

Newsletter

NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

No. 7

May, 1970

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a wonderful year this has been in which to have had the honour of being President of the W.I.C.C. My deep appreciation to all who through their prayers and encouragement have supported me.

We praise God for the work of His Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of many people during these days. I believe God is uniting women in a spiritual union and fellowship, which transcends the barriers of race, class and denomination.

May this year find us more deeply committed to a ministry of prayer - that from our lives there may flow out spiritual power to all with whom we come into contact.

What we do in God's Kingdom is entirely dependent on what we are,

What we are depends again on what we receive, and

What we receive depends again upon prayer.

This applies not only to the work of the Holy Spirit, but also to His work through us.

Mary M. Andrews

A GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

I am indebted to Principal E. L. Williams of the Glen Iris College of the Bible for the thought I would commend to you as my greeting.

"Within the life of the believing community 'the Word of God' has a rich variety of meanings. No one meaning stands in isolation; they are all inter-dependent. The keystone to them all is a Person. Christianity begins and ends in Him."

To me this epitomises the firm personal faith and wide Christian fellowship basic to our Women's Inter-Church Council.

Marjorie Stanhope

For list of Officers see foot of back page

ANNUAL RALLY

Our New President, Mrs. R.W. Stanhope, of the Churches of Christ, will be installed at the Annual Rally, on Friday 29th May 1970 at 11 a.m. in the Church of Christ, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. All are invited to the Service and to be the guests of the Churches of Christ Women's Fellowship to Lunch, which will be served in the hall at the conclusion.

BRANCHES' DAY 1970

The Council was very pleased to welcome to Branches' Day in February, representatives of our Branches at North Ryde, Strathfield/Homebush, Lane Cove/Longueville, Mosman, Northbridge, Turramurra/Wahroonga, the City (of Sydney), Killara/Lindfield/Roseville and groups at Bankstown and Fairfield.

Mrs. Ralph, Promotion Convener, briefly traced the history of the Council since its formation in 1938. It now has official representation from the Baptist, Church of Christ, Church of England, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian Churches, the Salvation Army and the Society of Friends, the Y.W.C.A. and the Girls' Brigade, and observers appointed by the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches.

In recent years a Promotion Committee has been given the tasks of:

- * Initiating and maintaining contact with local inter-church groups, encouraging them to affiliate and to observe the Special Days of Australian Church Women and to act locally.
- * Giving whatever assistance and encouragement it can to individuals and groups striving for local inter-church activity,
- * Producing a Newsletter and distributing it to Branches, contacts, to member churches and associated bodies.

Mrs. N. Pfeiffer, President of the Killara/Lindfield/Roseville Branch, which was formed only the week before, told of the inter-church activity in that district, including morning tea every Wednesday for women staying at the Bradfield Park Migrant Centre at the nearby Congregational Church.

Mrs. Mayne of Strathfield/Homebush Branch told of its interest in the White Russian community at Strathfield. Some members in their desire to communicate more adequately are learning Russian.

A member of the Promotion Committee, Mrs. Lilian Wells, introduced material that is available from the State Council of the Australian Council of Churches, 3rd Flr. 511 Kent St. Sydney 2000, Phone 26 3789, Sec. Rev.C.R.Sprackett. This includes leaflets on "Force Ten", World Christian Action Background Documents on "Refugees", "Population", "Self-Tax", a booklet explaining "Why Inter-Church Aid", lists of films, filmstrips, slide sets & tape recordings available for hire and books for sale.

Mrs. Wells went on to tell us something of the Development Conference, held in Sydney by the Australian Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church with distinguished visitors from overseas. Australians need to influence the Government to do more for the developing countries, but it must be remembered that help should be a two-way process. Australia can learn much from the countries it helps.

A sheet suggesting activities that Branches might undertake was also distributed. These were in connection with encouragement for migrants and work with hospitals. It is proposed to produce a new brochure including all of these suggestions and others.

OUR BANK ACCOUNT

All cheques, etc. for our account should be made payable to "N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council" or "N.S.W. W.I.C.C." They should be accompanied by a slip describing or listing what they are for, i.e. Branch Affiliation, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Offerings from Fellowship Day or World Community Day, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund (special donations), Djakarta Conference Travel Fund, the sale of literature, pens or notelets, donations for general funds, etc.

