



Australian Church Women

"women at work"

No. 8

SEPTEMBER, 1972.

From Ruth Lane -

SEPTEMBER BRINGS THE EAGERLY ANTICIPATED VISIT OF SHANTI SOLOMON! "Personal Glimpses" have shown us just a little of this fascinating Christian personality whose keen sense of human value and dignity is revealed in her wise observation, "Even the poorest village woman can afford to give her least coin to some one worse off than she is. She needs to do it for HER OWN SAKE. To stand up proudly."

Under the title of "The Drama of THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN - THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER", the story-report is unfolded of the coming together of these two world-wide prayer movements in an international encounter in Latin America in September of last year. Australia's Liaison Officer for the World Day of Prayer, DOREEN STRACK, acted promptly to get this comprehensive cover of a tremendous experience out into the hands of those who would appreciate its special relevance to the visit of Shanti Solomon to Australia. The opening paragraphs were written by Shanti herself. This first-time coming together of these two world prayer movements was undertaken in a most original way. Twelve women from eleven countries were sent, in teams of two or three, to interpret the two movements to nineteen countries and islands of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The drama that unfolds as their stories are told cannot be imagined - perhaps Shanti will share with us some of her experiences! With ESTHER COKER (Sierra Leone) and AKHTAR AZADEGAN (Iran) - both involved with World Day of Prayer - Shanti visited Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Guyana and Trinidad.

NO ONE, for whom meeting Shanti will be a possibility MUST MISS THEIR ONCE-IN-A-LIFE-TIME OPPORTUNITY THIS MONTH!!!

WHO'S WHO! CONGRATULATIONS to our W.A.S. Committee Convenor, JOYCE POPE, who is now PRESIDENT-ELECT of the Congregational Women's Fellowship of Australia.

AND TALKING ABOUT WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS - the Working Committee heard some glowing reports of our 1972 Scholar's visit to North Queensland during the August vacation. Terani handled TV and radio interviews with the grace and poise of a veteran and won friends and good publicity for the Scholarship itself wherever she went. It was wonderful, too, to hear first-hand reports of the amazing progress last year's scholar, Violet Sampa, has made with her studies. A Working Committee member hearing her deliver an address very recently was quite astounded that Violet had accomplished so much in this second year in Australia. Truly the scholarship opened up the way for Violet. The June issue of "Reformed World" made reference to the fact that Violet who is studying in Australia, is the first Zambian girl to offer herself as a minister in the United Church of Zambia.

HOW WAS YOUR FELLOWSHIP DAY? Reports coming in to the Working Committee have been most encouraging.

Just a few "snippets" -

From NIGHTCLIFF (N.T.) "well attended by women of various denominations - generous offering received".

From DARWIN (N.T.) "74 ladies from four denominational groups met in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral - address was given by the wife of the minister of the United Church".

From PERTH (W.A.) "110 ladies, representing all denominations affiliated with the W.A. Unit of Australian Church Women attended the service. Guest Speaker, Mr. George Smith, Director of the Churches of Christ Christian Welfare Centre, Perth, based his address on the theme,

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"Rejoice in Hope". (Mr. Smith was a 1971 Churchill Fellowship winner and studied Drug Rehabilitation in London and New York). Approximately 90 stayed for lunch and helpful discussion was led by the Rev. Dorothy Wacker."

From CANBERRA (A.C.T.) "Fellowship Day Service and Luncheon huge success: over 100 ladies present 80 of whom stayed to lunch. The speaker was of special interest herself, being Miss Pauline Campbell, Methodist missionary from Fiji. (She taught the 1972 Winifred Kiek Scholar, Terani Aisake, who will take up the work of Deaconess Training which was Miss Campbell's area of service in Fiji).

HIGHLIGHTS YET TO COME! OCTOBER BRINGS WORLD COMMUNITY DAY WITH ITS THEME ON THE VERY TOPICAL ISSUE OF "THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT". The excellently prepared Order of Service is most thought-provoking and could well be used to advantage by a variety of age groups - and not only of women!

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY, in turn, brings opportunity for the presentation of our LEAST COINS! If you have been a member of the Fellowship either as part of your local group or individually you will have your opportunity to present your year's accumulation of 'least coins' so that they eventually find their way to the funds of F.L.C. International to be directed out again in blessing as they fill some particular need somewhere around the world.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY is also SPECIAL PROJECT OFFERING DAY - 1972 offering will provide much-needed financial assistance for two Christian women students at the Christian University of SATYA WATJANA in INDONESIA, Dewi and Endang Lies Harijanti, who have written to express their appreciation in advance of what Australian Church Women will be doing for them through the World Community Day Offering.

Dewi wrote "Dear Friends in Australia, I graduated from High School and am now a student of the Biology Faculty in Satya Watjana. As I myself am a Christian, I chose Satya Watjana because it is a Christian University and I believe that God has brought me here as I asked His guidance and help. I chose Biology because I am interested in plant life and would like to be a research laboratory worker in this field. I have been very happy studying here and there are students here from all parts of Indonesia. The Dean of the Biology Faculty is also the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Since both my parents are working hard to keep all my brothers and sisters (eight of us) at school, I wanted to leave and find a job, but I was encouraged to apply for a scholarship and have been told that the Christian ladies in Australia are thinking to help us. My heart is full of hope and faith that God will help you all to help us. This letter is to thank you for your love and care for the students of Satya Watjana. - Dewi."

