

# METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF FIJI

## REPORT - 2018

The year 2018 is a special year for us as we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> year of existence with the theme, "LORD, RELEASE AND HEAL US AND OUR LAND." I thank God Almighty for those women who spent their time, gifts & love in the early beginnings of our fellowship and their tireless effort has given birth to having a very big organization such as ours, today.

Many great and positive directions and blessings should be visible from this year onwards as we reach maturity of age. Our target for the year and many more years to come is "TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN." We thank all Church Leaders for supporting all Women's fellowships in Fiji and we continue to look forward to a Leadership that is being directed by our Almighty God.

On reaching 70, the main crux of our programme for 2018/2019 is on Spiritual growth and maturity as we extend our boundaries for Outreach in Witness and Service.

Ways of accomplishing the above: **SALVATION OF SOULS OF MEMBERS**

- a) **Mothers' Day Week Programme** : Theme: "LORD! RELEASE and HEAL US and our LAND"  
We had *OPEN AIR EVANGELISM (2days) – THROUGHOUT OUR CHURCHES*  
*MOTHERS' SUNDAY programmes* - are celebrated with thought provoking themes such as: "Speak for those who cannot speak for themselves," "Arise Shine! For your light has come," "BAMBELELA, Christ is Our Hope," "Sing a New Song", "A Challenge to Live with Risk, Compassion & Celebration", etc.
  - b) **Divisional / Zone Camps**: will be held as requested by members throughout the year
  - c) **Devotionals**  
Our office prepares weekly devotionals for women. This is still in vernacular but the English version should be available by August, 2018.
  - d) **Resource Centre**  
We have made space in our office for books and a computer for any woman who would like to use resourceful books for their Preaching preparations & teaching or just for reading.
- World Day of Prayer**
- f) Fiji continues to support programme writer countries each year and members normally join brothers and sisters of other ecumenical churches during this time of Bible Study and Worship. A very informative programme, because we hear, learn and pray for the country's special emphasis and need.
  - g) **World Federation services**  
*WORLD FEDERATION Programmes* – Our fellowship department prepares studies and worship on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and for the past 5 years, we have worked on –Promoting Gender Equality and on Empowering women through the introduction of the Gender Equality Theology by the Uniting World of Australia; Improving Maternal Health; and Ensure Environmental Sustainability. Each year the Federation week programme is prepared to advocate for the above and they are continually addressed in our fellowships throughout the years.

2. **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

We collaborate and network with organizations including Government and NGOs on materials, training and projects relevant to women in different locations in Fiji. This includes:

- \* Climate Change
- \* Protection of the environment
- \* Recycling and composting
- \* Use of biodegradable and non toxic chemicals, etc.

3. **SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE and GROWTH of the MWF ASSETS**

We are maintaining and further developing our present property to Generate sufficient financial resources is our current aim in this area. We raised funds for the extension to our present building in the hope of widening our scope of services to women from all walks of life. We opened our Retreat Centre in August, 2017. Renovation work on our existing building is one of our projects this year. We are going to establish a business arm of the fellowship to take care of all financial transactions within it.

4. **FAMILY COUNSELING and ENRICHMENT**

We are organizing a joint committee for the 'Family Enrichment' programme with our social services dept. of the Church and we will together work on the following:

- organizing programmes and training for everyone on 'FAMILY Living and Issues'.
  - Working with the Min. Women on small business activities for women living in rural/semi urban areas.
  - Gender based violence & Child Protection Awareness Workshops for men, women and youths.
- We have found that to for us to succeed in the above programmes we will need to work with other depts. in the Church and especially with our men and youth fellowships.

5. **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - 2018.**

We had our first celebration on the island where the fellowship was first found upon and the second one will be held in Suva on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. We will celebrate through prayers, singing, dancing and render freewill offering as seed money for our next project - a building for the following:

- a) Dormitory with 30 rooms for young girls
- b) Conference / Training Centre
- c) Chapel
- d) Rooms that serve as "shelters" for victims of violent relationships and for the Elderly
- e) Storage space for relief supplies.
- f) Counseling Centre

We want to thank our sisters in the South Pacific Area for giving us the opportunity to host the seminar for the area this year. It is our Prayer that we will all enjoy the Fellowship with one another and especially with our Lord. We hope that everyone will enjoy the programme.

**SALA NAUCABALAVU**  
**FIJI UNIT PRESIDENT**