



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW News

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

April 1986



"MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU"

Today, Palm Sunday, in many places, people from many walks of life have gathered together to March for Peace. Their reasons for participating are numerous, but all appear to be looking towards one goal - PEACE. I wonder what the answer would be if we asked them what they mean by 'Peace'. Is it simply an absence of violence and trouble, or are they seeking the Peace of Christ? Peace that gives so much, but also makes demands of us - demanding from us honesty, truth and justice.

Through our membership of Asian Church Women's Conference we become more personally aware of our sisters and their families in many countries, who are not free to participate as we are in calling for Peace. We, then, are committed to work on their behalf also.

We are privileged to be members of ACWC and there is much we can learn and share through that membership. Living in a country that would still prefer to call itself Christian, we are not called upon "to stand up and be counted" as happens in so many Asian countries. Our Faith is not tested as theirs so often is. Let us therefore, together commit ourselves to prayer and support, that with our Asian sisters we may seek the Peace that comes from God, for

"Christ came and preached the Good News of Peace to all

Dorothy Haensel
National President.



2.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam, wife of the Rev. A.J.C. Selvaratnam of St. Paul's, Euroa, Victoria, and well known in ACW Circles has been invited by the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer to attend the Global Centenary Celebrations of World Day of Prayer at New York in May 1986.

Rathie writes -

Little did I dream when as a young teenager accompanying my mother to the Women's World Day of Prayer services in St. Paul's Cathedral, Singapore, that one day I would be elected the first Chairman of the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer at Anderson, Indiana, U.S.A. in 1967. As Chairman of the Asian Church Women's Conference, it was my privilege to write the WDP Order of Service for 1968, "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens".

To participate in the Global Centenary celebrations is to be part of the goodly heritage, begun in Faith by Mrs. Mary Ellen James in 1887, and continued by women around the world over the years, fulfilling in some measure the petition of the Lord, "That they may all be one".

The services through the decades written by women of different cultures and races have shown their imagination, talents, creativity and vibrant Faith in God who is Lord of history. Let us pray that the vision, strength and commitment that inspired the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer in the past continue to guide it as it steps into the second century, leading women and men to pray and work to avert a nuclear holocaust. Then "the Kingdoms of the World shall become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ and He shall reign for ever and ever."

Rathie Selvaratnam.

**** Rathie will also attend the Canadian Women's Inter-Church Council National Meeting at Winnipeg and later speak to Church Women United in various States in the USA.

**** Mrs. Yvonne Harrison from Tasmania, Australian Liaison Officer will also be among those attending IWWDP Celebrations.



3.



ECUMENICAL UPDATE

BISHOP OF SAXONY FOR A.C.C. ANNUAL MEETING

Guest speaker for 1986 ACC A.G.M. will be the Rt. Rev. Johannes Hempel, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony in the German Democratic Republic.

Bishop Hempel, a President of the W.C.C. and widely known for his work for Peace, expects to be in Australia 2nd - 15th July.

CASH TO MOZAMBIQUAN REFUGEES

An immediate emergency grant of A\$50,000 has been sent to help feed refugees from Mozambique in ZIMBABWE. There are 20,240 such people in four camps. The Government had run out of money to buy food for them and approached "Christian Care".

WHEAT FLOUR FOR ETHIOPIA

1,750 tonnes of wheat flour is being sent from Adelaide bound for Ethiopia to be used as part of the feeding programme being conducted by the Christian Churches in that land. ACC shares in the cost of over \$1.3 million with Australian Baptist World Aid, Australian Lutheran World Service and Australian Catholic Relief.

AUSTRALIAN EUCALYPTS FOR ETHIOPIA a Force 10 Project

Six Million eucalypt seedlings have been raised in Gama Goffa Province of Southern Ethiopia as part of a vital programme to halt the spreading desert. Overgrazing and clearing of land for fuel and agriculture have denuded native woodlands which once provided abundant fruit, herbs, animal forage and honey. About 200,000 hectares are destroyed each year. 10 tree nurseries are being established and local farmers instructed on the importance of trees.



Force 10 is assisting as part of its Project of the year: Africa's People - Africa's Future.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

....FROM N.S.W. UNIT

N.S.W. Unit members were delighted to have as guest at the first Council meeting in '86, the National President, Mrs. Dorothy Haensel. Mrs. Haensel was on her way home after Uniting Church meetings in Sydney and attended our meeting to bring us up-to-date news of A.C.W. and A.C.W.C.

