

December 2014 &
January 2015
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How Do We Give Birth?

By Archdeacon Carole Hughes

Eckhart, the 13th century mystic asked, 'What good is it that Mary gave birth to Jesus, if we don't do the same?' The season of Advent and Christmas reminds us that giving birth is more than just the physical action. It has the potential to radically change and transform all of life. Any parent will know this.

As new parents experience radical change and transformation, Jesus' birth transformed all of life. Eckhart rightly challenges us to continue giving birth to the transformation that Jesus offers. At Christmas we are reminded of the opportunities to birth the gifts of hope, joy, peace and love in whatever context we find ourselves.

The birthing of new relationships and ideas is one that the Council for Anglican Women's Studies continues to experience. It is not simply the physical presence of being together with one another that offers us hope, joy, peace and love, but also the transformative networks and communications that happen between our events. We are a network of women across the Province that continues to give birth to radical changes and new possibilities.

I was invited to reflect on the year and identify one or two occasions to celebrate. I struggled to think of one. Not because I didn't have one, but because the year has been so intense and exciting. The Council members have lead and participated in a number of events during the past year. These events have included a Three Tikanga women's hui on leadership at St John's Theological College; leading workshops in Suva, Fiji,

and visiting the House of Sarah; attending and moving a resolution on gender equity at General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui; publishing and launching our latest book *Leaders like Lydia*; and gathering as link and council members to discuss local initiatives and how we can support women stud-



The Nativity Story starring Keisha Castle-Hughes as Mary, New Line Cinema (2006)

ying theology in their context. We have also enjoyed the many articles and diverse, and sometimes provocative, perspectives that our network of awesome women offers in our monthly newsletter and tikanga conversations. It has been a year of birthing new initiatives and relationships.

As we know, giving birth is painful and life-changing. The consequences shock our systems, and 'take us to another place'. As we seek to give birth to new ideas and reinstate old ones, we need to be aware that there will be pain involved. People often judge others for being honest, and very easily critique theology and experiences simply because they do not fit into institutional understandings of God and Church. Mary, the mother of Jesus, encourages us to be bold and respond positively to God's call on our lives, however subversive they may appear.

In Luke 1, Mary receives news that she is to play

an important part in God's purposes for the world, and her response challenges us on how we too are to participate in Jesus' birth. Contrary to many images of Mary, she is not a passive servant. She does not simply listen and accept the announcement from God's messenger. She initiates a dialogue. Her faith is a free act; she inquires and wishes to know the details. Mary was a theologian, who participated in discussions about God and faith, and the world. The consequences to her response to be the mother of Jesus was painful and life-changing, and yet totally awe-inspiring.

Giving birth is one of life's miracles. The pain is simply a vehicle to the awesome reality. How we give birth is not defined by the pain experienced, but rather the outcomes. As women

in the church we are not to dismiss our ministry simply because we experience pain. It is the awe-inspiring relationships and life-changing events that encourage us to celebrate Jesus amongst us. As we reflect on the past year, may we be encouraged by our relationships with one another, with God, and with our world. If I was to identify one element of our life together to celebrate it would be in the opportunities offered where women's ministry is celebrated and women are given a voice to truly express who they are, and be safe. Thank you to everyone who has contributed positively to birthing our life together every time we meet and every time we network.

Christmas blessings.

Carole Hughes, Convenor

MARK IN YOUR 2015 DIARIES

The Anglican Women's Studies Council together with the House of Sarah, are planning to prepare a Residential Hui and Retreat at Vaughan Park, Auckland specially for those who work or minister in the field of violence against women and children. More details will follow in the new year but diary these dates if this is of interest to you.

Tuesday—Thursday

26th, 27th & 28th May 2015

A Tribute to our Sister in Christ— Revd Te Akau Teresa Waaka Cribb

By Pauline Bennett

She was a woman who was very humble, kind, loving, caring and supportive. Te Akau was a Justice of the Peace, a Registered Staff Nurse. An administrator for PARS for many years, she covered the Bay of Plenty Whakatane and Opotiki, being involved she would take woman from Rotorua and the Bay who had partners or husbands in Waikeria Prison a kaupapa, she did on a regular basis whether it be monthly, fortnightly, whatever and if she couldn't she would make sure someone did.

Te Akau was a Specialist amongst her people, nothing was ever too much for her. She was a representative of the Kahui Wahine of Manawa o te Wheke. An advocate for Food for the Homeless and Gifts for the Needy. An advocate for her people especially the rangatahi. A member of the Women's Welfare Health League and foundation member of Tipu Ora Maori Health. Te Akau was Immaculate in her Ministry Te Whaka-

pono, her dress code on the marae church services, wherever she made sure that everything was correctly placed—such a fuss pot!

