



December 2018
Volume 8, Issue 11

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia

Anglican Women's Studies Centre

Knocking on the Purple Glass Ceiling

At the Electoral College of the Diocese of Polynesia held in October to identify a nominee to be the next Bishop of Polynesia, two women were amongst the nine candidates seeking endorsement: The Revd Dr Eseta Mateiviti-Tulavu and Revd Sereima Lomaloma.

In moving Sereima's name the Revd C Amy Chambers said, "Matthew 20:28 says, 'The Son of Man came, not to be served, but to serve', that's where the Revd Sereima has applied herself practically, over the last four decades. Sereima's vision for the Diocese is simple and achievable. It is anchored in 1 Corinthians 12: 'Unity in diversity'. Firstly,

that God's word is preached and taught uncompromisingly; secondly, that we need to explore again the need to be a praying church and a worshipping community; lastly, recognising our diversity and working together in unity. Sereima is a passionate advocate for women's issues in partnership with men. Today we celebrate the fact that our Synod has a lot more women. Have you



From Left: Revd Amy Chambers, Revd Sereima Lomaloma and Gualofa P Matalavea at the Electoral College of the Diocese of Polynesia to elect the next Diocesan Bishop of Polynesia.

ever wondered what happened? Way back in 2011, together with Archbishop Winston Halapua, Sereima worked to ensure that more lay and ordained women were allowed to attend Synod. I believe that God's calling me to be the voice of women across the church, that it's time for a woman to become the Bishop of Polynesia. One who can speak confidently on Diocesan, Provincial



and wider church matters, as well as network globally on current social issues, yet remain firmly grounded in the calling to serve and not be served."

The seconder, Gualofa P Matalavea highlighted that Sereima's work has been strategically based on proven guidance and contextualized to suit our circumstances in the Pacific. "The socio-economic realities of our world ladies and gentlemen, calls for exceptional people who can motivate large contributions and negotiate financial assistance to support our many wish lists.....and that is what Revd Sereima, has been offering and will continue to offer."

We asked Reverend Sereima for her comment: "It's important that women come forward as candidates. Have you heard of

the glass ceiling? It is a metaphor, an invisible barrier that exists in organisations that women rising up the leadership level find very hard to penetrate. Well in this case it was the purple glass ceiling, purple being the colour for bishops. Eseta and I were knocking on the purple glass ceiling of episcopal leadership." said Sereima. "That glass ceiling that acts as a barrier to women rising to the upper echelons of leadership, one day it will be shattered. It's coming, mark my words!"

PLEASE NOTE: The Revd Fereimi Cama has been elected as the next Diocesan Bishop of Polynesia. He will therefore become Archbishop and Primate, or joint leader of The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

To Serve, and Not To Be Served

By Revd C Amy Chambers

Mr President and members of the Electoral College. I stand to propose the name of Revd Sereima Lomaloma, to the position of Bishop of the Diocese of Polynesia.

Matthew 20:28 says, "The Son of Man came, not to be served, but to serve". This is the essence of a Bishop's call as contained, on page 913 of the ANZPB/He Karakia Mihinare O Aotearoa.

What is substance therefore, in our Christian world, depends not on rituals which convey the message, but in how the message is lived out, in our daily lives. That's where the Revd Sereima has applied herself practically, over the last four decades, through her work in the Diocese, in the nation as a civil servant and for regional and international communities.

It's a reflection of her servant leadership and of her dedication to God's work by upholding justice and striving for peace. It's a true reflection of her insistence that wise discipline and the promotion of unity, binds us together. It's a manifestation of her courage to keep the Diocese true to its faith and to preside over its worshipping life.

Sereima has exercised her ministry of care as an ordained person outside a parish setting and done that well. Ask the parishioners, where she's preached about her understanding of the gospel and the importance of being a follower of Christ. Ask the family where she ministered to one of their beloved members for seven months until she died. Ask the non-Christian family whom she supported for one year until they

were all baptised, and the couples whom she supported in their marriage and baptism. Ask the family of the wheelchair bound man she visited with the sacrament each week and earned herself the name Aunty Jesus.