The President also took this opportunity to present personally a surprised Deaconess Mary Andrews with her A.C.W. Life Membership badge. Deaconess Mary has been a member since the founding of Australian Church Women which is now celebrating its 21st Anniversary.

Women's World Day of Prayer was celebrated in N.S.W. with high attendances. The State this year printed more than 36,000 copies of the programme, while 10,000 special Youth services were printed and distributed to schools.

Glad. West

...FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT

An Australian Canvas water bag and pannikin surrounded by native shrubs greeted the members coming to our March Unit meeting. Red, white and blue flower arrangement on the table courtesy of Secretary, Jean Roberts, set the mood for the meeting focusing on the Jubilee 150 theme. Assorted 'ye Olde' pictures and photos were also in evidence as well as photos of our Float.



Father Ron Williams, Anglican priest to the city led a Bible Study based on Ephesians 4: 1-7 and 12-16. After an exercise ... "Who are We?" and "Who am I?" we discussed in groups the questions -

1. Is being tolerant and forbearing positive enough?
How do you do that in practice?
2. How do you actually measure maturity?

During the Devotional period, each lady lit a small candle from a central one and offered it with prayer to a neighbour, sharing also something we felt God was calling us to do this year.

Theлма Cunneen

5.



A.C.W. FLOAT
JUBILEE FLOWER DAY IN S.A.

To celebrate the fact that Combined Church women's involvement began in S.A. with a committee representing various denominations, appointed to organise a Float in the Centenary Flower Day procession in 1936, the S.A. Unit of A.C.W. entered a Float in this year's Flower

Day procession.

A successful Film Morning with Trading Table raised \$841 to finance the venture and a sub-committee worked very hard with the details of planning and execution.

Their efforts were rewarded when Felicity, a beautiful Clydesdale horse, stepped out in plume and flowers pulling the decorated cart with our A.C.W. Badge mounted on a pyramid of golden marigolds and ivy.

The two meter circles comprised a background of hydrangea petals, dried and stuck in place with 'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN' picked out in orange daisies. These surrounded the map of Australia formed by a mass of orange marigolds. The large Cross made of hundreds of tiny white daisies and fine silver ribbon radiated from the centre.

One badge was placed in front and another on the back. Underneath were the words - "UNITY, SERVICE, WORSHIP" with flowers proclaiming "50 YEARS 1936 - 1986"

Six members wearing gowns and bonnets of a bye-gone era carried baskets of small posies each with a text, and these were distributed to onlookers along the route.

"How Lovely" were the words of the Queen when she was presented with a posy. She later sent a message of commendation for the Float. We were surprised and elated to receive 4th prize - a silver cup and a Jubilee sash.

Theлма Cunneen





CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL AGENDA FOR WOMEN

On February 25 in Sydney, the Australian Council of Churches' Commission on the Status of Women, along with other agencies sponsored a consultation on the Federal Government's proposed National Agenda for Women, one of a series to be held around Australia. Its purpose was to allow women to express their views on the Government's draft Agenda for advancing the status of women in our society.

About 130 attended to make their views known to Senator Susan Ryan, the Minister assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women. A wide range of issues raised included education and training, sex discrimination, domestic violence, reproductive technology and peace.

Women, either individually or as groups can make written submissions to Senator Ryan, Parliament House, Canberra A.C.T. (Brochures including a Questionnaire will be available shortly).



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WOMEN, TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE

The ACC's Commission on the Status of Women is to participate in an Impact Seminar on Women and Technological Futures in Sydney in May 1986. The Seminar is being sponsored by the N.S.W. Government and the Commonwealth Government Commission for the Future. Seminars will be conducted in all capital cities.

The aim is to create a forum for the Commission for the Future to work co-operatively with the host State Governments and to receive submissions on important issues relating to the impact of science and technology on the future of social organisation in this country.

Submissions in Sydney will include - Technology and Work.... Education, Training....Scientific & Technological Research..... Information Access and Participatory Structures.

Key issues in other States - S.A. - Urban Futures. W.A. - Youth, Employment, Technology. Vic. - Management Futures for Business. ACT/NT - Technological Innovation and Aboriginal Futures. Tas. - Socially Useful Technologies.



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MEETINGS are held quarterly at Salvation Army,
Elizabeth Street, LAUNCESTON.

Please check with member of Executive re
date and time.