

BRIEF REPORT
OF THE

The Tree of Life

Official Publication
of the

WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN

PRESENTED AT THE 13TH WORLD ASSEMBLY 2016,
HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA



EDITOR:
DOROTHY S KUMAR

World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women

**13th World
Assembly 2016**
Houston, Texas, USA

**“To Know Christ and Make Him
Known”.**





*** Count your age by friends, not years.
Count your life by smiles, not tears.**

*** Count the blessings, of our legacy.
Passed on, over land and sea.**

The Tree of Life a quarterly newsletter.

Regular Features of Each Edition

* President's Pen

* Editorial

* Exploring the Psalms

* Meditations

* President's Pen

As the leader of the Federation, our President, Ann Connan, wrote on relevant World issues and Federation matters.

She also shared the challenges she faced on a day-to-day basis, as a home maker a grandmother, in sickness or weakness and the like. Experiences one could identify with, for some of us may have been there at some point in our lives.

Thank you Ann





* Editorial

As Editor it was my privilege to share my thoughts in the Editorial column.

It was a pleasure to invite Senior Friends of the Federation to write the Guest Editorials. They were:
**Shirley Mildred Thomas, the former Vice President:
South Asia Area: & Joan Stott, former Editor of
TTOL, & former World Secretary**



* Exploring the Psalms

The messages of the Psalms reach down into the depths of human misery and pain, and stretch up to the most sublime reaches of heaven itself..

A big thank you to Joan Stott who guided us in a meaningful reflection.

* Meditations

Through the pages of The Tree of Life we visited some mountains and reflected on their spiritual significance. Several mountains in Palestine mentioned in the Bible are made forever sacred by significant happenings surrounding them.

Together with some Senior Friends of the Federation, I wrote those meditations.

Highlight of the Quinquennium

The 75th Anniversary





Dear Ladies You
Thank You

1st - 75th Anniversary Edition



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LOGO sketch: World President - Ann Connan
Graphic design: TOL Design artist - Rodrigues Bernard

WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN 1939-2014 CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF GOD'S GOODNESS AND GUIDANCE

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Former World Officers - "They Passed on the Baton of Faith".

The pages of the 75th Jubilee Issues of The Tree of Life will vibrate with stories, experiences and insights of our Former World officers of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

These women held faithfully the Baton of Faith and passed on to other faithful women.

It is our honour to invite our senior most former President: Mrs Elizabeth Kissack to share her story.

[Read on and be challenged.](#)



In 1979 I made the first contact to enable the WFMW to become an NGO at the United Nations. The 1981 assembly endorsed it.

Before my tenure as President of the WFMW started, I was invited to attend a conference held by the World Council of Churches in Berlin on the status of women. Brigalia Bam, a South African Methodist, working at the women's desk at the WCC asked if I would speak to the fact that plain, clean water, easily available, was the number one need. That UN and WCC call was the most important world agenda for our 1981 Assembly.



In an early visit to USA Methodists I saw computers used in their offices. By 1981 we had enough reserve in the treasury to buy each incoming officer (four) a computer and pay for training. With fax machines it was possible to keep accurate records and communicate easily.

Officers started to meet every year, and we had our area assemblies where regional ties developed and strengthened. Computers have bought you all together. For this, we thank Bernice Haver. We learnt so much from each other.

My final and most forceful public words for the Federation were spoken at the final meeting of the World Methodist Conference in Honolulu in 1981. As an ex-officio member I sat on the platform. The last bit of business was to approve of the committees for the coming five years. I saw the flaw at once. The lists which must have been 70-100 names carefully spread over each country represented only included the name of one woman. I pointed out that only half of the Church membership was being considered. There was a silence and recognition that justice needed to be done.

▶ Elizabeth Kissack,
President
1976-81

The Team:

Past President : (President Emerita) Mrs AB Pfeiffer
Vice President : Mrs Esther Sarr
Secretary : Mrs Willie Mae Rice
Treasurer : Dr. Edith Loane

Editor's note: A big "Thank you" to Mrs Christie Nuell, Mrs Kissack's daughter who helped her to put these reflections together. She wrote saying that, her mother says the experience of being President of the WFMW was the most enriching experience of her life. Mrs Kissack is almost 98 and is doing very well. Stays in Castle View nursing home in Peel, Isle of Man



2nd- 75th Anniversary Edition



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WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITED CHURCH WOMEN 1939-2014 CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF GOD'S GOODNESS AND GUIDANCE

THE 75th JUBILEE YEAR EDITIONS #2 - International Newsletter | April - June 2014

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Former World Officers - "They Passed on the Baton of Faith".

During their term of office the World Officers led with vision and commitment. In this 2nd Edition, Dr Navamani Peter, Mrs Lorraine Solomon & Dr Oknah Kim Lah, share their stories.

Dr Oknah Kim Lah

A few Global Issues were dealt with during the period I was in office.



Inspired by Jesus' call according to the Gospel John 15:16, my work as the President of the World Federation of Methodist Women was launched at the Honolulu Assembly in July 1981. At the first Executive Meeting, we drew five priorities that the WFMW should accomplish.

