

OUR CHOICE IS LOVE



Australian Church Women Inc.
24th National Conference
St John of God Retreat Centre
Shoalwater
Western Australia
7-11 October 2013

ACW National Conference Perth 2013



St John of God Retreat Centre at Shoalwater, south of Perth, was a delightful setting for the 24th National Conference of Australian Church Women Inc. The theme was *Our Choice is Love*. Delegates from State/Territory Units and Denominational Organisations, along with observers and visitors made up the 60 or so participants. The conference brought to fruition the hard work and endurance of a faithful band of women from the WA Unit, who had faced many setbacks during their two year term of office. We are deeply indebted to them.

There was a great atmosphere, helped by beautiful singing, informative and creative Bible studies, an Ecumenical Service that challenged us all, and devotions to revitalise our spirits. Meal times brought good food and opportunities for fellowship.



Angela McCarthy from Notre Dame University in Fremantle used her knowledge of art and music to tease out Bible texts – the Magnificat and Mary Magdalene at the tomb – and to ask how they affect our discipleship as faith-filled women. One of her great loves is the singing of Psalms, the only way, she feels, to appreciate them fully. By contrasting three styles of presentation for a psalm of lament (Psalm 137– By the rivers of Babylon) Angela showed how music can bring greater depth to our understanding.





At the Ecumenical Service we were privileged to hear a sermon given by Archbishop Roger Herft, Anglican Archbishop of Perth. He illustrated how we can be distracted from our calling to be God's people in the world, but reminded us that at the end we will be judged not by pious words, but by our wounds.

We heard from Donna Bryan on Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC),



Esther Kilaghbian on International Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin,

Sonya Pell on the Young Women's Forum in Bangkok and on young women,

Barbara Grear on Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust,

Marie Majoor, Jan Harrison and Jennifer Pepper on Ecumenism.

An evening session was spent in groups looking at Australian Church Women facing the future, and while not a great deal was accomplished at conference, it stimulated a response that will see a representative from each State Unit join a working group to tackle this issue creatively.



Prayer times were great for focusing our thoughts both morning and evening. A prayer room was available for those seeking quiet times, and prayer walks could be taken in the garden or at the beach using guides specially prepared.

Of special significance was the introduction of NSW National Executive for the next two years, and our thanks go to Lyn Middleton for her organisation of this. The theme chosen is *Building in Harmony* (Romans 14:19).



So then, let us aim for harmony in the church
and try to build each other up. Romans 14:19

Business sessions had their ups and downs, and NSW has the task of 'reviewing' almost everything except the Constitution which was accepted unanimously. Pamela Freeman (NSW) and Fran Moss (Qld) were elected as voting members to ACWC for the next four years, and Helen Raymond (ACT) will succeed Donna Bryan (Vic) as the next Australian delegate.



It was not all work. We found time to look at rather than smell the roses in their splendour,



to walk by the beach and watch the flights of pelicans, walk the labyrinth, and on Thursday even escape to a small shopping centre for a coffee.



No report ever fully tells the tale. However, it is a pleasure to share with you something of the proceedings that constituted this conference which we were lucky enough to attend. My thanks to all who helped make it such a memorable time.

New South Wales State Unit participants

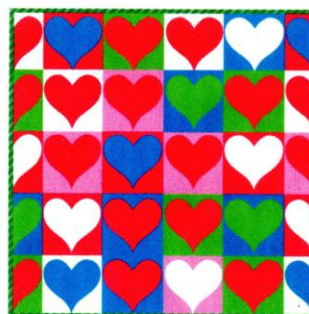


Natalie McLeod, Pamela Freeman, Tricia Graham, Beatrice Kay, Denise Secomb, Lillian Hodges, Isabel Hewitt, Jennifer Pepper, Brenda Dickinson, Lyn Middleton, Lorraine Hughes, Helen Richardson



Australian Church Women Inc

24th National Conference



A PATCHWORK OF LOVE

Opening Devotions
and
Service of Remembrance
and
Thanksgiving
Monday 7 October 2013

Honouring Australian Church Women

Shirley Birch	SA Unit
Barbara Bourhill	WA Unit
Deaconess Heather Badgery	NSW Unit
Jean Crewther	Victorian Unit
Barbara Grealy OAM	SA Unit
Lt. Colonel Lynette Green	Victorian Unit
Beryl Kirkwood	NSW Unit
Eunice Reidy	Victorian Unit

National Life Members

It is with great pleasure that we induct two new National Life Members.

Mrs Helen Lloyd	ACT Unit
Mrs Leeola Loughnan	WA Unit

Profiles to be read by Unit Presidents

National Life Member badges to be presented by National President

This is a great honour and our two new National Life Members are worthy recipients.

Prayer Father God, we thank you for the richness of our lives as we share with each other. We thank you for those who are now with you, for those whose contribution to ACW, Church, and community has been recognised, for all who have helped and inspired us in our walk with you. Bless them and us, and keep us faithful all our lives through. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

R. **Help us Lord, to walk in your way of love.**

L. Holy Spirit, our guide and comforter, help us to open our minds and hearts to do your will, whatever the cost, thus enabling you to make something beautiful of our lives.

R. **Help us Lord, to reflect your love in our lives.**

Hymn Be Thou my vision TIS 574

Bible Reading Psalm 145: 3-11

REMEMBRANCE

We remember today those of our members who have died since the last National Conference. We are thankful for all they contributed to their families, to Australian Church Women and to the wider community. They coloured our lives as they served and honoured God.

A heart will be attached to a patchwork quilt for each of the following members. As each heart is attached let us pause a moment for silent prayer.

