

* * INFORMATION PAGE * *

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CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the **EDITOR**: Mrs Beryl McLaughlin
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Father, I place into your hands
the things I cannot do.

Father, I place into your hands
the things that I've been through.

Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
my friends and family.

Father, I place into your hands
the things that trouble me.

Father, I place into your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW UNIT

A C W seeks:

- ... to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ... to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

PRESIDENT: Rev Elizabeth Walker Tel: 9415.2603

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

My Dear Friends,

A friend of mine has four little children who are all suffering with typical winter coughs and colds. My friend shrugs her shoulders and says "We'll just have to sit it out until the end of July!" She seems resigned to the discomforts of our worst winter month, but she also knows from experience that this will soon pass. She looks forward hopefully to warmer weather and dryer noses! Things will get better!

As I write it is one of those darkest July days, with torrential rain - the sort of weather which can be depressing. But I have also been preparing for Fellowship Day, and I am delighted with its theme: "A People Reflecting God's Glory." This theme lifts my spirits above the gloomy July weather - it points me to the glory of God's creation, the glory of God's love for us shown in Jesus Christ, and the glorious hope we have for the future through the gift of God's Holy Spirit.

I hope you all enjoy this Fellowship Day theme. We all experience 'gloomy' patches in our lives. May the memory of

God's glory reflect light into our darkness, and give us hope for the future.

Over recent months I have greatly appreciated and enjoyed the hospitality extended to me by our member denominations and special interest groups, when I have visited them for annual conferences and special functions. I am impressed and inspired by the work of our churches and groups and I offer to you all my congratulations and best wishes.

We were richly blessed by our visit from the National President, Mrs Aileen Mortensen at our Dedication Service in May. I ask for your prayers for Aileen and the National Committee as they prepare for our National Conference in September.

In Psalm 145 we read "Your faithful people bless you .. they speak of your glory .. tell of your power .. make known your deeds .. and the glorious splendour of your reign .." May grace and peace be with you .. 'people reflecting God's glory.'

Elizabeth Walker.

VALE YVONNE DAVIS (1921-1999)

A TRIBUTE by PRESIDENT ELIZABETH WALKER.

In 1980 the Presbyterian Church chose Yvonne Davis as ACW President-Elect and she was installed as President in 1982, serving her two year term with great distinction. I myself joined the NSW Unit in 1982 representing the Uniting Church and in 1983 became the treasurer. At Council meetings I sat at Yvonne's side and from these close contacts I observed and appreciated her strong leadership. We all enjoyed the great sense of humour, the firm hand and the generous spirit with which she guided us.

During her Presidency Yvonne hosted our Winifred Kiek Scholar Catherine Min from Korea. This cross-cultural encounter had some difficulties, which Yvonne handled with tact and grace. Yvonne was also hostess to the Secretary of the Asian Church Women's Conference, Mrs Eunice Kim, who came to us as a Winifred Kiek Travelling Fellow. Yvonne made valuable contacts with Korean women in Sydney, which strengthened our association with ACWC. Yvonne established the local branch of ACW in Lakemba, and she led the NSW delegation to the ACW National Conference in Melbourne.

Following her term as President, Yvonne assumed the supportive

role of Past President for Edith Ridge, and then succeeded Deaconess Mary Andrews as Convener for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, with the special role of caring for our overseas students. Yvonne was enthusiastic about ACW NSW's Golden Jubilee in 1988, Australia's Bi-Centennial Year. Many will remember her co-ordinating the making of banners which were brought by so many branches to the Service in St Stephen's Church, Macquarie Street.

Yvonne served the National Committee of ACW from 1989-91 as Convener for our Annual Special Days. This involved a great deal of detailed and sometimes arduous work preparing Orders of Service to be used across Australia. She attended at least two more National Conferences, one in Perth and one in Sydney, offering her wisdom and valuable leadership in ACW nationally.

Yvonne represented ACW on other Councils, notably the World Day Of Prayer Committee, where her special contribution was the preparation of the Young People's Supplement. She also represented us on the National Council of Women.

Yvonne was an energetic person with much initiative. She looked for opportunities to serve her Lord and grasped them to the full. When she travelled through NSW fulfilling her role for the Presbyterian Education Committee she also promoted ACW at every opportunity.

