

REPORT OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HELD JANUARY 10 - 13, 1972.

Since it began 14 years ago the Asian Church Women's Conference has had a Planning Committee, each member country of the Asian Christian Conference (formerly E.A.C.C.) is entitled to 1 Planning Committee Member. This committee normally met once between conferences, usually at the time of the E.A.C.C. Assembly. Their responsibility was to plan the following A.C.W.Conference and to distribute F.L.C. allocations.

In 1970 at the 4th A.C.W.Conference in Indonesia, it was decided to elect from the Planning Committee 6 members from a panel of 10 names submitted by a Nominating Committee, plus 3 elected from the current Planning Committee from among themselves. These 9 members comprise the Working Committee.

It was this Committee that met in Hong Kong to work out policy, draft out a new Constitution and By-laws, make allocations of F.L.C. funds for 1972 and plan 1974 assembly.

- I. Shanti Solomon gave her first report as Executive Secretary, outlining some of the difficulties she had experienced :
- (1) Because the exact nature of the job of Executive Secretary had not been worked out before her appointment she had to create her own role.
  - (2) A certain amount of confusion existed over the roles of the Executive Secretary, Secretary of A.C.W.C. and the Chairman of A.C.W.C.
  - (3) The difficulty of communication due partly to the fact that Shanti was moving closer to Delhi, also the unsettled political situation and subsequent war, which caused delays etc. with mail.

One of the first things to be done in Hong Kong was the setting out of a "Job Description" for the 3 positions, these will be written into the By-laws.

- II. The Constitution and the By-Laws was another important item which took considerable time. We will continue working on these by correspondence with the Whole Planning Committee.

It is hoped that a final draft will be ready to present to the 5th Asian Conference when it meets in 1974.

- III. The invitation from Australia to hold the 5th Assembly was sent to all P.C.members before the Working Committee met. Most countries were in favour of accepting, although one country felt it was too far. However, when the Treasurer began to approximate the cost it was obvious that it was not realistic to use F.L.C.money to the extent of \$115,000.00 when the Budget for A.C.W.C. is \$20,000.00. The fares for delegates and fraternal delegates alone would have cost more than \$20,000.00.

Three alternatives are now being investigated - Taiwan, Korea or India. The date of the Conference has not been chosen as the climate of the chosen country will have a bearing on the most suitable months, as well as vacation periods for Universities etc. for accommodation.

The Theme chosen is "Go and do thou likewise". Luke 10:v.37.

It was decided to ask each country to increase its delegates contribution to \$175 instead of \$150.

- IV. Allocations for 1972 were made and \$1,000.00 was granted for the Institution of Aboriginal Affairs at Alice Springs, as submitted by A.C.W. Over \$60,000.00 was allocated, a couple of requests were held over pending further information.
- V. It was decided that Shanti Solomon should spend part of her time travelling to promote the F.L.C., that a bulletin be issued quarterly containing information and news.  
That the 'Circle of Prayer' be prepared to cover the next 2 years, and in future it be enlarged to cover 4 years, from one assembly to the next.
- VI. That the first promotional visit of Shanti Solomon to be Australia and New Zealand during late September or October 1972.  
(After conversation with members of the United Church in Port Moresby on the way home, an invitation from Papua will most likely be issued to Shanti to include this country also.)
- VII. Articles are required by April 30th for Asian Focus, one whole issue is to be given over to Women's work. We are invited to send 2,500 - 4,000 words on Women's activities in the Church, Home and Society, Men and Women in the Church, Ecumenical Work being done, etc. etc.

I have covered the most important items on the agenda, which was very long. It was entirely due to our efficient Chairman that we actually completed all the business set down for four working days. Once again it was a pleasure to share in the very real love and fellowship with women from eight different countries bound together in the knowledge that we are all one in Christ.

Olga Badger.

# ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(In Association with the Asian Christian Conference)

CHAIRMAN :  
Mrs. E. T. Bautista  
Philippines  
VICE-CHAIRMAN :  
Mrs. Ang Kim Kiat  
Singapore  
RECORDING SECRETARY :  
Mrs. K. Davies  
New Zealand  
TREASURER :  
Miss R. Gurubatham  
Malaysia.

From : ACWC Executive Secretary  
and  
Promoter of Fellowship of  
the Least Coin  
C/O St. Stephen's Home  
4 Rajpur Road  
Delhi-110006

Jan. 28, 1974.

To  
Mrs. Joy Smith  
360 Marion Road  
Plympton, S.A. 5038.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

Your kind letter of greetings, sent through Mrs. D. W. Bailey, was read out in the meeting of the Planning Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference held in Manila, Philippines, January 26-28, 1974. The members of the ACWC Planning Committee wish to express their gratitude for this kind letter. What a privilege is ours to strengthen each other by our prayers.

Now it is my pleasant duty to convey the greetings of the ACWC Planning Committee, members to the Australian Church Women's National Council as they come together in Adelaide from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1974 for their annual meeting.

As you meet to plan the future program may you all be guided by the Holy Spirit to plan everything for His glory. May these meetings be a source of inspiration and rededication for the members to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Yours in His Service  
Shanti Salomon  
Executive Secretary  
ACWC.

33 Wilson Tee.,  
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

26th February, 1974.

Mrs. Shanti Solomon,  
A.C.W.C. Executive Secretary,  
C/- St. Stephen's Home  
4 Rajpur Road,  
DELHI. 110006. INDIA.

Dear Mrs. Solomon,

Thank you sincerely for your letter of greeting sent to our President, Mrs. Joy Smith, before our National Committee Meeting. It is good to know that others hold us in their prayers as we seek to plan for future service in His name. The week was a busy one and I am sure we were all very aware of our need "to love one another" as we sought to share our joys and frustrations.

During the meeting, Mrs. Frances Downes, F.I.C. Convenor in Victoria, presented an article which had appeared in the Melbourne "Age" on 24th January, 1974.\* A copy of this, together with her reply is enclosed for your information, and any action you may consider necessary.

With Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

\* As we were somewhat concerned about it,

COPY TO MRS. DOWNES

# Women urged to set up emergency funds

A WORLD-WIDE appeal for women to give the smallest coin in their currency to help set up depots in potential disaster areas was suggested by Mrs. Sybil Cookson in Melbourne yesterday.

Mrs. Cookson, an immediate past chairman of the British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Free-

dom, is visiting Australia for the first time.

She is a consultant on the WILPF executive.

The league has consultative status with the United Nations.

The United Nations theme for 1975 will be "women." Mrs. Cookson's idea is that the coin scheme would involve women throughout the world in emergency and relief work.

In spite of the "women

only" style of title, the league has male members. The name remains for special reasons, Mrs. Cookson said.

"In countries like Lebanon and sections of India where women have not got their full rights, an organisation exclusively for the benefit of women is still needed."

The league's main aims are universal disarmament, peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of war.

"War is lunacy. The money spent on arms could be spent on construction", she said.

In its campaign against war, WILPF is supporting International Red Cross for humanitarian law in armed conflict.

This includes the banning of nuclear weapons, napalm and chemical and biological warfare.

WILPF is also concerned with the law of the sea and the preservation of the resources of the ocean bed for the heritage of mankind.

As a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Mrs. Cookson recently attended its international conference representing the executive of WILPF.