ACT	Patricia Dorothy Buckley
	Helen Christensen
	Enid Rocher
	Major Averil Whybird
NSW	Dame Monica Gallagher
Queensland	Lorraine McKenna
South Australia	Shirley Birch
	Barbara Grealy OAM
	Dorothy Heard
	Lois Hooper OAM
	Dorothy Wright Unit / National Life Member

Prayer Fan Our Love

Grant us. Lord, a new vision of your beauty and a fresh outpouring of your grace. Fan the fire of our love for you, till all who meet us may share its light and find peace and warmth now and for all eternity. **Amen.**

Chorus **Something beautiful, something good,**

All my confusion he understood

All I had to offer him was brokenness and strife

But he made something beautiful of my life.

Bible Reading John 2: 1-11

Thought The servants in this story were going about their everyday tasks. They must have been puzzled by what they were asked to do but they did what Jesus asked and the water was turned into wine.

There are times in our lives when it is a joy to follow Jesus and other times when what he asks of us seems hard and perplexing. However, if we choose to keep our eyes on Jesus, trust him, and follow his leading, then he takes our joys and perplexities and creates joy and peace and beauty in our lives.

Responsive Prayer

- L. Father God, there are so many distractions in the world around us, and in our own daily living that make it difficult for us to concentrate on you.
- R. **Help us Lord, to listen to your voice.**
- L. Jesus, compassionate Lord, throughout your life and death and resurrection, you reached out to all in love and demonstrated the real meaning of the "word" among us.

Tasmania Mary Williamson

Victoria Carmel Blanton

Jean Crewther

Rathi Selvaratnam

Western Australia Barbara Bourhill

Lady Wilson (Leila) Unit / National Life Member

THANKSGIVING

Bible Reading Hebrews 12: 1-3

We acknowledge with gratitude Australian Church Women members who have received recognition for their work with Australian Church Women, the Church, and the community.

Honours awarded to Australian Church Women Members

ACT	Helen Raymond	Life member ACW ACT Unit
	Judith-Ann Sjostedt	Life member ACW ACT Unit
	Gwynneth Rowe	Life member Country Women's Association
NSW	Mina Whybourne	Jean Arnot Memorial Award
	Peg Blake	Jean Arnot Memorial Award
South Australia		
	Eva Cooper	Citizen of the Year 2012 West Torrens
	Rev. Nita West	Uniting World appreciation certificate for support of United Church in PNG
Western Australia		
	Major Olive Dell	Life member ACW WA Unit
	Revd Lee Edwards	Life member ACW WA Unit
		Long Service Badge Girl Guides Association
	Marie Majoor	Life member ACW WA Unit

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Joyce Placzek

Dear God,

We loosen our grip.

We open our hand.

We are accepting.

In our empty hand

We feel the shape

Of simple eternity.

It nestles there.

We hold it gently.

We are accepting.

Amen

Leunig



Australian Church Women
NSW State Unit Inc.

Evening Devotions
Monday 7 October 2013
National Conference Perth

OUR CHOICE IS LOVE

Love—the mutual and reciprocated affection
of God and his people

Open-handedness—Charity—love in action,
cherished and practised

Vision—seeing what needs to be done

Engagement—responding to need to the
best of our ability



The great love of God is revealed in the Son,
who came to this earth to redeem every one.

That love, like a stream flowing clear to the sea,
makes clean every heart that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world, every barrier it breaks,
the hills it lays low, and the mountains it shakes.

It's yours, it is ours, O how lavishly given!
the pearl of great price, and the treasure of heaven.

D. T. Niles

A reading based on 1 John 4:7-21

New International Version

God's Love and Ours

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

He has given us of his Spirit. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God but does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Let us pray . . .

Love one another as I have loved you . . . We try, but do not always attain this goal. Loving God, help us always to look for your image in the people we meet, and forgive us when we fail.

Love your enemies . . . Such a huge demand, we can only manage to remember with constant reminders that it is not just friends on the list to be loved. We are commanded to love even those who annoy us, are different from us, whose views differ from ours. God of mercy and grace strengthen our resolve to look past the faults we find in others to show your love.

Greater love has no one than to lay down one's life for another. We are grateful that most of us are not called to prove this. Yet we acknowledge with thanks those who have stood the test, following the supreme example of Christ. God of comfort, we ask that you will be with your people throughout the world who are called to sacrifice all.

If we are to be the people of God in the world we need to change. As the butterfly emerges from its cocoon, and the chick from its shell, may we cast off the many restrictions we have made for ourselves so that we are free to be creative in our Christian calling.

As this day draws to its close may we find refreshing and strengthening sleep so that we can contribute to the opportunities tomorrow will bring. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

"Love Divine" (C Wesley) Hymn Background

Hymn: Love Divine TIS 217

"The Lord is my Shepherd is all I know"

PSALM 23:

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters;
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
For his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me,
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth
over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (KJV)

Blessing:

May the grace of Christ our Saviour
And the Father's boundless love
With the Holy Spirit's favour
Rest upon us from above.

(John Newton)



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC
ACT UNIT

24TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013

PERTH, W.A.



Marion Westmacott

Morning Devotions

Tuesday 8th October

Leader: The night has passed and the day lies open before us. Let us pray with one heart and one mind.

Lord, we know
that one of the best ways we can show
our love for you
is by loving other people.

Sometimes this is easy -- when we are with people we like --
Please help us when loving is hard,
**when people are unkind,
when they don't understand,
when we just don't like them.**

Teach us to love as you loved
when you were walking about in Palestine --

Teach us to love as you love now --
everyone, always. Amen.

"Prayer collection", Mary Batchelor 1992

Scripture: Colossians 3: 12-14

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (NRSV)

Hymn: Gentle As Silence

Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence
of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see, he has given to me,
and his giving is gentle as silence.

Every day, every hour, every moment,
have been blessed by the strength of His love.
At the turn of each tide, He is there at my side,
and his touch is as gentle as silence.