- They were as follows:*
1. Getting admitted to the United Nations as an NGO member
 2. Making WFMW history book
 3. Making Bridge of Love among member countries
 4. Making Song of WFMW
 5. Maintaining good relationship with the World Methodist Council

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Dr. Mrs. Navamani E. Peter

Unforgettable Experiences

Dear Sisters in the World Federation, it was my privilege for me to be part of this sisterhood called the World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women. I greet you my sisters around the world as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the signing of our Charter.

As the World Vice President I was asked to lead the Bible Study during the European Conference which met in Potsdam, East Germany in May 1989. Susanna Brose and I waited for 3 hours at the Berlin Gate to enter into East Germany. We had a wonderful fellowship with 70 women who had come from different countries in Europe. They were asked to bring whatever food they could to supplement the food we had. We were very safe and secure inside the Conference Hall, but there was the Russian Army in guard outside the hall.

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Lorraine Solomon

Highlights & Achievements: Quinquennium 1986-1991



During and following the Nairobi 7th Assembly, World President Edith Ming, Officers and Executive

members concentrated on developing the significant achievement of NGO Status to the Economic and Social Council - ECOSOC of the United Nations. A World Federation office in New York, was inaugurated on January 21, 1987, together with the AME Women's Missionary Society.

WFMW was invited to serve on the CONGO BOARD. Renate Bloem in Geneva and Rose Catchings in New York were nominated to serve on the Board, in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. WFMW was also awarded Consultative Status with UNICEF.

South Africa's apartheid system with its iniquitous issues, was rapidly reaching international

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3rd - 75th Anniversary Edition



The Tree of Life

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WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN 1939-2014 CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF GOD'S GOODNESS AND GUIDANCE

THE 75th JUBILEE YEAR EDITIONS #3 - International Newsletter | July - September 2014

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Corrections.
My 100th Birthday from New Zealand was World Secretary, 1966-1971, and was inadvertently printed wrong on page 7. "The Tree of Life: Singapore" (1939-2014) June 2014 Edition. This error is deeply regretted. - Editor

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Find us on Facebook also



Former World Officers - "They Passed on the Baton of Faith".

"Service to the World"... "Weaving Together"... "Staying Connected"... "communication the life blood of relationship"... phrases which vibrate the spirit of women who led the WFMUCW at the end and turn of the Twentieth Century (1991-96 & 1996-01) Dr Edith Loane, Rev Dr Khushnud Azariah, Mrs Battu Jambawai. Mrs Joan Stott share what the Federation meant to them.

Dr Edith Loane Service to the World



I was honoured to be elected World President at the World Assembly, Singapore. I was challenged, hopeful and joyful to be trusted with this appointment for 5 years.

Rev Dr. Khushnud Azariah



The "Weaving Together Program" was a wonderful initiative taken during the 1996-2001 Quinquennium. As World President, I wanted to enlarge our circle of influence and presence while visiting and networking with all the Areas and their Units. In my opinion, the World President alone would never accomplish what a team of World Officers could achieve.

I proposed that the World Officers meet with Area and Unit Officers prior to their Area Seminar in a "Weaving Together Program"; and through that experience, to

contd... on page 3

Elected to serve in responsibility and leadership, with me were: Emmy Lou John [VP, USA], Aurora Cuda [Sec., Philippines] and Martha Riegraf [Treas, Germany]. I couldn't have asked for better or more supportive colleagues. Committee members, representing the 9 Areas and the President Emerita, were loyal and

Ms Battu Jambawai



Staying Connected
When I became World Vice President in 1996 there were neither mobile phones nor any e-mail facilities in Sierra Leone. The quickest ways I stayed connected with World Federation sisters were through land-line phones and fax a luxury for many in my context by then. Posted mails took weeks if not months to reach. It was in these challenging days that the coup happened in Sierra Leone forcing me to flee to Guinea. I felt disconnected, lost and lonely until my posted scribbled notes got to hardworking Joan probably after a month! Today

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dedicated women, anxious to do their best for WF.

My first challenge was to respond to a request to also act as Coordinator to the Volunteers serving UN on behalf of WF, in Vienna, Geneva and New York. I agreed and this became not only a second task, but equal 'first' with the Presidency; it remained a challenge, but opened my eyes

contd... on page 3

Mrs Joan Stott



"Getting to know you..."
Communication and identifying with the life-reality of people are the life-blood of all relationships, but especially in an organisation such as the World Federation.

During my tenure as Area President and Editor and then World Secretary, I kept a large world map on the wall above my computer with colour-coded pins placed where all World Federation officers lived, to help me personalise my relationships with these women and try to understand their circumstances. In addition, within each computer word document, was a photo of the person to whom I was writing if that was available.

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4th - 75th Anniversary Edition



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WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITED CHURCH WOMEN 1939-2014 CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF GOD'S GOODNESS AND GUIDANCE

THE 75th JUBILEE YEAR EDITIONS #5 - International Newsletter | October - December 2014

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Former World Officers - "They Passed on the Baton of Faith".

