

Passion and love is there to find.
It is an angelic paradise a unique treasure

Blessed and elevated
Love is life's gift. This you cannot miss,
Find it and cherish it

In this journey of life, it is beautiful,
But a struggle. In this journey of life,
Every moment is priceless,
Every day is precious
because every heart beat stops one day.

- Aroha Pirere, Year 13, TMGC, 2006



It Began in a Manger

It all happened in a most remarkable moment.

A moment like no other. For through that segment of time a spectacular thing occurred.

God became a man. Divinity arrived. The omnipotent, in one instant, became flesh and blood. The one who was larger than the universe became a microscopic embryo. And he who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl.

Mary and Joseph were anything but royal. Yet heaven entrusted its greatest treasure to these simple parents. He looked anything but a king. His face, prunish and red. His cry, still the helpless and piercing cry of a dependent baby.

Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. This baby had overseen the universe.

Christmas Greetings to one and all
from the Gleanings Committee.
We hope to hear from you early
next year!

The rags keeping him warm were the robes of eternity. His golden throne room had been abandoned in favour of a dirty sheep pen. And whispering angels had been replaced with kind but bewildered shepherds.

Curious, this royal throne room. No tapestries covering the windows. No velvet garments on the courtiers. No golden scepter or glittering crown. Curious, the sounds in the court.

Cows munching,
hooves crunching, a

mother humming, a babe nursing.

It could have begun anywhere, the story of the king. But, curiously, it began in a manger.



- Abridged from 'The Gift For All People', M. Lucado p.21

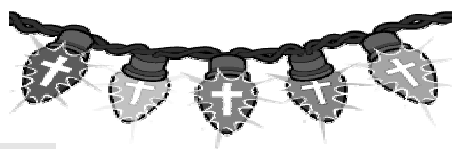
Snippets

- On 2 December, June Welton leaves New Zealand to teach pre-school children at St Thomas School, Jagadhri, India. There are 300-400 children. June will be the sole white-skinned person in the city, and our prayers are sought for June. Her visa is for six months.
- St Francis of Assisi was the topic of an address given by Mrs. Dulcie Parkinson to St David's APW Night Owls, Palmerston North in October. Mrs. Parkinson, who is a Companion of the Society of St Francis, described the beginning of the Society of St Francis.
- Sister Jackie Ryan, a Dominican Sister and regional representative of Christian World Service, was the speaker at the Regional Gathering of Waikato APW/MWF in Cambridge. Jackie was a member of the New Zealand Group who went on a pilgrimage in 2006 to celebrate 800 years of the Dominican Order. Their journey started in Spain, and travelled through France into Italy. Maps, stories, and photographs enlivened the address.

National Co-ordinating Group

The new NCG met in Christchurch in the middle of October and were well looked after by the parish of St Mark's, Avonhead. Diane Croft was keen to travel to Christchurch to complete her task as Treasurer so it was disappointing for her and us that she was not well enough to make the journey. Please continue to pray for Diane and her family. With Diane's resignation the NCG formally agreed to the appointment of Jocelyn Hannay as National Treasurer. Jocelyn was welcomed with much appreciation.

Jocelyn writes: "Although I live at Foxton Beach I have been a member of St David's Presbyterian Church, Palmerston North for the last thirty years, twelve of those as Church Treasurer. During my working career I have worked in Accountants' offices and a legal firm. I am happy to assist APW in the interim."



NCG VACANCIES

The NCG received two resignations effective from April 2008.

1. Alison Linscott with her heart for mission relinquishes her position having served APW passionately for four years. The role of Mission Convener was detailed in the November Gleanings.
2. Heather Kennedy as Resources Convener moves on to serve in a national chaplaincy role with Girls' Brigade and to complete her Masters Degree plus continuing to serve the church and community.

We warmly thank them for their services to APW.

If you feel moved to be part of the team that continues to take APW forward this century, we really look forward to receiving your nomination.

It was a great joy to meet with the whole NCG team. On behalf of the team may you and your families be blessed with love, joy, hope and peace as you celebrate the birth of Jesus. May these blessings overflow as you reach out and touch the lives of neighbours and friends.

Heather Tate

Study Grants

It was very pleasing to award eight APW Study Grants. The standard of applications was very high, and we wish all these women every success in the study they have planned for next year. The applications reflect their commitment and purpose in responding to God's call. APW can be very proud to have initiated this Study Grant. Congratulations are extended to the following recipients: Tala Page, Auckland; Ati tala Ah Yek, Otahuhu; Christine Hegan, Tauranga; Michelle Shin, Auckland; Heather Kennedy, Invercargill; Brenda Marshall, Feilding; Dellwyn Moylan, Ashburton; and Sonia Schlebusch, Auckland.

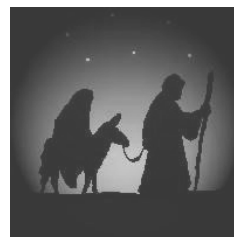
Small Is Beautiful

For thirty years the Waitahuna APW has been providing 'Soup 'n Savs' to the children at the local rural school. Initially, it began as a 'one-off' day to raise funds for our contribution to the APW Project for the year; but it has gradually grown to being once a fortnight over the winter terms (about eight times). It is a great way to maintain contact with the children and the school, and is appreciated by the staff as well! The children take an interest in what the project money is going to and enjoy helping with the serving of the lunch. Over the years we have raised \$7,194.

We have only 4-5 members these days, but on October 17 we were joined by several past members (who no longer live locally) and celebrated our thirty years by treating the children to jelly, ice-cream & a 'saveloy' cake along with the soup and savs.

Bridgebuilders:

This is a reminder of the International Conference in Taiwan, 2008. Please refer to the September Gleanings for details. Registration forms and information Sheet are available from Lynne Milne (09).2676744.



Turakina Maori Girls' College:

A donation from the Margaret Watt Children's Trust has enabled the award of four more scholarships this year. Quite often it is just through such scholarships that individual girls are able to continue their education at TMGC.

Term 3 terminated with an extremely good display of Maori cultural activities at the Regent Theatre, Palmerston North. The girls go from strength to strength, year by year. This has some very positive aspects.