

from 'spiritual malaise'. She told the story of a pair of water pots, being carried over two years by a man who fetched water from the river to his master's home. One was cracked, and by the time the man got home, it was only half full.. When the pot told the man it thought it wasn't doing its job well, the man told it to look at the flowers growing by the side of the road, next time he came back from the river. He said - 'I knew you were leaking, so planted some seeds on your side of the path, so that I could place the flowers on my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house.' We are all cracked pots in one way or another, but if we allow it, God can use our flaws to grace another's table.

Vale: Readers who knew her will be saddened to hear of the sudden death of Miss Ruth Watts, in Adelaide on 9th February, 2000. A Uniting Church delegate to ACW, she was beloved of all who knew her. Ruth was Headmistress of MLC/Annesley College from 1968-1982.

Biennial Conference, September 2001: The Unit is looking forward to hosting the Conference, and past Conference attendees to meeting members from other States.

Shirley Birch,
Newsletter Editor.

Closing date for items for next Newsletter is 17th May,
Thank you.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN ACW NEWS

...We aim:- to unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PO Box 10239 Adelaide Business Centre S.A. 5000
(All Newsletter correspondence to this address please)
February - March 2000

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

"Jesus our Living Hope" Recently, I attended a conference at which we were really challenged about the role of the church into the twenty-first century. We were reminded that in this era of post-modernity, people say that there are no absolute truths and that what is truth for each person *IS* truth. We were reminded that the world is struggling in its individualism and loneliness and that frustration and hopelessness are rife. Even so, there is a great spiritual hunger; but the search leads to spiritualists, psychics and astrologers, not to the place which is supposed to have the answer, the church! We are not seen as communities offering hope and reflecting wholeness and health.

People can look on us and see brokenness, internal strife and much "politic-ing" and can say, "I don't need the church, it's no different from the rest of society." I believe that the challenge has been thrown out. What ARE we about? What is it that will make the church attractive and appealing to the community at large? It seems to me that it is not the music or the style of worship or even the gifted preacher that will draw people to the Kingdom. Rather it will be that as we offer true community, as we heal our brokenness and as we respect and affirm our diversity and as we,

individually, more truly reflect the Christ of compassion, that people will understand that Jesus is, indeed, our Living Hope and in him is to be found LIFE. May we reflect that hope in our living and truly be ambassadors of reconciliation to a helpless and hopeless world. God bless you as you express YOUR hope in your local church and through A.C.W.

MARJ. DREDGE
(President)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE REPORT

Greetings from your representative and our Asian sisters in Christ.

ACWC SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN:...is a wonderful way to inform and involve our family and friends in the programmes of Asian Church Women. The numbered cards each Unit received at National Conference require a signature for \$1.00 - monies to be sent to the National Treasurer in due course.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP. Four regional women's ecumenical bodies, namely Asian Women's Resource Centre, CCA-WC/Christian Conference of Asia - Women's Concern, World Student Christian Federation and ACWC have provided a Christian Writer's Workshop. ACWC National Representatives, Rev. Kashiko Go (Japan) and Dr. Adeline Joshua (India) attended. This joint committee was convened in 1996 to collaborate in working with Asian women, and to carry out programmes as one body.

THANK YOU. Since December it has been my privilege to assist Padma Ebenezer, an ACWC executive committee member, of Sri Lanka, who is in Sydney supporting her daughter, Niroosha, following a car accident. Thank you to our National Executive who have kindly advised State Units of the situation.

Thanks to Joan Tong, our "girl" on the spot, and NSW Unit for their assistance with so many arrangements.

Niroosha is now at her sister's home and is managing the stairs. She attends Rehabilitation Hospital 3 times per week. Her "bad" leg (both were broken) is still stiff, and has yet to respond to treatment. Padma tells me she is in good spirits - it must be your prayer support. Padma would like to send in a thank-you note to us via ACW 'News'.

Until next issue
Barbara Lacy,
ACWC Representative

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Christmas letters were sent to past and present Winifred Kiek Scholars and several replies were received. I have been asked to pass on to you all their very best wishes.

As the new study year begins please remember in your prayers Mai Zin Zin Wah in Singapore and Sue Nitrai in Canberra.

