



The Tree of Life

The Official emblem of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women is The Tree of Life. It is an evergreen tree, signifying continuous life and vitality. Its branches stretch upward and outward, symbols of our thought and action reaching upward to God and outward to our neighbours. It comes from the words of Revelation 22, verse 2. "On either side of the river was the tree of life.....and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

75 years on since the signing of the Charter which brought our Federation into existence, we can remember and honour the work of women all over the world in bringing healing - physical, mental, emotional and spiritual - to the world's hurting people. So the theme to guide us through this celebratory year is "75 Years of Healing Leaves". The logo, from a sketch by Ann Connan and a refinement by Rodrigues, our TOL design artist, shows the continuing life and growth of the leaves from the tree of life, and reminds us of the work our Federation is committed to.



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

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

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

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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:

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Carla Boyce-Smith

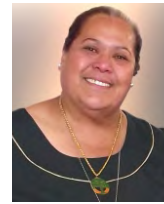


I am from Panama, Latin America Area, married to Eduardo Smith an ordained presbyter and

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

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Leu Pupulu



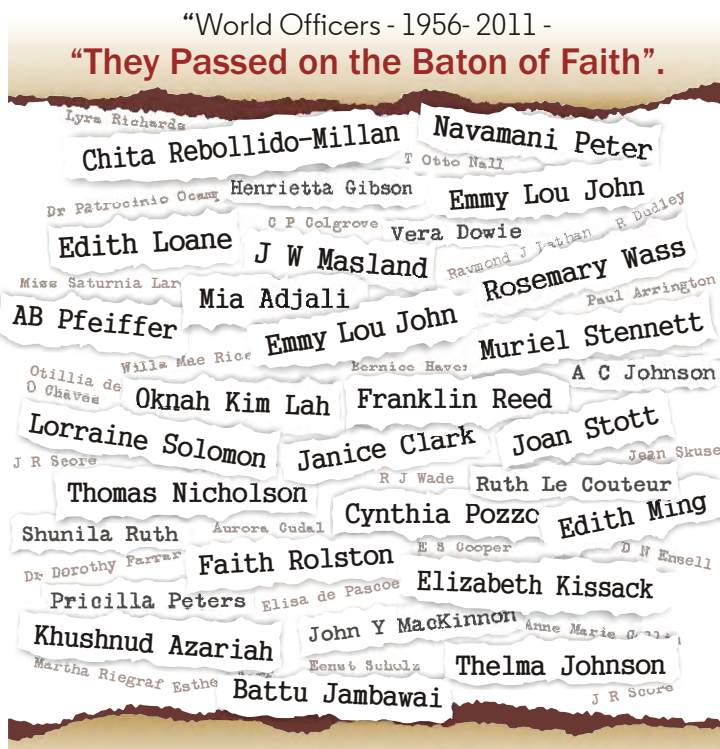
Talofa lava, Kia-ora and Hi, to all the sisters, daughters and mothers of our great

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

contd... on page 3





Within World Federation, there are many programs, decisions and

activities; words and more words; large and small events; and people - World Officers, Executive members, Unit leaders and their members; but the ministry of "healing leaves" is often the quiet actions of individuals.

Long ago, our foremothers chose "the tree of life" as the emblem of the WFMW, and I am suggesting that amongst World Federation's members, there could be several different images of what really is the "World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women".

Is your image of WFM&UCW that of World Officers and Executive Committee members as the trunk and branches of that "tree of life"? Or do you imagine the "tree of life's" trunk, branches and leaves all bound up together as one of God's creations?

Perhaps you think that you are simply a disconnected twig on some enormous tree growing far, far away? However you imagine World Federation, its "tree of life" needs to be deeply rooted, sustained and nurtured in the soil of the Being of God, and be perpetually refreshed by the "water of life"!

There are several Biblical references to the "tree of life", which emphasise that without God's sustaining powers, and without being watered by God's truth, that tree is dead wood. "...blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8) 1

The preceding words to the World Federation's motto describe how the "tree of life" is refreshed and sustained by the water of life: "flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb..."

(Revelations 22:1b) 1 Through God's grace and mercy within a world-wide fellowship of women (and sometimes men), as "leaves" on God's "tree of life", it is essential that we remain rooted and grounded in God, and that we are perpetually refreshed by the Water of Life Jesus Christ - who said: "... the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life." (John 4: 14) 1

Are you part of a living and continually refreshed "tree of life", or are you dead wood?

