

* * INFORMATION PAGE * *

NEWSETTE is the official journal of the N.S.W. State Unit of Australian Church Women. It is published four times yearly, on the 1st of February, May, August and November. The Annual Subscription is \$4.00.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for Newsette (\$4.00) should be sent direct to the Subscription Secretary: Mrs. Marie Majoor,
521 Mowbray Road,
Lane Cove. 2066.
(Tel: 428.2384)

Receipts will be issued only if requested.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from A.C.W. members and should be sent to the Editor: Mrs. Beryl McLaughlin,
31/78 Albert Road,
Strathfield. 2135.
(Tel: 764.2625/267.3711)

in the first week of the month prior to publication month.

ALL OTHER A.C.W. MONIES such as Affiliation Fees, Fellowship of Least Coin, Subscriptions to A.C.W. National News or Donations should be sent to the Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Lumb,
69 Myall Street,
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(Tel: 743.3360)

AFFILIATION FEES fall due on 1st March each year, as follows:
Denominational Groups - State Level: \$15.00 per annum
Local A.C.W. Branches: \$10.00 per annum
Special Interest Groups e.g.
YWCA, WCTU, Girls' Brigade: \$ 5.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FEES due on 1st June \$10.00 per annum
(includes Subscription to Newsette)

ALL CHEQUES should be made payable to 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'

... CHRISTIANITY begins where religion ends -
with the RESURRECTION ...



NEWSETTE

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

A C W seeks:

- ... to unite Australian churchwomen 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 Joan Tong (Tel: 718.8640, 264.1711)

NUMBER 51

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. NAR 3566

MAY 1992

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Dear Ladies,

My time as President is now concluding, but it is but the beginning of my days of service in ACW. I came to you as a 'new recruit'; I leave you as a much more knowledgeable person for ACW, a person with many more friends than she had 2 years ago; a person whose vision of God has grown through your witness, a person who wants only thank God for his goodness and leading through these days.

As I now continue to share with you in the State Council, I commend our new President, Miss Phyl McKinnerey, that we may all work together through yet another president's term, for the glory of God and the work of the kingdom.

ACW has the facility to draw together women of many denominations in love, fellowship and service. Let us each one decide to increase our time given to the service of ACW, if possible, in order that we may grow and become an even greater force that unites not only us women, but also our churches.

God bless you all,
Joan.

ACW NSW STATE UNIT - ANNUAL DEDICATION SERVICE

AND INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT FOR 1992-93

Monday, 18th May 1992 at 11 a.m.

At ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Marist Place, PARRAMATTA

With Light Luncheon to follow

Soloist: Rev Alan Jackson, Minister of
Leigh Memorial Uniting Church

(Transport: Any bus from Darcy St. at Parramatta
Station (opposite side of line from Westfield),
except Express buses. Alight at Alfred Square,
walk across square to Cathedral.

Cars: It is unlikely to find car parking in the
street. There is 2-hour parking in David Jones,
3-hour parking in Hunter Street Car-Park.)

PROFILE of New President, Miss Phyl McKinnery:

Phyl is only the second Roman Catholic to be President of ACW NSW; she is one of Parramatta's most committed church and charity workers, active in Catholic Women's League, St. Vincent de Paul, Westmead Hospital, RSL Care Club, Meals On Wheels, Frail Aged Club, Outer Western Ecumenical Committee. Phyl was the founder of the St. Joseph's Crisis Centre for Women And Children, and she also inaugurated in 1986, and has arranged every year since, a Combined Christian Thanksgiving Celebration as part of Parramatta's Australia Day observation; she is Co-ordinator of the support group at the Family and local Courts.

Phyl has been a member of Parramatta ACW Branch for ten years, serving also as one of the Catholic Delegates for her denomination on NSW State Unit Council. It is indeed a worthy, yet very humble, Christian lady whom we are now to have the privilege of having as our next N.S.W. State President.