Women Making a Difference was the theme of the quinquennium 2001-2006. "They Passed on the Baton of Faith", and made a difference... introduced "Wearing Black on Thursday" in solidarity with the UN Campaign against Violence and Rape... encouraged the women to be involved... creative... exercise the Fruits of the Tree of Life... with Christ as our Hope, Bamba-lela calls us to never give up and "Press On"!

Rosemary Wass



Women Making a Difference was the theme of the 2006 Assembly held in Korea. The

theme was the result of the Executive Meeting held in New York in 2004. I like to think it was inspired by some of the unexpected experiences and revelations we had in the earlier years of the quinquennium, and for what potential the title held for helping towards achieving the **Millennium Development Goals by 2015**.

In 2002, the World Officers travelled to the South Pacific for their Area Seminar in Christchurch, New Zealand. One day we went for lunch and left Thelma Johnson, our World Treasurer to rest in the Student's common room on the Campus. When we met her at the next session, she had a story to tell....

cont'd... on page 3

Janice Clark



One of the first things I needed to do, on becoming Secretary of the World Federation, was to learn how to spell the word "quinquennium". Correct spellings became an important feature of the those five years, with technological advances, communication could take place across the world with Areas, Units the Executive, World Officers and individuals through faxes, and more importantly, emails. A misspelt email address meant the message would not arrive. The Federation's website took on importance too, with information of forthcoming events, and also photos of those that had taken place. It became a resource for many women around the world.

Within the task of communicating with both the Areas and Units, was the planning of the Weaving Together Programme which took place prior to each Area Seminar....

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Cynthia Pozzo



The Weaving Together Programme (WTP) was initiated by Khusunud Azarah when she was World President. It was a programme held prior to each Area Seminar aimed at Area Officers to help them understand the work done by the World Federation in many areas such as the United Nations and the resolutions passed at the Assembly.

Each quinquennium the "WTP" has taken on different forms to demonstrate and understand the resolutions i.e. Prayers, songs, Banners and Liturgy. Many of these resolutions concerns go hand in hand with the involvement of the United Nations i.e. Children, Violence, HIV/AIDS, Racism and Gender Justice.

The World Federation was granted "Special Consultative Status with the United Nations" in 1983.

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75th Anniversary - Special Print Edition



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SPECIAL 75th JUBILEE YEAR EDITION 2014 - International Newsletter

Signing of the Charter, on October, 26th, 1939, marked the beginning of our World Federation.

This year 2014, marks the 75th Anniversary.

2011-2016, World Officers' thoughts at this momentous time:

"...I stand in awe of past World Officers...inspiring job...to grow...make it so significant...hope kept us going"... "Rejoice in the Lord always"... "commitment.... support... can be of great service to the Lord..."

Ann Connan



At this memorable time in the life of the World Federation, I am humbled that I am in a position of leadership. I stand in awe of past World Officers and the inspiring job they have done to grow our organisation and make it so significant in the lives of its three and a half million members, and the millions of men, women and children touched by the influence of the Federation. Truly our past leaders have led us 'To know Christ and to make Him known'. If ever I should think I am special because of the position I hold, I only need remind myself of the journey I've been on to this point.

I spoke at the last Assembly of how hope kept my mother going when she was widowed when I was only 2. Of how hope kept us going through some difficult times as John and I served for 12 years with the Methodist

contd... on page 3

Regula Stotz



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say Rejoice!

This verse of Philippians 4:4 was given to me at my confirmation when I was sixteen years old. For me it has two components:

contd... on page 3

Carla Boyce-Smith



I am from Panama, Latin America Area, married to Eduardo Smith an ordained presbyter and

I accompany him in his ministry. We have three daughters, Sharon, Karen and Carlyn. Sharon and her

contd... on page 3

Leu Pupulu



Talofa lava, Kia-ora and Hi, to all the sisters, daughters and mothers of our great

Organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continual support. Coming to the half way point in our term, I have seen the difficulties that many Areas and indeed our Organization has faced given the Financial turmoil from the 2008 crash and the subsequent Credit Financial Crisis and Recession that some countries if not all, who are part of our Organization have been dealing with.

As I have spent time at the Area Weaving Together and Seminar programmes, I have spoken about the financial difficulty that we're in and how with your support we can get back to a stronger position than before; I'm struck with a sense of hope that these plans can be achievable, because of

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"World Officers - 1956-2011 - They Passed on the Baton of Faith".



Documenting The Ongoing work in the Areas, is important for posterity

Women have always been an integral part of the Church . and opportunities of service are provided to be used for the glory of God and service of people.



The Area Officers encouraged the women of the Areas to share their stories. The 2015-2016 Editions were colourful displays of hard work, commitment and creativity of our women. The leadership of our Area Presidents & Vice Presidents is commendable.

Area Presidents & Vice Presidents



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A world map with a light blue background and green and brown landmasses. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the Americas on the left and Europe, Africa, and Asia on the right. The text is overlaid on the map in a bold, dark red font.

**World Federation of
Methodist &
Uniting Church Women
The Tree of Life**

Thank you

**&
Namaste**

