

* * INFORMATION PAGE * *

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Subscriptions for ACWC News, Offertories for Special Days, Payments or Donations, should be sent to the TREASURER: Mrs Marie Majoor,
521 Mowbray Road,
LANE COVE 2066,
(Tel: 9428.2384).

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups :	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches :	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations eg YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade :	\$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st June: \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

NEWSETTE is the official journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women, which is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the EDITOR:

Mrs Beryl McLaughlin,
2/15 Morwick Street,
STRATHFIELD 2135,
(Tel: 9744.8609).

Changes of Address or subscriptions should be sent to the NEWSETTE MANAGER:

Mrs Nola Dickson,
1/14 Forest Grove,
EPPING 2121.
(Tel: 9869.2559)

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHEQUES to be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT' and NOT to any individual person.



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

A C W seeks:

- ... to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ... to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Janet Harrison Tel: 9744.8626

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MAY 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

My Dear Friends,

It is the year of the Volunteer and I know that most of you will be, in one way or another, part of that great crowd of volunteers. Some in an 'ad hoc' situation (where and when needed) and others in a more structured 'roster' system.

Why do we become a volunteer? Someone asked us to 'lend a hand'! Maybe we perceived a need and whether or not we really 'had the time' - time was made and help given. For many too, we are aware, or see in hindsight, that the hand of God has guided - we are touched by the Holy Spirit to 'do something' ... volunteer ... serve!

We read in John Chapter 13 that Jesus gave us an example of serving - of attitude and action. You will recall the reading of the washing of the disciples' feet. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you (Verse 15). It was a humble job, that of washing feet in

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those days - dusty dirt roads - but Jesus, their Teacher and Lord took the basin and towel and carried out the task, pointing out the need of humility in service.

Take time to again read John chapter 13 verses 1-17. The old proverb "It is more blessed to give than to receive" is borne out in the last verse. It is true that in many instances volunteers can be so blessed by the folk they serve - but even if taken for granted, or with little or no appreciation shown - who are we serving really? Is it not our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ? "...the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 (NIV).

With my love,

Jan Harrison

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION

at 10.30 am

at **ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH, ENFIELD**
(Cnr Coronation Parade & King Street)

on **MONDAY, 21st MAY, 2001**

Speaker: *Sue Nitrai*, Year 2000 Winifred Kiek Scholar -
born in Adelaide of Czechoslovakian parents,
grew up in Sydney, worked and studied in
Canberra - our first Australian WKS Scholar.

Musical Items

Followed by light luncheon

Transport Information:

From Strathfield Station (South Side): Bus 415 (Campsie Bus) half-hourly, at 9.15, 9.45, 10.15.

From Burwood Station: Bus 464-466 (Ashfield Bus) quarter-hourly at 9.20, 9.35, 10.05.

Alight from either bus in Coronation Parade, cnr King Street - church and hall right at bus stop.

Parking in Coronation Parade, also in King Street.

3.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR:

Our WKS Scholar for 2000, *Sue Nitrai*, passed all her exams with high results. Because of the illness and death of her father last August, Sue needed to spend a great deal of time with her family in Sydney. Consequently she did not complete her theological degree, but intends to resume her studies.

Sue's subjects are: Pastoral Theology and History;
Part Two Greek (St John's Gospel);
The Wisdom Literature;
Counselling (Part 2).

Sue has expressed to Betty Laurie, the WKS Convener for ACT, her appreciation of the Scholarship, acknowledging that it was a great help to her in allowing her to proceed with her studies at St Mark's.

Her Ministry appointment at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Canberra came to an end last December, and she has not been able to find church-related work since then. For the present, she has two part-time jobs - as a Commonwealth Bank teller by day and at night auditing for Woolworths.

Our 2001 Scholar is *Celestial Lusi* of Honiara in the Solomon Islands as this year the choice was to be from the South Pacific area. Celestial is sponsored by the Roroni Women's Fellowship Group of the South Seas Evangelical Church, and is undertaking the final year of her Diploma in Theology at the Christian Leaders' Training College of PNG & The South Pacific. Although we will not have the opportunity of meeting her, may we keep Celestial in our prayers, as she spends this time away from her home and family and continues with her studies.

Easter Greetings were received from *Nighat Gulzar*, our 1994 Scholar and her husband Asif, from Philadelphia where they are still living and working.

Edith Ridge, WKS Convener.

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY:

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY - MONDAY, 16th JULY 2001

10.30 am - 2 pm at Piccadilly Court 222 Pitt Street
(on 5th Floor where Council Meetings are held)

Bring Your Own Lunch - Tea/Coffee Provided

Morning Speaker Sr Colleen O'Sullivan - "Images of God"

Afternoon Speaker - Sr Marie Craddock

4.