ADDRESS to MARCH COUNCIL MEETING by MRS. JENNY JOHNSTON,
(Field Worker - A.C.C. Refugees Re-Settlement Scheme)

Jenny reminded us that the Holy Family was a refugee family, when Mary and Joseph escaped with the baby Jesus to Egypt. Two thousand years later there are still rulers like Herod, afraid of people who may pose a threat to their power. To escape from such rulers, like Pol Pot of Cambodia, people flee from their countries and become refugees. Of eighteen million people who are refugees in the world today, 80% are women and children. Governments don't want to accept women refugees and their children; only the churches are aware of the great need to find homes for them. Lately, we are pleased to observe, the Australian Government has responded positively to requests on behalf of women as refugees.

Refugees are not migrants - migrants can go home. The best thing for refugees is eventual repatriation to their own countries, but it will be a very long time before this can happen for most of them. They come with no resources, sometimes no travel documents, often with few or no personal possessions. All they bring with them is their desperation, their courage and their hope.

Once accepted as refugees, their financial needs for re-settlement are met by the Government. What is lacking and desperately needed is loving and caring and this our Church groups can offer. We can help by taking them to Government Departments, schools, shopping centres, hospitals, doctors. Gifts of furniture, linen, china, clothing etc. are always welcome. Jenny will arrange to have donated goods picked up.

Jenny and colleague Narelle Yeo are available to speak to groups, daytime or evenings, in city or country areas. You can phone them on (02) 299.2215, or contact Jenny at home, 42 Homebush Road Strathfield 2135, for ideas about helping to settle refugees happily into our communities. Folk who are willing to join training classes in home tutoring in the English language are much needed.

Why not talk to the leaders in your church about sponsoring a refugee person or family? Church communities who do this find unexpected spin-offs - they receive as well as give. They make new friends and find that taking part in these schemes is unifying the whole community and bringing the whole church together.

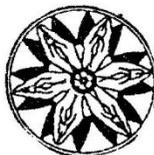
Reported by Secretary, Edith Ridge.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

I receive many requests for information about FLC and as new groups are being formed, I feel it would be helpful to print a few extracts from a brochure received from Shirin Samuel, the Executive Secretary of the International FLC Committee.

"How And When FLC Was Begun. Like a pebble dropped into a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon (based on Luke 21:1-4) has spread in ever-widening circles of Christian concern among the women of the world....."

"The Symbol. The unique Symbol was the special gift of the Chinese women to FLC. It is a circle representing the world and enclosing many pairs of hands folded in prayer. These hands belong to each woman who shares in the dedication, concern, and ministry of the Least Coin....."



"Since 1956, Christian women of all continents have responded to the call to pray for reconciliation in the home, the community, the nation, the world, and to work for peace, with justice....."

It is now 19 years since Australia, through Australian Church Women, joined the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Information sheets will be forwarded on request. FLC Spoons are available for \$3.50 each.

STOP PRESS .. GOOD NEWS! Supplies of the new Circle Of Prayer, Volume 12, entitled "Empowering One Another In Solidarity" have come. Price \$2. So send me your orders at 16 Albion Road Pennant Hills 2120 or on (02) 484.6144.
Shirley Wells (FLC Convenor)

PLEASE HELP our State Treasurer!

Does your group use an FLC Money Box? Or do you collect the coins at home and take them for dedication on World Community Day and then send them to ACW?

May we remind you that ALL DONATIONS for FLC should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Lumb, 69 Myall Street, Concord West 2138, not to Shirley Wells - please check that your group understands this.

Edith Ridge, Secretary.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Our present Winifred Kiek Scholar Ana Mana Taupoepau from Tonga has settled happily in Launceston; she is billeted in a private home, commenced training sessions in computer studies and secretarial skills and is gaining work experience in the Uniting Church Synod Office. Ana will be in Sydney for 6 weeks commencing June 15, working at Uniting Church Synod Office here. We hope she may be able to be at June Council Meeting and some Fellowship Day Services.

I have not heard from our last year's Scholar Rachel Sobana but am sure she is settled back at her hospital and finding benefit from her time in Australia, as she has taken up her new position as Superintendent of Nursing.

