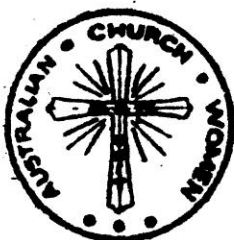


NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. 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. Edith Ridge
(Tel. 76-6093)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

A farmer writing about "omens, portents and signs" was delighted to report that he had heard his first "squeaky" of the year - the first baby magpie - signalling the return of these useful birds to his property. Six months ago the two magpie clans whose territory was his farm had been wiped out by the poison used to combat the mouse plague. But now there is a new family of magpies, a baby and its parents and in his delight at this good news, he wrote "the runes have been cast and for 1985 they squeak!"

Well, I don't know anything about "omens, portents and runes" but I do know that there are "signs" to tell me that 1985 can be a good year for Australian Church Women.

The church year begins at Advent, when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Saviour at Christmas. With the joy of this season still fresh to us, how can we begin the New Year in any spirit other than a positive one? Soon after "New Year", on January 6 comes Epiphany; like the Wise Men we can say "We have seen His Star (His sign?) in the east and have come to worship Him." There are so many good things for us to look forward to.

2.

President's Message (Cont.)

After the long (and much needed) recess, we will start our activities in February with renewed enthusiasm. Then it will be time for us to share with women world-wide in the Women's World Day of Prayer Services on Friday 1st March. During Lent we will have opportunity to prepare ourselves for the blessings of Easter. Fellowship Day and World Community Day will be times when we renew friendships and worship together. Community Day this year will be especially interesting to us in N.S.W. as it has been prepared by our Executive. We look forward to the possibility of meeting a new Winifred Kiek scholar again this year, and in August the National Committee meetings will be held, with all the inspiration and challenge that this bi-ennial conference brings.

These are highlights of our year. In between there will be times of hard work, of disappointment, of frustration and even of sorrow. It is easy for us to find signs to discourage us, but I want to encourage you to look for the good signs throughout the new year. The words of an old poem sum up my New Year's wish for you all. Perhaps we could all adopt these words as the "runes" or secret words for 1985.

"So on I go not knowing;
I would not if I might;
I would rather walk in the dark with God
Than walk alone in the light;
I would rather walk with Him by faith
Than walk alone by sight."

Edith Ridge,
President.

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING FOR 1985:

Monday, February 18th - Centennial Room, Salvation Army
140 Elizabeth Street, Sydney
at 10.30 a.m.

(Bring a sandwich and enjoy
fellowship after the meeting
with a cup of tea.)

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS.

3.

The 1985 scholar, Miss Valerie Palang from Papua New Guinea will be studying leadership training at the Alcorn College, Brisbane - please pray for her.

Christmas greetings have been received from Catherine Min, our 1983 scholar from Seoul, Korea. She writes: "I have been well and am very busy with Parish work - Holy labours house (for factory girls), Kindergarten, Mothers' Union, etc. It's a very cold winter here".

Malini Weerasinghe, our 1981 scholar, writes from Sri Lanka and sends loving greetings to all.

Mrs. Eunice Kim (the charming secretary of Asian Church Women's Conference) writes that she conducted a seminar in Pakistan and visited some cities to promote A.C.W.C., F.L.C. and Women's World Day of Prayer. She travelled with Shiran Samuels, a V. President of A.C.W.C. - then she went to India and travelled with Maya, who is one of the Executive Committee members of A.C.W.C., visiting various cities for promotional work. In November, she attended the A.C.W.C. Executive Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and then returned to Korea where she has been very busy catching up with all her correspondence. She has been trying to organise meetings in Burma but is finding communication very difficult.

Her husband, Yong Kuk, (a nuclear physicist) was invited to a Mothers' Union meeting (Anglican) to speak to the ladies on nuclear physics and its implications - please pray for him. Eunice sends her warmest greetings to Australia and is looking forward to coming here in 1986 for the meetings of A.C.W.C. - please pray for her as she has very heavy responsibilities; she is expected to visit so many places to take seminars - her life is very full.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1985.

