



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN "Women at work"

No. 4.

From Eileen Dingle -

MAY, 1972

A PERSONAL NOTE - At the April meeting of the Working Committee I was granted leave of absence until September. Unexpectedly an opportunity has been afforded me to make a quick trip to England (the land of my birth) to visit my son and his family and other relatives. During my absence "Women at Work" will be prepared by Mrs. RUTH LANE and all items of news should be sent to her at 193 Ekibin Rd. East, Ekibin, Bne. Q. 4103.

NEWS ITEMS - During the month I had the pleasure of meeting the parents of MISS VAL BROWN who has been a missionary in Papua New Guinea for the past 12 years and is presently serving as a teacher at Kabakada. At this centre young people who are not able to secure a place in the secondary schools, are trained in skills which will enable them to lead worthwhile lives within the village situation.

Mr. Brown is a retired carpenter and he will spend the next six months or so imparting his skills to the boys while MRS. BROWN assists in a variety of ways in the education of the girls in domestic and other duties. Their zest and enthusiasm for this new sphere of voluntary service was an inspiration.

MRS. CONSTANCE WATSON of East St. Kilda has found a way to avoid the lonely and often empty life that many women face when their husbands die and their children grow up, marry and lead their own lives. She is to do voluntary work for the Australian Inland Mission in Alice Springs. She has been doing book-keeping work in Melbourne for the A.I.M. and will now work at St. Philip's College. The college gives full accommodation and tutorial assistance to primary and secondary school students, both black and white, who come from all over the centre to attend school in Alice Springs.

She has volunteered to work at the college for 12 months, but providing she can tolerate the climate she hopes to be able to stay for three or four years. (One of her sons, Graeme, is the all-round cricketer who played against the Rest of the World XI at the M.C.G. and is a former League footballer for Melbourne.)

WALLS HAVE EARS! Women in search of a play for a special church occasion may be interested in "Walls of the Church" by Rev. DOROTHY WACKER (President of A.C.W. - W.A. Unit), in which the church walls, listening to the conversation of the worshippers, make their own "telling" comments. This play was well-received when performed by Brisbane Congregational women.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR - At the end of this week DEACONESS TERANI AISAKE starts on her first vacation visits to other States. She will arrive in Melbourne on the 29th and will stay with Mrs. Pederick, President of the Australasian Women's Federation, who attended the National Council meetings in February. She will attend the meeting of the Women's Inter-Church Council and a Festival of Music. On the 30th she will speak at services of the South Blackburn Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in the morning, at the Wesley Forum in the afternoon and will attend the Churches of Christ service in the Melbourne Town Hall at night.

A meeting of Deaconesses has been arranged by Deaconess H. Fisher for the Monday morning and at 1.30 p.m. Terani will attend the Salvation Army Women's Congress in the Dallas Brooks Hall. The afternoon will be spent in sight-seeing and at 6 p.m. she will have dinner with Deaconess Alfred and a number of Anglican deaconesses.

On 3rd May Terani will give a greeting at the Women's Auxiliary to Overseas Missions Birthday meeting in the Melbourne Town Hall and will speak at the Churches of Christ Ladies' Fellowship and Tea in Kew Town Hall.

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On May 4th she will have lunch with Congregational Women.

The next few days will be spent in Tasmania where she will visit Launceston, Hobart and Burnie - the detailed itinerary is not yet available.

In Adelaide she will be interviewed by Press, T.V. and Radio on her arrival. (DON'T FORGET! - We would love to receive some press pictures and clippings for A.C.W.'s W.K.S. SCRAP BOOK).

The next day she will visit the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Glenside Psychiatric Hospital to gain firsthand knowledge of the excellent service being given by W.I.C.C. members as outlined in a recent "Women at Work". In the evening Terani will be a guest at the Mother and Daughter Banquet in Stow Hall.

On 11th May she will visit the Central Methodist Mission in the morning and be taken on a tour of the city and university in the afternoon. A visit to Victor Harbour has been arranged for the 12th where she will speak at a combined women's meeting in the afternoon. On the Sunday, 9.30 a.m. she will be at Henley Congregational Church and Sunday School in the morning and at night a youth service in another city church.

It has been arranged that after completing this itinerary Deaconess Terani will return to Melbourne, again as the guest of Mrs. Pederick, to attend sessions of the Triennial meeting of Australasian Methodist Women's Federation and other meetings in connection with the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Australia.

