

AIN Report from the Secretariate - 2014

Tena koutou nga mema o te Hahi Mihingare iroto te Ao whanui

Today we pay tribute to members of AIN who have passed into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ and may they rise in Glory.

THE GOSPEL SINCE 1814 IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Greetings to you our brothers and sisters of AIN throughout the World.

I am reminded as we approach Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and to experience like the followers of Jesus, the fire of the Holy Spirit to engage and uplift us wherever we may be at the time of this great festival. It's seven months since we all gathered together in Christchurch to tell our stories of our experiences - some good, some horrific, and we were to try and find a way forward. There were some major issues that were at the heart of our discussions such as the Australian Church's negative response to the Aboriginal call to have their own Bishop after this Episcopacy was withdrawn on the retirement of Bishop Malcolm and be recognised as the Sovereign peoples of Australia. This appears have to fallen on deaf ears and this also applies to the Sovereignty of the people of the Torres Straits. At our last meeting, Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa made a contribution of \$10,000 to assist our brothers and sisters in their pursuit for Justice in their Church in Australia. We hope there has been progress.

It would be helpful to be updated on developments happening in your own Countries such as the USA, Canada, Hawaii, Australia and the Torres Straits so that we can share and hopefully provide solutions and comfort to each other as we bring the Gospel of Jesus alive in our own context.

GENERAL SYNOD WAITANGI - Held in May 2014, Aotearoa

Our General Synod which was held at the sacred grounds where our Ancestors signed the Treaty of Waitangi between Maori and Pakeha to share in equal partnership in 1840. This is still a controversial issue which divides our Nation by the Crown. In recent times, the settlement of Lands and Resources have been addressed at a very slow pace for Iwi Maori. I am pleased to say that the Church is now on course with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to implement the Gospel teachings of Jesus to intervene and correct the current impasse that separate us. Our Synod also addressed the (Ma Whea) same sex relationships agenda and has acted with caution in it's future dialogue with members of the Church. The Church in the USA has gone through much pain, anguish and division on this very important matter. It is in prayer and sacrifice that we will find the Road to Emaus and to have God in our deliberations. Recently it was reported in the Church Times that the first gay Bishop in the USA Jean Robinson has resigned his Episcopate after much pressure on his life and threats to himself and his family. Let our prayers be with Bishop Jean and his family.

The other highlight of Synod was resource sharing in human and monetary contributions by Dioceses and the Church in Aotearoa NZ and Polynesia. The motion adopted that a commitment be given to Tikanga Maori to enable it as a partner under the Treaty of Waitangi to develop as a viable unit and a true partner to be monitored and nurtured during the next two years to ensure that the mandate of General Synod has been honoured and achieved.

The three Tikanga representatives of our Church will meet prior to General Synod 2016 to report on aims and objectives and progress made to implement changes and policies necessary to enable Tikanga Maori to progress in harmony so that the whole Church can be

United in Mission to achieve the five Mission statement that is enshrined in the Pouhere (Constitution). The new Social Justice Commission is another important development that will allow each Tikanga to prepare and report on injustices of Government and Church through its three Tikanga consultation processes and media outlets for people who have no forum to address Racism, inequality, poverty and other areas that affect Humanity.

MAORI MISSION IN AUSTRALIA.

This coming weekend our Kahui Wahine (Women) and Rangatahi (Youth) are meeting in Brisbane, Australia to share Ministry Training and resources to our people who have migrated to find employment and a place to live for their families. They are somewhat isolated from Whanau Church and Culture and we hope to give them ongoing support. Wahine and Rangatahi (170 delegates) including representatives from Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane will meet to address a way forward.

On Sunday the 8th of June we will dedicate our first Church - Te Rau Oriwa (the Olive branch), bought in faith for the Maori Mission after only 10 years since its establishment and independence. Rose Elu of Torres Straits is one of the guest speakers at the Kahui Wahine National and International Hui, with a welcome by the Aboriginal people.

Please pray for our Missions in Aotearoa and Australia.

AIN

In 2015 the next AIN will be held in New York to coincide with the United Nations Forum. As part of our planning, we need to know from our hosts, Sarah Eagle-Heart and her committee, what are the requirements such as accommodation, travel and dates. Would it be helpful for me to write to Presiding Bishop Schori as a matter of courtesy? Your views please, Sarah, so we can all plan for funding in advance to assist us in attending this gathering of AIN.

On a personal note, Charles our Administrator, and the Venerable Tehope Hakaraia continue to be my support Team. Revd Bridget Te Aweawe is our research person currently working on the compiling of a Journal of Indigenous stories for you all to read once completed. She is a Masters Student at St John's College in Auckland.

If you can contribute photos and material please submit this information for publication to Pihopa John's email address – multimediapublishing@xtra.co.nz

Archbishop Brown Turei and the Maori Bishops send their Greetings and Aroha to you all. Don't forget to submit your news!

Our next news of events will go out end of August 2014.

In Christ's service.

Bishop John Robert Gray
Secretary General/ AIN