



The Order of St Luke the Physician
Aotearoa New Zealand
HEAL-LINK

April -- May 2011 Issue 302

**Committed to Jesus' healing of people,
situations, nations, and creation.**

Greetings from National Chaplain Lionel



Dear Friends,

A day or two after the last issue of Heal-Link was published I was about to walk out a sliding door into the backyard when there was an aftershock. At first we thought it was just another one! But then we realised it was lasting longer and things were falling out of shelves. Because we still had power and water it took us some time to realise just how serious this one was. In fact it was only after we had seen

reports on TV that we realised that this was a major catastrophe; even worse than September 4.

You have seen it all on TV so I will not go into any detail of all that has happened and the ongoing issues facing the people of Christchurch. More of our OSL members were adversely affected this time and at least one member has had to leave the home she had lived in for about 60 years.

People are asking various questions: Where is God in all this? Is this God's judgement on Christchurch? Has God sent this earthquake as a wake up call? I do not find these questions very helpful.

What I find helpful is the approach that our world is so created that the tectonic plates need to move from time to time and this can cause havoc in our world. God is there walking with us through these troubles giving us comfort and help. He is at work as people reach out to help one another.

There have been some wonderful God moments. In the case of the lady who had to leave her home of 60 years God was remarkably present. She was alone at home and struggled down the stairs dodging falling concrete blocks. When she arrived at the door she could not open it as it was jammed shut by concrete blocks. Just at that time the vicar and her husband arrived and he was able to prise the door open. The lady commented to me: 'Surely, God was in that.'

Jesus made a helpful comment about natural disasters and sinfulness. In Luke 13 he apparently had been asked whether he thought that the eighteen men killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them were greater sinners than the rest of Jerusalem. He answered with an emphatic 'No!' then went on to say that we are all in need of repentance.

So when people ask whether those who died in the CTV building died because they were worse sinners than those who did not die Jesus' answer would be very clear. But Jesus would also make it very clear that everyone in Christchurch (and indeed everywhere else) was in need of repentance before God. We are very conscious of the support and prayers of so many people. Please continue to pray as there are no quick fixes to the problems facing many people in Christchurch.

This issue of Heal-Link has a report from the May 3-5 executive meeting. I commend it to your careful attention. One thing I really want to remind you about is the National Conference to be held at Totara Springs, Matamata, from 17 - 20 October. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev Murray Talbot who is the senior minister at the Hornby Presbyterian Community Church in Christchurch. Also, Dr Annette Rice, National Chaplain of OSL in Australia will address our conference.

Please note these dates now and plan to be there. This is a rather special conference as we will celebrate 50 years of OSL in New Zealand. This will certainly be a great opportunity to remember the past five decades with thanksgiving. It will also be a time to look for guidance into the future.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Yours in his service,
National Chaplain, Rev Lionel Brown.

Lionel



Email: natchap@oslnz.org

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Situation Vacant: At the executive meeting this month Michael Bain gave notice that he wished to resign his position as general treasurer as from the conference in October. Michael has served the Order well in this position for 11 years. We now seek someone with accounting experience who would be prepared to take up this task. Please contact the national chaplain, Rev Lionel Brown natchap@oslnz.org for further information.

See pages 5-7 for the May 2011 executive meeting report.

Co-General Secretaries signing off:

Dear Friends,
First we must apologise for the delay in the production of this issue of Heal-Link.

This is our last time of writing to you in this capacity. We have enjoyed our last five years which have been very full on with revision and rewriting of the constitution and handbook resulting in changing terminology [notice Mary will be the national (not general) secretary]. Also revised and rewritten have been the teaching pamphlets the last two of which will be completed before the conference in October.

Shirley will continue as membership secretary (with an email address of members@oslnz.org) so all membership matters will still come to us at this address. Brian is still involved as national chaplain-elect and both of us will continue to be looking after the website and the archives and literature production for the time being. We will continue to pick up emails sent to gensec@oslnz.org until conference 2011 to ensure they do not get lost.

With our new positions in OSL we will still be in regular touch via telephone and email and Heal-Link. Next year we will be starting to visit areas and chapters and where possible postal members so hopefully we will be able to see many of you in person.

