



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

14th August 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21st August

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Ungemuth
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	D Phillipps
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT today 2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church, featuring beautiful vocal duets. Cost \$2. All welcome.

SYMPATHY - On behalf of the Mosgiel Methodist Church and the whole of the Dunedin Methodist Parish I would like to convey our sympathy and condolences to Rosemary Evans and the whole family for the death of her husband, Ron Evans. His death will certainly cause a tremendous impact on your family. It is our prayer that God will grant upon you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

FROM PARISH COUNCIL HELD WED 10TH AUGUST.

- Wesley church property sale is now with Edinburgh Realty. Deadline sale closes 8th Sept 2016. We hope there is more interest this time.
- Glenaven church will be strengthened in the near future.
- We have agreed to commit money towards strengthening St Kilda church to meet current building standards.
- Please note the new Snow Protocol posters.
- We'll have another look at our Parish Future Strategy on Saturday Sept 3rd 2-4pm. Almost there!

Hilda Hughson (chairperson)

OPEN EDUCATION - On Wednesday, 24 August, at 7.30 at Mornington Methodist Church, Colin Gibson explores the religious music written by the modern Welsh composer Karl Jenkins. Jenkins first made a world-wide hit with his stunning multi-media Armed Man Mass, an eloquent cry against war. Among much else, he has since written powerful and beautiful large-scale settings of the Gloria and Te Deum, a Requiem, a Stabat Mater and sets of delightful Christmas carols. Terry Waite described his music as 'a gift to humanity' for its interfaith character and its focus on world peace. Come and hear for yourself—and bring a friend (koha \$5). The usual 6pm pre-session meal (\$15) will be offered by Judy Russell (sign in or ring 455 3727 for your booking). Proceeds go to the Syrian refugee families now settling in Dunedin.

MOSGIEL LEADERS MEETING from last week has been postponed until a date is available for everyone to attend.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The August Meeting will take place on the 24th August in the Church (Please note) at 2p.m. The Guest Speaker will be the Rev. David Crooke (Rtd) - his subject - "Visit to Belgium". Leah & Helen will be the Hostesses (thanks to those who said they would help Judy - who will be in the kitchen). Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin. All Welcome.

PUBLIC FORUM - Otago University Centre for Theology and Public Issues

An Issue for Everyone: A Forum on Family Violence

Professor David Tombs and Dr. Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko

This Public Forum at First Church of Otago will explore the issue of family violence in countries around the world, including New Zealand, and will discuss the challenges that family violence raises for Christian faith and church ministry.

The forum will conclude with the launch at 5pm of *Christian Faith and Family Violence: A Report for Samoan Communities in New Zealand*. This is a new web-based resource on family violence written by Dr. Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko for the Centre for Theology and Public Issues. The launch will be followed by refreshments.

Further information www.otago.ac.nz/ctpi/news

Burns Hall, Sunday 21 August 4:00pm First Church of Otago
415 Moray Place. **ALL WELCOME!**

PHOTO FROM THE ARCHIVE - many of the women of the Parish will remember the occasion, March 29, 2014, and a celebration of the 50th Jubilee of the national MWF, a merger of what had been separate womens groups within the MCNZ. There was a very big turnout of women

at Mornington with a great showing of hats, with items and a great meal. Here is just one photo taken that day - Shirley Ungemuth, Dawn Herbert, Joyce Patton and Margaret Connor. You'll agree - four of the best !



MOSGIEL CHURCH MID-WEEK SERVICE, Wednesday 17th August, in the small hall at 2pm. All are welcome.

SUNDAY 14th AUGUST is St Mary's Mornington Patronal Festival. We are having a celebration of the Eucharist with the Choir from St Pauls Cathedral singing and Bishop Kelvin Wright preaching. The service is at 3pm on Sunday. We would love to have you join us for this celebration.

AN URGENT PETITION is circulating at all services in the Parish today calling on the NZ Government to take action to protest to Indonesia about their human rights abuses in West Papua. The following are the facts supporting the petition. PLEASE SIGN TODAY as the deadline for the submission of the petition is Aug 20. *Thanks. Siosifa Pole and Ken Russell.*

Over 3000 West Papuans have been arrested since May 2016 for exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. They were taking part in marches and rallies to express their hopes for freedom (merdeka) and to show that they supported the efforts going on outside the territory to ensure that West Papua is back on the international agenda.

Occupied by Indonesia since 1963, West Papuans are victims of ongoing human rights abuses, killings, torture, beatings, military and police intimidation, and gross neglect of basic services. When Papuans resist occupation non-violently they are labeled as 'separatists' and risk severe penalties under Indonesia's outdated treason and incitement laws.

It is time for New Zealand to stop turning a blind eye to these abuses on our doorstep. Please sign this petition to show our government you support freedom of speech and assembly for the Melanesian people of West Papua.

The petition (online and hardcopy) respectfully requests:

That the House of Representatives urge the New Zealand Government to address the ongoing human rights situation in West Papua by taking the following actions:

- *Publicly advocate the Indonesian Government to uphold the rights of the people of West Papua to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech;*
- *Condemn Indonesia for the arrest and intimidation of thousands of peaceful protestors in West Papua in the last two years;*
- *Condemn the state sanctioned torture and killing of West Papuans;*
- *Support the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression to visit West Papua; and*
- *Urge the Pacific Island Forum to support this stand and advocate for West Papua at the United Nations.*

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens: We had a parent with a child going to school who made special cards for each staff member with a photo of the child in his school uniform and a big thank you for helping him on his journey. The card also contained the things he likes about each teacher. This child has special needs and it has been quite emotional for the parent as their child leaves the centre to embark on a new phase in their life.