She said there was "a crying need for information and facilities on family planning which must go hand in hand with social and economic welfare."

Mrs. Cookson has represented WILPF on the UNA Women's Advisory Council and is now a member of its planning committee for population. She also belongs to the UNA national disarmament committee and Amnesty International.

By CAROLINE SWAN.

Reply, 2.2.74.

THE suggestion by Mrs. Sybil Cookson that women all over the world help themselves by raising money through a contribution of the smallest coin in their currency (Accent, 24/1) has had a forerunner in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Mrs. Cookson, an immediate past chairman of the British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is visiting Australia.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin for Christian Women was the brainchild of Mrs. Shanti Solomon, of India, and was started in 1956.

The convener for Victoria (Mrs. Frances Downes) says: "From the often despised 'least coin' more than \$1 million has been raised in

more than 50 countries to help in projects around the world."

33 Wilson Tce.,  
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

26th February, 1974.

Rev. Brian Walsh,  
Secretary,  
World Christian Action,  
100 Flinders Street,  
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000

Dear Mr. Walsh,

Following the decision of the 1973 National Committee Meeting to give 50% of their 1973 World Community Day offerings to World Christian Action's "Women of Bangladesh Appeal", it gives me pleasure now to forward a cheque for \$772.60 to aid this project.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

33 Wilson Tce.,  
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

26th February, 1974.

The Principal,  
Pacific Theological College,  
P.O. Box 388,  
Suva, Fiji Islands.

Dear Mr. Quigley,

Further to our letter of 21st June, 1973 stating that 50% of the World Community Day offering would be donated to the training of a woman student from the Gilbert Islands at the Pacific Theological College, I now have pleasure in enclosing cheque for \$A745.00 to be used for this purpose.

With Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

33 Wilson Tee.,  
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

12th March, 1974.

Mrs. D. Badger,  
56 Epping Ave.,  
EPHING. N.S.W. 2121

Dear Mrs. Badger,

At the recent National Committee Meeting held in Adelaide, the following minute was recorded -

"That the National Committee of A.C.W. meeting in Adelaide, South Australia, 12th-15th February, 1974, recognises the splendid manner in which Mrs. Olga Badger has discharged her responsibilities as representative of A.C.W. to the Asian Church Women's Conference and the valuable contribution she has made as a member of the Working Committee of that Conference 1966-1974. This National Committee records its deep appreciation of her loving service."

Please accept our sincere appreciation of all you have done.

With warm Christian greetings,

Sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland, Secretary)

Mrs. Shanti Solomon  
St. Stephen's Home  
4, Rajpur Road  
Delhi - 110006  
I N D I A

21st March, 1974

Mrs. J.B. Murchland  
33, Wilson Tce.  
Glenelg East  
S.A. 5045.

Dear Mrs. Murchland,

Thank you for your letter of February, 26th '74 and for sharing the articles on Mrs. Cookson's speech and Mrs. Downes reply to it. It is very disturbing to see that the others are taking up the same idea and using it to achieve their own ends. Fellowship of the Least Coin is a movement of prayer and reconciliation and ultimately promotes peace - Christian Peace, but this does not mean that people can divert these funds for their cause or confuse women to give their least coin to <sup>then</sup> you and <sup>UNO</sup> owe.

Could you please send me Mrs. Cook's Address, if you can get it from Mrs. Downes. I am going to circulate this news in my next News Bulletin in order to make the women aware of this rival campaign.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

*Shanti*

Shanti Solomon  
Promotional Secretary, FLC.

Recd  
2/4

56 Epping Ave, <sup>Recd</sup> 11/4  
Epping  
3. 4. 74

Dear Mr Murchland,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

I do appreciate the minute recorded at the National Committee Meeting in February, it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve, on behalf of Australian Church Women, as a member of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

It has been a wonderful experience, the friendship, fellowship & sharing, with women from so many different cultures, has been a most enriching and rewarding period, over almost 8 years. I hope that I have contributed something in return for all I have gained.

I am sorry that my official term is coming to a close this year, but happy in the knowledge that the bonds made in those years will always be there.

Thank you once again, and best wishes to the Working Committee as you undertake another period of service.

Sincerely yours

Olga Badger

33 Wilson Tee.,  
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

9th April, 1974.

Mrs. H. A. Downes,  
1 Sherwood Road,  
MT. WAVERLEY. VIC. 3149

Dear Mrs. Downes,

I had a letter this week from Mrs. Shanti Solomon, who, like you, is most concerned about Mrs. Cookson's idea. She is planning to circulate this news in her next Bulletin, but is also keen to contact Mrs. Cookson personally. Would you be able to obtain Mrs. Cookson's address please, and let me have it as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



1 Sherwood Rd  
Mount Waverley 3146  
April 16 1974

Dear Mrs Marchland

Thank you for  
your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> April - just  
received - re Mrs Shankie  
Polomon's reply.

I have not got Mrs  
Sybil Cookson's address; but  
will see if a friend can  
do anything for me, which I  
am sorry to say will take  
some time, organising.

I gave James Bailey

<sup>2</sup>  
a letter I received from Mrs  
Cookson written from Sydney  
thanking me for sending  
her F. Leaf Coin; but cannot  
remember whether she includes  
her home address or not.

Could you check  
with James Bailey about  
this!

I would have thought  
Mrs Polomon would have  
been able to get Mrs  
Cookson's address through  
United Nations States

<sup>3</sup>  
of Women!

Will write again  
if my friend has any  
success in obtaining  
Mrs S. Cookson's address

Yours sincerely  
Fran Davies

<sup>5</sup> I will be away on  
holidays from April 28<sup>th</sup>  
until end of May:



1 Sherwood Bee  
Mount Waverley 3146  
18/4/74

Dear Mrs Murchland

I was able to  
get Mrs Sybil Cookson  
address far quicker  
than I first thought  
It is:-

MRS SYBIL COOKSON  
TRELAWNY'S COTTAGE  
SOMPTING  
SUSSEX BN. 1515-OAX  
ENGLAND.

Recd.  
22/4

2

Would you mind passing  
on my thanks to Alder  
Hall for her letter to me,  
and tell her I would  
like 400 F.L. coin  
leaflets and  
150 labels

Thanking you  
yours sincerely  
Fran Lewis

33 Wilson Tce.,  
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

22nd April, 1974

Mrs. Shanti Solomon,  
St. Stephen's Home,  
4 Rajpur Road,  
DELHI. 110006  
India.

Dear Mrs. Solomon,

Thank you for your letter of 21st March with news of the action you intend taking in regard to Mrs. Cookson's suggestion. It will certainly be a pity if women become confused about the two different ideas.

I have been in touch with Mrs. Downes and the following is Mrs. Cookson's address:-

Mrs. Sybil Cookson,  
Trelawny's Cottage,  
Sompting,  
Sussex. B.N.1515-OAX  
England.

To date, we have heard no further mention of her idea here, but we will certainly advise you if the matter comes up again.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

THE PACIFIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Vuya Road, Veiluto,

P.O. Box 388,  
Suva, Fiji Islands

Tel: 311 100  
311 331  
Student: 311 902

13th May, 1974.