I have a precious personal memory of visiting Yvonne in hospital less than two weeks before she died. Her face lit up with joy in remembering her happy times with ACW, and she had no hesitation in sharing her stories and her enthusiasm for

ACW with the other patients around her. I thanked her for being one of the people who taught me how to be President and for doing it with such style and good fun. She agreed about the good fun, but with typical modesty she didn't think she'd had any style!

We remember with affection Yvonne's bright, friendly, outgoing spirit. We are grateful that she offered us her gifts of dedication and diligence in responsibility. We are grateful for her sense of humour, her fine mind, her commitment to ecumenism and her love for our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for the gift of Yvonne's life, and we will treasure those memories as they continue to inspire us.

Elizabeth Walker.

ECUMENICAL LUNCHEON:

A very happy gathering at the Salvation Army Function Centre on 19th July brought together more than 100 folk from various denominations and organisations for a most enjoyable time of fellowship and inspiration and celebration of the International Year of Older Persons.

Two delightful songs presented by Lesley Newton set the tone from the outset of the program, and a note of fun was added by two humorous recitations by Mrs Edna Mayne, who admitted to being 88 years 'young.' Although one poem was entitled "I Forget" there was nothing forgetful about Edna, who faultlessly recited that poem, and the other one about "Buying A Wedding Present" without a stumble.

The speaker for the occasion, also especially invited because she too is an octogenarian, was Mrs Marjorie Deasey, who was a particular delight and inspiration, encouraging us all that we are "never too old to be of use" to the Lord and to those around us, if we are willing to trust Him and be open to his leading. Marjorie told of going in 1940, with her husband Dudley, to the wilds of western Papua, where no white women had been before - of life in the jungle, getting to know the people - walking to many scattered villages - bringing babies into the world - tending the sick - defying the power of evil spirits - flying in small one-engine planes - hunting crocodiles! After a number of years, about to retire, they were instead "recycled" to head up the Bible School in Port Moresby - each time they contemplated returning to Australia the people begged them to stay. Marjorie spoke touchingly of the fact that although she and Dudley were not blessed with children of their own, she has many beloved 'children' and 'grandchildren', friends and loved ones from the years of being among them and serving them. Since returning to Australia, and Dudley's home-call in 1993, Marjorie has continued as God's servant, has learned to drive a car, and has had several short-term periods back in PNG to assist with Bible translation. She truly justified her claim of being 'four times retired' and that one is never too old to be of use.

A very special highlight of the program was the conferring of Life Membership of ACW NSW on Mrs Edith Ridge, with which we were delighted to surprise her. President Elizabeth, a long-time friend of Edith's, spoke graciously of Edith's 20 years of involvement and service through ACW, first for 4 years in Canberra, and then as NSW State President, State Secretary, Special Days Convener and Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener,

and also as National Archivist. In reply, Edith spoke of the joy she has found through her ACW involvement, and of her gratitude to her husband, Rev Barry Ridge, who was present, for his support and encouragement. An extra pleasure was to have with us Past National President Mrs Evonne Sullivan, now A.C.T. President, who has been Edith's friend since they both served in Canberra some 20 years ago.

In concluding the morning, and we shared in the delicious lunch President Elizabeth spoke briefly of the "Oz-Indo" Project (of which an update is given on Page 11 of this Newsette) and gave an invitation to contribute in support of this if anyone wished. In response to this, \$105 was received for passing on and we do thank those who responded in this way.

Reported by B McLaughlin, Newsette Editor

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Our 1999 Scholar, MAI ZIN ZIN WAH from Myanmar (Burma) was to commence her course at Trinity Theological College, Singapore on July 1st but we have not yet heard from her, so hope to receive word soon that she duly arrived.

From 1997 Scholar, RACHEL McMANUS, whom the Scholarship enabled to do training to work with aboriginal girls, now at Port Macquarie, doing a Diploma in Welfare at TAFE, and working part-time for a Christian printer, we have the exciting news that she has announced her engagement, to Adam Paul McArthur, whom she describes as a 'wonderful godly man' and they plan to be married on 2nd October. They will live in Port Macquarie and wait on the Lord to show them where He wants them to be. Mina Whybourne, (past WKS Convener) phoned Rachel to extend our love and congratulations, and reports that Rachel was obviously very happy - she said that Adam is the son of missionaries who had served in Papua New Guinea.

