

NEWSLETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. STATE UNIT



A.C.W. seeks:

To unite Australian women 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.

President: Mrs. Glad West Phone: 419 8654

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

"The old has gone.....the new has come...." 2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

Let the words of scripture inspire us afresh, and fill us with hope as we go forward together into another year of service. If a resolution is needed, then hear Paul, who said: "Put no obstacle in any man's way, so that no fault be found with your ministry."

We find 1982 has been declared 'THE YEAR OF THE TREE' and while we might prefer this had some connection with the Family Tree, I'm sure man will make every effort to rehabilitate land that has suffered from his years of careless destruction.

Jesus had much to say about trees, using them naturally in His teachings. To illustrate the signs of the times, Jesus said: "Look at all the trees, when they come into leaf, you know that summer is on the way." He spoke very seriously about vines and branches and fruit bearing, along with the pruning needed to produce better fruit.

"Dear Lord, help us to accept any pruning You may find necessary this year and may we heed Your advice about being anxious for nothing, so that in everything we will give thanks and praise to You. Amen."

GLAD WEST
President.

2.

"Sing to the Lord a New Year's song!
Give Him the choicest of New Year Honours:
As we greet one another with 'Happy New Year',
Greet Him as Lord of every minute.
For His call will be renewed each morning,
And His peace will be ours at the close of
every day."

- from 'Australian Psalms'
(Bruce Prewer)

* * *

THREE SPECIAL EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE IN 1982

FEBRUARY 21 - 2.30 p.m. A reception to be held in honour of
Dr. Thelma Adair, President of Church
Women United, U.S.A. Dr. Adair will be visiting Australia at
the invitation of the Uniting Church. We will be privileged to
receive her as our special guest on this Sunday afternoon at the
Northside Baptist Centre in Willoughby Road, Crows Nest. There is
a large car park at the rear of the Church. Please keep this date
free and encourage others to come.

MARCH 29 - 10.00 a.m.-2.15 p.m. Dr. Thelma Adair will be a guest
speaker, along with Rev. Bernard
Clarke (Associate General Secretary, Commission for World Mission)
at a Mission Get-together convened by the Uniting Church. This
will be held at Stanwell Tops Churches of Christ Christian Confer-
ence Centre and the theme will be 'Participants - Not Spectators'.

MAY 31 - 10.30 a.m. Our Annual Service and Installation of
incoming President, Mrs. Yvonne Davis, to be
held in the Presbyterian Church, Canterbury Road, Lakemba.
Mrs. Davis is nominated by the Presbyterian Women's Association in
New South Wales.

* * *

The National Council of Women in N.S.W. celebrated the golden
jubilee of N.C.W. of Australia in November last. Two of our Council
members are now on the Executive of the N.S.W. Council, namely
Marie McCann, representing our organisation and Heather Stevens,
representing the Uniting Church. Heather is also Treasurer of
the group.

REPORTS FROM BRANCHES AS PRESENTED TO NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

CITY - Twelve members met in June and September in order to plan Fellowship and World Community Day services. World Community Day 1980 was held in the Chinese Presbyterian Church and Fellowship Day 1981, at St. Stephens Uniting Church. A.C.W. members are invited to attend the city branch services in order to make the audiences more appreciable. A suggestion from this branch made at the June meeting was to introduce Fellowship Day and World Community Day to retirement villages and hostels.

EPPING - Fellowship and World Community Day services are proving the value of bringing together in Christian fellowship women from all denominations. Fellowship Day was held in the Epping Church of Christ with Mrs. Marilyn McDougal as the guest speaker. World Community Day was held in the Chester Street Uniting Church with representation from seven denominations. Miss Thelma Skiller was the guest speaker. Fellowship was enjoyed over a basket lunch at the conclusion of the service.

PARRAMATTA - Two services were held in connection with the Women's World Day of Prayer - one in the morning at the Salvation Army Citadel with Captain Kathleen Gill as the speaker and the evening service at Northmead Uniting Church with Mrs. Alice Nash speaking. Fellowship Day service was held in All Saints Anglican Church, North Parramatta with a special speaker, Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam. Members from the State Unit Council were present and able to give information at a shared lunch after the service. The offering for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship amounted to \$150. World Community Day service took place at Northmead Uniting Church with Mrs. Marie McCann as the speaker. F.L.C. offering was almost \$230.

