

**ANNUAL REPORT TO WACC  
FROM MANAHINE PASEFIKA  
February, 2008**

**I. Update on Current Activities**

Manahine Pasefika ended 2007 on a high note, having successfully published the first book in our 'Women and Christianity in Oceania' series, Tamara Wétewéa's *Women and Ministry in Melanesia: A Kanak Perspective*. Since this book emanates from the Francophone Pacific, it is also being published in French. The French translation and its revision are now complete, and we anticipate the publication of the French version by March. Reviewers have praised this book highly, and our Book Announcement and Order Form is attached for your information.

In addition, we completed the English version of our first Study Guide for church women's groups across Oceania, *Women's Ministries in the New Testament and in Oceania*. This series of six interactive Bible studies, incorporating action-reflection exercises designed to promote women's participation in various ministries in their local communities, was written by Manahine members from Samoa, American Samoa, New Zealand, Cook Islands, New Caledonia/Kanaky, and Vanuatu. The English version should be available within the next month. Meanwhile, other Manahine members have been involved in translating this Study Guide into Samoan, Fijian, Tongan, Bislama (for Melanesians), French, and I-Kiribati. The Samoan and Bislama translations are completed, and the others are well underway.

A major upcoming event, which forms an integral and essential part of our approach to the creation of the Study Guides, is our 'Training for Transformation' Event. It is hoped that this can be held in Noumea, New Caledonia in late June, to coincide with the Evangelical Church of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands' 50 years of independence – during which Tamara Wétewéa's book will be formally launched. Our regional and national coordinators will take part in the TFT event, which will equip them to work with leaders of church women's organizations in each island country (as well as Pacific Islander churches in New Zealand and Australia), so that they in turn can train local leaders of church women's groups to make the most beneficial use of the Study Guides. We are in the process of finalizing our venue, dates, and agenda for the TFT Event, and are fortunate to have Dr. Sr. Keiti Ann Kanongata'a, our Polynesian Coordinator, as a facilitator.

Manahine has grown to include 46 members, from almost all parts of the Pacific and the PI diaspora. From January 18-21 we held the first face-to-face planning meeting of the General and Regional Coordinators and the Editor/Administrator. We met at Vaughan Park, the Anglican retreat centre near Auckland, New Zealand, for three days of envisioning, planning, brainstorming, worshipping, and fellowship. At this meeting we firmed up short-range plans – such as selecting themes for both our second and third Study Guides (for 2009 and 2010) and the next books in our book series, and planning for the TFT Event – as well as making decisions about long-term goals. These goals are highlighted in the following section.

**II. Plans and Hopes for the Next Five Years**

In addition to our commitment to complete the second and third in our series of Study Guides (which will focus on critical social issues in Oceania, such as violence, poverty, climate change,

AIDs, political instability and migration), and continuing to produce one book each year in our book series, we also have a number of long-range plans. These can be summarized as follows:

- Regional coordinators and staff hope to have one Annual Meeting together, each January.
- We hope to have a Members' Meeting every other year, to continue to fine-tune writing skills and build confidence and solidarity.
- Regional coordinators will communicate regularly with National Coordinators in each country, and we hope to find a way to enable regional coordinators to travel periodically to each country within her region. (We have added to our regional coordinators representing Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia a new Francophone Coordinator.) Several members have volunteered to serve as National Coordinators, and we are in the process of asking others if they will serve.
- Within 5 years we plan to have in place a way of operating which directly involves all of our members. Since Manahine is a relatively new association, we have had to rely thus far on volunteers stepping forward to function as coordinators. If we can initiate a biennial Members' Meeting, we hope to institute a process by which members will themselves choose national and regional coordinators in future.
- We would like within the next few years to be able to provide assistance to some of our members who are invited to present papers at conferences but do not have the financial means to attend, since many are unemployed.
- We also hope to find a way within 5 years to fund a Manahine Scholars Programme, which would enable individual members to apply for a 2-3 month sabbatical, in a retreat or academic setting, to focus on a particular writing project.

