

November 2014
Volume 4, Issue 10

Malawi Reflections

By Jenny Campbell



in Africa for the first time, enabling the participants to set up a network

Pastor Ollen and Revd Gillian-Mary Swift take time out to share different experience through the International Rural Churches Association conference opportunity in Malawi.

of support and share resources with local Malawi churches. It was held in the southern city of Lilongwe. "Saying the Lord's prayer sounded like it could have been on the day of Pentecost, with everyone using their own language," she said. "Our menu included maize based cereal, bacon, bananas, eggs, stew with very little meat and beans all cooked in a makeshift kitchen by locals."

Interacting with about 30 local Malawi pastors, both women and men, telling stories from each continent present about the situation in rural churches worldwide, being immersed in workshops, conversations, worship African style with dancing, lots of movement and singing in a multitude of languages inspired Lumsden's Revd Gillian Mary Swift.

This opportunity came with her involvement in the ecumenical International Rural Churches' Association (IRCA) conference held over a week, every four years in various places around the world. This mid-year gathering saw it being held

"This was Africa so no one every knew when power would be off or on" she said. "I arrived in Malawi a couple of days before the IRCA conference began, stayed in a hostel and watched the New Zealand Sevens play South Africa at the Commonwealth Games with four Kenyans." That was an experience as they were all for South Africa but were kind to her when New Zealand lost.

"My first impressions were of dust, dirt and bikes and I couldn't believe how much can be carried on a bike, and with no gears I might add. I was well looked after by friendly locals and felt safe."

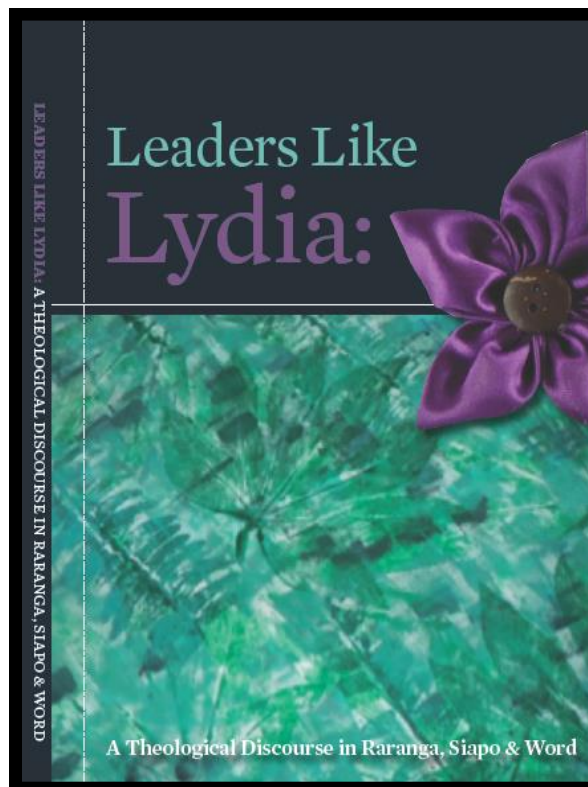
Gillian-Mary found the conference amazing. Listening to local stories as well as from several continents was very humbling. "I live in New Zealand and decided I had nothing to moan about in comparison. I was aware that the more we have, the less we seem to rely on God's grace," she said. "I was confronted with a Christianity that was bold, lively and shared. I noticed several signs at markets claiming the Jesus way as a life to follow, prayer shared in the open and many pastors giving freely of their time and gifts. The vibrant worship with dance and singing is something that enriched and touched my soul at depth. I encountered real poverty on the road trip to Lake Malawi. There were many creative initiatives to make enough money to feed their families by wood carving, basket weaving and market gardening, which seemed to be mainly cabbages." When Gillian-Mary arrived at the luxurious Lake Malawi Resort, she felt quite uncomfortable after seeing the poor walking the roads, taking their goods to market. It seemed the lifestyle between rich and poor was unjust and stories of corruption at government level were rife in local papers she said.

"Setting up an IRCA network was well received and I made several contacts that I will follow up with resources and friendship. In spite of many administrative difficulties, the conference at the Bible College was well run. We had all our basic needs met and I didn't get sick. We got used to the phrase 'this is Africa' when things didn't quite go as planned".

