



# Methodist Church of New Zealand

## Connexions - October 2022



### As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. The 5:11

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Encouragement is the act of giving someone support, confidence, or hope and every one of us will have had a need for another's advice at some stage of our lives. As a child to be encouraged to persevere, as a teenager to negotiate societal

rules, as a young mum who is bewildered at what is best for her newborn, and for the elderly, help with the fast-paced change of technology as postal and bank services move to only online and a smart-phone is required.

What happens when that encouragement is missing? *"What we have found is that walking alongside the rangatahi instead of directing them to do what we think is right is more effective long term and attainable. We have seen time and again that they need to be the ones who make the decisions that affect their lives and success tends to be higher when they make those decisions rather than being told what to do. Even when things don't work out as well as they would hope the emotional distress seems less severe and the rangatahi see it more as a learning experience rather than a failure."* Phill Hemopo Kairuruku Whare - Kaupapa Rakatahi

With encouragement and guidance, the rangatahi supported in our Youth Transition House can focus on their future without the persistent struggle to find food and shelter. They are given encouragement to make their own decisions, based on a foundation of knowledge and support from those around them.

The Mission provides advocacy with our Taituāra a Hāpori (Specialist Support) who assist the development of new skills, knowledge, and accessing resources and our Sustaining Tenancies provide support to individuals and whānau who need advocacy and encouragement. We walk beside those in need so that iron sharpening iron is an opportunity to fulfil the Law of Christ. The apostle Paul says that we are to carry and share the issues and burdens that we face daily.

The Bible has many passages for the encouragement of others. We are called to be Christ-like in inspiring others to be uplifted and guided. "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Jesus is the ultimate encourager, "Take Courage" he says more than once. Jesus told His followers, "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" ([John 16:33b](#)).

Like the Kuaka/Bar-tailed Godwits, who are returning to Aotearoa's shores this month, individually they fly the 12,000km between here and Alaska but are surely encouraged to go this great distance together. Andrew Crossland explains in the New Zealand Geographic "It makes sense from an energy point of view that they fly in a flock because the lead bird takes the pressure and the other birds are able to go in the slipstream."

Let us encourage and build one another, walking (or flying!) beside each other, like Barnabas, whose name means "Son of Encouragement" (Acts 4:36), and be a blessing to those around us, by encouraging victory over affliction and adversity.

The Māori proverb encapsulates Proverbs 27:17 **Kāhore taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini** – We cannot succeed without the support of those around us.

Please join The Methodist Mission Southern Supporters' Club.  
Be part of our story, our work, and our community.  
Contact Julie [julier@mmsouth.org.nz](mailto:julier@mmsouth.org.nz)

## Missions & Parishes

The Methodist Missions and Parishes have been active in their local communities since 1885 when the first Mission was established.

The work of the Missions continues to be upheld by work of volunteers and the support of Parishes. This Connexionalism is at the heart of being Methodist and all Methodist organisations.

In 1885 the Helping Hand Mission was established in Auckland by the Pitt Street Methodist Church. Sister Blakely was appointed to work with the families living in hardship in the inner city. An East Street Mission was also established with Deaconesses providing help and support to those in need.

In 1927 Conference combined these two missions and established the Auckland Methodist Mission and appointed Rev Scrimgeour as Missioner, who was 24 years old at the time. Rev Everil Orr was the Superintendent from 1933 and established the children's health camp at Campbell's Bay.

In 1892 the Helping Hand Mission was established in Dunedin, which later became the Bath Street Mission. Deaconesses and volunteers visited the sick and undertook work with street kids. In 1900, William Sinclair is recorded as the Superintendent at the Dunedin Central Mission.

In 1931 Rev Leslie Neale was appointed Superintendent and the Mission had a base in the Octagon. They organised annual children's health camps and Rev Neale made his first broadcast of the Radio Church of the Helping Hand in 1934.

In Wellington, a Wesleyan Day School for children was opened in 1846 and over had 146 students throughout that year. In 1903 a shop and cottage was purchased and turned into the Tory Street Mission which was supported by a deaconess and volunteers from Wesley Church.

In 1909 Conference agreed to establish the Wellington Central Mission and in 1910 Rev E O Blamires was appointed Convenor of the Mission. In 1947 the Wesley Church Trust and leaders resolved to develop social services in the Wellington region. In 1949, the Wesley Trust proposal to establish an eventide home was approved by Conference and work was started on 150 acres of land in Naenae that was donated. By 1955, the first residents moved into the newly built Wesleyhaven.

