

Over the months ahead I would like to share with you something of what I have found in various readings on Celtic spirituality. My findings have provided me with an approach to spirituality which I have found real and meaningful, simple and beautiful. I have found something older than current denominational divisions, an expression of what life means to me and how the teachings of Jesus, a Palestinian Jew of the first century, relates to me, my world and my life.

For the Celts, the mountains and the seasons spoke of God's constant care. The Celts knew God's love in the natural world, in other people and in their own hearts. The Celtic Christians did not perceive barriers between the natural and spiritual worlds as we tend to, the natural world sings with the energy and enthusiasm of life, and we can use it to teach us.

Birds are blessed among creatures in their ability to travel the three realms

of air, earth and water; in their flight they commune with the wind, an ancient symbol of the Spirit's movement. In the Celtic tradition, the wild goose came to be seen as a symbol of the untamed nature of the Spirit, as did the dove at Jesus's baptism. Spirit is the dynamic force that compels us to move on, to grow, to change and to find new life. It demands freedom to lay down our nets and follow the call wherever it leads us. It compels us to search for God, sometimes in the most unexpected places.

*Holy Spirit, free me from the ties that constrain, free me from the troubles that ensnare, lift me up that I might fly with wings like an eagle's, that I may run where you choose and not grow weary or afraid.*

- Mary McIntyre

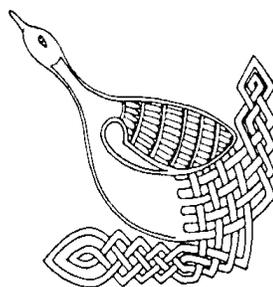
## Lorraine Saunders

One of the great missionaries of our Church, Lorraine Saunders, died in Christchurch in July 2010, aged 101. After attending Auckland University, Lorraine completed her training as a teacher before undertaking a short course at the Presbyterian Women's Training Institute in Dunedin. She was dedicated for mission service and was appointed as an evangelistic worker to the Punjab Mission in 1935. In India she served at Kharar and then Jaghadri. Lorraine returned back to New Zealand on furlough in 1941, but her return to India was delayed for two years by the war. She became manager of the Mashael Press in October 1958, and after a respite period back in New Zealand, returned to India in 1963 to take charge of Christian literature at Jullunar City. Lorraine returned to New Zealand in 1971 and

was appointed acting manager of the Presbyterian Bookshop in Christchurch.

In her retirement, she maintained a very active interest in mission work and helped raise funds for the rebuilding of the Christian Medical College Hospital at Ludhiana in India.

Let us give thanks to God for the life of this remarkable woman. Lorraine's funeral was held at Knox Presbyterian Church, Christchurch on Thursday 22 July. Messages can be sent to the Saunders Family, c/- P.O. Box 11-101, Christchurch 8443.



### NEW RESOURCES . . . .

#### 'Touch the World Lightly'

A play reading looking at the issues of climate change.

#### 'Christmas—How Relevant?'

These programmes are available free by email, or \$1.00 to cover printing and postage if mailed, from -

The Resources Convenor,  
Mrs. Lois Diaper  
7 Wordsworth Place, Stoke.  
Nelson 7011

Email: elljayd@slingshot.co.nz  
(please note change of address)

#### From the Missions Convenor

We struggle with change, but it is a fact of life. The closure of the Global Mission Office in Otahuhu seemed like the end of an era, but the work of PCANZ partnership in mission goes on, so donations for Friends of Jaghadri and other mission enterprises outside of APW can now be made to -

Global Mission, PCANZ,  
P.O. Box 9049, Wellington 6141

We wish The Very Rev. Pamela Tankersly well in her new role as PCANZ Missions Co-ordinator.



## BUILDING HOLISTICALLY FOR THE FUTURE

The special project packs are nearly ready to post to Presbyterians. It is our prayer that you find it helpful in understanding the plight of people in our own country who are struggling to become home owners, and the people of Haiti and their ongoing poverty which has been brought to our attention by the devastating earthquake in January 2010.

By the time our money is collected, the Haitian earthquake will be well past, but as a survivor of the comparatively minor Edgecumbe earthquake, I am only too aware that the trauma lives on. Let's not forget these people from the already poverty stricken country. If you want any help with the project please contact me.

- **Rae Simpson, Mission Convenor**  
[lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lestrsimpson@xtra.co.nz)

## Manawatu Presbyterian Regional Day - Saturday 14 August at St. David's, Palmerston North.

A very full programme was implemented, the theme being 'Precious Living Water'. 45 people were present and some had travelled a long distance. It was pleasing to see working women, and others who do not get the chance to attend an APW meeting, participate in the day. The Very Rev Marg Schrader expanded our thinking asking us to draw our chosen symbol of water. To this, we added words and colour to identify the qualities of the water. We related these to the spiritual Living Water and Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well.