SEMINAR on DYING WITH DIGNITY:

The purpose of this seminar was to review the Draft Guidelines For Clinical Decision-Making For The End Of Life. These guidelines assist healthcare workers in making decisions about the care of dying patients.

Management has changed and the document is being updated. The Health Department wants the community to have input into the development of the revised document, so a broad range of community groups, welfare agencies, religious organisations and health and professional bodies have been asked to review the document and provide feedback.

Some of the seminar participants were asked to share their experiences, good and bad, on management of relatives and friends at the end of life.

Some of the issues in the draft document discussed were:

- The patient should be given the opportunity to express his/her wishes concerning treatment.
- Communication with the family;
- Consultation with all members of the health team;
- Means by which conflict can be resolved;
- Specific guidelines required for emergencies.

The importance of 'living wills' and advance directives was stressed. These should be prepared in health and given to a significant person so that your wishes can be observed even though you may not be able to express them at the end of life.

Heather Badgery, Social Issues Convener.

WOMEN IN SOLIDARITY ECUMENICALLY:

The Day Away organised by Women In Solidarity Ecumenically on Saturday 7th April offered the opportunity to contemplate the theme of "Generosity."

The starting point was the story in St Luke's Gospel of the woman anointing the feet of Jesus while he dined with Simon the Pharisee. Reflection and discussion helped each participant to deepen understanding of the passage and to consider new insights suggested by others. As a prelude to Easter week, the timing of this day was significant in focusing on both the generosity of God and of those who have influenced us on our faith journey.

5.

Such study offers not only a better understanding of a Bible story, but also the chance to widen and develop acquaintance with women of different churches from one's own - always a bonus!

Reported by Secretary Isabel Hewitt.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

PAKISTANI CHURCH ORDAINS FIRST WOMEN!

In what may be a significant event for women and the minority Christian community, the United Church of Pakistan ordained the first two women to the Christian ministry late last year.

The journey towards ordination and acceptance for Khushnud Azariah and Rasharna Asif has not been an easy one. The daughter of a bishop and wife of the present moderator of the Church of Pakistan, Khushnud Azariah enrolled at Trinity Theological Seminary in Singapore in 1974 and was the first Pakistani woman to receive a Bachelor of Divinity Degree.

When she returned to Pakistan in 1977 there was no pastoral or ministerial work available for her in the Church. After a further course of education Kushnud opened a school for disabled in Karachi. Over the past 20 years three more schools for the disabled have been established.

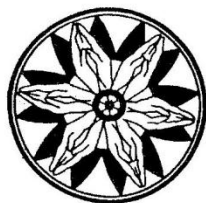
These ordinations have not gone unchallenged. Major Timotheus Nasir, a retired Army officer and leader of a splinter Presbyterian group, sued the Church under Pakistani civil law claiming that the Bible did not allow women leadership roles in the Church.

Khushnud Azariah was her country's representative on Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) for many years, before deferring in favour of a younger woman. She is a strong leader and has pioneered many new initiatives for women in Pakistan - including the first refuge for battered women.

Joan Tong, ACWC Convener.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our congratulations are extended to Associate Member, *Dame Monica Gallagher*, for the conferring on her of a Papal Knighthood, recognising her valued service in her church and community.



Fellowship Of The Least Coin

GRANTS ALLOCATED FOR 2001

AFRICA

1. Women in Training "WIT", Monrovia, Liberia
2. Literacy Classes For Adult Women in Rural Area, Burkina Faso
3. Mier Job Centre, Mier, North Cape Province, South Africa
4. Chisere Women Development Centre, Lurasa, Zambia
5. Rural Women Development Group, Dodoma, Tanzania
6. Leadership Development Training for Young Women from Africa to WFM and UCW Leadership Training in England
7. Thandanani Association, Pietermaritzburg, Kwa Zulu Natal
8. Bulenga Women's Family Promotion Association, Bulenga, Kampala

ASIA / PACIFIC

1. Lamp Development Foundation, Lamp Kiddie School, Calatrava, Island of Tablas, Rombion, Philippines
2. Welfare Programme for Women, Trivandrum, India
3. Development Skill in Communication, Laguna, Philippines (ACWC)
4. *Women's Fellowship / Girls' Brigade Canoe, Gizo Western Province, Solomon Islands*
5. *Parent Support Group, Woolloomooloo, Sydney, Australia*
6. *Facilitating Faith Community (Parish) Nursing, Western Australia*
7. Production Studio Proposal for HCJB World Radio, Auckland N.Z.
8. ACWC Visitors to New Zealand
9. Talitha Kumi/Violence Against Women Centre, Lahore, Pakistan
10. Hand-Weaving Project, Mudon, Kamarwet, Mon State, Myanmar
11. Dar-ul-Mussarat Centre for Mentally Challenged Children, Lahore, Pakistan
12. Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery, Tokyo, Japan
13. Nepal Prem Foundation, Miyagi-Ken, Japan
14. Rest Place for Young Girls Driven into Sex Industries, Seoul, Korea
15. Unlad-Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, Philippines
16. Christ for Myanmar Women, Bangkok, Thailand
17. Training of Mother-Daughter Relationship, Tonga
18. Courses for Outer Island Women, Outer Islands of Kiribati

