



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Women at Work

July, 1975

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ASSEMBLY - NAIROBI, 1975

Two ordained ministers have been chosen to represent New Zealand National Council of Churches at the World Assembly in Nairobi. For the first time, one of these is a Maori, Rev. Rua Rakana of Auckland and the other, also for the first time - a woman, Rev. Norma Graves of Greymouth.

We are sure both these people will be worthy representatives, not only of their own particular spheres of culture, but for the Christian Church of New Zealand.

The Australian delegation consists of eleven men and seven women. The women are:-

Miss Jean Skuse (General-Secretary Elect) (Methodist)
Mrs. E. Applebee (Church of England)
Mrs. D. McMahon (Methodist)
Rev. Paula Nrukala (Methodist, Fiji)
Mrs. Senator A. Quionibaravi (Methodist, Fiji)
Mrs. Ena Hall (Presbyterian, aborigine)
Mrs. Pam Kerr (Presbyterian)

PRAYER FOR SOUTH KOREAN CHRISTIANS

Member churches of the Australian Council of Churches are asked to pray on Thursday mornings at 11.00 a.m. for South Korean Christians in prison and suffering because of their faith and active defence of democracy and human rights. Each Thursday at this time, a prayer service for solidarity is held in Seoul, South Korea.

Church members are encouraged to write to the National Council of Churches in Korea, Seoul, South Korea, expressing their prayerful support. The A.C.C. also sent a message of greeting to the Rev. Kim Kwan Suk, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea, who is currently in prison on a charge of misappropriating funds from a German aid agency. There is documented proof that there was no misuse of funds whatever.

FORCE TEN MEMBERSHIP

A challenge to all Australian Christians to become members of Force Ten, the joint Protestant-Catholic overseas aid programme, has been made by the A.C.C. and Australian Catholic Relief.

"Every Christian should be involved in the fight against human suffering on a continuing basis," said Rev. John Mavor, Secretary of the A.C.C.'s Division of World Christian Action. "Force Ten gives them the opportunity for such involvement." Supporting Mr. Mavor, the Director of Australian Catholic Relief, Mr. Bill Byrne said "occasional handouts are a totally inadequate response to the world's need. It is not enough to feed hungry people - you have to fight the cause of their hunger too. Force Ten projects fight causes as well as symptoms, across the whole range of human need."

Both leaders explained that Force Ten members support ten overseas aid projects each year, with a minimum donation of \$2 to each project. "Each month before they give, members receive a bulletin describing and illustrating the month's project in detail. So they know exactly how, when and why, their money is being spent."

Further information about Force Ten is available from the National Force Ten Office, Box J111, P.O., Brickfield Hill, N.S.W. 2000.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!!!

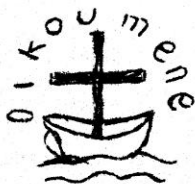
DO NOT DISTURB!

All of us shrink from
honestly searching
for a deeper meaning to life.

The attitude "who says so" or "why bother"
is not always a sign of closed-mindedness
or lack of interest.
It may be a symptom of deep-down fear.

We fear the unknown.
We seek security: four walls,
a ceiling and a floor.
Perhaps we don't want to risk
the consequences of
thinking deeply.
It might disturb our cozy world.

Is this why
people sometimes
bend their belief
to their life style,
rather than shape their life style
to their belief?



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN "WOMEN AT WORK"

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN TO "WOMEN AT WORK"

The National Committee Meetings of Australian Church Women were held in Adelaide last month. We reflected on the most recent chapter of 'our story' and completed it with thoughts and questions, hopes and plans about many things. We witnessed to the fact that OUR story is meaningful only as it is interleaved with the stories of others - the stories of migrants, of women in developing areas, the Australian Council of Churches and all the families with whom we share our world.

