

## SECTION 2

### TAKE CARE WHEN INVITED TO SHARE IN EVENTS PLANNED BY OTHERS

Many events are being and will be planned for 1990 and local churches will often be encouraged to join in. The following check-list may help churches distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate forms of celebration:

- 1. Why is this event being held? What is the place of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in this event?
- 2. What is the emphasis of the local community's planning and work?
- 3. What is the community's understanding of its history?
- 4. Whose history is being presented in the commemoration?
- 5. What history is being selected? What aspects are emphasised?
- 6. Whose perspective is being offered?
- 7. What images will be put before people?
- 8. What are the decisions made so far?
- 9. Who made these decisions?
- 10. Who will benefit from the celebration?
- 11. With whom does the community stand? Seek to understand in the light of the Treaty any protests made by Maori or Pakeha groups.
- 12. Be prepared to run a parallel event if the locally-planned activity is too narrow in its perspective.

When structures have changed, when transformation is clearly on the way, then move from commemoration to celebration.

**BELIEVE IN HOPE**  
**LIVE IN HOPE**  
**MOVE IN HOPE**  
**CHANGE IN HOPE**

# 1990

## A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

### PARISH GUIDELINES

#### WHY 1990 ?

The only anniversary of national significance occurring in 1990 is the 150th commemoration of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. While other events will be of interest to individuals and groups in our society, it will be important that the churches keep the Treaty as a central focus in their commemorations.

#### WHY THE TREATY ?

It is the founding document of our nation. It is "our" Treaty. It gives all of us a right to be here, establishes just partnership between Maori as tangata whenua, and all other races who have come to make their home in Aotearoa New Zealand.

#### WHY THE CHURCHES ?

The churches have played a role in the history of the Treaty from the beginning. Missionaries assisted with translation, explanation and encouragement to tribes to sign: missionaries later protested to Britain and within New Zealand when they perceived infringement of the Treaty's terms. But the churches have also contributed to and benefitted from injustices since the Treaty and many of them are now working to redress wrongs, and to seek new and just ways of expressing partnership with Maori.

#### WHY IS 1990 AN OPPORTUNITY ?

The anniversary of the Treaty's signing, which has been declared by the Government a national commemoration, offers the churches in particular a unique opportunity to give leadership, take initiatives and invite people to learn, to repent, to find new ways of living justly.

# 1990

CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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# THE CHURCH REMEMBERS

## AND CELEBRATES

### REMEMBERING THE EXODUS.

Moses said to the people, "Remember this day - the day on which you left Egypt, the place where you were slaves. . .

When the Lord brings you into that rich and fertile land, you must celebrate this festival in the first month of every year. . .

This observance will be a reminder, like something tied on your hand or on your forehead."

Exodus 13: 3-10

Also Deuteronomy 2: 7



### THE JUBILEE YEAR

In this way you shall set the fiftieth year apart and proclaim freedom to all the inhabitants of the land. During this year all property that has been sold shall be restored to the original owner. . . The whole year shall be sacred for you.

Leviticus 25: 8-12

### JESUS PROCLAIMS JUBILEE

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. . . God has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when God will save the people."

Luke 4: 16-21

### SALVATION AND RESTITUTION

Zaccheus stood up and said to Jesus, "Listen, sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much."

Jesus said to him, "Salvation has come to this house today."

Luke 19: 1-10

- The following guidelines have been prepared by the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand to give assistance and encouragement to parishes, church committees and ecumenical groups to plan for creative involvement in 1990.

# SECTION 1

## TAKE THE INITIATIVE

Take the initiative by planning 1990 activities and events which respect the Treaty and honour the responsibilities and opportunities it brings to our churches.

1. Seek help! Identify those in your parish or group who have some bicultural understanding and experience. Invite them to assist in your planning.
2. Measure your plans against the church leaders' statement and denominational commitments to partnership.
3. Join with other churches in your area to plan.
4. Ensure that the Treaty - its meaning, its history, and the partnership it requires - is central to your planning.
5. Give preference to events and actions which may lead to lasting change, in hearts and in structures.
6. Tell the history (of your area, congregation, etc.) honestly and as fully as possible: be sure to research carefully the corresponding history of the other Treaty partner.
7. Use Maori names alongside Pakeha names when referring to places of significance to your community.
8. Scrutinise the language and images to be used in your commemoration. Ensure that they respect both partners to the Treaty.
9. Ask yourselves who will benefit from the event you are planning.
10. Be prepared to express repentance, seek reconciliation, make restitution. These are all positive ways of commemorating 1990.
11. Decide with whom you stand in 1990, respecting the partnerships we are already seeking within denominations and ecumenically.
12. Stand with your own integrity: be prepared to be misunderstood.

### TAKE THE INITIATIVE - AN ENCOURAGE YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TO JOIN IN!

Some suggestions:

- \* organise groups to work through the studies on the Treaty of Waitangi prepared by the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand
- \* use worship resources prepared by the Conference
- \* encourage church people to use their gifts to write hymns, create drama, carry out local research
- \* find out days of special significance to Maori and Pakeha in your area and plan suitable commemorations.

RESOURCE MATERIALS will be available from the offices of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand:

5 Short Street  
P.O. Box 9573  
AUCKLAND

Tel. (09) 520-5499

175 Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 27-264  
WELLINGTON

Tel. (04) 858-438

165 Lichfield Street  
P.O. Box 22-652  
CHRISTCHURCH

Tel. (03) 669-274