Since her visit to Kuching, Sadie Simmons has had a letter from 1990 Scholar, Doreen Tie, who sent her greetings to all, and her appreciation for the 11 kilos of books for her school purchased with Council members' love gift of \$150 at Christmas. Doreen is delighted about the hope of establishing a Toy Library next year, with the proceeds of our ACW Special Project for this year's World Community Day Services in October. This will not only benefit the children, but be of tremendous help in reaching their parents.

Mina Whybourne (WKS Convenor)

ACW SOUVENIR ITEMS:

ACW Spoons \$3.00 ACW Lapel Pins \$2.00 ACW T/Towels \$5.00

If any Branch would like to order a quantity of these for sale at Special Day Services, they can be taken on a sale or return basis and will be sent to country areas post free! Payment need not be made until goods are sold, and any unsold items returned.

The items are very attractive and would sell well at any church gatherings. They could also be useful for presentation to guest speakers.

The History of ACW, written by Deaconess Mary Andrews for our 50 Years Jubilee, is still available for \$1.00. A copy of this very informative booklet could be given with the above presentation items.

Please send orders for any of the above to the Secretary, Mrs. Edith Ridge, 54 New Line Road West Pennant Hills 2125 or phone her on (02) 875.1200.

MEDIA AWARENESS PROJECT AUSTRALIA:

ACW NSW Unit was well-represented at the recent MAPA Conference and Training Day. Launched nationally by the Anglican Mothers' Union, the project is an on-going one, to enable us to think in positive and Christian-based ways to be media aware. So, what did we learn?

- ... To lay aside our pre-conceived ideas and pet projects on which we feel strongly;
- ... To be certain of the facts and the law, for example, we may feel that a particular film should not be screened at midday, because there may be children viewing, but the law states that those restrictions end at midday;
- ... To encourage the media with praise as well as criticism.

Training Day showed us interviewing, video-editing techniques, preparing media releases; what headlines really mean, sizes of columns in the printed press; that personal letters to media management achieve more than a printed lobby-group letter. These are only a few things we learned, and work-shops helped us put all these into practice.

Brochures are available from ACW and there are a number of those who did the training who will be willing to help.
Reported by Jeanne Sutherland (Publicity Convenor).

PUBLICITY & PROMOTIONS REPORT:

To believe in a project is possibly the most important fact with our Departments, and we do believe in ACW. January was taken up with publicity for the Media Awareness Project, which ACW had agreed to undertake. The Fellowship of the Least Coin kept us busy in February. Margaret Jessup has spent much time with her camera, enabling us to have some excellent photographs for our media releases. The installation of our incoming President is our current project, and then into the Fellowship Day Services publicity. ACW Branch Secretaries - would you please send to Promotions Convenor, Mrs. Peg Blake, 22 Parkview Street, Miranda 2228, the date, time and venue of your Fellowship Day Services, as soon as possible, so that we can notify the press? Or you could phone them to her on (02) 524.9397. Many thanks in anticipation.

Jeanne Sutherland (Publicity Convenor)

WELCOME to ACW -- UKRAINIAN SISTERHOOD!

We have very much pleasure in announcing that recently we have welcomed a new group into affiliation with Australian Church Women N.S.W. This is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which means that there are now eight denominations affiliated with Australian Church Women, truly a matter for joy and praise. Some of us already knew Mrs. Helen Danko, in National Council of Women, and we look forward to meeting more of the Ukrainian ladies at future Council meetings.

A MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATION:

I recently had the moving experience of attending the 4th Annual Anglican Multi-Cultural Service of Celebration at Holy Trinity Church, Dulwich Hill. This incidentally was the church where I grew up, so it was a particular joy to me to see this very large church packed to the doors with people from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, glorifying the Lord together, and singing "How Great Thou Art" and "Amazing Grace" in many different languages all at the one time.

Testimonies of praise for their welcome to Australia and encouragement as Christians were given by the Mar Thoma congregation at Erskineville, the Persian group who meet at St. Philip's York Street, the Turkish Christian Fellowship, the Aboriginal Pastor from Crossroads Christian Centre at Redfern, and the Greek Fellowship, who were represented by Mrs. Mercina Soulos who administers the cross-cultural work of Sydney Diocese.