There've been times when I've turned from his presence,
and I've walked other paths, other ways,
but I've called on his name, in the dark of my shame
and his mercy was gentle as silence.

Estelle White

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A Reflection adapted from Psalm 55*

L. I need reassurance that you hear me, God,
All **In dark times when I feel threatened
it's hard to live by faith.**

L. When I see the birds wheeling in the sky
All **I wish for wings to rise above the storms.**

L. I see, too, the violence and oppression that stalk our
land unchecked.
All **It makes me want to hide.**

L. You, ever my friend, who have been my constant
companion, with whom I have always shared my heart,
All **I treasure your faithful love.**

*Patricia Stevenson rsj. 2003, Psalm 55, Songs from a Pierced Heart
©Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13.4-10, 13

Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will cease, as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ... And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love. (NRSV)

SILENT REFLECTION DURING THE OFFERING

HIS LOVE

His love, His love, His love is always there;
I've seen it in a rainbow, His love is everywhere.
His love, His love, It makes my sad heart sing!
His love is all around me, His love's a wondrous thing.

My eyes behold the beauty in everything I see,
And ev'ry day I'm thankful for the love He's given me;
His love, His love is watching over me,
Giving without wanting -- no greater love can be!

By Diane English & Dave Kenner
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**Australian Church Women Inc.
24th National Conference
St John of God Retreat Centre
Shoalwater
Western Australia
7-11 October 2013**

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER

2 PM

OUR CHOICE IS LOVE

GUEST SPEAKER

ARCHBISHOP ROGER HERFT

The Participants and Banners will process into the room.

Processional Hymn (TIS 161) Tell out my soul Timothy Dudley Smith 1926-
(based on Luke 1:46-55 in the New English Bible)

Acknowledgement of the people of the land

Our God is a remembering God and we are a remembering people.
We acknowledge with gratitude that this land was cared for by the
people of the Noongar tribe from time immemorial.

Greetings

From the National President Major Laurel Pearce

From Rev. Frances Hadfield Council of Churches of WA

Call to Worship Psalm 95: 1-2 and 6-7 NIV

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,
Let us shout to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
And extol him with music and song.
Come, let us bow down in worship,
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
For he is our God
And we are the people of his pasture,
The flock under his care.

Prayers of Praise and Confession

L. Father God, we come into your presence with hearts full of praise
and thankfulness for your amazing love for us, your people.

**R. O God, thank you for the beautiful world that you created for our
enjoyment and for your provision for our needs.**

L. Compassionate and loving God, we thank you that you are active in
our world and lives; forgiving, caring, leading and challenging us,
teaching us the true nature of love.

**R. O God, we praise and thank you because you choose to love us
even though we are so undeserving of your love.**

L. We thank you, Lord Jesus, for giving your life for our salvation, for
demonstrating the sacrificial nature of your divine love, for sending
the Holy Spirit to be our comforter and guide.

R. O Lord, We choose you. Help us to walk in your way of love.

L. We confess, O God, that so often our love is weak. We are
insensitive to your Spirit, more intent on having our own way than
being sensitive to the needs of others, wanting comfort rather than
sacrificial service.

**R. O God, may our expressions of love for you and others become
more like your love for us.**

HYMN (TIS 209) And can it be Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt.

Bible Readings

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 53: 1-6 NIV

Reader In this is the word of the Lord

Response Thanks be to God

PSALM 100 (*Jubilate Deo*) BCP

EPISTLE 1 John 4:7-16 NEB

Reader In this is the word of the Lord

Response Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Luke 6:27-36 NIV

Reader Lord may your word live in us

Response and bear much fruit to your glory.

ADDRESS Archbishop Roger Herft

HYMN (TIS 650) Brother, sister, let me serve you Richard Gillard 1953-

OFFERING Music and Reflection

An offering will be taken up for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

PRAYER Mrs Esther Kilagblian

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND PETITION

Prayers for the world

Loving Lord God, Creator, Sustainer and Presence in this your world, we
think of it at this time and give thanks for its beauty, for good things that
occur, for family and friends who support us; yet too we remember that in
so many parts of the world there is tension, warfare, cruelty; there is misuse
of power, intentions that begin for good but fail along the way; there is
cruelty, abuse of women and children, terrorism, and that throughout the
world – in our continent and the others, among those who lead the nations
of the world – some ruling because of tradition, some by self-imposed
power, some elected by the people – there are many who fail to keep the
promises they make, to rule by the guidelines they commit themselves to, to
fulfill the purposes they promise. And in many countries there are those
who live in poverty, without adequate shelter or food, in fear of their

neighbours, without access to basic health care, with children whose
schooling is intermittent, insufficient or unavailable. And in our own country
there are homeless people living on the streets, in cars, under bushes –
without access to the basics we take for granted. May we be responsive to
such need whether close to home or far away.

**O Lord our God may our lives in the world continually reflect that
Our Choice is Love.**

Prayers for the Church

We thank you for the community of the churches to which we belong, and
for the contribution of each, for the richness of the fellowship shared and
for the memories of so many who have gone before us within Australian
Church Women. But we acknowledge that in our churches and others, in
families and communities, all is not well. Within our own lives there are
breakdowns in relationships, failure in fulfilling good intentions, a shortage
of patience, the lack of peace...love...joy; may we hold in tension the
fulfilling of love with kindness, patience, peace and comfort, and the need
on occasions for tough love...speaking the truth in love...not agreeing out of
concern about differences of understanding, opinion, or action. Make us
sensitive to such occasions Lord God, that the Churches may bring their
riches of understanding, relationships, and your caring concern for all into
the community

**O Lord our God, may we serve you with unity in diversity, witnessing
together and individually that Our Choice is Love.**

Prayers for ourselves

Loving God, we pray now for ourselves: in our lives as members of families, as friends of many, as those who live and serve you through our Church communities, and as members of Australian Church Women Inc. We praise you for the ecumenism we share, and we pray for your continued guidance on this Conference. May those who hold office now and the incoming National Executive be guided by your wisdom and encouraged by our history of a rich tradition over many years. We pray for the matters of business that we have on our agenda and the strength of purpose to fulfill all that is within your will. We commend to you all who brought Reports and those who keep records; for those Motions which have been agreed and those yet to be presented.

