

# CWS 2024 in Review

Less poverty and more justice for those most vulnerable and disadvantaged

## *Funding and Appeals*

We have appreciated the ongoing support of our member denominations, including the Anglican, Christian Churches, Methodist, Presbyterian, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Similarly, thanks is extended to the individual members and parishes of these Churches, along with many other individual supporters, and philanthropic trusts noted in our financial accounts<sup>1</sup>. Without the generosity of these New Zealanders, the work we do would not be possible.

During the course of this last year, we have raised funds through a variety of means including our: Christmas Appeal, Gifted Appeal, four Seasonal Appeals, Emergency Appeals, bequests, philanthropic grants, and the gifts of our regular supporters who contribute through our Partner for Life programme.

Along with global trends, a feature of the last twelve months has been the generosity received towards humanitarianism or emergency relief. In particular, well over \$200,000 has been raised thus far in solidarity with those suffering in Gaza and the



Middle East. Displaced, and re-displaced victims are living through the most catastrophic experience imaginable. Due to media coverage, it is possible to think that no, or very little aid has been able to get across the border. Yet, our partner, the Middle Eastern Council of Churches Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees has worked heroically around the clock to provide medical, dental, psychosocial, mother and childcare, financial, and practical help to in excess of 300 person each day. We must continue to pray in our churches and as individuals for the situation in this part of the world, but also to financially support the innocent casualties of the despicable power games of warlords.

<sup>1</sup><https://register.charities.govt.nz/CharitiesRegister/ViewCharity?accountId=2b956e37-8596-dc11-8026-0015c5f3da29&redirectUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fregister.charities.govt.nz%2FCharitiesRegister%2FSearch%3FSubmitted%3DTrue%26CharityNameSearchType%3DContains%26CharityName%3DCWS>

Other humanitarian emergency work CWS has supported these last twelve months has included: the food crisis in East Africa, those fleeing instability in Afghanistan, those working to alleviate the long term effects of the eruption and tsunami in Tonga, victims of the war in Ukraine, flood victims in Pakistan, earthquake affected families and individuals in Turkey and Syria, along with those impacted by cyclones in Vanuatu. Funds were also distributed to support refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and for the Rohingya people in Bangladesh.

Our development work has supported CWS international partners around the globe, including Fiji, India, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tonga, and Uganda. This important work addresses a wide variety of issues including; agriculture, climate action, environmental protection, fisheries, HIV and AIDS, human rights, livelihoods, peace and reconciliation, sustainable economic development and women's rights. All programmes CWS supports are initiated and run by local communities, or those who are best placed to understand local needs - and to find sustainable solutions within their context.



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## *Current and Future Developments*

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CWS is evolving in response to both local and international developments. During the course of the last twelve months the Board has embarked on a programme of change to ensure it functions as efficiently and effectively as possible. While this has had implications for our staff within Aotearoa New Zealand, it also has an impact on our international partnerships. This will see a future focus of our work being increasingly directed towards a narrower, but more strategic group of endeavours. This includes a concentration on:

- Climate Action
- Disaster Relief
- Oceania
- Peace and Justice
- Zero Hunger



*Malcolm Sproull, our new  
Domestic Partnerships Lead*

To ensure CWS operates as efficiently as possible, the Board has also recently determined to direct its attention towards substantially building its revenue. While many administrative costs are fixed, if revenue can be increased then 'economies of scale' will be attained, meaning the overall percentage of income consumed by overheads is reduced. Consequently, for the immediate future, an emphasis is to be placed on developing our domestic partnerships. Led by our new Domestic Partnerships Lead Malcolm Sproull, central to this strategy is forging strong relationships with local and national churches and our current and yet-to-be individual supporters. Our goal is to korero together around how we might best interpret the gospel call of loving our neighbour both regionally and globally.

This year's Christmas Appeal is centred on the theme **Give Climate Hope this Christmas**. The appeal features the work of our partner the Tonga Community Development Trust. At its centre, the appeal introduces a wonderful woman of faith - Mrs Mafi. She is a retired police officer and a lively Grandmother who is volunteering to educate young Tongans where she lives in climate resilience. CWS has collaborated with Rev Dr Steve Taylor to write a set of church service resources, including sermon notes for each of the four Sunday's of Advent, and for the Christmas Day Service.



As the processes and practices within the organisation experience re-evaluation and re-alignment to ensure maximization of efficiency and effectiveness, we note that change can often be difficult and unsettling for staff and other stakeholders. With that in mind, a particular note of appreciation is extended for the work of our Finance Manager, Mr Keith Ardern for his work in adapting the financial systems of CWS during the course of the last year. Equally, we note with gratitude the work of both Nadine Wells and Italy Cooper, who have absorbed much of the day-to-day administration associated with bringing our financial transactions inhouse and have done so on top of their already busy schedules leading our administration.



Lastly, thanks is extended to those who serve on our Board of Trustees. Jill Hawkey (independent trustee) who has served as Chair, Tara Tuatari (Methodist Representative) and Sally Russell (Presbyterian Representative) all concluded their terms. Equally, the Board has been pleased to welcome Te Rito Peyroux-Semu as the Methodist Representative and Losana Korovulavula as an independent trustee. At the most recent Board meeting, Tonga based Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi (Anglican representative) was appointed Chair.

Please do continue to pray with CWS as we seek to expand the vital work of the ministry.

Nollaig shona dhuit  
Merry Christmas

Tim

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National Director