In 1914 a South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home was established in Christchurch with capacity for 30 children. By 1930 72 children were being cared for. Local churches provided harvest thanksgiving food and gifts for Christmas and birthdays.

The Christchurch Central Mission was founded in 1939 by Rev Gardner Miller, and in 1950 Rev Falkingham was appointed as Superintendent. In 1951 the Mission provided firewood for the elderly, as the 1951 coal miners' strike impacted on the community. 6,000 sacks of firewood were delivered and blankets, clothing, footwear and funds were also made available to people in need. In 1952 the Mission separated from the parish and became an independent entity.

In Hamilton, the Methodist Centre was opened in 1962 and was situated behind St Paul's Church in London Street. A new presbytery team at St Paul's promoted a more deliberate social service and the Hamilton Methodist Social Services Trust was established in 1983. Services provided included relationship counselling, social work supervision, community development, fostering links between churches, food parcels, foster care, work with Birthright, helping establish a hostel for at risk girls, advocacy for beneficiaries, and computer classes. In 1990, the Hamilton Methodist Social Services became independent of the Hamilton Parish but still worked closely with it.

Palmerston North Methodist Social Services Trust (PNMSS) started in 1963 as an extension of the local church in response to perceptions of gaps in the existing welfare services. Three founders were Rev George Goodman, Minister at Trinity Church and Chairman of the District, Merv Hancock, a member of the parish and the Manawatu District Child Welfare Officer, and George Baber, a lay Methodist with experience of statutory and voluntary welfare services, who was the first Director.

PNMSS organised holiday foster homes for children from Homeleigh, the children's home in Masterton, over the summer holidays. Children were placed in homes of the church members. Christmas hampers for families and elderly people associated with PNMSS was started in 1967 and this grew with a strong public ownership of the scheme.

In 1974 Bertha Zurcher introduced an intensive in-home support for families under stress as an alternative to placing children in foster care. This was much like the Mana Whānau programme offered by Lifewise and Wesley Community Action today.

Siaola is the Vahefonua Tonga Methodist Mission which provides services designed and delivered by

Tongans for the Tongan community and uses a Tongan framework to evaluate their work. Siaola was established in 2006 and provided education and training expos. They now provide a wide range of services including prevention of family violence, financial literacy, and health programme.

Sinoti Samoa first reported to Conference with other social services in 2010 when a new committee was established to look at social issues challenging the Samoan community. Sinoti Samoa provided workshops to prevent family violence in 2011 in response to an identified need in the Samoan community and in 2013 these workshops were expanded to include anger management and suicide prevention.

A newly structured mission was rebranded in 2014 as Puna'oa o le Soifua Manuia it promotes healthy eating, establishing vegetable gardens, teaches CPR, and encourages parishes to be prepared for natural disasters with survival kits.

Our Methodist Missions were established by a Parish in response to a recognised need in their local community. The early Missions were heavily reliant on volunteers and Deaconesses. Today, our Missions still benefit from the work of volunteers and support from local Parishes - this is connexionalism in action.

Connexionalism is at the heart of being Methodist and at the heart of all Methodist organisations. It is fundamental to how we understand our Church and how we relate to each other. The essence of being connexional is the sense of belonging, mutuality and interdependence. Our connexionalism empowers and enables us to respond collectively to national issues like the housing crisis. Our connexionalism enables us to easily share our knowledge, skills, resources to undertake the Church's mission and to work towards a just and inclusive society in which all people flourish.

If you would like more information about how you can support your local Methodist Missions, check out their websites or contact me.

Carol Barron, National Coordinator

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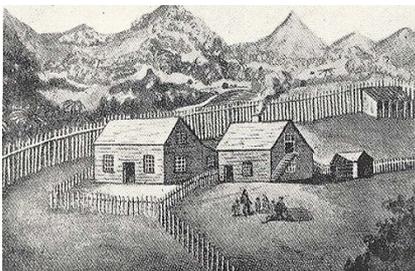


## Climate Talks

The next global climate change talks, COP 27 begin on November 7

CWS will be sharing background resources and material from the ACT Alliance climate justice campaign. Follow CWS on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for more information or contact Lily to be on the mailing list.

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## Amazing Love / Aroha Kaiora

A new play which brings the past to life in a fresh, relevant and creative way.