Mrs. J.B. Murchland,  
Secretary,  
Working Committee of Australian Church Women,  
33 Wilson Tce,  
Glenelg East, S.A. 5045,  
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Mrs. Murchland,

Thankyou very much for your letter of 26th February, 1974 regarding the money given by Australian Church Women for the support of Miss Maanana Ioteba, a student here for the Diploma in Religious Education from the Gilbert Islands Protestant Church. (For some reason your letter did not reach here until April.) I enclose the Bursar's receipt. This is a most generous gift from the Australian Church Women, and the College, Maanana and the Gilbert Islands Church are most grateful. This is a real investment in people. Miss Ioteba is doing very good work, and will I am sure be a real asset to her Church and people. Such a trained person can do a great deal for the life of the Church - especially when she is also possesses considerable personal gifts, as Maanana is. She is a person with a great sense of fun, with a very pleasant manner, and a capacity for independent thinking. She is engaged here in quite a wide - ranging field programme, as well as an academic course; one of the advantages of having the PTC in Suva is that there is a wide range of situations which students can study and explore, and a variety of programmes in which they can participate. Some of her course work has been taken at the University of the South Pacific, and some at a nearby Roman Catholic Teachers' College. We are confident that she will return to the Gilberts well equipped for her work there and we are so grateful to A.C.W. for helping to make this possible.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

*Alan Quigley*  
ALAN QUIGLEY  
PRINCIPAL

Encl:  
AQ/rd:

c.c. to the Rev. Koae Taburimae,  
Secretary,  
Gilbert Islands Protestant Church.

*Recd  
17/5*

10 4 1974 No. 7  
 Received from *Secretary, Working Committee  
 Australian Church Women*  
 the sum of *eight hundred and  
 seventy seven* Dollars  
*and sixty* Cents  
 being for *Donation from the World  
 Community Day offering to the  
 training of a women student  
 from the Gilbert Islands at PTC*  
 Received with thanks.  
 \$ 877-60  
 (A.\$ 745-00)

PACIFIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
BURSAR'S ACCOUNT

DUTY  
STAMP

# New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

Tel. 328.7119.

33 Macquarie Towers,  
250 Jersey Road,  
Woollahra. NSW 2025.

18th July, 1974.

The President,  
Australian Church Women,  
360 Marion Rd.,  
Flympton, S.A. 5038.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

RE: "AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN" - Brochure.

At the last meeting of our Executive Committee, we looked carefully at the sample draft submitted for our consideration, and I am asked to acquaint you with our thinking on this matter.

The first impression was that the publication appeared dull, and we hope that, if, as we assume, it is to be a duplicated publication, you can arrange to use a coloured paper- light blue with perhaps bronze blue ink would be attractive. The use of the symbols adds interest.

The 'set up' is somewhat cramped, we feel- due, of course, to your desire to get it all on two sides of a foolscap sheet. We wonder whether a little more might be placed on the final page- perhaps the par re the Memorial Bursary Fund, thus enabling the inner 'spread' to be spaced rather more generously.

In the section headed "Projects" (a) W.K.S.- par.2- we suggest that "the Pacific" might be omitted, since Papua New Guinea is in the Pacific area-- so that this part might read-"scholarship holders have come from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, British Solomon Islands, India and Africa (Zambia)."

We will not place a definite order just at present, but should like to know whether the brochures are to be provided free of charge, if not, what the price will be, and how soon we might expect to be able to obtain them.

You may be interested to read the enclosed newspaper cutting concerning the appointment of a Sydney woman to act as Administrator with the Gordon Barclay Vietnam Fund. The local Committee of this Fund were delighted when they received news that the F.L.C. grant had been received- \$ 1500 (US).

I am wondering whether you have received copies of the F.L.C. Quarterly News Bulletins yet; these were, I think, to be sent to the State Units. A friend who had one, received from another source, lent it to me, and I found it most interesting and informative.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

PROJECTS INCLUDE - 'WYBALENA' GIRLS HOSTEL, FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN,  
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

*Barbara M. Mitchell*  
President

33 Wilson Tee.,  
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

10th September, 1974

Miss D. Mitchell,  
33 Macquarie Towers,  
250 Jersey Road,  
WOOLLAHRA. N.S.W. 2025

Dear Miss Mitchell,

I was going through correspondence to-day when I realised that I had not asked Joy to mention the matter of Quarterly News Bulletins when she was in Sydney. We were very interested to hear that you have seen a recent one. Alder Hall has never received one. The only one we have seen was received by Fran. Bailey last year and was used as a basis for the "Prayer in Action" bulletins. Fran. has only received the one issue. I have written to Mrs. Solomon to see if this can be rectified, so hope it may not be too long before we can make the information from them available to the States.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

33 Wilson Tee.,  
GLENELG EAST, S.A. 5045

Mrs. Shanti Solomon,  
St. Stephen's Home,  
4 Rajpur Road,  
Delhi. 110006  
INDIA.

Dear Mrs. Solomon,

At a Working Committee Meeting some months ago, we received news that Quarterly News Bulletins on the work of Fellowship of the Least Coin were going to be issued. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Fran Bailey reported that she had received one and we were most interested to read it.

At our National Committee Meeting in February, at the request of delegates from various States, it was resolved that as copies of the Bulletin came to hand, information from them should be sent to each State to be used to keep members informed of the work of F.L.C.

Neither Mrs. Bailey nor our National Convenor of F.L.C. (Mrs. Alder Hall) has received a copy since then. (Actually, Mrs. Hall has not received any copies since the scheme was initiated.) Could you please advise if, in fact, these Bulletins are still being issued and whether it would be possible to have Mrs. Hall's name included on the mailing list if they are.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

C/o St. Stephen's Home  
4, Rajpur Road  
Delhi-110 054  
Sept. 26, 1974

Mrs. J.B. Murchland  
33 Wilson Tce.  
Glenelg East  
South Australia 5045

Dear Mrs. Murchland

Received your letter dated nill and I am pleased to know that your Committee takes such keen interest in the promotion of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

I must confess that due to the forth coming Assembly It has been impossible to even think of the News Bulletin. I have been all alone in the office with only one helper, who can only do typing when I have written anything. English is a great language problem for the younger generation. They cannot write anything if not dictated with every second word spelt out. The News Bulletin should take time and must be done with care, which I have not had this quarter. Last issue was out in May this year.

This is the first time we are having a systemetic way of getting ready for the Assembly, so much correspondence has to be done that I have decided not to have any more issues till after the Assembly. Sorry to disappoint you.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours

*Shanti*  
Mrs. S.R.Solomon.

# ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

( In association with the East Asia Christian Conference )

**CHAIRMAN :**

Mrs. Esther T. Bautista  
San Fernando, La. Union  
Philippines B-515

**SECRETARY :**

Mrs. Kathleen Davies  
Avonside Vicarage  
Christchurch 1  
New Zealand

**TREASURER :**

Miss Roselind Gurubatham  
No. 9, 6/30 Petaling Garden  
Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia.

From : Executive Secretary  
and  
Promoter Fellowship of  
the Least Coin

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

St. Stephen's Home  
4 Rajpur Road  
Delhi - 110054  
India.

12th November, 74

Mrs. Rachel Horn Cocks  
33 Forest Road  
West Hobart  
Tasmania 7000  
Australia.

