

# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

*We live, give and pray for*

**PEACE** IN THE WORLD  
IN THE HOME  
IN THE HEART



**NATIONAL OFFICE:**

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN, 3rd FLOOR, 511 KENT ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W.**

This ICFLC recommends projects, approves grants, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of the funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out world-wide promotion and interpretation of this movement.

#### GIFTS OF LOVE

The Least Coin Fund is used to allocate grants for projects all over the world. These grants are 'gifts of love' because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace and reconciliation.

The grants are allocated from the FLC Fund within the following categories:

- i) ICFLC Administration.
- ii) Block grants to regional ecumenical organisations.
- iii) On request grants for projects to any ecumenical group of Christian women.
- iv) Emerging opportunities.
- v) Emergency grants for unforeseen natural disasters.

The Fund supports programmes which promote evangelical and ecumenical concerns. Special preference is given to projects that will ensure women's development, and offer opportunities for women to play their full role in ecumenical movements.

#### RECENT GRANTS:

Women's Leadership - Zambia, Lebanon, Asia, Philippines.  
 Disabled Persons - Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nigeria.  
 Translation - Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese.  
 Atom Bomb Victims - Korea.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS:

Requests from all continents are invited. The maximum sum given is US\$6,000.00 for any one particular project. Grants are normally non-recurring.

Applications for grants must reach the ICFLC Executive Secretary by June of each year. Suggestions for projects to be supported should be made to the N.S.W. State Unit of Australian Church Women.

#### LITERATURE:

1. Copies of this pamphlet on the Fellowship of the Least Coin (free).
2. 'Circle of Prayer' - a devotional booklet published biennially by the ICFLC. Each month's meditation is by a woman of a different country (60¢ per copy plus postage. Single copy posted 88¢)

These publications are obtainable from:

The F.L.C. Convener,  
 Mrs. D. Woodhouse,  
 86 Fullers Road,  
 CHATSWOOD, 2067.

Contributions should be forwarded to the F.L.C. Convener.

Please make all cheques payable to Australian Church Women.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss D. Mitchell,  
 33/250 Jersey Road,  
 WOOLLAHRA, 2025.

Published by: Australian Church Women  
 N.S.W. Unit.

## *You are Invited*

to  
 participate with Christian women  
 of every continent in the

### **FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN**



The above design is the symbol of the  
 'CIRCLE OF PRAYER'

Many pairs of hands folded in prayer form its basic circle. It can be truly said that these hands encircle our earth.

Let us fold our hands and in unity of heart and purpose pray with and for each other.

#### WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN?

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. It is a special and continuing project of the Asian Church Women's Conference, through which Asian women seek the fellowship of Christian women around the world. Together in a fellowship of prayer, women learn to love and have concern for God's people throughout the world.

#### HOW AND WHEN IT WAS STARTED:

In the autumn of 1956 an international team of women, sponsored by the women of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA visited East Asian countries on a good will mission. During their tour, the idea of this movement was conceived by Mrs. Shanti Solomon, a member of the team.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their fellow Christian women in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every land.

Today the members of this fellowship are found in 63 countries.

#### UNIQUENESS:

The Fellowship of the Least Coin movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

- a. The offering itself is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. They are within the same discipline.

- b. It brings all Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination.
- c. The Token of Participation is a 'least coin' set aside by the individual as prayer is offered. The 'least coins' are contributed annually to a common fund which is given in the name of Christian women without identification of its original source. This fund is used for ministries of mercy on every continent and for experiences which create Christian community among those of different national, racial, cultural, economic and religious backgrounds.

#### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF FLC

Anyone, who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, must promise to spend some time in prayer whenever she has strained relationships with another person, or a group of persons or a nation.

Instead of condemning the wrong done, solace is sought in God's presence, by emptying oneself of all grievances against others and learning the basic lesson of Christian love and the mystery of God's reconciling love for mankind. Also upheld in prayer others who are victims of the hatred and jealousy.

After spending some time in prayer for reconciliation and forgiveness, put aside the smallest coin of your currency as a tangible token of your prayer. These coins are collected once a year and are blessed in a special service of dedication.

In N.S.W. this takes place at World Community Day services, usually held in October and then forwarded to the Treasurer of Australian Church Women.

The amount collected in each country is never announced; only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The reason is that this is not primarily a fund raising project, but a movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest women should be able to share with love and care.

#### ADMINISTRATION:

The FLC Fund is an international fund belonging to Christian women of participating countries, therefore it is administered by an international committee with its base in Asia, and related to the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). The International Committee for FLC (ICFLC) is composed of:

- a) Four officers of ACWC.
- b) One representative from each of the World Ecumenical Organisations of women such as International Committee for World Day of Prayer and World Council of Churches Sub-committee for women in church and society.
- c) One representative from each of the regional ecumenical organisations in rotation for a period of two years.
- d) ICFLC Executive Secretary and ACWC Executive Secretary are ex-officio members.
- e) The chairperson of this International Committee is the ACWC president.



## Fellowship Of The Least Coin



This unique symbol was the special gift of the Chinese women to the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It is a circle representing the world, and enclosing many pairs of hands folded in Prayer. These hands belong to each woman who shares in the dedication, concern and ministry of the Least Coin.

Since 1956 Christian women of all continents have responded to the call of the Founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Shanti Solomon to pray for reconciliation in the home, the community, the nation, the world, and to work for peace with Justice." (FLC brochure)".

Shalom  
SHIRIN SAMUEL  
Executive Secretary  
of the International Committee  
for the Fellowship of the  
Least Coin.

You are invited to  
Participate with Christian Women  
of every continent in the  
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.

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"The Basis of Belonging  
is  
concern for reconciliation  
Prayer for Fellow Christians  
Intercession for those in special  
need of God's grace.  
THE TOKEN OF PARTICIPATION  
is

A "least coin" set aside whenever  
Prayer is offered and contributed  
annually to a common Fund which is  
given in the name of Christian  
women without identification of  
its original source. This fund is  
used for ministries of mercy on  
every continent and for experience  
which creates Christian community  
among those of different national,  
racial, cultural, economic and  
religious backgrounds.

The least coins are tangible token  
of our prayers offered individual-  
ly and collectively."  
These contributions-"Gifts of Love"  
however small or large, may be sent  
to

Department of Finance  
World Council of Churches  
150-route de Ferney  
CH-1211 Geneva 20, SWITZERLAND.  
at any time throughout the year.

FELLOWSHIP of the Least Coin  
GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF PRAYER  
FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND  
RECONCILIATION.

# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



You are invited to participate with Christian  
Women of every Continent in the  
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

How and when it began:  
Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool,  
an idea born in the heart of an Indian  
woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, (based on  
Luke Ch.21 vs.1-4) has spread in ever  
widening circles of Christian concern  
among the women of the world.

A fellowship of prayer, without any  
discrimination, it enables all to participate  
in the offerings of their "Least Coin" thus  
enabling "gifts of love" to be provided  
for projects all over the world.

Applications for grants are invited  
from all countries.

## Prayer of the Fellowship of the Least Coin

O Loving Creator, we present ourselves in  
your divine presence to thank you for all the  
bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful  
for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds  
us together in love and forgiveness around the  
globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices,  
we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with  
humankind that we may know the joy of giving  
and receiving.

Dear God, accept the least coin 'token of  
love'. Make us mindful of the miracles of these  
coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as  
shown through the life and resurrection of your  
Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

## Circle of Prayer:

A booklet of meditations and prayers for use in the  
presentation of Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings, is  
prepared by women of different countries, and is available  
from State units of Australian Church Women.

For further information regarding the Fellowship of the  
Least Coin, the Convenor in your State is:



You are invited to  
participate with Christian Women  
of every continent in the  
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The basis of belonging is concern for  
peace, justice and reconciliation.  
Intercession for those in special need of God's grace.

THE TOKEN OF PARTICIPATION IS  
A "Least Coin"

set aside whenever Prayer is offered  
and contributed annually to a common Fund  
which is given in the name of Christian women  
without identification of its original source.

This fund is used as "gifts of love"  
for ministries of mercy on every continent  
and for experience which creates Christian community  
among those of different national, racial, cultural,  
economic and denominational backgrounds.

The least coins are tangible token of our prayers  
offered individually and collectively.

Those contributions — "Gifts of Love"

however small or large, may be sent  
in the name of Fellowship of the Least Coin  
to

Department of Finance  
World Council of Churches  
150 Route de Ferney  
P.O. Box 66  
1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland

at any time throughout the year.

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT  
OF PRAYER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND  
RECONCILIATION

## PRAYER OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



O LOVING CREATOR,  
WE PRESENT OURSELVES  
IN YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE  
TO THANK YOU FOR  
ALL THE BOUNTIFUL GIFTS OF LIFE.  
WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL  
FOR THE  
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN  
WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER  
IN LOVE AND FORGIVENESS  
AROUND THE GLOBE.  
FREE US FROM ALL DOUBTS  
AND PREJUDICE,  
WE PRAY, INSPIRE US TO LIVE  
IN SOLIDARITY WITH HUMANKIND  
THAT WE, MAY KNOW  
THE JOY OF GIVING AND RECEIVING.

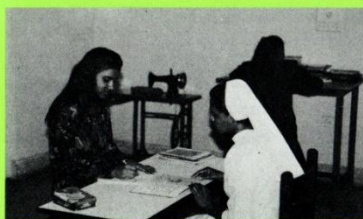
DEAR GOD,  
ACCEPT THIS LEAST COIN  
"TOKEN OF LOVE".  
MAKE US MINDFUL  
OF THE MIRACLES OF THESE COINS.  
LET US HONOUR YOUR CREATION  
WITH LOVE,  
AS SHOWN THROUGH THE LIFE  
AND RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON,  
JESUS THE CHRIST.  
AMEN.



Theological Education for Women (Syria)



Amity Weaving (China)



Crisis Intervention Centre (Pakistan)



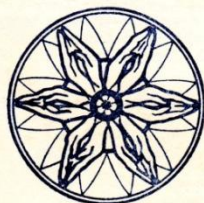
Rogbonkoh Agricultural (Rwanda)



Doyj Production & Training Centre (Bangladesh)



## GIFTS OF PRAYER



## ALLOCATIONS FOR PROJECTS

OF THE

## FELLOWSHIP

OF THE

## LEAST COIN

1958 - 1968

## Least Coin Grants - 1958-1968

### NORTH AMERICA

Child care programme under East Harlem Protestant Church  
Human Rights programme—Dr. Martin Luther King  
Southern Christian Leadership Conference in campaign for desegregation  
Judson Church, Washington, supporting programme for youth narcotic addicts.  
Youth work in the appalachians  
Migrant Ministry  
Mississippi Delta Project  
Programme of Church Women United—Assignment: Race  
Braille Bibles for the Blind—New English Translation  
Christian Causeways—Direction USA—African women's participation  
Christian Causeways—Direction Latin America  
Literacy Campaign—Spanish Migrants, programme of CWU

### LATIN AMERICA

Re-opening of schools in Columbia—Commission of Ecumenical Mission of  
United Presbyterian Church in USA  
Training of teachers, Warisita village—Bolivia  
Work among South American Indians—Argentina  
Bolivia Farming Project of Chinese farmers.  
Scripture Distribution—Amazon River  
Project of the Methodist Church in Honduras  
Support for the Secretary of Latin American Provisional Committee  
Preparation of young women for evangelistic work—Guatemala  
Home for the Aged—Giradot, Columbia.  
Leadership and evangelism in Andean Highlands—Ecuador  
Home for retired churchworkers, Caracas

### CARIBBEAN

Home and Family Consultation  
North American—Caribbean Seminar of Reformed Churchwomen