A leader sets direction and Sereima does that in her work both in the Diocese and in the Province. She's an enabler, an encourager and a team worker - not only setting the direction in consultation with others but journeying alongside her team to serve with them - hers is a ministry of service. She's been at the centre of the development of Christian Education and Just Leadership in our schools, worked with Committees and people on developing and enhancing Ministry training. She's served this Diocese faithfully for 18 years working with Archbishops Bryce and Halapua.

Sereima's visions for the Diocese are simple and achievable. It is anchored in 1 Corinthians 12: Unity in diversity. Firstly, that God's word is preached and taught uncompromisingly; secondly, that we need to explore again the need to be a praying church and a worshipping community; Lastly, recognising our diversity and working together

In the Province, Sereima has been chair of Te Kotahitanga for two terms. Ask Bishop Pikaahu of Tikanga Maori why he nominated her to be chair when he stood down. Ask Bishop Andrew Hedge, who's chaplain of this Electoral College, why the Tikanga Pakeha members nominated her to be chair a second time. Sereima understands the needs of the Diocese and is able to articulate that in Provincial forums, so that the voice of



Polynesia is heard. She's a true servant of this Diocese.

Sereima's a passionate advocate for women's issues in partnership with men. Today we celebrate the fact that our Synod has a lot more women. Have you ever wondered how that happened? Way back in 2011, together with Archbishop Winston Halapua, Sereima worked to ensure that more lay and ordained women were allowed to attend synod.

Some people may be wondering why I'm, proposing Sereima's name for this sacred task, given our history of disagreements on many issues over the past 13 years whilst working togeth-

er. Yes, we do have personal differences; but we are both clear about God's call in our lives. I believe that God's calling me to be the voice of women across the church, that it's time for a woman to become the Bishop of Polynesia. One who can speak confidently on Diocesan, Provincial and wider church matters, as well as network globally on current social issues, yet remain firmly grounded in the calling to serve and not be served.

I believe that this person is the Revd Sereima Divulavou Lomaloma.

Introducing two new AWSC Link Representatives

Revd Raumiria McRoberts

AWSC Link Rep for Te Manawa o te Wheke

I am Raumiria and was born in Te Kaha, which is situated on a coastal strip of the Bay of Plenty. I spent 14 years of my educational life in Te Whanau a Apanui Area School. I spent the younger days of my life as a Christian but during my adolescence I then drifted away from it and became a parent during my adult life. I moved to Tauranga with my 3 girls where they went to school. When my children became adults themselves, I was slowly lead back again to living a Christian life and I was commissioned as a Lay Reader in 2000.

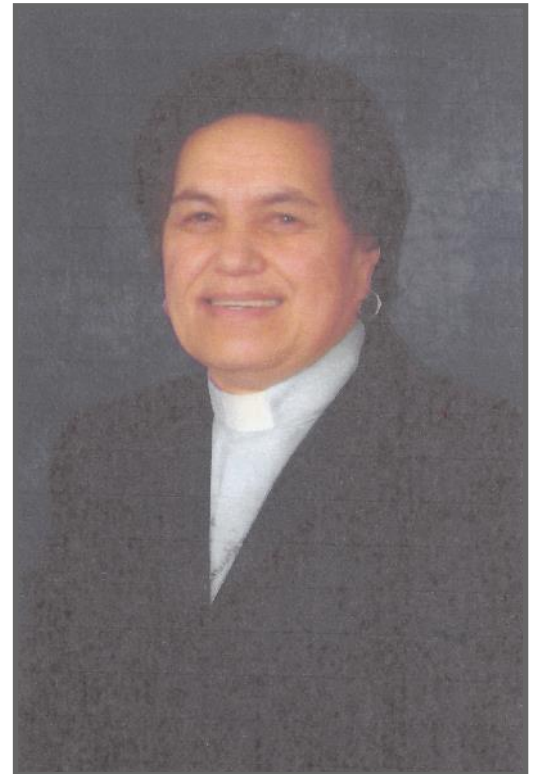
In 2003 I lost a daughter and I drew strength through this terrible time from my faith which became stronger in me. Before my daughter died, I worked as a Care Giver and I asked the Lord to give me strength and lead me to a path. I was then ordained as a Deacon in 2004 and then later married. Somewhere, somehow I ended up as a Chaplain in the Waikato Hospital where I worked for 8 years before working as a Prison Chaplain for 3 more years.