Dear Rachel,

Congratulations for being elected as a Member of the Committee of National Representatives. I am looking forward to work with you during this quadrennium. Together we shall try to inform, inspire and involve the Asian Christian Women in Service for mankind and thus glorify His blessed name.

A copy of the Assembly Statement is enclosed here with for your information and action. This Statement is our mandate for this quadrennium and will greatly appreciate a progress report from your country.

I am also depending on you for the promotion of the Fellowship of the Least Coin in your own country. Kindly supply this office with the annual report of this movement.

We are Planning a Seminar on Family Life Education from April 21-26, 1975 at Penang in Malaysia. I wish we could invite all of you, but the financial limitations compel us to have 15 women only. Could you please send the name and address of a person from your country, who will really do something on her return to help the Christian Home movement. Supplement the name with a brief profile of the person you select.

With warm greetings.

Sincerely yours,

*N. David*

For Shanti Solomon  
Ex. Secretary, A.C.W.C.

*Shanti Solomon*

*27/8/74  
A.C.W.C.  
S.A.W.C.*

33 Wilson Pce.,  
GLENNING TOWN, D.A. 5045

28th November, 1974

Mrs. F. Bailey,  
3 Seaview Road,  
LYNCH, D.A. 5062

Dear Fran,

Members of the Working Committee were delighted to learn of your election to the office of Vice-Chairman of the Asian Church Women's Conference and take this opportunity to offer our congratulations.

We know you bring much understanding and sensitivity to this office and we would assure you that our thoughts and prayers are with you throughout your term of office.

With kindest thoughts,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Lurchland,  
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(In Association with the Christian Conference of Asia)

Mrs G. Murchland,  
Sec. Working Comtee A.C.W.

3 Seaview Road,  
Hyneton  
South Aus. 5062.  
April 20. 75

Dear Gwendra,

In sifting through some ACW.C. papers, I have come across your letter written in congratulation for my election as Vice-Chairman of ACW.C. Although I had thanked you on the telephone, I apologise that I had not committed my appreciation to paper.

Please accept it now, with the assurance that I am very conscious of the implied tribute to the women of the Australian Churches, which my election carries. I must admit that I found ~~my~~ election to this high office, both surprising and a bit overwhelming. The tasks faced by the church anywhere are daunting enough, but in Asia it is stupendous. I ask you all for your prayerful support as I seek to fulfill this office.

Yours lovingly,

Frances Bailey.

7/20/75

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(In Association with the Christian Conference of Asia.)

3 Leavens Road,  
Lynton,  
S.A. 5062.

23.5.75.

Mrs Gwendal Murchland.  
Sec. A.C.W. Working Comtee.

Dear Gwendal, I'm writing to acknowledge with thanks, the invitation conveyed by you to the National Committee meeting of A.C.W. in August. Please convey my appreciation to the Working Committee. I shall, unfortunately be unable to be present, full time, but will spend as much time at the N.C.M. as my teaching commitment will allow.

I regret that because of a change in my teaching appointment at Goodwood, I have been unable to attend A.C.W. Working Committee, this year. If however, you plan <sup>any</sup> evening meetings at any time, I'd be so glad to know about it. On the other hand, would you like a written report on A.C.W.C. for monthly meetings? It concerns me, that A.C.W.C. news is not getting through to A.C.W. and therefore to Church women in Australia.

Incidentally, in a letter received from Shanti Solomon, today, she asked me to pass on a request for our applications for allocations from the F.S.C. funds.

This must be all -

With warmest greetings to you  
A.C.W. Working Committee  
Fran Bailey.

President:—Mrs. Agnes Loyall, India; Vice-President—Mrs. Frances Bailey, Australia;—Assembly Secretary—Mrs. Gloria M. Santos, Philippines; Treasurer—Mrs. Yoshiko Isshiki, Japan; Executive Secretary—Mrs. Shanti R. Solomon,—India

cd  
29/5



# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

## Quarterly News Bulletin

Issued from ACWC Executive Secretary's Office  
C/o St. Stephen's Home  
4 Rajpur Road  
Delhi-110006.

4th Quarter, 1974

Devotion:                      PRINCE OF PEACE

We live today in a very threatening world. All around us there are outbreaks of violence: on the international level in our cities and villages and in many homes. We do not seem to have within ourselves the sufficient resources of wisdom and power to make peace and to prevent outbreaks of violence. Our world-problems seem too complex and our various interests and insights differ too much. How then to direct our actions: where is our hope for our future?

Already ages ago the Israelites believed in a messianic promise, the coming of one who would bring peace. They passed it on from one generation to the other and Isaiah expressed it clearly in 9: 2-7. Each year with Christmas we celebrate this great fact of all ages; "Christ the Messiah has come to us". And with the celebration of Easter, Christianity witnesses: "Through him all things will be reconciled".

But peace in Christ is not a static situation, some things people enjoy who live in material welfare, safely protected from trouble by well organized power structures. No, Christ's peace includes a calling to share in the work of the Holy Spirit for the promotion of love and justice in every corner of the earth. In Christ, love, peace and justice come together. In him "righteousness and peace have kissed each other", as the Psalmist says so beautifully (85:13). Christ's peace may even ask sacrifices. "I have not come to send peace but a sword," are Jesus' words in Matthew. We are warned not to follow an easy path (Matthew 4:8-10).

- Cox van Heemstra  
The Netherlands.

The Fifth Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference was held in Bangkok; October 18-24, 1974. In view that 1975 is an International Women's Year and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women have declared that the central theme of the year to be "Equality, Development and Peace". Therefore, we Asian Church Women have expressed our determination to promote the fellowship of the Least Coin extensively in our countries. The prayer of reconciliation, offered sincerely for ourselves and for others, can do wonders in creating an understanding for each other and can be the basic step to understand the true Christian meaning of reconciliation which the Prince of Peace is ready to give to each one. Next year let us all try to promote this Ecumenical movement as an effort to promote Peace.

Last year Mrs. Sybil Kookson appealed to Australian women to promote this movement as an effort to promote Peace and Freedom. Mrs. Kookson is an immediate past chair person of the British section of the Women's International League for

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Peace and Freedom. She was visiting Australia in the beginning of this year. Since then I have had a chance of meeting her and I also agree with her that the Fellowship of the Least Coin can be a basic Christian Act to gain love and understanding for each other and will give inner peace to those, who sincerely ask for it.

This News Bulletin was started to promote the F.L.C. movement, and to share the news with the members. We are pleased to report that this year the amount of the 'Gifts of Love' has increased which means that the membership has also increased.

Miss M.P. Pringle, Hon. Treasurer of National Women's Council in Scotland sent the 'Gift of Love' contribution from 27 districts and the amount has increased by 100%.

Mrs. Leita Fendall, National Secretary for promoting F.L.C. in New Zealand 1971-73, reported, "The Fellowship continues to grow steadily. There has been an up-surge of interest since Shanti Solomon's visit to our country, especially in and around Auckland where the local Secretary is a very keen promoter of this movement. Every member of the NCC Women's Committee in New Zealand brings it to the notice of women whenever they address women's groups - no matter what they are speaking on !!! The membership has increased. This year's donation sent to Geneva was about 1½ times the amount sent last year".

In Sri Lanka Mrs. Abeynaike, the president of National Ecumenical Committee of women has devoted most of her time to the promotion of the Fellowship.