### EUROPE

Pastoral work among Asian and African students in France—three-year grant.  
Service and Team work among Vietnamese in France—evacuees  
Evangelistic work among youth in East Germany  
World Student Federation — Orthodox Churches work among youth and  
Students  
World Student Federation—support to Youth Secretary in Asia for 2 years  
Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Geneva  
Work among problem teenagers—programme of the Methodist Church in London  
Social service work among youth in Scotland  
Asian Student Seminar, John Knox House—Geneva  
Grant to Spanish Church for evangelistic outreach  
Work among Rumanian refugees in France  
Participation of East Europe students in Ecumenical outreach  
Work among students in Italy—Waldensian Church  
World Student Federation—Grant for 2 years  
Leadership Training for Reformed Churchwomen in Yugoslavia  
Pastoral work among Hungarian refugees—Austria  
Service to Migrant workers—Belgium  
Ecumenical centre—Portugal  
Student Christian Movement in Belgium  
WSCF—European Programme  
European-North American Seminar in Vienna—World Alliance of Reformed  
Churchwomen  
Grant towards woman staff member in the Dept. of Men and Women, WCC

### AFRICA

Mindolo Ecumenical centre for Family Life Training—Kitwe, Rhodesia  
Relief programme in the Congo  
Relief programme in the Cameroons  
Study Centre for Churches in West Africa  
Felicia Sunderlal Institute for the rehabilitation of women—Kenya  
Pre-school training in Kenya travel of Miss Minami  
Home for Crippled Children—Kenya



Seminar of Family Life in Yaounde, Cameroons  
 Grant to Christian Council of South Africa for relief for families where husbands are political prisoners  
 Travel of two African women to Asian Church Women's Conference in Japan  
 Travel of two African women to the Hague Consultation on International Affairs  
 Participation of one African woman on the Christian Causeways Direction U.S.A.  
 Training of Bi-lingual Executive Secretary for All Africa Dept. of Co-operation of Men and Women in Home Church & Society  
 Seminar on study of Race relations in Africa  
 Student Christian Movement work in Ghana through WSCF  
 Women's Consultation AACC  
 Relief in the Congo and Nigeria during recent crises  
 Fellowship Team from Asia to Africa for Women's Consultation AACC

#### MIDDLE EAST

Playground and Youth centre in Nazareth and Israel  
 Helen Keller Home for the Blind—Jerusalem  
 Travel for two women from the Middle East to Asian Church Women's Conference in Japan  
 Youth work of Orthodox Churches  
 Programme of the Near East Council of Churches for the training of women  
 Youth leadership training—Lebanon, programme of the Near East Council of Churches  
 Emergency relief to the Middle East to both Arab and Israel refugees  
 Relief for Refugee work continuing.

#### PACIFIC

Pacific Islands Christian Education Programme  
 Pacific Islands Home and Family Life Programme  
 Radio work under the Melanesian Council of Churches  
 Aoba Island Hospital—South-West Pacific  
 Grant to enable women to attend 1st Assembly of Pacific Churches  
 Establishment of Christian Bookshop in New Hebrides  
 Girls' hostel in Tahiti to help rehabilitation of women  
 Assistance to Pacific Council of Churches for housing of General Secretary, PCC  
 Pacific Island allocation (1) Asian missionaries in Pacific Area  
 (2) Pacific Island Missionaries in Asia  
 Training of indigenous pastors, Suva, at Theological Seminary

#### ASIA

Australia — Work among Aboriginal girls  
 Work among migrant youth  
 Burma — Ministry of Judson Church, Rangoon, to youth  
 Aid to leprosy home and hospital in Mandalay  
 Aid to Burmese Theological student for study of Buddhism in India  
 Akha tribe rehabilitation  
 Ceylon — Christian swabasha readers and Study Centre  
 Relief for poor farmers—programme of the Methodist Church purchasing fields  
 TB preventorium in Jaffna, home for babies of TB mothers  
 Home for mentally retarded and handicapped babies and children  
 Home for retired church workers in two centres  
 Evangelical and rural work centre, Devya Seva Ashramya  
 Tamil Literature Christian Institute Programme, Jaffna  
 Hong Kong — Christian Welfare and Relief Council for Refugee Project  
 Christian study on Chinese religions—Tao Fong Shan Study Centre  
 Home for the Aged  
 Hostel for lung cripples, Rennie's Junk Bay  
 Indonesia — Leadership training centre for women—Sukabumi  
 Aid to Indonesian Council of Churches  
 Emergency relief to victims of Communist coup  
 Miss Patty's work among women and youth in West Irian

Japan — Chapel for the rehabilitation of women  
 Institute for severely mentally handicapped children  
 Nishijin Labour centre  
 Travel of two Japanese nurses to Nepal  
 Travel of Miss Minami to Kenya  
 Korea — Orphanage for Children  
 Aid for Philippine social worker to Seoul  
 Aid for Christian Radio Station, Seoul  
 Christian Home and Family Life Magazine  
 Bethany Institute, Lay Leader's training institute  
 Reading room for slum children  
 India — Aid to NCC for Family Life programme  
 NCC for TB cases  
 United Mission to Nepal  
 Aid to establish Christian Institute for Study of Religion & Society—Bangalore  
 War relief in India  
 Women's Leadership Training  
 United Church of North India, Leadership Training of Women  
 Malaysia — Girl's Life Brigade Training  
 Evangelistic and medical work among Communist occupied villages in East Malaysia  
 Home for mentally retarded children, Kuala Lumpur  
 Bukit Lang Agricultural Centre—Sarawak  
 Thai Mission project to Sarawak  
 Laos — Emergency relief of food and medical aid when Mekong River flooded  
 New Zealand—Work among prisoners and prison chaplaincy  
 Philippines — Moral rehabilitation of youth and women—Bulacan  
 Sapang Palay project, child and maternity welfare clinic  
 Co-operative marketing for aborigines in Mindanao  
 Thailand — A vehicle for Audio Visual evangelistic work, 'Blue Dove'  
 Aid for flood victims and emergency relief  
 Women's Leadership Training of church leaders  
 Women's Fellowship team to India  
 Thai mission project in Laos  
 Thai project for leadership training for Laotian women  
 Refugee settlement and schools for children  
 Student Christian workshop of Thai youth in Laos  
 Pakistan — Sunrise School for the Blind  
 War relief to victims  
 Cyclone relief in East Pakistan  
 Christian Conference Centre, Khanspur  
 Taiwan — Centennial gift for Christian University  
 Training of church leaders of mountain tribe in Mount Morrison  
 Theological Institute  
 Bible School for underprivileged girls  
 Vietnam — School children's programme of the French Reformed Church  
 Work among the youth of the Evangelical Church, Saigon  
 Restoration of Hoa Hung Church, Saigon  
 Flood relief  
 Asian Christian service, relief to war victims by food  
 Medical aid—continuing since the war

#### SPECIAL FUND

Asian Church Women's Conference Reserve  
 Asian Church Women's Conference Programme and Committee and promotion of the Fellowship of the Least Coin  
 Ethnic Communities' Institute  
 Girls' participation in the Asian Youth Assembly  
 World Student School Programme—WSCF  
 International World Day of Prayer Committee  
 Fellowship of the Least Coin, Filmstrip and Translations

W. & J. BARR (PRINTERS) PTY. LTD., 424 George Street, Fitzroy, 3065

YOU ARE INVITED TO

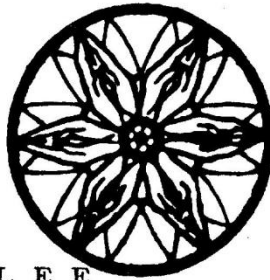
AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

**FELLOWSHIP**

**of the**

**LEAST COIN**



SILVER JUBILEE

CELEBRATION RALLY

AT WESLEY CHAPEL

ON 25th MAY 1981 at 10:30a.m.

There will be a general offering and it is  
SUGGESTED A 50 CENT PEECE SILVER COIN WOULD  
BE APPROPRIATE FOR A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE  
Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee.

Followed by a light luncheon  
in the Uniting Church Meeting Room 1st floor  
139 Castlereagh St. Sydney

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
DISABLED PERSONS will be  
observed with the Theme

"PUBLIC AWARENESS"

with Speakers Miss Alison Watson and Miss  
Sue Newman to conclude at 1:45p.m.

R. S.V.P. Mrs. G. West  
419 8654

Mrs. D. Woodhouse  
419 8772





# Fellowship of the Least Coin

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A copy of a tape made by an Indian Woman,  
Mrs. Shanti Solomon at the request of Mrs. D. Badger who  
represented Australian Church Women at the  
East Asian Christian Womens' Conference held in Tokyo  
in July, 1966.

## Fellowship of the Least Coin

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I am thrilled with the opportunity of talking to you on the tape. It is due to Mrs. Badger's kindness that I have this opportunity, and I must tell you that this East Asia Christian Womens' Conference how thrilled we are to have a delegate from Australia for even one delegate can remind us that we belong to a world wide fellowship in coming to Jesus Christ and accepting him as our Saviour because when delegates from Asian countries get together we are so Asian that we forget that there are sisters and brothers on the other side of the world, and one delegate from Australia and one or two from New Zealand remind us that we have fellowship with the West as well.

Now this Asian conference was especially emphasising the 10th anniversary of the Least Coin Fellowship. I am sure through your delegates you have heard much about it, but I hope you will not mind if I tell you about it again. Often people say that the idea disturbs them because offering "least" to God is not very high ideal. Well, this project when it was started, was not started to raise a fund, and therefore it doesn't disturb us when we say LEAST COIN FELLOWSHIP. I am sure you would like to know how it was started. After the World War II some of the Asian countries could not forget the evil of the second World War, and therefore some American Presbyterian wo-

men decided to take an international team to the Asian countries. It was my opportunity to be a member of that team. We went to Asian countries, and I was surprised to know that how each country had something against another and hadn't yet got reconciled, and I saw the American women how eager they were to get reconciled with the women of the East because they knew that the whole world was condemning them for what they did at Hiroshima. On the other hand here I was from India since September 1956 and I knew nothing about it, how the women of the East had suffered or how keen the people of America were to get reconciled for what they did, and therefore I think that all three parties were involved in being concerned for each other as we profess that we belong to the same Christian family. And I thought that there could be something that we could do to promote the Christian love among ourselves.

I have been to the States and I knew how they were advanced economically, and knowing the conditions in my country very well after working in rural areas I knew how far behind we were economically. And therefore keeping these things in mind I thought if once a month we sit down ourselves and try to be straight with God in our relationship to man, and come close before God and ask for a forgiving heart for those who had hurt us whether purposely or any other way.

And when we are doing that, praying to God we must have a symbol—you know we people of the East always have to have something concrete as a symbol for the abstract thing that we see or do. And therefore for this abstract spiritual experience we wanted to have a concrete symbol and I thought that if each woman put the least coin for the prayer as a symbol, and then at the end of the year we had 12 least coins to put in the treasury of the World Council of Churches, then how much amount we can get together to serve to promote the Christian fellowship in the whole world. So this idea was expressed in the Philippines first of all and then of course it was brought to different other countries in 1957 only six countries participated but it was amazing to see that \$11,000 were collected from this least coin offering. And then just how many people got reconciled with their neighbours and you can say with their co-workers and also learned the lesson of forgiveness at Jesus' feet in prayer. Then we decided what to do with this money and we thought "Let's promote fellowship among the Christian women", and then we realised that the women in Asia knew very little about each other than what we knew about the women in the West. Therefore we decided to hold an international womens' conference every four years somewhere in Asia and invite the women to that. Now this major portion of this offering is used for this Christian womens' conference which we hold every 4 years. I

was present at the first conference which was held in Hong Kong and I have come to the third womens' conference and I tell you that it is growing every year. Every time we meet we find something new and enriching in this fellowship and it is a blessing that God has given to us through this Least Coin Fellowship. Least Coin Fellowship is a fellowship of prayer, when we try to get reconciled with our own people and I think it is needed most now in our time, when the whole world is like a volcano which is ready to erupt any moment and have war with each other. I think we have to understand each country, and, before God, just confess our ignorance and ask for a forgiving heart. Perhaps this fellowship of prayer will promote Christian fellowship, and will bring peace in our time in this world which is most needed. And I'm sure that you will agree with me that we all want it and pray for it.

