



# Gleanings

No. 30—March 2008

Association of  
Presbyterian Women

## Welcome to 2008 ....

### Easter is with us!

Shrove Tuesday found people making, tossing and eating pancakes! Lenten Studies are in progress. World Day of Prayer is close. Special material is available. News of Regional Conferences in North & South Islands is welcome. 2008 is being celebrated in PCANZ as the centenary of missionary service in North India. The Knox Centre of Ministry & Leadership has begun the Church's new concept of ministerial training. **APW is alive and active!** Please pass along news of your activities.

Hello to Everyone,

Here's hoping you are enjoying long warm Summer days where you live. This APW year is promising to be a busy one with North and South Island Regional Conferences already in the pipeline! We begin with prayer for our journey through 2008.

Loving God, we who are pilgrims conscious of life's varying circumstances learn by faith to hold on to you. We know you will be in the future as you have been in the past.

We know you will lead us through all the tomorrows as you have led us through the yesterdays.

We praise you for standing with us, inspiring and guiding us Lord.

As we set our faces toward the new year we know that it will bring many changes. The old must give place to the new.

Time does not stand still, nor the world cease from turning.

You continue to guide us in our work. To suffer with your suffering in the world and rejoice with your rejoicing in the world.

Servant Christ in unity with the Holy Spirit, give us courage each day to stand upon our faith and give us wisdom and strength to fulfill our calling.

In your mighty name we pray.

Amen. Blessings **Heather Tate**

(Includes some prayers from—*The Prayers of Peter Marshall*)

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Charities Act 2005 requires all charitable entities to be registered in order to receive exemptions from paying tax on income; and gives such entities the right to issue receipts for tax rebates. To qualify, all registered organizations are required to close their financial accounts on **30 June 2008**. This means that all groups within PCANZ **must** close their books on 30 June every year. This regulation includes all APW groups at national, regional and parish levels.

### Other NCG News:

#### **To the Treasurers of all APW Groups/Presbyterials/**

**Regions:** Thank you to all who have forwarded funds to the National Treasurer. If any group has donations for the Prison Ministry in Thailand or for Jagadhri School, etc. these should be forwarded directly to the Global Mission Office, 1/22 Station Rd, Otahuhu, Auckland 1062.

Proceeds from the Mission Birthday Gift and sale of used stamps should be sent to your Regional Presbyterian Treasurer or our National Treasurer, P.O. Box 489, Feilding 4740.

## Regional News .....

Last November the **Wairarapa Methodist/Presbyterian Women's Association** held a Rally Day attended by sixty four women including visitors from Wellington/Hutt Valley. The guest speaker was Sue McCauley, Regional Co-ordinator of Healthy Eating Action. We learnt about programmes operating in the community in Schools and in Early Childhood Centres.

Our venue was Llandaff Function Centre, and after lunch and a look around the grounds, Robin Dunlop, owner of Llandaff, with his wife, Elizabeth, told us a little of the house which was built in 1880. An enjoyable time was had by all with a lot of laughter, fun and sharing.

- **Marion Chisnall**

**St. Andrew's Evening APW Group, Ashburton** held their final meeting of 2007 on International Volunteers Day. The Committee were recognized for the years of service each had given. There are eight on the committee and their total years of service was ninety-five years! The longest serving member is Betty Buchan with over thirty three years of service.

- **Dellwyn Moylan**



*'Heart of Darfur'* - Lisa French Blaker  
Hodder & Stoughton, London, 2007

This book is beautifully written by a New Zealand nurse who went to Darfur with the humanitarian group called Doctors Without Frontiers (Medicines Sans Frontiers). It is a book you can't put down except perhaps to wipe tears and reflect on what the story tells of the human cost of the terrible war that rages in Darfur and has done for over twenty years. With her wealth of experience and great determination, Lisa still found much to test her sense of purpose and faith in human nature.

Lisa is a realist with a gift of sharing her experience of people and events simply and clearly so that we can enter into her feelings of purpose when she gives a dying baby a drink of water that rehydrates it so that it lives.

This book helps us understand how people with inadequate resources can still perform what are miracles from nothing. Alongside unspeakable expressions of 'man's inhumanity to man', we see the dignity and determination of the people, especially the patience of the women. Don't miss the little boy's song at the end. There lies hope.

- Nancy Jansen.