*A tale of dreams, tikanga, war, fundraising, ship-wrecks and Jesus down-under. Catherine was the first European-trained mid-wife to arrive in NZ saving her husband Samuel's life on more than one occasion!*

Wesleydale through the eyes of Catherine Leigh is a short play written for the 200th anniversary of Te Hāhi Weteriana. It commemorates the first Methodist missionary team to arrive in Aotearoa - Rev. Samuel Leigh and his wife Catherine.

Written and directed by Geoff Allen, kaiarahi of Pitt St Theatre, author of "Sister Anzac" and "The Fairies of Down Under & other Pākeha Fairytales". From an idea by Dr. Helen Laurenson.

Performed by Marion Prebble and John Goudge.

**AUCKLAND SEASON: PITT ST THEATRE, 78 PITT ST, AUCKLAND**

Friday 4th November 7:30 pm

Sat 5th November 7:30 pm

Sun 6th November 2pm Matinee

Fri 11th November 7:30 pm  
Sat 12th November 7:30 pm  
Sun 13th November 2pm Matinee

Tickets \$20 / \$15 can be purchased by clicking on this link:

[Amazing Love / Aroha Kaiora \(iticket.co.nz\)](https://iticket.co.nz)

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**METHODIST CONFERENCE 2022 SHOW: KAEO KERIKERI UNION CHURCH, 144 KERIKERI RD,  
KERIKERI**

Fri 18th November 7:30 pm

All welcome, no cost – Koha welcomed

***He whakawhetai nui ki te iwi o Ngāti Uru mō tā rātou tautoko o tēnei huritau rua rau.***

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## Northland Pilgrimage – Anglican Methodist Dialogue

The Anglican-Methodist Ecumenical Dialogue Group has been in the Bay of Islands in early October, 2022 - making pilgrimage to a number of places of significance relating to our respective missionary beginnings.

We have been in Kerikeri, Kaeo (which marks the place of the first Methodist Mission), Waimate North (the Anglican Mission station), and nearby Mangungu (the Methodist Mission

Station).

Anglican co-chair, Bishop Ross Bay, noted, “It has been really good to understand the ways in which these two early Missions worked collaboratively for the sake of the Gospel, rather than seeking to compete over whose church people should join. We pray this spirit of friendship will continue to mark out the ongoing relationship between our two Churches.”

Methodist co-chair, Rev Tony Franklin-Ross, said, “It was great to explore ‘From whence we came’. There are so many common threads, not least through the close relationships of Anglican Samuel Marsden and Wesleyan Samuel Leigh, and Maori chief Hongi Hika.”

Though been in the planning for a couple of years, COVID delays meant it has appropriately coincided with the bicentennial of the first Methodist Mission in 1822, founded at Kaeo.

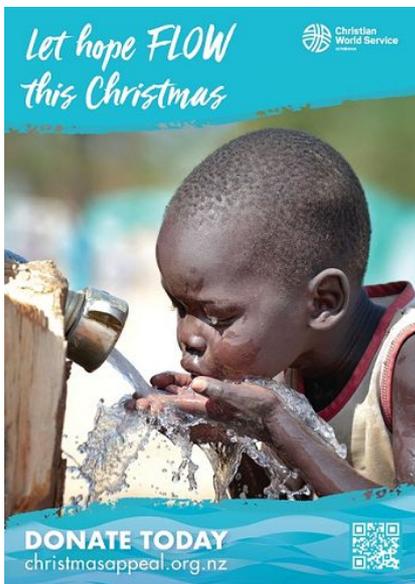
### **MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD**

Director: Rev. Tony Franklin-Ross

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## Christmas Appeal

Here in the Pacific and from Pakistan to East Africa, people are dealing with the climate disaster every day.

In this year's Christmas Appeal, we focus on training and tools that will help them in needs – starting with water. Our feature story is of young Caleb who lives with his grandmother after losing his parents to AIDS. He lives in southwest Uganda where he must trek long distances to collect dirty water for his family. Like so many others he needs clean water.

We will be sharing stories of hope from five of our partners in our Advent and Christmas resources for your church. This year worship material is being prepared by an Auckland Anglican team led by Ven. Carole Hughes.

Churches have been sent the Christmas Appeal pack. Please order resources using the information supplied. The Christmas Appeal resources will be uploaded to the [website](#) over the next

month, including short video clips that can be used in worship.

