

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)



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## PARISH BULLETIN

24th October 2021

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00am	Mosgiel	D James
11.00am	Glenaven	D Poultney
	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

27 October @ 2pm – Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship

## **MONTHLY MEETING of the MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.**

Wednesday 27th October, 2021, at 2pm at the Mornington Methodist Church.

All are invited to the October meeting of the Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship. This meeting will be a social gathering for us all to catch up on our activities during the Covid Lockdown.

## **STORIES FROM THE MISSION**



### **Waihōpai Youth Transition House**

A female rangatahi has just moved in. She has had some difficult times already, after her moving into the YTH. However, she has bounced back and is back on the right track with the help of our staff here at the YTH. She is really enjoying her time here and connects really well with 2 of our supervisors.

**If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit [www.givealittle.co.nz](http://www.givealittle.co.nz) and search for The Methodist Mission**

## **WEST PAPUA UPDATE**

This update is about the situation of one particular West Papuan man Victor Veimo who is as much a hero for the sake of freedom of expression as any of the great names, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and all. Yet he has next to no name recognition beyond the hounds of his own country, and he languishes in prison at the behest of a powerful state, deaf to his plight and relieved that yet another hindrance to their tyrannical rule has been effectively silenced, "out of sight, out of mind." What follows is a letter written by the Dunedin West Papua Action Committee to the Minister of External Affairs, Hon Nanaia Mahuta.

*Victor Yeimo is the international spokesperson for the West Papua National Committee, an organisation which supports self-determination for West Papuan people. On 9 May he was arrested (without a warrant) in Jayapura. He now faces serious charges including treason, inciting riots and violating the Indonesian national flag. There appears to be no credible evidence to support these charges. He has been held in solitary confinement, and more recently in a hospital, and has insufficient access to his family and lawyers.*

*It appears that the Indonesian government is determined to keep Victor Yeimo in prison because of his work as a human rights activist; this is consistent with the Indonesian government's practice of treating such people as criminals. According to Amnesty International, the Papua police chief has stated an intention to "let him get old in prison."*

*We understand that New Zealand officials have raised Victor Yeimo's situation with the Indonesia government, but because this is such a serious matter we earnestly request that you raise the matter with the Indonesian ambassador, emphasising the rights of Victor Yeimo, and others working for West Papuan independence, to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and to proper medical treatment for his serious and deteriorating health condition.*  
*Nga mihi nui.*

*Pray for Victor Veimo and his people*

KR



## **A Reflection for Labour Day Weekend**

Much of the world celebrates Labour Day, however it may be called, on 1<sup>st</sup> May. For some that this became a major public celebration in the USSR and the Communist bloc tainted it somewhat. Without cause I think. May 1<sup>st</sup> in Aotearoa New Zealand is decidedly in autumn, our late October celebration is of course subject to the vagaries of the Southern Spring. However it is worth taking this day to reflect on the progress made and the progress yet to be made in the rights of workers.

The economy changes all the time, we have seen it adapt and sometimes fail in the face of the Covid Pandemic. We think how in recent years some jobs we utterly took for granted have reduced greatly in number and how jobs in apparently secure careers have proved to be anything but. There are far fewer people employed as bank clerks or posties, did you ever imagine mail only being delivered every other day?

Think of some of the jobs which have proliferated in the pandemic in delivering food and a range of goods we might normally purchase directly from shops. How secure are these jobs? What rights do these workers have? We hear of workers in Amazon warehouses in the United States who end up wearing adult diapers

because they cannot take a toilet break. In some parts of the world there are problems delivering goods because the terms and conditions lorry drivers work under are unappealing.

The struggle for worker's rights isn't over. Yet if your social concerns were gained simply from what you hear in churches up and down the land you might never know. That I am afraid is true of some Methodist churches where concern for a private spirituality, a me and my God Christianity, has displaced any sense of what Methodists call social holiness. An enacting of righteousness in society, love expressed in the form of justice.

From time to time Methodists have expressed this conviction through the issuing of Social Principles, this is a form of them from our own denomination you may be familiar with.

- 1) The sacredness of human personality and the equal value of all men and women in the sight of God.
- 2) Adequate opportunities of employment for all those willing and able to work, and reasonable standards of living for those, who because of age or infirmity, are not able to work.
- 3) The co-operation of employers and employees for the benefit of the community.
- 4) The duty of all to render conscientious service, the condemnation of scamped work, of sweated labour and of consumer exploitation.
- 5) The right to a just return for services rendered and the right to good housing, and a healthy environment.
- 6) The wise use and careful conservation of the world's physical resources.
- 7) The removal of the root causes of poverty, unemployment and war.
- 8) The promoting of social and industrial reforms by lawful means.
- 9) The right to freedom of conscience, constitutional liberty, secrecy of the ballot and access to the Courts.
- 10) Christian influence in politics and civic affairs.
- 11) The conviction that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ contains the message that will promote effectively the regeneration of reconstruction of society.

I leave these with you for your reflection this long weekend

David Poultney