Thank you very much for listening to me so patiently. It has been a pleasure to be with you, who has never been to Australia, but it seems as though I have met you now through this tape.

[This message from an Asian woman is worth reading more than once that you might appreciate the high standard of Christianity achieved by our sisters in the East (Editor.)]

(Song Cont)

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering,  
Reconciling folk on earth  
Men and women, richer and poorer,  
All God's people young and old,  
Blending human skills together,  
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission  
In small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
Words of challenge said with care,  
Bring new pow'r and strength for action,  
Make us colleagues free and fair.

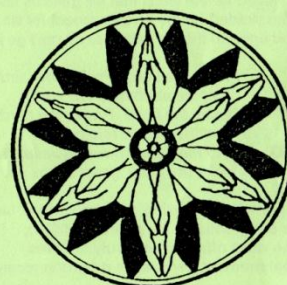
So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow,  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.

Benediction:

"As we leave this place"

Songsters

## FELLOWSHIP of the LEAST COIN 40th Anniversary



Come -  
Celebrate,  
Rejoice  
and Pray

### 40th Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin A Service of Celebration & Praise

The Salvation Army Christchurch City Citadel  
Sunday 29 September 1996 at 6.00pm

Pre-meeting Music:

Processional: Banners and International representatives of  
The Fellowship of the Least Coin

Welcome: Captain Colin Mason

Song: To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son;  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Acknowledgements: Judy Harvey  
National President - C.W.U.

Bible Reading: Psalm 46 Woranut Pantupong  
- Thailand

Prayer Time: Prayer 1 - Navamani Peter - India  
Prayer 2 - Dorothea Dilschneider - Africa

Song:

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known;  
In seasons of distress and grief  
My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To him whose truth and faithfulness  
Engage the waiting soul to bless;  
And since he bids me seek his face,  
Believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
May I thy consolation share,  
Till from Mount Pirgah's lofty height  
I view my home, and at the sight  
Put off this robe of flesh, and rise  
To gain the everlasting prize,  
And realise for ever there  
The fruits of the sweet hour of prayer.

Songster Message:

Offering: Offertory Prayer - Eva Findlay  
I.C.F.L.C. Treasurer

Chorus: Come on and celebrate  
His gift of love we will celebrate  
The Son of God who loved us, and gave us life.  
We'll shout your praise, O King  
You give us joy nothing else can bring,  
We'll give to you our offering in celebration praise.

Come on and celebrate, celebrate,  
Celebrate and sing  
Celebrate and sing to the King  
(Repeat)



**Testimony:**

Shirin Samuel - Executive Secretary  
I.C. F.L.C.

**Band Message:**

**Litany of Affirmation:**

Mary Cline Delrick - Chairperson

Leader: Creator, Sustainer God, for forty years of the Least Coin,  
All: We are grateful.  
Leader: For the idea You gave to Shanti Solomon forty years ago,  
All: We are grateful and amazed!  
Leader: For Shanti's receptivity to Your spirit's prodding in the Philippines, for her courage and persistence in leading women all over the world toward reconciliation through this fellowship of prayer for peace,  
All: We thank You, Loving Presence.  
Leader: For the visionary, courageous and faithful women who took this idea back to their respective countries; to launch this prayer and justice movement, we are humbled, grateful and eternally in their gratitude.  
Leader: Accept our thankfulness; for the women who have served on the International Committee for this fellowship throughout the years, especially for Shanti and Shirin, the two Executive Secretaries who have guided the movement.  
All: Rewarding God, give them the peace befitting good and faithful servants. Grant them continued vision and courage in all their endeavours.  
Leader: We are moved and grateful at the outpouring of hope and love, visible in each "least coin" given with prayers for peace and reconciliation.

All: Gracious God, bless each person who has paused to pray and risen to work for justice over these last forty years.

Leader: Surprising God, touch again each person and group that has received the "least coins". Fill their hearts with hope; bless their service to others in Your name.

All: Bless them and affirm their work, we pray.

Leader: Creator God, accept our thanks for Your hand guiding this Fellowship. Teach us to listen to Your ideas made known through our hunches. Give us courage to move though we are uncertain, trusting You and our sisters to find new ways to work for justice, reconciliation and peace in our time.

All: You are our Hope, our Joy, our Wisdom.

Leader: For all that we are and all that You are leading us and F.L.C. to become.

All: We thank You, Loving Creator, Sustaining, Gracious and Surprising God, again and again and again....today and for all our days.

Amen

**New Testament Reading:** Mark 12: 41-44

**Vocal:** Maija Vuorinen (Finland)

**Reflection:** Captain Colin Mason

**Song:** *"I want joyful to you as adore..."*  
Called as partners in Christ's service,  
Called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment,  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring,  
To fulfill God's chosen end.

(Continued overleaf)



## Prayer of FLC.

'O LOVING CREATOR' WE PRESENT  
OURSELVES IN YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE TO  
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE BOUNTIFUL  
GIFTS OF LIFE. WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRAT-  
FUL FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST  
COIN WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER IN LOVE  
AND FORGIVENESS AROUND THE GLOBE.  
FREE US FROM ALL DOUBTS AND PREJUD-  
ICES. WE PRAY. INSPIRE US TO LIVE IN  
SOLIDARITY WITH HUMANKIND THAT WE  
MAY KNOW THE JOY OF GIVING AND REC-  
EIVING.

DEAR GOD, ACCEPT THIS LEAST COIN  
'TOKEN OF LOVE' MAKE US MINDFUL OF  
THE MIRACLES OF THESE COINS. LET US  
HONOUR YOUR CREATION WITH LOVE, AS  
SHOWN THROUGH THE LIFE AND RESURR-  
ECTION OF YOUR SON, JESUS THE CHRIST.

AMEN.



the gift, usually feel the urge to become members of this movement.

- (d) As the valueless tangible tokens, when put together, become a large amount, so the individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world, can become a tremendous force in helping to bring about reconciliation and peace.
- (e) In order to enjoy the fellowship, women from an affluent society are compelled to be within the discipline of giving only the least coin.

#### HOW AND WHEN IT WAS STARTED :

In the autumn of 1956, an international team of women, sponsored by the women of the United Presbyterian Church in U.S.A., visited East Asian countries on a Goodwill Mission. During their tour the idea of this Fellowship was conceived by an Indian woman, Shanti Solomon, who was a member of the team. This simple idea has been blessed by God as the members have gone round interpreting it to Christian women in various countries. The idea of the Fellowship of the Least Coin catches the imagination of women in every land and it is spreading. Today the members of this Fellowship are found in :

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Burma, Cameroun, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, England, France, Germany, Guyana, Guatemala, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, The Philippines, The Pacific Islands, Portugal, Rumania, Sabah, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Scotland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, The United States of America, Uruguay, Vietnam, Venezuela, Wales, and Yugoslavia.

Mrs. Shanti Solomon of India is the Promotion Secretary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and the Executive Secretary of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

'SHANTI' MEANS PEACE

Today they are collected in tiny clay pots. Empty match boxes are used in Yugoslavia, clam shells in New England's Cape Cod, plastic cowboy boots in Venezuela and leaf shaped small felt purses in Canada.

#### GIFTS OF LOVE

This Least Coin Fund can be thought of as a gift of love, because it is offered with a prayer of love and reconciliation. The fund is used in three different ways :

1. To deepen worldwide Christian Fellowship by enabling people to get together.
2. To allocate money for certain Church projects, requiring temporary help to meet the challenge of the day.
3. To demonstrate God's love and concern for His people in times of distress and calamity.

The fund is administered by a Central Committee, elected by the Asian Church Women's Conference once in four years.

#### INFORMATION

The following information on the Fellowship of the Least Coin is available :

1. A pamphlet on the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
2. "The Circle of Prayer", a guide for meditation, prepared by the Asian Church Women's Conference, to which women from many countries have contributed thoughts.
3. A booklet describing projects around the world that have received help from these gifts of love.
4. A film strip on the story of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Do you know this movement?  
Are you a member of this Fellowship?

#### WHAT IS THIS FELLOWSHIP ?

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation, which binds Christian women of the world together in a fellowship of prayer. It is a movement of love and concern for God's people throughout the world.

In every age women have always been concerned with the question of peace. The death toll of war has convinced them that war is not the answer. They have also come to believe that no expert knowledge, no demonstrations, and no programme, however good or effective it is, can bring about peace in the world, unless each individual has gained inner peace and has learned to become reconciled with his neighbor.

## THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

#### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER :

Anyone, who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, promises to spend some time with God in prayer, emptying herself of all her grievances against others and learning the basic lesson of Christian love—'To love your neighbour as yourself.' At the same time she also upholds in prayer those with whom she is concerned. This prayer of reconciliation can be offered as many times as the need is felt, but at least once a month by every member.

After prayer she puts aside the smallest coin of her currency as a tangible token of her prayer. Once a year these coins are collected and are brought to a special service of dedication. The total offering is then sent to the Least Coin Fund in Geneva. The amount collected in each country is never announced. Each local group decides when and how the Least Coins shall be collected. In

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India, they are collected in tiny clay pots. Empty match boxes are used in Yugoslavia, clam shells in New England's Cape Cod, plastic cowboy boots in Venezuela, and leaf shaped small felt purses in Canada.

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3. A booklet describing projects around the world that have received help from these gifts of love.
4. A film strip on the story of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The above mentioned can be obtained from :

#### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Room 812,

475 Riverside Drive,

New York, N. Y. 10027, U. S. A.

Miss D. Wagner

Room 940

475 Riverside Drive

New York, N. Y. 10027

U. S. A.

Miss Jeanne Bellerjeau

14/1 Pramuan Road

Bangkok, Thailand.

Mrs. Shanti Solomon

"Jyoti Niketan"

Chhipi Talab

Meerut, U. P. India.

5. "In Quest of the Least Coin", a book

written by Grace Nies Fletcher, is available

at the Publishers, William Marrow & Co.,

105 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

10016, U. S. A.

#### UNIQUENESS

- (a) The offering itself is unique, because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, sophisticated women of the city or simple women of the village, give only the least coin of their currency as a token of their prayer.
- (b) It brings all Church women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour or culture.
- (c) In this Fellowship there is no distinction of donor and recipient. Every member contributes her 'mite' and all may benefit from this fund. Those, who once receive

'SHANTI' MEANS PEACE



N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTERCHURCH COUNCIL

YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET AND HEAR

MRS.        SHANTI        SOLOMON

Founder of the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

and

Vice President, World Alliance of Reformed Churches

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1956 Mrs. Shanti Solomon (whose first name means "Peace") was a member of an International Fellowship Team of Reconciliation of women who were to go to Alaska, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines to try to knit together the ravelled sleeve of Christian forgiveness. Unable to travel to Korea because of a Visa restriction Shanti waited in the Philippines. She was shocked by the bitterness still existing between women of the Asian countries who had been on opposing sides in World War II. She shared her concern with Christian women in Manila as they studied together the Gospel of Mark. When they reached the 12th Chapter Shanti's heart gave a great leap. "The Widow's Mite!" That's the answer! "You have to give yourself along with your least coin. ..." So the covenant of prayer and world fellowship became one of the principles rather than the raising of money. The coin is but a symbolic token, as outlined in our devotional booklet "Circle of Prayer".

Today the Fellowship of the Least Coin has contributing members or has given aid in twenty-nine countries. It goes on quietly, with its comparatively small gifts, forging links of understanding and reconciliation between one nation and another, weaving the hopeful fabric of peace.

MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON

will be GUEST SPEAKER at a Special Rally in the

HABERFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

on

Friday, 22nd September, 1972 at 11 a. m.

followed by a Basket Lunch (Tea etc., provided)

\*\*\*\*\*

FELLOWSHIP  
OF  
THE  
LEAST COIN



A  
GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF PRAYER  
FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND  
RECONCILIATION

The Fellowship of the Least Coin was founded in 1956 by an Indian woman, Shanti Solomon, during a goodwill mission to East Asian countries by an International team of women.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a movement of prayer. Women around the world commit themselves to living a reconciled and forgiving life with others. They pray for reconciliation, justice and peace and as a symbol of their commitment set aside a least coin (5 cents) at the time of prayer. These least coins are collected once a year from over 80 countries of the world and are distributed in the form of grants, known as "Gifts of Love".

