



'River of Hope'

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city: it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. Psalm 46:4-5

The Presbyterian Women USA Triennial Church-wide Gathering in Florida was an amazing experience where we felt God in our midst and now feel refreshed and inspired. It was so much fun being part of an extended family of Presbyterian Women from throughout America with representation from India, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Canada, Lebanon, Czech Republic, Columbia, Cuba, Argentina, South Africa, Taiwan, Vietnam and Scotland. Connections were also found with women in New Zealand.

A special treat was to attend a workshop "New Life in the Church". We learnt about touching base with your community, creating a welcoming and transparent place which is easily accessible, making disciples not members, offering access to yoga and

dance, keeping an eye out for bright eyed passionate people, making things fun and following the seasons of the bible and spreading good news with balloons, lots of laughter and joy. Suggestions of good coffee and good coffee with Jesus on Facebook, churches are debt collectors but allow peoples talents to be shared. Offering good accessibility through technology and developing a 5 year plan of what all participants want.

Many of these things no doubt are happening in your Presbyterian Women's group but some will be new. Are there others in your community you can help or seek advice on how to include some new ideas. How many of your members can text or use the internet can you show them how?

With Gods Blessings of Hope
- Jan Harland

Braided River of Faith Vol. 4

Every person's story is interesting and unique whether it ever gets widely told or not. This book is a collection of 63 interesting and unique short biographies of Christian NZ women, which we are fortunate to be able to read, identify with, and appreciate.

Several of the women in this book are still working away at their various areas of service, and no doubt the book and the series will prove to be an invaluable social history for NZ and the Presbyterian Church. From the earlier books edited by Rev. Dr. Nan Burgess and published in 2002, 04, and 06, through to the new Volume 4, APW/ Presbyterian Women has done something very special for this country. The changing roles of women in society are captured here as well. We can be proud of this heritage and this collection.

The foreword is written by the Rev Dr. Graham Redding, Principal of Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, and immediate past Moderator of PCANZ. The official launch will be at Assembly in Rotorua Boys' High School, and all commissioners and everyone else interested are invited to join the occasion.

**The Assembly lunch break
Friday 5 October 2012**

Price to be advised

- **Judy Bedford**
Editor, Vol. 4

Congratulations to

Alison Linscott
(formerly National Missions Convenor)
has been awarded QSM for services to
the community

"Fellowship of the Least Coin" has a new convenor.

Denise George,
P.O.Box 5077, Christchurch.

Knox Church Intern Ministry

In years gone by Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand have supported our interns in various ways, (e.g. firewood, goods, clothing, etc.), however this is not necessary now that the Interns are no longer centred in Dunedin. However, another way we can support them is by way of a contribution to the books they need for their studies. Last year's Interns were very grateful for our support.

Please send your financial remunerations to:

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Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership,
Knox College, Arden Street.
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Women's Gathering in Myanmar

January 2012

In January 2011, Rev. Pamela Tankersley, Margaret Dewse and I had been privileged to celebrate the Presbyterian Women's Golden Jubilee with 400 women from across the synods.

One of the most profound moments for us came at the end of the weekend's celebrations when we asked the women to write down their hopes and dreams, prayers and burdens so that we could gather them up in a basket and lift them up to God. Margaret says she felt so humbled and privileged in that holy moment; to be able to pray for the cries of her sisters' hearts.

When Margaret and I returned to Myanmar with Marion Bowker and Clare Thompson in January 2012, we met again with 50 women from across four of the synods. For two days we shared in worship, food and fellowship as we heard what changes they had seen in their churches and communities following the Golden Jubilee.

This again was one of those profound moments as each woman shared her answers to prayer. We heard how in one local church there were now four women who had been recognised as lay pastors and could preach at Sunday services.

In another synod a woman had been

elected to represent her church at the synod assembly and was able to vote. One women's group secretary was asked to help set up health and hygiene workshops in her village, and

mother; another to be a theologian. After an hour of sharing we all prayed for one another, At the end of the day, the president described how encouraging the past two days had been, that it was the first time they had been able to hold a women's meeting without the involvement of men in the church. It had proved to them they could organise an event, with some amazing preachers and translators from amongst themselves.

There was one part in the afternoon when we had no translator, but with their limited English, my very limited Mizo and the help of the Holy Spirit, we were not only able to communicate but our hearts connected.

Once again this meeting highlighted how important and valuable our visits together are, that as sisters in Christ we have a responsibility to pray for and with one another and to support each other in the calls God has for us.

If you'd like to be on the next women's team trip, or to support the work of the Rice Bowl Mission, please visit our website or contact Angela Norton.



another to run the Sunday school programme in the church. There were many stories of healing and empowerment, and how they could see God working through them in their communities.

On the second day we had an afternoon of craft activities where Marion taught the women how to make crocheted crosses. Clare made paper German Stars, and Margaret lead a workshop on contemplative prayer.