We thank you for this Conference Centre and especially for those whose commitment provides us with space, facilities and our physical needs as we live, pray and work together.

And we pray for your guidance for the term of office of the new National Executive. May its members and the State Units in the coming term work together with commitment and dedication.

O Lord our God as we go out into the wider world may we fulfill the intentions and decisions of this Conference, and serve you with faith, hope and love, and to you be the glory. May we continue to base our choices on the love of your Son.

Daily Prayer

Father, help me to realise that this day bought with it priceless opportunities of fellowship with yourself, of growing in grace and in the knowledge of your Son and of coming alongside other people to help, encourage and strengthen them.

Grant me the grace to open myself completely to your Holy Spirit, that He may lead me into all truth; the truth of your Word and the truth of a daily life which glorifies you. May no one be caused to stumble by any word or action of mine; may no one be the poorer because of my neglect or thoughtlessness.

Touch my mind so that I may think for you; touch my eyes that I may see my fellows as you see them; touch my lips so that my words might comfort, encourage or rebuke as necessary; touch my hands so that all tasks might be performed well; touch my heart, my innermost being, so that your love might control me.

Help me, dear Lord, so to live this day that with truth I may be able to say, with the One whom I seek to follow, 'I have finished the work you gave me to do'. And guard me from the spiritual pride which can so easily follow work done successfully in your name and strength, for to you I owe everything, including the will to desire and the strength to achieve. **Amen.**



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

Now and for ever. Amen

The Blessing Rev. Ron Larkin, Moderator of the Uniting Church in WA

The Dismissal

L. Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.

R. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn (TIS 242) I danced in the morning Sydney Carter 1915-2004

Our special thanks to

- Our speaker: Archbishop Roger Herft, Anglican Archbishop of Perth
- Our pianist: Captain Judith Dell (South Australian Unit)
- Our artist Mrs Gill Muir, who designed and made our Conference banner
- The staff of the St John of God Retreat Centre
- All our special guests at our service

AUSTRALIA CHRISTIAN WOMEN INC.

24TH NATION CONFERENCE

ST JOHN OF GOD RETREAT CENTRE – PERTH

OUR CHOICE IS LOVE



QUEENSLAND UNIT - DEVOTIONS

TUESDAY EVENING - 8TH October 2013

Song: If on my Soul

Responsive Readings

Psalm 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His,
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

All: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with
praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Psalm 25 1-7

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.
Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies
triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever
be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are
treacherous without excuse.

All: Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide
me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my
Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Leader: Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they
are from of old. Remember, not the sins of my youth and
my rebellious ways; according to your love remember
me, for you are good, O Lord.

If on my Soul

Tune: 621

If on my soul a trace of sin remaineth.

If on my hands a stain may yet be seen;

If one dark thought a wearied mind retaineth

O wash me, Lord, till every part is clean.

For I would live that men may see thyself in me,

I would in faith ascend thy holy hill,

And with my thoughts in tune with thy divinity

Would learn how best to do thy holy will.

Devotion: John 15: 9-12

Psalm 25 7-10

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs
sinners in His ways.

All: He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them
His way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful
for those who keep the demands of His covenant.

Leader: Lord we bow before you acknowledging you as Lord of
our lives. We give thanks for this day. Thank you for the
freedom to fellowship with each other. Thank you that
our hearts are not burden with fear to openly worship
you. Our thoughts go to those of our family and friends
and ask your protection over them. At the close of this
day we want to say 'thank you' for the many hands that
have ensured our comfort. For the grace filled way that
we have conducted the business of ACW. We give thanks
for all these blessing in Jesus name.

All: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know
my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in
me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139 23-24
Amen.

Song: Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine Tune TSASB 621

Blessed Assurance

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood

Chorus

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Repeat

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Vision of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

Chorus

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Saviour, am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Chorus



**Greetings from the
Tasmanian Unit.**

The Father has loved
us so much that we are
called children of God.
1 John 3:1

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OUR CHOICE IS LOVE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013

TASMANIAN UNIT

WEDNESDAY MORNING

DEVOTIONS



HYMN: T.I.S. 156. MORNING HAS BROKEN.

1. MORNING HAS BROKEN LIKE THE FIRST MORNING;
BLACKBIRD HAS SPOKEN LIKE THE FIRST BIRD.
PRAISE FOR THE SINGING, PRAISE FOR THE MORNING,
PRAISE FOR THEM, SPRINGING FRESH FROM THE WORD.
2 SWEET THE RAIN'S NEW FALL SUNLIT FROM HEAVEN,
LIKE THE FIRST DEWFALL ON THE FIRST GRASS.
PRAISE FOR THE SWEETNESS OF THE WET GARDEN,
SPRUNG FROM COMPLETENESS WHERE HIS FEET PASS.
3 MINE IS THE SUNLIGHT; MINE IS THE MORNING
BORN OF THE ONE LIGHT EDEN SAW PLAY.
PRAISE WITH ELATION, PRAISE EVERY MORNING,
GOD'S RECREATION OF THE NEW DAY.
ELEANOR FARGEON

**VERSES: IF YOU MEET GOD.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**
HELEN STEINER RICE

GOSPEL: JOHN 14: 15 – 21.

VERSES: GOD'S LOVE.
HELEN STEINER RICE

HYMN: T.I.S. 217. LOVE DIVINE.