The current WKS leaflet was despatched during the first week in March.

Rachel McManus, one of the 1977 Winifred Kiek Scholars, was married late last year to Adam McArthur. Members present at our National Conference in Brisbane in September signed a card wishing them every happiness. I have received a thank you note and lovely photo. Rachel thanks us for our support and prayers. They had a beautiful wedding day and they also enjoyed their honeymoon at Friday Creek near Coffs Harbour.

DOROTHY FERRIER
National Convenor

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

I am happy to share news received from Esther Byu, Executive Secretary, ICFLC, among the grants allocated for 2000, were those received by four Australian applications - Chaplaincy Committee, Ross Tas., for 'Cressy-Campbell Town School Chaplaincy' they received US\$2000; Australian Indigenous Ministries, Lawson, NSW, for 'Aim Bible College Computer Project', they received US\$3000; North-West Chaplaincy Committee, Burnie, Tas., for 'North-West Hospitals Chaplaincy', who received US\$2000; Mrs. J. Buckley, Heatley, Townsville, Qld. For 'Leadership Development for GFS Leaders' US\$3000.

Extracts of a message from Mrs. Nancy Lin, Chairperson ICFLC written for 'FLC Moves and Touches', 2000

"With much anticipation and excitement we have finally stepped into the year 2000. Now, at the beginning of the new millennium, we need to ask ourselves, do we have real peace in our lives? We just need to turn on the television or to pick up a newspaper and we have our answer. As an individual participant of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, we may feel powerless. We may even wonder, 'Did my prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation make any difference in this world of commotion?' Individually, we are crying because we are being victimized by violence, economic inequality, social injustice, deep rooted traditions, and so on. Individually we can do only so little, but, when we are in solidarity and work more closely together, we will cry no more, I am often amazed by how strong and powerful, coupled with our prayers the least coins we offer can be. A Christian woman in a remote area may spend her entire life in the same village or community and never get a chance to see another place. But the least coin she offers after prayer is able to travel half way round the world to help someone in need, the this someone might even be regarded as

an enemy by her people. Through the movement of the FLC, we are able to connect prayer and action together. Through the family of the FLC, we are able to extend our strength to far-off lands. This is our way to implement our prayers for peace into reality. May we put our hope and strength into carrying on the work of the FLC in the name of our Living Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you."

MARGARET GREENSLADE
Convenor

'PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEART'

At least nine and possibly a dozen Presidents, Archbishops and other church leaders will take part in the journey, which begins after a weekend of events in Canberra, on Sunday 4th June 2000. They will arrive in Yulara, near Uluru on Saturday, 10th June.

All the Heads of Churches at present are male, so the organising committee is aiming for two-thirds of the young people to be female. So far there have been only 4 young adults appointed and of that number, 3 of them are young women.

There will also be 2 indigenous people on the journey and they are hoping one will be a woman. Because the Heads of Churches come from many States of Australia, they will be nominating young people from many States, also.

As well as the official representatives, there will be a number of support people on the journey.

It is possible that the person who will lead the music for the trip will also be a woman. Mrs Jill Tabbart, former President of the Uniting Church has been chosen as the Medical Officer. Jill is a

practising doctor of medicine. Her contribution to the Pilgrimage will be enormous.

(Thank you Edith Ridge)

A P.S. To The Above Article.

The first youth delegate to be chosen is Hanna Schulz, representing the Lutheran Church of Australia.

She is currently a student at the University of Adelaide where she is actively involved in the Lutheran Student Fellowship and the Evangelical Union.

Extract from 'In Unity' March/April 2000

FAREWELL LUNCH FOR LT. COL. LYNETTE GREEN

A Luncheon to honour our Lynette was held on Friday Dec 3rd at Collins Street Baptist Church Hall. Over a very pleasant lunch, Lynette circulated among her friends of the Victorian Unit, Australian Church Women. These friends comprised a national life member, past national executive members, executive, council and members of local groups. Many apologies and good wishes were received.

Lynette has served on ACW for over 21 years, and had been actively involved on five State Units in many capacities. Her leadership, organisational ability, music and sense of humour and fun will be sorely missed. It is expected her new appointment may be for 18-24 months after that it is up to the Lord!

