



Methodist Church of New Zealand

Connexions - September 2022



Covid - Great News!

It is with great pleasure I invite you once again to look at our Covid-19 Response Plan! I am delighted to say that there's not much to look at.

<https://www.methodist.org.nz/tangata/covid19/current/>

The basics are:

Traffic Light system has been removed.

Masks are only required when:

- In a health care setting
- In an aged care setting
- If you want to.

Only Covid positive people need to isolate at home

- Household contacts should test daily while there is a Covid positive case in the house

What we are keeping from our Response Plan

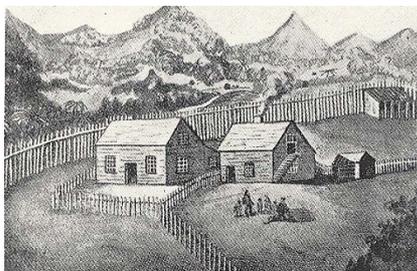
We still need to take some care.

- keep up with good hygiene habits
- stay home and get tested if you are unwell
- keep being kind, we are not yet at the stage of burning all face masks!

Thank you to everyone for all the care you have taken over this time, our efforts have saved many lives, but it is also timely to remember those that are no longer with us.

Haere ki te kainga tūturu, haere ki te kainga rangimārie. Haere ki te pō, ki te pō nui, ki te pō roa. Moe, moe, moe māi rā.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Nā Trudy Downes



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

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.

Details on how to reserve your seats will be in next month's Connexions.

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

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

Marie Smith
pp Friendship Scholarship Committee



The difference between living and just existing

There is a difference between living, just living and just existing. Many of the people the Missions work with are just existing on the insufficient income they receive – whether that is a benefit or a wage.

There has been an increase in the working poor, with people on zero contracts, and/or where the costs of living, especially housing costs have increased to such a point where there is very little money left over for anything else. Many people are just existing from day to day.

Housing costs account for 45% of expenditure for low-income households.[1] If you are renting, it is likely that you spend a higher proportion of your income on housing costs compared with those that own their own homes.[2] The number of households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs increased from less than 20% of renters in 1988 to over 40% in 2019.[3] The top 20% of households spend the lowest proportion of the outgoings on housing costs, while people who receive benefits spend the most.[4] Many people are just existing and struggling to meet the costs of housing.

House prices have risen at a faster rate than wages over the past five years[5] with the median house price in Auckland in mid-2020 being 11.5 times the median household income.[6] Because of rising house prices, home ownership rates have fallen to the lowest rate since 1953.[7] The Māori home ownership rates is 28%, Pacific 19% and European 57%.[8] The cost of renting is so high that overcrowding is common, and many houses are poorly insulated, damp, and unhealthy.[9] These factors and housing insecurity contribute to poor health outcomes, stress, and in some cases violence. When COVID-19, or other easily transmissible diseases are added in, this increases these already high health risks. Everyone should live in a safe, secure, affordable warm home and have enough to eat.

There are just not enough houses to go around and the number of households on the social housing register has grown from 3,549 in March 2015 to 26,664 in June 2022 – an increase of 651%.[10]

Many people on the social housing register are living in emergency housing, most commonly motels. These whānau are among the most vulnerable members of our community and life in an emergency housing motel is arguably better than living out of a car. In reality though, life in an emergency housing motel may mean you are surrounded by gang and drug activity, crime and violence.

We as a church need to use our resources wisely and address the housing crisis. Airedale Property Trust, Wesley Community Action and Christchurch Methodist Mission have built houses and rent these to households off the social housing register. Wrap around support services help these whānau to maintain their tenancies.

“My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.”

Isaiah 32:18 NIV

We acknowledge and appreciate what is already been achieved, however, we believe that Te Hāhi Weteriana has the capacity to increase our impact by being more intentional and strategic about how we use our resources. The draft Housing Action Plan identified opportunities and specific recommendations to do this. We have the resources, skills, and capability to make a difference for whānau – to help them on their journey from just existing to really living.

