



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

"WOMEN AT WORK"

NOVEMBER, 1976.

BREAK DOWN THE WALLS

Of course we need walls - walls for protection, walls for privacy (and everyone needs that sometimes), walls to hold up the building that Paul talks about in the 3rd chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians. And one of the points he makes is the foundation on which we build - "There can be no other foundation beyond that which is already laid; I mean Jesus Christ Himself". If we build on the right foundation the wall will be in the right place.

The trouble comes when we build walls so that we can be safe inside with our beloved possessions and they will be kept outside. The trouble comes when we build a wall so that we can hide behind it from those who come in their need. The trouble comes when we build walls so high that we cannot even look over and wave a friendly greeting.

So Break Down The Walls - Those that keep us secure in our comfortable intimacy - and keep others out. Those behind which we hide from others, from ourselves and from God. Break Down Those Walls.

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News from Winnifred Kiek Scholars - From a letter from Sarrah Ah You we read that she has been busy with field work - "We were at one of the Islands called Rabi. There were five of us and a lecturer who did our evaluation. We stayed there for the whole week and it was very interesting. The people really accepted us and were interested too in what we have been teaching them. Most of our theory lessons were in Role Plays so what we learnt was that our messages got through to the women. It was a great experience again to work among women.....Next week would be our Pacific night, so we are practising and trying our best to catch up with our Island performances. Mrs Vincent, this course is very nice and appreciated".

And from Jennifer Yeo Tuan Phoon - "My training with C.E.F. commences on 21st September.My training will emphasize four fields, which are 1. The discipline of life. 2. Bible Studies. 3. Personal Evangelism. 4. Modern Theology. The classes will all be in the mornings. In the afternoon I will be attending either student fellowship meetings or doing personal evangelism. At night we will be free for our own devotions or for study".

Jennifer flew to Taiwan on 3rd September and was staying in the Campus Evangelical Fellowship Hostel.

We are very grateful to Mrs Betty Davis also, for the following letter.

"In July this year I was privileged to attend the Thanksgiving Celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the Church in Tonga. En route I took the opportunity of a brief stop-over in Fiji and gained information on two of our former Winnifred Kiek Scholars.

Sabita Swarup, who came to Australia for a Secretarial Course in 1967, is now married and living in Suva, where the knowledge gained on her Course is still proving most useful in her secretarial work.

Terani Aisake, the 1972 Scholar, has married a Samoan Methodist Minister and has a lovely baby son. She has maintained her Deaconess status (Fiji Conference). As yet there is no Deaconess Order in Samoa, but Terani hopes that her work there will influence the Samoan Conference in the right direction!

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It was also a great joy to me to re-visit the South Pacific Commission Community Education Training Centre at Samabula, Suva, where I had served for three years as Administrative Officer. The Centre continues to train leaders from all the Pacific Islands, and the Home Economics Course under the capable direction of Miss Mee Kwain Sue equips women from various Governments and Churches to return home to teach the folk of their own areas in domestic and community skills adapted to local needs. How much more valuable this is, than for them to come to a completely "foreign" culture like Australia and learn our skills which may be most unsuitable in their own culture.

I had a long talk there with Sarrah Ah You, our current Scholar. She sends loving greetings to the Australian Church Women, and assures us of the benefits of the Course, and of her grateful thanks for the opportunity of sharing in it. I took the liberty of assuring her also of our loving greetings and best wishes.

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From the Australian National Representative to the Asian Church Women's Conference

The following paragraphs come from the report by Rachel Cocks. We cannot publish it all, but we whet your appetites by printing the first and last paragraphs. We understand the report will be available in full.

IN OLGA'S WAKE

The 5th Quadrennial Assembly of the Asian Churchwomen's Conference, meeting at Bangkok in October 1974, issued a statement addressed: "To Our Fellow Christians". This document was subsequently circulated widely throughout Asia, calling attention to some of the most urgent issues by which the region is confronted. These included:

Poverty and Hunger
Exploitation of Women and Girls
Injustice and Inequality for Women in Church and Society
and
The Leadership Crisis

"The last point, namely the grave shortage of leadership among both men and women, led to a determination to concentrate on this matter during the next four years. Decision was taken to give high priority to Leadership Training Workshops throughout the whole area covered by the Christian Conference of Asia. The aim: To sharpen the awareness of Asian women to the significance of events around them, and in which they are themselves inevitably involved: also to provide the skills needed to enable them adequately to express themselves on vital issues."

"Looking back over the Manila experience, I can only re-echo some words of the Honourable Michael Manly, Prime Minister of Jamaica, spoken at the 5th Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting at Nairobi at the end of 1975:

'Liberation is about victims. Every man and woman denied the chance to read or write, is a victim. Every family that is undernourished, is a victim. Not only the unemployed, but every man and woman whose work is underpaid, irregular or insecure, is a victim. Every person who has been denied equality, who has been treated with less than full regard, who has been maimed or killed because of race or religion, is a victim. Every human being who has been imprisoned without genuinely fair trial, or denied access to justice in our courts of law because of poverty or ignorance, is a victim. Liberation is about victims. And so long as there is one victim on the face of this earth, the process of liberation must continue'."

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Just one or two startling paragraphs from "Third World News".

70% of Third World without Clean Water

Clean water and sanitation would be the one measure, apart from food to radically transform health and living conditions says the New Internationalist.

World Health Organisation reports that 70% of the Third World's population is without a safe and dependable water supply.

1000 million people are without proper means of sewerage and refuse disposal.

Fertilizer Feed-Back

Out of total world production of 85 million tons of fertilizer only 13 million tons went to the Third World.

Rich countries used 70 kilos per head compared with 8 kilos per head in developing countries.

Much of the fertilizer used in rich countries is spread on lawns and golf courses. In the United States, 2 million tons or 15% of all fertilizer available in the Third World is used in this way.

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Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace:
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born
To eternal life.

St Francis of Assisi

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