There were prayers led in Tamil by a Sri Lankan and sung by his wife; some in Spanish from the group in Wollongong. Scripture was read by the Vietnamese pastor of the group who meet there at Dulwich Hill. There were singing items from the Chinese youth group from Cabramatta; a Maori singing group from Redfern; greetings in Farsi and Arabic from folk at Auburn and Bankstown. The preacher was Bishop E. Sundar Clark, past Bishop of Madras, India, now ministering at St. Mark's Revesby. (Some ACW members will remember his wife Clara as one of our speakers at Spiritual Enrichment Day last October).

A truly inspiring time, followed by an "International Afternoon Tea where folk from so many nations mingled and talked in true Christian unity and love.

Beryl McLaughlin.

REPORTS from Two ACW 'Affiliated Groups':

W.C.T.U.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is over a century old and is established in many countries of the world. Its motto is "For God, Home And Humanity" and its members fulfil this theme through many avenues, not only abstinence from alcohol, although they do adopt, and encourage others to accept, an alcohol-free lifestyle.

W.C.T.U. has been "media aware" for more than 100 years, long before its importance was realised and taken up by others. One example is that by their lobbying, with some others like National Council of Women, cigarette advertising was banned, except for the remaining area of sports sponsorship which so much in the news at the moment.

Some sobering statistics from recent W.C.T.U. sources:

Dr. Clair Isbister of the Christian Medical Association, speaking at an Outreach Luncheon, said: "In Australia, there are now 40,000 divorces a year, involving 50,000 or more children; over 80,000 abortions, the majority of which are paid for by Medicare at a cost of more than \$7.8 million. Since Lionel Murphy's Family Law Act 1973, at least 750,000 children have lost a live-in parent.

In the Sun Herald of December 22 1991 an article told of 10 different Judges who blamed the ready availability of hard-core pornography and graphic depictions of extreme violence, for violent crimes by those on whom they had to pass sentence.

Smoking is responsible for four times as many deaths as all other drugs - some 18,000 a year in Australia. Lung cancer is expected to overtake breast cancer in the next year or so as the most common cause of cancer death among Australian women. It is of great concern that more and younger girls are taking it up, as older people try to give it up.

N.S.W. has the largest number of gamblers in any State, and this before we have casinos! These will attract organised crime and cause poverty for families of those addicted to gambling.

Every litre of absolute alcohol consumed in Australia

costs taxpayers more than \$25. Why is it that a trade which markets a dangerous drug does not pay for the huge damage - \$3,700 million - caused by that drug?

W.C.T.U. seeks to be not just negative, but positive. It runs a Woman's Alcoholism Counselling Service, with trained counsellors, who also advise in compulsive gambling and in other problems. It has a qualified legal officer to monitor proposed laws or changes in existing laws and to make sure any 'submissions' are correct. Large quantities of books and literature are produced. By Demonstrations of their delicious fruit drinks and punches, and distributing recipes, they encourage alcohol-free entertaining. They run an excellent Schools Programme, using Puppets, which has been recommended to schools by local police, who recognise its value even if they themselves are not total abstainers. This Schools Programme has recently been introduced into Papua New Guinea.

There are many other W.C.T.U. activities - human rights, Australian aborigines, equal status for men and women, home protection, child abuse, concern for world peace. Way back, they were in the forefront of getting votes for women!

At the President's Reception of their recent 109th Annual Convention, ACW was represented by our President-Elect, Phyl McKinnerey, who was very impressed and felt she had learned a great deal. W.C.T.U. representatives on ACW NSW Council are Mrs. Lil Morris and Mrs. Ann Young - do get to know them.

Beryl McLaughlin (W.C.T.U. NSW Executive member)

Y.W.C.A.

Y.W.C.A! To most people those initials conjure images of accommodation, and indeed the Y in Sydney does offer first-class accommodation. However, all finance raised from the residential area of the Y is immediately placed in funds for Y programs. These programs range from emergency housing, cafe for amateur musicians, young people in Redfern, after-school care, school vacation clubs and many more.

