

BOOK REVIEW:

"BRINGING CHURCHES TOGETHER"

An introduction to
ECUMENISM

Written by Gideon Goosen

Books about ecumenism usually contain liberal doses of Church History and don't exactly run off the shelves. This work by Gideon Goosen deserves to be an exception to the rule.

The Book is an introduction to ecumenism. It is helpful for those who seek to be informed about ecumenism and for the general reader or student of theology and it is in a readable style that is suitable for study groups. As well as being informative, it is hoped that the Book will encourage readers to take up some of these suggestions and become actively involved at the local level in the process of ecumenism. Ecumenism is, in the first instance more concerned with people than with paper.

In reference to Unity, the Book states: "Christ willed his followers to be one and as this is clearly not the case now, Christians are committed to restore this lost unity which Christ willed for his Church. The mission of the Church, which is to carry on the work of Christ on earth, must include working towards this end."

Goosen is to be commended in his ability to deal with theology, history, the different Churches (Orthodox, Roman and Protestant) contemporary issues and current dialogue without losing the reader in theological or ecumenical jargon, nor does he sacrifice substance in the pursuit of brevity.

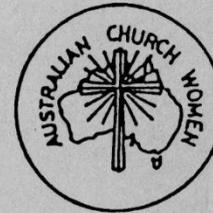
There are useful charts, maps and tables included as well as some useful appendices for quick reference, information on a number of matters relating to reformers in the various Churches.

This is a Book that will provoke personal investigation and stimulate discussion on a group basis (with questions provided at the end of each chapter) and should most certainly further the cause of ecumenism.

Isabel Macintyre
Publicity Vic Unit.

The Book "Bringing Churches Together" Gideon Goosen, Publisher, E.J. Dwyer, 1993, 180 pages pb \$19.95 can be procured from the Victorian Council of Churches.

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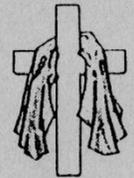


AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW News

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

March / April 1994

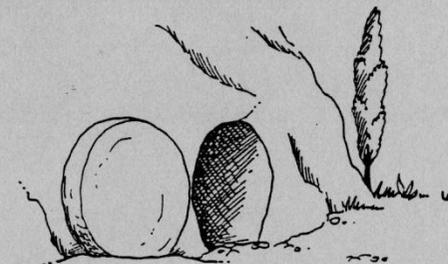


Some of us stay at the cross,
Some of us wait at the tomb,
Quickened and raised together with Christ,
Yet lingering still in its gloom.

If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross,
His work had been incomplete;
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,
He had only known defeat.

But the way of the cross never stops at the cross,
And the way of the tomb leads on,
To victorious grace in the heavenly place,
Where the risen Christ has gone.

- Annie Johnson Flint



**He is risen from the dead
and He is Lord**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Summer has gone and Autumn is with us, at least that is what the calender tells us, and I trust that wherever you are in this land of ours, you will be enjoying the beauty of the changing of the seasons. The past month has been quite a busy one as the activities of the new year have really begun in earnest. Our first meeting of National Exec. was held at Belmont, a suburb of Geelong, and was a very full day as we dealt with the accumulation of correspondence and business that mounted over the holiday period. Unfortunately, our Secretary Marion Dodds was unable to be with us owing to the death of her Mother. Our love and sympathy was extended to Marion and her family as we remembered her in our prayers.

There have been two special events that I have been able to share in as your ACW representative. Firstly, a new experience for me, a Teleconference organised by CAPOW...Coalition of Australian Participating Organisations of Women. As I sat in my own lounge room, I was able to listen to and share with some 20-25 women around Australia in discussion and future planning. CAPOW is not a decision making body, but rather one to be used for resourcing of Groups, and facilitating co-operation between like minded organisations. I also attended the National Conference and Seminar of PPSEAWA .. Pan Pacific South East Asia Womens Organisations. This too was a learning experience for me, as I had not known of this Organisation, whose objectives are to strengthen the bonds of peace, and to promote co-operation for the study and improvement of social, economic and cultural conditions.