Edith Ridge, WKS Convener.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

This year's ACWC Service will take the form of a

"P L E A S A N T S U N D A Y A F T E R N O O N"

At CAMPSIE SALVATION ARMY CITADEL

On Sunday, 31st October 1999 - 3 pm - 5.15

Salvation Army Band; Korean WCTU Choir;
Filipino Choir; Afternoon Tea & Fellowship.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. To increase the participation of African women in WDPIC Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.
2. In Christ, partners in reconciliation, Cape Town, South Africa.

AFRICA

1. "NGADHO" (HOPE): helping the displaced women to improve their living conditions as well as income generating, Khartoum-SUDAN.
2. BUDUDA produce and milling co-operative Society project, Mbale, Uganda.
3. CHUMANI Garden project: restores dignity to humanity, Grahamstown, South Africa.
4. Promotion for social-economic activities for women in rural area, Burkina Faso, West Africa.
5. Primary health services, Homa Bay, Kenya.
6. Projects for community development that are oriented towards national reconciliation, Bujumbura, Burundi.
7. Seminar of women from the Protestant Council of Rwanda member-churches on economic literacy training, Kigali, Rwanda.
8. KAMBUI Home for physically handicapped and Shalom house Girls training Center, Nairobi, Kenya.
9. TING' WANGI Women Group: farming, tailoring, carpentry, credit scheme and clean water project, Siaya, Kenya.
10. Mills implementation to answer the urgent needs of Kilibula and Kalimabenge, Bujumbura, Burundi.
11. Skills Development project, Freetown, Sierra Leone.
12. Improvement of the social and economic status of women in Mabaro Farmers Association, Makeni, Sierra Leone.

ASIA

1. Young women doing theology, sub-regional workshop of the World Students Christian Federation Asia/Pacific region, Seoul, Korea.
2. Feminist Theological action for women's empowerment, Tamil Nadu, India.
3. Literacy programme in five places in Kandal and Kampong Cham provinces, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
4. A self-employment tailoring training centre, Tamil Nadu, India.
5. Meditation resource book for Asian women by ACWC, WSCF-AP, AWRC, CCA-WC.

6. Asian Church Women seminar on cooperative, leadership and management by ACWC.
7. Skills training for women for income generation at the Baptist women leadership development center, Yangon, Myanmar.
8. Girls Friendly Society (GFS) - an Anglican Ministry-leader Training, Brisbane, Australia.
9. SUNSHINE HOME: Half-way Home for young girls who need emergency care and counselling, Mya Yadana Myo Thit, Myanmar.
10. Tamilnad Christian Council Vocational training programme, Tamil Nadu, India.
11. Special Supporting Committee for the victims of the earthquake, Osaka, Japan.
12. Activation of self-help group: empower poor rural women socially and economically, Tamil Nadu, India.
13. Education program for woman volunteers corresponding to "unemployment", Seoul, Korea.
14. Adoption project to help the poor, Sarawak, East Malaysia.
15. Emerging opportunity for empowering women, Virudhunagar, South India.
16. Myanmar Institute of Theology Women students' enhancement project, Insein, Myanmar.
17. BILEG women-in-development action, Laoag City, Philippines.

CANADA (WICC)

1. A Jubilee for Women: part of the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative, Toronto, Canada.

CARIBBEAN

1. Shelter Home for Women in Restoration of Isabela, Puerto Rico.
2. Hospital project of the Friends of the Children of Lascahobes, Haiti.

EUROPE

1. Ecumenical training for women of the EFRCW, Jud. Mures, Romania.
2. The camp for Tschernobyl Children from radioactive area, Bialystok, Poland.
3. Upstreams-Women, Cultures, Religion and the Power of Life, Driebergen, Netherlands.
4. The Women Centre of Riese, Riese, Lithuania.
5. EFECW's Adelheid Project Phase I, Prague, Czech Republic.

LATIN AMERICA

1. Urgent reconstruction of the San Jorge Community Dispensary, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2. Ecumenical Group for Discussing Gender and Theology, La Paz, Bolivia.
3. Center of Unity and Hope for women, La Paz, Bolivia.
4. Meeting Happiness: publications for families, San Jose, Costa Rica.
5. Chilean Christian women's theology and spirituality, Concepcion, Chile.
6. Mistreated Women Shelter: Setting up the psychological service for women and children victims of family and sex violence, Lima, Peru.