If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



US AND THEM

Last Saturday, 6 August, marked Hiroshima Day; and today we remember that on 14 August 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies (that's us), bringing an end to World War Two. Both days are about peace, but it's a fraught kind of peace, since the nature of nuclear explosions meant the destruction didn't end then. The effects of radiation are lasting, for it corrupts

creative and restorative processes in human bodies (that's us). Radioactive waste, such as that precariously stored at Fukushima, lasts even longer. These things matter to many people; they are pretty important to me, since I now have two White grandchildren who are also Japanese.

War with Japan has been much on my mind while I've been reading Helene Wong's book *Being Chinese*, about her family's origins in a clutch of villages near Canton. Some of her relations emigrated to New Zealand because of war with Japan -- the Japanese having made threatening moves on China since the late 19th century. Her book, however, is called *A New Zealander's Story* because Helene Wong was born here, she's "one of us", one of what is now a considerable number of New Zealand Chinese.

China was actually "one of us", too, when the Japanese surrendered in August 1945. Northern China had been invaded by the Japanese Army in the 1930s, before war broke out in Europe, and received military support from the British and US after 1941 -- the attack on Pearl Harbour.

When Helene's parents, Willie and Dolly Wong, were living near Taihape in 1945, running a community store, the news of the Japanese surrender reached them as quickly as it reached every small community on 14 August. The subsequent celebrations were enjoyed by all, she writes, "but they were particularly sweet to the Chinese. The next day, VJ Day, Willie pulled out all the stops. He closed the store, lit a bonfire in the middle of the backyard and invited everyone -- neighbours, locals, motorists passing through and stopping to see what was going on -- to join in. He produced firecrackers from [another family store in Wellington] Te Aro Seed: chocolate biscuits, rationed at the time... saveloys ordered from Gregory's the butcher in Taihape..." cups of tea and everything needful for a party. "It made for a great story in the *New Zealand Free Lance*," she says, and quotes from an

undated newspaper cutting pasted into her mother's scrapbook, the tale of

HOW A CHINESE CELEBRATED PEACE:

"This is a story about VJ Day, a story which hasn't grown stale with the passage of time. It concerns two Air Force lads who, recently returned from service overseas, were making a tour of the North Island and were on route to Wanganui when the joyful news broke. When, as they entered a town on their way, whistles, bells and voices proclaimed that the great day had arrived, they parked their car to join a large and hilarious throng...Centre of attraction was a beaming Oriental. Catching sight of the officers, he summoned them: "You been overseas?" Receiving an affirmative answer, he beckoned violently. "Come on! Come on! You fight for China! You fight for China! Me got plenty lots beer. Come on! War over!" It was an invitation promptly accepted and Wun Hi continued to 'roll out the barrel' for an increasing number of guests to the tune of: "Allin come! Me shout flee dlink!" Come they did, on draught-horses, in cars and afoot, till Wun Hi had to rope in many assistant-hosts."

Remember this kind of story-telling? Made funny because that's how we like it, never mind the facts. Helene points out that her father would not have spoken like that, with phrases like *plenty lots beer* or *Me shout flee dlink!*

Willie's history is quite remarkable, as she tells it, and a long way from this stereotype of a *beaming Oriental*. Having started at the village school in China in 1915, Willy came to New Zealand for his education the following year, at the age of eight. The Wong family was by then well-established in Taihape, with both a shop and a market garden to stock it. Enrolled at a new Catholic school and taught by nuns, Willy "thrived", studying hard, excelling at maths, playing rugby, winning a children's handwriting competition and topping the class in Standard 5 -- all "in a completely new culture and language". There's a confident, grownup photo of him at age 13, which was used to accompany his

payment to the government of the poll tax of 100 pounds. He'd been allowed in for six years of study, but his time was up: he had to pay, like all incoming Chinese, if he was going to stay.

The story of the VJ party is only a fragment of a life richly lived, in and for the community he served. Willy was known for bringing people together at what proved an essential social centre. From a new shop just out of Taihape he and Dolly provisioned the whole district, Willy taking the post and supplies to outlying farms, even driving pregnant women to have their babies in town. And this one life is only a small part of Helene's story of her parents' backgrounds, and their widespread kin-group. The cruelty of the NZ poll-tax was compounded by the fact that families were split, from the time of the goldrushes, between China and New Zealand: sons returning home to find wives or to visit ageing parents in the poll-tax period had to pay again on re-entry.

And the discrimination didn't stop there. As Helene's family experienced it, racism was nasty (if normal) right into the 20th century. I too can remember how often the pig-tailed, buck-toothed Chink, Chow or Chinaman appeared in comics, films, even a puppet-show I saw in London in 1975.

What such a stereotype does is diminish a person, reduce them to a stick-figure, sketch or cartoon. And it often shows them as one person acting alone, as if an *Oriental* or a *Jap* or Asian (as in the Auckland "Asian invasion") didn't have two parents, four grandparents, all with unique personalities (possibly different nationalities or ethnicities), and if not many children or siblings, then perhaps various cousins, uncles and aunts. All different, even if they look the same.

There's still a lot of work to do. If we are going to prevent future wars -- and who doesn't want that -- we're going to have to do a lot more looking behind the face of the one we call Other, the one we dismiss as *Not One of Us*.

-- Helen Watson White