Projects: Koinonia, Americus, Georgia, U.S.A.

Mrs. Florence Jordan, one of the staff for Koinonia projects writes: "The generous gift from the Fellowship of the Least Coin means such to us both for its usefulness and as the gift of love it represents. I had not heard much about this movement and am intrigued by the idea. Those, who have little, often feel that their little is worthless. They feel that their own need deprived them of the joy of giving. Your idea was certainly a blessed inspiration."

National Farm Worker's Ministry: California, U.S.A.

It was most appreciative to again receive a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. My work is to organize Church women in support of the Farm Workers here in the U.S.A.

Agbayani Retirement Village is a fruit of union contracts and the "Gifts of Love". Agbayani Retirement Village is a monument to Paulo Agbayani. And this summer it will become a home for up to 79 farm workers who are too old to do farm labour.

Of the first workers moving in most will be Filipino men. These men came to the United States in the 1920s and 30s, thinking they could find good employment and opportunity. Many of them came to the state of California, young and single. Here they found laws forbidding them from marrying American women, and laws prohibiting them from becoming citizens and from owning land. After World War II those laws were ruled unconstitutional, but by then many of the men were old.

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Agbayani Village is a reminder to us of the question, "What happens to farm workers when they are too old to support themselves?" After they have spent their lives tending and harvesting the nation's food, don't they deserve a place to live in dignity and with some security? It is pitiful that only 79 can live in the Village. We need hundreds of Villages. But who will build them?

The money for building materials for Agbayani Village came from the first contracts that the United Farm Workers Union made with grape growers. In those contracts was stipulation that for every box of grapes packed the grower would pay 2%. When those contracts expired in the spring and summer of 1973, the growers decided to switch to the giant Teamsters Union in an effort to defeat Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. There is no more money now to build other Village was donated. The United Farm Workers must regain their contracts if services for and by farm workers are going to be extended across the country.

Pat Hoffman  
National Farm Worker  
Ministry.

Ecumenical Council of Women, Kerala, India.

Mrs K.K. Geroge, the Secretary of Ecumenical Council of Women in Kerala, India was grateful for a small grant of US \$ 200, which enabled her to bring 70 Christian women, belonging to different denominations, together to discuss the status of women in India and their role in the Church. The meetings were a source of great inspiration, information and Christian fellowship. It has also given a food for thought. They are still seeking ways of more effective witness in society.

The Girls' Brigade Pacific Fellowship:

"You will be delighted to hear that over training programme in Papua New Guinea is progressing very well.

Miss Susana Karava, whose home is in Kerema, Papua has been travelling constantly since March of this year, conducting training classes throughout the Western Districts of New Guinea, including Manus, Madang, throughout the Sepik area, Balimo and Baiyer River. She writes of great interest by the women and girls in Girls' Brigade since it gives them an opportunity of learning skills of use to them in their village life, and stimulates them in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus and promotes a desire to live a more full Christian life. Susanna will be back in Port Moresby in August for training courses there, and all who have participated have expressed their thanks for the fact that she has been enabled to do this.

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Miss Emily Saerson has continued in her area of the Bougainville districts where she is responsible through the Christian Education Department of the United Church to work and oversee women's work and Girls' Brigade. The same applies to our third Training Officer, Miss Linda Edoni whose area embraces the Papuan Islands.

• • • These three local young women are doing a really fine Christian service for their Lord.

• • • In January we have planned a Fonomarae (or Camp) which is to be held at Kabakada near Rabaul in New Britain and all three training officers will be holding responsible positions in the camp programme. It is hoped that 40-60 girls will be able to attend from all parts of Papua New Guinea, together with 15 from Australia, 10 from New Zealand, 2 from the New Hebrides and 2 from the Solomon Islands. The theme is to be "The Power of the Holy Spirit" and I am sure it will be a most joyous and blessed time.

Mrs. D. Carrick.

Congregation Commitment to Reading: Madras, India.

I am very glad to inform you that there has been welcoming signs of interest and commitment for the above project. The Working Committee of the Syond of the Church of South India's endorsed this project and commended it for implementation to all the Churches of the C.S.I.

Secondly, THE GUARDIAN has highly commended this project.

Thirdly, the Literature Development Board of the National Christian Council has decided to observe one Sunday as Literature Sunday in the Churches of India. The theme for this Literature Sunday has been decided upon as "Congregational Commitment to Reading".

Already there are small small discussion grounds springing up in congregations so that congregations may get committed to reading and discussion.

We have also published various booklets and books which will lend themselves for promoting this project.

I take this opportunity to bid you goodbye and also thank you for the grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. I am sure that this project will bear much fruit and all the Managerial Staff of the CLS have decided to promote this project vigourously.

"Niji-no-Ie" Rainbow Haven.

We wish to thank you very much for your kind gifts of US \$ 2,000:00 from the Fellowship of the Least Coin Funds. Here is a progress report of the Residence Home for Retiring Women Pastors and Christian Workers with a picture of it.

We named it "Niji-no-Ie" (Rainbow Haven). The one-story house seen farther end is the Residence Home quarter, and the building this side is the so-called public quarters where there are halls for services and meetings, diningroom, kitchen, bathrooms, some rooms for visitors to stay, etc. The oil painting on the wall of the lobby was painted by one  
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of the Federation members, and was named, "The Way to Jerusalem". She is a winner at various national exhibitions.

As soon as the building was completed, many churches and Christian groups began using the public quarters for their summer conferences and retreats. Practically there were no days that the building was not occupied till the middle part of October, (of course, except Sundays and half day on Saturdays). Those who were there were satisfied with the place very much and were most grateful to have such a place for church gatherings. As to the residence Home, it will take a little longer to start functioning. To make it a really homelike place for the residents to live permanently, the Committee have been making their uttermost efforts to fix it nicely; besides, they have to be very careful in selecting the residents-to-be for a comparatively small capacity at this stage. (Ten for the first period with a hope that it may be enlarged some day when more funds shall have been raised.) We hope, however, it will begin functioning early next year. May we have your prayers for the Home - for its growth as God intended and hoped.

Toshiko Hayashi  
Executive Secretary  
National Federation of  
Kyodan Women's Societies  
J a p a n.

The Marigot Vocational School - Dominica, West Indies.

We greet you from the island of Dominica on the West Indies, and particularly from Marigot. We are pleased to report that THE MARIGOT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL has been progressing steadily and has been attempting to meet the needs of the young people in this community which it set out to help originally. We continue to offer classes in Typing, Home Economics, Wood Craft, Agriculture.....and more recently, English, Basic Mathematics, and Hand work which includes Crochet, sewing and other related subjects.

We are very grateful to you for your substantial contribution to our school of US \$ 1,500.00. We will use the same to purchase as many Type-writers as that money can purchase. At the moment, our class in typing numbers 22 students and we have only 8 type-writers. So we are very much indebted to you for your generosity, and we continue to pray God's blessings on your work.

Neville D. Brodie.  
Dominica, West Indies.

European Seminar and Study Tour.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the 'Fellowship of the Least Coin Grant' for having made it possible for me, a woman of the Third World to attend the European Seminar and Study Tour from 15th September to the 6th October, 1973.