"Gifts of love" are sent all over the world including Australia.

You are invited to participate with  
Christian women in every continent in the Fellowship of  
the Least Coin.

For more information contact your State Convenor:



## Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC)

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical Movement of Prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Many church women's organisations around the world have joined the Movement and promote it among their members. Together in a fellowship of prayer, they learn afresh to forgive and love their neighbours and to share the concern of God's people throughout the world.

Today women are very much concerned about peace and justice in the world. The death toll of wars has convinced them that armaments are not the solution to the problems of the world. They have also realised that expert knowledge programs and demonstrations of peace can only be effective if the attitudes of individuals have changed. When we have learned to sacrifice, love and forgive, and to be reconciled with our neighbours, only then can we have inner peace and be at peace with others.

The power of prayer generates understanding, love and concern for others.

### Circle of Prayer

This booklet, prepared by the Asian Church Women's Conference, includes a brief history of the Fellowship and twenty-four devotional thoughts and prayers written by women of many countries. Available from State Unit FLC Conveners.

*'What a joy and privilege is ours to be members of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and to be one with our Christian sisters all over the world in this fellowship of prayer for reconciliation! The small coins put aside after the prayer are only tangible tokens of our prayer. Yet, when put together, they interpret the divine power of love and reconciliation through concrete projects.'*

### Prayer of FLC

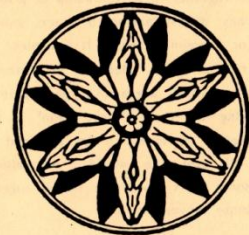
O loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept the least coin 'token of love'. Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life and resurrection of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The FLC Conventer for your State Unit is:

MISS SHIRLEY WELLS  
UNIT 125 HAYFIELD VILLAGE  
3 HOMELANDS AVE  
CARLINGFORD 2118

# The Fellowship of the Least Coin



YOU ARE INVITED

to  
participate with Christians  
of every country

## THE BASIS OF BELONGING

is  
concern for peace and reconciliation,  
prayer for fellow Christians,  
intercession for those in special  
need of God's grace

## The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

This is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation, a special and continuing project of the Asian Church Women's Conference. It began in 1956 during a goodwill mission to East Asian countries by an international team of women, sponsored by women in the United Presbyterian Church in the USA. It brings all Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer, without any discrimination of race, colour, culture or denomination. It enables all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, in urban or rural areas, to participate in the offering of their 'least coin' - thus enabling 'gifts of love' to be provided for projects all over the world. Australia is one of some sixty countries linked together in this unique movement.

FLC contributions from individuals and groups are sent through the State Units of Australian Church Women, to the National Executive, who forwards them to the International Committee of FLC, by whose executive the funds are administered. Details of amounts forwarded by participating countries are not publicised, only the total sum received. Applications for grants are invited from all countries. In the allocation of funds, special attention is given to assisting programs for the relief of the suffering and oppressed, and projects which will ensure women's developing and offer opportunities for women to participate fully in ecumenical movements.

### How and When it was Begun

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, (based on Luke 21:1-4), has spread ever widening circles of Christian concerns among the women of the world.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their Christian sisters in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every continent.

### Uniqueness

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.

It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind. Women throughout the world are bound together in both giving and receiving.

It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins when put together, become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world

become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.

### Gifts of Love

The Least Coin Fund is used to give grants for projects all over the world. These grants are 'Gifts of love' because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

Details of the grants made each year are listed in the ACWC Quarterly News Bulletin (subscription \$7.50 per annum) which can be obtained from your State Unit FLC Conventer.

The amount collected in each country is never announced, only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The FLC is primarily not a fund raising project, but a Movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest women in the group should be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving. These coins can be collected in symbolic containers, eg. in India, they are collected in tiny clay pots, empty match-boxes are used in Yugoslavia, etc.

### FUNCTIONS OF ICFLC

International Committee Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) approves grants for projects, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of ICFLC Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out worldwide promotion and interpretation of this Movement.



#### SUMMARY:

a) Basic principles: The purpose is to make concrete the world wide fellowship of all Christian women. The covenant of prayer and world fellowship far outweighs in importance the amount of money raised.

The "least coin" reminds us of the "widow's mite" and this fellowship is so designed that there can be no distinction between rich and poor, the city dweller or the woman of the outback.

b) How to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin:

A National Convener has been appointed by Australian Church Women, who works with and through the State Conveners. The State Conveners are appointed by the State Units of Australian Church Women.

If you wish to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, either as an individual or as a women's group, you will contact your State Convener as listed below.

May God richly bless our world wide Fellowship and use us in His own way towards the fulfilment of His will and purpose.

#### State Units of Australian Church Women and State Conveners of the Fellowship of the Least Coin

N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. H. J. Lilley, 206 Eastern Valley Highway,  
Willoughby, N.S.W. Mrs. R. W. Butler  
17 Woonona Rd. Northbridge N.S.W.  
Victoria Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. H.A. Downes, 1 Sherwood Road, Mount  
Waverley, Victoria.

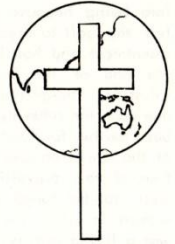
Sth Aust. Women's United Church  
Association.  
Mrs. D. Thomson, 23 Wilcox Avenue, Prospect,  
S.A.

Queensland Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. F. G. Dennis, 32 Coronation Street,  
Bardon, Queensland.

Tasmania Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. D. Hartam, 12 Boatta Road, Lindisfarne,  
Tasmania.

West. Aust. Australian Church Women -  
Western Australia Unit  
Mrs. E. Couche, 21 Purdie Avenue, Ardross,  
W.A.

A.C.T. Canberra Church Women  
Mrs. E.R. Goudie, 25 Cowper Street, Ainslie,  
A.C.T.



# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



#### OUR ORIGINS:

The Fellowship is of Asian origin and came into being because Asian Christian women felt the call to break down the barriers of resentment and hostility which persisted after the end of the Second World War. The injustice, indignities and suffering inflicted one upon the other by the warring nations had been neither forgiven nor forgotten. Members of the Christian churches were by no means free of this prevailing attitude. Yet there were to be found some groups of praying women in whom the spirit of reconciliation was a living reality. They demonstrated this spirit by small projects of aid to those in distress amongst their former enemies, and by meeting for Christian fellowship.

In 1956 an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, was travelling with a small international group of women to foster goodwill in the Pacific area, and to reaffirm our membership in the one body of Christ. Inspired by the efforts at reconciliation that were already being made, the conviction grew that Christian women of the World might combine on an international and inter-church basis to live, give and pray for peace.

So the idea took root that Christian women should be approached to put aside each month the "least coin" in the currency of her particular country, keeping in mind that it should be no more than what the poorest woman could give. This idea was welcomed by women of many countries. The Asian Church Women's Conference, which met in November 1959 in Hong Kong, formally established the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

It is now a world wide fellowship, but still allied with the East Asia Christian Conference under the World Council of Churches at Geneva. Let us always remember our Asian origin.

#### OUR PURPOSE:

Kyaw Than, General Secretary of the East Asia Christian Conference, has stated this very briefly as a Prayer Fellowship "to support deeds of mercy and love in Christ's name around the world".

Each member of the Fellowship is commissioned to say a word of prayer every time a coin is dropped into the container bearing the label we supply from our National office. In Australia, these small gifts are collected at World Community Day services, held during the last week of October each year.

The coins are prayer tokens and represent an accumulation of prayers in remembrance of those in need, physical or spiritual, around the world. The basic significance, then, of these gifts is not so much what material relief they may bring, however welcome this may be, but rather the sum total of prayers they represent. It is not possible to estimate the power of these combined prayers by the women of the world, for peace and reconciliation. Were such prayers ever more deeply needed than they are today? Let us pray for the coming in of the Kingdom of God - the reign of God in the hearts and lives of men.

Another interesting facet of our purpose is to preserve the anonymity of the giver. While the total amount in the international treasury of the Fellowship fund is made known each year, no one country's gift is announced outside that country.

So we give prayerfully, we give voluntarily and we give in secret. Surely this will enrich our own lives by the experience of that joy which is promised to all who respond to the will of Him who taught us both to pray and to give in secret.

#### OUR FULFILMENT:

Between 1959 and 1964, when the last Assembly of the East Asia Christian Conference was held, in Thailand, monetary assistance has been given to projects of Christian service in all the six continents of the world. About 41 different projects were supported during that period from the funds of the Fellowship, amounting to over 118 million U.S. dollars.

Australia first became personally involved in the existence of the Fellowship of the Least Coin when, in 1963, the Australian Council of Churches received 1,000 U.S. dollars for work amongst our Aboriginal girls. This gift had come through the World Council of Churches at Geneva from the East Asia Christian Conference. Help had come to us from Asia, where the utmost poverty is to be found. What a humbling, startling thought!

Other allocations since made to the Pacific area have been 2,000 dollars for a Girls' Hostel in Tahiti, to help remedy problems of prostitution, and 1,000 dollars for the establishment of a Christian bookshop in the New Hebrides.

Indigent farmers in Ceylon have been helped to purchase land of their own by a gift of 2,000 dollars. Rev. Martin Luther King as chairman, received 1,000 dollars as a token gift to support the Negro churches in their struggle for human rights. These few examples may help us to realise how practical and far-reaching is the influence of this Fellowship of the Least Coin through our "gifts of prayer".



#### STUDY HELPS:

The "Circle of Prayer" prepared by the Planning Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference, is used when the Least Coin is prayerfully put aside month by month. This booklet of 24 meditations and prayers is recommended for use by groups or individuals.

It is available from your State Convenor at 30 cents per copy.

This leaflet, label for jar and lists of allocations 1956-1966 called Gifts of Prayer are available free of charge.

A book, telling the exciting story of what the Least Coin is doing around the world — "In Quest of the Least Coin" written by Grace Nies Fletcher is available from Presbyterian Bookroom, Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia.



#### WHO'S WHO

State Units of Australian Church Women and State Convenors of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. C. Butler, 17 Woonona Rd., Northbridge, New South Wales, 2063.

Victoria. Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. H. A. Downes, 1 Sherwood Rd., Mount Waverley, Victoria.

Sth. Aust. Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. D. Thomson, 23 Wilcox Avenue, Prospect, Sth. Australia, 5082.

Queensland Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. G. V. Haigh, 63 Seventh Avenue, Kedron, Queensland, 4031.

Tasmania Women's Inter-Church Council  
Mrs. M. Wood, 17 Carr St., Nth. Hobart, Tasmania.

West Australia Australian Church Women  
West Australian Unit.  
Mrs. E. Couche, "Carinya" Ypres Road, Kelmscott, West Australia, 6111.

A.C.T. Canberra Church Women  
Mrs. E. R. Goudie, 25 Cowper St., Ainslie, A.C.T.

National Convenor Australian Church Women  
Mrs. J. A. Strack, 66 Tennyson St., Moonee Ponds, Victoria, 3039.



## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



#### WHAT IT IS:

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a movement of prayer and concern for all women in God's world.

As a token of her concern each member of the Fellowship in 50 countries gives the least coin of her country for projects in all six continents.

Significantly the idea of sharing the "Widow's Mite" was conceived in Asia by an Indian woman. Shanti Solomon, who realised that rich and poor, illiterate and college graduates, all women have something to give each other.

#### WHERE IT BEGAN:

Since the movement was started in Asia in 1956, the women of the Asian Church Women's Conference remain the stewards, who allocate the gifts around the world. The amount that any country collects is never announced, but both East and West benefit. The tiny coins are kept in varied containers — such as — clay pots in India, match-boxes in Yugoslavia, clam shells in New England's Cape Cod, hollow sticks of bamboo in the Philippines, while here in Australia we use a glass jar with a printed label around it.

