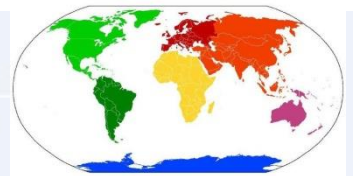




World Federation  
of Methodist and  
Uniting Church Women



## BULLETIN - N°6

### OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017

**“In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand”  
Ecclesiastes 11:6a**

*To be diligent and strive to do things well, particularly in our workplace, pays back as stated in Proverbs 14:23 “In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.” Let’s do our best not to fall in laziness, bearing in mind that we will see results and they will be reflected in the welfare of our homes.*

#### **Goals of Sustainable Development: a new social contract.**

A change of pace is one of the big challenges of our time. In fact, globalization has radically reformed our reality, giving place to global problems – so big challenges that can only be solved if all humanity works together. That is exactly what Goals of Sustainable Development (ODS in Spanish) oblige us to do!

The construction of societies accessible for all, urban poverty, inequality and exclusion often exist as a consequence of sustainable development. The speed and scale of urbanization bring challenges for all family members, like for youth, especially girls and young women, disabled, indigenous groups, and the elderly. To face these future challenges in view of the growing urban population, city leaders must move quickly and plan accordingly. **GET INVOLVED - LET EXPERTS SPEAK TO US.**

#### **Participation in encounters and celebrations**

**August - December, 2017:** Seminar “Health, Aging and Retirement” in CEPAL

**September through December 2017:** Seminar: “Alzheimer Disease”

**October 17: International Day to Eradicate Poverty:** “At present, around one billion people live in extreme poverty and more than 800 million people suffer from

hunger and malnutrition,” recalls in this year’s message Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**November 2017:** Presentation of the book “Who takes care in the city?” Contributions for equality in urban policies (María Nieves Rico, Olga Segovia, Editors)

This book intends to inquire into who takes care in the city and how can it be planned and managed to respond to the needs of women, who have traditionally been assigned these tasks, so they can exercise their rights and expand their economic autonomy. The goal, according to studies made about different Latin American cities, is to expand the debate and contribute to give women as well as men, the opportunity to use and enjoy the space and time in the city in equal conditions. The book proposes to go forward towards a caring city, that allows women to overcome inclusion barriers that affect them, and embrace the right to the city.

**November, 2017:** Mortality table = Life table

The Demographic Observatory 2017, dedicated to mortality, allows one to analyze the differentials by sex and age in Latin American countries between 1950 y 2020. Tables presented have been obtained through the interpolation of mortality tables implicit in population estimates and projections, elaborated by CELADE - Population Division of CEPAL, together with or in consultation with national statistics institutes, in their 2017 revision. As usual, we include an analytical chapter in which there’s a detail of mortality differentials by sex and age in selected countries, that allows to identify the regional panorama and some particularities of the region during this period. The information corresponding to estimates and projections of the national population, urban, rural, and economically active, is available in spreadsheets in the web site of CELADE - Population Division of CEPAL.

**November 25: International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls.**

“Today the world will be illuminated in orange, as a symbol of the promising future for women and girls”, words of Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.





**November 21-25, 2017:** Participation in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay. Assembly and Retreat in the city of Colonia. Aged Adult Federation of Methodist Women of Uruguay.



**November 10 to 12:** Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Federation of Methodist Women's Meeting, Lima, Perú. Topics to be presented: Grandmothers, mothers once again? What is the role to be played by grandmothers today? - My body, my mind and my relationship with God// Bible Study: Chosen to serve//



These subjects as well as Bible studies were presented to Methodist Women of Chile, in meetings and Conventions.



**December 10: United Nations Day.** "This year's celebration of the Day of the United Nations coincides with a moment of transition for the world and for the United Nations itself", says in his annual message the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.

**December 12, 2017** International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**December 13:** World's Economic Situation and Perspectives. Regional workshop about the statistics on production of goods property seen from a gender perspective by means of homes survey.

**December 18:** International Day of the Migrant. "I call the international community to take measures related to the world's pact for a safe, regular and orderly migration", says the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.

**Effects of the internal migration on human settlements system in Latin America.**

The gradual depletion of the rural-urban migration in Latin America and the Caribbean leads to the predominance of intercity migration, a phenomenon that has been little theorized and empirically studied in the region.

