

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT DIRECTORY

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## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

# ACW News

*We seek: to unite Australian Women in their allegiance to their Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the church.*

February/March, 1995

### President's Message

*Hello again to you all!*

*The "New" year of 1995 is well under way, and February has already arrived! I trust many of you will have had some "quiet" time of rest and relaxation over the holiday period, and feel refreshed. I was able to enjoy a brief period of "time out" during January, catching up on reading, personal sewing, watching tennis and visiting friends - not to mention the list of catch up chores that **didn't** get completed! I wonder if anyone else would like two January's on their calendar?*

*Now we are back to business, and high on our priorities is our National Conference of A.C.W. here in Melbourne August 21-25. Executive spent a full day in discussion and planning on January 27th, and let me encourage you to come and share with us, what we are confident will be a time of "Learning and Listening, Loving and Laughing" together, as we explore the theme: "Jesus, Women, and the World"*

**A**long with a number of other members of A.C.W., I attended the Ecumenical service held in Wesley Church, Melbourne on February 5th, as a part of the International Committee of World Day of Prayer meeting held from February 1st - 10th at Queen's College, Melbourne.

*Successful conferences and meetings don't just happen - they take a lot of time in planning and preparation to ensure that everything goes well.*

So it is with our own lives - if we are to experience the joy and peace that Jesus has for us, we need to spend time with Him - working through our priorities within family, Church and community activities - listening and talking with Him about what He wants us to do, where He wants us to be in service for Him.

Somehow, this often seems to be a struggle for us - finding time to spend with God - apart from all our "busy-ness". I am reminded of the words of the old Hymn, "Take time to be holy", and some of the instruction it gives us.

Take time.....to speak with the Lord  
.....to feed on His word  
.....let Him be your guide  
.....be calm in your soul

As we spend time with Him, and practice His constant presence with us, our lives will grow in harmony with His will.

May His blessings be on your journey with Him.

*Eunice*

#### ASIAN CHURCH WOMENS CONFERENCE

As you can imagine, there has not been very much happening since the Conference. I guess we all went home to recuperate and think about organising our respective celebrations of Christmas. There is, however, more of the conference that I can share with you and I will as time and space permits.

One of the night activities was a feature on **Fellowship of the Least Coin** and it was a great thrill to see and hear some of the guests from regions other than Asia sharing with us.

The ICFLC conference followed immediately after the ACWC Assembly. You may like to note, for focussed prayer, some of the concerns for their particular region:

**Africa** - some parts of Africa are involved in bitter wars

**Pacific** - domestic violence, bought brides

**Europe** - particularly Bosnia where women are raped and dignity is gone. Another concern is that the wording "Fellowship of the Least Coin" is very hard to translate into words that mean the same idea and until this happens it is hard to promote FLC.

**Latin America** - pray for life-based Christian values

**USA** - out of control gun violence. More than once every hour someone dies of gunshot wounds in a country that believes war solves conflict.

**Canada** - the economy, job losses, cheaper Mexican labour being brought in, justice for women.

**WCC and World Day of Prayer** asks us to pray for cessation of violence against women, healing, reconciliation, and be aware of and fight for rights of aboriginal people.

I'm sure that as you pray, alone or in groups, this brief list may help to make your prayers more directed at specific issues that concern women in other cultures.

We have also had a request for articles for the Asian Church Women's Bulletin which is issued quarterly. The new Executive Secretary would like to alter the direction of the Bulletin in that her vision is that it not be so much a magazine that reports on meetings and conferences held, but that it be a forum for discussion, poetry, articles, music and so on. If you have any creative talent, or have a subject you think you would like to discuss in print, please send it through me at PO Box 570 Box Hill, 3124. I am to have all articles through to the Philippines by the 15th of the second month of each quarter.

I think that's enough space for this time. God bless.

*Lynette Green*, National Representative.



### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT NEWS

On 30th October we were saddened by the death of our loved Life Member (SA Unit), Mrs. Myrtle Wood, aged 88 years.

ACW in South Australia was formerly Women's United Church Association and Myrtle Wood became the Treasurer at its inception in 1936, following the combined group of women from some thirteen denominations who worked together on the float representing Church Women of South Australia which also included participation in creating the beautiful floral carpet for the Centenary celebrations for the foundation of South Australia.

On 14th November, 1952 the meeting recorded their appreciation of the fine service of Mrs. Wood as Treasurer over the period of sixteen years.

At the Annual General Meeting on 9th October, 1953, Mrs. Wood became the President.

