



## Australian Church Women

### "Women at work"

No. 5

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Miss Jean Skuse, Executive Secretary of the N.S.W. State Council of the Australian Council of Churches finds herself fully occupied. In her vacation she attended the World Methodist Executive in Bristol, England, as the guest of the World Federation of Methodist Women, of which she is Secretary. This enabled her to take the opportunity to attend the W.C.C.'s Commission on International Affairs in Utrecht and the W.C.C.'s Church & Society Consultation on Violence and Non-Violence in Cardiff.

In February of this year, Miss Skuse also attended a one-day Conference on Future of A.C.C. & Roman Catholic Relationships in Australia. There have been many opportunities for her to travel round the State in the past year, mostly by invitation. She accepted more than sixty speaking engagements in suburban and country areas. She represents the Council on N.S.W. Freedom from Hunger & Austcare Committees. She participates in the Women's World Day of Prayer, World Fellowship Day and World Community Day.

Miss Joan Potter, Matron of the 230 bed Wagga Base Hospital in southern N.S.W. will shortly take over the running of the World Vision New Life Babies Home in Saigon.

Miss Potter first saw the work being done there when she made a tour of Asia looking at missionary activities.

At Wagga, a city of 30,000 people she found herself in a very important position, with a staff of 200 to cope with and many seriously ill patients, for they received urgent cases from many other hospitals.

Much prayer went into Miss Potter's decision to apply for the post in Vietnam but says now that she has no regrets - just peace of mind. Every year Jean Potter has tried to take some special course or engage in a rewarding activity. One year it was studying German. Last year she learnt to fly and is now the proud holder of a restricted licence.

Miss Potter has a wide and varied career in nursing. She did her original training at St. George Hospital Kogarah and went on to do midwifery. In 1963 she became Acting Deputy Matron and Principal at Orange and two years later Deputy Matron. From Orange she went to Parkes as Matron and Superintendent and in 1972 took her present position as Superintendent of Nursing at Wagga Base Hospital.

By this time Miss Potter will have taken up her new position in Saigon.

In a letter from Mrs. Lt. Col. Stranks who in her retirement lives in Western Australia, she tell of her recent visit to Bangladesh, where she went in answer to an urgent call from her daughter to help out in the school holidays. Mrs. Strank's daughter Joyce and her husband Marcy are giving 1 or 2 years in the Government Hospital helping out the Lutheran World Relief. Marcy is a doctor and Joyce helps him as a nurse and their day starts at the Hospital at 5.30 a.m. There are 25,000 people who are wanting treatment for amputated limbs even though the war has been over for many months. No one is allowed shopping alone - the crowds are awful - spitting on Americans & Australians and thieving is rife. The gangs carry large bamboo sticks and at the least provocation use them. One man was beaten to death for just a few cents.

Salvation Army Officers from U.S.A. Major and Mrs. Collins are running a clinic for handicapped children trying to induce them to use their legs and arms. Mrs. Collins runs this clinic among hundreds of people who now have nothing to live in except shacks made of matting or tin or other junk found around. Major Collins supervises relief work all over Bangladesh and in the last ten months has supervised the building of 2386 houses and given food and clothing to thousands and also runs vocational classes for some of the amputees who cannot work in the fields any more.

Millions of dollars have come from America and Australia, yet the people are unkind - on the front concrete fence of the Collin's home was daubed in red paint "Down with Americans and all their running dogs" - and yet Mrs. Stranks tell how sweetly they go on doing their work day and night to help these same people. Marcy and Joyce have taught their children a new grace for before meals.

We give Thee thanks for gifts and care,  
Help us in turn to serve and share.

Thank you letters were received from two students who received help from the World Community Day Project without which they would not have been able to continue their studies.

From Endang Lies Henansim Thank you so much for the aid to me in the shape of scholarship and in 1973 my scholarship to become full scholarship. This here I report that in 1973 my study is succeed so that I can advance to stage 111. May it be in 1973 like that too, so that I can to finish. In June we begin semester exams and before the exams we had little tests. Yet God always lead me, so that my work harmonising with God's wish.

Thank you again to my friends, of the Australain Church Women which had help me. And I am very sorry friends, because my English is some times wrong in this letter

From Dewi I herewith would like to express my thanks for your help. I'm very happy that I got what I wished for. When your letter arrived, the Dean of Biology told me that I got an answer from you. I felt very glad. Arriving home I didn't forget to thank God (for that I got) My father and mother was also glad that I got what I wanted. Once again I would like to say thank you.

The annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of South Australia elected Mrs. Elizabeth Finnegan as its President-elect. Mrs. Finnegan who will take office for one year from June 1974, is currently President of the Congregational Women's Fellowship of South Australia and President Elect of the W.I.C.C. of S.A. A physiotherapist by profession, Mrs. Finnegan works several mornings each week at Aldersgate Village, a Home for the Aged.