

one God had prepared for a diocese which was soon to be "liberated" by the communists. With his knowledge of Mandarin and the communist system, he was able to guide the diocese through the early years of communist rule; then the new government clamped down on the churches and Bishop Den was put into prison and kept there for four years and nine months without a trial. In 1956 when a delegation from the Anglican Church in Australia was invited to visit China, it was led by four bishops and two priests. Bishop Den was freed from prison the Sunday before the delegation arrived in Hangzhou. When Archbishop Mowll asked Bishop Den what he did in prison, he said after duties and exercises, he spent time in prayer for the Diocese and the world. He asked the Archbishop to tell me that he had been praying for me every day he was in prison, giving the Archbishop an envelope with some of the prayers written out on pieces of paper which he used. Bishop Den was not allowed to function as a bishop, but he went around the Diocese as an itinerant barber, seeing that as the best way to share the good news of the gospel with outsiders and also to help Christians.

Is it any wonder that the church in Zhekiang Province are growing faster than in any other area in China? There was only one church open in Beijing in 1949; today there are hundreds of churches and thousands of meeting places in Zhekiang, with millions of Christians - many more than in Sydney Diocese.

If prayer has made such a difference in China, are the members of the Church in Australia willing to pay the price for revival and renewal, by heeding 1 Timothy 2:1? "I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that they may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Yours in Christian bonds,  
Mary M Andrews - Deaconess



## 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.*

### THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY, 1993

I have been fortunate enough to get away from busy phones and commitments and I am staying for a few days on our house boat which is situated on West Arm. As I gaze out across the wide expanse of the Tamar river with the bushlands all around; and listening to the only sounds coming from the sea birds and the water lapping up against the hull of the boat. I am also watching the beautiful black swans and the occasional pelican on the river.

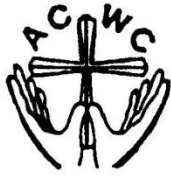
The tranquillity and peacefulness of the view before me brings to my mind - the gift of "God's peace that passes all understanding".

I am using this time to focus on the many little things that need to be done, it is approximately eight weeks before National Conference. I am very much aware of my need of the Lord's leading and guidance and I am being comforted and strengthened by a verse from Philippians 4:6 :-  
HAVE NO ANXIETY ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD.

God bless you all.

Shirley Brooks - National President





- 2 -

### ACWC NEWS

Continuing on from Ruth Harwood's report she says "A visit to one of the twenty-nine camps for the earthquake families was a very moving experience. These families were isolated from the public, and strict security of visitors was observed. Our visit was made possible by one of the church women who was the district officer of health for the camp. This camp was set up by the Government on a sports ground and the toilet and changing rooms were used for both washing and cooking. This area and the grounds were sprayed four times a day to help eliminate any health risks. Through interpreters we were able to learn of their concerns and to wish them all well; informing them that many people from throughout the world had been thinking of them. The volunteer workers were from the Red Crescent, some travelling three hours a day to work at that camp.

Other projects carried out by the Church Women that we visited were a Geriatric Hospital, Child Handicap Centre and a Rest Home.

From Cairo we travelled to Cyprus for the International meeting of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The day before the meeting we were privileged to meet Dr Eratokotakou Marcoullis, a woman minister of Human Rights and Foreign Affairs who spoke about the "History and problems of Cyprus today".

It's hard to imagine that with the changes that have taken place in the world over the last few years, that a country like Cyprus can still remain divided.

Dr Erato spoke about 200,000 refugees who are refused permission to return to their homes, the 1619 missing persons and the 50-60 children who

- 3 -

have been separated from their parents since 1974 - they may not communicate but are able to see their parents once a year.

30-35% of the land is occupied by the Turkish Government; U.N. forces are still present to keep the peace on the dividing line. Since the Gulf War the U.N. and Security Council have encouraged a re-activation of talks but the Turkish Government has not been co-operative as they want two separate states.

While in Cyprus we met with women from Palestine and Lebanon whose human stories of courage and survival make one feel they are in another world. The aim of the F.L.C. movement are Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, which seem so far away from these areas. Unity of all people regardless of their faith seems to be the key issue and dialogue is beginning to happen.



One must continue to pray that Peace, Justice and Reconciliation will be restored everywhere. '

Kind Regards,

Margaret Napier - ACWC Representative

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### VICTORIAN UNIT

Mrs Major Lynette Green reported on an area of concern. For many years The Salvation Army have had a very successful advertising campaign for their annual Red Shield Appeal, being one of the most popular appeals in the country. For Salvationists this is both good and bad. It is good because the general public support the work that the Salvation does on behalf of all, and shows

- 4 -

The Salvation Army at work, but fails to grasp that it is first and foremost a protestant Church with a high social conscience.

