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The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia

Anglican Women's Studies Centre

PASTOR & PROPHET HUI: Women in Ordained Ministry

By Revd Numia Tomoana

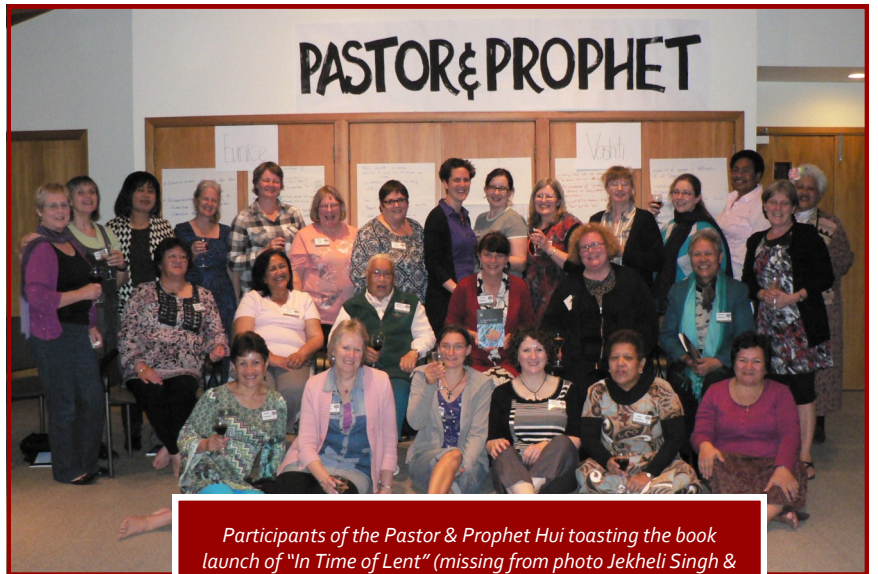
The first night at Vaughan Park was set aside for the Diocesan and Amorangi Link women to meet. Sarah Stevens dynamically opened with a 40 minute coverage of her experience as this Province's Observer at the United Nations 55th Conference for Women. We caught her fire! The next day other ordained women arrived, e nga hau e wha, from all corners of Aotearoa/ Pacifica for the Pastor and Prophet Hui. Warmly welcomed by Rev Joy Mc Cormack, the scene was

set as our very well organised and friendly committee (led by Carol Hughes) set us to task by story sharing in small groups about symbols, struggles and celebration. The depth of sharing not only indicated the unspoken trust we all placed in each other but also the thirst to share with others who sensitively understood – the common

'knowing'. Other sessions were Women of the Bible whom we identified with in our daily context and reality; the Journey to Ordination and being 'called'; a Bible Study on Exodus, the story of baby Moses, and which characters did we identify with; and balancing roles as clergy, spouse, mother, and daughter to elderly parents with significant needs. Themes arose from all our discussions and will be used to identify common needs, tasks, visioning and further planning.

It was an awesome hui (just what the doctor ordered), energising and deeply relational as we shared stories, visions, issues that affect the well-

being of our whanau, and identifying not only common needs but specific to each tikan-ga. Enriching relationships were forged and existing ones were deepened. We attended morning karakia in the fairly new Ruatara Chapel. It is a breath-taking stunning Chapel in its sparseness and concrete simplicity and yet architecturally unique. Under the eagle winged roof, and 180° window views, I imagined soaring over Long Bay; a fine tribute to Ruatara. I left the hui (that I was



initially typically reluctant to attend given the 101 other things that need attention) incredibly grateful to God and the WSC Council for this opportunity to meet, interact and deepen sister friendships in all our tikanga, celebrating rich diversities and equally rich similarities. Our space and time was fluid and we were as one heart, one mind and one soul in Christ, in our calling as sisters who serve in this diverse three Tikanga Anglican Church.

Ko tau rourou ko taku rourou, ka ora te tangata
With your resources and my resources everyone will benefit

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM: 25th November— 10th December

2011 Theme

FROM PEACE IN THE HOME TO PEACE IN THE WORLD: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.

⇒ creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women.

The Center for Women's Global Leadership promote the following steps when considering to take action:

These participants chose the dates 25th November, **International Day Against Violence Against Women** and 10th December, **International Human Rights Day** - in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights.

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including 29th November, **International Women Human Rights Defenders Day**, 1st December, **World AIDS Day**, and 6th December, which marks the **Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre**.



1. Choose an issue that is Meaningful to You.
2. Organise an Activity.
3. Spread the Word.
4. Get Connected, e.g. become a fan of The 16 Days Campaign on Facebook.
5. Document and Reflect.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS CAMPAIGN, THE CENTRE OF ANGLICAN WOMEN'S STUDIES HAS CHOSEN TO SUPPORT THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN ON FRIDAY, 25th NOVEMBER

The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- ⇒ raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels
- ⇒ strengthening local work around violence against women
- ⇒ establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- ⇒ providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- ⇒ demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women

The White Ribbon campaign in New Zealand is a meld of the White Ribbon Day movement in Canada (established by concerned men in response to the Montreal Massacre in 1991) and the United Nations international day for Elimination of Violence Against Women which is celebrated on 25th November each year.