Every blessing
Brian and Shirley

members@oslnz.org
gensec@oslnz.org

National Secretary signing on:

Warmest greetings to you all -

I have taken on the daunting task as your new secretary to OSL NZ. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I will look after secretarial matters and Heal-Link. My email address natsec@oslnz.org is listed in the directory amendments on page 12 in this Heal-Link.

My thanks to the leadership for their kindness to me at the executive meeting held in Waikanae recently. It was an inspiring occasion, as well as a tiring one for me, as I tried to take in all that is a part of the job. Shirley and Brian took me under their wings and encouraged me. I travelled up to Waikanae from Christchurch with Revds Lionel and Rachelle Brown.

I have been a member of Mt Pleasant-Pegasus Chapter for eight years and am Secretary/Treasurer for that group. I grew up in a church environment; my father, Revd Owen Christian, was a Methodist minister.

My parents encouraged me to look to the Creator of Life for my guidance, through his Son, Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I depend on that steadfast love in all that I do.

I am currently a member of the Sumner-Redcliffs Anglican Parish in Christchurch. Our church and hall in Sumner are fenced off as a result of damage to the church and to the cliff face behind it. Our services are now held at Redcliffs. To all who have been thinking of us here in Christchurch, thank you for your prayers.

I look forward to communicating with all members of chapters and healing groups in the months ahead, and hope to have the opportunity to meet some of you at our conference in October at Totara Springs, Matamata.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Mary Christian

ph 03 326 5616
natsec@oslnz.org

Heal-Link editor Neville says farewell to editing:

As I sign off after 6½ years of helping the General Secretary(s) put together HEAL-LINK I am very conscious of how little critical and creative editing I have done. I have had to file away without using several contributions which I deemed unsuitable because the writer was using old material that did not relate or reflect the life of OSL in NZ today. Also, in another file-box are a dozen or so letters that may yet find their way into future issues of HEAL-LINK. This I deem “unfinished business”. With these few words I send my personal “thank you” to all you wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who have contributed to HEAL-LINK over these years and those to come. As a reader, I look forward to more stories of healing and miracles that God does among his people in NZ.

Neville Cooper,
Hibiscus Coast

One of our granddaughters visited us and we found out that she was having frequent headaches. These were so severe she needed to take medication.

Immediately after telling us this, we sat her on the settee, laid on hands and prayed for her.

That was more than two years ago and she hasn't had a headache since.

Isn't the Lord awesome!



Pat and Anne - Tararua Postal

News from the executive meeting May 2011

Earlier this month the executive met at El Rancho Christian Centre, Waikanae.

National chaplain Lionel commented on how very busy and involved some of our members are and thanked all those involved in OSL leadership.

Membership of the Order in New Zealand had dropped by 24 with the total roll now being 618 against a loss of 8 members during the previous 12 months.

A major discussion took place on the question of the **size and cost of executive meetings** and it was agreed that future executive meetings should consist of the national chaplain, secretary and treasurer and one officer from each area. Missioners would be non attending executive members but receiving all executive meeting materials along with the second officer in each area. Each of these members would be invited to forward comments on matters on the agenda in writing to either the national chaplain or secretary. This matter will be placed on the conference agenda for ratification.

John Merriman reported that he would not be continuing work on the OSL Song Book Project because he had found a website www.smallchurchmusic.com/ which provides the words and tunes of hundreds of hymns with more being added continually for downloading onto mp3 or CD and the old handbook covers were too small to be of use in this situation.

Our national chaplain Lionel is to go to the **Australian conference** 26-30 September and he and Rachele will be workshop leaders there.

The future use and development of the **OSL House property** was discussed and it was agreed that the concept plans that had been prepared by Jim Bentall be brought to the conference meeting.

Thanks were expressed to Michael, Anne and Alexis for their work on the executive after they gave notice that they wished to retire at conference.

A letter of appreciation was to be sent to Neville Cooper for his contribution to the life of the Order in editing Heal Link from July 2004.

Ten copies of each issue of **Sharing Magazine** from USA have been subscribed for by individuals and chapters. This magazine is worthy of wider distribution throughout New Zealand. Past copies will be on display at the conference in October and will be available there for reading and

returning before close of conference. Orders can be taken there for the next subscription year

Other OSL material will be available for sale including handmade bookmarks celebrating 50 years of OSL in New Zealand.