1 LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING,
JOY OF HEAVEN, TO EARTH COME DOWN,
FIX IN US THY HUMBLE DWELLING,
ALL THY FAITHFUL MERCIES CROWN:

JESUS, THOU ART ALL COMPASSION,
PURE UNBOUNDED LOVE THOU ART;
VISIT US WITH THY SALVATION,
ENTER EVERY TREMBLING HEART.
2 COME, ALMIGHTY TO DELIVER,
LET US ALL THY LIFE RECEIVE;
SUDDENLY RETURN, AND NEVER,
NEVER MORE THY TEMPLES LEAVE:
THEE WE WOULD BE ALWAYS BLESSING,
SERVE THEE AS THY HOSTS ABOVE,
PRAY, AND PRAISE THEE, WITHOUT CEASING,
GLORY IN THY PERFECT LOVE.
3 FINISH THEN THY NEW CREATION,
PURE AND SPOTLESS LET US BE,
LET US SEE THY GREAT SALVATION,
PERFECTLY RESTORED IN THEE:
CHANGED FROM GLORY INTO GLORY,
TILL IN HEAVEN WE TAKE OUR PLACE,
TILL WE CAST OUR CROWNS BEFORE THEE,
LOST IN WONDER, LOVE AND PRAISE.
CHARLES WESLEY

CLOSING PRAYER.

**Australian Church Women Inc
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**



**DEVOTIONS
VICTORIAN UNIT**

**Wednesday Evening
9th October 2013**

**The Three Kisses X X X
The Three Crosses † † †**

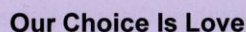
OUR CHOICE IS LOVE

XXX – 3 KISSES OR CROSSES?

X – on a greeting card, means kisses – LOVE
X – on a test, means you are wrong – SIN
X – on a treasure map, is the treasure – HEAVEN

XXX – LOVE SIN HEAVEN – † † †

*John 3:16
"For God so loved the world that he gave his
one and only Son, that whoever believes in him
shall not perish, but have eternal life."*



Introduction

Prayer

Song 7: Father, we love you Conference Song Book

The first Cross

means a kiss x †

The second Cross

means you were wrong x†

The third Cross

means the treasure x †

Poem: The Three Crosses

Song: When I survey

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

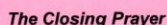
See from his head, his hands, his feet
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorry meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small
love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (Public Domain)

Blessing: All

May the power of the cross,
The joy of the resurrection
And the presence of the Holy Spirit and risen Lord
Be with us and all whom we love. Amen



In the busyness of this day,
grant us stillness of seeing, O God.
 In the conflicting voices of our hearts,
grant us calmness of hearing.
 Let our hearing and seeing,
 our words and actions,
**be rooted in the silent certainty
 of your presence.**

Let our passion for life,
and the longings for justice that stir within us
**be grounded in the experience
of your stillness.**

Let our lives be rooted in the ground
of your peace, O God.
Let us be rooted in the depths of
your peace.

May God who made both heaven and earth bless us.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MORNING PRAYER - THURSDAY

'Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth and the heavens are the work of your hands.
They will perish but you endure;
they wear out like garments
but you are the same
and your years have no end.'

Psalm 104

Psalm 102: 25-27

Hymn 534 Together in Song 'Love is his word, love is his way'

God has shone in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge of
the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now,
and for ever.

Amen

In the silence of the early morning
your Spirit hovers over the brink of the day
and a new light pierces the darkness of the night.

**In the silence of the morning,
life begins to stir around us
and we listen for the day's
first utterances.**

In the earth, sea and sky
and in the landscape of our own souls
**We listen for the utterances of
your love, O God.
We listen for the utterances of your love.**

Silence

Prepared by Marion McCall OAM
MU Australia acknowledging 'Celtic Benediction' J Philip Newell
and A Prayer Book for Australia

Psalms 118: 19-29

Open me the gates of righteousness:
and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

**This is the gate of the Lord:
the righteous shall enter it.**

I will praise you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builder rejected:
has become the head of the corner.**

This is the Lord's doing:
and marvellous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the Lord has made:
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

O Lord, save us we pray:

O Lord, send us prosperity.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:
from the house of the Lord we bless you.**

The Lord is God, he has given us light:
guide the festal throng up to the horns of the altar.

**You are my God and I will praise you:
you are my God and I will exult you.**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
and his mercy endures for ever.

Creator God, whose praise and power are proclaimed by
the whole creation: receive our morning prayers,
we pray, and renew us in your service:
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

The Reading from the Gospel of John, Chapter 14, Verses 8 to 17

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Antiphon:

You are Mine
David Haas; GIA Publications 1991

The prayers and intercessions:

Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy,

Lord have mercy.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by Thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever.**

Amen

Blessed are you, O God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
we give you praise and honour for ever.

for you have loved us from eternity,
and remembered us when we were in trouble.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ,
who for our salvation came down from heaven.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
you became incarnate of the Virgin Mary.

You loosed us from our sins,
and on the third day rose from the dead.

You ascended on high,
and opened wide for us the everlasting doors.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
and ever live to intercede for us.

Blessed are you, O God,
source of all being, eternal Word,
and Spirit of life.

We give you praise and honour for ever.

**God is with me now,
Closer than breathing
And nearer than hands
and feet
God has made me for
Himself
I come from God,
I belong to God,
I go to God.
God knows me,
God loves me,
God has a use for me
Now and forever.
Unknown**



**ACW SA Unit
October 2013**



**INSTALLATION
AND
DEDICATION
OF
INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER
8 PM**

Jesus chose Love
Hands outstretched to heal and comfort
Father's words brought to his people
Crucified and risen for us
Jesus chose Love.

