



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN WOMEN AT WORK

MAY 1976.

GREETINGS to all our friends everywhere.

I don't know how many of you were privileged to see and hear the Medical Mission Sisters while they were in Australia. I certainly hope many did, and, I personally, am grateful to the Force Ten and to World Christian Action for making it possible. The Perth Concert Hall was packed for their only concert and the audience was indeed ecumenical. For me it was an occasion, rarely experienced when one could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit surrounding and enfolding the whole company. As I looked down on these charming and unassuming women I felt them creating for us all, through their own inner qualities, the joyous reality of being a part of the Kingdom of God. I am sure we all came away uplifted and refreshed and more determined to uphold the faith and share it wherever we can. I am equally sure the Lord Jesus Christ drew closer to each one of us that night.

Vera Dean,
Secretary, A.C.W. Working Committee.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR 1971

Violet Sampa from Zambia writes that she hopes to be married on 14th. August to Frieder Bredt, a German churchman, working on an agricultural development project in the Gwenbe Valley.

Since February she has been working in the Matero Parish in Lusaka. This includes one new church and six other places in the Shanti compounds. One of the biggest gatherings is at the Marrapodi Compound where the people are very keen and very capable. In Easter week she baptized 44 children and on the 9th. May 81 adults were to be baptised. Amidst her busyness she sends her greetings to all.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

The South Australian Catholic Womens' League became the national body of the C.W.L. of Australia from April 1st. The new president, Mrs. Nell Kain, was one of the Vice Presidents when the A.C.W. Committee was in South Australia. We rejoice in this distinction for her.

JAVA. From Miss Mitchell's "Asian Journey" She found a great deal was being done in social service, health centres, rehabilitation centres, and a school for retarded children. Miss Mitchell visited the latter, and

found it a place of happiness run by a highly qualified woman.
BOOK REVIEW. "CONFRONTING THE FUTURE" by CHARLES BIRCH.

Penguin Books, a Pelican Original, October 1975. Price \$ 2.95.

In 25-50 years civilisation may end! So said double Nobel Prizewinner Dr. Linus Pauling. (Adelaide Advertiser, 7/4/76). Professor Charles Birch, a convinced christian, believes that fortunately we have a little longer to set our house in order. He subtitles his book, "Australia and the World, the Next Hundred Years." To avert catastrophe we must apply ourselves now to the tremendous task of establishing "The sustainable... society", a task involving the re-education of all to accept a revolution in goals and expectations.

Charles Birch, Challis Professor of Biology in the University of Sydney was one of the main speakers at the recent Nairobi World Council of Churches. He tackles all the major problems of today, ecological breakdown, poverty and affluence, the population explosion, over-use of resources, food shortages, water supply problems, the politics of change and outlines the approach necessary for solution, especially in Australia. Here, in a young country, still seeking its identity, the possibility for change, he believes is greater than anywhere else, - and obviously we cannot all wait for someone else to begin.

This "wise and compassionate book" as its publishers call it, is a readable rather than an alarming one, and, to me, a convincing one. The short sections into which the chapters are divided mostly end with one entitled, "What should we do?" The carrying out of these solutions may not be for each of us, but it is for each of us to keep pressing till they are carried out.

If you are a thinking Australian you should read this book - then lend it to your neighbour - send it to your M.P. and ask for his views on its proposed solutions.

"My child's future depends on me", should, I believe, be the motto for each of us.

In this book Professor Birch puts into our hands a weapon against man's stupidity. As such, let us each use it.

Ruth H. Gray,
Past Member of Working Committee in S.Aust.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

We are all looking forward to the A.C.M. meetings in ..PERTH..... next year, 1977, and the working committee is already working hard. Plans are developing well.

Some States have already started planning finances.

OUR EDITOR MRS. NORMA ELLIS, with her husband, left Perth on 9th. May on a four month overseas trip. They will spend time in England, Israel, Turkey and Greece. Our very best wishes go with them.

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