The service has been prepared by the women of India.
(Prayer is desperately needed for the situation in India.)
Will you please attend a meeting in your area.

Mary M. Andrews (Deaconess)
W.K.S. Convener.

4.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.

My dear friends,

As I send out your receipts, many to far away towns previously unknown to me, it makes me realise how widely the Fellowship of the Least Coin has spread and is continuing to spread throughout N.S.W. This is wonderful! Not only does it raise the records year by year, but the volume of prayer most surely will unlock doors for desperate peoples in other lands, and there will be rejoicing in heaven.

A big "thank you" to those who were able to reach a Community Day Service and give their gifts personally. May the Lord bless each one of you for He loves the cheerful giver.

Sorry, there is still no word of a new "Circle of Prayer", but media coverage shows us all too plainly the wide-spread needs of our world which demand our prayer.

Let us give thanks too for Christian women across the globe who join hands with us in faith, and with God's help, may we make the very best of the year which stretches before us.

My thanks to you all for your continued interest, and your special efforts this past year.

Yours in His service,

Glad West.
Convener.

ECUMENICAL NEWS:

The Christmas Bowl appeal 1984 was "Everyone has the right to a future" organised by the Australian Council of Churches. The Force Ten project for the year is "Land is Life" - new supporters are being sought by the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief - enquiries to Force Ten, Box C199, Clarence St.P.O. Sydney 2000.

OVERSEAS NEWS: Warmest Christmas greetings were sent to all by Evelyn Ridley and her husband, Ken, from Singapore where they are involved with Christian Literature Crusade. Evelyn writes "We need to pray for the emerging leaders of this young nation (Singapore) that men of like calibre to the "old guard" will maintain the watch against moral and political evils creeping into the fabric of the nation's character in future years."

There were many appreciative comments on the report sheets which came from centres all over the State. You might care to read some extracts: BALRANALD was without a guest speaker but the meeting was enjoyed by those attending; CHATSWOOD-WILLOUGHBY reported a good service and good speaker, Miss Sheila Spencer; WARATAH-MAYFIELD had a very inspiring address from Mrs.B.Lang; UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS on a 9 degree day were down in numbers, however, speaker, Mrs. Win Dougherty "hit home" in her address with ideas to EVANGELISE. President Margaret Gentle has moved to Warrawee. BANKSTOWN had the Rev.A.Wood as speaker. SEVEN HILLS-TOONGABBIE had glowing reports of the service and the excellent speaker, Mrs. Gloria Short, shared her gift of song. SUTHERLAND SHIRE said the service was thoughtfully prepared and Mrs.Major Pam Byles gave a challenging address. ARMIDALE appreciated the service and the sharing time moved easily in groups of two or three. My pre-marriage namesake, Mrs.Marie O'Brien, was the speaker. KILLARA-LINDFIELD-ROSEVILLE had Mrs.Yvonne Davis as a very enthusiastically appreciated speaker in a beautiful service with enjoyable singing and lovely floral arrangements. BEROWRA - speaker, Mrs.Elizabeth Walker was most interesting and helpful in a service which everyone enjoyed and many valued the "growing in faith" segment. BATHURST had Sister Kathleen Williams as speaker in an evening service and shared supper afterwards. Another evening service at YOUNG where the whole service was well presented and very interesting; an excellent speaker, Mrs. Nancy Troth. BOURKE reported a very meaningful service and Sister Yvonne spoke of the help and encouragement we should be to the youth in our community. NAROOMA C.W.A. choir sang hymns, and a most inspiring talk given by Mrs.Val Brown. PARRAMATTA found the service meaningful and Mrs.June Graham and Mrs. Joy Udy spoke on their overseas trips regarding worship in England, the Holy Land and Oberamagau. Several generous cheques were given for the Tonga housing project. BURWOOD CONCORD had the Rev.Moira Laidlaw as speaker and a wonderful spirit of unit was very evident. LANE COVE - LONGUEVILLE with Mrs. Elizabeth Walker as speaker, was a very friendly meeting, including some male members, and was appreciated by all.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY REPORTS (Cont.)

