

uplift and equip women who are gifted and available. It is a very humbling experience to share the journey with women whose resources may be limited, but whose faith seems to embrace the impossible. Without the money, the facilities, and support that we would expect even before we embarked on a project; they begin by 'doing it'!

Our best response really lies in the area of our support for ACWC. It is pleasant and enjoyable to attend the ACWC meetings, but there is a huge responsibility involved. The responsibilities are: sharing the concerns of women in Asia; sharing in a practical way; intercessory prayer; and taking action in own community.

(Excerpts from Report)

Major Joan M. Tong - Member General Com. ACWC

Please Pray For Asian Women:

1. For economic justice for women.
2. For equality, love and peace between men and women.
3. For the anointing of God's Spirit on all their plans and actions.
4. Education for women and children.
5. Pray for guidance: what action can I take?
6. Children's care facilities, play groups and after school care.
7. To continue intercessory prayer for them.



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Dear ACW Members,  
As Christmas comes, soft and still  
May the Spirit of love, peace and joy  
Gently fill your heart and home  
With love and goodwill  
ACW National Executive.

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

# ACW News

We seek: to unite Australian Women in their allegiance to their Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the church.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

DECEMBER, 1992

I am writing this from Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsular, at the eastern end of Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory. My husband has come as a volunteer maintenance man with Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) for a month. This organisation provides air service and support to isolated Aboriginal communities in the North end of Australia. It is an Ecumenical organisation so many of you will have heard of it.

While here, we've been made very welcome at the Uniting Church in the European and Asian community. I've also been able to spend time with people, working in the Aboriginal community of Yirrkala, where programs to assist with health care and supplementary meals are provided. Substance abuse programs are running in some communities to try to prevent and treat many

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And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the peoples; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

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problems.

On Saturday 31st October, we and another MAF family flew to Milingimbi and had lunch with the MAF family stationed there; then onto Oenpelli in western Arnhem Land to stay with more MAF families in another Aboriginal community. On Sunday, 1st November, we went to a Dedication Service for the translation of the Bible into Aboriginal language, Kunwinjku. There have been six mini-Bibles in different Aboriginal languages dedicated this year, consisting of several books from the Bible. They are the culmination of years of work by so many people. It was good to see the Aboriginal translators honoured. They have often suffered ostracism and persecution from their own people for helping with this work.

Many people who have had an interest in this work were present: the flying Bible Society representative, Laurie Edwards, the Anglican Bishop, Richard Appleby with his wife of the Northern Territory and the European translators, Steven and Narelle Etherington.

It was a joy to meet the Rev. Peterson Nganjmirra, the minister of Oenpelli, a graduate of Nungalinga College, and his wife, Stephanie. Let us pray



for all Aboriginal pastors and their congregations, that they will be able to cope with the opposition and the rapid changes happening in their communities.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.

May you all have a happy and holy Christmas with your families and may we go forward into a New Year of hope and promise in God's love.

Lorraine Davis - National President

WA UNIT NEWS of WKS SCHOLAR

Our Secretary, Vera Wilson, received a letter from former WKS Scholar, Doreen Tie, from Malaysia about the launch of a Toy Library at her school. I quote from her letter:

"The Toy Library was launched on 15.9.92. It was a great day and everything went beautifully. The Library was launched by His Excellency Mr George Seyman, the Canadian Commissioner to Malaysia. The reason we invited him was because the Canada Fund donated \$20,000 to us to start the library.

The High Commissioner and his wife then toured the school. The children performed two dances and the school band played for them. They were very impressed.

The State Government donated \$5,000 towards the library and a lawyer, Mr J.B. Singh gave \$10,000.

The shelving and renovations have actually taken up quite a bit of the total amount of money. The remaining amount will be carefully spent on toys.

We still haven't many toys yet and the Toy Librarian, Ms Mullis, is looking into this area. We're seeking the aid of the Old Folks Home to make toys for us as it is cheaper. We hope to stock up the Library well enough so that the toys will be ready for borrowing by teachers and parents.

It's great to know we have support from Canada and Australia."

Doreen Tie - Former WKS Scholar

Yours in Christ,  
Barbara Bounhill  
Publicity Officer





FLC NEWS

Some weeks ago, I received a little pleasure that doesn't happen every day of the week. I was delighted to receive a local phone call from Una Birchnell who was visiting Launceston during her trip to Tasmania. We arranged to meet the following morning to have fellowship at a coffee shop.