Endang's letter reads: "Dear Friends of the Australian Church Women, Although my wording and speech is not complete enough, yet I am making every effort to write a letter to the Australian Church Women who are wanting to help us as neighbouring Christian students. I come from Malang, a small town in East Java. I came to Satya Watjana University in 1971, and entered the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, known here as "FIPIA". I am now in my second year. I joined FIPIA because I am happy with Mathematics and I want to develop my knowledge to help the Indonesian society in some way. I am very happy studying at Satya Watjana, especially in the physics laboratory and the new library, and also because Satya Watjana is a Christian University where I have found Christian friendship. Here also we are taught about Christian understanding and about the Christian way of life. I am already a Christian and a member of the Javanese (Dutch Reformed) Church. After one year I applied for a scholarship to Satya Watjana, because I need to lighten the responsibility for my parents who are struggling hard to keep me here. If there are lacks in my letter I request forgiveness. Thank you. - Endang Lies Harijanti."

A generous offering on World Community Day will ensure that these two promising Christian girls will have opportunity to complete their courses successfully and take their place as trained Christian women in Indonesian society.

WOMEN OF BANGLADESH - A.C.W.'s Treasurer is receiving donations in response to the appeal sent out by Miss Brigalia Bam. When a worthwhile amount has been received, it will be remitted to Geneva to be disbursed through Miss Bam's department. This, it was pointed out, will be a

long-term problem and projects which will be commenced specifically to help women; will need to be maintained over a long period.

Before taking up the story of Deaconess Mary Andrews' trip to New York, let me quote this very appealing verse from "In Quest of the Least Coin" -

"With careless hand I gave the coin,
It seemed as nought to me.
The least of all my goodly share
As gift? A mockery!

My sister in her distant land
Gave one least coin, like me;
But went without her evening bread
To share her poverty.

Within the cup which feeds Thy lambs,
Our coins became, through Thee,
The golden coin of Fellowship -
Thy love - the alchemy."

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LAST MONTH we left Deaconess Mary winging her way to Chicago. Now

"At O'hare Airport I was met by Mrs. Golda Basta, the Vice President of Church Women United for Illinois. I was spell-bound as I entered her beautiful oriental home, with its delightful Japanese garden, and inside the most beautiful oriental things imaginable. Golda showed me around Chicago, and on the Saturday a United Nations Association Day was held in her garden. Some Chinese children danced, and a fashion parade took place directed by the fashion designer for the Johnson White House Wedding. A young man, who had just returned from Canton, in China, showed some interesting slides of Canton. From that fascinating home I was driven to the Central Deaconess House in Evanston, where I stayed the week-end.

What a contrast it is with our large Deaconess House. It was more like a large family home. I enjoyed discussing with the Director and others women's ministry in the future.

In Washington, I was met by an old friend who used to be on the Staff of Church Women United in New York. She is now Director of the Y.W.C.A. Hannah Harrison School, where women and girls are given scholarships to train as practical nurses, or to be Institution Managers, of Domestic affairs in homes, hospitals, etc. We need a training place like that in Australia, but I doubt if we would be able to find a millionaire to build and finance such an adventure.

I was taken to dinner at the J.K. Kennedy Centre, then from a box seat in the Opera House, I saw the performance of the famous Burnstein's Mass, an unforgettable experience.

Miss Turnbull and two friends showed me Washington by night, which was quite an experience.

In New York I was met at the Airport by one of the Secretaries from Church Women United, who took me to Barnard College to "book in", then, to the Interchurch Centre, where the National Work Committee was meeting under the Chairmanship of Dr. Margaret Shannon. I was welcomed and asked questions about my visit to the States. Afterwards Mrs. Gladys Naylor took me to dinner at the Centre, then talked to me about Australian Church Women. The Committee Members were delighted to hear we in Australia wanted to use their Fellowship Day and World Community Day Themes and adapt the material. They feel THIS IS BUILDING BRIDGES OF LOVE AND CONCERN BETWEEN US.

Mrs. Gladys Naylor was delighted with the parcel I gave her with notepaper, a pen and A.C.W. Diary. She is keeping them in the office to show people when they come in to see her. She was impressed by the idea and thought they could be shared.

The Diakonia Meetings were held at Riverside Church, and proved to be very stimulating, especially the groups in which we got to know people at a greater depth. Our hearts bubbled over with joy as we shared in a time of extemporary prayer and singing at the conclusion of our group discussion and we realised the wonder of our unity in Christ.

"In the face of the world's problems we may feel overwhelmed. What can we do? We are only a drop in a bucket! Then be a SIGNIFICANT 'drop!'" urged Dr. Bill Webber, the Bible study leader."

More next issue!