The least coins are given each month and sped on their way with heartfelt prayer for women of other countries.

The first year the total amount raised was \$4,000 — now, after ten years more than half a million dollars and a mountain of prayer is spread around the countries of the world.

#### WHERE IT IS:

There are Least Coin Groups or projects in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Burma, Camerans, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Columbia, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Guiana, Guatemala, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Rumania, Sabah, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Scotland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, United States of America, Vietnam, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Uruguay, Sierra Leone.

#### SHANTIS' NAME MEANS PEACE:

These internationally minded mothers in the Fellowship of the Least Coin feel that a real lasting peace must start in the home by training the children in giving and in tolerance for cultures other than their own.

One such mother trying to bring up eight children in crowded, turbulent Hong Kong said:— "We have tried bombs and bullets, perhaps they have helped to keep us free — but wars do not stay won without putting yourself in the other fellow's shoes, without sacrifice. We mothers have got to work together for peace for when our sons die on the battlefield, a little of us dies too."

#### HOW TO ORGANISE A LEAST COIN GROUP:

A local group decides when and how their smallest coins shall be collected remembering that only one coin per month is suggested whether it be an India paisa, a Japanese yen or an Australian cent.

Any individual woman may join too.

Here in Australia the jars are collected and offerings presented at the World Community Day Service in October.

All State Women's Inter-Church Treasurers will be happy to receive these offerings.

The National Committee of Australian Church Women, who sponsor Fellowship of the Least Coin, forward the total amount annually to E.A.C.C. International Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund.





#### QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP —

The Fellowship raises no barriers to membership, no restriction or limitation. Church groups may have membership in it, so too may individual women sincerely committed to the Christian way of life.

Women in the isolated, remote areas of Australia are members of the Fellowship no less than those in large groups in crowded cities. The Fellowship is for all who want to share in it.

.. ..

CONTACT the FELLOWSHIP CONVENOR in your State who will gladly send further information on your request.

.. ..

#### LITERATURE AVAILABLE —

Local convenors can supply the following —

"Circle of Prayer" (30 cents)

\* Label for your "least coin" container

\* Lists of Allocation of Funds (Gifts of Prayer)

\* This Leaflet

\* There is no charge for these.

GRACE NIES FLETCHER has written "IN QUEST OF THE LEAST COIN" a moving story of "least coin" achievements around the world.

This book is obtainable from Presbyterian Bookroom, Collins Street, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA.

Each STATE UNIT of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN has its appointed Convenor for the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

#### STATE CONVENOR

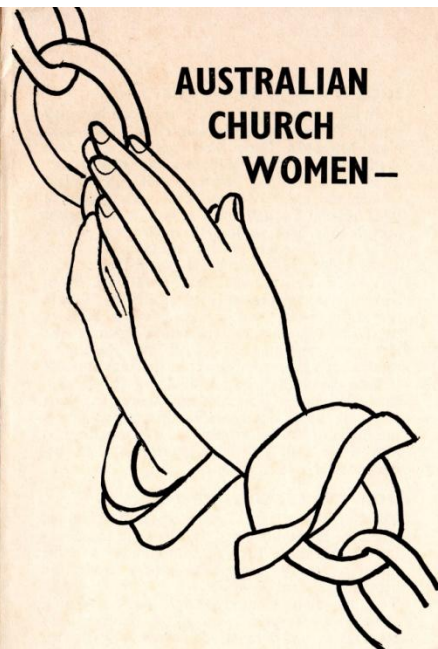
Mrs. R. W. Stanhope,  
36 Dettman Ave.,  
LONGUEVILLE. 2066.

#### NATIONAL CONVENOR

Mrs. G. V. HAIGH,  
63 7TH AVENUE,  
KEDRON,  
Q. 4031

Printed by Abell & Co., 717 Ann Street, Valley.

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN —



A Link in  
The World Encircling  
Fellowship of PRAYER

#### JOURNEY OF A "LEAST COIN" —

In India, a "least coin" would be placed in a clay pot; in Yugoslavia, the container is a match box; New England's Cape Cod women use clam shells, and in the Philippines the coin is set aside in a hollow bamboo stick. Australian women use a jar of some kind with a printed label around it, and each month each woman puts in one cent to join the collection of tiny coins. At the time of the collection of "least coins", which in Australia is World Community Day in October, the year's accumulation is taken from its jar and presented as an offering during the service. The Fellowship Convenor receives these offerings and in turn remits them to the National Committee of A.C.W. The Australian total is then forwarded direct to the International Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund (E.A.C.C.). But the journey does not end there, for each tiny coin flows out again in blessing as grants are made to worthy projects — it is transformed into "a need fulfilled" in an expression of Christian love for one another.

#### HOW THE FELLOWSHIP WORKS —

The intention of the Fellowship is best served when the meditations and prayers from the booklet, "CIRCLE OF PRAYER" become part of the monthly act of prayerfully setting aside the least coin.

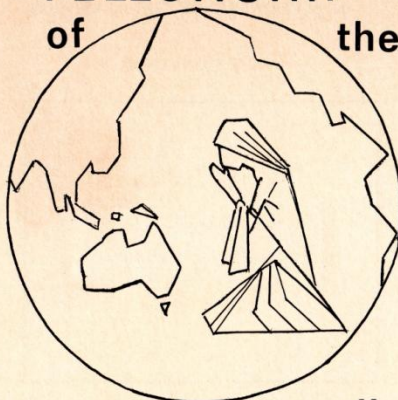
The Planning Committee of Asian Church Women's Conference compiled this booklet of 24 meditations and Prayers contributed by women from countries around the world, thus providing the means for a very realistic sharing in the prayers and concerns of others.

It was out of the inspired prayerful thought of one woman, SHANTI SOLOMON, of INDIA, that the concept of the Fellowship of the Least Coin grew.

#### STEWARDSHIP OF FUNDS —

Since its beginnings as a fellowship in Asia, stewardship of the accumulated funds has been undertaken by the ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, who review the submissions of various projects by member groups, countries and individuals within the Fellowship to receive monetary assistance from its funds.

## "FELLOWSHIP of the



## Least Coin"

MONTH BY MONTH around the world CHRISTIAN WOMEN in the "FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN" PRAY FOR EACH OTHER.

.. ..

AS A TOKEN of her participation in this shared prayer, EACH WOMAN prayerfully sets aside the LEAST COIN of the currency of her country.

.. ..

These "least coins" in their ultimate use in projects in widely scattered areas become an expression of loving concern — both SHARED PRAYER and LEAST COIN being the offering common to all women, rich or poor, prominent or unknown, learned or illiterate.

#### WORLD CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP —

Instant in its appeal to the lively imagination of Christian women, the Fellowship within a comparatively short time has encircled the world. There are F.L.C. GROUPS AND PROJECTS IN COUNTRIES AS FAR APART AS AUSTRALIA AND YUGOSLAVIA AND IN ALL THESE OTHERS IN BETWEEN —

AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRIA BRAZIL  
BURMA CAMEROONS  
CANADA CEYLON CHILE  
COLUMBIA EGYPT ENGLAND  
FRANCE GERMANY GUIANA  
GUATEMALA HOLLAND HONG KONG  
INDIA INDONESIA IRAN ITALY IRELAND  
JAPAN KENYA KOREA LEBANON LIBERIA  
MALAYSIA MEXICO NEPAL NEW ZEALAND  
PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES PORTUGAL RUMANIA  
SABAH SPAIN S. AFRICA SIERRA LEONE  
SWEDEN SWITZERLAND SCOTLAND  
SYRIA TAIWAN THAILAND  
T.P.N.G. U.S.A. URUGUAY  
VIETNAM VENEZUELA  
YUGOSLAVIA

Members of the Fellowship are to be found in 50 countries, and projects in all six continents have received monetary assistance from F.L.C. Funds, but amounts contributed are not made public, the EMPHASIS being on THE FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER, not the "token" which represents it — the "least coin".



# THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



## WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN ?

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. It is a special and continuing project of the Asian Church Women's Conference, through which Asian women seek the fellowship of Christian women around the world. Together in a fellowship of prayer, women learn to love and have concern for God's people throughout the world.

Women have always been concerned with the question of peace. The death toll of wars has convinced them that war is not the answer. They have also realized that no expert knowledge, no demonstrations and no programme, however good or effective, can bring about peace in the world unless each individual has gained inner peace and has learned to become reconciled to his/her neighbour.

## HOW AND WHEN IT WAS STARTED :

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, has spread in everwidening circles of Christian concern by women of the world.

In the autumn of 1956 an international team of women, sponsored by the women of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, visited East Asian countries on a good will mission. During their tour, the idea of this movement was conceived by Mrs. Shanti Solomon, a member of the team.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their fellow Christian women in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every land.



Today the members of this fellowship are found in :-

Argentina, Austria, Australia, Brazil, Burma, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, England, France, East Germany, W. Germany, Guyana, Guatemala, Ghana, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua, New Guinea, Pacific Islands, Rumania, Republic of Zaire, Sierra Leone, Scotland, Spain, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela, Wales, Yugoslavia.

### **UNIQUENESS :**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

- a. The offering itself is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. They are within the same discipline.
- b. It brings all Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination.
- c. It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as the fund. These least coins, when put together become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation and peace.

### **HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF FLC**

Anyone, who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, must promise to spend some time in prayer whenever she has strained relationships with another person, or a group of persons or a nation.

Instead of condemning the wrong done, solace is sought in God's presence, by emptying oneself of all grievances against others and learning the basic lesson of Christian love and the mystery of God's reconciling love for mankind. Also uphold in prayer others who are victims of the hatred and jealousy.

After spending some time in prayer for reconciliation and forgiveness, put aside the smallest coin of your currency as a tangible token of your prayer. These coins are collected once a year and are blessed in a special service of dedication. The total amount is then sent to the National Least Coin Fund, and from there to the Least Coin Fund, C/- Finance Department of the World Council of Churches, 150 Route de Furney, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, by the first week in December.

The amount collected in each country is never announced; only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The reason is that this is not primarily a fund raising project, but a movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest women should be able to share with love and care.

These coins can be collected in symbolic containers. In India, they are collected in tiny clay pots. Empty match-boxes are used in Yugoslavia, clam shells in New



England's Cape Cod; Plastic cowboy boots in Venezuela; leaf-shaped small felt purses in Canada and small folding cardboard boxes in Hong Kong etc.

#### **GIFTS OF LOVE :**

The Least Coin Fund is used to allocate grants for projects all over the world. These grants are "gifts of love" because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace and reconciliation.

#### **ADMINISTRATION :**

The FLC Fund is an international fund belonging to christian women of participating countries, therefore it is administered by an international committee with its base in Asia, and related to the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) The International Committee for FLC (ICFLC) is composed of :-

- a) Four officers of ACWC.
- b) One representative from each of the World Ecumenical Organisations of women such as International Committee for World Day of Prayer and WCC Sub-committee for women in Church and society.
- c) One representative from each of the regional ecumenical organisations in rotation for a period of two years.
- d) ICFLC Executive Secretary and ACWC Executive Secretary are ex-officio members.
- e) The chairperson of this International Committee is the ACWC president.

This ICFLC Committee recommends projects, approves grants, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of the

Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out world-wide promotion and interpretation of this movement.

The Grants are allocated from the FLC Fund within the following categories :-

- i) ICFLC Administration.
- ii) Block grants to regional ecumenical organisations.
- iii) On request grants for projects to any ecumenical group of christian women.
- iv) Emerging opportunities.
- v) Emergency grants for unforeseen natural disasters.

The Fund supports programmes which promote evangelical and ecumenical concerns. Special preference is given to projects that will ensure women's development, and offer opportunities for women to play their full role in ecumenical movements.

#### **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS :**

Requisis from all continents are invited. The maximum sum given is US \$ 6,000.00 for any one particular project. Grants are normally nonrecurring.

Applications for grants must reach the office of the ICFLC Executive Secretary by June of each year. Application forms are available from the same office.