CITY OF SYDNEY: beautifully hosted day at Wesley Centre - Mrs. Edith Ridge's talk was excellent and a Tongan girl spoke before the appeal. ABBOTSFORD: Mrs. Ridge's address was inspiring. NORTH RYDE: Mrs. Ridge's address, so appropriately based on the scripture readings, was much appreciated. Representatives from three churches and a convent attended for the first time. DEE WHY: Sister Lonore Sharpy was the speaker, the regular members are becoming good friends - a few visitors and a man! YASS: a very impressive service and sermon by Rev. Margaret Moon, good fellowship at the following light luncheon. TERRIGAL: an inspiring service and address by Deaconess Mary Andrews.

Fellowship of the Least Coin yearly offerings were presented by the various participating groups at most services.

If each one of us brought a new person to each service and stressed the need for "united prayer", our services would achieve even more value. Is this not doing what our Saviour asked in prayer "that they all may be one"?

Marie McCann
Promotions Convener.

Extract from section of Senator Evan's reply to our State Unit's letter regarding the banning of X & R rated pornography.

"While acknowledging your strongly held views against pornography, the Attorney General has asked me to let you know there is a problem in balancing such views against those of other people who, in good faith, hold more libertarian views. Because of the diversity of views expressed, the Government has decided that it would be useful and productive exercise for a Joint Select Committee of Parliament to inquire into and report on the effectiveness and adequacy of the censorship legislation with particular reference to the effects and exposure of people - especially children - to violent and pornographic material." Susanne Tongue (private secretary)

Brig. Mabel Ward.
Hon. Sec.

FROM THE HON. TREASURER.

Donations for Fellowship of the Least Coin and offerings for World Community Day have again exceeded all previous years. This is most heartening and we appreciate particularly the organising work done in local areas.

The twenty subscriptions we held last year for the Asian Church Women's Bulletin have been reviewed. Some have paid, others may still wish to. If anyone does not wish to renew, please contact me and the subscription (\$2.50 p.a.) can be offered to someone else. It is a most informative publication.

Subscriptions for "Newsette" have been flowing in, but if you have not attended to this matter yet, \$2.00 as soon as convenient will be much appreciated. (If your subscription is overdue, it will be marked in the box below (x). If not required, will you please let us know.)

Sincerest thanks to the many friends who sent greetings during my illness late last year - and apologies to all who waited patiently for slow receipts!

Affiliation fees will be due on 1st March, 1985 as follows:

Each denomination (State level)	\$10.00
Local Branches of A.C.W.	5.00
Special Interest Groups (e.g. Y.W.C.A. W.C.T.U.)	5.00.

All cheques should be made payable to "Australian Church Women" and sent to The Hon. Treasurer,
Mrs. Elizabeth Walker,
19 Ontario Avenue,
Roseville. 2069. (Ph. 46.2176).

NEWSETTE CIRCULATION.

Dorothy Woodhouse (who together with her husband, Les. is responsible for the distribution of 'Newsette') reports that 200 copies are now being despatched - most encouraging!

8.

WE ARE ONE.

(Written and read by Gwen Payne at the opening of Community
Day Service at Wellington, N.S.W.)

Where two or three are gathered
To listen to Your word,
You, Lord, are in the midst of us
And our petitions heard
And we are one.

Salvation Army, Anglicans,
Catholics, Uniting Church,
Baptists and many others
Unite to form one voice
And be as one.

Love one another as I love you!
This is Your command;
So we women gather Australia wide
And take each other's hand
And pray as one.

Uniting in our work for You
Our hands outstretched in love,
The interest of one another at heart
And blessings from above
To work as one.

Lord, guide us with your heavenly hand
You, the one who died for all.
In perfect unity and love
We answer to Your call
And we are one.

Contributions to Newsette are requested and should be sent to
the Editor, Mrs. Mina Whybourne, 99 President Avenue, Caringbah,
2229 (Tel. 525-4339) before the 15th day of the month prior to
publication.

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