Because of this, this work explores the census micro data – only existing resource in the region to estimate the migration between cities – of a dozen countries to:

- i) estimate the recent evolution of this migration according to categories based on the demographic size of the cities (including a residual category that groups municipalities, not cities);
  - ii) Estimate the effect of this migration over the composition by sex, age and education level of these city categories and
  - iii) Evaluate, generally and preliminarily, the bidirectional relationships between the socioeconomic conditions of the cities categories, on one hand, and the quantity and effects of migration between them, on the other hand.
- Rodríguez Vignoli, Jorge

## Material Sent

**(To all women in Latin America and the Caribbean)**

**October 17:** International Day to Eradicate Poverty

**November 25:** International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women

**December:**

01 World AIDS Day



10 Human Rights Day

18 International Migrants Day

## Information

### **Work of Karen Quispe Landa who participated in Helen Kim Scholarship Program**

I greet you all with much love my dear sisters and friends: it's been almost a year since we spent a beautiful time together sharing wonderful experiences. Several months have past and I'm happy to share with you what has happened.

Coming back to Perú, I met the leadership of my country's Federation and shared my experience in Houston. I came back with a different perspective and much enthusiasm to continue working and, since then, we are coordinating to work with women in my country.

**November 18-19, 2016:** Part of the volunteering in which I participate at church was being trained in first aid, and coping with vulnerable situations at temples and places of risk.

**November 25, 26 & 27, 2016:** I supported the IV Peruvian Methodist Women Meeting, offering as the main subject, the understanding of the times of God in our lives. Also we discussed the struggle to end the violence against women and their rights.

Women have to be empowered, know their worth and assume power not only at church but also in society. Women's leadership for 2017 was emphasized, and also making women's work at church more visible.

**March 8:** Support for the celebration of Women's Day where the subject Equity from Among Us was organized by the Latin America & the Caribbean Methodist Women's Confederation (CMMALC)

– Wesleyan Theological Seminary in Lima, Perú. A special time so that all can understand that our differences should not divide us, but is an opportunity to get together, and this is what we should strive for day after day.

In March, Perú is hit in several provinces by the phenomenon called El Niño that creates natural disasters causing sickness, injury and death and many houses, churches, schools and health centers become condemned for use.



The church made a call to clean and rebuild some places. I participated in cleaning days together with adolescents, youth and adults, who served with their hearts in the places to which we went. It will take a long time to recover, but we also brought food and the Word of God with our love and affection. I worked with children teaching them songs, choreographies and games.

**May 1:** I worked with the youth, organizing a session so they could learn to prepare their resumé and strategies to get a job. Also, the commitment we have to work in our church and how can we assume responsibilities.

23: We had the visit of Rev. Marisa Villareal, representative of the United Methodist Women: we had a beautiful dialog and she shared with us the work she does with women in Latin America. She gave us material translated to Spanish. It was a blessed time.

31: The President of the Federation of Methodist Women of Perú, Ms. Luz Landa Julcarima, is the coordinator of the interconfessional network of women of faith and spirituality, an ecumenical organization in which a recognition event is made every year, to transcendent women among their faith communities, who defend women's rights and development, by way of having a role that impacts society.

This recognition is granted by the Peruvian Secretary of Justice. It was a beautiful time because it gives me hope to see women's leadership and their power to impact others from their communities.

On the other hand, I want to tell you that I'm doing a degree study and my project is linked to help young people that work and cannot study. I want to help them be informed of possible study places, that allow them to work and study at the same time. I saw this need in my community. This August we continue with activities. We have 2 workshops that will be undertaken by the Methodist Women Federation of Perú and another that will be undertaken by the Methodist Women Confederation of Latin America and the Caribbean (CMMALC in Spanish), Vice President of Area.

Wesleyan Theological Seminary in Lima, Perú.

My work at church is tiring, my studies at the university and the tasks I have at my local church are sometimes very tiring and leaves me exhausted, nevertheless I do it with great pleasure because I have much to be grateful to God for the work He does every day in my life.

I work as teacher at Sunday School, with youngsters and teenagers of my church. This year I finish the university and know that God will continue to open new things in my life. I



love you very much and hope that God continues to use you and can bring better things in these months. A warm hug and many blessings. With love, Karen.

**Hope for students: Methodist educators challenge themselves for an inclusive society.**

Representatives of the affiliated educational institutions, and related to the Latin American Association of Educational Methodist Institutions (ALAIME in Spanish), met between October 14 & 16, 2017, in the city of Rosario.

In the Pedagogic Participatory Working days 2017, reflection was made on “The Challenge to educate in a Complex World”, with the attendance of representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, México, Panamá, Perú, Uruguay and fraternal guests from the U.S.A., the representative of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries of the Methodist Church and the General Director of the Methodist Schools in the Ivory Coast (Africa).

Simultaneously, the V Latin American Meeting of Methodist Colleges Students was held, and its focus was: “Peace is the way...in our diversity we flourish”.