1 'New Living Translation'
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▶ Joan Stott

Meditation: Healing Leaves

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

75th Anniversary - a Meditation

'and the leaves are for the healing of the Nations' - Rev. 22:2

'I will give the right to eat the from the Tree of Life' - Rev. 2:7

Jesus said 'a tree is known by its fruit'

It was 1939; a group of Methodist women had a dream, that there would be a worldwide organisation of Methodist women, with vision for living and working for wholeness in life. Their choice of emblem - the Tree of Life - in which its parts- trunk, branches, leaves, fruits - represent the human family and its relationship with the world in which we live, is truly inspirational. The selection of the issues - encompassing Health, Education, Faith, the Economy, Peace - touches the lives of us all, wherever and however we live. They encompass the teaching of Jesus, expressed in the language and culture of His day.

In choosing the tree as an emblem, they drew on both Genesis and Revelation. As we study the Word of God, we are invited to see our world, in its beauty and pain; the Bible uses illustrations of the trunk, branches, leaves and fruits, together with its gift of shelter. The life-force of the tree is in the sap contained in the trunk, which draws it from the earth, spreading it through the branches and leaves. The leaves provide shelter and also absorb, from the sun, life-giving strength. The woody stems and the leaves need each other; neither can live without the other.

The tree has lessons for all of us. As the tree needs all its parts to be truly healthy and able to serve the place where it grows, so we, God's people, need to draw on the strengths that are there for us, to serve the world in which we live.

We can link the life, strength and purpose of the tree to our world and its needs.

Families, communities, nations cannot fulfil their purpose unless they are healthy and at peace with one another. The tree is not whole unless all its parts

are whole.

We are the leaves which receive the life of the tree, offering shelter, purpose and beauty to the whole. The Holy Spirit offers us life, strength and wholeness to fulfil our purpose, to love, serve and care for each other in a demanding world.

May the God of Life live in each ONE

As the sap feeds the tree

May Christ, who saves, sustain each ONE

As the leaves preserve the tree

May the Holy Spirit who strengthens and sustains

Enable each to serve community and nation.



▶ Edith M. Loane
World Treasurer:
1981-1986
World President:
1991-1996



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Ann Connan

Church in Tonga in the South Pacific. Of how hope held our family together when I suffered from chronic depression for 10 years.

I have learnt that talking about my struggle with depression has helped my recovery and, I believe, helps other sufferers. I believe I now have an understanding of hell, because at times I felt I was there. And that was because I could not find God in the black hole I was in. I suffered periods of amnesia, anxiety attacks, lost my appetite, my confidence, my concentration. I had bouts in hospital and attempted suicide 5 times. I put my family through a terrible time.

But in all of that despair, God was there! God was there in my best friend, Fran. God was there in my "adopted" father, Hugh. God was there in my psychiatrist. God was there in my support group from the church. God was there in John. And in my good moments I knew it.

I now believe God was guiding my life through all of this to prepare me for this time. I have said before that God doesn't call the equipped, but equips those he calls. I think I'm who I am because God has "interfered" and the healing leaves of the Tree of Life have been wrapped around me.

I have been blessed with 4 wonderful children:

- Nicholas, Flying Doctor pilot.
- Kirsten, Obstetrician / Gynaecologist.
- Hamish, Federal Policeman.
- Rowena, Special Education Teacher.
- Two grandsons and two granddaughters.

Life within the service of God is good. I am grateful and humbled.

▶ **Ann Connan**
South Pacific Area,
Vice President 2006-2011
World President. 2011 - 2016

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Regula Stotz

1. Rejoice in the Lord, for He is the provider of all my life. To rejoice in Him is not depending on a good mood, on a great gift, on a happy experience. It is constant, such as God's love is constant; it is always given to us.

2. Rejoice is mentioned twice. God encourages us to see the positive things, which we experience. My work as a teacher was a joy, my relationship with friends is a joy, and to feel at home in my congregation is a joy.

And since 2011 to serve the World Federation is a bigger joy for me. As I totally had no expectation of what it means to be World Vice-President. My life is full of great experiences. I thank God for my fellow-World-Officers. Even if each of us has our own personality we form a good team and are still learning by doing.

It is also a privilege to participate at the Area Seminars and to get to know so many wonderful women, dedicated to work for God's kingdom.

Just THANK YOU!

▶ **Regula Stotz**
Area Vice President- Europe:
Continental 2006-2011
World Vice President 2011-2016

contd... from page 1

Carla Boyce-Smith

husband Marino have two year old twin girls, Amira and Allyss.

As a Sunday School teacher and Sunday School Superintendent, Executive Secretary for the Mission and Outreach Department, I am involved in camp ministry. I am desirous to be a servant of God in this new task he has bestowed upon me – as World Secretary. It has been a joy to participate in the Area Seminars.

▶ **Carla Boyce-Smith**
World Secretary 2011-2016

contd... from page 1

Leu Pupulu

the determination and commitment that each of you have.

There are still Areas which are struggling and I plead to you all for your support in lending a hand financially. You can do so, by placing a donation using the PayPal donation link on the homepage of our website www.WFMUCW.org.