LAMBTON - This branch has had a very interesting year. All services have been held in St. Johns Anglican Church, including the Women's World Day of Prayer. For Fellowship Day we were privileged to have as guest speaker, Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam, accompanied by Mrs. Stanhope and Brigadier Ward. Following the service lunch was served in the Salvation Army Hall where the guests from Sydney were able to give additional information and meet the ladies who had come for this special day. World Community Day was held in the same church with the rector's wife, Mrs. Brown, as speaker.

(continued over page)

BRANCH REPORTS (cont.)

TURRAMURRA/WAHROONGA - Women's World Day of Prayer service was held at St. James Anglican Church, Turramurra, with Mrs. Marlene Cohen as the guest speaker. Two hundred ladies attended this service after which a luncheon was served in the church hall. Fellowship Day was held at St. Pauls Anglican Church, Wahroonga, with Mrs. Marie Carpenter as speaker. Activities of the branch include hospital visitation involving the various churches, Prayer on Wheels and the visiting library service.

LANE COVE/LONGUEVILLE - Mrs. Will Chambers was the guest speaker at the Women's World Day of Prayer held in the Church of Christ. An appreciable congregation gave \$127.70 in the offering. The choir made a significant contribution to the service. Fellowship Day was held at St. Andrews Anglican Church, Lane Cove, with Mrs. Glad West as guest speaker. World Community Day took place at St. Andrews Uniting Church, Longueville with Mrs. Doris Wakefield as the speaker. Liaison with A.C.W. has been maintained by several members belonging to the A.C.W. Council.

CHATSWOOD/WILLOUGHBY - Three committee meetings were held during the year including an Annual Meeting. A street stall yielded \$225 of which \$140 was donated to Community Aid Home Help, a local community project, and \$40 to the State Unit's Overseas travel fund. A further \$20 was sent to a church in the Philippines. Women's World Day of Prayer was included for the first time in the three special services for 1981. Mrs. A. Chambers was the guest speaker at Fellowship Day held in Chatswood Uniting Church and Mrs. Marie McCann was the speaker for the World Community Day at the Roman Catholic Church when special mention was made of the Silver Jubilee of F.L.C. A larger congregation, including men as well as women, resulted from changing the time from a morning service to one in the evening.

BANKSTOWN/GREENACRE - This branch reported growing interest amongst churches and newspaper publicity has been helpful. An offering on World Community Day amounted to \$100.

STRATHFIELD - Fellowship Day and World Community Day services were well attended. There is continued opportunity to help White Russians living in the area.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR FOR 1981

No Winifred Kiek Scholar could have worked harder and achieved such success in such a short time as did Miss Malini Weerasinghe. She succeeded in completing a Religious Education Course which normally covers three years in ten months! In addition, she did the one-year Biblical Studies Course through Moore Theological College while studying at Deaconess House, Sydney.

To her surprise and joy, Malini was awarded a Diploma for Biblical Studies and Religious Education signed by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Principal of Deaconess House and the Director of the Anglican Board of Religious Education. On the occasion of the presentation of the Diploma, she was also presented with a cheque for \$100 from the staff and students of Deaconess House, as a token of their appreciation of her contribution to the life and witness of Deaconess House.

Farewell Morning Tea Party. On December 9, members of the Executive of A.C.W., N.S.W. Unit, farewelled Malini at morning tea, at the home of the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Doris Mitchell, at Woollahra. It was a very happy occasion, when the President, Mrs. G. West, presented the guest of honour with a hand-made pendant containing Australian wild flowers. Malini expressed her gratitude for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and for all that had been done to make her stay in Australia so pleasant and helpful.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanhope and the Convener took Malini to Kingsford Smith Airport on December 14 and bade farewell to one who had endeared herself to so many people in such a short time. Incidentally, I have never seen anyone leave Australia with such a small suitcase! True, Malini had already sent on her books by surface mail. Her thoughtfulness and grasp of situations impressed us all. As Malini has returned to a very challenging task of training others in the field of Religious Education, may she continue to be supported by the prayers and interest of all members of Australian Church Women.