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## Relief for Pakistan

CWS has sent an initial \$40,000 grant to provide cash transfers and other support to some of the many people affected by flooding in the Sindh province.

Your donations are much needed in the weeks and months ahead as the water level slowly recedes. Read [more](#) about the situation and Tejan's story (pictured above). Thank you for your gifts to some of the 33 million people affected. Please

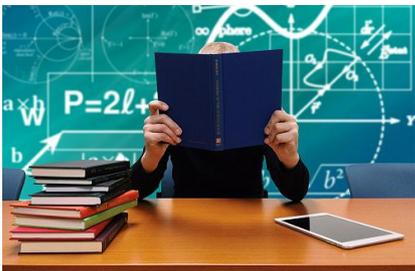
pray for Pakistan further gifts of support for the [Pakistan Flood Appeal](#), are very welcome.

### Choose Dream Gifts for Family and Friends

CWS is sending out the 2022 Gift catalogue to parishes and individuals this month. Four new gifts have been added to the selection. Funds received for the gifts are a donation to a programme supported by CWS. We will send you a beautiful gift card or e-card to send to your loved ones or friends. This year's featured gift is a Garden of Dreams supporting families like Luisa's in Tonga.

Order your gifts [online](#) or call Jordyn on 0800 74 73 72 for copies of the catalogue.

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## Professional Development Grants

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS COMMITTEE IS WAITING FOR YOUR APPLICATION ESPECIALLY FOR SEMESTER 1 2023.

**Close 15 November 2022.**

**Explanation.** For tertiary institutes that commence their **Semester 1** courses in the early months each year, the PDG

committee requires all applications for consideration by 15th November 2022. To the secretary [maryw@west.net.nz](mailto:maryw@west.net.nz)

The committee is aware that applicants do not always have all the details especially the expected cost per topic, **please do not let this put you off applying.**

**For new courses**-Please use the 2022 application form-this MUST include 3 references, one of which is from your Synod Superintendent. Please request references well in advance, preferably 2 weeks before the closing date.

**On going courses**-Please contact the secretary Mary West [maryw@west.net.nz](mailto:maryw@west.net.nz) who will advise you on the paper work that will be needed.

**Don't know what to study?** The secretary has a list of the 2022 study options and is happy to forward them to you.

**PDG** is available to both Lay and Ordained members of the MCNZ. **Presbyters- PLEASE** make good use of your paid annual study leave- many courses are now **on-line** so less travel needed!!

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## Pacific Conference of Churches visit Christchurch

Tuesday October 25 7:30 pm

CWS invites you to a presentation by Frances Namoumou and Rev James Bhagwan of the [Pacific Conference of Churches](#) (PCC) on Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 pm at the Aldersgate Centre. All are welcome. We are hoping to Zoom this event so watch out for details on [Facebook](#) or contact Jordyn at [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz) if you would like the details.

James and Frances will speak about the emerging theology, Reweaving the Ecumenical Mats that speaks from the Pacific context. James is the General Secretary and Frances the Programme Manager for the PCC.

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## Building a Climate of Hope:

an invitation to share your stories

The Religious Diversity Centre is co-ordinating stories from across diverse faith communities engaging with action for our environment. Maybe your parish or rohe has stories from the recent observance of Green Sunday or the Season of Creation. You can email your story to [admin@rdc.org.nz](mailto:admin@rdc.org.nz)

Please see the poster attached – you are welcome to put it on your notice board or social media. And send your story to share with others.

### MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

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Phone: 021-481 816 (Mobile)

E-mail: [mm-e@methodist.org.nz](mailto:mm-e@methodist.org.nz) [www.methodist.org.nz/mahi/mme](http://www.methodist.org.nz/mahi/mme)

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## Friendship Scholarship - NZMWF

For Pacific Island girls resident In New Zealand attending a New Zealand secondary school.

**CRITERIA** - the girls will be -

- In Year 12 or 13 during 2023
- Active members of a Methodist or Uniting Parish, within the Connexion of the Methodist Church of New Zealand
- New Zealand Citizens or have New Zealand Residency status

**Information & Application Form** are available on the Methodist web site by clicking this link: [www.methodist.org.nz](http://www.methodist.org.nz)

All the following documents are required:

1. Completed Application Form,
2. School Report,
3. School Reference
4. Reference from the Church Minister are required

References must be on one side of one headed A4 page

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 20 NOVEMBER 2022**

## Yearbook Updates

Details that have changed are in *italics*.

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