There is something to be said about the strength of a woman, a mother. The same strength that Hannah had, to give her only son to the service of the Lord. The faith she had, that her prayers to the Lord will be answered. And the hope that one day that child will be a great leader, or in this case a Prophet of the Lord.

I too pray faithfully that our financial situation improves, and hope that through my commitment and your support that we can be of great service to the Lord.

Viia Iesu

▶ **Leu Pupulu**
World Treasurer 2011-2016

We need to pass on what is committed to us. (2 Tim 2:2).

What has been committed to us?

Hebrews 11 recounts the faith of the "cloud of witnesses".

The FAITH thus carried on by "cloud of witness" of the pioneers of the World Federation, is for us to carry forward the living FAITH.

Several obstacles threatened to dampen their zeal. But they did not give up. The pressures, stress of everyday can be overcome.

For there is: "no temptation ...what is common to man (woman). God is faithful..."

He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Cor. 10:13)

They gave their mite and were united in prayer and service.

CONSTITUTION OF THE World Federation of Methodist Women

Article I ~ Name ~ This organization shall be known as the World Federation of Methodist Women.

Article II ~Basis ~ The World Federation of Methodist Women is a fellowship of such organized groups as will accept Jesus Christ as the revelation of God and the Saviour of mankind and will affirm their purpose, "To know Christ and to make Him known."

Article III ~Aim ~ The World Federation of Methodist Women seeks to aid in establishing Christ's Kingdom among all peoples and in all areas of life; to share the abundant life of Christ with womanhood and childhood through evangelism, healing ministries, education and social services; to assist in promotion of the missionary spirit throughout our world parish; to seek with women of all lands fellowship and mutual help in the building of a Christian Order.

Article IV ~Membership ~ All national groups organised in accordance with Articles II and III are eligible for membership in the World Federation of Methodist Women. The Basis and Aim must be quoted in full in the Constitution of all national organizations.

Article V ~ International Council ~ There shall be a promotional and advisory body known as the International Council of the World Federation of Methodist Women. The membership of the Council shall consist of one official correspondent from each affiliated country on the basis of one member for each one hundred thousand or less members of the national organization. Each unit shall operate under its own constitution and by-laws. The Council shall act as a unifying and correlating agency for the exchange of plans, programs and policies and for the promotion of projects mutually accepted by the countries represented.

Article VI ~ Officers ~ There shall be a President, a First Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary elected by the Council. There shall also be an additional Vice President elected by each jurisdiction and Central Conference within the Methodist Church. Representation on a similar basis will be accorded national groups of women of other Methodist communions.

The above constitute the Executive Committee of the Council. The Executive committee and the Official Correspondents mentioned in Article V shall constitute the voting body of the quadrennial meetings.

Article VII ~ Meetings ~ The Council shall meet once in four years at the time and place of the General Conference of the Methodist Church.

Article VIII ~ Finance ~ The Council shall be maintained by special gifts, bequests, and devices and by voluntary contributions from each affiliated group.

Article IX ~ Change of Constitution ~ This Constitution may be amended at any quadrennial meeting of the voting body of the Council by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting. Notice of the proposed change having been given in writing one year in advance of the meeting.

October 26, 1939

The above is a copy of the Constitution of the World Federation of Methodist Women signed in Pasadena, California, U.S.A., October 26, 1939.

Photo Album - Glimpses from a few World Assemblies - World officers and World Executive Committee members from 1956 to 2011



BEFORE A GLOBAL MAP, THE CHARTER IS SIGNED
 Saturnina Lara, the Secretary, 1952-1956, signing the Charter of the World Federation of Methodist Women at Lake Junaluska in 1956, as the first President: Evelyn Riley Nicholson watches, and will be the next delegate to sign.

Norway and Denmark	: Miss Agnes Nilsen
Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland-Swedish:	: Mrs. Raymond Wade
Germany, Switzerland	: Miss Lousie Archard
Yugoslavia and Bulgaria	: Mrs. Florence Reeves
North Africa	: Gloria Wysner
Negro Africa	: Miss Cilcia Cross
China	: Miss Pearl H Wong, Yu Chen Liu
Fukien	: Miss Pearl Wong
North China	: Mrs Yu Chen Liu
India	: Dr. Mary Shannon
Burma	: Miss Maurine Cavett
Philippines	: Miss Anna Carson
Malaya	: Miss Meehteld Dirksen
Peru	: Miss Gertrude Hanks
Chile	: Miss Maria Aguirre
Argentina	: Mrs. George A. Miller
Uruguay	: Miss Helen Gilliland
Cuba	: Mrs. Ernestine Thacker
Mexico	: Mrs. Esther Hernandez
United States, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society:	Mrs. Thomas Nicholson
Woman's Home Missionary Society	: Mrs. C.P. Colgrove



Some of the delegates who were present at the organization of the World Federation of Methodist Women on October 26, 1939, in Pasadena, California, U.S.A.