Conference 2011 - 50 year Celebration:

Planning for the **national conference** being held from 17-20 October 2011 at the **Totara Springs Christian Centre** included the allocation of responsibilities for various aspects. The registration fees were set at \$360 for full accommodation and meals and \$300 for those with campers or caravans who otherwise only require meals.

Registration forms will be distributed shortly by post to each chapter secretary and contact person in time for chapter meetings, as well as to area convenors for postal members. Sufficient copies will be provided for each member to receive one.

Note that Members unable to attend are invited to forward a **donation** towards the cost of the conference and receipts for tax purposes will be issued. These donations could assist other members to attend.

The **Totara Springs Christian Centre** is situated in a beautiful setting, nestled at the foot of the Kaimai mountain ranges near Matamata. There are 90 acres of park-like grounds and native bush with streams, walks and bush trails. There are breakaway relaxation areas, as well as a large hot pool fed by natural hot springs so swim wear and towels are called for.

The opening speaker will be Archbishop David Moxon who is a member and honorary chaplain of OSL New Zealand and in whose diocese we will be meeting.



The keynote speaker will be Rev Murray Talbot, Hornby Presbyterian Community Church, Christchurch. A family man, he has been pastoring at Hornby since 1988. He is passionate about a healthy prayer life and has a heart to see the church reach into its community.

The guest speaker on Tuesday evening will be Dr Annette Rice, MD Australia, who is a Medical Practitioner and is currently the OSL Victorian State Chaplain but will be coming to us as the new National Chaplain for Australia.



Five workshops will be offered from which two should be chosen in order of preference and choices will be allocated as registrations are received.



Chapters are invited to bring their banners.

There will also be a display of archival material including some old banners from chapters who have gone into recess.

Remits from executive include changing 'warden' to 'national chaplain', 'general' to 'national' secretary and treasurer and 'warden's' to 'national' council.

Derek Lightbourne attended the last morning of the meeting and presented a report on his writing of the **history of the Order** in New Zealand which it is hoped will be completed before conference.

There was also some discussion on the planning for the **2013 International conference** also to be held at **Totara Springs**.



Newly commissioned national secretary, Mary Christian together with Alan Cummins and Anne Wesney.

Each day concluded with those present forming small groups and spending time in prayer and ministry to each other and for others for whom there was concern. Evening devotions followed.

The executive meeting concluded on the Thursday morning before lunch with the commissioning of Mary as national secretary during a communion service.

From Canterbury

Graham and Margaret Hawkey recall the day of the Christchurch earthquake:

“HELPERS SEEN AND UNSEEN”

She was present when I entered St George's Hospital, Christchurch on 22 February; she was my personal nurse for that day and helped prepare me for hip surgery at 9.30am. She was again with me in the recovery room at 10.30am until I returned to the 3rd floor ward in the hospital at 12.30pm. I was in and out of sleep.

At 12.51pm I felt strong shaking and half awake I grabbed the drip feed pole as it took off. The nurse restrained the bed and a TV set while other items fell onto the floor. I was carried down six flights of stairs in a wheelchair and waited with other patients for relocation. There were a good number of people present, but my nurse was never far away. We were all feeling very shaken and I said ***“thank you”*** to her as I was given a bed elsewhere.

Later I heard of the earthquake's severity and was very thankful to see Margaret again and two of our children who live in Christchurch. The nurse who was present for support and reassurance reminded me of helpers, including angel guides in the unseen, who seek to help guided by the Holy Spirit. The scriptures and many inspired writings speak of their ministry. Their power to help us is enhanced or diminished according to our openness or indifference to God. The scriptures speak of angels, messengers who remain unseen or some who take the form of helpers. There are accounts of angel encounters in our day often to protect or deliver from danger.

Psalm 91:9-11 affirms their power to protect those who trust in God. It is important that we reconnect often with these understandings. Above all else we need a strong awareness that we are enclosed within the love of God. This is simply the deepest unchanging truth, always.