It was indeed a meaningful and fruitful experience for me and I will continue to live my Christian life upon the guidelines God has set down for us and try to follow and teach others from the additional lessons and examples that I have learnt from my seminar in Europe.

Pamala S. Wahab  
Georgetown, West Indies.

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Miss Gudrun Diestel, the Chairman of the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer 1970-74, in her letter introducing the theme for this years world Day of Prayer wrote:-

"When in 1970 we asked all of you which issue was most important to you, the over-whelming answer from all corners of the world was "Peace". Meanwhile we write 1973 but looking at the world in which we live, Peace is still our longing, our hope and our task.

Peace is more than having no war. In the Christian understanding it means to get the chance to live a full life and be in one accord with God and people around us. Peace is a process something dynamic. "Peace on the earth" - the message of the angels to the shepherds in the field - this great gift of God starts where old and young, husband and wife in the family can overcome what separates them - where groups from different tribes or nations in village or town break through distrust and discrimination - wherever your prayerful heart includes people affected by the news that comes over the radio."

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Bright New Year.  
May the Prince of Peace be our guide and Saviour.

PRAYER: "Lord of space and time,  
enable us to see you as the lord of here and now;  
assure us of your constant care so that  
willingly we give ourselves in caring for others;  
enfold us with your eternal love so that  
we respond by reaching out in loving kindness of others;  
satisfy our longing to see you in those  
we encounter so that we may reflect something of  
your spirit to others."  
Amen".

  
Shanti Solomon  
Executive Secretary, ACWC.

&  
Promotional Secretary, FLC  
C/o St. Stephen's Home  
4, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi - 110054,  
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ANIL.

## A.C.W.C. RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that:

1. Church women should be instrumental in helping all women to become more economically productive by sponsoring classes on cottage industry, back-yard gardening, agriculture etc.
2. Church women should initiate a review of the curriculum and methods of the educational system, so as to make it more relevant to the needs of the time.
3. This A.C.W.C. should call upon Christian women everywhere to shake off their indifference and to take an active interest in the political life of their countries, to exercise their suffrage, to run for office if necessary, in order to influence the processes of decision making. Women should sponsor forums and discussions on political and social issues affecting the community where they are and serve as a medium of dialogue between citizens and government officials.
4. Church women should be instrumental in interpreting what is done and can be done together with people of other faiths in social action programme, and joint participation in study sessions.
5. Church women should be instrumental in helping young people to become aware of what is happening around the world, and to their neighbours, to develop in the young a capacity for discernment.
6. Church women should first of all understand the true meaning of "neighbour", that it exists not for itself, but for the whole world. They need to re-examine the priorities in terms of their responsibilities towards their neighbours. They should be instrumental in helping the church to reconstruct itself to make it more relevant to the whole society.
7. Every delegate should make a detailed report of the conference to her National Council and/or Women's organisation and continue her study of the theme and share it with others.
8. Church women should be instrumental in initiating and promoting adult education, such as literacy.
9. The A.C.W.C. should be an instrument of change, by taking a stand or issuing a statement of policy on basic and controversial issues.
10. A.C.W.C. should seek deeper involvement in the life of Asian Christian Service in Vietnam and Laos by:
  - a. prayer support of the Administration,
  - b. financial support to continue the work and send such support to ICA Secretary, 24 Foxall Street, Elanora Heights, N.S.W. Australia 2101
  3. reading and becoming knowledgeable about Vietnam and Laos.

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

COPY OF LETTER FROM MISS BRIGALIA BAM - World Council of Churches, Education and Communication Unit,  
RENEWAL and RENEWAL MOVEMENTS.

Dear Friends, I am writing to you today concerning the Women of Bangladesh. After you have read the enclosed description of their plight, please consider whether it might be possible for you to help them and what provision could be made from your budget. This is likely to be a long-term problem, so planning ahead in our budgets will be as important as the much-needed immediate emergency grant. They will indeed be grateful to you.

Apart from my own colleagues in the World Council of Churches who are working on the overall situation, I am in touch with the International Women's Council, and we have all agreed not to set up separate projects in this connection. We have agreed to work through the existing bodies in Bangladesh and the special committees set up there.

We shall be working through the Director of our relief committee, Mr. Amit, who is most concerned about the situation of these women and about the fact that there is not yet enough money allocated to help them. So I have decided to make an appeal to the solidarity of church-women around the world, and hope very much you will be able to respond with your usual great generosity!

This brings all my best wishes to you. Yours sincerely, BRIGALIA BAM.

### THE WOMEN OF BANGLADESH

It is now well known that one of the most terrible features of the war in Bangladesh was the rape of some 200,000 women. Some observers even allege that the rape was part of a deliberate policy designed to create a new race to unite East and West Pakistan. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that the effect has been to bring a difficult social problem to the country. The women have been thrust deep into an interior conflict within their country: on the one hand, they are officially described by the Government as heroines, on the other is the fact that, within the culture, they are regarded as "disgraced" by their families as well as by any potential husband. A Malaysian woman who visited Bangladesh in an East Asian Christian Conference programme to help the women said: "It would be hard for a westerner to understand how terrible this is for a Muslim woman. Most have been isolated from men since puberty. Many would never even show their own faces to anyone other than a husband."

In addition to the social stigma, many thousands of children are expected to be born who are not wanted by their mothers and who will be regarded as outcasts in the society. No one knows the full extent of the problem, though there have been reports of widespread abortion, and it is feared that there will also be infanticide if something is not done for the girls, most of whom are aged between 12 and 25. It is clear in this situation that blankets, food and saris are not enough. The need is for imaginative social programmes that restore self-dignity and provide skills and training for the women to take a full part in the society.

At the present time, a wide variety of programmes are in operation, or projected, which cover everything from simple relief to consideration of the part the women can play in the future of Bangladesh. The Sisters of Charity, led by Mother Theresa of Calcutta, have opened a Shishu Bhavan (Children's Home) in Dacca, to handle as many as 100 women in advanced stages of pregnancy and to care for children after birth. There are other homes in Pabna and Rajshahi. But the work has started slowly, as the girls are unwilling to come forward. It looks as if the society has been able to absorb at least some of the girls. The Sisters plan to teach skills to the girls. Courses include sewing, cooking, book-keeping and weaving. Altogether they will care for about 1,000 girls.

A small group of Bangladesh social workers have drawn up a Bangladesh Women's Emancipation Programme, supported by the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Their manifesto begins: "Bangladesh is free, but only one half of our people are free. The other half are not allowed to decide their own course in life, nor are they free or properly prepared to take part in the emancipation of Bangladesh. We owe to our women emancipation, social and cultural, as much as we need their brains, their hands, their hearts in the build-up of our nation".

A first aim of the programme is to help the violated women. Abortion will be provided for those who wish it. (Abortion is itself, however, a difficult religious and social issue in a Muslim society). But emphasis is also placed on the need for basic education and vocational training.

The Bangladesh Ecumenical Relief and Rehabilitation Service has outlined a pilot programme for training 25 girls as nurses or nurse aides. This will be under the direction of Prof. Ayesha Nabi of the School of Social Welfare, Dacca University. The girls will be trained to Bangladesh professional standards and guaranteed employment on completion of the course. But only \$200,000 has been set aside, from the \$13 million programme, for women's projects.