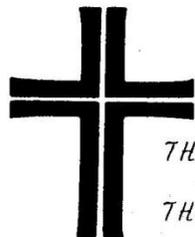
Una and her friend Heather are both from Victoria. They had just completed a delightful holiday in Tasmania. Una is the Victorian FLC Convenor and Heather is also a member of ACW.

There certainly was no stopping the three of us talking from the moment we met. We had so much in common to discuss - isn't it always the way with Christians!

It certainly was a happy meeting and I would like you all to know how much I appreciated Una ringing me.

Letters are great but a personal meeting certainly beats it all.

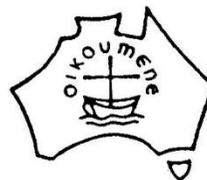
May the prayers of all who take part in FLC be a great blessing upon so many in need. So that they will be able to rejoice this coming season brought about by love.  
Juanita Miller - National FLC Convenor



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MAY YOU HAVE

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WHICH IS PEACE  
THE GLADNESS OF CHRISTMAS WHICH IS HOPE  
THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS WHICH IS LOVE



BURMA APPEAL

The Australian Council of Churches is having an appeal for the people of Burma and your help will be appreciated.

If you would like to donate, or if you would like a resource and action kit on Burma, contact the ACC toll free on 008 025101 (answering machine after hours)

"I fear that one day we will learn that what is going on in Burma now is not so different to what happened in Cambodia under Pol Pot."  
Unnamed UNHCR official.

The appeal is two-fold:

1. Lack of Information  
The closed borders of Burma mean (like Cambodia in the past) that the world is unaware of the great tragedy unfolding.

Our kit will help all to know the real story.

2. Funds are Needed  
For complicated political reasons, most of the countless thousands of people forced to flee Burma are not able to be classified as refugees. They virtually receive no aid or help at all.

The ACC is one of the few agencies active on the borders of Burma. We need your help, taking into account your own parish priorities.

Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Peter Rees (Rev Fr) - Co-ordinator  
ACC 379 Kent Street, Sydney. 2000



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BEHOLD, THERE CAME WISE MEN FROM THE EAST...  
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ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
CONSULTATION 1992

ECONOMIC INJUSTICE TO WOMEN  
October 9-13, 1992, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Consultation was held at the Federal Hotel, in true conference surroundings and facilities. It was clear that the Malaysian Church Women are a very dedicated group of talented women.

The programme in general consisted of devotional times and Bible studies, lectures, workshops, 'singing', plenary sessions, country reports, exposure to local churches, and socialising in an informal manner.

It is important to say at the outset that the theme was addressed from both a secular as well as a Christian base. With representatives from 17 countries being present, including Bangladesh and Cambodia, to Australia to New Zealand, it was clear that the question would have to be addressed specifically for the needs of each country. This gave ample opportunity for learning and discussion, each from the other, regarding the position of women in each country. It is important to say that the ultimate aim was for 'action'.

The spiritual tone of the Consultation was very high. God through His Spirit moved in the hearts of all present, particularly through the ministry of the two women who led us in devotions and Bible studies. Mrs Datin Dulcie Abraham (Malaysia) led the morning devotions; very skilfully, very tenderly, very poignantly, we were led to worship a mighty God. We were led to faith in a Yahweh who provides power, security, holiness and anointing. She said, "Involving Jesus in our issues is involving ourselves in the Cross."

The theme of the Bible studies led by Mrs Sharon

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Joy Duremdez (Philippines), was for our involvement in dismantling systems that engage the poor in unjust economic systems.

WOMEN and WORK in ASIA: "It is imperative for women's groups to critically examine government policies and identify levers of change. We have to demand our rights to participate actively in major development projects and plans, and we have to insist on our rights to productive resources.

Clearly the nature and the extent of the problems differ among countries at different levels of development and within countries among different categories of women. So the approach, strategies and priorities needed to solve these problems will also differ both within and between nations.

DUAL ROLE OF WOMEN & INEQUALITY THERE IN: Women's emancipation from socio-cultural biases and the empowerment through the process would improve their status. They would be seen as person's in their own right - capable of independent thought and action. As rightful contributors to economy, their effects and thoughts will form an integral part of planning policies.

For women's emancipation to take place, emphasis must be laid on education.

FAMILY AND INJUSTICE: For most of us, talking is easy but action is difficult. Because of this, inactivity reigns and injustice continues. We suffer from what E. Stanley Jones the missionary to India described as "the paralysis of analysis". The question we need to answer is: 'what action do I take after this Consultation?'

The desires of many women from most countries were to do more for the children of the women who are exploited - e.g. child care facilities, play groups, after school care and education.

ACWC is a marvellous tool for God to use to