### Kenyan Crisis - Urgent appeal for help

As the violence and civil unrest in Kenya continues, increasing numbers of refugees are fleeing over the border to Uganda. CWS partner, the Church of Uganda, urgently needs US\$60,000 to meet the needs of the Kenyans, mainly women and children, seeking a safe haven.

Already more than 2,000 refugees are temporarily sheltered in schools and churches at the border. Many more are staying with family and friends. The Church of Uganda needs to provide them with food, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, blankets, clothing, water supplies and sanitation services.

Christian World Service has already sent US\$10,000 from its

## RESOURCES

### 1. Special Project

#### *House of Passage, Brazil*

A 34 minute documentary about the House of Passage is available. If you wish to borrow a copy, please email Althea Campbell at - [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz) or write to P.O. Box 22652, Christchurch 8142, as soon as possible, letting Althea know when you would like to borrow, with an alternate date. Please also state whether you need vhs/video or DVD.

### 2. Study Material

#### *'Connecting with Young People'*

This material includes three guided sessions together with suggested material for further study. Available from PCANZ Office, P.O. Box 9049. Wellington, or from Heather Kennedy 175 Tine Street, Invercargill 9810. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

### 3. South Island Regional APW Conference

The ladies of the Presbyterian and Union Parishes in the Ashburton Presbytery are excited about hosting this conference **5-7 September**. The theme is *'Many Branches, one burning bush'*. More details will follow. Contact person is the Convenor, Dellwyn Moylan, 5 Oxford Street, Ashburton.

[dgmoylan@clear.net.nz](mailto:dgmoylan@clear.net.nz)

### United Nations Committee

Community Action Toolkits to Prevent Family Violence are available for use in APW groups and also in other community groups. I would like to encourage APW members to use both the information, and also to share the information with community groups. We can be very effective facilitators in sharing the message that *Family Violence is not Okay*, and in supporting the Prevent Family Violence Campaign.

**Community Action Toolkits** are available from FACS, P.O. Box 12.136, Wellington, or on these websites:

[www.areyouok.org.nz](http://www.areyouok.org.nz)

[www.familyservices.govt.nz](http://www.familyservices.govt.nz)

[www.nzfc.org.nz/communityaction](http://www.nzfc.org.nz/communityaction)

The theme for the 2008 Commission on the Status of Women session to be held in New York, 25 February-7 March is *'Financing the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women'*. Online discussions on this theme are already underway in preparation for the Session

- Mary McIntyre



emergency funds and is appealing for member churches and the general public to support the appeal so more families can receive relief and ongoing support.

The crisis began on 27 December, when Kenya experienced ethnic clashes following disputed election results. Official figures put the death toll at over 600 people and yet violence is still continuing as the two major parties have failed to reach a negotiated settlement to the crisis. This has resulted in a major internal and external displacement of 250,000 people. The situation in Uganda has been overlooked and the needs are becoming critical.

**To donate:** Phone 0800 7473 72 or go to [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

For further information contact: Jonathon Fletcher, National Director. Ph. 021 254.0814

This year there will be twenty-four students under the oversight of the Knox Centre. Discussion has been held with the Principal regarding the place of our Student Support Scheme. He, the Rev. Dr. Graham Redding, is most impressed with the work of APW supporting ordinands in training and thinks we will be able to continue our support, though in slightly different ways.

Those of you who support students still in Dunedin will continue with the same students. As well we will be looking for your traditional support of money and children's clothing (under 10 years old). No more adult clothing, blankets or other goods thank you, as we are no longer able to cope with the distribution. We will still welcome

Harvest Thanksgiving contributions and see they are distributed.

Please contact Elizabeth Peterson, 407B Kaikorai Valley Road, Dunedin. Phone 03-453.4752 about delivering these. Those who live near those in the internship programme will be asked to deliver goods direct to their ordinand family. You will hear direct from us when we have details about them.

When sending parcels to Knox Centre or money to ordinands please send them to Elizabeth so that you will get an acknowledgement and a receipt. This request is made out of long experience!



Last year we were able to pay out \$4,900 in grants for general purposes, travel, and firewood, plus around \$2,000 for food vouchers, power bills, dental and medical and optical expenses thanks to your generosity. Individual groups donated a further \$1,145.50 in payments to their nominated student families.

Once again our thanks for your wonderful generosity year after year. You are doing a great work and enhancing the name of APW to the future ministers of our Church. We wish you all every blessing for 2008.