Judy Seccombe, a Ucol nursing tutor, shared her experiences at Jagahdri Hospital where she assisted with the training of the nurses. A video 'Bitter Drink' portrayed the story of the Coca Cola Bottling Plant in India which was exhausting the local water supply. The villagers succeeded in closing down the factory. Sala Iosefa and Ivor Kaisami whose homeland is Tavalu Atoll Islands related how the rising sea affects the 1100 inhabitants. Many questions on this topic were answered.

In keeping with the theme, there was a demonstration and practical workshop on water colour painting conducted by Lynne Ramage, a local artist. Thirty-two sewing kits for Vanuatu were assembled with donated material, needles, cottons, dressmaking scissors and lace etc. Paula Levy whose family is stationed at Onesua High School, and returning in October, will be taking these gifts with her. Hand written notes were included in them, sending greetings from APW. Paula showed us photos of the family's work. Two local Girl Guides and their leader made needle cases for the kits. These young ladies earned their Community Action badge and were very interested in all the activities. Threading craft ribbon through a plastic canvass cross provided a memento of the day.

Other crafts were based on paper folding and the creating of envelopes and post cards.

- **Marjorie Empson**

## Snippets .....

- **Holocaust Buttons supporters,**

A million and a half thanks to all of you who have helped us over the last two and a half years.

The children and I are so excited about having completed this stage of the project.

It has really shown them what a bit of ambition, determination and a whole lot of help from your community can achieve. We'll now move on to the next step of raising the funds needed to build the memorial maze.

The staff and students of Moriah School, Wellington, NZ. Proud protectors of 1.5 million memorial buttons.

- **St. Margaret's Afternoon Fellowship, Silverstream.**

Upper Hutt is a small group. One of our members recently raised \$50.00 for the project by collecting 10c pieces. We were surprised how quickly this grew!

- **Mairangi Bay & Campbell Bay Parish**

are just one of the many parishes/organizations around NZ knitting for the 'Fish & Chip' babies. For those who are unaware, these babies are born into a world where there is absolutely nothing to wrap them up with, other than newspaper - hence the name given to them.

- **This year sees the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Work** in the Presbyterian Church in the Ashburton District. We believe this is a signifi-

cant occasion and something we should celebrate. A service will be held on Sunday 7 November 2010 at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church cnr of Havelock and Park Streets Ashburton at 2.30 p.m. This service is open to men and women. There will be an offering for the work of Ashburton Hospital Palliative Care. As part of the service the stories of the women in the parishes and Presbytery will be dedicated. Please bring a plate of food to share for afternoon tea.

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Phone 2088457

Dellwyn Moylan, Ph. 3086598

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- **St. Margaret's Evening Fellowship, Silverstream.**

Upper Hutt organized a mid-winter Christmas dinner for the congregation. People were encouraged to bring with them either a pair of men's socks or undies for the local Rimutaka Prison inmates. Even members of the congregation who couldn't make the dinner contributed and in the end 35 prs. undies & 58 prs. socks were handed over.

(If you would like to copy St. Margaret's idea, check with your local prison first - especially colours to buy!)

# Our land has become a stranger



## Gleanings deadline

Please note that Gleanings is published every alternative month with the deadline being the 15th of the month prior to publication. It is important that you get your information in **before** the deadline as the Editorial Team have numerous other commitments and need the information on time.

The deadline for the November/December 2010 issue will be

### Friday 15 October

Information to be sent to - Hazel O'Brien, 3 Moehau Grove, Trentham. Upper Hutt 5018.

Email: [hazmic.ob@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hazmic.ob@xtra.co.nz)

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**O LE MATAGI** (*The Wind, a poem by Naomi Tuitapa L Lemafua, PIC Porirua*)  
Matagi!

Matagi!

Se ese lava lau agi

E leai sou tino

Ae ete le sau faalilolilo

A e agi malie, ua minoinoi ai lau o le talie

A e ataata mai ua uma ai lota fia ai

A e agi faafisaga

E ua ta manatua le Tama Faaleagaga

A e agi faatuaolua

Ia talofa e ua feoa'i solo ai nai tamaloloa

A e agi mai o le la'i

Ua malu uma ai tino o tama'i

A e agi mai o le afa

Ua vevesi ma pisi solo ai le tafafa

E ua ta ofo i lou fai mea ofo

I lau ua pei e te tomumu ma e fa'auu

Ua e taia i lou tino ua pei oe o se vai

manino

I lou malu mai i si o'u tino

Faatofaina oe matagi i si au agiagi

Aua o oe lava o le isi ave feau paia o le lagi.