Just as the seasons of nature are in God's hands, so too are the seasons of our lives. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven". (Eccl 3:1.) Wherever we are on our life's journey, let us rejoice in this assurance of God's timing.

"El Shaddai, the Hebrew term for God means - "God .. the enough!" With God beside us, we need nothing, or no one else. Love and blessings to you all as you continue to follow in His way.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Eunice Reidy
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.



ACWC NEWS

This month I am asking you to pray for the Christians in India. Krupaveni Prahash Rao is the General Committee member. Her husband is the Bishop in Krishna-Godawary Diocese, Church of South India. It is mainly a rural diocese with a population of 1.5 million Christians mostly comprising the labour class. There are about 100 pastors and there is still a need for more. The Women's Fellowships are active with their main activities being prayer and bible study.

Krupaveni has three children aged 16-24 years old. She works in the Dept of Women and Child Welfare for the State Government. She is Regional Deputy Director and has jurisdiction over 3 districts.

India is a secular country by nature of its Constitution. The major religion is Hindu with Muslims (15%) and Christians (4%).

Pray for Krupaveni, General Committee Member and Navamani Peter, Vice President of ACWC and President of World Day of Prayer.

Prayer requests:

1. Pray for the Government of India, the Prime Minister and President and all they try to do in difficult circumstances. Pray that religion does not play a major role in politics and that the minority groups can enjoy equal freedom to profess and practice their religions and that the unity and integrity of the country is preserved.
2. Pray for the women, particularly those who are illiterate and ignorant and live below the poverty line. Pray for organisations like the All India Council of Christian Women, the Association of Theologically Trained Women in India and several Christian and secular organisations working for the uplifting of women in India.
3. Pray for the Church in India - the Bishops, Pastors and church workers at all levels and Christians in general as they are challenged by an increase in religious fanaticism by the majority group and the threat of indirect persecution to Christians.

Margaret Napier
ACWC REPRESENTATIVE.



SA UNIT NEWS

At our Unit meeting in March, Sybil Peacock, of the Uniting Church, spoke about her ministry as a chaplain with the Inter-church Trade and Industry Mission (SA) - ITIM.

The Mission has been in existence for 30 years and is funded by contributions from the Companies which are served by ITIM Chaplains, and by donations. The Uniting Church administers the payment of their stipends.

Eighty-four companies (some have several locations) are cared for by 66 chaplains from Uniting, Lutheran, Catholic, Anglican, Salvation Army, Baptist and Churches of Christ. Not all of the chaplains are clergy.

Every week the chaplain visits the work place he or she has been assigned. Sybil visits two oil companies, two TELECOM sites, a glassworks, a brickworks, a textile manufacturer, the Engineering and Water Supply Department and others. The chaplain needs to 'dress for the occasion' because some of the factories make their clothes dirty. They carry a variety of footwear in their cars - Sybil has a pair of rubber boots, a pair of steel capped boots, a pair of high heeled shoes and others. She also has a hard hat!

The chaplains move around every department or work area wherever people are. During the visit anyone may talk with the chaplain, about anything, knowing that it will be kept completely confidential.

A wide variety of help is available. Staff may use the chaplain as a 'sounding board', perhaps about further study, changing jobs, moving house or 'to get something off their chest'.

They may have a crisis or difficulty, such as alcohol or drug use, health, redundancy, a housing emergency or a family or marriage problem.

The chaplains also share happy times such as weddings, birth of a baby etc.

They are available to visit people in hospital or at court. They also conduct professional debriefing after tragedies as they did after the recent bomb blast in Adelaide.

Chaplains are carefully selected and specifically trained for Industrial Chaplaincy. Sybil says you need a good pair of feet and a good bladder! Each chaplain must be recommended by his or her Church and each chaplain represents all the member Churches of ITIM.