An imaginative scheme has been suggested by a British sociologist, Richard Hauser, which is designed to help the outcasts "attain greater dignity than would normally have been the case, by being given the choice to become members of a group recognized for its social value and having status inferior to none and equal to the best in the country." He foresees the creation of an "order" of women, with no religious connections or vows, who would work as national, community and neighbourhood workers. His plan also envisages the setting up of a number of orphanages where the children could receive loving care.

The need is for full integration in the society by means of education and employment. Training courses are required and opportunities must be given for such things as cottage industries. Social workers are required who can give counselling to the women and also organize courses in child-care and health education. Large sums are needed to ensure that worthwhile programmes aimed at meeting the real needs of the women can be realized.

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THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE  
OF THE  
ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

The Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) is an ecumenical organisation of Protestant women of Asia, Australia and New Zealand. It maintains close working relationship with the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and fraternal relations with other regional ecumenical women's organisations and women's organisations of world confessional bodies.

REASON FOR BEING:

Believing that the purpose of God for the churches in Asia is life together in a common obedience to Him for the doing of His will in the world, the ACWC is constituted so that women sharing a common faith in our Lord and Saviour may unite to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by -

- a) demonstrating His love in all areas of life through programmes of development, social justice and witness;
- b) declaring oneness with all Christians everywhere;
- c) expressing Christian faith and responsibility through ecumenical fellowship and action;

HOW THE NEED WAS FELT:

The Second World War brought radical changes to Asia and her relationships. As the nations were regaining their political independence, the Asian churches were also emerging with renewed faith in God and a new sense of identity in their own nations and cultures.

The Christians in the region were confronted with social and national upheavals and the churches in Asia were anxious to compare notes with those in similar situations in the neighbouring countries. For the first time, the Christian women in Asia realised that they knew more about the West than about neighbours in Asia. They felt the need to discover together, the nature and style of Christian life and action in the changing times. They were amazed to discover that there were more similarities than differences in their culture, traditions, attitudes and problems. Such were the theological, historical and ecumenical motivations in the background of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

The first Assembly of the ACWC was held in Hong Kong in 1958. A very simple and flexible set of rules was adopted for the smooth functioning of the Conference.

In 1962 the Second Assembly, held in Thailand, decided to take up the Fellowship of the Least Coin as its main continuing project, and to promote and administer the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

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The Third Assembly celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) in Tokyo, Japan, in 1966. This Assembly also marked the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand in the ACWC,

In 1970 a regular Constitution was adopted during the fourth Assembly held in Indonesia, and a full-time Executive Secretary was also appointed to put the Assembly mandate into action during the following four years.

The Fifth Assembly held in 1974 at Bangkok, Thailand brought out the Assembly Statement and chalked out the mandate for the next quadrennium.

The Sixth Assembly, with its theme 'CALLED TO CHANGE -- COMMITTED TO SERVE', held in Gotemba, Japan, in October, 1978, calls all the Christian women in general, and Asian women in particular, to CHANGE and SERVE.

Officers and members of the Executive for the next quadrennium:-

PRESIDENT: (Mrs) GLORIA SANTOS (Philippines)  
VICE PRESIDENT: (Mrs) AGNES LOYALL (India)  
SECRETARY: (Mrs) GLORIOSA RAYENDRAN (Malaysia)  
TREASURER: (Miss) JEAN CHEN Hong Kong.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

(Mrs) HANA KAWAI (Japan).  
(Mrs) CHARLOTTE ENGEL (Indonesia).  
(Mrs) RACHEL COCKS (Australia)

Australian National Representative: Mrs. Rachel Cocks.

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## S T A T E M E N T

To demonstrate God's love in all areas of life through programmes of development, justice and witness, the ACWC Consultation on "Economic Injustice to Women" was held in the Federal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 9-13 October, 1992.

We 42 women representing 16 member countries and Cambodia were challenged anew as we met to study and reflect on the theme. This was done through working, biblical theological reflections, lectures, workshops, country reports and exposure to local situations.

Having been made more aware of the difficult and dehumanising situations in which people are forced to work, we affirm our oneness in Christ and solidarity with one another.

We commit ourselves

- to pray for justice and peace;
- to be better informed of marginalised groups in our community and identify with them.
- to help create opportunities for women to express their hurts and despair.
  
- to reinforce the importance of a loving, caring family and work for justice, peace and reconciliation.
- to lobby the \*gov't and work with secular groups and NGO's improve the conditions and lifestyle of women.
- to educate women about their legal and moral rights.
- to disseminate information of groups and individuals who can be approached for assistance.
- to raise the consciousness of men regarding injustice to women.

We acknowledge the need for change in attitudes and are committed to take these recommendations to our churches for action.

We Asian Church Women will strive to overcome the injustice in our society with the empowerment of Christ, our Saviour.

\* gov't = government

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC)  
CONSULTATION 1992  
ECONOMIC INJUSTICE TO WOMEN  
OCTOBER 9-13, 1992, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together the members of the executive and general committee of ACWC for business and administration and programme, and then in a larger gathering to which women of the community in Malaysia were invited, the opportunity to discuss the theme through lectures and workshops was given.

The programme in general consisted of devotional times and bible studies, lectures, workshops, 'singing', plenary sessions, country reports, exposure to local industry, exposure to local churches, and socialising in an informal manner.

Prior to the commencement of the consultation the executive and general committees met at the Council of Churches Malaysia office, and their three days of 'business' was conducted there in the CCM conference room. The staff of the CCM, from the General Secretary (Mr Varghese George) down to the office staff offered wonderful co-operation and hospitality.

It was clear that the church women of Malaysia are a very dedicated group of talented women.

The consultation was held at the Federal Hotel, in true conference surroundings and facilities.

It is important to say at the outset that the theme was addressed from both a secular as well as a christian base. With representatives from 17 countries being present, including Bangladesh and Cambodia, to Australia and New Zealand, it was clear that the question would have to be addressed specifically for the needs of each country. This gave ample opportunity for learning and discussion each from the other, regarding the position of women in each country. It is also important to say that the ultimate aim was for 'action'. The discussions were not 'dead-ends' but rather a starting point for stimulation, for ideas, for creative ways of addressing the needs that the question aroused.

The spiritual tone of the consultation was very high. God through his Spirit moved in the hearts of all present, particularly through the ministry of the two women who lead us in devotions and bible studies. Mrs Datin Dulcie Abraham (Malaysia) led the morning devotions. Very skilfully, very tenderly, very poignantly, we were led each morning to worship a mighty God. We were led to faith in a Yahweh who provides power, security, holiness and anointing. She said, "Involving Jesus in our issues is involving ourselves in the CROSS."

The Bible studies were lead by Mrs Sharon Joy Durendez (PHILIPPINES), a very well qualified woman theologian, who lead us in biblical theological reflections. The ultimate challenge of these reflections was for our involvement in the dismantling of systems that engage the poor in unjust economic systems.

The theme "ECONOMIC UNJUSTICE TO WOMEN" was addressed in three Sub-themes:

Sub-theme 1: WOMEN AND WORK IN ASIA, Nimalka Fernando, Regional Co-ordinator, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development.

Sub-theme 11: DUAL ROLE OF WOMEN & THE INEQUALITY THERE IN, Meena Shivdas AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research).