Five Presidents of WFMW at Honolulu Assembly 15-21 July 1981
 From left to right:
 Mrs. Oknah Kim Lah (Korea) 1981-1986
 Mrs. Elizabeth Kissack (U.K.) 1976-1981,
 Mrs. Myrta Pfeiffer (U.S.A.) 1971-1976,
 Dr. Patricinio O Campo, (Philippines) 1966-1971
 Mrs. Freer Latham (Australia) 1961-1966



Executive Committee, 1956-1961

Four Area Vice Presidents (now called Area (Presidents) on each side of four officers: Dr. Dorothy Farrar, England; U.S.A., Treasure: Bess Arrington, U.S.A., Vice President: Luise Scholaz, President, Germany; Anita Araya, Chile; Francis Nall, U.S.A.; Signe Nyquisd, Finland; Freer Latham, Australia



Tree of Life Banner made by Liberian women for Denver Assembly with the newly elected officers in 1971. They are:

Anne Marie Collin, Treasurer; Myrta Pfeiffer, President; Faith Rolston, Vice President; and Jean Skuse, Secretary.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1961-1966. OFFICERS, FIRST ROW:

Eileen MacKinnon, Canada, Treasurer; Freer Latham, Australia, President; Dr. Dorothy Ferrar, England, Vice President; Francis Nall, U.S.A., Secretary.

AREA PRESIDENTS & VICE PRESIDENTS, SECOND ROW:

Abbie Jackson, U.S.A.; Odette O. de Barbieri, Argentina; Chanda Christdas, India; Winifred Dudley, New Zealand; Florence Chen, Taiwan, R.O.C.; Helene Stephenson, South Africa, Margaret Anderson, Ireland. **THIRD ROW:** Myrta Pfeiffer, U.S.A., Mrs. H.H. Trigge, Australia; Luise Scholaz, President Emeritus, Germany; Astrid Gundersen, Norway; and Lydia Wehrli, Switzerland.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1971-1976. First Row, Officers: Myrta Pfeiffer, U.S.A., President; Dr. Faith Rolston, India, Vice President; Jean Skuse, Australia, Secretary;

Anne Maria Collin, Sweden, Treasurer. **Area (Presidents) and Vice Presidents:** Elisa Ocera, Philippines; Bernice Haver, Norway; Alicia P. de Monti, Argentina; Mrs. Ada F. Sucasas, Brazil.

Second Row, Area Presidents and Vice (President): Mrs. Georgia Nash, Australia; Vera Dowie, New Zealand; Myrtle Gunasekera, Sri Lanka; Elizabeth Kissack, Isle of Man, U.K.; Artishia Jordan, U.S.A.; Doris Handy, U.S.A.; Maria Wunderlich, Germany; Esther Sarr, Gambia; and V.J. Myusi, South Africa.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1966-1971.

Area Presidents & Vice Presidents & Officers: Front Row: Cora Aspey, Portugal; Margrethe Askholm, Denmark; Dorothy Mantripp, England; Eugenia Cooper, Liberia, Vice President; Dr. Patrocínio Ocampo, The Philippines, President; Winifred Dudley, New Zealand, Secretary; Myrta Pfeiffer, U.S.A., Treasurer; Second Row: Faith Rolston, India; Florence Baber, New Zealand; Dina Rizzi, Brazil; Celia O. de Hernandez, Mexico; Phyllis Bedford, U.S.A.; Dorothy Pederick, Australia; Jean Teng, Singapore; Beatrice Wilson, Canada; Dorothy Shaw, Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, Jane Noom, Ghana; Freer Latham, President; Emeritus



WORLD OFFICERS, 1981-2006

Four World Presidents:
Khushnud Azariah (Pakistan): 1996-2001
Oknah Kim Lah (Korea): 1981-86
Rosemary Wass (UK): 2001-2006
Edith Loane (UK): 1991-1996



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1976-1981. First Row Officers: Elizabeth Sarr, Gambia; Vice President: Elizabeth Kissack, Isle of Man, U.K.; President: Dr. Willa Mae Rice, U.S.A.; Secretary: Bernice Haver, Norway, Treasurer.
Second Row, Area Presidents & Vice Presidents: Ivey McGhie, Jamaica, Oknah Kim Lah, Korea; Margaret Ayre, Australia; Moreen Hendricks, Republic of South Africa; Edith Loane, Ireland; Doris Handy, U.S.A; Vera Dowie, New Zealand; Priscilla Peters, Pakistan; Hannah Mason, Sierra Leone.