The XX Anniversary of ALAIME was celebrated in recognition of the trajectory of this association, that has been the nuclear hub of the Methodist education in Latin America.

The letter sent at the end affirms the following: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

Reflection on the features of the present world, characterized by a focus on the “image”, the detachment from the values that enforce life, such as depersonalization, globalization, the impact of technology, overconsumption, migrations, contamination, poverty, exploitation and even how do we understand diversity.

These reflections were made along with liturgic celebrations full of our different cultures, making us enjoy our faith joyfully together.

We go through complexity from who we are: Methodist Christian educators. When analyzing the complexity, we must have the opening to get out from our comfort zone.

We mobilize in front of uncertainty, but it can be a great time for the solidary accompaniment, to be there, to look for the encounter with another and understand him/her from his/her complexity; empathize, develop a community work.

We believe in a God of grace and that that grace operates among us, in the capacities of human beings. We educators are called not to conform with what is given, but tackle our context in a critical manner, bringing the gospel closer to the context we live in.

As Methodist educators we challenge ourselves to adopt a Christian ethic, positioning ourselves as favoring life and Creation, working for a society in which everybody fits and in which there is a life before death, a life with sense, “suma camaña” (from the Aymara: the good living), to know how to listen, how to share, dream, all in an harmonic relationship. We sustain that the future is going to be whatever we want it to be or what others want for us. This is why we challenge ourselves with hope to act so that the school is a place of encounter, of dialogue, of thought development, to recover the trust in each other and the hope in the future that we build together.

❖ **Declaration regarding the attack to the Methodist Church in Quetta, Pakistan**

We have known with horror and sadness the news about the bombing and shooting in Bethel Memorial Methodist Church in the city of Quetta, west Pakistan, in which 10 people were killed and 44 were injured. We offer our deepest condolences to those whose families have been visited by a violent death or injuries in this attack.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the members of the congregation, the church of Pakistan and all affected by this atrocity. We strongly condemn all type of violence made in the name of religion and against those minorities no matter where they are.

We exhort those in position of influence and responsibility to do everything possible, be it in word or in action, to prevent such atrocities against innocent people.

When celebrating the coming of the Prince of Peace like a vulnerable child in an oppressed land, our prayer is that the hands of the violent could be stopped so that peace can prevail in God’s world and that all can live safely.

See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. (Isaiah 65:17)

Published on December 18, 2017 by Bishop Ivan Abrahams, Secretary General; Rev. Dr. Jong Chun Park, President; Ms. Gillian Kingston, Vice President; Kirby Hickey, Treasurer; Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, Secretary of Geneva.



### ❖ Floods in Chaitén, Austral territory of Chile, December 2017

Guillermo Cerda, a graduated student class 2017 of the Methodist Industrial High School in the city of Coronel, Chile, is one of the fatal victims of the flood in Santa Lucía Village, Chaitén. His father was working in Chaitén and the boy visited him in that city and shared the same cabin; at the moment of the tragedy his father had gone to work early in the morning, leaving his son sleeping in the cabin when the mud swept all over. May the Lord bring comfort and peace to all his dear ones and Senior Class E of the Methodist High School of Coronel.



## Reflection

### Consequences of natural disasters, earthquakes and hurricanes.



For several decades, global disasters have highly increased. Latin America and the Caribbean are no exception.

At present, and due to the effects in the lives of people and the possibility to prevent and mitigate de damage and this way, diminish or at least control their effects, disasters provoked by nature or by human beings are considered a social phenomenon.

Homes at the poverty level are highly vulnerable to disasters and feel their effects in a disproportionate, increasing way and for a longer time.

When compared to the population over 18, children are the most affected by poverty, therefore, they suffer more severely the consequences of disasters, an issue that vulnerates their rights.

The central article of the bulletin deepens a reflection on the infancy social protection when facing disasters. Highlighted is children's more acute vulnerability and the

increasing number of events in recent times, describing their effects on this population.

A call is made to reinforce social protection systems in countries of the region, with the perspective of infancy rights. As usual, this article includes some points of view on the matter from specialists and the voices of children affected by earthquakes and/or tsunamis.

In addition, some experiences of interest are highlighted, related to the connection between disasters and protection of children's rights in the region. This is the first virtual version of "Challenges" bulletin and besides informing about publications and events related, audiovisual resources related to the matter are included.

## **Infancy social protection in natural disaster situations**

Simone Cecchini and Guillermo Sunkel, CEPAL's Social Development Division. Alexandra Barrantes, international consultant.

Children in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those who live in a poverty context, are highly vulnerable to disasters and experience their effects in a disproportioned and increasing way.

