

## President's Message

My dear Comrades,

The Old Year is rapidly passing on into the place where the Old Years sleep. We shall look back upon the year 1949 with mingled feelings and I trust the uppermost feeling will be thankfulness and praise to God. It is good to recount the mercies of God at the close of a year and to review all the way by which He has led us.

How good the Old Year has been to us all. A favourite old Scottish writer has rather vividly expressed it thus: "Three hundred and sixty-five days with quiet night between: the right number of Sabbaths and every need supplied. From where did they come? 'He openeth His Hand and satisfieth the desire of every living thing.' The fact that we live is evidence that God lives because, 'He giveth to all life and breath and all things.' Our forgiveness of others is evidence of the forgiveness of God towards us, because it is from God that all forgiveness comes. Our love for others is the evidence that God loves us, because, 'He is Love.'" Let us think on these things. Are they not the fundamental necessities of a Happy New Year?

In this strongly materialistic age we must remember that times of Prosperity have always held an element of danger—the danger of forgetting God and the things that make for Righteousness. It is for us, as individual Christian women, to set the standard for our own lives, and, by prayer and the study of God's Word, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments. By our doing so the Christian Church, of which we are "living stones," shall again point the world back to God and to His ways. Our Union was founded in such a time of danger, to meet this very need and "in the name of Jesus, our Strength and our Deliverer, we go forth."

We look back upon a busy and eventful year. Of first importance is the inspiration of our World President's visit and through it we share in a new and deeper way the World Fellowship of our Great Cause.

Big issues have been at stake concerning the moral welfare of our country and of the homes of the people. We have tasted victory and set-back. At the time of writing the Licensing Poll is still to be held, but as you read this message we shall all be aware of the result. We take courage as we remember that "All things work together for good to them that love God."

To my dear friends who are sick and to others who are no longer able to share the fellowship of the monthly meetings with us, I send loving Greetings for Christmas and the New Year. And to the valiant workers in the field, in all the Unions, my heart goes out with thankfulness and the prayer that God will richly bless you in the coming Festive Season and in the New Year.

Yours for Service,  
CATHERINE M. McLAY.

## "Within the Veil"

MRS. E. LLOYD

Ashburton Union

Mrs. E. Lloyd, who passed away at her home in Ashburton, was one of the oldest W.C.T.U. members. She was greatly loved by all who knew her; quiet, gentle, unassuming, kind to those in need; and always glad to go the second mile for the sake of God, Home and Humanity. As we gathered around her grave, we were not sad, for we knew that death, for her, was just going home to the Father's Eternal City. She has lived a long and useful life, seeking only to serve the God she loved.

"'Tis not the wealth we gather here,  
But all that we spend for Him  
That the Lord will take into  
account that day  
When the things of the earth grow  
dim."

—I. M. Harwood.

## CAPTAIN HUGH KASPER

The deepest and most loving sympathy of all W.C.T.U. members here and in other lands goes out to Mrs. Kasper in the unexpected passing of her husband, Captain Hugh Kasper.

Our prayers rise for her strengthening in such a bereavement. The loving understanding and helpfulness of her husband have been well realized by those who were in a position to see how he cared for and supported her in her many activities for the good of all kinds of people. For this and for his own sake, he is greatly mourned.

## REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

### MAORI GIRLS' HOSTEL

The difficulty of securing a Matron for the 'Maori Girls' Hostel in place of Mrs. Long, who, through ill-health is compelled to retire from this work to which she has given splendid service, moves the Onehunga Union to ask for special prayers for the solving of the position.

### NEW MAORI ORGANIZER

For nearly three years we have been on the look-out for a Maori woman who would organize for us among her people, who are revealing great eagerness in our work and willingness to work with their white sisters. We are glad to announce that we have obtained the services of a very suitable officer, Mrs. Eunice Bell, a Methodist lady, who has been for some time connected with the Maori Mission work in the Waikato. An ex-pupil of Turakina College and a member formerly of Raetihi, now of Hamilton Union, has commenced work in the Waikato district. We commend our organizer to the prayerful support of all our members.

## "Devotional Period"

"TOWARD VICTORY"

Thanks be unto God Who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—1 Cor. 15, v. 57.

Reading: 1 Cor. 15:57-58.

We are constantly thinking and talking about Victory, and we do strive to obtain it and encourage others to do their best to that end.

We are constantly affirming our unshaken conviction that it will be gained by us for our cause; and we so constantly express our complete confidence as regards the outcome of the present struggle. We symbolise that confidence by the use of the letter "V."

This is very right, so far as it goes, but we need to examine the foundations deeper, on which our confidence is based.

The necessary factors which will bring about Victory are twofold: (1) The undoubted righteousness of our cause; (2) Necessary weapons to meet the enemy; but there is a third factor, even more important than the other two; and that is the recognition that it is God alone Who is the Giver of Victory. Sometimes this fact is overlooked. We cannot leave God out of our plans.

Our efforts, energy, and courage will only gain us a victory if they are sustained by the power and spirit of God.

## BE STRONG

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift;

We have hard work to do and loads to lift.

Shun not the struggle—  
Face it as His gift.

Be strong.

Say not the days are evil. Who's to blame?

And fold the hand and acquiesce.  
O shame!

Stand up, speak out, and bravely  
In God's Name.

Be strong.

It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong

How hard the battle goes, the day how long;

Faint not, fight on—

Tomorrow comes the song.

Maitbie D. Bubcock.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to heed the call of others. May we light our lives with more of Thy cheer. Help us to coin our lives into kinder thoughts, words and deeds. Amen.

E. M. APPLEBY,  
Evangelistic Superintendent.