She will be missed by her whanau, her hapu/iwi, her Ministry Team and all those that knew her from the community and the Bay of Plenty. Te Akau had a huge heart of kindness with scrumptious delicacies—poaka puhu, kanawai, kautai home-made brawn, she would distribute these delicacies to Kaumatua and Kuia within the community. Last but not least was Te Akau's trip to Jerusalem and Seoul, Korea with a group of people from Manawa o te Wheke that included Venerable Te Whaka Melbourne, Hamuera Raharaha, Revd's Libby Huata and Peace Mitchell. To say the least, Revd Te Akau awaits you all (i roto i tonu wairuatanga). Moe mai te Tuahine moe mai i roto i tou moenga roa.

CAIRA Graduation in Christchurch

By Jenny Campbell



From Left: Archdeacon Peter Carrell, CAIRA graduates Revd Jan Brodie, Margaret Harris & Revd Lynnette Lightfoot, CAIRANZ National Director Revd Marilyn Welch, graduates Rebecca Chapman & Julie Eder with Bishop Victoria Matthews at the Christchurch Transitional Cathedral

Five new graduates from the two year CAIRA pastoral supervision formational course, received their certificates and licences from Bishop Victoria Matthews on Sunday, 30 November 2014 at a service at the Diocese of Christchurch Transitional Cathedral.

CAIRANZ National Director Revd Marilyn Welch, spoke about the value of CAIRA pastoral supervision for those involved in any aspect of ministry in faith communities as well as other pastoral and work situations. She talked about it being the beginning of Advent with the importance of waiting and being prepared which is relevant for CAIRA. The metaphor of the 'Crowded Cathedral' which is parallel to a module in the training programme was highlighted. This recognises that parts of the experiences everyone brings to situations need to be acknowledged in the supervisory process. Group dynamics and co-creative leadership as adult learners as being vitally

important was outlined.

In response, Bishop Victoria emphasised the formational process as a core principle which does not come out of a book. She spoke about the honesty and trust which is foundational to the relationship which builds up between supervisor and supervisee as they reflect and explore issues involved in ministry.

There are several models (approaches) for pastoral supervision however this Pastoral Supervision programme promotes the CAIRA models, where the acronym CAIRA stems from its five key intersecting domains:

- *Collegiality*
- *Authority*
- *Identity*
- *Responsibility*
- *Accountability*

This programme is well-researched, evidence based, and standardized by university curriculum writers.

We Give Thanks ...

I want to give thanks to God for the many things that have happened in my life this year, because amidst all the challenges, God's presence has been very evident.

The year began with a blast for George and I as we had just spent 5 beautiful weeks in Cairns, Australia being pampered and cared for by my sister Lily and her husband John Maschke. I give thanks to God for Lily and John, their love, generosity and care.

We returned home in mid-January, renewed, uplifted and rejuvenated ready to face what the year would bring for us. A few days after we arrived, my younger sister, a diabetic, went into hospital and that's where she spent the last of her days until she died on 1st March. She was in hospital when I attended the Women's Studies meeting on 26th February, two weeks after she celebrated her 57th birthday. She wanted me to go to the meeting, saying, "God's work must go on, this is your cross, carry it." I give thanks to God for my sister Millie, generous, loving; now a butterfly in God's garden, for that's what she was in life.

Graeme and Jane Mitchell and their children Thomas, Andrea and Luke have been partnering with the College for the past three years bringing in 2 groups every year to experience "mission" in Fiji. Their generosity, love and care for the people they have visited and befriended is a testimony to their faith. It is beyond human expectation. I give thanks to God for the Mitchells and pray that God will continue to bless them abundantly in their mission and ministry.

The Council of Women's Studies have been my best friends, co-workers in God's ministry and support this year. Knowing that they're only an email or phone call away has helped me face many lonely and challenging days. Their visit to Suva in July was an opportunity for me and my family to say a small thank you for the years of care and support. I give thanks for Carole, Mere, Numia, Erice and Karena and all my sisters who were past Councillors of this wonderful body. You are the best. May the peace and power of God rest on you and your families this Advent season!

I give thanks to all those who have worked with me this year, in the College, in the Church and in the Community. May the challenges we have faced and the learning gained in 2014 prepare us for what 2015 will bring.

Lastly, I give thanks for my family. My husband and mission partner George, my children and their families, my sisters, brothers and their families, my nephews, nieces and their fami-



Revd Numia Tomoana offering the Eucharist to Revd Amy Chambers at the Church, Women & Leading? Hui in October this year.

lies. God is good and will continue to be so, make a wise choice, and choose Jesus.

May we all have a blessed Christmas and fruitful 2015.