Now we begin to write our next chapter - a chapter that will end in Perth in 1977. I invite you to make it an A.C.W. chapter that stands for AUSTRALIANS who give evidence of responsible citizenship in a global context; for CHURCH action demonstrating the freedom and the unity that is in Christ; for WOMEN who are a sign of life, as they say "yes" to being THE PEOPLE of God and claim that promise for others.

So - help us to write the story of these days as you enact your faith as Australian Church Women, deeply sensitive to the needs and opportunities that 'these days' give you. And PLAN NOW TO HAVE YOUR STATE OR ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED IN FULL STRENGTH AT PERTH IN 1977 TO SEE THAT THIS CHAPTER IS FITTINGLY RECORDED.

Dorothy Wacker.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

At the National Committee Meetings it was resolved "That the selected scholars recommended by the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Committee be:- Mrs Anne Kerepia from Port Moresby and Miss Sarah Ah You from Western Samoa".

Mrs Anne Kerepia will be brought to Brisbane for an intensive four months study course in child development and child care centre administration. She is married with two small children, and four months is the maximum period away from home. Her additional training will not only help her in her work, but also in her home life as the wife of a leading indigenous public servant.

Miss Sarah Ah You is a teacher from Western Samoa who wants leadership training and study in Home Economics and English. Clearly, Australian Home Economics would be inappropriate in Western Samoa. The Committee suggests this girl be trained at the South Pacific Commission Centre outside Suva. The difference in air fares alone would be £600, and the saving in board could be equally dramatic.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The National Committee Meeting recommended the allocation of \$5000 to F.L.C. International. This amount comes from the 1974 effort.

The following projects were submitted for consideration for F.L.C. grants:-

1. Provision of a small omnibus and office equipment for use in the work of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship in Queensland - \$4000.
2. Nungalinga College, Darwin - \$4000.
3. Missionary Sisters of Charity in their work among the Aborigines and outcasts at Burke in New South Wales - \$2000.

LIVING THE GOSPEL IN A BROKEN WORLD

This was the theme of the 13th Triennial Conference of the World Federation of Deaconesses held in July at Bethel near Bielefeld in North West Germany. It was attended by 400 deaconesses from twenty six countries, including seven delegates from Australia.

Bethel Deaconess Institution is an amazing village, where 11,000 people are caring and being cared for in the midst of beautiful surroundings. The work began in the last century when some deaconesses went to Bielefeld to look after epileptic boys who had no-one to care for them. Now, over 2000 epileptics are there. Thousands of mentally handicapped people and homeless men have also found love and care in the refuge at Bethel.

Deaconesses at the conference told of the sufferings of people in the areas where they were serving. From India came the story of the small village boy who, because of illness, had never learned to walk, but crawled everywhere. Patience, love and practical help opened up a new life for him, enabling him to walk and attend the school. Head Deaconess, Mary Andrews, President of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of Deaconesses, reported on the activities of Regional Executive in seeking to establish lines of communication with deaconesses and other christian workers in widely scattered areas. She told of deaconesses in Tokyo who are caring for ex-prostitute girls and women, many of whom have become christians. Before a christian woman can become a deaconess in Japan, she has to have at least ten people who have pledged themselves to pray for her every day.

As deaconesses are continuing to live the Gospel in a broken world, they are assured that God the Almighty enjoys doing great deeds for even the least of His children.

FROM VICTORIA WE HAVE A REPORT OF THE VISIT OF MRS AILSA WEBBER OF MORNINGTON ISLAND. Ailsa, you will remember, was one of the delegates to the Asian Church Women's Conference in Bangkok last October. In Melbourne she was a welcome guest speaker at a variety of gatherings. Mrs Ackland comments, "We were impressed with her gentleness and the way in which she handled the situations and people wherever we took her".

FROM THE EDITOR

Although Women At Work will be distributed from Perth for the next two years it is still the AUSTRALIAN Church Women's paper and we are all very much part of the story. Please share your news and your concerns, your hopes and your celebrations with us, so that we may include everyone in this chapter and make it worthy of the whole story.

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