All requests should be sent through the local church, or through the National Ecumenical Women's Committee or through the National Council of Churches in each country.



## **LITERATURE :**

1. Copies of this pamphlet on the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
2. "Circle of Prayer" - a devotional booklet published biennially by the ICFLC. Each month's meditation is by a woman of a different country.
3. "Fellowship of the Least Coin". Every four years this booklet is published describing projects around the world that have received grants from the "Gifts of Love" during the quadrennium.

These publications are obtainable from :-

Executive Secretary,  
International Committee of Fellowship  
of the Least Coin.  
6, Rajpur Road, Delhi-110054  
India.

Published by :-

**Asian Church Women's Conference**  
6, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi-110054  
India  
May 1980.



# THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



## **THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.**

The fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. It is a special and continuing project of Church Women's Organizations around the world. Together in a fellowship of prayer christian women learn anew to love and have concern for God's people throughout the world.

Women have always been concerned with the question of peace. The death toll of wars has convinced them that war is not the answer. They have also realized that no expert knowledge, no demonstrations and no programme, however good or effective, can bring about peace in the world unless each individual has gained inner peace and has learned to become reconciled to his/her neighbour.

## **HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF FLC.**

Anyone, who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, must promise to spend some time in prayer whenever she has strained relationships with another person, or a group of persons or a nation.

Instead of condemning the wrong done, solace is sought in God's presence, by emptying oneself of all grievances against others and learning the basic lesson of the mystery of God's reconciling love for mankind. Also uphold in prayer others who are victims of the hatred and jealousy.

After spending some time in prayer for reconciliation and forgiveness, put aside the smallest coin of your currency as a tangible token of your prayer. These coins



are collected once a year and are blessed in a special service of dedication. The total amount is then sent to the National Least Coin Fund. By the first week in December the Least Coin Fund must reach :—

The Finance Department  
World Council of Churches  
150, Route de Furney  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

The Finance Department of the World Council of Churches is the Banker for the Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund.

The amount collected in each country is never announced; only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. **Because FLC is primarily not a fund raising project, but a movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation.** Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest women in the group be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving.

These coins can be collected in symbolic containers. In India, they are collected in tiny clay pots. Empty match-boxes are used in Yugoslavia, clam shells in New England's Cape Cod; Plastic cowboy boots in Venezuela; leaf-shaped small felt purses in Canada and small folding cardboard boxes in Hong Kong etc.

#### **UNIQUENESS :**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

- a. The offering itself is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin

of their currency. They are within the same discipline.

- b. It brings all Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The women are able to share their love and concern with each other.
- c. It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as the fund. These least coins, when put together become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation and peace.

#### **GIFT OF LOVE :**

The Least Coin Fund is used to allocate grants for projects all over the world. These grants are "gifts of love" because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace and reconciliation.

#### **ADMINISTRATION :**

The FLC Fund is an international fund belonging to christian women and men of participating countries. It is administered by an international committee with its base in Asia, related to the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC).

The International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) is composed of :

- a) Four ACWC representatives. President and Executive Secretary be two of these four.
- b) One representative from each of the world Ecumenical Organizations of women e.g. International Committee



for World Day of Prayer and WCC Sub-committee for women in Church and Society.

- c) One representative from each of the regional ecumenical organisations for a period of two years in rotation.
- d) ICFLC Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member.
- e) The chairperson of this International Committee is the ACWC president.

#### **FUNCTIONS OF ICFLC :**

ICFLC Committee recommends projects, approves grants, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of the Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out world-wide promotion and Interpretation of this movement.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR GRANTS : FUNDING POLICY**

In allocating grants, the ICFLC Committee keeps in mind the following categories :-

1. ICFLC Administration.
2. Block grants to regional ecumenical organisations of women.
3. On request grants for projects to any ecumenical group of Christian women.
4. Emerging opportunities
5. Emergency grants for unforeseen natural disasters.
6. The Fund supports programmes which promote evangelical and ecumenical concerns for world peace and reconciliation. Usually grants are not given for buildings.
7. Priority is given to projects that will ensure Women's development and offer opportunities for women to play their full role in ecumenical movements.
8. Normally the grant allocated to any single project does not exceed US \$ 6,000/-. These grants are usually non-recurring.

#### **FUNDING PROCEDURES :-**

1. All requests should come through the National Ecumenical Women's Committee or through the national council of Churches.
2. A full report and a Financial Statement of the Grants received must be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC within one year of the receipt of the money. Subsequent requests for grants will be based on the annual report.
3. If a grant is not used for the purpose requested, it should be returned.
4. All applications must be sent in triplicate to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC prior to the meeting in August each year.

The Secretary, ICFLC  
6, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi-110054, India

5. Requests made after August will be considered only if presented in writing by a member of the Committee with sufficient copies to be provided for the ICFLC Committee. No oral request will be considered.



## **HOW & WHEN IT WAS STARTED :**

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, has spread in ever-widening circles of Christian concern by women of the world.

In the autumn of 1956 an international team of women, sponsored by the women of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, visited East Asian countries on a good will mission. During their tour, the idea of this movement was conceived by Mrs. Shanti Solomon, a member of the team.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their fellow Christian women in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every land.

Today the members of this fellowship are found in :

Argentina, Austria, Australia, Brazil, Burma, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, England, France, East Germany, West Germany, Guyana, Guatemala, Ghana, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Papu New Guinea, Pacific Islands, Rumania, Republic of Zaire, Sierra Leone, Scotland, Spain, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, U. S. A., Uruguay, Venezuela, Wales, Yugoslavia.

## **LITERATURE**

1. Copies of this pamphlet on the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
2. "Circle of Prayer"- a devotional booklet published biennially by the ICFLC. Each month's meditation is by a woman of a different country.
3. "Fellowship of the Least Coin". Every four years this booklet is published describing projects around the world that have received grants from the FLC Fund during the quadrennium.

These publications are obtainable From :—

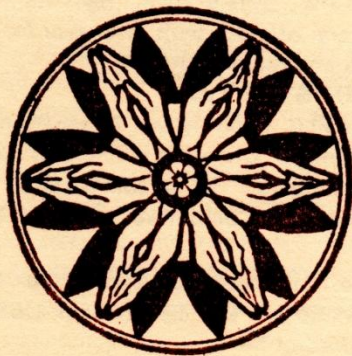
Executive Secretary,  
International Committee for the  
Fellowship of the Least Coin,  
6, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi-110054, India.

Published by :—

**Asian Church Women's Conference**  
6, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi-110054  
India  
May, 1982



# THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



## THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is an ecumenical Movement of Prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Many Church Women's Organisations around the world have joined the Movement and promote it among their members. Together in a fellowship of prayer they learn afresh to forgive and love their neighbours, and to share the concerns of God's people throughout the world.

Today women are very much concerned about peace and justice in the world. The death toll of wars has convinced them that war is not the solution for peace. They have also realised that expert knowledge, programmes and demonstrations for peace can only be effective if the attitudes of individuals have changed. When they have learned to sacrifice, love and forgive, and to be reconciled with their neighbours. Then only we can have inner peace and will be at peace with others. The power of prayer generates understanding, love and concern for others.

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Anyone, who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, promises to spend some time with God in prayer, emptying herself of all her grievances, prejudices and in the presence of God learning of His reconciling love for humankind. At the same time she also upholds in prayer those with whom she is concerned. This prayer of reconciliation can be offered as many times as the need is felt, but at least once a month by every member.



After spending some time in prayer she puts aside at least the smallest coin of her currency as a tangible token of her prayer for reconciliation, forgiveness and peace. Women collect these coins once a year through their women's organisations and have a special blessing on them in a service of dedication. The total amount is then sent to the national headquarter of the organisation. From there it is sent to the common fund which is administered by the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. (ICFLC).

The Banker of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) Fund—to whom contributions should be forwarded is :—

The Department of  
Finance and Central Services,  
World Council of Churches  
150, Route de Ferney,  
CH-1211, Geneva 20 Switzerland.

The amount collected in each country is never announced; only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The FLC is primarily not a fund raising project, but a Movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest woman in the group be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving. These coins can be collected in symbolic containers e.g. in India, they are collected in tiny clay pots, empty match-boxes are used in Yugoslavia, etc.

#### **UNIQUENESS :**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

- a) The offering itself is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or

illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline, and share the common concerns of women around the world.

- b) It brings all Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind. All are contributors as well as recipients of this Funds.
- c) It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins, when put together, become a large amount. In the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.

#### **GIFTS OF LOVE**

The Least Coin Fund is used to give grants for projects all over the world. These grants are "gifts of love", because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

The FLC Fund is an International fund belonging to Christian women of participating countries. It is administered by an International Committee with its base in Asia

The International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) is composed of :—

- a) Four representatives of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) of whom one will be the president.



- b) One representative from each of the world Ecumenical Organisations of women e.g. International Committee for World Day of Prayer and WCC Sub-Unit on Women in Church and Society.
- c) Three representatives from the regional ecumenical organisations on rotating basis.
- d) ICFLC Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member without vote.
- e) ACWC Executive Secretary will also be an ex-officio member without vote.
- f) The Chairperson of this International Committee is the ACWC President.

#### **FUNCTIONS OF ICFLC**

ICFLC recommends projects, approves grants, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of the FLC Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out world-wide promotion and interpretation of this Movement.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR GRANTS AND GUIDING POLICY**

In allocating grants, the ICFLC keeps in mind the following categories :—

- 1. ICFLC Administration.
- 2. Block grants to regional and global ecumenical organisations for women's programmes.
- 3. Emerging opportunities for awareness raising or educating women. Priority is given to programmes self-initiated and self-administered by women.
- 4. On request grants are given to any ecumenical group of Christians for programmes of literacy, health, social concern and leadership development among women.

- 5. The FLC fund supports programmes of ecumenical concern for world peace, justice and reconciliation.
- 6. Emergency grants for relief and rehabilitation programmes in cases of unforeseen and natural disasters.
- 7. To enable women to meet in ecumenical and world-wide gatherings and to provide opportunities for women to play their full role in ecumenical and global movements.
- 8. Normally the grant, given to any single project, does not exceed US \$ 6,000. These grants are usually non-recurring and not given for buildings.

#### **FUNDING PROCEDURES**

- 1. All request should come through the National Ecumenical Women's Committee or through the National Council of Churches where there is no National Ecumenical Women's Committee.
- 2. A full report and a financial statement of the grant received must be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC within one year of the receipt of the money.
- 3. If a grant is not used for the purpose requested, it should be returned.
- 4. All applications must be sent in triplicate to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC by August prior to the annual meeting of the ICFLC.
- 5. Requests made after August will be considered only if presented in writing by a member of ICFLC with sufficient copies to be provided for each member.



## HOW & WHEN IT WAS STARTED

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, has spread in ever-widening circles of Christian concerns among the women of the world.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their christian sisters in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every continent.

Today the members of this fellowship are found in :—

Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Cameroon, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, England, France, East and West Germany, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Pacific Islands, Peru, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Puerto Rico, Rumania, Republic of Zaire, Sierra Leone, Scotland, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Singapore, Syria, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela, Wales, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

## PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE

1. The pamphlet on the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
2. "Circle of Prayer", a devotional booklet published biennially by the ICFLC,

each month's meditation is by a woman of a different country.

3. "Fellowship of the Least Coin", a quadrennial report of projects, received grants from FLC Funds

At present these publications can be obtained from :—

The Executive Secretary,  
International Committee for the  
Fellowship of the Least Coin,  
6, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi-110054, India,

Or

Church Women United  
475, Riverside Drive,  
New York, N. Y. 10115, USA.

*Published by :—*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ICFLC  
6, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi-11 00 54, India,  
Sept., 1984



# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



BROCHURE

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is an ecumenical Movement of Prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Many church women's organisations around the world have joined the Movement and promote it among their members. Together in a fellowship of prayer they learn afresh to forgive and love their neighbours, and to share the concern of God's people throughout the world.