"One highlight for me was the Youth Programme which was run alongside the conference and I hope IRCA can do this again. Their report of learnings and sharing of stories was amazing," she said. "That story-telling is a powerful tool to effect change was re-affirmed for me. I spoke to many women who were living lives that meant change was happening, albeit slowly, in health, nutrition and education. On my plane to Lilongwe were about 200 people visiting with church or aid backing to spend time in Malawi. I also caught up with Diane and Jim Young and family, Missionary's who are supported by southern New Zealand Presbyterians."

Gillian-Mary has returned to Lumsden with great intentions, "I have come home with plans to support and resource a couple of Pastors and will be talking with the local youth group in Lumsden about a partnership. I am going to fundraise to send Bibles over so they have them in their own language," she said. "I found it a truly humbling experience and I got the change to meet Christianity in action at grass roots, thanks to Malawi."

Latest Publication



Only \$10

per copy + post & packaging

order your copy now directly through the
General Synod Office
 on +64 9 521-4439 or email
gensec@anglicanchurch.org.nz

'Leaders Like Lydia' reflects our theology as women in the Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia at this time. It demonstrates our diversity and our ability to gather and 'do' theology together. We hope that the creativity and theological reflection will inspire women to do theology in their place and to seek God in everything they do.

Publication sponsored by the

Council for Anglican Women's Studies

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia





Sixteen Days of Activism: Taking Action to End Violence against Women

Resources for Church Action (prepared by Christian Concern for One World, November 2014—*Please go to their website directly to use the links identified* www.ccow.org.uk)

Between the **25th of November**, which is the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the **10th of December**, which is Human Rights Day, churches around the world are joining other groups in “Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.” While gender-based violence can affect both men and women, the focus of the sixteen days is on ending violence directed at women, so the sixteen days are also often known by titles such as “Sixteen Days of Activism against Violence against Women.”

Why take action?

Violence against women and girls is a reality in all societies – and in our churches. We need to break the silence that surrounds this reality, challenge attitudes that help to perpetuate it, and work as women and men of faith to prevent and end violence against women and girls and all gender-based violence.

Christian theology teaches us that God is a God of love and justice, and that all are made in the image of God and called to right relationships. Violence against women and girls is contrary to this teaching. Unfortunately many churches ignore the issues or sometimes even are complicit in attitudes that can enable abuse.

What are churches doing to mark the 16 Days? And how can we get involved?

- ⇒ The Anglican Communion Office's Director for Women in Church and Society, the Revd Terrie Robinson, has produced a superb [collection of resources on the 16 Days](#). Use it to inspire action in your church, not just for the 16 Days but year round.
- ⇒ Ending violence against women and girls isn't “a women's thing”: it's for women and men together, and numerous campaigns exist to help men get involved. On the 25th of November, “[White Ribbon Day](#),” men are invited to wear white ribbons as a sign of their commitment not to commit, condone, or remain silent about men's violence against women. If you want to celebrate this in a service, there's an Australian [White Ribbon Liturgy](#). There's also a distinctly Christian version of the White Ribbon campaign, Restored's [First Man Standing](#). Could your church encourage men to join in one of these? You might want to watch this new [video of Anglican men](#) speaking out on violence against women, too!
- ⇒ The Mothers' Union has prepared a [16 Days Activism Pack](#) which includes a multitude of useful materials: theological information, prayers and reflections, 16 prayer points, a service outline and guide to holding a vigil, press releases, tweets, guidance on writing to politicians, and more.
- ⇒ Need more materials for a service? Take a look at materials collected by CABSA [here](#) and [here](#). The Methodist Church has two services online, [one](#) from Chile and [one](#) from the UK. The mission agency US has [good intercessions](#) as part of their “Hitting Home” campaign. Want materials for private prayer? Look at Tearfund's [prayer resource](#) with 16 days of stories and prayer points and [daily prayer points](#) in the Catholic tradition from the Philippines. The Catholic Bishops (USA) also [suggest a way of using Psalm 55](#).
- ⇒ [Restored](#) is preparing a 16 Days activity pack, which will be on their website. Might your church also use the Restored [Church Pack](#) to find out more about domestic violence and how you can help prevent it?
- ⇒ The World Council of Churches is reviving “[Thursdays in Black](#),” a campaign where women and men are encouraged to wear black as a peaceful protest against rape and violence. Churches will hold services where clergy wear black, and congregations will dress in black or be given black ribbons or [badges](#). Look for prayers in resources above; you might also take the [Thursdays in Black](#) or [We Will Speak Out](#) pledge.