We wish her well in her journeyings. All joy be hers!

FROM THE MAIL BAG - Writing from Port Moresby to Mrs. Lane, MRS. SHARP, the Convenor of the Continuing Committee of the United Church Women's Fellowships, says that it was good to have a visit from MRS. F. DOWNES earlier in the year and more recently from MRS. F. BAILEY and MRS. O. BADGER on their way home from Hong Kong after attending the meeting of the A.C.W.C. Working Committee. She sent greetings to friends in Australia.

MRS. BETTY MATTHEWS of Nhulunbuy, North Australia, is back on duty after holidays. She sent an informative brochure about the United Church in North Australia, Parish of Nhulunbuy. This describes the United Church as a "co-operative movement of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Australia."

At Nhulunbuy the work of the United Church is carried out in planned association with the Church of England. Under pastoral care there are people of all Protestant denominations. The work commenced with the appointment of the first United Church minister, the Rev. Alan Matthews, who with his family came to live in the area in February, 1970, and resided temporarily at Yirrkala. They now live in the upstairs section of the United Church building which comprises three bedrooms, combined dining and lounge room, kitchen and bathroom. The ground floor of the building provides garage, office and a meeting area. The United Church will serve the whole community by -

- * providing a Centre for Christian worship
- * planning Christian Education programmes
- * organising Youth activities
- * catering for congregational gatherings and Women's groups
- * fostering the integration of the total people of Gove Peninsula
- * helping with cross-culture education
- * providing opportunities to understand Aboriginal people and to foster robust relationships between all sections of the population
- * offering friendship to everybody

ASIAN FOCUS ARTICLE - A general article has been sent to the editor of Asian Focus on the status and influence of women in community and church life, but in addition a fascinating "profile" of Deaconess Mary Andrews written by June Bosanquet. This was submitted by the N.S.W. W.I.C.C.

At the Working Committee meeting it was agreed to serialise this amazing story in "Women at Work" so that all may appreciate more fully this modern 'saint'.

Here is the first instalment - you'll be looking forward to the next issue to read more.-

" IN DANGER OFTEN"

(A PROFILE ON MARY ANDREWS - Head Deaconess of Sydney Diocese, Principal of Deaconess House) -
by June Bosanquet.

When I said, "Tell me about your escape", Mary Andrews calmly asked, "which one?" and I realised that this woman has escaped with her life three times, twice from the Japanese and once from the Communists.

Her placid expression, her laughing eyes tell nothing of the loneliness and anger which were her lot while making her way from the secure world she had known to another world across firing lines - a man's world without maps, often without organised help at the end. Mary speaks of the almost moment by moment guarding and guiding of God during experiences which would make the knees of strong men quail.

At the age of 9, Mary recognised herself as a sinner in God's sight and found Christ as her Saviour, but she had a difficulty. She thought that perhaps God may call her to be a missionary, and she was terrified He would send her to China. She had read of bandits and their plundering raids on foreigners, and she dreaded going to such a place. She told God she was willing to be a missionary but not in China. At 14 she gave in and told God that she would go as a missionary even to China, if He wanted that. Her only stipulation now was that she would rather go as a pastoral worker than a missionary, but God had other plans!

Having finished her schooling at Hornsby High School in Sydney, she did some nursing and then went to the Missionary and Bible College. She completed the course there and was recommended to study at Deaconess House in Sydney where her superiors thought the training would "do her good!" She did the 2 year deaconess diploma course but was not ordained as she was too young, and she still wanted to be a pastoral worker rather than a deaconess.

Eventually she sailed for China to spend 12 months learning the language. She had been in Peking only 10 months when the Japanese came into the Second World War, invaded the place and she had to escape. A Chinese family kept her alive in her house where she was completely alone, by leaving the day's food hidden under the back door step. She had to eat it all at one sitting in case the Japanese guards should come and suspect her friends who had been helping her. Mary says of this time that she knew no fear for herself, neither was she lonely, but she was anxious for her loyal Chinese friends, especially the 12 year-old boy who left her food every day.

(NEXT INSTALMENT - "Women at Work",
No. 5)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SCRAPBOOK -

A PSALM FOR BUSY PEOPLE

--- Toki Miyashina, Japan.

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The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush
He makes me to stop and rest for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency, through the calmness of mind, and
His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret,
For His presence is here.
His timelessness, His all importance will keep me in balance,
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours.
For I shall walk in the place of my God and dwell in His house forever.

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