- Mary M. Andrews
N.S.W. Convener, W.K.S.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, 1982

The central meeting of the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held in St. Andrew's Cathedral at 12 noon on March 5. Mrs. Major Stelstra of The Salvation Army will speak on the theme: 'The People of God: Gathered for Worship - Scattered for Service.'

It is a very beautiful and challenging service prepared by Christian Women in Ireland. Lady Rowland in her message from Government House says, 'I feel this theme illustrates a most important aspect of the Christian way of life. For in Mark 16, verse 15, Jesus said to His disciples, when they were gathered together, 'Go into the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.' This is the instruction that Jesus gave many, many years ago. Today, by gathering together for worship and prayer, we too are inspired to go out into the world, amongst our friends and others within the community, to serve and live our lives according to the teachings of God.'

It is our hope that all Australian church women will join with women around the world in this service of dedication to the One who loved us and gave Himself for us.

The International meetings of the World Day of Prayer are planned to take place in Tutzing, Germany, from 26th May to 3rd June. The theme: 'Women Empowered in Prayer and Action.' Mrs. Dorothy Armstrong, the National Liaison officer-elect and Head Deaconess Mary Andrews (present N.L.O.) expect to attend the meetings and would value prayer concerning travel and all the important decisions re themes and development of the work to be made.

On the way to Europe I hope to attend the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Conference in Toronto from 6th-8th May. In October last, the Primate, Archbishop M.L. Loane, appointed me the Australian Representative of the Fellowship - a very challenging task. Prayer is man's ultimate indication of trust in His Heavenly Father. Only in prayer do we surrender our problems completely to God and ask for divine intervention. It is in prayer that battles for our service will be won.

-Mary Andrews
National Liaison Officer
W.W.D.P.

7.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Offerings to the F.L.C. Fund increased during 1981 owing to the fact that more people became aware of its existence and purpose through the Silver Jubilee Year Celebrations. Many groups are thanked by letter for their contributions, but we extend our thanks through branch Secretaries to the many groups who bring their offerings for dedication to World Community Day Services in October, or to any who may read 'Newsette'.

Silver Jubilee bookmarks and spoons are still available. Please contact the Convener.

Dorothy Woodhouse
Convener

OUR SPECIAL DAYS

World Community Day in October was held in 27 centres. The following snippets from the reports, all commenting favourably on the services, will show you how our days are received: 'meaningful to all present'; 'wonderful fellowship'; 'encouraged by growing interest in A.C.W.'; 'it was the best day ever - service very Biblical'; 'worthwhile time of ecumenical fellowship'.

When next you are at an ecumenical gathering, could you please try to interest those present to participate with A.C.W. in our two special days. Would you ask them to contact me in order that they might receive Orders of Service, if they are not already on the mailing list. 'Bless you' if you can help in this regard.

Marie McCann (406 4044)
Promotions Convener

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Personal Pars

Friends who have visited Win Dougherty are happy to report that she is in good spirits and improving in health. It is lovely to see you out and about again, Win!

Dr. Thelma Adair - As well as the occasions mentioned on Page 2 of this journal, Dr. Adair will be speaker at a Uniting Church Conference for men and women from March 26-29 at Naamaroo Conference Centre, Lane Cove National Park. Enquiries from Mrs. Heather Stevens (267 7399).

Ecumenical Visitor - Dame Nita Barrow of Barbados, World President of the Y.W.C.A. and formerly Director of the W.C.C. Christian Medical Commission, visited Sydney during the first week of November last year. She spoke at the Prayer for Peace week of the Y.W.C.A. as well as two meetings of the A.C.C. N.S.W. State Council to promote the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

Faith came singing into my room,
And other guests took flight:
Fear and Anxiety, Grief and Gloom
Sped out into the night.
I wondered that such peace could be,
But Faith said gently: "Don't you see?
They really could not live with me."

Contributions to 'Newsette' are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Ridley, 23 Hannah Street, Beecroft, 2119, before the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

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All subscription monies should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss D. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra, 2025.