We have been shaken not only by earthquakes in Christchurch and Japan. Our trust in God can often be tested severely with unanswerable questions that overwhelm us:

“Lord I believe. Help my unbelief. Help me to trust you. Bring light in darkness, hope in depression, peace in anger, understanding in despair, strength in weakness, through the loving Christ who cried out, “Why have you forsaken me?”

Rev Graham Hawkey, Chaplain Ashburton OSL

“EVERYDAY MIRACLES”

I was told that the surgeon would ring me when the operation was over, but, 11 o'clock came, no call. Then, 12 noon. No call! I rang the hospital. Graham's operation was over. He was expected back in the ward at 12.30. I said I'd call in at 3pm as I decided to catch a bus into the city. The bus timetable showed a bus came every half hour and I could have gone 5 minutes ago! It was cold and dreary. I walked up to Papanui Road and instead decided to go to Northlands Mall. The city would be tomorrow's expedition.

At 12.51 when I was on the bus, it started bouncing and lurching around and I thought there was something wrong with the bus, or we were driving over very bad road works. Then the word EARTHQUAKE was mentioned, everyone was checking their cellphones for news details.

Had I visited the city, I had planned to walk by the Sydenham shops or view the floral carpet in the cathedral. Either way I could have been killed. In fact, **miracle number 2.**

I soon became acutely aware of the timing of Graham's operation; had it been timed for the afternoon he would not have had the operation. Yes, **miracle number 1**, especially as he had come to within one hour of having his hip replacement last August.

On arriving back at our daughter's place I found if I'd parked our car along side the house and chimney, the car would have been a write-off!! The top of the chimney was shaken off onto the drive: **miracle number 3.**

So with three miracles that day, I truly give thanks to God for his love and protection.

Margaret Hawkey Ashburton OSL

Some months ago the Lord told us to pray for more unbelievers. We came across a lady who was hobbling because she had torn a hamstring. A specialist had told her that he would have to operate. She was in great pain, so we laid on hands and prayed for her. By the next day all the pain had gone. She returned to the specialist who then said that it would not now be necessary to operate. However, it would be about four months before she was completely better. Ten days later she was completely healed. Thank you, Lord! What an amazing God we have!

Pat and Anne - Tararua Postal

A Prayer after the Earthquake

Lord, at times such as this,
when we realise that the ground beneath our feet
is not as solid as we had imagined,
we plead for your mercy.

As the things we have built crumble about us,
we know too well how small we truly are
on this ever-changing, ever-moving,
fragile planet we call home.
Yet you have promised never to forget us.

Do not forget Christchurch now.

Today, so many people are afraid.
They wait in fear of the next tremor.
Comfort them, God, in this disaster.
Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still,
And shelter them under your wings when homes no longer exist.

Embrace in your arms those who died so suddenly.
Console the hearts of those who mourn,
And ease the pain of bodies on the brink of death.
Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion, we who watch from afar.
Your love shall never leave us,
Your promise of peace will never be shaken. Amen.

Editor's Note: Shortened from the original prayer by Diana Macalintal, for the Diocese of San Jose, written after the earthquake in Haiti, used with permission and received from Revd Pat Bawden, Bay of Islands.

TE WAIORA UPDATE

Rev John and Enid McClean have recently enjoyed a well earned rest and holiday and are now back in residence at Te Waiora Healing Home. On their return they hoped to find demolition of the damaged homestead well under way but the work then had not started.

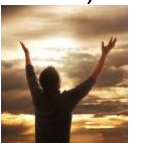
Now John writes:-

“Te Waiora news is that the house was still standing when we arrived back just as we left it.

We are celebrating today because it is all demolished and the site all ready for the builders to commence the new project. The plans for the new house not yet finalised. (How do you bring a committee to agreement?) I can say confidently we will need to raise funds to complete furnishings and landscaping. What excitement to be involved with the new Te Waiora.

There will be a Te Waiora newsletter out soon.”

John and Enid McClean, Te Waiora



Life in Christchurch East after February Quake

Frank Rigg operates the "Email" OSL Prayer Link service for those with email, an excellent service for many members wishing for healing prayer. Frank received many requests for prayer after the February earthquake and this 'follow-up' from Lesley Simpson, our previous General Secretary:

"Since we are in the East of Christchurch we are still affected with lack of services but thankfully since April 8 we can stop boiling water! Everyone now has a chemical toilet since the sewerage system is under repair and will be till the end of the year. It is the emptying of these that is a continuing task for us all!

