



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

"women at work"

No. 5

From RUTH LANE - Greetings!

JUNE, 1972.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE! - Remember when it seemed an eternity from one Christmas to another? Looking at the Calendar this morning, it seems incredible that we're almost half-way through 1972. A letter from my brother yesterday is headed, "Flying between Frankfurt and London". How small the world has become - time and distance so quickly covered!

I'm proud to have my name heading "Women at Work" for the next 3 issues, and in no time at all Eileen will have travelled across the world and back again!

Before setting out on her trip overseas, EILEEN DINGLE has been attending the Triennial Meetings of the Australasian Federation of Methodist Women in Melbourne where she was elected to the position of President. Australian Church Women will join me in offering congratulations and prayerful good wishes for an enriching Christian experience during her term of office and for a most enjoyable time in England. She has promised to send a message now and then for inclusion in "Women at Work" and we will look forward to these.

OTHER OVERSEAS TRAVELLERS - Also setting out for England in July is MRS. AUDREY BELL, who retires from the position of secretary, Women's Inter-Church Council of New South Wales, on 29th May. Mrs. Bell plans to stay in England for 12 months and we wish her, too, a most enjoyable trip.

- AND from Deaconess House comes word that DEACONESS MARY ANDREWS has been invited to attend the Triennial Meeting, International Federation of Deaconess Associations in NEW YORK, 14th to 21st June, 1972. Three hundred representatives from Deaconess Orders in 26 countries are expected to attend. "Signs of the Church of Tomorrow" will be the theme of the conference. Miss Theresa Hoover, Assoc. General Secretary of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, will be the speaker at the evening service on 18th June, which will emphasize the international and ecumenical character of the meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS to MISS JEAN SKUSE who has been appointed executive secretary of the N.S.W. State Council of the Australian Council of Churches. She has been associate executive secretary for the past 15 months. Actually Miss Skuse is the first lay appointment to this position. It is interesting too, that Miss Skuse is a member of the General Conference of the Methodist Church - one of 12 women members in a total of 74!

FROM THE WORKING COMMITTEE MAY MEETING - WELCOME TO THE GIRLS' BRIGADE! A.C.W.'s invitation to the Girls' Brigade to affiliate at national level has been accepted. We look forward to sharing some items of Girls' Brigade news from time to time.

TERANI is back at her studies again after most exhilarating experiences in the southern States. She has been deeply touched by all the warm hospitality and expressions of loving concern while away from her "home" in Queensland, but it was a most sad experience when the beloved Principal of the Methodist College where she is studying, was taken so suddenly during the Methodist Meetings in Melbourne. -- The sympathy of all Australian Church Women will reach out in love and prayerful remembrance to Mrs. Alcorn in this sudden parting from the one closest and dearest to her, and we trust the words of Paul will have real comfort - "We do not sorrow as those without hope!"

WHO SAID THAT? -- "Women are not just tea makers! Churches could not hope to keep women working for them if they refused to let women use their capabilities fully" - MRS. JEAN STICPEWICH, President of P.W.A. of Australia, addressing the 80th Annual Meeting of the Queensland Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union.

"No adult - only a 'paper tiger' after all - has the right to tell you what to do. You 'do your own thing' in your own way; you learn only what interests you, and 'muck up' when you are bored" - THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL BOOK!

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Still WHO SAID THAT? - "The permissive society is a new name for an old game. The Greeks and Romans played it. The Russians tried it, but gave it up. Sex is a natural part of life; but only a part. It is not meant to run us and preoccupy us. All our energies are needed for creating a new society" - THE BLACK AND WHITE BOOK.

"We are free to choose. This is everyone's chance to re-shape history, and together we could usher in the greatest revolution yet" - LADY CILENTO (Medical Mother).

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE WOMEN DOING!!

THE ADMIRAL IS A LADY - The United States Navy has named its first woman admiral, breaking a 200 year-old tradition banning women from star ranks. She is Miss ALENE BERTHA DUERK, 52, director of the Navy Nurse Corps. Only one male bastion remains in the U.S. Armed forces - the Marine Corps! SO TOO IS THE COMMANDER! - Commander GRACE MURRAY HOPPER, a main speaker at the national computer conference being held at Queensland University, is the Head of the Navy Programming Languages Section in the Pentagon, Washington, and a pioneer of modern computer programming languages. "I can see computers being of great benefit in hospital work, measuring heart-beat, pulse and temperature continuously in intensive care units in much the same way as the men on the moon had their electrocardiograms continuously recorded", she said. She has been awarded the Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal for 1972 of the Yale Graduate School Association - a medal awarded annually for outstanding achievement.

A FIRST FOR WOMEN in general, and Girl Guides in particular - the former Chief Commissioner of the Union of Finnish Girl Guides, MRS. HELVI SIPILA has been chosen by the United Nations Secretary-General (Dr. Kurt Waldheim) as his Under Secretary-General - the first time the post has been held by a woman.

DR. HELEN MCKENZIE, medical missionary from Korea at present visiting Australia - enlivened her address to the Presbyterian Women gathered in conference, with recorded sounds from Korea!

'SAVE MORALS' GROUP - Twenty Christian women in Thornbury have formed a group to protest against Australia's permissive society. The group is called the Moral Guidance Organisation and aims to make parliamentarians aware that the community is very concerned about the nature of Australian society. Protests have been made to Education Department officials. This is a non-denominational group and "anyone who agrees with the viewpoint of the organisation is welcome".