Please send money for any of these funds direct to our Treasurer (whose name and address appear on the back page) and not to Australian Church Women or the Australian Council of Churches. The exceptions, of course, are Special Day offerings which should be remitted with the Report Form to Mrs. Down.

Australian Church Women
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Una Porter, immediate past-president of the World Y.W.C.A. introduced the theme "Christian Concern" to the 50 delegates attending the National Committee meetings of Australian Church Women in St. Hilda's College, Melbourne from 3-6th Feb. 1970.

Dr. Porter spoke with vision and courage of the present day problems and set our minds thinking with a new awareness of our responsibilities, of our attitudes, and human relationships with all peoples in all situations. We were challenged to accept a newly aware role for Christian Consciousness in the formation of our attitudes and encouraged to think globally, to look at our prejudices and traditions, to cross old barriers, to enter into new experiences and to understand the relevance of Jesus Christ in to-day's world.

"Keep hope alive" she said. "Seek ways of reconciliation". Ask "What is my task?" and learn of other people's fears and needs; enter into dialogue using this as a tool of reconciliation. Dr. Porter spoke of the importance of young people, of our need to listen to them, and reminded us of the importance God placed in them (one example, He spoke to Samuel, not Eli). "How can Christians become young again?" she asked, and suggested that we need to be aware, to be habitually ready to accept every person, to accept every colour and every race.

Other speakers on Christian Concern were Professor Basil Hetzel (alcoholism), Dr. D.J. Oldmeadow (drug dependence), Dr. Isla Stamp (needs of young children) and Mr. Vaughan Hinton (the needs of developing countries).

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Miss Veronica Kafa from the British Solomon Islands is the 1970 Scholar and she will be visiting Sydney from October 19 to 7th November. Of the 26 languages spoken in the Solomons, English is the only one common to all and Miss Kafa is presently in Victoria receiving special training in the teaching of English as a foreign language and the new mathematics.

A tape, recording a conversation with the Rev. Winifred Kiek has been made. This gives a biographical account of her life and will be available on loan from the Council.

FOURTH ASIAN CHURCHWOMEN'S CONFERENCE

In July 1966, our then President, Mrs. Olga Badger, was the Australian representative to the 3rd Asian Churchwomen's Conference in Tokyo. As a member of the organising committee, she will also be attending the FOURTH Conference to be held in Djakarta from 9-18th September 1970.

This time Australia will have two representatives, Mrs. Doreen Strack, Australian Convener for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and a member of the Church of Christ, and Mrs. Frances Bailey, Federal President of the Congregational Women's Fellowship.

Each State has been asked to contribute towards the representatives' fares, part of which is covered by an allocation from the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which is administered by the Asian Churchwomen.

Two observers will also attend, Mrs. Heather Crosby of South Australia and Mrs. Eileen Dingle of Queensland. Observers pay their own expenses. Mrs. Dingle, who is the Australian Liaison Officer for the Women's World Day of Prayer, will be stopping off on her way to the International Committee Meeting of W.D.P. to be held in Bangkok 20-22nd September.

At the previous meeting of the W.D.P. International Committee, in Sweden, we in Australia were represented by the new President of the N.S.W. W.I.C.C., Mrs. R.W. Stanhope.

MRS. RATHIE SELVARATNAM

Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam of Ceylon, the Chairman of the Asian Churchwomen's Conference, will also attend the World Day of Prayer Meeting and will be visiting Australia for the Churches of Christ World Convention in Adelaide 20-25th October. It is hoped that she will be able to visit the other States and that we, in Sydney, will have the opportunity to meet her.

NEWSLETTERS

We would prefer to issue smaller Newsletters more frequently and hope to be able to do this in the future.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

"Each woman, before putting aside her least coin once a month, spends some time with Christ in prayer. She empties out herself before Him in order to get life and strength from the True Vine. In humility and sincerity she asks God to give her a loving and an understanding heart, so that she may graciously overlook the weaknesses of her neighbour and be able to appreciate her good qualities.