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

Carol Barron, National Coordinator

03 375 0512 | 027 561 9164 | Carol@MethodistAlliance.org.nz

[1] WEAG, Whakamana Tāngata – Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand, 2019, p39

[2] NZ Statistics, Housing in Aotearoa 2020, p11

[3] Ibid

[4] NZ Statistics, Housing in Aotearoa 2020, p52

[5] NZ Statistics, Housing in Aotearoa 2020, p11

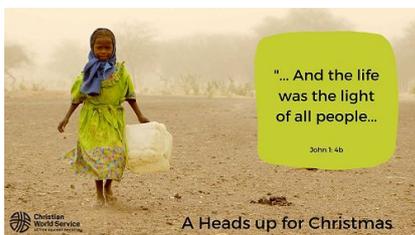
[6] Ibid

[7] WEAG, Whakamana Tāngata – Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand, 2019, p39

[8] Ibid

[9] Ibid

[10] <https://www.hud.govt.nz/research-and-publications/statistics-and-research/the-government-housing-dashboard/>

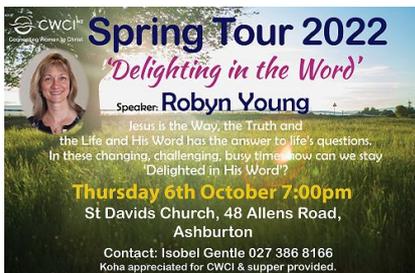


Heads up for Advent and Christmas

Thank you for being part of CWS, sharing messages of hope and inspiration in these very challenging times.

We hope you will join us this Advent and Christmas. Our focus will be on water – the urgent need for safe water and the harm caused by severe flooding and disaster. Resources for the

Advent season will include video snippets and slides as well as liturgical material for your services. Watch out for our resources in the mail and available next month as well as [Gifted](#).



Spring Tour 2022

Delighting in the Word

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and His Word has the answer to life's questions.

In these changing, challenging, busy times how can we stay 'Delighted in His Word'?

Thursday 6th October 7:00pm

St Davids Church, 48 Allens Road, Ashburton

Contact Isobel Gentle 027 386 8166

Koha appreciated for CWCI & supper provided.



Week of Prayer and Action for Israel Palestine

September 15 - 22

CWS encourages parishes and individuals to join the [World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel](#), to be observed September 15-22. The World Council of Churches is sharing resources on the theme "Faith, Hope and Love in Action:

Towards Justice in Israel and Palestine". Our partner DSPR is [participating](#) in the week.



Speak Out for Justice

Dalit and Tribal children in the state of Tamil Nadu, south India, are learning to speak out for justice thanks to your support for CWS partners.

Young women like Archana have escaped early marriage and are back in school. Children's Clubs organise street dramas to warn their community against child labour. Read [Speak out for Justice](#), our story for Spring.

Your donations will fund training programmes and support for children and young people to stop decades of exploitation and violence. Please support our [Spring Appeal](#) to turn hardship into hope.



Widening the community of our hearts

How often do we forget to celebrate how far we have come? "So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:10

Every month MMS shares stories of success and connection from our services in our newsletter. Sharing these stories not only with the public, but with those inside our organisation, we get validation of the why, colleagues who say, "that's nice to read, and it is a reminder of why I do this job".

Are we getting too busy to celebrate growth? No matter how modest or minuscule the steps are, it is the taking of a positive direction of travel that we hope for in our Youth Transition Houses; the humble steps taken toward a better future for our Sustainable Tenancy clients; the expansion of knowledge and skills for our early learning centre, Little Citizens; and short course attendees.

Henri Nouwen speaks of Inner Community "The wider the community of your heart, the wider the community around you." We create community by sharing our stories and we give thanks for the willingness to share stories that enable a connection between those of us who have such diverse and different backgrounds so that we can support each other with a commonality that provides a connection, an identity, and a feeling of belonging.

MMS services are focused on our client's goals, and it doesn't matter how far along the road to arriving at that destination, it may be only a single footprint forward to achieving those goals, we love to celebrate every measure of success. Big or small. We recognise the amount of effort to sometimes make even the smallest of changes; In the words of Seneca, "The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials" With each learning experience, we grow, develop a weightier skill set and become more resilient in ourselves and our ability to help others and this should be applauded.

Let us joyfully celebrate the wins not only for others but include ourselves in the jubilation. Conscious, positive affirmations that our direction of travel is forward, and whilst we are recognising the struggles of others, leaving no one behind, we must include ourselves. "The Apostle Paul stated: "For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1:6)

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



Opawa Methodist Parish

Is 125 years old in 2022

To celebrate this milestone all past and present members of the parish are invited to a celebratory evening on Saturday 24th September beginning at 7.00pm

A special commemorative Sunday morning service will be held on Sunday 25th September at 10.00am

Both events will take place at Opawa Community Church cnr Ainsley Tce & Opawa Road, Christchurch

To RSVP attendance or for more information please phone the church office on 03 3370092 or email admin.opawacommunity@Methodist.org.nz

Please RSVP by the 18thSept 2022



Week of Prayer For World Peace: an interfaith and ecumenical opportunity

The Week of Prayer for World Peace is an opportunity for people of all faiths to pray in their own gatherings or with people of other faiths for world peace. This year the Week will be observed between 16th and 23rd October.