"We are requested to save power since that system has had it too and repairs will take till the end of the year. To get through winter we have to conserve power and already have unannounced power cuts. We are asked not to use freezers, dishwashers, hot water in washing machines etc so essentially we are camping at home.

"Our house has minor damage (doors stick, rips and cracks above and below windows and doors, stress blisters in plaster, impressive cracks in the concrete outside) so we are fortunate and hope it continues to hold together as the quakes shake on almost daily.

"Some pre planned holidays have been most useful to have a break. It is hard to describe the continuing stress from an uncertain situation, but there are others so much worse off."

Lesley Simpson, Christchurch

Frank adds -- A subsequent phone call underscored just how difficult every day living has been and still is for many, eg Lesley has only just been able to pick up a new pair of glasses which were ready at the time of the February quake. She has to walk 1/4 hour to catch a bus which previously ran past her house – then they travel very slowly because of the state of the roads, etc, etc.

Please pray for accelerated progress in repairing and restoring essential services and that elderly and frail folk will not suffer unduly during the coming winter months.

URGENT Reminder! Subscriptions for the current financial year 2010-2011 are **well overdue!** They are **\$20 per member; \$30 for couples.** A large number of members have **not** yet paid their sub!! The next financial year begins on July 1st so we must receive your unpaid sub urgently!

Please pay unpaid subs **now** to your Chapter Treasurer. Postal Members, **please** post your subs to the General Treasurer, Michael Bain, 12 Albert Street, Island Bay 6023, Wellington phone: (04) 934 2271 email: mgbain@xtra.co.nz

The Order of St Luke the Physician in NZ is a Registered Charitable Trust. Donations can be sent to the General Treasurer who will send you an official receipt for tax rebate purposes.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Bay of Islands: Ms Fiona Gillibrand, Mrs Pamela Harrison-Boyd,
Ms Christine Spence

Auckland: Mrs Jennifer Walters

Whangarei: Rev Norma Ardern



NEW FULL MEMBERS:

Bay of Islands: Mrs Jennifer Gilchrist, Mrs June Hick,
Mr Monty and Mrs Patricia Irvine, Rev Heather Lindauer

Whangarei: Rev Norma Ardern

Harbour: Rev Dr Ron and Mrs Susan Atkins,
Miss Josephine Anderson, Mr Alan Kemp,
Ms Mary Field-Dodgson, Rev John Mullis



ROLL OF HONOUR: Members called to Higher Service

Bay of Islands: Rev Sue Reed

Northern Postal: Mrs Joan Dawson

Midland Postal: Rev Ken Watts

Napier: Mrs Valmai Single

Central Postal: Mrs Ava Tait

Wellington North: Mr Ronald Cundy

Greymouth OSL Healing Group: Mrs Marie Sweeney

Motueka: Mr Stuart Hunt



DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS:

P2: replace Co-General Secs with National Secretary, Mary Christian,
28 Colenso St, Sumner, Christchurch 8081, ph 03 326 5616,
email: natsec@oslnz.org



Add **Membership Secretary:** Shirley Flower, address as previously
and email: members@oslnz.org – **see also page 18**

P3&15: Executive, Area Chap & Taieri Chap: Rev Bill Sim ph 03 489 2095

P5: Mangawhai OSL Healing Group: contact Rev Rodney Dunlop,
PO Box 8, Maungaturoto. email: rodneyod@xtra.co.nz ph 094318193

GENERAL INFORMATION:-

The OSLNZ Website is <http://www.oslnz.org> Log on to this website and you will find links to other OSL websites around the world. Our website is managed and operated for OSL by Brian & Shirley Flower.

HEAL-LINK can be downloaded and reproduced from the website.

Reminder: Dead-line for HEAL-LINK Issue 303 is 15 June 2011

This issue is the turn of **Southern Area** to lead with contributions;

All members are invited to contribute to **HEAL-LINK**; it is your newsletter!

Please send your copy to the **new Editor** (National Secretary) Mary Christian (see above for contact details)

"Jesus' Healing Ministry in Action"