The Families Commission embraced White Ribbon Day as part of its work to raise awareness of family violence and encourage social change. The focus is on offering men the opportunity to be a part of the solution to end violence against women. Violence is endemic within NZ— one in three women are victims of violence from a partner, while on average 14 women are killed each year by a member of their own family.

**SHOW YOU'RE
AGAINST VIOLENCE
TOWARDS WOMEN**



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

"Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace."

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations



THE COUNCIL FOR THE CENTRE OF ANGLICAN WOMEN'S STUDIES CHALLENGES YOU TO BE PROACTIVE ABOUT THESE ISSUES IN YOUR PARISH—STAND UP AND MAKE AN IMPACT!

- ◆ Wear your White Ribbon for the entire 16 Days of Activism. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.
- ◆ Have a prayerful focus and light a Candle for Peace.
- ◆ Invite local leaders to come to your Parish or Diocese/ Hui Amorangi event on White Ribbon Day.
- ◆ Challenge electioneering politicians on their policy towards Violence Against Women.

These issues can engage people without taking a lot of work so let us know what is happening in your area. To find out more about these campaigns or what events are planned in your area, we recommend that you refer to:

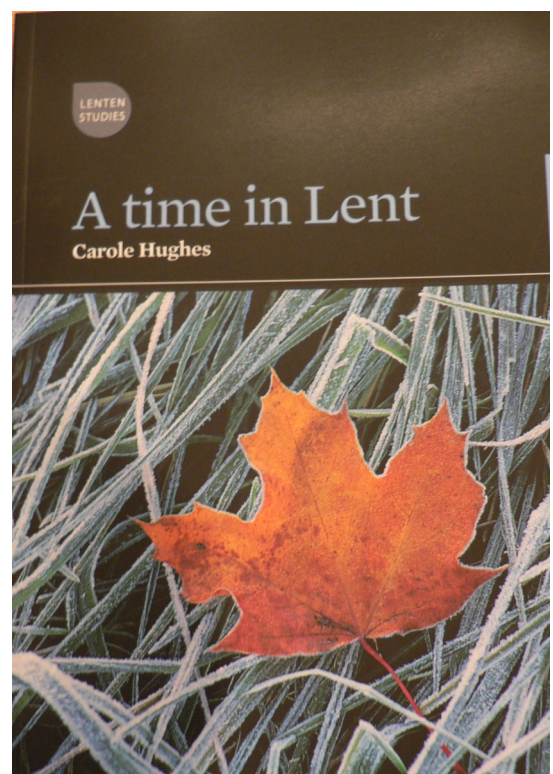
- <http://16dayscwg1.rutgers.edu>
- <http://whiteribbon.org.nz>

Celebrating a Book Launch from one of our own....

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+ post & packaging

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

A handy collation of some Lenten Studies programmes which offer some guidelines and starting points to work together, as the people of God, during Lent.



Sermon: Called From Slavery into Freedom

By Revd Margaret Rose



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori crushes cassava leaves at the Anglican Church of the Congo's guest house in Goma, while the Revd Margaret Rose, Co-Director for Mission & the Revd Petero Sabune, Africa Partnerships Officer, look on.

Revd Margaret Rose, from the Mission Department of the Episcopal Church, accompanied Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to the Congo earlier this year. They had the opportunity to meet women who had been raped and subjected to the violence that has been rampant there for some time.

Margaret gave a moving testimony to the power of healing and forgiveness in the Congo in a sermon that she had prepared for the parish of the French Church du Saint Esprit in Manhattan. Unfortunately, Hurricane Irene blustered into town - an unwelcome Sunday visitor - which meant everyone stayed home! Margaret was not able to preach, out of the church's concerns for her safety. Her sermon was included in their parish's recent newsletter and IAWN would like to share it with you here, for your own meditation and reflection at this time when we bear witness for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

For more information and to hear the excellent sermon preached by the Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori on the value of women in ministry please refer to the Episcopal News Service website.

Thank you very much for the invitation to worship with you today and to share with you some of the global mission work of the Episcopal Church Center. Knowing that many of you have roots in the Francophone parts of the Anglican Communion I want to share my recent experiences in the Anglican Province of the Congo traveling with our Presiding Bishop.

