



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN "women at work"

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From Eileen Dingle -

OF PERSONAL AND GENERAL INTEREST - CONGRATULATIONS to the Rev. Dorothy Wacker (P.O. Box 2, Applecross, W.A. 6153) upon her recent election to the position of President-Elect of the Congregational Union of Western Australia. Those who got to know her at the meetings in Sydney will want to wish her a rewarding term of office.

MRS. JOY UDY, Secretary of the Methodist Women's Federation of Queensland has been elected to the executive of the National Council of Women in Queensland.

MRS. A. L. BENNETT, President of the Methodist Women's Federation of Queensland leaves this month on an overseas trip. Her husband, Mr. A. L. Bennett, Q.C., is to attend a world gathering of District Governors of Rotary International.

The National Convention of the WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION is to be held in ADELAIDE from April 29th to May 5th - the theme being "Labourers together with God". The Convention will be followed by a study seminar at "Nunyeru".

In BRISBANE, during March, the Methodist Women's Federation has held its annual study series. This year it was called "Talk It Out" and the theme was "Challenge for a New Destiny". The speakers were Mrs. George Nash, area president of the World Federation of Methodist Women ("Woman - Created Co-Partner"); Rev. R. Hunt, B.A., B.D., M.A., Chaplain to the University of Queensland ("Woman - In Personal Relationships. 'Let's Communicate'"); Miss I. M. Kennedy, B.A., B.Ed., Principal of Clayfield College ("Woman - In the Community. Need only Youth be revolutionary?"); and the Rev. T. Rees Thomas, M.B.E., M.A., B.D., ("Woman - Citizen in a Widening World. Is Every man my brother - who cares?"). Printed notes were prepared and the findings from each session duplicated. I think limited supplies of these could be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Gloster Udy, Methodist Parsonage, Sussex St., West End, Brisbane 4104 - at a nominal fee. There was an excellent attendance at all sessions - including members of A.C.W. - other than Methodists.

The DARLING DOWNS Presbyterian Association held a 4-day Presbyterian Women's Association Camp and Conference at the Shannon Park Conference Centre at Toowoomba early in the month. Senator Margaret Guilfoyle of Victoria led the opening devotional service and conducted sessions on Current Affairs. The Senator is a qualified accountant and is the honorary treasurer of the National Y.W.C.A. of Australia. While in Brisbane she was guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Brisbane Y.W.C.A. Mrs. Guilfoyle has two daughters and a son but still finds time to give outstanding service to her country. She is a member of the public accounts committee investigating expenditure in government departments, the committee investigating finance and government operations, and a member of the committee investigating foreign ownership and control of Australian businesses.

VISITORS - MRS. ESTHER MOORE DE SAINZ. It was interesting to read in the March issue of "The Sower" that Mrs. Esther Moore de Sainz, Director of Women's work at the Latin America Bible Service Centre in Argentina, is to begin a month's visit to Australia on April 7. She is the widow of a Methodist pastor and will speak about Bible distribution in Latin America. PLEASE WATCH FOR NOTICE OF HER MEETINGS IN YOUR STATE. Mrs. de Sainz was head of the Promotion and Audio-Visual Department of the Argentine Bible Society before heading the Latin America Bible Service Centre. In four years she has achieved much; she has travelled throughout South America lecturing to women, offering Bible courses and urging women to share in Bible distribution. One major task has been the preparation of the Bible selections, entitled "Woman In Action". (In Spanish).

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MISS JENNIFER DOWN has been employed by the British Government in the British Solomon Islands where women's interests have been her concern. In Brisbane, on her way home to England for leave, she said that the islanders are accepting Government education programmes for their women. She is to return to the islands after her English holiday. While in Queensland Miss Down addressed Country Women's Association throughout the State.

A trained domestic science teacher, Miss Down said that at first islanders were suspicious of education programmes for women. "The men saw it as a waste of time, fearing that women might learn too much", she said. "When they realised women would be able to earn more money they started to change their minds."

The education programme includes courses in homecraft, mothercraft, sewing, gardening, hygiene, chicken-keeping and other fields useful to island life. Some women are trained as teachers, nurses, and secretaries. "If they wish to reach world standard the Government or Church organisations sponsor them to Australia or New Zealand".

DR. GERMAINE GREER, the dynamic, modern champion of women's liberation, after launching her book "The Female Eunuch", has left Australia, vowing not to return - at least while the present Government is in power. Though many of us cannot go along with all her theories, she has given a stimulus to the thinking of all women. It is certain that women will have to be prepared to take a more active part in the world outside the home, though not necessarily becoming part of the work force. Mrs. George Nash recently said that we need a women's ELEVATION movement rather than a women's liberation movement. A lifting of the status of women is necessary but it must be realised that this would bring added responsibilities as well as privileges.

FROM THE MAIL BAG - MRS. HELEN TO BURUA, wife of the Rev. Albert To Burua, who is on the staff of the George Brown College at Vunairima, Kerevat, New Britain, wrote of her work in helping the Principal of the College and other lecturers with typing notes, etc. She has also been conducting classes for Pastors' wives in Christian marriage - She writes "there are 27 wives. Many of them haven't had any training before, but they are so keen to learn." During January a Convention was held at Vunairima; the theme was "Change" and this was the subject of a special study prepared by the Department of Christian Education. The words and music of the theme song were composed by her husband - he also led the daily devotions and with Mrs. Alan Leadley of Malmaluan (mother of a 6-months-old baby) led the singing. A variety of activities enabled the people to express their feelings on Change, their reactions to changes and tensions in their lives caused by the rapid social change in Papua New Guinea. Role plays, art work, creative writing, singing and dancing, as well as discussions and films, all played a part in the development of the theme. The climax of the Convention was the special service of Holy Communion on the Sunday night. The choir commenced the service by dancing forward with the bread and wine, singing a song of praise. During the service letters written by the people to themselves were collected. These letters were to be posted to the participants just before Easter and would serve to remind and encourage them in their role as change agents in the community.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN - Preliminary steps have been taken regarding Mrs. Shanti Solomon's visit to Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand in September/October. It has now been agreed that she should spend at least six weeks on the tour. As soon as dates have been finalised all State secretaries will be notified so that early arrangements can be made for the best use of the time at their disposal. The Australian Council of Churches will also be advised. With a visitor of Mrs. Solomon's standing, it should be possible for her to be interviewed on television and radio in each capital city if early notice is given. As the Women's World Day of Prayer on the International level has agreed to work hand in hand with the Fellowship of the Least Coin, State committees of the movement could be encouraged to meet with Mrs. Solomon. Last year a combined promotion campaign in the Latin American countries proved very worthwhile. Executive members of the W.W.D. of P. joined with A.C.W.C. members in conducting meetings in various countries.

(See page 3 for a "snippet" FROM MY SCRAP BOOK entitled "GOOD FRIDAY")

GOOD FRIDAY

Am I a stone and not a sheep
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy Cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's show loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon.
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er.
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock,
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

-- Christina Rossetti.