At the end of the day, we had an opportunity to openly share with one another what we felt God was calling us to. One felt called to be a missionary in the Shan state but her family would not allow her to because of the danger involved. Another felt called to children's ministry but the lack of finances and resources prevented her from doing so. And another felt called to prayer, and to be a wife and

Rice Bowl Mission

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www.presbyterian.org.nz
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- Assoc. Presbyterian Women
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Turakina Maori Girls' College, Update

Following on our report in the May/June issue of *Gleanings* concerning the considerable upgrading needs of the Hostel at TMGC, we are very pleased to be able to bring an update on the situation.

The local Presbyterials (Manawatu and Wanganui) responded in their usual generous way; both groups and individuals, and we were able to outfit all the showers with curtains and non-slip mats. We have been able to give the College new bed linen. *Friends of Turakina* and the staff and

students at the College are all so grateful to the many groups and individuals who responded to this appeal, making it possible to fund these projects. There are many other upgrading needs in the Hostel, and we can now report that thanks to a very generous donation from the Manawatu/Wanganui Presbytery to this part of the Church's mission, we will now be able to hand over to the College a lump sum to assist with some of the other, only slightly less urgent needs.

Very many thanks and arohanui
- Jan Thomson

Snippets

- **St. David's, Palmerston North** held a High Tea with the hall being transformed into a Victorian Parlour. Magnificent hats were worn by the ladies; parlour maids served delectable cakes and sweet treats to the guests. A mystery guest arrived—it was thought to be the famous composer, Bach (maybe Roy Tankersley!). The event raised over \$400.00 towards the Project.
- **St. James Church, Whanganui** recently held a fund raising afternoon for the Project with the theme 'Mums and Kids'. Those attending brought their babies with them, and shared with us the interesting history of these dolls and teddy bears.

From the Gleanings Team

An offer has been received to be Editor of the *Gleanings* as from early next year. Thank you. Our records show that as a team, we produced our first *Gleanings* in July 2006.



• Women's Regional Day - Manawatu

Around 40 women from both the city and surrounding areas, gathered at St. David's, Palmerston North in late July to enjoy a programme with the theme 'Godly, Green & Gracious'. Devotions were led by Rev. Silvia Purdie and included three younger Mums who shared their personal experiences of 'Reaching out to God in the Fast Lane'. Prof. Flenley, an Anglican Deacon explained the worldwide movement of A Rocha which cares enough to be involved in projects rescuing God's creation from environmental abuse.

The afternoon offered three workshops; making greeting cards to be given to prisoners for their use; making floral sprays and miniature arrangements; learning hands-on about recycling and sustainability.

- **St. John's, Rotorua** have been knitting slippers for the hospice and the local rest homes. Their treasurer Joy Atkinson has knitted a large number of teddies which have been given to various charities.

- **Knox Dunedin** decided that as there was no group for women who are employed during the day. Email and personal contact was made with these women and as a result 26 women took part in the first full meeting. They have decided that the entertainment at each meeting will be sharing their



**Teddies knitted for Charity
by Joy Atkinson**

life stories. A group email, along with a smaller ringing list, is the means of contact in the future. Perhaps once they reach the end of the story telling trail, they might start again by sharing skills and teaching other members of the group.

- **St. John's-in-the-City, Wellington** have recently celebrated 125 years of recorded activity. 9 August 1887 'The Ladies Visiting Society' was born. This group became active at a time which historians call 'the hungry eighties'. The economy was in a slump; unemployment was high; Tarawera volcano had erupted; air would have been hazy from the fires to clear the bush to carve farms out of the wilderness in order to feed a family. In Wellington infant mortality was high. It was in these circumstances that the ladies endeavoured to 'minister' to those who may need help.

At a recent meeting to celebrate the anniversary, the Women's Assoc. watched the film 'Hook, Line & Sinker'; a NZ produced film capturing the story of a blended family who rally around to overcome their problems. A DVD including captions for the deaf and audio description for the visually impaired can be purchased by contacting Jeremy Macey - jeremy@torchlightfilms.co.nz

(This is a very good film to see)

From the Editorial Team

The team were so interested in the fact that St. John's, Rotorua had been knitting slippers for the elderly, that they have included a pattern obtained off the internet, but altered to overcome a few errors in the original pattern.

Adults Knitting Pattern for Easy Slippers with Cuff

Double Knit wool and 4.5mm needles

Cast on 45 sts

Row 1 Knit
Row 2 K7, P1, K29, P1, K7
Row 3 K17, P1, K9, P1, K17
Rep rows 2 and 3 15 times more (16 ridges)

Cast off 7 sts at beg of next 2 rows – 31 sts

Keeping pattern correct Rep rows 2 and 3 20 times (20 ridges)

Toe

Row 1 K2,k2tog across row to last 3 sts, end k3 (24sts)
Row 2,3,4 Knit
Row 5 K2tog across row (12 sts)
Row 6,7,8 Knit
Row 9 K2tog across row (6sts)
Row 10 Knit

Cut yarn and pull sts through. Sew up heel and slipper front. Add pompom if desired



**Material for the
November-December 2012
issue of Gleanings should be in the
hands of
Hazel O'Brien
hazmic.ob@xtra.co.nz**

***no later than
Monday 15 October, please***