This year, The Salvation Army will launch into the public media with an advertising campaign that will encourage people to come to The Salvation Army for worship and spiritual dimension in their lives. This will feature "Open" groups such as Worship, Sunday School, Home classes, Youth group, Play group and Craft classes.

"Reach Out 1993" will be promoted on TV, radio, local papers, posters and leaflets.



"Get more out of life with the Salvos"

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#### FLORENCE MARSHALL MEMORIAL

During the year members and friends contributed \$1,390 to the Memorial Bursary Fund in memory of the late Florence Marshall. We thank Mrs Joyce Kippax and Mrs Marion Dodds for the resume and photograph which have been sent with the gifts to ACW National Executive as a continuing memorial to a loved and esteemed member of the ACW Victorian Unit.

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#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT

This year's Community Concern beneficiary is Young Adult and Adolescent Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic fatigue (ME) Syndrome Support Group.

Speakers have been mothers of the sufferers and a physician and a specialist who treat the syndrome. There is no diagnostic test and no know cure. It is not a mental condition.

The major symptom is severe fatigue lasting

- 5 -

longer than 6 months with 50% reduction in activity and no other medical conditions which may produce similar symptoms. Minor symptoms (must begin at or after onset of fatigue) are: Sore throat, prolonged fatigue after exercise headaches, joint pain, neuropsychological complaints such as visual disturbances, forgetfulness, confusion, inability to concentrate, depression and sleep disturbances.

Some people recover completely within 2 years. Others suffer relapses interspersed with periods of remission. Relapses can be triggered by: Physical stress e.g. exercise, immunizations, contact with chemicals; Emotional stress e.g. difficulty obtaining diagnosis; Mental stress e.g. exams, filling out forms.

The illness seems to affect people who are gifted in some way e.g. in music or art.

While they are suffering they are not being educated, however, when they recover sufficiently to attend school, they do well.

During their illness their friends tend to fall away because the sufferer is unable to stay awake to talk to them.

Please remember these people and carens in your prayers.



In Christ,  
Maureen E Clark - Promotions Officer

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#### FLC NEWS



I would like to convey to all FLC Members two heartfelt prayer concerns sent to me from Shirin

Samuel in Hong Kong

1. On a recent trip to South Africa, a team of

- 6 -

eight women including Shirin has reported a great need for diligent and persistent prayer for: Racial discrimination and oppression were dramatically visible and present. Many have lost farms and homes - they are forced to live in tents. There is appalling poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy. The children suffer from disease and malnutrition.

Through all the turmoil and unrest the women are still struggling for a New South Africa of justice without violence and peace

2. For the women who died because of sub-standard working conditions in a Bangkok factory. Pray for justice and proper working conditions.

Pray also for all people who suffer and live in constant misery.

I will write and tell Shirin that we will join her in prayer.

Juanita Miller - FLC National Convenor



WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT, THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON; IF YOU ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO it.  
John 14:13-14

#### SOMETHING TO REFLECT ON

God is a God of laughter, as well as of prayer, A God of singing as well as of tears. God is at home in the play of His children, He loves to hear us laugh. We do not honour God by our long faces... our austerity. God wants us to be good - not "goody-goody". There is quite a distinction. We must try to make the distinction between Worship, Work and Play less sharp... If God is not in your type-writer, as well as your hymn book, there is something wrong with your religion. If God does not enter

- 7 -

your kitchen, there is something the matter with your kitchen. If you can't take God into your recreation - there is something wrong with the way you play... If God, for you does not smile, there is something wrong with your idea of God.

Ailsa - Queensland Unit

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#### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY 1994



The official emblem chosen by the UN was designed by Catherine Littassy-Rollier, a well known Swiss artist residing in Vienna. The design reflects the Family at the heart of Society.

The design, a heart sheltered by a roof, linked by another heart, symbolises life and love in a home where, the artist says, one finds warmth, caring, security, togetherness and tolerance. The open design indicates continuity with a hint of uncertainty.

The symbol represents the complexity of the family - at the heart of society.

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#### NEWS OF CHINA



In 1949, the Diocese of Chekiang, China met to elect a new Bishop. They couldn't come to a decision - it was proposed to dismiss the group so that members could go away and pray all day until 8pm that evening. When the Synod resumed after prayer, Bishop Kimber Den was elected almost unanimously.

Looking back, Bishop Kimber Den was certainly the