I joined the Anglican Kahui Wahine o te Manawa o te Wheke and try to live according to their 5 Mission Statements:

- † To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- † To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- † To respond to human need by loving service.
- † To transform unjust structures of society to challenge violence of any kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- † To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of earth.

In October 2007 I was ordained a Priest and then my life became VERY busy. Today I live in Tokoroa and preside at St Francis Church. I had 3 daughters and now have 3 grandsons and 4 granddaughters.

Nga mihi kia koutou tena koutou katoa!!!!





A Hospital Friend

as told to Revd Raumiria McRoberts

In 2014 I was told I had cancer and it was a severe case and treatment needed to be started as soon as. So this was it!

Will my life be shortened or will I have the strength and energy to complete this journey. In my mind I was kind of afraid due to already losing a younger brother and then later my mother to cancer.

I spent 23 days in the hospital and hoped I'd never have to return for anymore treatment. Misery has its moments when sharing with others who have the same health problems as mine while I was there and I was lucky that my daughter was able to stay with me during some of these miserable moments.

One day I was feeling at my lowest and a hospital staff member visited me. She was different from the other medical staff. She introduced herself and I found myself spilling all my stories to her. Some were good, some were naughty and others were of my frustration when I had enough and wanted to just get out of this hospital!

Once during my chemo treatment, all I could think of was 'please hurry, I want to get out' but during those 7 sessions I was feeling the effects of the chemo. There was pain everyday, and I started losing my hair. My hospital friend would call in every morning, share things but for me all I could do was moan about how much pain and the effects I was going through. When I think back, I think I must have been hallucinating when I was talking to her.

Her visits with me were regular and they were getting longer too. Some days she would come and sit by my bed with her work to do with others she needed to visit too. I was getting the attention so much, but then she would get phone calls and leave me on my own. I was getting attached and felt lonely when she disappeared too long. Sometimes, she would be away for the rest of the day but she would always call in before she went home. One day I was feeling really good and I think she had noticed it and stayed with me longer. I was getting kind of selfish because I knew she was tired but it was great to have her for that extra time she gave me.

I hadn't been eating for a few days so I asked if she would get me some of my favourite food and some extra fruit. There were days she would bring more of her work to my room to sit and complete, so I offered to do it for her but she had this phone in her bag and it would ring all the time and I knew she

would have to leave me alone again, but I now had something to do and I enjoyed doing it.

After chemo therapy had been done, it was time for blood transfusions. The hospital friend surprised me one morning, I as having an attitude problem and to my surprise she snapped at me 'to pull myself together. What is all this fuss about?' My friend had been talking to the staff member on the quiet and before I knew it a wheel chair had arrived. "Who is that for?", I asked the friend and she said, it was for you and we are going out for a few minutes". "I don't need that" I replied, "I can walk". "Not this time, it is a bit too far for you to walk". So we were off. There were long corridors not only on one floor but every floor. We were on the 6th floor but then we went down the elevator to the ground floor. I had no idea where we were. She kept saying we won't get lost but in my mind I was already there! I was getting shown around the hospital.

This made me realize how big this hospital was, and how big my friend's job was. The miles that she walked everyday visiting people like me in this hospital. The corridors were long and there were so many floors that she did everyday. I got to realize that I had a true friend when she paid so much attention to me. She was a true friend I met in the hospital. Years later, I still see her today. I was so blessed to find a good hospital friend in the hospital.





By Revd Isabel Mordecai AWSC Link Rep for Waiapu

getting to know new people and becoming part of the Waiapu Diocese.

I first attended an Anglican Women’s Studies Centre conference at Vaughan Park, with the theme of “Pastor & Prophet” I think it was in 2011. And I have attended a few more conferences since then. The recent conference in Fiji was wonderful, especially the singing!

The Anglican Women’s Studies Centre is a great example of the three Tikanga church working together as one, and I find it really rewarding to meet every year and share ideas and different cultural understandings

of how we do “Church” in these Pacific islands.