*Revd Amy Chambers
Tikanga Polynesia WSC Councillor*

My quote or positive thing that happened 2014 is based on a whakatauki, Maori proverb.

Ko toku reo toku ohooho, ko toku reo toku mapihi mauria
My language is my awakening, my language is the window to my soul

This is a proverb closely associated with language revitalization, a struggle which is very important in maintaining culture. Like thousands of other Maori school children, my father was strapped and punished for speaking our Maori language therefore we grew up devoid of our heritage, identity, culture and spirituality. I've learnt academic te reo Maori but have not been confident enough to put flight to words and free the caged spirit of our beautiful language within me. My desire has been to publicly pray prayers that are Holy Spirit inspired in te reo Maori as most of my ministry is on the Marae or with Maori in hospital, hospice and such places where the depth of grief, loss and pain can be soothed by our language. This year, I've continued learning at Te Wananga o Aotearoa in a more conversational context and now am feeling more confident to stand strong in Te Ao Maori, our Maori world. God knows the deep desires of our hearts and opens pathways for redemptive and restorative justice.

*Revd Numia Tomoana
Tikanga Maori WSC Councillor*

I am grateful that in 2014 God has His sights set on our country and our church. I am grateful that we have a strong vehicle to help make a significant contribution to the transformation of Aotearoa. I am grateful that in this 200th year since the gospel arrived we can expect God to move mountains, heal hurting hearts and be an amazing loving Father!

Ruihana Paenga
WSC Link Representative for
Tairāwhiti

I am grateful for the wonderful opportunity offered to me this year to visit Israel and Jerusalem, in particular as part of a pilgrimage and to walk and reflect in the special holy places as recognised by the world's main religions – Jewish, Muslim and Christian. The stories are much more real to me now as I can envisage those places. Gaining greater insight into the issues people deal with on a daily basis along with their desire for peace and for basic human rights to be met, was a privilege and a blessing.

Jenny Campbell
WSC Link Representative for Dunedin

This year I give thanks for the women in my life. I have been blessed with not only four wonderful sisters who have guided me, shared their knowledge and skills and supported me throughout my life in all that I do, I have also been blessed with a mother who at 94 is still able to teach me, nurture me in my endeavours and is an inspiration and role model to not only myself but many others. I am also blessed with fantastic girl cousins and girl friends (some are even both) who have been with me and for me throughout my life and who have rejoiced in the triumphs of life and helped lessen the hurts. I am extremely grateful for the many women who grace my working life, with wisdom, love and laughter. I have learnt so much from so many of them that I couldn't imagine my life without knowing them and I thank you God for ensuring that our paths have crossed and I have had the chance to meet and get to know them in some small way. I realise that I am a fortunate person in many ways and it is from having these women share in my life.

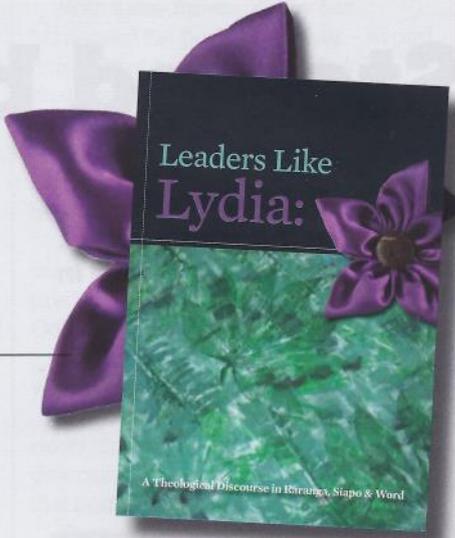
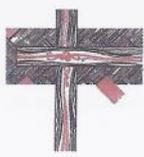
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'Leaders like Lydia' reflects our theology as women in the Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia at this time. It demonstrates our diversity and our ability to gather and 'do' theology together. We hope that the creativity and theological reflection will inspire women to do theology in their place and seek God in everything they do – *The Venerable Carole Hughes*

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Prayers for 2015

We are grateful, God of all creation, for everyone and all things that help our lives to grow. May we always respect the earth that supports us, and be ready to gift something of ourselves for the good of others. Amen.

Revd Numia Tomoana
Tikanga Maori WSC Councillor

Loving creator, keep reminding me of the need to care for creation in all its forms and to do all in my circle of influence to raise awareness of the precarious state of your sacred world and the implications for every living things. Rangimarie. Amine.

Jenny Campbell
WSC Link Representative for Dunedin

Dear Lord, help the people of world embrace one another. To celebrate and honour the diversity within our communities. To make each of us more tolerant. In the times that we are more inclined to being prejudiced or misunderstanding of others ways, help us instead to be more open to learning, loving, understanding and forgiving. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amine.

Karena de Pont
WSC Administrator

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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.

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.

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