The Y provides Conference facilities for groups from 20-200 and accommodation 'packages' can be arranged. If you are near to the Parramatta area, a new group has commenced there, meeting fortnightly.

Jeanne Sutherland (Y.W.C.A. Representative)

RUSSIANS HUNGER ... But Not For Bread Alone:

(from Anglican Diocesan Magazine Southern Cross; A first-hand Report from Rev. Gordon Preece, Anglican minister currently studying at Fuller Theological Seminary, USA, and from there sent as guest lecturer to the pioneer Bible Academy in Russia, which is staffed by Fuller, another USA Baptist Seminary and a Seminary in Switzerland)

The people of Russia, or the Commonwealth of Independent States, are a hungry people. They hunger for bread, to be sure, but not for bread alone. I arrived in Russia with pockets packed with granola bars, expecting the worst. I saw some long lines on the streets, (mainly vodka queues) and the black market selling eggs; but the Temple of The Gospel (the Baptist Church to which I was attached) was a channel for aid from churches in Finland and Ireland. Soup, tinned meat, bread (without butter), lubricated with lots of Russian tea, we heartily enjoyed and followed by the most genuine graces, even hallelujahs, I've ever heard. Russian believers know what "Give us this day our daily bread" means. They also know that there is more to life than the 'bread, peace and land' which Lenin promised some 70 years ago.

Although St. Petersburg, formerly Leningrad, is a magnificent city, I was struck by the lack of colour. There wasn't a blade of green in the landscape and the monotony of the sentinel-like highrise apartment blocks was overwhelming. But the people themselves, although often drawn and tired, are colourful; they are warm and witty, full of passion. When I was whisked straight from the airport for a 4-hour dedication service for the Temple Of The Gospel (the second service of the day and the third of the weekend!), I was struck (in between bouts of jet-lag) by the vibrant faces of faith, an extraordinary inner beauty, that lit up their faces as they sang with great vigor, from soulful Russian folksongs to Shine Jesus Shine. For some believers I spoke to, 'starving for freedom' was worse than wanting for bread. They were worried at the time of the coup that their newly-gained freedom to practice their faith openly would be lost.

Russia does not have a democratic tradition. It has had no Reformation, no Enlightenment, no tradition of individual rights and freedom of expression. All of these

ideas are like seed thrown on dry ground at the moment. A leading Orthodox churchman who often appears on T.V. confesses his own grave fears for the future; people are simply not ready for freedom yet, having had the moral and spiritual stuffing knocked out of them by 70 years of communist rule.

There is great vulnerability, but so much vitality too. As I taught the gospel in rooms lined with military posters, previously used for training teenagers in the arts of war, I really felt like swords were being turned into ploughshares. The Russian believers need our help in interpreting Scripture. But I too was taught by them. As I preached in a 'standing-room only' church, listening to the vigor and vitality of their prayers and praise, I felt humbled by their hunger for God's Word and the lukewarmness of my own love for Christ. I was challenged once again to let the Spirit bring it to the boil. May many of us be likewise challenged by these Russian faces of faith.

(I am sure that many ACW members are already supporting the various "Bibles For Russia" programs of the Bible Society through their own churches, including the Handwritten Bible Project, where for a donation of \$5.00 one may write out a verse, or groups a whole chapter or book - Editor)

WHAT DOES A MIRACLE COST?

(From 'Light' the magazine of Christian Blind Mission)

An estimated 17 million people in the world are blind due to cataracts. A relatively simple operation could restore their sight, and give them back the miracle of light and colour. You can give some man, woman or child a cataract operation for only \$20.00

A cryophobe is the instrument used to actually extract the cataract from the eye. You can provide a CBMI ophthalmologist with a much-needed cryophobe for \$60.00

Operating in the backwoods of Africa, Asia or Latin America demands a lot of adaptability, but sterile instruments are not an option. A portable autoclave, used to sterilise the instruments, is a necessity in any remote clinic or mobile eye service. You could provide one for \$150.00

(Address of Christian Blind Mission is PO Box 5, KEW Vic 3101)