### **III. The Current Socio-economic, Political and Economic Situation in Oceania**

Oceania is a region beset by many social, economic and political challenges. Pacific Islanders are 'in the front lines' of the fallout from climate change. Many island nations are politically unstable, characterized by tribal, racial and class divisions. AIDS is a growing epidemic, most severely in Papua New Guinea. Fiji continues to be plagued by coups and internal conflict. Migration is a huge challenge in the region, and for some island nations there are more migrants in countries like New Zealand and Australia than in the home nation. This means that depopulation now threatens the very survival of countries such as Niue and the Cook Islands. And for migrant islanders, their life in other countries means continually dealing with issues of cultural identity and marginality.

In the midst of these challenging times, the churches of the Pacific continue to provide tremendous social cohesion, but they also remain domains of power for those in positions of authority. The members of Manahine, as theologically trained women with many gifts to give their churches, are often victims of this conflux of 'powers and principalities'. Most are unemployed or under-employed by their churches. A few have achieved positions of some authority in their churches, but they encounter their own struggles with issues of tokenism and lack of full acceptance. There are some signs of hope, as there are small increases in the numbers of ordained women in the island churches. However, one concern which some Manahine members asked the coordinators to address at their recent meeting was that very few ordained islander women are actually serving as parish ministers. Even in New Zealand and Australia, islander women ministers have to be ministers of white churches, as the island churches do not want a woman minister. We hope to address this situation by producing, within the next couple of years, a compilation of insights from a number of Masters theses written by several of our members about ordained women's ministry in their churches.

#### **IV. The State of Women and Theological Education in the Region**

Women may now study at a majority of theological schools in Oceania. Yet there is still a large gap between their ‘official right’ to study theology and what happens to them after they graduate – as indicated in the preceding section. Few theological schools in the region have women on their faculties, even though many of Manahine’s members are qualified to teach in their denominational theological schools. Weavers, the women’s advocacy arm of SPATS, has made some progress over the past decade in encouraging the SPATS schools to include women in their student bodies. However, there has been less success in increasing the numbers of women faculty members, or in incorporating women’s theologies, perspectives and concerns into the curriculum. Therefore, the fact that Manahine’s members now have a ‘safe space’ within which they can be free to write and publish their own work, in a prophetic, critical way, is, we believe, a significant development in Oceanian theology and Oceanian churches.

#### **V. Staffing**

Manahine continues to have one staff person, in the essential role of Editor/ Administrator. She has been supported for many years in her work in theological education in Oceania by a U.S. church mission agency, but their failure to prioritize Oceanian concerns and their own financial cutbacks mean that Manahine’s coordinators are urgently seeking an alternative partner to support the Editor. Both the Editor and the Coordinators affirmed in their January meeting that it is a priority for the current Editor, Rev. Dr. Lydia Johnson, to find a way to train and fund a Pacific Islander woman to take over from her as Administrator (phasing this in on a part-time basis as early hopefully as 2009), and hopefully also as Editor/Publisher within the next 5 years, when she will retire. In the meantime, her years of experience in theological education and editing in Oceania mean that it is vitally important that she continue her work for Manahine, supported by a partner or partners who respect the women, visions and work of Manahine.

## MANAHINE PASEFIKA BUDGETS: 2008 AND 2009

### I. General Operating Budget

<i>Income</i>	<i>2008<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>2009</i>
Anticipated local contributions – cash	1,129	1,614
Anticipated local contributions – in kind	3,300	3,500
‘Week of Compassion’ Fund, USA	1,882	?
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4,785</b>	<b>3,496</b>