**-Carol Pirie &**

**Elizabeth Peterson**

## **The Donkey Owner**

Snaffled my donkey, he did - good luck to him!

Rode him astride, feet dangling, near scraping the ground.

Gave me the laugh of my life when I first see them, Remembering yesterday - you know, how Pilate come

Bouncing along the same road, only that horse of his

Big as a bloody house and the armour shining And half Rome trotting behind! Tight-mouthed he was,

Looking he owned the world.

Him and my little donkey! Ha - laugh? - I thought I'd kill myself when he first started.

So did the rest of them. Gave him a cheer Like he was Caesar himself, only more hearty:

Tore off some palm-twigs and followed shouting,

Whacking the donkey's behind ... Then suddenly

We see his face.

The smile had gone, and somehow the way he sat

Was different - like, he was much older - you know -

Didn't want to laugh no more.

**- Clive Sansom**



It was a lovely night,

A night for weddings and for water

Going out into the cold glow he felt washed

And clean of people, The garden had an air

Of waiting about it, as if the leaves were bent

On eavesdropping. And the rain

Scented the air with more-than-midnight pain.

And the wet trees that had nowhere to go

Stood around and gazed at the One walking there below

In agony. Ebb and flow, to and fro, Yes and No;

Doubt assailed him. Which and what to do?

This much must be admitted,

We live between two worlds, faith and doubt,

Like breath. The air that ones breathes does not care

Whether it's in or out; it's not in love with life

Or death. And yet we do not dare to hold it long,

But must let go to find it again.

So with faith,

With love, with everything. Now at the cross-roads,

Middle and muddled he stood.

This was it. And it was night.

'Nevertheless Thy will be done.'

That thought made morning of it, gave him ease, and issue.

He knew now how to stay and stare it out

And already the torches approached the garden.



## **Nominations for APW positions for the P& A group and the NCG**

### **National Treasurer :**

Initially Mrs. Jocelyn Hannay agreed to act as National Treasurer in the interim. We are very grateful to Jocelyn who has now agreed to do a term in this position.

### **Mission Convener:**

Mrs. Rae Simpson has been nominated by Auckland Presbyterial.

**CV:** I am a retired minister's wife, after 35 years in ministry. As a couple we have always had an interest in overseas missions. I am a lay preacher, and am still involved in Presbytery.

I have been actively involved in APW for 37 years, much of that time, serving on local committees. I have served as president of both Bay of Plenty and Waikato Presbyterials, as well as Programme Prayer and Study convener in the final year before the new NCG was formed. For several years, I have been APW rep on various NCW branches. I was a Home Economics teacher and have 4 adult children and 9 grandchildren.

### **Resources Convener :**

Mrs. Lois Diaper has been nominated by Nelson/ Marlborough Presbyterial.

**CV:** Lois is a Retired English teacher and Adviser in English for Speakers of other Languages. Elder and Organist at St Andrew's Church, Stoke. President Nelson / Marlborough Presbyterial (2nd term)

Lois and her husband are active in The Friendship Force, which is an international organization aiming to spread peace through friendship. They enjoy this involvement and have hosted people from different parts of the world. Lois is a mother and grandmother.

**Endorsement :** We wish to endorse these nominations at the next NCG meeting 5 April. If any APW members do not wish to have these nominations endorsed please put your reasons in writing to the APW secretary

**by 31 MARCH.**

Heather Tate  
APW National Convener  
And Policy and Administration Group.



### **APW National Survey**

On 8 February the survey was sent to all Presbytery Clerks who will distribute it at their earliest Presbytery meeting. We are keen to survey our church women's groups other than APW. We wish to see if they are interested in affiliating to APW and meeting with APW perhaps once or twice a year regionally or within the parish and how we might do this. Please encourage your parish to complete the survey and return in the stamped addressed envelope by **1 April**.

### ***Launch of the Pacific Island Churches Campaign***

#### **Family Violence It's Not OK.**

At the end of November 2007 I attended the national launch of the Pacific Island Churches anti-violence campaign in South Auckland, accompanying our Moderator, The Right Rev Pamela Tankersley as her guest. Pamela felt it was very important to show support to our own Pacific Island Ministers who had gathered for the occasion. It is a sensitive and difficult issue for them and their families, but they were very pleased and encouraged to have an APW presence.

– **Heather Tate.**