WORLD OFFICERS, 2001-2006. Left to Right: Thelma Johnson - Treasurer, Janice Clark - Secretary, Cynthia Pozzo - Vice President, Rosemary Wass - President & Khushnud Azariah - President, Emeritus.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1981-1986, after at the service of installation in Honolulu, July 20, 1981.
FIRST ROW, OFFICERS: Oknah Kim Lah, Korea, President; Priscilla Peters, Pakistan, Vice President; Vera Dowie, New Zealand, Secretary; Dr. Edith Loane, Ireland, Treasurer.
SECOND ROW, AREA PRESIDENTS & VICE PRESIDENTS: Florence Imathiu, Kenya; Comfort Logan, Liberia; Ruth G. de Ruiz, Mexico; Eunice D.S. de Hougham, Argentina; Alcestis Coleman, U.S.A.; Edith Ming, U.S.A.; Grethe Thomassen, Denmark; Hanni Handschin, Switzerland; Mary Cargill, England; Sinta Sitorus, Indonesia; Navamani Peter, India; Vasiti Raiwalui, Fiji.



WORLD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2006-2011.
Left to Right: 1st Row: Rosemary Wass - President, Emeritus, Chita Milan - World President, Lillian Lahai, West Africa - Area President, Kathleen Pearson, Britain & Ireland - Vice President, Dorothy Sampath Kumar - South Asia Area President & Editor - The Tree of Life, Jane Eyre - Latin America Area President, Sharon Eun Young, East Asia Area - President, Barbara Shaw, North America - Area President, Meleana Puloka - South Pacific Area President.
2nd Row: Thenjiwe Gertrude Mncuba, Southern & East Africa - Area President, Lyra Richards - World Treasurer, Greetje Van Der Veer - Europe Continental Area President, Britain & Ireland - Vice President, Sheelagh Wonnacott, Britain & Ireland - President.



WORLD OFFICERS, 1996-2001
Left to Right: Joan Stott - Secretary, Battu Jambawai - Vice President Khushnud Azariah - President, Ruth Le Couteur - Vice President

World Assemblies & Themes 1956-2011

DATE & PLACE	THEME	DATE & PLACE	THEME
Quadrennial Meeting Boston USA - May 5-7 1948			
World Seminar Berkley California USA - April 16-18, 1952	That all may be one	7th Nairobi, Kenya. July 13-20, 1986	Kukua Katika Kristo (Growing in Christ)
1st: Lake Junaluska, North Carolina..USA- Aug 27 31 1956	1. Evangelism in a Changing World 2. Role of Citizenship in Today's World 3. Deepening the Spiritual 4. Grace Sets us great Tasks	8th Singapore. July 15-22, 1991	Jesus Christ: Strength for today. Hope for tomorrow
2nd Oslo, Norway. Aug 14-16 1961	Jesus Christ is Lord	9th Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. July 28- Aug 4, 1996	Come Holy Spirit, Weave us Together
3rd Wimbledon, London, England	To Know Him and Make Him Known	10th Loughborough England July 14-21 2001	Go in faith and share God's healing grace
4th Denver, Colorado. Aug 12-16, 1971	Christian Women in a Changing World	11th WA Jeju Island, Korea, 11-16 July 2006	Women Making A Difference
5th Dublin, Ireland. Aug 19-23, 1976	Women in Christ's Redeeming Work	12th WA - Johannesburg, South Africa - August 2011	Bambelela - Christ is our Hope
6th Honolulu, Hawaii. July 15-21, 1981	New Dimensions		



WORLD OFFICERS, 2006-2011.
Left to Right: Shunila Ruth - Secretary, Mia Adjali - Vice President, Chita Milan - President, Lyra Richards - Treasurer



WORLD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2011-2016.
1st Row: Leu Pupulu - World Treasurer, Regula Stotz - World Vice President, Ann Connan - World President, Carla Boyce Smith - World Secretary, Chita Milan - President, Emeritus.
2nd Row: Judith Siaba - North America Area President, Sarojini Nagendran - South Asia Area President, Margarita Todorova - Europe Continent Area President, Laureen Ong - East Asia Area President, Lynne Scott - South Pacific Area President.
3rd Row: Ivonne Pereira Diaz - Latin America Area President, Matilda Johnson - West Africa Area President, Alison Judd - Britain & Ireland President, Gretta Makhwenke - South & East Africa Area President, Dorothy Sampath Kumar - Editor - The Tree of Life



WORLD OFFICERS, 2011-2016.
Left to Right: Ann Connan - President, Regula Stotz - Vice - President, Carla Boyce Smith - Secretary, Leu Pupulu - Treasurer.