MIDDLE EAST

1. Towards a better society: promoting Christian-Moslem dialogue, Cairo, Egypt.
2. Small income-generating projects for needy women, Cairo, Egypt.
3. Counselling course for church leaders, Cairo, Egypt.
4. Pastors and wives and the challenges of ministry, FMEEC program in Agami, Egypt.
5. Middle East regional community organizing workshop, Cyprus.
6. Christian Education project in Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq.
7. Campaign against prostitution, Amman, Jordan.

PACIFIC

1. Safe Motherhood and Child Survival, Petals Island, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.
2. Skills training for young women, Apia, Samoa.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED (USA)

1. Woman to Woman: program for women students within the schools of the Richmond theological consortium, Richmond, Virginia.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - WOMEN'S DESK

1. WCC - Women's Programme: the Decade is over ... What next?
2. WCC - Women's Programme: Meeting of Women's desk, regional ecumenical organizations.

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

1. Mrs. Shanti Solomon's Memorial Day Care Center for Senior Citizens, Delhi, India.
2. FLC CIRCLE OF PRAYER: Special "2000" Edition.

RETIREMENT: REWARDS or REGRETS?

In June I attended a symposium organised by the National Council of Women to celebrate the Year Of The Older Person, entitled "Retirement: Rewards Or Regrets?"

The Official Opening Address was given by Hon Fay Lo'Po MP, who mentioned that there were more than 1 million people in NSW over sixty and half of these were women. These folk would spend more years in retirement than ever before. She stressed that "An active life means a full life." She told of new government initiatives for older persons.

During the first session we heard from Professor John McCallum, Dean of the Faculty of Health, University of Western Sydney, who spoke on "The Changing Nature of Retirement." He compared retirement in Australia with the research he had done in Japan and the experiences of older people there. One of these was the "Silver Human Resource Centre" - not paid work, but something new, where people transferred from work to community work, choosing type of work and number of hours worked. There are also community-based co-operatives, run with little or no government subsidies, where work is provided for older people. The emphasis seems to be on job change, not stopping work.

We then heard from Mr Lewis Kaplan, former Chief Executive Officer of COTA (Council Of The Aging), on "Preparation For A Successful Retirement." He pointed out the inter-generational exchange, with grandparents supplying 55% of caring. He felt that young people could benefit from older people by having the history of their experiences pointed out to them. Older people must join together if they wish to change things.

We then heard from a panel of retirees, who spoke of their experiences and activities:

MR JACK ZINN, when he retired in 1989 in South Africa, decided to emigrate to Australia. He then worked for a volunteer organisation for 5 years, moving on to work for COTA, doing research as to why older men are overlooked for positions, and started OMNI (Older Men New Ideas) program.

MR ROBERT CONROW used his many years of flying skills and management skills after retirement from I.C.I. to become the secretary of Sydney Ultra-Light Flying Club - he was able to give his expertise when these light planes were being developed and rules were being drafted.

DR JOHN MOULTON OAM retired as a surgeon in 1993. He was

associated with the Wallabies (Rugby Union Team) from 1982 to 1992, and is now a medical advisor in Sports Medicine. He volunteered to S.O.C.O.G. and has been trained by them to work with athletes when they are being tested for prohibited drugs. He is also working on the archives of Newington College and of the Rugby Union.

In the afternoon session, we heard from Ms CHRISTINE ERSKINE, Acting Manager of NSW Adult & Community Colleges, and MRS CATHY MARSHALL, College Director of St George TAFE. They both pointed out the value of education and the opportunities for older people to participate.

The afternoon panel of retirees introduced the following:

MRS PATRICIA McDONALD, who had many exciting adventures as a retired schoolteacher, serving with Volunteers For Isolated Students' Education (V.I.S.E.), including being sent to many outback areas, including Elcho Island.

MRS MARGARET CANTOR trained as a counsellor with CAPS (Child Abuse Prevention Services) which aims to help people before abuse begins, with a 24-hour crisis line and other services.

MRS OLGA ANDERSON's vision saw the commencement of the Little Bay Coast Centre for Seniors - she noticed some unused buildings there and thought they should be used. Now more than 45 classes are being run for people 55 and over; all tutors are volunteers, also the clerical workers; there is a variety of classes, such as Singing For Pleasure; Line Dancing; Gardening; Painting in Oils & Water Colours. The motto of this group is "Fulfilment Is In Participation" which was the underlying message from the whole symposium.