"In doing so, she experiences the intimate relationship with the Saviour. She realizes that a Christian is spiritually alive only as she remains in Jesus Christ. Through Him we not only can be dynamic Christians, but can also bear fruit for the Master. Paul referred to this as 'being in Christ'."

Mrs. Shanti R. Solomon of India, who wrote the words above, is the founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. We cannot stress too much that it is a Fellowship of Prayer - the "least coins" are symbols only of the prayers offered and we do not keep faith with the ideals of the Fellowship if we put aside more than what the poorest woman in an undeveloped country can give (i.e. one cent each month). The money raised is coincidental - the important thing is the prayer and our acceptance of equality with the praying women everywhere in a world-wide family "be they rich or poor, educated or illiterate, isolated or world citizens!"

"Least coins" are gathered together at World Community Day in October, or may be sent to our Treasurer (see back page). Our State F.L.C. Convener, Mrs. C. Butler, 17 Woonona Road, Northbridge 2063 will supply leaflets, & "Circle of Prayer" booklets (21c ea.) and answer any queries. (Her Phone 95 2985)

NATIONAL MARRIAGE & FAMILY WEEK

Leaflets setting out programme suggestions are available from the Chairman of the N.M.F.W. Council, Dr. C.J. Wright, 1st Flr, 100 Flinders St. Melbourne 3000. The week was 4-10th May but the topics will be current concerns for some time yet. A leaflet for wide distribution "Fathers are Important, Too" is available at \$6 per hundred, plus postage from the same address.

PENS AND NOTELETS

The A.C.W. Travel Fund to provide fares to the National Committee Meetings is helped by the sale of Scribal ball point pens, blue and silver with the W.C.C. badge, 20c each, and attractive notelets with a blue border and the W.C.C. badge 50 sheets & 50 envelopes for 60c.

The World Council of Churches' badge shows the word "oikoumene" (world-wide, universal), the Church (the ship) of Jesus Christ (the mast is His cross) on the sea of life (the waves) in the whole world (the circle).

Also available from the Council are:

"Church Worship" by Rev. A. & Mrs. Dougan (studies)	20c
"Eve, Where Art Thou?" a report and discussion questions on the role of women in the Church	25c
"Parents and the Teenage Revolution" notes and questions	10c
"Circle of Prayer" - the Fellowship of the Least Coin	21c

SPECIAL DAYS

Fellowship Day on Friday 24th July (or a date near that) will be on "Communication". The orders of service, planned by the South Australian W.I.C.C. are available now from Mrs. F.I. Down, 177 Copeland Rd. Beecroft 2119. The offering will be for the work of the WICC and ACW, particularly the W.Kiek Scholarship.

World Community Day (Fri. 23rd October, or a date near that) will have the theme "It's a Small World" and the Salvation Army women have prepared the order of service.

We say "or a date near that" because we believe it is better to observe the Day on a day suitable to the local area if it is not possible to arrange a service on the set day.

PROMOTION

For information about Special Days, the formation of local women's inter-church fellowships, etc. please contact the Secretary of the Promotion Committee, Mrs. Lt. Col. G. Carpenter, 529 Homer St. Earlwood 2206, Phone 78507. Mrs. Carpenter and the Committee will be glad to give whatever help they can.

APPRECIATION

At our Annual Meeting in April, two valued officebearers retired. Mrs. C.A. Perriam has been Treasurer of the Council for many years, in which time she has seen its work change and grow. A conscientious and faithful officer, we thank Mrs. Perriam most sincerely for the fine contribution she has made, and we know will continue to make, to the life of the Council.

For the past three years Mrs. Win Dougherty has been our Secretary. She came into the Council to that position, at a time of crisis and she has done a wonderful job in what has probably been the busiest and most exacting period in the history of the Council. Apart from her efficiency and capability, she is blessed with a delightful personality and she quickly endears to herself all who have the pleasure of working with her. We thank her indeed.

LIVE WITH ENTHUSIAM

(quoted at the National Committee Meeting)

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Youth is not a time of life. It's a state of mind. It's a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigour of the emotions, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over love of ease.

OFFICERS

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Sec. c/- Mrs. Stanhope
Treas. Mrs. F. W. Allan, 25 Welby St. Eastwood 2122 85 7143