Helen Kim's Dream - Participation at World Assembly, Area & Unit



First Batch of HKMS 2001 World Assembly



HKMS 2006 with Rosemary Wass, on Left - Oknah Kim Lah & Sharon - Eun Young



Mu Gay HKMS 2006-2011 (Extreme Right) - Participation at South Asia Area Seminar



Live By the Spirit - Art Work By South Pacific Area HKMS 2011-16 - Lise Jubilee Malaeimi & Friends

"Acknowledgments: Included in this special edition of *The Tree of Life*" are photographs taken from *Methodist Women - A World Sisterhood, 1923-1986*" and those provided by Federation members."

2011-2016, World Executives' Reflections

AFRICAN AREAS

What A Rich Heritage!

75 years of healing leaves. My cup spills over with gratitude for the legacy that the brave women of prayer left for us. Reading the history of the Federation within Southern & East Africa I cannot but salute women like Omama Mokitimi, Thusi, Aunty Enid Fourie, Lorraine Solomon, Sarah Mathlare and Thenji Mncube. They kept the fires burning for the younger generation to experience this wonderful Wesleyan sisterhood.

These remarkable women are MAD (Making A Difference) in all spheres of life. In their local societies and within their communities they serve unceasingly. Our



units have dedicated women who work tirelessly for the Federation. Young women are making their mark in the Federation. Even my "trio" at home (as you see them on the picture), enjoy The Tree of Life and the website.

The inspiration you get from being part of this sisterhood is amazing. The care and prayerful support is humbling. Once part of it, you never want to part with it. Thanks to all unit leaders for making sure that the Area achieves objectives set for this quinquennium. Keep on celebrating the Federation Day ladies and educate more sisters.

▶ Gretta Makhwenke
President
Southern & East Africa, Area



▶ Matilda Johnson
President
West Africa Area

THE AMERICAS

North America Area: Diverse Peoples & Cultures



Opportunities for Ministry.

The North America Area has been in existence in part almost since the founding of the Federation. It is made up of

10 regions; nine regions are found in the United States of America and the tenth one is the Caribbean and the Americas. In each of these regions we find African Methodist Episcopal Church Women (AME), African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Women (AMEZ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Women (CME), Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas Women (MCCA) and United Methodist Women (UMW).

The United Methodist Women is the oldest group in this area having been in existence since 1869 followed by the AME Women's Missionary Society who were formed in 1874, the AMEZ Woman's Home and Overseas

Missionary Society in 1880 and the CME Women's Missionary Council which was founded in 1918. The MCCA is the newest unit of the North America Area having become an autonomous Conference in 1976 and having the desire to foster closer relationships between the membership of the Church. The dream came true in 1980 when the "MCCA Women" launched in a meeting in Barbados.

This fellowship of women from the different countries and cultures allows us the opportunity to share our faith, our stories and our love for God and mission and learn from each other. One of the things that we have in common is our need to be in ministry with women and children in a way to help others find their strengths and gifts that God has given them. We as part of the Federation are able to come closer to God through Bible Study and songs and learn about social issues that affect women and children so that we can be prepared to act and speak up on behalf of those who have no voice.

May we continue to go forth to empower women to be leaders in their community and churches so that our love and respect for each other will be a testimony to the world.

▶ Judith Siaba
President
North America Area

"... live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they're up against: defeat for them, victory for you - and both because of God. There's far more to this life than trusting in Christ. There's also suffering for him. And the suffering is as much a gift as the trusting".

(Philippians 1:27-30, The Message)

2011-2016, World Executives' Reflections

THE AMERICAS



“To be a Christian is much more than something that one confesses. It is faith in action living and sharing with others.”

Sisters: We shall not allow that adversity take away from us the joy and peace which we continually receive from the Lord.

When things are not working as we expect, it is very easy to give up, or maybe think that we have done something wrong and therefore, we suffer the consequences. Humanly speaking it is easy to give up or surrender to the problems. But it just could be that God allows us to go

through such experiences and will grant the strength to overcome victoriously. The experience enables us to know Him more intimately. Writing to the Philippians Church, Apostle Paul writes: “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings...”(Phil 3:10). Strange but true, through suffering we can experience a 'fellowship' an intimacy with God. If we give up, we will forfeit a great opportunity to enlarge our faith. Let's remember that God called us - His people to surrender our lives. In doing so He equips us for a greater ministry whether in leadership or in whatever we do.

Today I want to invite you to have faith even when things do not go as you hoped they will. I encourage you not stop trusting God even when problems increase. I invite you to know that the problem you are going through can enhance and strengthen your faith.

Do not be afraid, continue to believe that God has something beautiful in store as a result of your holding on in faith. Do not let adversity steal your joy and peace which you receive from the Lord, because God is faithful and as He said will always be with you

COME FORWARD, DO NOT TURN ASIDE! “Be not afraid of them, for I the Lord, will be with you and see you through.” Jeremiah 1:8 (The Living Bible)

“Yes, be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”. Joshua 1:9 (The Living Bible).