At the Annual General Meeting on 8th October, 1954, the newly elected President, Mrs. Shanks, proposed that Mrs. Wood be made a Life Vice-President, seconded by Mrs. Winifred Kiek, who complimented her on her eighteen years of service.

'Life Vice-President' has now become 'Life Member'.

Maureen Clark,  
Promotions officer ACW (SA Unit)

(We thank Maureen for the above report which was received too late for the November/December issue)

#### **Reminder:**

National Conference is August 21-25, 1995. Registration papers available soon. Plan to come to Corpus Christi Seminary, Clayton Victoria. Theme: Jesus, Women and The World

### NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

The members of the National Executive were disappointed to learn that our National Publications Editor, Elaine Johnson had received word that she was to move, with husband Ern, to South Australia. Ern and Elaine are Majors in The Salvation Army and, as such, are subject to these sudden moves around the country. The moving day was in the second week in January and by now they will have settled in to a new home and surroundings and into the thrust of new work. Ern is the Army's Public Relations Secretary for the State and Elaine is the Associate Public Relations Secretary. Later this year they are to go to Ghana for 3 months to share their knowledge with the officers there.

I'm sure that you will all be as disappointed as we were to hear that this move means that Elaine will no longer be preparing the **ACW News**. We have appreciated the articles and presentation of the News and are most grateful for the hard work and dedication put into the publication. Also very much appreciated has been her friendship and contribution to the National Executive membership and she will be very much missed.

Hopefully, Elaine may find time to meet up with South Australian members and keep the link going. In the mean time, thank you Elaine for every contribution you have made to Australian Church Women and God bless you in your new task.

At this stage in the life of the executive committee, Elaine will not be replaced as Publications Editor, but members of the executive will edit issues of the News until the National Conference.



## *World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service*

As referred to earlier, the Service of Worship at Wesley Uniting Church on Sunday 5th of February was attended by delegates from over 70 countries who have been meeting at Queen's College Melbourne for their quadrennial conference.

Under the leadership of the Chairperson Mrs. Navamani Peter of India and the Executive Director, Eileen King of New York many of the delegates took part in what was a very interesting, challenging and enjoyable service. It was good to see so many of our ACW members in attendance.

Australian National Liaison Officer for World Day of Prayer, (our own Barbara Grealy) responded to the welcome given by Rev. Kevin Green, the Superintendent, Wesley Central Mission.

Prayers were led by persons of various nationalities using their own language and many sung responses by the congregation were given.

The address was given by Rev. Achara Brunelli BEd, BD who was born and educated in Thailand. While studying for her Bachelor of Education she became involved in the Student Christian Movement and was the first woman to be elected President of SCM Thailand. She was the program co-ordinator for voluntary workers who provided educational enrichment for deprived children. During her teaching career she started an educational program for slum children and co-ordinated a program for local women.

An East Asia Christian Conference scholarship enabled her to study at the United Faculty of Theology in Melbourne. On her graduating Bachelor of Divinity she returned to Bangkok to work as a school chaplain but returned in 1977 to marry Angelo Brunelli. They have two daughters.

After ministries at East Doncaster, Hawthorn, Waverley West and Glen Waverley, Achara is now ministering to the Highfield Road, Canterbury, congregation of the Surrey Hills parish of the Uniting Church of Australia and undertaking a Master of Ministry course with the Melbourne College of Divinity.

Following Rev. Achara Brunelli's address there was a liturgical dance and the choir sang an anthem.

The sizeable congregation was invited for coffee and biscuits after the service to mix with our overseas guests.

## REPORT OF VICTORIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(From the VCC representative on Victorian Unit Executive, Mrs. Lieut.-Colonel Isabel MacIntyre)

Another chapter in the history of V.C.C. closed with the farewelling of the General-Secretary, the Reverend Robert Gribben on Wednesday 21st December, 1994. A special dinner was held in his honour at the St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. Robert will be taking annual leave and long service leave before he takes up his appointment at Wesley Uniting Church, Melbourne in April 1995.

Father Stelios Menis will temporarily act as a part time General Secretary, in this interim period.

## Advance notice: "The Household of God"

"Living Under the Southern Cross" will be held on the 24th January, 1996 in St. Mary's and Newman Colleges, University of Melbourne, Parkville.

(a Project of the National Council of Churches in Australia arranged by the Churches of Victoria and incorporating the 1996 Ecumenical Summer School)

*Those of you who have been involved in this in other places may like to plan now to attend.*