Today women are very much concerned about peace and justice in the world. The death toll of wars has convinced them that armaments are not the solution to the problems of the world. They have also realised that expert knowledge, programmes and demonstrations for peace can only be effective if the attitudes of individuals have changed. When we have learned to sacrifice, love and forgive and to be reconciled with our neighbours, only then we can have inner peace and be at peace with others. The power of prayer generates understanding, love and concern for others.

### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Anyone, who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, promises to spend some time with God in prayer, emptying herself of all her grievances, prejudices and in the presence of God learning of God's reconciling love for humankind. At the same time she also upholds in prayer those for whom she is concerned—in her home, her community, her country and in the world. This prayer of reconciliation can be offered as many times as the need is felt, but at least once a month by every member.



After spending some time in prayer she puts aside the smallest coin in current use of her country as a tangible token of her prayer for reconciliation, forgiveness and peace. Women collect these coins once a year through their women's organisations and have a special blessing on them in a service of dedication. The total amount is then sent to the National headquarters of the organisation. From there it is sent to the common fund which is administered by the International Committee for Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC).

The Banker of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) Fund—to whom contributions should be forwarded is :—

*Department of Finance  
World Council of Churches  
150, Route de Ferney  
CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland.*

The amount collected in each country is never announced; only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The FLC is primarily not a fund raising project, but a Movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest woman in the group should be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving. These coins can be collected in symbolic containers, e. g. in India, they are collected in tiny clay pots, empty match-boxes are used in Yugoslavia etc.

### **UNIQUENESS**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

- (a) The offering itself is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.
- (b) It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind. Women throughout the world are bound together in both giving and receiving.
- (c) It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins, when put together, become a large amount. In the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.

### **GIFTS OF LOVE**

The Least Coin Fund is used to give grants for projects all over the world. These grants are "Gifts of Love" because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The FLC Fund is an International Fund belonging to Christian Women of participating countries. It is administered by an International Committee.



The International Committee for Fellowship of the Least Coine (ICFLC) is composed of:—

- (a) Four representatives of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) of whom one must be the President.
- (b) One representative from each of the World Ecumenical Organisation of Women, e. g. International Committee for World Day of Prayer and WCC Sub - Unit on Women in Church and Society.
- (c) Three representatives from the regional ecumenical organisations on rotating basis.
- (d) ICFLC Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member without a vote.
- (e) ACWC Executive Secretary will also be an ex-officio member without a vote.
- (f) The Chairperson of this International Committee is the President of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC).

#### **FUNCTIONS OF ICFLC**

ICFLC recommends projects, approves grants, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of the FLC Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out world-wide promotion and interpretation of this Movement.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR GRANTS AND GUIDING POLICY**

In allocating grants, the ICFLC keeps in mind:—

(a) *the following categories:*

- ICFLC Administration.
- Block grants for women's programmes to regional and global ecumenical Christian organisations.
- Emerging opportunities for awareness raising or educating women. Priority is given to programme initiated and administered by women.
- Programmes of literacy, health, social concern and leadership development sponsored by an ecumenical Christian group.
- Programmes of ecumenical concern for world peace, justice and reconciliation.
- Emergency grants for disaster relief and rehabilitation.
- Grants to enable women to meet ecumenically in regional and world-wide gatherings and to participate fully in ecumenical regional and global movements

(b) *the following guiding principles for grants to any single project:—*

- Normally not to exceed US \$ 6,000.
- Usually non-recurring.
- Not given for buildings.

#### **FUNDING PROCEDURES**

1. All requests should come through a National ecumenical women's organisation or, in the absence of such, through



the national/regional Council of Churches or National Christian Council.

2. All applications must be sent in triplicate to the Executive Secretary of ICFLC by August prior to the annual meeting of ICFLC.
3. Requests made after August may be considered if presented in writing by a member of ICFLC with sufficient copies for each member of the committee.
4. A concise report on the use of the grant must be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC within one year of the receipt of the money.
5. If a grant is not used for the purpose requested, it should be returned to ICFLC.

#### HOW & WHEN IT WAS STARTED

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, has spread ever widening circles of Christian concerns among the women of the world.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their Christian sisters in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every continent.

Today members of this fellowship are found in :—

Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Cameroon, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, England, France, Gambia, (East & West) Germany, Ghana,

Guatemala, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pacific Islands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Rumania, Rep. of Zaire, Sierra Leone, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela, Wales, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

#### PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE

1. The pamphlet on the "*Fellowship of the Least Coin*".
2. "*Circle of Prayer*", a devotional booklet published biennially by the ICFLC. Each month's meditation is by a woman of a different country.
3. "*Fellowship of the Least Coin*", a quadrennial report of projects which received grants from FLC Funds.

At present these publications can be obtained from :—

*The Executive Secretary,*  
**International Committee for  
Fellowship of the Least Coin,**  
*Or*  
**Church Women United**  
Room 812, 475, Riverside Drive  
New York, N. Y. 10115, USA.

*Published by :—*  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ICFLC  
April, 1986



# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



Brochure

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is an ecumenical Movement of Prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Many church women's organisations around the world have joined the Movement and promote it among their members. Together in a fellowship of prayer, they learn afresh to forgive and love their neighbours, and to share the concern of God's people throughout the world.

Today women are very much concerned about peace and justice in the world. The death toll of wars has convinced them that armaments are not the solution to the problems of the world. They have also realised that expert knowledge programmes and demonstration of peace can only be effective if the attitudes of individuals have changed. When we have learned to sacrifice, love and forgive, and to be reconciled with our neighbours, only then we can have inner peace and be at peace with others.

The power of prayer generates understanding, love and concern for others.

### HOW & WHEN IT WAS BEGUN

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, (based on Luke Ch. 21 vs. 1—4), has spread ever widening circles of Christian concerns among the women of the world.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their



Christian sisters in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every continent.

### UNIQUENESS

The Fellowship of the Least coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

- (a) The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.
- (b) It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind. Women throughout the world are bound together in both giving and receiving.
- (c) It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins when put together, become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.

### GIFTS OF LOVE

The Least coin Fund is used to give grants for projects all over the world. These grants are "Gifts of love", because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

### Administration

The FLC is administered by an International Committee (ICFLC) which is composed of:

- (a) Four representatives of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) of whom one must be the President.
- (b) One representative from each of the World Ecumenical organisation of women, e. g. International committee for world day of prayer and WCC Sub-Unit on women in Church and Society.
- (c) One woman representative from each region invited from the ecumenical organisations.
- (d) ICFLC Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member without a vote.
- (e) ACWC Executive Secretary will also be an ex-officio member without a vote.
- (f) The Chair woman of this International Committee is the President of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC)



## FUNCTIONS OF ICFLC

ICFLC approves grants for projects frames policies and guidelines for the administration of the ICFLC Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out worldwide promotion and interpretation of this Movement.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND POLICY FOR GRANTS

The FLC Fund is an International fund belonging to Christian women of participating countries. It is administered by the International Committee. In allocating grants, the ICFLC keeps in mind :—

### (a) The following categories :

ICFLC Administration.

Block grants for women's programmes to regional and global ecumenical Christian organisations.

Emerging opportunities for awareness raising or educating women.

Programmes of literacy, health, social concern and leadership development sponsored by an ecumenical christian group.

Programmes of ecumenical concern for world peace, justice and reconciliation.

Emergency grants for disaster relief and rehabilitation.

Grants to enable women to meet ecumenically in regional and worldwide gatherings and to participate fully in ecumenical, regional and global movements.

### (b) The following guiding principles for grants to any single project :-

Normally not to exceed US \$ 6,000

Usually non-recurring.

Not given for buildings.

## FUNDING PROCEDURES

1. All requests must come through a National ecumenical women's organisation or, in the absence of such, through the national/regional Council of Churches or National Christian Council for endorsement.
2. Endorsed applications must be sent in triplicate to the Executive Secretary of ICFLC by August prior to the annual meeting of ICFLC.
3. A concise report on the use of the grant must be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC within one year of the receipt of the money.
4. If a grant is not used for the purpose requested, it should be returned to ICFLC.

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Anyone, who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin promises to spend some time with God in prayer, emptying herself of all her grievances, prejudices and in the presence of God, learning of God's reconciling love for humankind. At the same time she also upholds in prayer, those for whom she is concerned - in her home, her community, her country and in the world. This prayer of reconciliation can be offered as many times as the need is felt, but at least once a month by every member.

After spending some time in prayer, she puts aside the smallest coin in current use



of her country. as a tangible token of prayer of reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace. Women collect these coins once a year through their women's organisations and have a special blessing on them in a service of dedication. The total amount is then sent to the National Headquarters of the Organisation. From there it is sent to the common fund which is administered by an International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. (ICFLC)

The Banker of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) Fund - to whom contributions should be forwarded is :-

Department of Finance  
World Council of Churches  
150, Route de Ferney  
CH - 1211, Geneva 20  
Switzerland

The amount collected in each country is never announced, only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The FLC is primarily not a fund raising project, but a Movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest woman in the group should be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving. These coins can be collected in symbolic containers, e. g. in India, they are collected in tiny clay pots, empty match-boxes are used in Yugoslavia etc.

## PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

Today members of this fellowship are found in :

Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Cameroon, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, England, France, Gambia, (East & West) Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pacific Islands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Rumania, Rep. of Zaire, Sierra Leone, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela, Wales, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

## PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE

1. The brochure of the "Fellowship of the Least Coin"
2. "Circle of Prayer" a devotional booklet published biennially by the ICFLC. Each month's meditation is by a woman of a different country.
3. "Fellowship of the Least Coin", a quadrennial report of projects which received grants from FLC Funds.

At present these publications can be obtained from :-

The Executive Secretary  
International Committee for  
Fellowship of the Least Coin,  
113 Qasim Road, P. O. Box 204  
Multan Cantt. PAKISTAN.

Published by :— Shirin Samuel.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ICFLC**  
January, 1988.



## Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC)

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical Movement of Prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Many church women's organisations around the world have joined the Movement and promote it among their members. Together in a fellowship of prayer, they learn afresh to forgive and love their neighbours and to share the concern of God's people throughout the world.

Today women are very much concerned about peace and justice in the world. The death toll of wars has convinced them that armaments are not the solution to the problems of the world. They have also realised that expert knowledge programs and demonstrations of peace can only be effective if the attitudes of individuals have changed. When we have learned to sacrifice, love and forgive, and to be reconciled with our neighbours, only then can we have inner peace and be at peace with others.

The power of prayer generates understanding, love and concern for others.

### Circle of Prayer

This booklet, prepared by the Asian Church Women's Conference, includes a brief history of the Fellowship and twenty-four devotional thoughts and prayers written by women of many countries. Available from State Unit FLC Conveners.

*'What a joy and privilege is ours to be members of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and to be one with our Christian sisters all over the world in this fellowship of prayer for reconciliation! The small coins put aside after the prayer are only tangible tokens of our prayer. Yet, when put together, they interpret the divine power of love and reconciliation through concrete projects.'*

### Prayer of FLC

O loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept the least coin 'token of love'. Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life and resurrection of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The FLC Convener for your State Unit is:

Mrs. Shirley Birch  
13/45 Daly Street  
Stn. Plympton SA 5038  
Phone (08) 297 7395

1992

# The Fellowship of the Least Coin



## YOU ARE INVITED

to  
participate with Christians  
of every country

## THE BASIS OF BELONGING

is  
concern for peace and reconciliation,  
prayer for fellow Christians,  
intercession for those in special  
need of God's grace

## The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

This is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation, a special and continuing project of the Asian Church Women's Conference. It began in 1956 during a goodwill mission to East Asian countries by an international team of women, sponsored by women in the United Presbyterian Church in the USA. It brings all Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer, without any discrimination of race, colour, culture or denomination. It enables all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, in urban or rural areas, to participate in the offering of their 'least coin' - thus enabling 'gifts of love' to be provided for projects all over the world. Australia is one of some sixty countries linked together in this unique movement.

