

Church Leaders Messages



"In Colin Gibson's song "He Came Singing Love," we are challenged to keep the Christian virtues of love, faith, hope and peace alive – for us to make them our song. CWS's annual Christmas Appeal is one way in which we can do precisely that, not just in word but in deed. Providing emergency relief in strife-torn countries is a vitally important aspect of CWS's work. But integral to the tasks of achieving lasting peace and engendering long-term hope are the commitments to educate, train and empower young people and women, and to strive for the reform of oppressive political and economic systems. That's what this Christmas Appeal is about. I commend it to you. And along with any financial support which you may feel prompted to give, please pray for the work of CWS and for the people and communities CWS serves on our behalf and in Christ's name."

-Rev Dr Graham Redding, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Aotearoa New Zealand



"I have no hesitation in supporting the CWS Christmas Appeal for 2008. The challenge this year's Appeal brings, under the title of "KEEP HOPE ALIVE" is to do everything possible to assist the CWS partners who are working to deal with the effects of violence and conflict and make their communities better places. The funds raised from the 2008 Appeal will be directed towards East Timor, El Salvador, Sri Lanka and Sudan-Darfur. All have people in great need. May the Spirit of Christmas, which is centred on God's indescribable gift to us in Jesus, be mirrored in our giving to this worthy Appeal."

-Garth McKenzie, Commissioner, Territorial Commander, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory, The Salvation Army



Keep Hope Alive Christmas Appeal: We commend to you the work of Christian World Service and fully support this Christmas Appeal which keeps hope alive. We must also remember that this struggle goes on in many countries including our own. Paul says in his letter 1 Corinthians 13:13, "There remains faith, hope and love. The greatest of these is love". Faith without love can be cold, hope without love can be grim. When love permeates the efforts we make in Jesus name, hope becomes a reality. Through our combined hope, prayer and generosity we will see many of these difficulties resolved. Every Blessing

+Brown Turei +David Moxon +Jabez Bryce, Archbishops and Primates, Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia



"The CWS Christmas Appeal is a witness of churches working together to KEEP HOPE ALIVE. In giving this Christmas we are all uniting as congregations to support the people of East Timor, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, and Sudan-Darfur. Our small gift, silently given through the appeal envelope, shouts out to the world that there is love - even in the midst of tragedy and hardship. Our small gift, discretely passed on to CWS, is openly received with song and dance by the recipients. Our small gift has the ability to make a difference and keep hope alive."

Peter MacKenzie, Executive Officer, Uniting Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand



John Wesley founded the Methodist Church in 18th century England and quickly set about targeting poverty and material hardship to be alleviated even before any sort of spiritual fulfilment or personal happiness could become a reality. New Zealand Methodists have followed his example by making our society a better place through initiatives such as 'Breaking the Cycle' of social injustice and instead bring about a 'Cycle of Life'. With that background I can wholeheartedly endorse the "KEEP HOPE ALIVE" theme for the CWS Christmas Appeal.

Jill van de Geer, President Elect, Methodist Church of NZ



Christian World Service in working with its partners around the world performs an essential role in keeping the spark of hope alive in the hearts of those they work with. It is so hard, down here in the lower corner of the South Pacific, to appreciate the true enormity of the problems in the underprivileged parts of the world. Supporting CWS is one way of making a useful contribution. To quote from Quaker Faith and Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand, 4.31:- "So let us get on with doing things together - eating, planning, acting to heal every sort of hurt, where we can. That way we reach towards God, who is merciful and righteous, or towards God-like-ness."

- W.V. (Bill) Robinson, Yearly Meeting Clerk, Quakers, The Religious Society of Friends Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand, Te Haahi Tuuhauwiri