A Magnificent Tapestry of Women:


A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in History at Massey University

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1999

The title "A magnificent tapestry of women" is a quote by Marcellin in Women and church shaping the future. 4th National feminist theology conference. Conference musings.
ABSTRACT

For many Pakeha Christian women the past 20 years have been a time of evaluating the Christian church and their personal beliefs in light of developing feminist dogma and theology. Such evaluation has inevitably brought about the desire for change. Some women have stayed within the church to encourage change from within the structure. Others have worked on the fringes in a search for a faith affirming of women, while still others have left the church convinced of its inherent patriarchy. Loose networks of women have established themselves throughout the country to discuss, challenge, and draw strength from one another as they have struggled for change. Their emphasis has been placed on developing an inclusive, holistic faith, affirming of women and free from patriarchy. This I have labelled woman-church. This thesis focuses on the emerging theology and emergent trends in the spiritual practice of woman-church. Four conferences were held throughout the country from 1981–1994. The significance of these conferences is also discussed. The texts from the conferences, along with material from the interviews of twenty-one women are used to draw out emergent themes. This thesis is not intended to be a complete history of woman-church. Rather I aim to create a flavour for what has been happening in this area of pakeha women’s spirituality, particularly over the time span of the conferences.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The sense of rejoicing is immense as I finally submit this thesis. It has had an incredibly long gestation period and an even longer labour! I know that there will be a lot of people celebrating with me at its completion. None-the-least of these would be Dr. Peter Lineham, my supervisor. I wish to offer him my sincerest thanks for “hanging in there” with me from beginning to end and for his guidance, insight, experience and encouragement. I would also like to acknowledge Professor Barry Macdonald and Dr. James Watson for battling red tape on my behalf, and Professor Kerry Howe, for his sage advice, “don’t do a thesis part-time!” – I wish I had listened! To the support staff, Lyn Coates and Mary-Lou Dickson thanks for the forms and letters typed, the keys found, and all the questions answered.

My deepest thanks go to those women who allowed themselves to be interviewed. I feel humbled that you shared your stories with me, a stranger. I also want to thank the women in woman-church for their example of strength and determination in the search for life-sustaining faith. To Rosemary Neave of the Women’s Resource Centre I say a special thanks, for the books sent, questions answered, resources found and for a constant supply of encouragement.

Now to those nearest and dearest to me. To my husband, Mark, my typist, scribe, proofreader, critic…..nothing I write will adequately express my appreciation for your support. You are amazing. Thank You! Special thanks to Charlotte for still having two sleeps a day! To family and friends thank you for your support and your willingness to have your ears chewed. Did you have a choice? To my very dear friends Adele and Chris thanks for a constant supply of love, support and encouragement. To my bevy of babysitters thank you. Last but not least I wish to acknowledge and thank the “Author” and “Perfecter” of my faith for the journey travelled and the lessons learned.

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