As we follow in his footsteps
Our choice is Love
Christ above and Christ within us
Our choice is Love
As we serve the ones he died for
As we bring his kingdom closer
As our hearts fill with his Spirit
Our choice is Love.

Bible Reading Hebrews 12:1-3, 13:21 Good News Bible.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Major Laurel Pearce.

We are surrounded by Love; by the all encompassing love of God the Father, the sacrificial love of Jesus, the enriching power of the Holy Spirit and by the faith of all those who have served and trusted God through the ages.

We thank God for the cloud of witnesses who faced up to the challenges of their times and, inspired by the Holy Spirit, found ways to share God's love, to move forward in their situations, and who passed on their faith to the next generation.

We are grateful for those who have surrounded us in love and shaped our lives by their faith and commitment to God: members of our families, our faith communities and of Australian Church Women.

Let us gather together in community.

We sit together around a "worship" centre containing symbols of our faith.

A cross Our redemption through Christ
A fish Our acknowledgement of Christ as Lord
A bible The word of God
A candle The fire of the Holy Spirit

PRAYER Father God, we acknowledge your presence with us this evening, to bless, to encourage and to guide us. We are confident that as you have been our leader in the past, so you will be with us now and in the future. Help us to place our trust in you and seek your guidance in every situation. Increase our love: for you, for each other and for the wider community. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SONG OUR CHOICE IS LOVE Tune: All through the night.

Spirit moves across the water

God's choice is Love.

Humankind from dust of new earth

God's choice is Love.

Dove to tell us flood is over

Red Sea crossed from Pharaoh's anger

Guide across the desert's danger.

God's choice is Love.

Son once born in simple stable

Jesus chose Love.

Gathering round him his disciples

As Outgoing National Executive we have endeavoured, with God's help, to meet the tasks and challenges of the past two years in the life of Australian Church Women. We now pass on the baton, confident that the God who has been our strength will be your strength and guide in the joys, tasks and challenges of your period of office.

INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING NATIONAL PRESIDENT MAJOR LYN MIDDLETON WHO WILL INTRODUCE HER TEAM

ACT OF COMMITMENT

As we look to the future of Australian Church Women, we give thanks to God for these women who together have accepted the role of National Executive.

We recognise the gifts they have given to Australian Church Women as they offer their time and talents to take on this task.

We acknowledge that this commitment will require energy, enthusiasm, patience and love as they serve us in the role of National Executive.

LEADER TO INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Recognising the talents you have to offer, members of Australian Church Women have appointed you to be the National Executive for the next two years.

Will you accept this responsibility, understanding that you have the practical and prayerful support of members of Australian Church Women across the country, and strong in the knowledge that when God calls God's people to a task, He also equips those people to fulfil that task?

INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

We will, trusting in God for his guidance.

LEADER TO INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Will you commit yourselves to serve this body with sensitivity and love, as together we seek to be an effective witness wherever we serve in ministry for our Lord and Saviour?

INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE We will, relying on God's grace.

LEADER Our friends here cannot do this task alone. As Christian women it is our responsibility to use our abilities in the service of God and of Australian Church Women.

TO MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**LEADER**

As members of State and territory units and affiliated groups, will you commit yourselves to prayerfully support the National Executive and to uphold the aims and objectives of Australian Church Women?

ALL We will, relying on God's grace.

PRESENTATION OF BADGES**CLOSING PRAYER**

May the love of the Lord Jesus surround you

The power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you

The joy of the Lord Jesus support you

And the blessing of God almighty,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

And now we are pleased to hand over to the new National Executive members to lead our evening devotions on the theme of their choice.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2013 - 2015

LYN MIDDLETON

DENISE SECOMB

JOY INGLIS

ISABEL HEWITT

JENNIFER PEPPER

ELIZABETH MCEWEN

NANCY MCLAREN

LILLIAN HODGES

PAMELA FREEMAN

JAN JEFFREY

BRENDA DICKINSON

EX OFFICIO

TRICIA GRAHAM

DONNA BRYAN

(TO OCTOBER 2014)

HELEN RAYMOND

(FROM OCTOBER 2014)

out into the world, with helping hands to those in need.

Response: *Lord, grant these people the grace to carry out their tasks with joy.*

Reader: Some of us, Lord, are like skin cells—the interface between the Church and the world—and so subject to the abrasion of dust and thorns from outside.

Response: *Lord, let them not fall away under the stresses of the outside world, but may they instead show forth the glory of a healthy Body.*

Reader: There are also those within the Body who function like the sensory cells, ever alert to the needs that surround us.

Response: *Lord, grant them a true vision of what is happening around them, that the Church may respond with expediency.*

Reader: Finally we thank you, Lord, that the whole Body, Your Church, is held together and inspired by the Spirit of Christ, without which none of the parts could function.

Response: *Lord, let us never lose Your Spirit, but let us stay constantly in touch with Your Love and Your Light and Your Life, without which no part of the Body can survive, and let Your Life and Light and Love shine out from us to the world outside. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.*



DEVOTIONS

INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

2013 – 2015



So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Romans 14:19

Australian Church Women 24th National Conference
Shoalwater WA
7-11 October 2013

Theme: BUILDING IN HARMONY

Key Verse: *So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Romans 14:19*

Let us contemplate this theme in worship.

Poem

Introduction of Theme Chorus: *Let's build in harmony.*

Thought: (Reader) We are the church – the people of God. So when we talk about *Building in Harmony* we are not talking bricks and mortar, we are talking about the community of believers in our towns and suburbs.

Comment:

Response: *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Rom 14:17 (KJV)*

Thought: (Reader) The church is the body of Christ. Just as the body has many parts so we are many, but are connected to the whole and work together in harmony for the Kingdom of God. It is the one Spirit – the Spirit of Christ that is in us all and works through us all.