This quote by a Canadian Inuit was given at a July forum of Church leaders initiated by **vision** network (New Zealand Christian Network) in partnership with **UNITEC** NZ which I attended.

The quote may well have been echoed by millions of people in Pakistan, North India and China while in the midst of extraordinary weather patterns with unparalleled flooding plus unusual heat waves and wild fires in Russia.

Leading New Zealand scientists including experts in meteorology, global warming, renewable energy, the environment and global change, plus biblical scholars, leading sceptics and others participated in 'Clearing the Air' a climate change forum.

The following are either agreements made or some challenges/points made in the forum.

- God commanded us to care for creation.
- Care of creation is linked to the poor.
- Should we assume that polluters have a legitimate right to pollute. What about rights of the next generation?
- What are the likely costs of decreasing green house gases and what are the likely benefits? (or costs avoided)
- Billions of dollars in subsidies to fossil fuel industry. Removal of subsidies will make it easier for

renewable energy to compete.

- Can we think beyond 'self' and overcome **NIMBY** (windpower). Not In My Backyard and shift our thinking to **YIMFY** Yes In My Front Yard!!! Honour all who take part in dialogue.
- We were asked as Jesus asked 'Who is my neighbour?' Could that mean great grandchildren?
- Everyone agreed that our planet is warming.
- Most people listened to the scientific facts and concluded that global warming is human induced.
- An overwhelming impact of climate change on the world's poor: food scarcity, security; population; nutrition; disease & higher temperatures, more malaria & dengue fever; conflict and terrorism - water and land conflicts.
- Global change impacts e.g. species extinctions; changed timing of life cycle events on animals and plants.
- God's Spirit is still active in the world. Christ is the centre of all being.

At the conclusion of the forum it was agreed that a 'kit' be assembled including a CD of the forum and made available to Churches throughout New Zealand.

Details will be given at a later date.

- **Heather Tate**

### Braided River of Faith Stories

Keep those stories coming in. Judy has been tied up with other commitments recently, but she still wants you to send the stories into her (check her address details under the NCG list on page 4).

Pacific Island ladies, we want to hear from you too. Your stories are important too.

Those who have offered stories, please get them to Judy as soon as you can.



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## Report from United Nations

At the recent United Nations Committee meeting it was decided that the area of focus that the committee would recommend to APW groups this year would be the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

This Convention was adopted by the United Nations in 1979 as one of the primary international documents for the protection and promotion of human rights and it was ratified by New Zealand on 10 January 1985. Having ratified CEDAW, New Zealand is obliged to report regularly on the progress being made to ensure that the principles of the Convention are being applied. The New Zealand government will present its 2010 report to the Monitoring Committee some time in 2011.

Alongside the Government report will be a NGO report prepared by the National Council of Women,

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NZ. This report provides a way for New Zealand women to tell the government and the international community if and how they are discriminated against. Compared with other countries, women in New Zealand are fortunate in that discrimination is no longer codified in law but the far-reaching effects of social and cultural discrimination can still be seen. Capturing how things have progressed, regressed or been left unaddressed will be the task of the NGO CEDAW Report 2010.

The aim of the CEDAW Project 2010 organised by NCWNZ provides an opportunity for all women to voice their opinions, tell their stories and debate issues of mutual interest in all facets of life. There are several different ways women and groups can engage in the project.

To keep informed join the CEDAW e-group. If you would like to join this information group, please email [kjsmith@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:kjsmith@ncwnz.org.nz) and type CEDAW e-group in the subject heading.

- To debate the issues, attend a Regional Consultation Meeting. These meetings are open to

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### APW Website

[www.presbyterian.org.nz](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz)  
Click on -National Ministriesø  
- Assoc. Presbyterian Women

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all women who would like to participate at a local level. Local NCW branches can assist with times and places of these meetings.

- To have a say about discrimination make a Submission. Submissions can be written from the perspective of the individual or groups.

The United Nations Committee suggests:

- That if your group or a group of members is interested in the NGO CEDAW report, go to the NCW website [www.ncwnz.org.nz](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz) to follow developments. It may be that one member may access the website and then discuss with others. Further information about NGO participation at CEDAW sessions can be found at: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/ngo/cedawngo](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/ngo/cedawngo).
- That if your group or any members are interested in the Government's CEDAW report, it is available on the Ministry of Women's Affairs website [mwa@mwa.govt.nz](mailto:mwa@mwa.govt.nz) or by writing to *Ministry of Women's Affairs, PO Box 10049, Wellington 6143*
- That groups or members make themselves familiar with the CEDAW information and share that information with other women in parishes and communities.

- **Mary McIntyre**