(Projects printed in italics were applications from Australia)

CANADA

1. Ecumenical Network of Women of African Heritage, Toronto
2. Women's Inter-Church Council Resource "Hands to End Violence Against Women: Resource for Theological Education", Toronto

CARIBBEAN

1. Senior Citizens' Activity Centre, St Andrew, Jamaica
2. JN + Income Generate Initiative, Kingston, Jamaica
3. Equipment for Special Children, Kingston, Jamaica

EUROPE

1. New Spiritual Explorations, Ukraine
2. European Women's College Compact Studies, Yugoslavia and Zurich, Switzerland

LATIN AMERICA

1. Project Life, Lima, Peru
2. Reading Lounge Equipment, Women's Centre, Lima, Peru

MIDDLE EAST

1. Economic Development for Women-Headed Slum Households, Cairo
2. Care for Deaf Mutes, El-Adayma Village, Upper Egypt
3. Study Seminar for Young Women in Biblical Study, Lebanon
4. House of Light & Hope Rehabilitation Project for Women in Prison, Beirut, Lebanon

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Church Women United Assembly, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2. Health Link, East Spencer, North Carolina

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - WOMEN'S DESK

1. Pacific Regional Workshop for Gender Awareness & Leadership Development, Sydney, Australia

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. In Christ Global Partners in Reconciliation-Action Steps, Malawi
2. Talitha Kumi Young Woman Stand Up Workshop, Chile

8.

ACW SPECIAL DAYS:

From *Fellowship Day Services* in July, the offertories are devoted to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Half the offertories from *World Community Day Services* in October is allocated to ACW's commitment to Asian Church Women's Conference; the Special Project selected by the National Executive for this year for the other half is *Talitha Kumi Welfare Centre, Pakistan*, because of concern about violence and because of Australia's link as Pakistan's ACWC Prayer Partner.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION:

As part of their 118th Annual Convention, WCTU held a very successful Luncheon at Parliament House in March as a Commemoration of the Centenary of Federation. WCTU was involved and active in the fight for women's suffrage and other concerns of that time, 100 years ago.

Some 200 people enjoyed a tasty lunch in Parliament House Dining Room, listened to the delightful singing of the Korean WCTU Choir in their colourful national dress, and heard a challenging message from Rev Dr Gordon Moyes. Among the guests were some members of the NSW Parliament, the heads of Sydney churches, and representatives of many church and community organisations including several ACW members. Dr Moyes' address is being produced as a booklet and will be available shortly - phone 9262.5949.

Beryl McLaughlin, WCTU State Secretary.

MONITORING MEDIA For YOUTH:

This is the new name adopted by the NSW Council for Children's Films & Television, as more descriptive of our aims and objectives.

Our current project is being held at Waitara Public School, with the kind interest and co-operation of the principal and staff. A Questionnaire has been formulated with the input of the Year 5 & 6 classes on their media habits and interests and is to be completed by all the students as a class project. A book prize is being offered for the best entry, also a book prize for the school library.

Recent Leaflets have been produced on 'How to Make Complaints or Comments to the Media' and 'How To Use the Internet.' These may be obtained by phoning Secretary Wendy Mayer on 9943.0446.

Lily Hanlon, Helen Hill, ACW Delegates to MMY

9.

THE HALIFAX-PORTAL LECTURES

A SERIES OF ECUMENICAL LECTURES

Sponsored by the Catholic and Anglican Bishops of NSW

- May 8: Reading The Bible - the Catholic 'Two Step' Way.
Rev John McSweeney, Parish Priest, St Finbar's Glenbrook,
Lecturer Greek Orthodox Theological College Redfern
- May 15: How Anglicans Understand and Read The Bible
Rev Dr Mark Thompson, Lecturer Moore Theological College
- May 22: Prayer and The Spirit, Anglicanism and the Devotional Life
Rev Dr Ivan Head, Master, St Paul's Anglican College,
University of Sydney
- May 29: Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary...Where do we go with Mary in
Catholic devotional life?
Sr Marie Farrell rsm, Lecturer, Catholic Institute of Sydney
7.30 pm at Lidcombe Catholic Club, 24 John Street
Close to Station Free Entry Free Parking
Meals, snacks available in the Coffee Lounge
For further information contact Sr Patricia Madigan OP, 9390.5168