WOMEN'S UNITY WEEK SERVICE - A unique Women's Unity Week service was held in St. Agatha's Catholic Church at Mt. Gravatt, Qld. It was organised by the Magellan Society and representatives attended from local Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Salvation Army and Anglican Churches. -- Was there a similar service in YOUR area?

BEWARE! WOMEN AT WORK! (a paragraph heading from the Australian Congregationalist) .. "every Church women's group around Australia is becoming more and more aware of the fact that women now make up a high proportion of the work force and the impact of this on the whole Church and women's organisations in particular, is being felt more and more keenly. ... Fellowships should make time in their programmes to consider this matter and, if possible, to act in some positive way so that women are still able to share in the life of the Church although their life pattern has changed." "Where have all the women gone?" -- "To work, of course!"

WORLD Y.W.C.A. (from E.P.S.) - At an important meeting held near Geneva, the Executive Committee of the World YWCA sought to implement recommendations made at the Ghana World Council meeting with respect to economic and social justice, racism, education and social change. Plans were approved for a Leadership Training Institute at Cret-Berard (May 28 to July 8) which will bring together 41 participants from as many countries. Prior to the Institute, participants in groups of five to 10 will spend 10 days in areas of the world other than their own studying questions of employment, education, the status of women and race.

OF SPECIAL CURRENT INTEREST - BUDDHIST BAPTISED - Miss VANDHY YIT, a Buddhist from an intellectual family in the Khmer Republic (Cambodia) arrived at Deaconess House, Sydney, in December, 1970, to study in Australia. This month, the Archbishop of Sydney baptised Miss Yit in the Deaconess House chapel before a gathering of her friends and fellowstudents. The Bishop of New Guinea was present, too. Miss Yit is the first Cambodian woman student to be baptised in Australia. Resident at

Deaconess House, Sydney, are 21 overseas students who come from Ceylon, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Indonesia, Sabah, Taiwan, Nigeria and New Guinea as well as Greece. "This" says Deaconess Mary Andrews, "is a challenge to the Church to pray and to extend friendship to them".

NOW FOR OUR "SERIAL" - (From last month "Mary was anxious for her loyal Chinese friends, especially the 12 year-old boy who left her food every day.") - NOW READ ON

A PROFILE ON MARY ANDREWS -

One day she found a note under the back door-step telling her to go to the sea coast. She is sure God was guiding her as she found the railway station deserted and thought perhaps the war was over as she never heard any news of the progress of the war. But it happened that the enemy was celebrating a victory somewhere and all the soldiers had been given leave. When she arrived at the coast another English woman was waiting for her, a doctor's wife, and they were smuggled away in a small boat.

She escaped to Linhai where she learnt the local dialect and taught in a primary school. She lived in the C.M.S. compound and ran a school for waifs and strays in her spare time. A building had originally been intended for a Bible school for women, but the war prevented them from coming, so Mary used it for the children. She taught them elementary reading and hygiene as well as the Christian faith.

In 1945 when the Second World War was nearing its end, the Japanese surrounded Linhai and news came through to Mary to escape with a New Zealand couple she would meet on the way, and get through the Japanese lines to Free China where they could find transport home. Everyone insisted that Mary must go. She heard at 8 o'clock one night and had to leave at 5 the next morning. She travelled for 3 days by herself before meeting the New Zealanders. She spent a night and a day on board a boat-load of soldiers, the only woman on this primitive craft, but she never felt insecure or afraid. Then she spent 2 days on a river boat.

With the New Zealand couple, Mary trekked over mountains and through valleys avoiding the Japanese soldiers for nearly three weeks until they met up with the British Army. By this time both the New Zealanders had dysentery and Mary nursed them as best she could. They stopped at a vacated mission house and Mary dosed her patients with drugs the Army had supplied.

The next part of the journey was made sitting on empty oil drums on the back of a lorry and as they sat there for 2 whole days joggling and bumping over the poor roads, they were extremely sore and tired when they eventually reached an airstrip. Here there were waits, false hopes and many apprehensions, but eventually Mary flew out to West China near the Burma Road. From here she took a plane to Calcutta in India and then travelled for 3 days and 4 nights by train to Lahore. In all, her escape from Linhai to a settled place took several weeks.

In Lahore, Mary worked with a group of deaconesses among destitute women and girls. She was there for a year and caught the first boat home after peace was declared.

Back in Sydney Mary was challenged to be ordained as a deaconess, and then was ready to go back to the missionfield. Her mother's illness kept her at home for a while, but all the time letters and cables came asking her to return to one of the vacant missions in China. Eventually she went to Shaohsing in Central China to work in the King Memorial Middle School and to assist in parish work.

It was here that she came to have a regular meeting on Sunday afternoon with the men in the local gaol. (Next instalment, "Woman at Work", No. 6).

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I LIKE TO CALL IT PRAYER

- Helen Lowrie Marshall

To look out on the troubled world
And find the true and fair;
Some call it contemplation --
I like to call it prayer.

To give oneself for others,
To lift and love and share;
Some call it consecration --
I like to call it prayer

To sense a silent, reverent awe,
At beauty everywhere;
Some call it adoration --
I like to call it prayer.

To seek the heights and depths of thought
And pause in silence there;
Some call it meditation --
I like to call it PRAYER.