I feel honoured to be asked by Revd Rosemary Carey to become the new Link Person for the Waiapu Diocese. I am happy to be involved with such a wonderful group of women.

My name is Isabel Mordecai and I live in Tauranga. I moved here from Auckland in August 2016, and became the Associate Priest at St John’s Church in Otumoetai, and Chaplain at Hodgson House Retirement Village. I have really enjoyed

AWSC BOOK LAUNCH:

Ka Tuituia Tatou e te Aho Tapu

The Sacred Thread that Weaves Us Together



On Sunday, 2nd December the AWSC Council launched its latest book “KA TUITUIA TATOU E TE AHO TAPU” (*The Sacred Thread the Weaves Us Together*) at St Matthews, Waipatu near Hastings.

Many of the artworks featured in the book were displayed

Backrow from Left: Archdeacon Carole Hughes, Revd Marie Macdonald, Margot Huiarei Yates, Ann Rarere, Maraea Tanoa, Caroline Tichborne, Archdeacon Numia Tomoana & Karena de Pont. *Seated:* Archdeacon Mere Wallace & Ruby Solomon

Photo: Tia Tomoana



around St Matthews chapel. Archbishop Don Tamihere blessed the book while representatives of the AWSC Council and Links present, and the Editorial Team lay their hands on the book.

Between waiata and prayer, Archdeacon Mere Wallace talked about this unique offering where we celebrate these art works of tikanga Maori Anglican women and the biblical text and spirituality that inspire them.

Each of the contributors were presented with a complimentary copy and invited to talk about their work and being part of this project. It was wonderful to see so many of the contributors to this book gathered at the launch and to see their delighted faces as they recognised their work within the covers published for the first time.



Photo: Tia Tomoana

From Left: Ruby Solomon, Maraea Tanoa, Mere Tomoana & Caroline

From paintings through to tukutuku panels, raranga to korowai and feathered kete, the range of work and inspiration shared is a tribute to the many talents of these Anglican women and the journey of learning and sharing. The call went out across the Hui Amorangi inviting women to participate and the *Gospel Weavers* of Waipatu among others took up that call. Many of whom shared similar stories of being invited to take part in Wednesday morning worship by June Tomoana, the late mother of Co-Editor Archdeacon Numia Tomoana. This service was usually followed by a cup of tea and been taught how to weave by June. From those humble beginnings, the women have grown in confidence not only with their own skill at weaving but in their faith and community and now they are able to be the teachers.


On behalf of AWSC, Archdeacon Numia Tomoana, Convenor of the AWSC Council and Co-Editor of the book, took this opportunity to present Karena de Pont with a beautiful feathered kete made by Ruby Solomon that featured in the book and Mere and Susan Wallace presented her with a pounamu pendant carved by Susan’s son, in recognition of her years of service to AWSC, in which she was truly humbled and honoured by their generosity and appreciation.



Photo: Tia Tomoana

The contributors are called into the church

The Editorial Team would especially like to thank Tia Tomoana for her stunning photos of the majority of the art work contained in the book. The art works themselves are truly wonderful but Tai’s photos captured their beauty and honoured the work in their portrayal through her photography.



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Publication sponsored by the COUNCIL FOR ANGLICAN WOMEN’S STUDIES,
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia





Karena sitting at her relatively tidy (at times it looked much worse) desk in her home office

Saying Farewell

*By Karena de Pont
AWSC Administrator*

To say goodbye to something or someone that has played such a pivotal role in your life is never easy and that is where I am at today, saying goodbye to you all, the treasured women of the Anglican Women's Studies Centre Network. Little did I realise when I first started working within the Anglican Church as PA to Te Ahorangi o Te Rau Kahikatea, St John's Theological College for Dr Jenny Te Paa-Daniel that 16 years later I would still be here, although in a slightly different guise. It was through Jenny that I came to be involved in AWSC. Jenny has been a long-time servant of the Anglican Church both within the Province of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia and also around the Communion, as well as being a huge advocate for women in ministry and gender injustices. She was one of the originals who advocated for AWSC at General Synod and as founding Convenor, I as her PA, provided administrative support to this virtual 'Centre'.

