



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN **ACW NEWS**

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

**PO Box 527 Prospect East S.A. 5082**

(All Newsletter correspondence to this address please)

**August-September 2001**

### ***FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT***

***"Jesus our Living Hope"*** - It is time for me to say "Good Bye"! The time has come for S.A. to hand over to W.A., to carry the torch for the next two years. It has been a privilege to serve you as your President during the last two years. We have had a great team and many people have worked hard to bring this Conference to fruition, and we pray that our time together will be inspiring and uplifting, as well as informative.

It seems to me, just at this time, that our theme has been particularly relevant. We have witnessed in recent days the end of innocence! The dreadful acts of terrorism in America have brought home to us only too clearly how vulnerable we are. The world is a small place and what affects our neighbours affects us.

It is beyond our comprehension that so many innocent people could be lost in one single incident. When we consider the impact on relatives, friends, and neighbours of those dead, the repercussions become enormous. Lives that have been changed forever because of one act of violence. The thought of what the retaliation might be, also leaves us with fear.

We must cling to the knowledge that, as Betsy ten Boom said, when incarcerated in that horrific concentration camp, "There is no pit so deep that God is not deeper yet!"

Therein lies our hope! In all circumstances of life, when we cannot understand man's inhumanity to man, we cling to the fact that God IS; and that God's love is realised in the acts of compassion that, mingled with tears, seek to help and to heal.

May God's love be very real to you as you continue to serve God through Australian Church Women, remembering always that Jesus IS your Living Hope!

With love  
Marj Dredge (President)

#### **ACWC NEWS**

##### **TALITHA KUMI WELFARE CENTRE – PROJECT FOR WORLD COMMUNITY DAY.**

The Women of the Diocese of Raiwind envisaged a Centre for minority women who experience various forms of violence. These women are so vulnerable that they hardly know how to protect their dignity, and are often abused and raped by their own family members. They can be subjected to various forms of violence, such as abduction, sexual abuse, bonded slavery, domestic violence and police torture. Services to empower women and enable them to live with dignity and respect include Health, Economic Empowerment, Education facilities and Legal Aid.

The Talitha Kumi Welfare Centre was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2000, at Modern Colony, Nasrat Road, Kot Lakhpat, Lahore. The

Mission Statement is "Women, Rise in Faith, Live with Dignity and lead into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with Courage and Hope."

Pakistan is Australia's Prayer Partner until 2002, and Ms Shunila Ruth, Pakistan's national representative to ACWC, has expressed appreciation, in a recent email, of the 'bond of sisterhood with the Australian Church Women'.

Our prayerful offerings will be most meaningful in October.

Barbara Lacy  
**ACW NATIONAL REP. TO ACWC.**

#### **WKS NEWS**

I have recently received excellent academic reports for both Mai Zin Zin Wah and Celestial Lusi. Mai has since returned home, and I was surprised and delighted to receive an invitation to the marriage of Stella Mai Zin Zin Wah and Reginald Kyaw Lwin on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Needless to say I was sorry not to be able to be present but sent our congratulations and good wishes to the happy couple! I also received a Year Book for the 51<sup>st</sup> Graduating Class from Trinity Theological College, Singapore, which contains a lovely photo of Mai and the words "First of all, I would like to thank the good Lord for guiding and helping me. And then I would like to thank those who gave me the scholarship to do this course. Finally, I really thank all the lecturers of TFC who were kind and loving to me. May the Lord bless everyone." It would seem that the 1999 Winifred Kiek Scholar had a very successful and happy year, albeit a little late! The Trustees are thankful that our 'Step out in Faith' to help a woman from Myanmar was rewarded. Thanks be to God.

According to her sponsoring body Celestial is thoroughly enjoying her year in Papua New Guinea. She will graduate in early

December and then return home to the Solomon Islands. We pray that her return journey will go according to plan, and that she will find that all is well at home.

The 2002 Scholar is Mrs Lai Mui Ching, also known as April, from Hong Kong. She has been nominated by the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Women's Christian Council and will undertake an MA course on Women's Study in Relation to Women and Religion, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. April is married with one child, Timothy who is 8 years old. She has an affiliation with the Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. The course will commence in September 2002. Further details in the next WKS leaflet.

Please remember our Scholars in your prayers, and I look forward to seeing at least some of you at the Conference.

Dorothy Ferrier  
**WKS CONVENOR**

We thank Leoola Loughnan for sending the following to us: -

#### **PROFILE OF MARGARET NAPIER**

**Born 4<sup>th</sup> November 1937**

**Died 5<sup>th</sup> July 2001**

Australian Church Women has been blessed by having had Margaret Napier as a member for so many years. Margaret represented ACW so well in so many roles – on the State scene she served as President, Vice President and Treasurer – on the National level she was Secretary when Western Australia last held National Office and on the International scene she represented ACW as a delegate on the Asian Women's Christian Conference. As Australia's representative she represented us at two ACWC

Conferences and at ACWC Executive meetings in various Asian countries, where she formed many enduring friendships with the delegates she met on those occasions.

Margaret was a very talented and artistic lady, particularly in cake icing and flower arranging. We remember the lovely fruit cake she made and decorated when Fellowship of the Least Coin celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the beautifully executed FLC badge produced on the top of the cake.

Apart from the ACW involvement, Margaret was a dedicated member of her local Anglican Church in Como where she taught Sunday School, sang in the women's choir and arranged the floral decorations for weddings and other functions. The Mothers' Union was also an important part of Margaret's life. She joined Mothers' Union Australia in 1965 and took leadership roles from 1982-1987 and remained involved until her death.

For six years she also served on the South Perth Council. Margaret was also a great sports woman who loved her tennis and her golf and in those areas she also gave her time generously in helping in the administration of her clubs.

Above all, Margaret was a devoted wife to her husband, Doug, and a loving mother to her children, Robyn, Garry, and Colin and their families, and a wonderful grandmother to seven grandchildren.

Indeed of Margaret it can be said – "Well done good and faithful servant."

Following on from this article we have received the following from Margaret's husband, Doug.

Since Margaret's passing in early July I have received a number of cards and messages from branches of ACW and also individual members of your organization.

Unfortunately it is not possible to reply individually to all of them as in many cases I did not have return addresses. At your annual conference and possibly through any national publication that you may have, could you please convey to your members and the branches my sincere thanks for the best wishes they have extended to my family and me at this difficult time.

I know Margaret very much enjoyed her time with ACW and appreciated the many friends that she made during her period to time with the organisation. As you well know she was also the Australian delegate to the Asian Churchwoman's conference on a number of occasions and it has been particularly pleasing to have received a number of cards and messages from ladies in other Countries that she met at these meetings, and whom she regarded as personal friends.

We do thank Doug for this message. Our ACW National Secretary, Maureen, received a letter with the following in:-

Mrs. Kitty Hamilton, R.I.P.

Kitty, aged 90 of New Zealand, passed away at the end of August. Kitty was an executive member of the ACWC Planning Committee from 1962-1966. Rathie Salvaratnam was advised as they worked together on this committee and were good friends.

#### **From the Editor**

As this is my last Newsletter to you may I thank all those who have made my job easier by sending in information. I pray that God will continue to bless ACW and all its members.