The afternoon was closed by Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who was the Parliamentary Host for the the symposium.

Heather Reid, Social Issues Convener.

REMINDER - ACWC 'PARTNERS' DONATIONS:

ACW Branches and members are reminded of our commitment to give \$1.00 per year donation in support of Asian Church Women's Conference. Many of us have not remembered to make this subscription this year, so the Treasurer, Marie Majoor, would be very happy to hear from us. These donations help to make up the \$500 which is sent annually as our NSW quota to ACWC.

SPECIAL DAYS REPORT

FELLOWSHIP DAY in July was held at 33 centres, half of these being in Sydney and half in country areas. The Service was prepared by the ACT Unit of ACW on the theme "A People Reflecting God's Glory" - may our unity in prayer, worship and service together indeed be such a reflection. The offertories at Fellowship Day Services go to support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY in October - theme "Faith In Action" - Service to be written by Queensland Unit. Half the offertories from these Services go to our commitment to Asian Church Women's Conference and the other half goes to a Special Project chosen by ACW National Committee - this year's Project is to be The Exodus Foundation at Ashfield, of which an account was given in May Newsette. World Community Day of course is also when our offerings for Fellowship Of The Least Coin are brought in and dedicated.

Irene Carder, Special Days Convener.

JUBILEE 2000 - DEBT RELIEF:

Jubilee 2000 campaign collected over 300,000 signatures in support of cancellation of the unpayable debt for developing countries. The Petition was presented in Canberra on June 1 to seek the Australian Government's support - our government has been opposed to the campaign, despite growing support from other world leaders, such as British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The Petition was then sent to Germany as part of the world's largest-ever petition, of over 22 million signatures. presented to the G7 leaders meeting on June 19. Australia is owed some \$95million from highly-indebted countries. Nations such as Canada have already agreed to cancel outstanding debt and Jubilee 2000 wants Australia to follow.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

After the half-yearly meeting of the Council on Saturday 22nd May 1999 at St Hurmiz's Cathedral, Assyrian Church Of The East, Greenfield Park notice has come of the Taizé Retreat at St John's Centre, Morpeth Road Morpeth from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th November 1999 - Enquiries 9299.2215. I have been to a Taizé Weekend, and it was very worthwhile.

Marie McCann, ACW Representative to
NSW Ecumenical Council.

OZ-INDO PROJECT NEWS:

A number of ACW members have given support to this project and we have had a most interesting up-date of the progress of the Round Australia Bike Ride. Earlier reports told of the first leg, from Canberra to Adelaide, and this report covers 10th May to 29th June, across the southern coast of South Australia, successfully traversing the Nullarbor into Western Australia. Strong cross winds and passing road trains (trucks towing several containers) made for perilous riding and driving conditions - then to Albany, Margaret River, up the WA Coast to Fremantle and Perth.

Team morale has been considerably enhanced by the tremendous response to the Project in and around Perth. In the week beginning 14th June, \$6000 in donations were raised. When the Ride began, two riders started out, but early in June one of the girls, Mia Hoogenboom with deep regret withdrew from the project, feeling physically, mentally and emotionally unable to complete the cycle journey, although not losing her interest and support for the project. Fiona Collins, the other 'cyclist' (whom ACW sponsored several years ago for the National Council of Women's Student Award), and her road support team remain as committed as ever to completing the trip around Australia, to raising community awareness about the grim socio-economic problems facing millions of Indonesians today, and to providing crisis relief in the form of food subsidisation programs in Indonesia.

Arriving in Fremantle, the team was met by the Mayor and other dignitaries, including Professor David Hill from Murdoch University, also media people. On to Perth to a warm reception at the Indonesian Consulate; the Indonesian Consul, the Vice-Consul and two other consular staff then got on bikes and accompanied Fiona to Perth Town Hall, where the team was welcomed by the Mayor of Perth, also Bill Marmion from the Office of the Premier & The Treasury, who gave a donation of \$2000 on behalf of the W.A. Government. Space does not permit more details but the Editor would be happy to give a copy of the very full report to anyone interested.

The first food subsidisation program in the village of Planjan (Java) saw 1600 families purchasing subsidised packages of rice, oil and sugar - so supporters may be confident that folk in desperate need are already benefiting from the project. As this Newsette goes to press, Fiona has just about passed half-way on her 9-month journey, on the leg from Broome to Darwin.