

INTERIM REPORT
MANAHINE PASEFIKA PROJECT GRANT PP12-01
November, 2007

Manahine Pasefika has made very encouraging progress on the Year-1 phase of its 3-year project to produce empowering study materials for Pacific Islands church women. Earlier this year six members of Manahine agreed to contribute each of the six studies in the Year 1 Study Guide, *Women's Ministries in the New Testament and in Oceania: Six Reflection-Action Bible Studies*. All six contributors completed excellent studies, relating 'parallels' – stories of women in their own island contexts – to six New Testament ministries in which women were involved (apostle, evangelist, deacon, prophet, patron, and practical care ['ministry of the widows']). Each study guides the participants in making concrete changes in their own churches and communities to enhance women's roles in these various ministries. The six women who contributed to the first Study Guide are: Tamara Wétéwéa (Kanakya/New Caledonia), Tekura Wilding (Cook Islands), Judith Vusi (Vanuatu), Joan Tofaeono (American Samoa), Mercy Maliko (Samoa), and Fei Taule'ale'ausumai (Samoan/New Zealand). The English version of this Study Guide has been produced, thanks to professional assistance with graphics, layout and formatting, and will be printed by late December.

The second phase of the Year-1 project is the translation of this study guide into local languages. This is proceeding well, despite the challenges entailed in finding competent translators in the island communities. Our first priority has been to use members of Manahine as translators, and this has met with considerable success. The Samoan translation has been completed, divided amongst two Manahine members. The Bislama translation is also nearly complete (Bislama is the pidgin-English spoken in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea), and is being done by a Ni-Vanuatu pastor/theological educator. Other Manahine members are working on partial translations (each doing from two to four studies) into Tongan, Kiribati, Fijian and French. Our hope was to complete translations by the end of 2007; we should be halfway there by then, and now expect to complete all translations by the end of January or early February.

A promotional brochure is now being prepared, and this will be sent to all Manahine members and to leaders of church women's groups across the Pacific, as we begin to publicize the study guides. We will offer bulk orders for use by church women's organizations at a very low cost, basically to cover shipping and those production costs not covered by our grant.

The four regional coordinators and the editor will be having their first face-to-face meeting in Auckland from January 18-21, 2008, to finalize plans for the major 'Training for Transformation' event in 2008 – the bridging event between Year 1 and Year 2 of the project. This will now take place around mid-year, due to the necessity of securing the most cost-effective venue at discount rates. The primary aim of this event will be to equip Manahine members as facilitators ('animators'), so that they can then return to their home churches and communities and work with leaders of church women's groups to make the most effective use of the Study Guides. These 'animators' will then be in place to assist in a similar way once the second and third Study Guides are produced, in 2008 and 2009.

Because of the time it has taken to produce the first Study Guide and the translations, and the fact that the training event will take place in mid-2008, we have to date used a relatively small portion of the grant. (It should be noted again that, while the standard Agreement assumes a one-year time frame, this project is a 3-year project.) Disbursement of funds will accelerate soon, as the remaining translators are paid, and particularly as we move toward the Training for

Transformation event. We have secured small portions of additional funding for the TFT through Evangelisches Missionswerk and the Council for World Mission, but there are still insufficient funds at present to cover the costs of this event. We are asking Manahine members' churches to assist with their travel costs, and hope to also get a discount rate for use of a church-owned retreat venue, and we are proceeding in the faith that a way will be found to cover the full costs of this important training gathering.

The members and coordinators of Manahine are extremely grateful to WACC for the trust you have placed in us in supporting this project, which has so much potential to empower women at the grassroots level. Below is an accounting of the funds spent to date, and the funds which will be expended before the end of 2007 (in italics).

WACC Grant Expenditures, 2007

Budget Line Item	Amount	Date
Production of SG1	\$1,000.00	30/8/07
Translation SG1	150.00	28/10/07
Translation SG 1 (postage)	15.31	10/11/07
Training Event, misc. (planning expenses)	1,000/00	29/22/07

Anticipated by 31/12/07:

<i>Translation, SG1</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Printing, SG1</i>	<i>2,100.00</i>
<i>Promotion, SG1</i>	<i>500.00</i>

Total Expenditures by end of 2007: NZ\$6,765.31

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Lydia Johnson, Editor
on behalf of Manahine Pasefika Coordinators