Mrs Rathi Selveratnam spoke of meeting Lynette on ACW Tasmanian Unit, and encouraging Lyn's involvement with Asian Church Women's Conference. Lynette has attended ACWC since

1981 and served as ACW delegate, Australian Representative and, until recently, a member of its general committee.

In her own typical fashion, Lyn demonstrated the new language she has to master. Of course she had us practising too!

President Shirley Wallis, presented a Certificate of Recognition for Lynette's great contribution at both state and national levels. A book called 'Forever Friends' was also presented, and good wishes inscribed by those present at November Council and the Luncheon. A wonderful finale for a wonderful woman! Congratulations and God be with you, Lieut. Col. Lynette Green.

(From Victorian Unit of ACW)

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY SEARCH

Australian women have always worked and raised children, managed farms and businesses, participated in war, created and invented, cared for the ill, disabled and elderly, represented and discovered. They have lived full and satisfying lives. There are many untold stories, whether intriguing, inspiring, extraordinary or simply showing how life was in the past. Does your family keep such a story, or even a secret that can now be told?

If so you are invited to contribute your story, secret or memoirs of a female ancestor to a book about celebrating Australian women throughout history. Send your information to:-

Office of the Status of Women (History Project),
Dept. of the Prime Minister and Cabinet,
3-5 National Circuit
BARTON
ACT 2600

Closing Date is 30th June 2000

UNIT NEWS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

President Evonne Sullivan and Unit Members extend greetings and good wishes to the National Executive and to ACW members throughout Australia. May the year ahead be a happy and healthy one for all.

The thirty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the ACT Unit is scheduled for Friday 25th February when Annual Reports will be presented and Office Bearers for the year 2000 elected. An invitation has been extended to ACW National President Mrs Marjorie Dredge to be present on this important occasion. Any ACW member visiting Canberra at this time is also most welcome to attend; the venue is the Canberra Baptist Church Centre, Currie Crescent, Kingston at 10 a.m.

Traditionally the ACT Unit of ACW is responsible for the organisation of annual World Day of Prayer services throughout Canberra, therefore plans are well in hand for the two services to be held on Friday 3rd March. At 11 am there will be a daytime service at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Wanniasa, and at 7 pm another service will take place at Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett. This year's order of service was prepared by the Christian women of Indonesia who challenge us and all people of the world - *young and old, women and men* - to carry our faith, which has lasted for 2000 years, into the new millennium.

(Editor's note - The previous mentioned services will, of course, have taken place by now. Sorry they were not in previous News.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

New President: Mrs Eva Cooper, representing the Catholic Community, was installed by Catholic Archbishop Leonard Faulkner as President of the South Australian Unit at the Annual General Meeting and Dedication of Officers in November 1999. Eva has had experience in leadership with Catholic Women's League, and a number of her supporters and friends were present at the Meeting. We look forward to two years of growth and togetherness under her leadership.

Community Concern Morning Teas: Uniquely a South Australian project, these take place over the winter period, and are intended as a combined outreach to a lesser known and supported organisation, not Church of Government supported. They provide an amount of approximately \$2000 for a special project, in turn allowing exposure to more groups, as speakers from the organisation are often invited to speak at Fellowship meetings. The recipient for 2000 is Operation Flinders, consisting of retired Policemen and Army personnel, who take young, troubled teenage offenders needing self-esteem and team spirit for some days into the country on a planned trek, to help them to be motivated. Recipient for 1999, Cystic Fibrosis Association of S.A. was presented with a cheque for \$2,700 at the A.G.M.

February Unit Meeting: Mrs. Claire Lunnay, qualified Clinical Psychologist and manager of SA Baptist Community Services Counselling Centres, was speaker at our first Unit meeting for this year. She encouraged her listeners by assuring us that not one of us is perfect, but God is more interested in our commitment and attitude than our 'doing'. She quoted the late Mother Theresa, who said "God does not call us to be successful, but to be faithful." By quoting St. Paul in Galatians 6:9 - "do not become weary in well-doing", Claire reminded us that we need a balance in our lives to be effective in our life and ministry, or we can suffer