Comment:

Response: *Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. 1 Cor 12:13 (NLT)*

Thought: (Reader) We are the church in our communities – not just Australian Church Women but all Christian believers. Individually and corporately, we are the temple of the living God.

Comment:

Response: *...you are ... members of God's household,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Eph. 2:19-22 (NIV)*

Thought: (Reader) In harmony with the indwelling Spirit of Christ let us seek to build each other up and encourage each other in the faith. For many people their church congregations are small and there is little fellowship. Australian Church Women provides an opportunity for Christian fellowship to be enriched, enlivened and extended within our communities.

Comment:

Response: *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph. 2:10 (NIV)*

I am God's Workmanship: National Executive

Comment:

Theme Chorus:

Prayer: **Let us pray for the building up of the Body of Christ**

Reader: Lord, just as red blood cells carry oxygen to every part of our body, so some Christians carry encouragement to every member of the Church.

Response: *Lord, bless these people in their work, and give them the energy to reach all of Your children, even the most isolated.*

Reader: Others of us are like muscle cells, working together to move the arms and legs, so that the Church can walk

Poem

As I watched them tear a building down
A gang of men in a busy town
With a ho-heave-ho, and a lusty yell
They swung a beam and the side wall fell

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
And the men you'd hire if you wanted to build?"
He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed,
Just common labour is all I need."

"I can easily wreck in a day or two,
What builders have taken years to do."
And I thought to myself, as I went my way
Which of these roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by rule and square?
Am I shaping my work to a well-made plan
Patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker who walks to town
Content with the labour of tearing down?
"O Lord let my life and my labours be
That which will build for eternity!" *Anon*

Theme Chorus

Let's build in harmony a bridge not to divide,
Building in harmony so we are unified.
The Spirit tunes our hearts as one, working side by side,
On Christ we build in harmony and God is glorified.

"Christian faith is a grand cathedral, with divinely pictured windows. Standing without, you can see no glory, nor can imagine any, but standing within, every ray of light reveals a harmony of unspeakable splendours."





• The Labyrinth (Maze)

You will not get lost. Simply enter and follow the path to the centre and then follow the same path back to where you entered. There is no "right" way to make the journey-use the time for prayer or meditation, contemplating how God takes the complexities of your life and "straightens" them out when you hand them over to Him.



Jesus is the only way

Look back and THANK GOD
Look forward and TRUST GOD
Look around and SERVE GOD
Look within and FIND GOD

There are various areas of the gardens where you can stop, meditate and pray or simply enjoy the realization of God's presence.

• The Postinia (Grotto)

Sit in the filtered light. Thank God for the peace He brings even in times of turmoil. Share with him your heart's desires for yourself, your family, your friends.

"My peace I leave with you." (John 14 v 27)
His peace He left for ME.



• The face of Jesus

Sit on the wooden bench. Gaze on the face of Jesus, surrounded by beautiful greenery. Acknowledge that He alone is Lord and worthy of your worship and love. Tell Him what He means to you. *"My Lord and my God."* (John 20 v 28)

• The Cross on a tree

When you find the Cross attached to a tree, thank God for His free Salvation, given through the death of Jesus on the Cross. Confess to Him your continual need for His forgiveness and accept again the assurance of that forgiveness, being justified by His Grace.



All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3 v 24-25)



Australian Church Women Inc.

GARDEN PRAYER WALK



*I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses.
And He walks with me, He talks with me, He tells me I am His own:
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.*

You are invited to enjoy the peace and beauty of the Centre's Gardens.

As you begin, consider what you bring to this walk today!

What is happening in your life?

Are you deeply resting in God's amazing grace? Is God silent?

Are you moving between these two?



USE ALL YOUR SENSES:-

Look around at the peaceful garden

Listen to all the sounds

Touch and feel the rough bark of the trees

Smell the crushed leaves

Speak to God

• Listen

Listen to the birds singing their songs of praise of God's creation. Marvel that God has placed you in this world and given you the ability to enjoy what He gives so freely.

Even the sparrow has found a home..... a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God.
(Psalm 84 v 3)



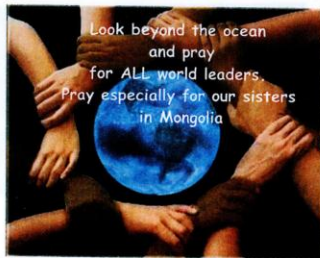
• Look

Look at the majesty of the trees, their strength, the shape of their branches reaching to the sky. Our God is a mighty God, a powerful God, who gives us the grace and strength to grow into His likeness and so attain oneness with Him.

LORD, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Psalm 8 v 1



Earth...the wonder of God's LOVE



Look beyond the ocean
and pray
for ALL world leaders.
Pray especially for our sisters
in Mongolia

There's the wonder of sunset at evening,
The wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God **loves** me.
There's the wonder of springtime and harvest,
The sky, the stars, the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is a wonder that's only begun.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art,
HOW GREAT THOU ART.



Australian Church Women Inc.

BEACH PRAYER WALK sky...sea...earth



O Lord of Heaven and earth and sea
To Thee all praise and glory be;
How shall we show our love to Thee,
Who givest all?



sky....the wonder of God's GRACE



My Father is omnipotent, And that you can't deny;
A God of might and miracles- 'Tis written in the sky.
It took a miracle to put the stars in place,
It took a miracle to hang the world in space;
But when He saved my soul, Cleansed and made me whole,
It took a miracle of love and **grace**.

Many are the things I cannot understand,
All around me mystery I see; But the gift
most wonderful from God's own hand
Surely is His gift of **Grace** to me!
Higher than the stars that reach eternity.
Broader than the boundaries of endless space,
Is the boundless love of God that pardoned me:
O the wonder of His **Grace**!



Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's **grace**,
so sure and certain that a man could stake his life
on it a thousand times. (Martin Luther).