The early years were spent holding brainstorming hui, gathering women with the focus on higher theological education and mentoring those who showed leadership potential and exposing them to the international arena where possible. The benefit of this focus can be seen today in the leadership of this church. However, there was gossip of elitism which undermined the programme of intent and AWSC adapted its focus to be more inclusive. With the two-fold effect of restructuring at St John's Theological College and Jenny going on sabbatical and being replaced with Rangī Nicholson as Acting Te Ahorangi, it was time to step away from St John's as the AWSC workload was increasing and needing a dedicated Administrator to oversee its activities. Fortunately, I was able to transfer into this part-time role in 2011 working from my home office and have enjoyed the journey ever since supporting women in ministry through AWSC.

As a Roman Catholic, I must admit I am a little envious of the Anglican's proactive stance for women in ministry and wish with all my heart that the institution of the Roman Catholic church would recognize that a woman's faith is no less genuine than a man's



and therefore, should have equal status on the altar for Christ in all its forms.

I have been blessed and my life greatly enriched to be able to work alongside some wonderful women on the AWSC Council and its Diocesan and Hui Amorangi Link Representatives. Following on from Jenny as Convenor, AWSC was led by Archdeacon Carole Hughes and now with Archdeacon Numia Tomoana, both of whom are women of immense integrity and enthusiastic advocates for women in ministry. It has been a real privilege to share the lives of so many women and to be able to visit around the Province, going to marae, small rural parishes, sharing meals, and stories—witnessing pain, frustration and also your joys. I am so very grateful that you have allowed me to stand with you and you have welcomed me, an outsider in. I feel that I am a much better person for these opportunities, I now have a better understanding of different contexts and the implications for women. While some things are universal, other things are not and the richness in diversity is a strength of this three tikanga church.

Of course, at times I was challenged, taken out of my comfort zone and I fumbled my way through things desperately trying not to embarrass others or cause unintentional offence. But that is the challenge and the excitement also of working and being in a three tikanga environment. Robust conversation, willingness to listen to others, adapting your process to allow room for others and another point of view or way of doing things kept things interesting and allowed us to grow more together. One of the

things that I still struggle with is 'conversational pauses'. Having been taught by my mother 'the art of conversation, and filling the silence', I struggle with keeping quiet and not speaking into conversational pauses at meetings and discussions. I have learnt that not all cultures want or need to fill a silence, e.g. I have found that Pasifika people in a formal sitting like to reflect in silence before speaking so they need their tikanga partners to respect this so they can enter into the discussion in their own time and pace. If you are patient listener, wisdom will come your way.

I would like to thank the many women who have sent me their best wishes on my retirement too. I know my friends often feel envious of the level of appreciation extended to me which doesn't freely flow within their own work environments. It is one of the reasons that walking away has been so difficult but it is time for me to concentrate more on my artistic endeavours, maybe exhibit more, spend more time in the garden and travel with my husband, spend time with my 98 year old mother and my 10 week old grandson. The seasons I have spent with the Anglican Church and especially AWSC have been good ones. I walk away with a bountiful crop and an overflowing kete. I wish the new Administrator well and pray for the continuation of this wonderful network through your on-going support.

WE NEED YOU and YOU and YOU and YOU

For the new AWSC Publication Project Celebrating
40 Years of Women's Ordination to the Priesthood within
the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

EDITOR & THREE TIKANGA EDITORIAL TEAM VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The AWSC Council is looking for an experienced Editor to volunteer to lead a small Editorial Team comprising volunteers from each of the three tikanga for our next publication project over a two year period starting next year.

SEEKING WRITERS TOO—Expressions of Interest

The intention of this publication is to present a variety of essays and anecdotal stories of the experiences of ordained women from each of the three tikanga. It will be an opportunity to mark the significant milestones within each tikanga of women's ordination; the women past and present who have been ordained and their journey towards ordination; to acknowledge the journey and advocacy towards gender equality; to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of ordained women in this three tikanga Province; to share the stories of who mentored those being ordained and why.

These suggestions are just the starting point so we look forward to receiving an email expressing your interest in writing an essay or story along with your proposed topic so that the Editorial Team can contact you.

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The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the Anglican 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 Anglican Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

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 fulfil 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 web publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.

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EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: The Anglican 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 AWSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.