Disasters are uncertain events that cause death, injury and damages and alter the daily order. Immediately after a disaster happens, it seems it affects everyone in the same degree; it can happen in any place and scares all involved.

Surviving the initial disaster can be uniting: in the aftermath of 2010 earthquake in Chile, which affected 80% of the population and 10% was injured, people who had never met before shared stories about what happened to them, their fears, losses and consolations.

## **The voice of children and teenagers**

After an earthquake and tsunami: what did children say?

- I fear that another earthquake can come (a boy in Talcahuano, Chile)
- When I sit to do my homework it's hard if it trembles (a girl about the replicas)
- The sea took my house (boy in Constitución)
- After the earthquake my house is now kind of leaning, but we still live there.
- Almost nothing of the construction was left (girl)
- Now we eat less because we don't have a house and have to save to buy another
- I cannot take a bath because the shower is not working after the earthquake
- We didn't have water; we could not cook food (boy)

- We made a fireplace in the open. We put a pan and cook there.

**Latin America Social Panorama, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbe (CEPAL)** responds to inquiries made by countries of the region about three big issues: the inequality on people's and families' incomes and their relation with the labor market dynamic, the evolution of poverty and its determinants, and the effects of pension systems in equality. It is necessary to underline that the analysis of poverty in the region is based on an important update of the methodology used, that improves the comparison among countries, fundamental input for an added analysis of its evolution and its determining facts.

This effort has been translated into a new series of regional data. The new statistic series corresponding to national data will be made public by CEPAL on the first semester 2018, once concluded the inquiries with respective countries.

Like in previous editions, this document gives continuity to the analysis of the dimensions of social inequality. At the same time, a new study is presented, regarding the demographic context and the inequities in the labor market, and their relationship with the covering and quality of the pension system benefits.

## **Challenges in 2018:**

**Give lectures, workshops on the subjects (I will talk with Federations leaders to do a joint work).**

### **1. THE VALUE OF CREATION. LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR PLANET.**

Objectives:

- See in Creation a gift from God.
- Pay due respect to Creation through the care of all its elements.
- Make good use of nature in a reasonable way, with the responsibility to inherit it for future generations.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all[b] the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is

on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. (Gen 1, 26-31).

**Creation in God's Plan:** first gift of love from the Lord for us. The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. (Psalms 24:1) This statement runs through the whole Bible and confirms that the earth is the first sign of the Alliance made by God with human beings. Biblical revelation teaches us that when God created man, He put him in the Garden of Eden for him to use it (cf Genesis 2:16), telling him there were limits (Genesis 2:17) that remind human beings that God is Lord and Creator and to him belongs the earth and everything in it. God delivers the whole creation into the hands of human beings to develop their lives and those of their descendants. These limits intend to preserve justice and the right everyone has to the goods of creation that God wants for the service of all. Father's creatures give Him glory with their "mere existence" and because of that, human beings must use them with care and delicacy. We are allowed to use them, not as absolute owners, but as administrators. As Jesus disciples we must be grateful for the gift of Creation, a reflection of the wisdom and beauty of God the Creator. Through Creation, each person enters into communion with Him, with other human beings and with all Creation.

**For this reason we have to commit ourselves to activities such as the following:**

**Evangelize** to discover and care the gift of Creation educating in a sober, austere and solidary life style, exercising responsibly the dominion or human stewardship over the earth, so it bears fruits as its universal destiny.

**Deepen** the ecclesiastic presence in more at-risk neighborhoods and support them in the administration of the earth, water and urban spaces.

**Promote** integral and responsible development of a human and natural ecology, based on a solidary gospel and the universal destiny of goods, in front of the individual utilitarianism.

**Encourage public policies** and citizen participation that guarantee the protection, conservation and restoration of nature.

## 2. Medicinal Plants: what are they good for?

### How to cultivate them?

After having participated in a natural medicine and healthy life workshop, I want to transfer this knowledge through workshops in



each Federation so we can become aware of them and use them. The use of healing plants is thousands of years old. They have passed the test of time from generation to generation.

### **3. My body, my mind and my relationship with God.**

Human beings don't have to endure constant sickness. If we follow God's principles on diet and health, we will enjoy abundant life. The Bible tells us that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and that we must glorify God with it as well as with our spirit (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:19-20).

Dear sisters and brothers.

Let's continue forward during the year about to start. There is much to do! God will stay with each one of us in the place where we are.

*For I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you hope. (Jeremiah 29:11). I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3). How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! (Psalms 139:17). He will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17). I will not turn away from doing them good (Jeremiah 32:40)*

***God bless you!***

**Ivonne Pereira Díaz**

**United Nations Representative ECLOC Latin America**

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