



Australian Church Women

"Women at work"

No. 8

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Special Appeal for W.K.S. Fund

The special appeal to you for funds earlier this year was made because the nature of the course which was envisaged for Miss Kalpane Airan was an experimental one and costs could not be specifically stated at the beginning of the year. The Van Leer Foundation most generously offered the actual course and subsequently a great deal of help in the way of organisation and transport with no cost to the Fund. However, the sending Church were not able to contribute help for pocket money or accommodation as is usual and the cost of Air Travel to the various centres to pursue the course with the added request that Kalpana should visit New Zealand for three weeks, made us very concerned regarding the finance involved.

The response to the appeal was magnificent and as Convenor of the Scholarship Committee I would like to thank all those who have helped to meet this need.

- from Deaconess E. Simmons.

Miss Gweneth Davies of Darwin has written: "the Fellowship Day Service was held in our Church (United Church) this year, with about 40 ladies present. Mrs. Maisie McKenzie, wife of our Minister, gave the Address which was most thought provoking. We were pleased to have Mrs. Chaney, wife of the Administrator of the N.T., present both at the service and to share a cup of tea afterwards. This was one of her last functions before she and Mr. Chaney left Darwin at the end of July. The chat over a cup of tea again proved a very worthwhile finish to the service and an opportunity to get to know ladies from other Churches." \$42.10 was given for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship on this occasion.

From Betty Matthews, Nhulunbuy, N.T. Recently we have been excited by cooperation with the local Catholic Women's League. The United Church has joined Force 10 and recently we have been able to enrol rge C.W.L. as a member too. We now share our monthly Force 10 meeting. In such a community as this it should happen this way, but it is not just as simple as that.

Mrs Colonel Marion who is now serving in Indonesia was able to visit a former W.K.S. holder and wrote of this meeting:

"We were conducting services in Jakarta over the weekend so I made it my business to find Connie, which was no problem. She seemed pleased that I had called and said she would come and see me when she visits Bandang next time.

Jakarta and Bandang are 110 miles apart.

We had a great time chatting with each other. I asked her if she found the training under the W.K.S. to be beneficial and she was quick to tell me that she would never have been able to do the work she is now engaged in, if it had not been for her earlier training in Australia. The names of a number of women whom she had met in Australia were mentioned. She is hoping that someday she may be able to visit Australia again and meet her friends. Connie is not married. She showed me a letter which was addressed to Miss

Widyatma and I queried this and she said she was not married. A few years after the Communist Coup in 1965 most, if not all Indonesian/Chinese people changed their name (our Salvation Army Officers did this also) because it could cause them trouble otherwise. The 1½ Chinese are not always treated kindly here and at times have suffered great persecution.

The visit to Brisbane of the 1973 W.K.S., Kalpana Airan, was much appreciated; her programme was a busy one, and on each occasion she made a most favourable impression.

Kalpana spoke at the Fellowship Day service at Mt. Gravatt, an outlying suburb of Brisbane where the congregation was made up predominantly of young married women who had been invited to a 'Monday Conference'. Great interest was shown in the Scholarship and particularly in the special studies being undertaken by this year's scholarship holder. A similar interest was shown at the meeting at Southport, 60 miles from Brisbane, which marked also the 25th anniversary of that branch of Australian Church Women. In spite of the inclement weather Kalpana was able to see a little of the Gold Coast.

Un fortunately on the day of the central meeting at the Salvation Army Temple, Ann Street, Brisbane, Kalpana was not very well so was only able to give a short greeting after being introduced in a novel way to the congregation. A large frame had been constructed on which were very large sheets of paper with maps of the countries from which previous scholars had come, with their names in large letters. As the relevant matter was read from the service, the individual sheets were on view and then discarded revealing the next one - when the last one was taken away Kalpana was revealed standing in the frame. At the luncheon which followed Kalpana met many of the women, impressing all with her charm, intelligence and dedication.

Other appointments kept by Kalpana included two mornings observing the work among Aboriginal pre-school children and their mothers under the supervision of Dr. Betty Watts of the University of Queensland; and a morning at the 'Save the Children' kindergarten at Inala - a new suburb where many migrant and Aboriginal families live; it is the policy of those in charge to involve the mothers in the programme.

Other engagements included meeting former missionaries to India, the members of the previous W.K.S. Committee who were responsible for bringing her to Australia; reading the Sunday morning lesson at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church and a visit to Cromwell College where a former scholarship holder, Violet Sampa, is a student.

Early in her visit Kalpana spent an afternoon with the Brisbane director of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Mr. Barry McGaw.

While in Brisbane Kalpana was the guest of Mrs. K.G. Pope, previous W.K.S. Committee convenor and Mrs. Ben Clarke, president of Queensland A.C.W.

Mrs. Matthew Reid, the branch convenor of the Queensland A.C.W. has been greatly encouraged with the work in outlying districts.

Have you planned next year's programme? Are you wondering how to fill up your syllabus? Have you heard of the kit 'Eve-n-us' prepared by Jean Skuse - it contains a wealth of ideas on what it means to be Church Women in Australia today. W.I.C.C.'s would be well advised to get a supply in stock from A.C.C. P.O. 111 Brickfield Hill, N.S.W. 2000. Barbara Thierling's book 'Created Second?' has recently been published by The Family Life Movement and is also a good starting point for discussion.

Beryl Golding
for The Working Committee.