Sea...the wonder of God's FORGIVENESS

God has cast our sin in the deep blue sea
and placed there a sign for the devil to see....



Gone, gone, gone, gone, yes my sins are gone!
Now my soul is free and in my heart's a song!
Buried in the deepest sea, that's good enough for me
I shall live eternally, praise God my sins are gone!

Beyond the farthest bounds of earth,
Beyond the ocean's line,
Beyond the starlit universe we sense a power divine.

Forgiven

O voice divine speak Thou to me
Beyond the earth, beyond the sea,
First let me hear then sing to Thee a melody of love.

Crucified and risen for us

Jesus chose Love.

As we follow in his footsteps

Our choice is Love

Christ above and Christ within us

Our choice is Love

As we serve the ones he died for

As we bring his kingdom closer

As our hearts fill with his Spirit

Our choice is Love.

WE ARE SENT

The God we worship is never confined to this holy place. So go and travel with the God found in ordinary and surprising places. You are wayfarers, following roads to the end of the earth; pilgrims on your way to the end of the age.

ALL: We are travelers on the road to freedom, a community of grace, with good news for all we meet.

Travel lightly, travel together, learn as you go: you are disciples, the mission is urgent, the journey is long.

ALL: We will take heart.

When the way is uncertain, shadows are sinister and dangers threaten, **ALL: We will not be afraid. For we are in God and God is in us.**

BLESSING: Go in peace. And may the Holy God surprise us on the way, Jesus Christ be your company, and the Spirit lift up your faces.

ALL: AMEN

Opening Prayer

HYMN TIS 534 verses 1,3,7

READING Colossians 3:10-17 The Message: Eugene Peterson.

You've done with your old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offence. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ – the Message – have the run of your house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail of your lives – words, actions, whatever – be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

REFLECTION ON READING presented by members of the WA Unit



Australian Church Women Inc

24th National Conference



PUT ON LOVE

Closing Devotions

prepared by the

Western Australian Unit

Friday 11 October 2013

GILL: Let us pray together –

Thank you loving Lord God for your constant love showered upon us. And thank you for those who have loved us over the years. We are sorry for times when we have failed to love as you love. Forgive us we ask, and enable us to wear love as our basic garment in our daily living. We pray for those who need your love and ours. So many people separated from you, and so many living lives of need, frustration, hunger, homelessness, warfare, cruelty, hopelessness. From our plenty may we within our daily lives, within our churches, and within ACW, live as those who choose love in every aspect of our lives. We ask in Jesus' name and together we pray the prayer he taught: Our Father.....

HYMN (from 2011-2013 National Executive) Tune 'All through the night'.

Spirit moves across the water

God's choice is Love.

Humankind from dust of new earth

God's choice is Love.

Dove to tell us flood is over

Red Sea crossed from Pharaoh's anger

Guide across the desert's danger.

God's choice is Love.

Son once born in simple stable

Jesus chose Love.

Gathering round him his disciples

Jesus chose Love

Hands outstretched to heal and comfort

Father's words brought to his people



International Day of the Girl Child 11 October

Theme for 2013: Innovating for Girls' Education

On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [Resolution 66/170](#) to declare 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. For its second observance, this year's Day will focus on "Innovating for Girls' Education".

The fulfilment of girls' right to education is first and foremost an obligation and moral imperative. There is also overwhelming evidence that girls' education, especially at the secondary level, is a powerful transformative force for societies and girls themselves: it is the one consistent positive determinant of practically every desired development outcome, from reductions in mortality and fertility, to poverty reduction and equitable growth, to social norm change and democratization.

While there has been significant progress in improving girls' access to education over the last two decades, many girls, particularly the most marginalized, continue to be deprived of this basic right. Girls in many countries are still unable to attend school and complete their education due to safety-related, financial, institutional and cultural barriers. Even when girls are in school, perceived low returns from poor quality of education, low aspirations, or household chores and other responsibilities keep them from attending school or from achieving adequate learning outcomes. The transformative potential for girls and societies promised through girls' education is yet to be realized.

Recognizing the need for fresh and creative perspectives to propel girls' education forward, the 2013 International Day of the Girl Child will address the importance of new technology, but also innovation in partnerships, policies, resource utilization, community mobilization, and most of all, the engagement of young people themselves.

All UN agencies, Member States, civil society organizations, and private sector actors have potential tools to innovate for and with girls to advance their education. Examples of possible steps include:

- Improved public and private means of transportation for girls to get to school—from roads, buses, mopeds, bicycles to boats and canoes;
- Collaboration between school systems and the banking industry to facilitate secure and convenient pay delivery to female teachers and scholarship delivery to girls;
- Provision of science and technology courses targeted at girls in schools, universities and vocational education programmes;
- Corporate mentorship programmes to help girls acquire critical work and leadership skills and facilitate their transition from school to work;
- Revisions of school curricula to integrate positive messages on gender norms related to violence, child marriage, sexual and reproductive health, and male and female family roles;
- Deploying mobile technology for teaching and learning to reach girls, especially in remote areas.



Jesus loved to eat! In the Gospels there are so many stories and parables that remind us of this.

And for us as Christians, whatever our denominational tradition, there is no greater celebration of community than a shared meal.

We hope that you will experience as much joy in preparing and serving these recipes as we have done.

The book is our way of thanking you all for the support and love you have given us during our term of office, and for all you have done and continue to do through your involvement in Australian Church Women.

Blessings to you all
Members of the 2011-2013 National Executive

Laurel Pearce
Lee Edwards
Marie Majoor
Leeola Loughnan
Margaret Ker
Meryon Goode
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Stir in Love



A collection
of
favourite recipes
from
your National Executive

Australian Church Women Inc
24th National Conference
Shoalwater WA
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