Sub-theme 111: FAMILY & INJUSTICE, Mrs Gloriosa Rajendran

The material from each sub-theme was then discussed in workshops, leading to the plenary sessions, from which the conference statement was formed. (The conference statement will be made available in the near future.)

WOMEN AND WORK IN ASIA: "It is imperative for women's groups to critically examine government policies and identify levers of change. We have to demand our rights to participate actively in major development projects and plans, and we have to insist on our rights to productive resources.

Clearly the nature and extent of the problems differ among countries at different levels of development and within countries among different categories of women. So the approach, strategies and priorities needed to solve these problems will also differ both within countries and between nations.

The issue of economic justice is much related to the political processes in our countries. It is important to ask the question as to whether the church can be a home in all countries for the women and those others struggling for justice to get together and organise. The church even as society will always remain ambiguous, partly comprised and partly faithful. But the way to authenticity and freedom lies through the cross of redemptive suffering, through repentance and faith, through exposing ourselves in the vulnerability of powerlessness and love."

DUAL ROLE OF WOMEN & INEQUALITY THERE IN: "Women's emancipation from socio-cultural biases and the empowerment through the process would improve their status. They would be seen as persons in their own right - capable of independent thought and action. As rightful contributors to economy, their efforts and thoughts will form an integral part of planning policies.

For women's emancipation to take place, emphasis must be laid on education. Women's education holds the key; the recent World Bank/IMF annual meeting clearly stated that the returns on women's education would be immense having as it would serious implications for women, men, and children and more importantly for the state of the world..

"The scales of world equality are out of balance. The side marked 'woman' is weighed down with responsibility, while the side marked 'man' rides high with power" --from Women, a world report. For a more equitable balance of the scales, the first step to be recognised would be the redistribution of wealth and work and power and responsibility in a fair manner. The redistribution process would have to address gender inequalities before addressing the wider issues of work, money, power and responsibility. Gender inequalities pervade every layer of society. Unless they are recognised and addressed, the economic injustice to women will continue."

FAMILY AND INJUSTICE: "It is pleasant for some and enjoyable to others, to come to a Consultation like this and talk about injustice. For most of us, talking is easy but action is difficult. Because of this, inactivity reigns and injustice continues. We suffer from what E Stanley Jones the missionary to India described as "the paralysis of analysis". Either because we have non-assertive temperaments or because standing up for justice involves risks, we hesitate and are unwilling to act. The question we need to answer is 'What action to I take after this Consultation?'

We need to be prepared to face the inevitable conflict that will occur when we try to correct injustice and empower women."

The ensuing discussions and decisions in the workshops were very challenging, creative, innovative and designed for action. The sharing of activities already in place in communities who have already made a response to economic injustice of all different kinds - slave labour, prostitution, low wages, exploitation of teenage workers, etc was a means of stimulation of thought and ideas for those who want to have involvement with the people of their communities. It was obvious that the women of this consultation were going home to 'action' One lady was heard to say, "I wish I hadn't come. The challenge before me is too big, but by God's grace, I must be involved with the marginalised women of my community."

Perhaps one of the more positive and 'easier' responses made throughout these discussions, were the desires of many women from most countries to do more for the children of the women who are exploited - e.g. child care facilities, play groups, after school care, education for these children.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC) is a marvellous tool for God to use to uplift and equip women who are gifted and available. It is a very humbling experience to share the journey with women whose resources may be limited, but whose faith seems to embrace the impossible. Many are the stories that can be shared of individual members of our current ACWC executive and general committee who are strongly committed to relieve distress and injustice for women of their communities. Their ingenuity is outstanding. Without the money, the facilities, the support that we would expect even before we embarked on a project, they begin by 'doing it'!

Our best response really lies in the area of support for ACWC. If you could have met the two ladies from Cambodia, heard their stories and faced their struggle, you would have been overwhelmed with emotion. ACWC exists for such women. Sure, it is pleasant and enjoyable to attend the ACWC meetings, but there is a huge responsibility involved. The responsibility of sharing the concerns of women in Asia, the responsibility of sharing in a practical way, the responsibility of intercessory prayer, the responsibility of taking action in our own community.

JOAN M TONG (MEMBER GENERAL COMMITTEE ACWC)

**REPORT FROM ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER, 2004**

To all state Secretaries of ACW.

I know that you have been praying for our Asian sisters through the recent disasters.. The typhoons struck Taiwan and Japan and Japan also had the earthquakes. Shu-Wen reported that due to the Typhoon in Taiwan offices and schools were closed. She had to stay home while it lasted. Yasuko was on a train when the Earthquake reached Japan. About 80,000 people were living outside their homes, some in public buildings and some in their cars. They were afraid to stay in their houses. Many roads were cut. The East District of the Lutheran Church Women's League started up a support program for the victims of the earthquakes. Then the earthquakes were followed by the typhoon. Flooding and typhoons also caused problems in other Asian countries.

Many countries will be celebrating ACWC Day in November although it doesn't have to take place in this month. I hope that some Australian States will be able to incorporate the service that was sent to you into a local service. If you celebrate ACWC Day in your state please let me know the details. We did hear from NSW and their report was in ACWC Newsletter.

Shu-Wen has sent out scholarship details to all countries. I have forwarded these on to the National Executive. We don't need to apply for these scholarships but our money helps to fund them.

Annam, Ruth(FLC rep) and Shu-Wen will attend the ICFLC annual meetings on 31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November in New York. Besides the official business of Fellowship of the Least Coin plans will be made for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. They will also meet with American Church women while in the states and Shu-Wen will promote ACWC at the Taiwanese Formosan Christian Church in Seattle on 7<sup>th</sup> November. After this Shu-Wen will take a vacation for the first time since she took over as Executive Secretary more than two years ago. She had to be reminded that she should take holidays.

By now you may already have paid ACWC Newsletter subscriptions of \$12.00 for 2005. Reports of the international travels will surely appear in this when Shu-Wen gets time to report on them. While everyone will not want to buy a subscription, it is good to have one for your women's group to hand around. Some states have received extra copies this year but we are trying to get the subscription list adjusted. Then we will need to check on the new list for 2005.

Have a happy and a holy Christmas and look after yourselves for next year.

Pat Walker.

Copy

Ms Shu-Wen Chiang  
3, Lane 269,  
Roosevelt Road, Sec.3,  
Taipei  
106 TAIWAN

Dear Shu-Wen

**Re: Donation**

The members of the National Executive Committee of ACW join me in thanking you most sincerely for the generous donation of US\$500.00 from the ACWC Emergency Fund following the bushfires in Victoria.

It has been most humbling and, indeed, overwhelming to receive such a generous donation from ACWC.

I enclose the receipt for Aus\$760.57 from the National Treasurer Helen Lloyd.

We are at present considering the best way to disburse this donation so that the Christian communities who have lost nearly everything will know that ACWC members are aware of their pain. As soon as we know where the money has been spent we will let you know.

Once more, our heartfelt thanks for this most generous donation from ACWC. We appreciate your continued prayers for the people affected by the fires. It will be many months, probably many years, before some of the communities are rebuilt and the people can return to their former homes again.

Yours in Christian Fellowship

Jean Thomson  
National President

23. 03. 09  
Cc Donna Bryan, ETC