A prayer resource has been produced by the New Zealand organising committee with prayers, readings and affirmations from many faiths to use each day. It has used the content from the prayer resource created by the Week of Prayer for World Peace multi-faith committee based in Great Britain. Religious

communities and interfaith groups throughout Aotearoa-New Zealand are encouraged to celebrate the Week both in our own observances and together with people of different faiths.

You will find the prayer resource attached in multiple formats so you can choose how you will print it yourself and distribute it, and incorporate into local observances:

- *Week Of Prayer 2022 - A5 6p.pdf*: 6 page A5-sized version with front and back pages
- *Week Of Prayer 2022 - A5 4p.pdf*: page A5-sized version with just the readings for the Week
- *Week Of Prayer 2022 - A4 2p.pdf*: 2 page A4-sized version with just the readings for the Week which can be printed double-sided and folded

There will also be a Facebook posting of the readings each day:

<https://www.facebook.com/WPWPNZ2014>



World Council of Churches - 11th Assembly

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches took place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from August 31 to September 8, under the theme "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity"

The WCC Assembly is the highest governing body of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and normally meets every eight years. It is the only time when the entire fellowship of member churches comes together in one place for prayer and celebration.

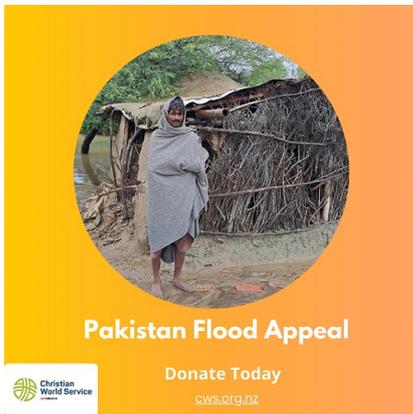
A WCC Assembly is a special time in the lives of member churches, ecumenical partners, and other churches, as it brings together more than 4000 participants, from all over the world. It is a unique opportunity for the churches to deepen their commitment to visible unity and common witness. This makes a WCC Assembly the most diverse Christian gathering of its size in the world.

More reporting will follow from the MCNZ representatives who participated in this event. In the meantime, Assembly News can be found at the links below ...

Full list of articles from the Assembly: <https://www.oikoumene.org/about-the-wcc/organizational-structure/assembly#documents>

Particular documents of interest include:

- [Statement on War in Ukraine](#)
- [Assembly presents minute on building peace on the Korean Peninsula](#)
- [Living Planet statement on seeking a just and sustainable global community](#)
- [WCC statement urges active engagement to resolve bring peace and justice to the Middle East](#)



Pakistan Flood Appeal

Last month CWS launched the Pakistan Flood Appeal to assist families who have lost homes and livelihoods.

The first mobile health clinics are assisting those who need urgent care in Sindh province. With your support our local partner Community World Service Asia will distribute cash transfers to those most in need. Priority will be given to families with young children, older people and those with disabilities or with single parents. In this way, families can use the credit for water, food, shelter, medicines or other urgent needs.

Earlier this month the World Health Organisation [reported](#) more than 6.4 million people were in dire need. More than 33 million people are affected and one third of the land covered in water. This disaster has been strongly linked to the climate catastrophe.

We are very grateful for the endorsement of this [appeal](#) by President Andrew Doubleday. A PowerPoint slide is available.

Please continue to pray for all the people affected by the floods and Community World Service Asia as it responds to as many people as possible.



WHS AGM, Dinner & Show

A reminder to all Wesley Historical Society members and friends:

The WHS AGM and dinner will be held on Friday 18th November 2022 at 5.30pm in the Kaeo/Kerikeri Union Church, 144 Kerikeri Road.

Registration required \$40 to Wendy Keir:

WendyK@Methodist.org.nz

To be followed by Geoff Allen's play at 7.30pm

Amazing Love - Kaiora Aroha

Wesleydale through the eyes of Catherine Leigh.

All welcome, no cost. Koha welcomed.



Epworth Retreat and Recreation Centre

Video: A year at Epworth

At the August meeting for Waikato Waiariki Synod, we received this interesting account of the Epworth year, and thought it well worth everyone having a look. Here is the link to the [Epworth Camp Report](#).

Yearbook Updates

Details that have changed are in *italics*.

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