SEVEN EASY STEPS FOR USING TALKBACK RADIO

1. Work out one or two points you want to make; jot down some catchy ways of saying it.
2. Perseverance is the key - just keep pushing the radial button
3. Usually the producer will answer and will ask what comment you want to make. If you sound interesting and coherent, they will put you through to the presenter. Be passionate or coolly analytical - but be interesting.
4. The producer will tell you to turn off your radio - you must do this or you'll be off air. If you want to record, put a tape in and turn volume right down.
5. Speak clearly right into the mouthpiece.
6. You're on and going strong when the announcer interrupts you. The moment the announcer speaks into the microphone you are cut out and only the announcer's voice can be heard by the listeners.
7. So you stop speaking, listen to what the announcer says to you and either continue your line of thought or answer their question once they stop speaking - you can't interrupt the announcer, but you don't have to answer questions you don't want to.

From National Women's Media Centre Information Page

10.

RACIAL & RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE BILL:

Attention of people concerned is being drawn to a Discussion Paper on Racial & Religious Tolerance with a Model Bill published by the Premier of Victoria. This Bill can be accessed at <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/>

The Paper and the Bill seek to introduce legislation to give a remedy to people who are victims of racial and/or religious vilification. *Racial vilification* refers to communications that speak evil of, abuse or are derogatory of people on the basis of their race. *Religious vilification* refers to communications that speak evil of, abuse or are derogatory of people on the basis of their religious beliefs.

Laws regarding Racial Discrimination were enacted by the Federal Government in 1975 and the States have similar legislation.

Religious Vilification legislation is very different. At the Federal level, the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission released a Discussion Paper in 1997 titled "Free To Believe." This outlined the religious make-up of Australia, looked at the extent to which the right to freedom of religion is protected in Australian Law. The final Report to the Attorney General stated that all beliefs are equally valid, including satanism, paganism, witchcraft, atheism and so on.

Academics, artists, journalists and scientists are always exempted from such legislation - but Mr & Mrs Average are told what they can or can't say. Television, theatre and art galleries can show what they like but churches may soon be told what they can't say from the pulpit.

The proposed Model Bill, if enacted, would implement laws outlawing racial and religious hatred and intolerance.

The church of the New Testament is founded on evangelism. This proposed Bill strikes at the very heart of that foundation. People are entitled to have their own religious belief, or no belief at all, but this bill could mean that anyone who witness to others that "Jesus is the only way" could be accused of being discriminatory and imposing on that person's belief or non-belief.

There is already anti-discrimination legislation based on race and religion for employment, accommodation and so on. There has not been a public outcry asking for 'vilification' legislation. We have achieved one of the most diversified nations in the world without the need for such legislation. It is unnecessary and another example of political correctness.

(A 'Salt Shakers' Special Report)

11.

CHRISTIANS IN SUDAN - HOUNDED BY VIOLENCE HATRED:

They walked out of the glass doors of Sydney airport with nothing but the clothes they wore ... and their lives. And with their lives there was at least hope of a future.

Mayom Tulba was born in Southern Sudan and most of his life had lived in relative peace. A dowry was paid and he was given a wife. They grew to love each other and the fact that they were of different religions did not matter and in due course children were born.

Then Sudan changed dramatically. Reports of murder, torture, rape and slavery became commonplace. Finally the regime of terror touched Mayom and his wife Zeniab with the ultimatum "Divorce your wife, renounce Christianity, or we will stone you to death." This was the climax of trying to remain inconspicuous amidst a reign of unimaginable terror. Mayom knew they had reached the end of the road and that escape was the only way to avoid death for his family.

In 1991 he was able to smuggle his family into Egypt. The peace there was sweet but brief. They were threatened with deportation back to Sudan, which meant violence and probable death. Their young son was attacked and they became desperate. Was there no place in the world where they could simply live, love their children and be free?

Our national anthem says "For we are young and *free*." Perhaps we don't really appreciate what that means to someone who has lived so closely with terror. In 1997, Mayom, Zeniab and their children walked out of Sydney airport without a photo, memento, or change of clothes, but with their freedom. All that mattered at that moment was that no one was looking at them with murder in their eyes.

But arriving is just the beginning. Where would they live, find work, learn language and social customs?

Mayom and Zeniab were helped through these new challenges by Anglicare. The support, counselling, language tuition and relationships offered the family meant that Mayom is now able to work and he has taken a role with Anglicare helping his own people - he is giving back to the community by helping other shell-shocked and traumatised people find a good home in what is still one of the most compassionate countries on earth. Anglicare's (and many other churches and agencies) work amongst refugees is costly but repays itself a hundred times, as they become citizens who love their new land with passion.

(From Anglicare newsletter "CARE")