SHOW YOU'RE
AGAINST VIOLENCE
TOWARDS WOMEN



White Ribbon Day
25 November
www.whiteribbon.org.nz

BOOK LAUNCH: Leaders Like Lydia



*Photos Supplied by
Anglican Taonga*

which would gladden any accountants heart. Many of the contributors had never had their work published before and so the joy in seeing their work printed in a beautifully presented book designed by Marcus Thomas Design was a delight to behold. Carole Hughes thanked Bishop Victoria

On Tuesday, 30th September 2014, the Council launched it's latest publication based on the work, discussions and methodology from last year's hui 'Leaders Like Lydia: A Theological Discourse in Raranga, Siapo and Word'. It was a real pleasure to have so many of the contributors to the book present to share in our celebration. The work presented from the three hui workshops led by the Reverends Brenda Sio and Amy Chambers for Siapo, Revd Erice Fairbrother for Word Weaving and Revd Mere Wallace for Raranga feature throughout the book and delighted many of the participants from this year's hui who also joined in the celebrations. Everyone present received a free copy and there was a 'flurry' of additional sales



Matthews for writing such a lovely endorsement which features on the back cover and Erice Fairbrother thanked Reverend Lynne Frith, firstly for accepting the invitation for being our Hui Word Catcher and then the additional challenge of editing all the work submitted for this publication.

Clockwise: Many of the books contributors watch on while the book is blessed; hui participants looking at their complimentary copy; Publication Working Group—Lynne Frith (Word Catcher/Editor), Carole Hughes & Erice Fairbrother; Hui Workshop leaders, Amy Chambers & Brenda Sio look on as Lynne Frith shows off the book; Lynne busy signing autographs.



The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies (WSC)

Karena de Pont, Administrator

Email: anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com or anglican.wsc@clear.net.nz

Home Office Phone: + 64 9 422-0102 Cell Phone: 027 631-3083

General Synod Office Phone: + 64 9 521-4439 www.anglican.org.nz

Postal: General Synod Office, P O Box 87-188, Meadowbank, Auckland 1742, New Zealand



The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Women's Studies Centre** was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.

The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

**NEW BOOK RELEASE
LEADERS LIKE LYDIA**

Only \$10 per copy

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.



Women's Studies Centre Council Members — 2012/2014

TIKANGA MAORI -

- Revd Mere Wallace
mere.wallace@westcoastdwb.org.nz
- Revd Numia Tomoana
numia_5@hotmail.com

TIKANGA POLYNESIA -

- Revd C. Amy Chambers
mumsy@connect.com.fj
- Revd Evelini Langi
evelini_langi@yahoo.com

TIKANGA PAKEHA

- Revd Erice Fairbrother
ecfairbrother@waiapu.com
- Revd Carole Hughes (Convenor)
carolesunrise@xtra.co.nz

Women's Studies Centre Diocesan & Hui Amorangi Link Representatives

Diocese of Auckland -

- Revd Nyasha Gumbeze
tamarisk1999@yahoo.co.nz

Diocese of Christchurch -

- Revd Jenni Carter
jenni.carter@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Dunedin

- Jenny Campbell
jennycam@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Nelson

- Revd Dr Sue Patterson
registrar@bishopdale.ac.nz

Diocese of Waiapu

- Revd Oenone Woodhams
oenone@waiapu.com

Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki

- Revd Jacqui Paterson
craacqd@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Wellington

- Revd Jenny Chalmers
jenny@clear.net.nz

Diocese of Polynesia

- Refer to Tikanga Polynesia Councilors
(see above)

Hui Amorangi o te Tairawhiti

- Ruihana Paenga
ruihana@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Tai Tokerau

- Revd Jenny Quince
quincemail@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke

- Rahera Biddle
R.biddle@pirirakauhauora.org.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Upoko o te Ika

- Revd Leonie Joseph
raulee04@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Waipounamu

- The Ven Mabel Grennell
mabel.tekorowai@xtra.co.nz

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: The Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general the WSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.