This is the text that goes with me while I walk. God bless you all.

▶ **Ivonne Pereira Díaz**
Presidenta América Latina
(Translator: Nancy Carmona)

ASIA



Forever Beginning
East Asia Area
... ..
Celebrating 75 Blessed Years.

East Asia Area of The World Federation celebrates 10 years of Area Seminars in the region. Sisters from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Cambodia, Mongolia gathered together in Singapore in March 2014 to celebrate 75 years of World Sisterhood.

“As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women we continue to raise the hopes and aspirations of our early leaders - to empower women to be the persons God designed us to be...

We celebrate Women Empowered



The rising hope for every woman in the church to lead in families, church, community and the nations is not impossible with God to give hope to our daughters for a better future.



We celebrate Leadership renewal. We praise God Almighty for His favour in

enabling our sisters to engage in sustainable leadership trainings to overcome challenges in changing perspectives of women's ministry in Asia. The young women are rising. Regular leadership trainings are empowering

young women to become new women ministry leaders and we believe the Lord of the Harvest will nurture and grow women church leaders to be a powerful force for such a time like this.

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S GOODNESS, ALL GLORY TO GOD ALMIGHTY!

▶ **Lauren Ong**
President
East Asia Area



Celebrate God's faithfulness

*He energizes those who get tired,
gives fresh strength.. even young
people tire, stumble and fall.
But those who wait upon God get
fresh strength.
They spread their wings and soar
like eagles,
They run and don't get tired,
they walk and don't lag behind.*
(Is.40:31, The Message)



2011-2016, World Executives' Reflections

ASIA

Gospel - Empowered Asian Women.



The First Methodist Missionaries landed on the shores of Galle on the Southern tip of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) on the 29th of September, 1814 because

of the determination of Dr. Thomas Coke to work in India. In spite of the objections of the British Conference, Dr Coke's dream was realized through the first landing in Galle from where Methodism spread to India. Pakistan and Burma (now Myanmar). These four countries now form the South Asia Area of WFMUCW.

Women's work and Methodist Women's

Fellowships ran parallel to those of the early Missionaries and Schools, Orphanages and Churches were built and progressed rapidly all over South Asia, contributing to the uplifting and education of women.

My first encounter with WFMUCW was in 1993 at the South Asia Seminar held in Lahore, Pakistan which I attended as a Delegate from Sri Lanka. Khushnud Azariah, was the President and I was deeply impressed by the work of the Federation, the Weaving Together Program and the fellowship between all of us.

As I was the Unit President of Sri Lanka, Shunila Ruth requested that I arrange the South Asia Seminar in Colombo. Dorothy Sampath Kumar was elected as Area President and I as Vice President for 2006-2011.

We are proud of the **World Positions Held by South Asian Women.**

- World Vice President, 1971-1976: Dr Faith Rolston, India.
- World Vice President, 1981-1986: Mrs Pricilla Peter, Pakistan.
- World Vice President, 1986-1991: Dr Mrs Navamani Peter
- World President, 1996-2001: Rev Dr. Khushnud Azariah, Pakistan
- World Secretary, 2006-2011: Mrs Shunila Ruth, Pakistan
- Editor-The Tree of Life, 2006-2016: Dorothy Sampath Kumar, India

With Praise Giving and Thanks to the Almighty, South Asia joins the WFMUCW family as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary.

▶ **Sarojini Nagendran**
President
South Asia: Area

EUROPE



The World Federation and the Kingdom Of God

Matthew 13: 26-39; 44-52

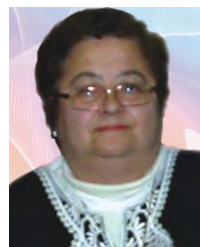
Jesus told stories to describe the

Kingdom of God: the mustard seed that grows into the tree; the woman putting yeast into the bread dough; the man who bought the field containing buried treasure; the pearl of great price; and the net full of fish of every kind. The Federation began with the seed of a vision given by God to Helen Kim. She planted the seed in the minds of a group of Methodist women in America 75 years ago and we see how it has grown. Since 1939, women have been providing the yeast of 'prayerful action' in their communities, making a difference to the lives of many. We know that our global movement is a treasure to be

valued, but not hidden in a field. We make 'knowing Christ' our priority and are committed to 'making Him known.' Like the merchant who gathered money to pay for the precious pearl, we raise funds for the work of the Federation, especially the Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship and our representation at the United Nations. The WFM & UCW now includes women from more than 70 nations, each with very different experiences and challenges to face, and yet we are all gathered into one sisterhood, like fish in the net of the One who made us.

Thanks be to God!

▶ **Alison Judd**
President
Europe: Britain & Ireland Area.



