

FOR YOUR DIARY

Fair Trade Fortnight

Join the celebration 7 – 22 May. This year you are asked to Show off your Swap and send in your photos to CWS. Maybe try a Fair Trade Bake Off and raise funds for CWS's campaign work or a partner. If you haven't already taken up the challenge, then become a Fair Trade Church and offer fair trade tea and coffee at morning tea. More ideas including images and worship resources will be available on the website next week or from Gillian.southey@cws.org.nz

Mothers Day 8 May

Gifts with a difference and a wide reaching impact - Choose something that helps a mother feed and care for her family. There are many special gifts benefiting CWS partners. Check out: <http://gift.org.nz/>



CONTACT US

www.cws.org.nz
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CWS Office Arrangements

Christchurch North Methodist Church is kindly providing temporary office space for CWS following the Christchurch earthquake. Contact details remain: PO Box 22 652, Christchurch 8142, Tel 03 3669 274 or 0800 74 73 72, and cws@cws.org.nz. Most staff are working from home and can be contacted through the main office. We appreciate the kind messages we received after the quake and your ongoing understanding of the difficulties it has caused. We rely upon your thoughts and prayers as we continue our work.

After six weeks, we were able to access the office for 30 minutes and retrieve some crucial items (pictured right). Many materials, resources files and records remain in our office behind the red-zone cordon. We are unsure when we will be able to clear them out as the building lies



in the 'drop zone' of the damaged 27 storey Hotel Grand Chancellor. With the help of board Chair, Graeme Nicholas and Godzone, we had been able to restore much of our back up filing system and will now be filling the gaps with data retrieved from the office. Because of the challenges, compounded by some suppliers also having difficulty operating, some programmes and areas of work have been suspended or delayed. We are returning to normal service as quickly as possible, although some staff members remain seconded to earthquake recovery work (see below).

End of year receipts, orders and lost cheques

Some donations, receipts and resource orders from before February 22 have only just been retrieved. If you are waiting for a receipt or an order, or a donation has not been processed please contact Mandla at 0800 74 73 72. Our apologies for the delays.

Appeals

Japan Appeal

CWS has launched an appeal after the Japanese earthquake, tsunami and nuclear contamination. The situation is extremely critical. Download appeal leaflet at: <http://www.cws.org.nz/files/Japan%20Appeal.doc>. To find out more about the ACT Alliance response see <http://www.actalliance.org/stories/japan-ecumenical-assistance> and watch a report at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jr_Qu8p408&feature=player_embedded

CWS Staff respond

CWS staff have been active in the local earthquake response. Nick Clarke is the coordinator of the NGO Disaster Relief Forum (NDRF) efforts being undertaken by a number of international agencies in Christchurch. The group brings global experience and resources to local efforts. Nick and media officer Greg Jackson, who is providing media support to NDRF, are regularly attending briefings at the Civil Defence headquarters. Youth and Schools Coordinator and deacon at St Faith's Anglican Katrina Hill is running the New Brighton Recovery Assistance Centre where government and agencies base their help for local residents. Other staff are also involved locally. This work will be featured in the forthcoming edition of @world.

Government Funding

Last month the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced significant changes to the process for the government's Official Development Assistance fund for NGOs (Non Government Organisations). They also announced a further round with applications due on April 15 (and a special April 30 deadline for CWS in recognition of our difficult situation). CWS is negotiating with selected partners with the intention of making new applications to help them do their vital work. We remain concerned that the fund focuses more on what is done in New Zealand than in poverty reduction. A three member 'Selection Panel' including MP John Hayes will make the final decisions on funding. CWS is preparing a more detailed response which will be posted on the website shortly.

Special thanks to the church leaders who raised some of the widely held concerns with the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and to all those who have written in support of a more transparent and appropriate funding system.

Most of our partners have lost matching government funding this year, threatening their work.

The Emergency is Us Fundraising Appeal

With the loss in government funding, CWS is holding a special appeal so groups can continue their work against poverty. The appeal highlights the work of six partners, the impact of their work and why they need your help now.

CWS is asking parishes to consider holding a special fundraising event or make a special gift to help meet the longstanding commitments made to our partners. You may choose to give to the appeal as a whole or fund a specific partner. For more information on the appeal watch the website: www.cws.org.nz or contact the office at cws@cws.org.nz.

Food for Life

Making sure all people have enough good food and that millions of small producers have a decent livelihood are key aspects of the new CWS campaign. It will focus on how CWS partners help people feed themselves and their campaigns to support local food producers. A Churches Week of Action on Food will be held from 10 -17 October.



Churches' Week of Action on Food

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter presented a new report to the UN Human Rights Council on March 8. Based on extensive scientific research, it demonstrates that small scale farmers can double food production in critical regions by using ecological methods, something a number of CWS partners already know from experience. It calls for a fundamental shift towards agro-ecology as a way for countries to feed themselves while at the same time addressing climate and poverty challenges. see: <http://www.srfood.org/index.php/en/component/content/article/1-latest-news/1174-report-agroecology-and-the-right-to-food>

April 12 Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Last year global military expenditure reached US \$1,531 billion - more than \$4 billion a day. Meanwhile over 24,000 children under the age of five die every day from mainly preventable causes - lack of access to adequate food, clean water and basic medicine. Peace Movement Aotearoa is inviting groups to participate in the Global Day of Action. See <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/gdams11.htm>

NEW RESOURCES

APW/MWF Special Project Resources

New resources are now available for Association of Presbyterian Women and Methodist Women's Fellowship Special Project. These include a written update on rebuilding in Haiti, a PowerPoint presentation of up-to-date images and an eight minute DVD showing a housing programme supported by CWS. Order from cws@cws.org.nz or 0800 74 73 72.