ALTERATION TO DIRECTORY

ACW South Australia Unit Executive

Please note these changes -

SECRETARY: Mrs Lois Harris
Telephone No. (08) 298 6792

PROMOTIONS CONVENOR: Mrs Maureen Clark
572 States Road
ONKAPARINGA HILLS 5163

PRESIDENT: Mrs Margaret Greenslade
4 Yalpara Avenue
ROSTREVOR 5073

WKS CONVENOR: Mrs VI Bache
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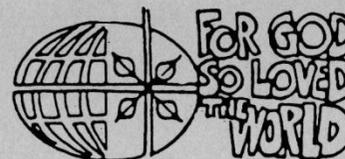
NSW Unit News

As 1994 is the International Year of the Family the first State Conference Programme is built around that theme, being -

"Christian Focus on the Family"

This Conference, April 27-30 1994 is at The Anglican Healing Ministry Centre, Golden Grove, Newtown in Sydney.

Speakers - Robin Bali - Keynote Speaker
Julie Branchnreg - The Girls Brigade
Dr Marlene Goldsmith - Chairman of Standing
Committee on Social Issues
Revd. David Gill - General Secretary Australian
Council of Churches
Revd. Ray Williamson - Executive Secretary NSW
Ecumenical Council.



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The list of Projects Grants for 1994 has been received and I am pleased to report that Australia has received one. The name of the Projects is "Kuri-Ngai Partners Liaison Officer" located in Ozanam Village, Lewisham, NSW.

The purpose of the Grant is to continue to employ an Aboriginal officer to work with both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal individuals and groups in NSW. It aims to educate its members and supporters, and through them the wider community, about Aboriginal people e.g. Ecclesial development, political and social status, history, spiritual wealth and its potential contribution to the wider community. A target within this general goal is to help set up training facilities for forming Aboriginal ministers to serve their own people, while scrupulously respecting the principle of self-help.

There is also a grant given to the World Day of Prayer International Committee "to increase the participation of Women of WDP in the Pacific in the next ICWDP meeting" to be held in Melbourne in February 1995.

Margaret Wall.



NEW PRESIDENT - VICTORIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Mrs Joan Pye a Lay member of the Churches of Christ, is the first woman President of the Victorian Council of Churches.

As Secretary of the Churches of Christ Department of Christian Union and Ecumenical Affairs, Joan became her Church's representative to the Victorian Council of Churches. She is actively involved in ecumenical affairs.

Joan is a retired School Teacher, having taught at Strathcon for 10 years - including Christian education. She attends worship at Richmond Church of Christ where she is qualified to administer communion and is a firm believer in encouraging women, no matter how old, to read the Scripture in Church or to participate in some way.

Joan furthered her education after her children left school, and got a University degree. In 1986 she graduated with a Theology degree.

In her spare moments, Joan loves to share time with her seven grandchildren.

DELEGATE TO THE SALVATION ARMY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

I have just returned from Sri Lanka (Colombo) from the International Conference (8 days) on Health, Healing and Wholeness.

60 delegates from all parts of the world gathered to look at mission measurements, guidelines, concepts and the evaluation of our mission for Jesus into all the world.

It was set in Colombo for the environmental impact on all the delegates. Fighting within that country has hurt so many and the heartache and poverty is so apparent with military law and order. We discussed entry points into the community by means of our mission of love and care in Christ. We looked at how wholeness in the heart overcomes brokenness of body and mind.

We saw the work of grace going on against all odds in places like Africa where over 37000 children are orphaned because of the AIDS related illness killing their mothers. We heard how the needs of the community drew people to the Church and how we assessed the sustainability of our work back into the community.

Entry points came through rubbish collection, by teaching skills to support themselves and their children a better way, of clinics set to bring healing to thousands, feeding programmes in Mexico and HIV/AIDS teams working in Sri Lanka and other places in our broken world.

It was decided that a very strong teaching programme in all our places must be incorporated in all training programmes so staff and patients/clients/residents know that we adopt the mission of Jesus and not just pin it to the wall.

The compassion of Christ must pervade our ministry and we are accountable to not only The Salvation Army but to God for that. We must get permission to fail where programmes become inappropriate and we must look again and listen again to the community needs.

In the background of Sri Lanka all this became a living reality. We must celebrate life, health and healing in the wholeness of heart.

Alice Kop (Mrs Major)

(Mrs Major Alice Kop was a guest speaker at ACW National Conference in Ulverstone last September.)