In July I accompanied her, along with our staff person for Africa, Petero Sabune and Matt Davies, a journalist. It was a trip to deepen the partnerships we have begun with that Province of the Anglican Communion and to visit some of the work of the Church. I emphasize that word 'partnership' because we have been working together now for the past seven years. We are friends, having shared stories of struggle and joy and pain. We work toward mutuality, in the desire to share

the gifts we all have for the work of ministry. We did not go because we wanted to "save" the Province of the Congo, or offer a kind of "Lady Bountiful help" for poor suffering people. The four of us went to listen, to learn and indeed to share the resources that God has given us.

We are not, however, naïve about the situation in this country which has suffered from years of rebellion and war. In the Eastern Congo where most of the Anglicans live, thousands have been killed, many were refugees for years. Rebels infiltrated the country from outside its borders. There is, even now, intermittent violence, when frustrated men who have no jobs or are unpaid for the ones they have, spend their nights looting stores and attacking women who must venture out in the evening. But little by little peace returns. There is a unified army, upcoming elections, beautiful vegetables in the market and hope every where that a new day has dawned. Renewal and reconciliation are in the air.

But the dawning of the peace does not take away the wounds of war. And the healing of those wounds is what we are about in the Church. Our little group visited a number of schools and development projects run by the Anglican Church. But by far the deepest wounds of these years of war have been visited upon the women of this country. As weapons and spoils of war, scores of women have been violated and left to fend for themselves. Strangely, keeping score of the number of women raped in one attack or village became a contest. The group who rapes the most women wins. I do not tell this story lightly. And many in the Congo are of course as horrified by these occurrence's of gender violence as I am. But it is also true that when women are raped they are considered "damaged goods", no longer fit to be in the family where they grew up, no longer accepted as wives, outcast from everyday life and the means of survival. They are shamed and blamed for "allowing themselves" to be raped. Many die and many others are living with HIV/AIDS as a result of the rape and violence. I paint a dismal picture, one that many of us have already read about in our own newspapers. In the Congo, the story was told and verified by those who had experienced it first hand.



Women who've been sexually abused by soldiers find a safe haven at a Diocese of North Kivu facility, where they work through their trauma and carve out a new life with the end goal being their integration back into society

Reflection continued...

As dismal and horrifying as these facts are, I want to share with you today the story of hope, and the incredible work the Anglican Church is doing there. We visited an orphanage which also serves as a safe house, a place where women who have been raped can gather to share their stories of grief and sadness. They are, offered food and sometimes bible study and Prayer. All are welcome—whatever their faith. We visited a hospital which is also a shelter for about 100 women with HIV/AIDS. They are offered safety and needed medicine. But the wounds of this war and the wounds of these women are far deeper than those which affect the body. They are soul wounds.

In both these visits, once we had told our stories, shared some conversation, the priest stood to speak to the women. He spoke in a loud voice. He was tall, and seemed overpowering as I watched the small, hurting women in front of him. I thought to myself, "This is the last thing they need. Some big man preaching at them, lording it over them and telling them what to do. I was annoyed. And thought, this is NOT the way to heal these deep soul killing wounds." But then I began to listen (which is what I should have done in the first place). And I heard these imposing men, authorities in this community and in the Church tell the women the truth. "What happened to you is not your fault. There is no shame for you here in what has happened. The violation of human beings in this way is not God's will. You are beloved by God and by this community. This is not suffering you should have to endure. This is not what God wants for your life. And most of all—the promise of God is abundant life for all. The vision of the realm of God is for daily bread here and now on earth, a life now, not just in heaven later on. You are God's beloved and we are loving you here in the Church as well!"



The Revd Joyce Mukindo, the first woman to be ordained in the Anglican Church of the Congo when she became a deacon in 2003, greets Presiding Bishop Katharine Schori at the Anglican University of Congo on 4th July 2011.



At Action Salitaire pour Development Integrale / Goma, a church-led NGO, an 11 year old orphan (yellow top) holds her deceased sister's child who she now must take care of.

These two priests were like Moses from our Old Testament lesson today. They had heard God's promise and knew that it was not only for long ago but for now as well. Moses, leading the Hebrews out of slavery into the promised land of milk and honey is a story of hope for us all. Hear again those words:

Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings,⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey. I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?'¹² He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

The Church in the Congo understands itself as a force for freedom, for offering Good News to enslaved and broken hearts. It has taken a risk, exposing this evil and claiming God's healing power over it—not just with words but with actions that heal the body and the soul. These priests, and many others are like Moses, sharing God's promise of presence. "I will be with you through it all as you struggle for new life and freedom.

That same promise to Israel or the Congo is also God's promise to us. And Moses does not just come in the guise of a priest but in each of us as well. We, too, are called out of our own slavery or misery or pain, into freedom. And to invite others to seek and claim it as well—in our own lives, in our

churches and communities. God's promise is ours: "You are my beloved! My desire for you is abundant life. And when that life is not abundant, God's promise is to be with us always. Amen.

The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies

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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.

WHITE RIBBON DAY
25th NOVEMBER 2011

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.

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.



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Hui Amorangi o te Waipounamu

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