#### *Expenditures*

Office costs (tel., internet, etc.)	1,774	1,882
Postage	167	148
Printing cartridges	54	65
Printing of promotional brochures	67	54
Local transport (weekly staff mtgs.)	336	350
Conf. registration assistance for Members	323	323
Stationery	94	108
Akld. Members’ meetings	108	134
Admin. Asst. (1 <a href="#">day/wk @ NZ\$20/hr.x3</a> hrs.)	774	1,549
Incidentals, inc. bank fees	215	215
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3,912</b>	<b>4,828</b>

### II. Publishing Track I: Production of Study Materials for Church Women

<i>Income</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>
World Assoc. of Christian Communication	8,093	5,775
EMW	5,244	2,829
Council for World Mission	8,337	5,650
Local Church Contributions		
Lodging, meals, training event	500	
Airmiles, training event	2,500	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>24,674</b>	<b>14,254</b>

#### *Expenditures*

Printing, Study Guides 1 & 2 [English and 6 island languages]	5,110	6,755
Promotion, SGs 1 & 2	269	370
Translators, SGs 1 & 2	2,824	3,496
Layout & Production, SGs 1 & 2	538	828
Training Event [training members as animators to equip leaders of church women’s groups to use SGs]		

<sup>1</sup> Note: All figures are cited in Euros, at the exchange rate with the New Zealand dollar as of 14/02/08.

Airfares	11,564	
Lodging & Meals	2,152	
Resources, miscellaneous costs	2,152	
Evaluation of usage of SG1 – field travel by regional coordinators		3,100
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>24,609</b>	<b>14,549</b>

#### Utilisation of WACC Budget to mid-2008

<b><i>Income</i></b>	8,093
<b><i>Expenditures</i></b> [italics = by 6/08]	
Production of Study Guide 1	539
<i>Printing of English &amp; 6 island languages</i>	1,886
Translations as of 2/08	512
<i>Remaining Translations</i>	162
Postage	8
Promotional fliers	4
Planning mtg. for Training Event	539
<i>Training Event (contribution to airfares, lodging, meals, resources, etc. not covered by local contributions)</i>	4,412
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8,062</b>

### III. Publishing Track II: Book Series

<b><i>Income</i></b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
'Lighting the Fires' Trust	1,632	
Council for World Mission	2,558	1,077
CEVAA [French translation, Bk.1]	2,080	
Sales	269	1,077
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>6,539</b>	<b>2,154</b>

#### ***Expenditures***

Printing, Bks. 1 {Eng., French} & 2	2,262	1,077
French translation, Bk. 1	2,693	
Production & Layout, Bks. 1 & 2	539	808
Printing, production, Bk. 3		1,616
Promotion	162	269
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5,656</b>	<b>3,770</b>

**IV. Manahine Members' Gathering (for ongoing training in writing skills)**

*Income* **2009**

*[To be requested from island churches/church women's associations, and overseas partners]*

**Expenditures**

Airmiles [hoping to receive partial support from members' churches, this figure represents 2/3 of estimated costs]	19,404
Lodging & food [again, anticipating local support, this is 2/3 of estimated costs]	1,078
Resources (personnel and materials)	1,617
Incidentals (visas, ground transport, consumables)	1,887
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>23,986</b>

**V. Staffing for Position of Editor/Administrator**

[This is a recent urgent need for which Manahine is seeking support beginning May 2008; not included in totals below.] **5/08-4/09**

Food	2,158
Housing	9,537
Transport	1,373
Work-related travel	1,618
Medical Insurance/costs	2,565
Other Insurance (car/household)	1,454
Pension	1,295
Taxes	2,845
Household misc.	1,618
Incidentals	1,112
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>25,575</b>

<b>BUDGET TOTALS</b>		
<i>Income</i>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
General Operating Expenses	4,785	3,496
Publishing Track I	24,674	14,254
Publishing Track II	6,539	2,154
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>35,998</b>	<b>20,663</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
General Operating Expenses	3,912	4,828
Publishing Track I	24,609	14,549
Publishing Track II	5,656	3,770
<i>Members' Ongoing Training [not yet funded]</i>		23,986
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>34,177</b>	<b>47,133</b>