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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.*

MARCH 1989



My dear ACW friends,
In our Parish we invited questions about the Bible, faith, and Christian life for answering during one of our January Services. The one question that was asked several times, in varying words, was about God allowing suffering! So we considered 'the will of God', 'why God allows bad things to happen to good people', and various other aspects of this very complex question.
Inevitably we turned to the book of Job and his experiences - leading to his realisation of the vast chasm between himself (ignorant and without understanding) and the all-powerfulness of God (wise and marvellous). This we did not find totally satisfactory - one needs to turn to the New Testament also.
The question became especially poignant in the Parish this past week when a 14-year-old member went through a plate-glass fixed panel - resulting in horrific injuries and loss of blood. Plastic surgery was necessary and the transfusion of 7 pints of blood - but no irreparable damage has been done and she is already making a marvellous recovery.
Naturally the 'if only' questions are raised: if only an extra light had been on; if only original plans about transport had been carried through: if only she'd been wearing different shoes; etc. etc. As the committee she was attending was

meeting to consider the call of a new Minister because I'll be leaving at the end of September, another question could have been; if only I hadn't been leaving the Parish and going to England!

Such talk is quite futile.

Rather we affirm: God's ultimate will and purpose is good - He is wise and loving. God's plan for humanity is that we have free-will. Therefore God limits His own power and allows those things to happen that are outside His ultimate will. There's still a lot more to be said on this subject - I commend it to your thoughts and prayers, and recommend for your consideration these two books; 'The Will of God' by Leslie D. Weatherhead, and 'Why do Bad things happen to Good People?' by Harold S. Kushner.

My prayer this month is for reconciliation and healing for all of you hurting - whether from physical, mental or spiritual causes.

Grace, joy, peace and love.

Lee Edwards.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Another REMINDER about bookings for the 1989 Conference and for either of the tours in which you may wish to join.

The dates for the Conference to be held at KINGSWOOD COLLEGE are SEPTEMBER 11 to 15, 1989.

The two suggested Wildflower Tours are:

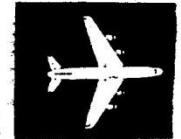
- # 3-day South-West Forest Tour
September 7 - 9. (Est. cost \$300)
- # 6-day Northern Wildflower Spectacular
September 17-22 (Approx. \$600)



...from West Australian Unit.



At our February meeting, the first for 1989, we were pleased to welcome three new faces - Mrs. Major Lyn Green of the Salvation Army, Miss Failautusi Teb'ati and Mrs. Jenny McIntosh from Meekathara in our North West. Lyn and Failautusi could only stay a short time, but Jenny shared with us her experiences as, with her husband, she covers a huge area for the UC Frontier Service. With a photo album to illustrate her talk, she told us how they leave home at 8 a.m. every morn and, in their plane which they both fly, visit stations, mines and small towns in an area larger than Victoria. They try to visit their 180 outposts at least twice in each year!



At this meeting we were also pleased to welcome Mrs. Nancy Munyard to the position of Treasurer. Nancy has kindly agreed to take over the role from Leila Wilson, who has ably performed this task for many years and who now needs more time to spend with husband, Sir Ronald Wilson, as he begins his time as President of the Uniting Church of Australia. Many thanks, Leila, for all your hard work in past years as Treasurer.



LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY to EUNICE KIM of Korea, whose Mother died recently. Eunice will be remembered by all who attended the Adelaide Conference, as she was there, in her capacity as ACWC Executive Secretary, at the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Condolences from all members of Australian Church Women,