▶ **Margarita Todorova**
President
Europe- Continental Area

Seeds of Love
That Will Grow

There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.

So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

(Philippians 1:6;9-11, The Message)

The Past, The Present and The Future!



“Celebrating 75 years of God’s Goodness and Guidance” through The Tree of Life has been a wonderful opportunity to reflect and celebrate the vision and commitment of many inspirational

women who have “passed on the baton of faith”! However, let us never forget the “ordinary” “extraordinary” women who will not make the headlines or be publicly celebrated, but have, and continue to have, an impact on our lives!

My “introduction to”, and “interest in”, World Federation began in 1982 when as a young mother I “reluctantly” attended the New Zealand Methodist Women’s Fellowship Convention in Wellington and heard Vera Dowie, World Federation Secretary, speak about the work of the Federation. I was “hooked”! At that moment it occurred to me what an amazing privilege and blessing through my membership of the New Zealand Methodist Women’s Fellowship I had to belong to such a unique world-wide sisterhood of Methodist and Uniting Church Women who were indeed living out the WF motto “To Know Christ and Make Him Known” and making a difference!

Vera had served WF as Area Vice President (1971-1976) and Area President (1976-1981). It was during her time in office, and particularly with her leadership at the Area Seminar in Tonga in 1978, that she was instrumental in the change of the area name from Australasia to South Pacific. This was a more appropriate and inclusive descriptor covering the island nations participating - Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji and Samoa. Also attending were two representatives from both Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Over the years, I have been given the most amazing opportunities to attend Area Seminars in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, co-convene the Area Seminar at Lincoln University (close to my home!) and lead the New Zealand Unit at the Seminar in Tonga.

Vera, along with Margaret Gordon (Area President), Judith Parkes (Area Vice President and President) and Ruth Le Couteur (World Treasurer), have been my mentors, prayer partners, encouragers and supporters. Sadly, all of these godly women have gone to be with their Lord during the past two years! Another wonderful mentor and support is Joan Stott, whom I first met in PNG in 1994, and I have continued to seek her wisdom on WF matters regularly!

The first World Assembly I attended was in Jeju, South Korea. My next WA was

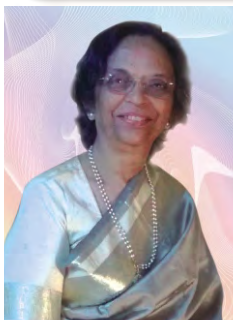
Johannesburg, and as they say “the rest is history”! By the grace of God, (and support and encouragement of my “sisters”) I was elected South Pacific Area President!

And, now in the “present” what a rich blessing and privilege that role has afforded me and I give thanks to all my South Pacific sisters, especially the Local Arrangements Committee, for their support during our recent memorable Area Seminar in Brisbane giving those attending opportunities to reflect on their life journey and celebrate, but also assist them to be further equipped to pick up the “Challenge to live with Risk, Celebration and Compassion” and make a difference within their home setting as God’s instruments for healing, reconciliation and justice in the different contexts God has placed us.

What of the future for WF? We pray for a future for World Federation honouring the vision of the past, celebrating the present and preparing servant-hearted young women through the Helen Kim Scholarship programme who will grow the Kingdom of God using their God-given gifts and talents; who will act with compassion; who will see a need and meet that need. John 15:4,5,7

► **Lynne Scott**
President - South Pacific Area

My second innings



I come from a country that is crazy about cricket, a sport that most of the Indian people are addicted to. Well I’m not so crazy but using this terminology goes with what I wish to share.

My first innings as Editor of The Tree of Life, came to an end with the June 2011 Edition. I am grateful to God and the Federation for the opportunity. The many miles I travelled was just a click away. As a wife of a clergyman it was a joy for me to

work with women in the local WSCS units. Now as the Editor I reached the nine Areas, went across seas and land. Women from different cultures, traditions and language groups shared their stories. Some I had the privilege to meet, several others just names of women in my inbox. Enriched, challenged and blessed in any case. Jesus made this happen through the pages of The Tree of Life.

What I least expected was my ‘second innings’. Little did I even think that I would revisit the World Areas for the next five years. I am grateful to the World Executive particularly the President, Ann Connan for inviting me to be the Editor for this Quinquennium. This was like icing on the cake!

Another treat awaited me it was like cherry

on the icing! This year marked the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the Federation. I feel very humbled and honoured for this unique opportunity. My responsibility was to make available historical records of events, through the pages of The Tree of Life. I was blessed reading, and putting together material for publication. Many times I have stopped and wondered at their faith, vision and commitment. These godly women were driven by one passion to “Know Christ and make Him known”. This made a difference in their lives. This passion can also make a difference in our lives.

► **Dorothy Kumar**

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