FLC contributions from individuals and groups are sent through the State Units of Australian Church Women, to the National Executive, who forwards them to the International Committee of FLC, by whose executive the funds are administered. Details of amounts forwarded by participating countries are not publicised, only the total sum received. Applications for grants are invited from all countries. In the allocation of funds, special attention is given to assisting programs for the relief of the suffering and oppressed, and projects which will ensure women's developing and offer opportunities for women to participate fully in ecumenical movements.

## How and When it was Begun

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, (based on Luke 21:1-4), has spread ever widening circles of Christian concerns among the women of the world.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their Christian sisters in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every continent.

## Uniqueness

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.

It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind. Women throughout the world are bound together in both giving and receiving.

It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins when put together, become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world

become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.

## Gifts of Love

The Least Coin Fund is used to give grants for projects all over the world. These grants are 'Gifts of love' because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

Details of the grants made each year are listed in the ACWC Quarterly News Bulletin (subscription \$7.50 per annum) which can be obtained from your State Unit FLC Convener.

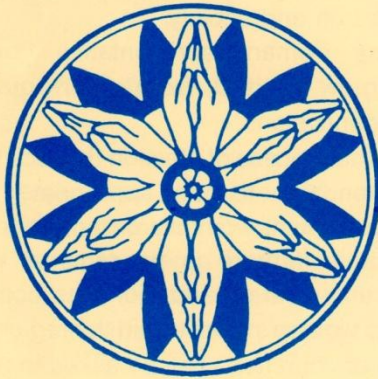
The amount collected in each country is never announced, only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The FLC is primarily not a fund raising project, but a Movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest women in the group should be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving. These coins can be collected in symbolic containers, eg. in India, they are collected in tiny clay pots, empty matchboxes are used in Yugoslavia, etc.

## FUNCTIONS OF ICFLC

International Committee Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) approves grants for projects, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of ICFLC Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out worldwide promotion and interpretation of this Movement.



# FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF PRAYER  
FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND  
RECONCILIATION

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)

This unique symbol was the special gift of the Chinese women to the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It is a circle representing the world, and enclosing many pairs of hands folded in prayer. These hands belong to each woman who shares in the dedication, concern and ministry of the Least Coin.

Since 1956 Christian women of all continents have responded to the call of the Founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Shanti Solomon to pray for reconciliation in the home, the community, the nation, the world, and to work for peace with justice.

## UNIQUENESS

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique

- (a) The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.
- (b) It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind. Women throughout the world are bound together in both giving and receiving.
- (c) It is stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins when put together, become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.



## STATEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE FLC

"The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a movement of women around the world who are committed to live a reconciled and forgiving life with others, to pray for reconciliation, justice, and peace and as a symbol of their commitment to collect the least coin available to them at the time of prayer. These least coins should be collected together and then amounts collected in different parts of the world should be sent once a year to a common bank account agreed upon by the international committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The money so collected is to be distributed for women's projects. All women involved in the Fellowship of the least Coin should consider themselves ready to promote the Fellowship of the least coin".

## HOW & WHEN IT WAS BEGUN

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, (based on Luke Ch. 21 vs. 1-4), has spread ever widening circles of Christian concerns among the women of the world.

**GUIDELINES** for the composition and working methods of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC).

### 1. Purpose and Function:—

THE ICFLC is constituted,

- (a) to reflect on issues of peace, reconciliation, justice and the empowerment of women,
- (b) to promote the movement of the FLC,
- (c) to decide upon the policies and guidelines, for the administration of the ICFLC funds,
- (d) to approve grants for women projects,
- (e) to review the work of the Executive Secretary,
- (f) to lay down conditions and provisions for the work of that Secretary and to make proper provision for her salary and expenses,

- (g) to make arrangements for the writing and publication of the circle of prayer every two years,
- (h) to be responsible for the publication and distribution of promotional material.

### 2. Times of Meeting

This committee should meet at least once a year for the above purposes.

### 3. Membership

- (a) Three representatives of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) of whom one must be the president.
- (b) one representative from each of the world ecumenical organization of women e.g. International Committee of the World Day of Prayer, and WCC Sub-unit on women in Church and society.
- (c) One woman representative from each region invited from the ecumenical organizations.

In the process of election the facility will be given first to the appropriate regional ecumenical women's organization if such exists. If there is no regional women's ecumenical organization, the occupant of the women's desk within the regional council of churches shall be asked to nominate a person to serve on ICFLC. If there is no women's desk within the regional ecumenical organization the general secretary of the regional ecumenical organization will be asked to nominate a woman to serve on ICFLC. The president of the regional ecumenical women's organization or the occupant of the women's desk of a regional ecumenical organization may either come herself, or nominate an other person. The persons nominated shall be involved in concerns of justice and peace, interested in FLC, and ready and able to promote it.



- (d) ICFLC Executive Secretary will also be an ex-officio member without a vote.
- (e) ACWC Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member without a vote.
- (f) The chairwoman of this International Committee is the president of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC).
- (g) A treasurer without a vote shall be co-opted by the committee. She shall be committed to and be involved in the movement of FLC and resident in a country with free flow of money. She shall serve for a period of four years which may be renewed for not more than two further terms.
- (h) Each region may nominate an observer as an additional member for one meeting but that region must be responsible for the expenses. Observers may join in the discussion but not vote.

#### 4. Guiding Principles and Policy for Grants

The FLC fund is an International fund belonging to Christian women of participating countries. It is administered by the International Committee. In allocating grants the ICFLC keeps in mind the following categories:

- (a) ICFLC administration.
- (b) Block grants for women's programmes to regional and global ecumenical christian organization.
- (c) Emerging opportunities for awareness raising or educating women.
- (d) Programme of literacy, health, social concern and leadership development sponsored by an ecumenical christian group.
- (e) Programmes of ecumenical concern for world peace, justice and reconciliation.
- (f) Emergency grants and disaster relief and rehabilitation.

- (g) Grants to enable women to meet ecumenically in regional world wide gatherings and to participate fully in ecumenical regional and global movement.

The following guiding principles for grants to any single project.

- Normally not to exceed US \$6,000
- Usually non-recurring
- not given for buildings.

#### 5. Funding Procedure

- (a) All requests must come through a National ecumenical women's organization or in the absence of such through the national/regional council of churches, or national christian council for endorsement.
- (b) Endorsed applications must be sent in triplicate to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC. Prior to the annual meeting of ICFLC.
- (c) A concise report on the use of the grant must be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the ICFLC within one year of the receipt of the money.
- (d) If a grant is not used for the purpose requested it should be returned to ICFLC.

#### 6. Circle of Prayer

The 'Circle of Prayer' shall be published every two years. Women from different regions of the world shall be invited to submit contributions to this publications.





## GIFTS OF LOVE

The Least Coin Fund gives grants for projects all over the world. These grants are "Gifts of love" because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

You are invited to  
participate with Christian Women  
of every continent in the  
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The basis of belonging is concern for reconciliation. Prayer for Fellow Christians, Intercession for those in special need of God's grace. THE TOKEN OF PARTICIPATION is A "Least Coin" set aside whenever Prayer is offered and contributed annually to a common Fund which is given in the name of Christian women without identification of its original source. This fund is used for ministries of mercy on every continent and for experience which creates Christian community among those of different national, racial, cultural, economic and religious backgrounds. The least coins are tangible token of our prayers offered individually and collectively." Those contribution—"Gifts of Love" however small or large, may be sent to

Department of Finance  
World Council of Churches  
150-route de Ferney  
P.O. Box 2100  
1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland

at any time throughout the year.

1992

## Prayer of The Fellowship of the Least Coin

O LOVING CREATOR WE PRESENT OURSELVES IN YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THE BOUNTIFUL GIFTS OF LIFE. WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER IN LOVE AND FORGIVENESS AROUND THE GLOBE. FREE US FROM ALL DOUBTS AND PREJUDICES, WE PRAY. INSPIRE US TO LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH HUMANKIND THAT WE MAY KNOW THE JOY OF GIVING AND RECEIVING.

DEAR GOD, ACCEPT THIS LEAST COIN 'TOKEN OF LOVE' MAKE US MINDFUL OF THE MIRACLES OF THESE COINS. LET US HONOUR YOUR CREATION WITH LOVE, AS SHOWN THROUGH THE LIFE AND RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON, JESUS THE CHRIST. AMEN.

Shalom  
SHIRIN SAMUEL  
Executive Secretary  
of the International Committee  
for the Fellowship of the Least Coin  
2 Jordan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
Tel.: 852-8865217



# THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



**A GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF PRAYER  
FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND  
RECONCILIATION**

## **WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN?**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Through this movement, Christian women around the world seek fellowship with each other and are reminded to live a reconciling and forgiving life with others. Though "least coins" are given with each prayer, it is not a fund-raising project, but a movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Anyone who wishes to join this movement makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a strained relationship with another person, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence and injustice. Each time she prays for justice, peace and reconciliation, she sets aside one "least coin" of her currency as a tangible token toward her prayer being answered. These coins are sent regularly to her country's FLC collection point, where it is forwarded to the FLC Fund. The amount collected by each country is never publicized; only the total sum collected each year is announced. It is important that only the "least coin" of each currency be set aside so that even the poorest women of each country can be a part of this fellowship of love and care.

## **THE FLC LOGO**

The idea for the FLC logo—the praying hands forming a lotus flower—came from the late Mrs. Rayann Ma from Hong Kong. She was the first Chairperson of the first Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). The actual design was the gift of her brother-in-law, James Ma, a commercial artist.



## HOW AND WHEN IT BEGAN

The idea for the Fellowship of the Least Coin emerged as a vision from God to Mrs. Shanti Solomon of India. In September 1956, she was part of the Pacific Mission Team of seven women from different countries that traveled in Asian countries after World War II. It was organized by Dr. Margaret Shannon of the National Office of Presbyterian women in the U.S. When Shanti Solomon was refused a visa to Korea in the middle of the trip, she went to the Philippines to wait. While there, she reflected on the experiences of their travel in the war-torn countries of Asia and the national and economic barriers that kept women apart.

Upon the return of the team, she suggested that prayer could transcend every national boundary. She challenged the Christian women of Asia and of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S. to launch a project of Christian prayer and positive action in which every woman could participate, no matter her economic position. Every time a woman prayed she was to set aside a "least coin" of her currency. It was an encouragement to the women of the team to demonstrate their unity in Christian faith, regardless of their country or economic circumstances. They all accepted it as a way to express their solidarity with suffering humanity and with women of every nation.

The East Asia Christian Conference (EACC), now the Christian Conference of Asia (CAA), administered the FLC fund from 1958—1970. In 1958, the first Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) held in Hong Kong agreed to administer the

Fellowship of the Least Coin. At the second Assembly in Thailand in 1962, ACWC voted to make the promotion of FLC their basic outreach programme. In 1970 Mrs. Shanti Solomon, the founder, was named the Executive Secretary of the FLC and ACWC. She was followed by Mrs. Shirin Samuel of Pakistan (1987—1997). Since that time the Executive Secretary has been an Asian woman, active in the ACWC.

## FLC GROWTH

The idea of the FLC quickly gained acceptance, not only among the women of Asia to whom it was first presented, but also among women of all the continents in the world. In 1966, when the FLC celebrated its tenth anniversary, women from 24 countries participated in the movement. By 1980, at the time of its Silver Jubilee, women from 75 countries had already joined the FLC. In 1996, women from more than 80 countries around the world celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the FLC.

## CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Feeling the need to reaffirm prayer as the vital element of the FLC, the ACWC asked the women of Hong Kong to prepare a booklet of prayers to be used as the "least coin" is set aside. Since then, the *Circle of Prayer* booklet has become an important part of the FLC. Twenty-four meditations and prayers are written by women around the world and published by the International Committee for the FLC every two years.



## **THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FLC**

Because the FLC prayer movement became truly world-wide and the grants were made to programmes and projects all over the world, an International Committee for the FLC (ICFLC) was formed in 1979 to administer the promotion, the interpretation of the movement and the allocation of the FLC grants. The International Committee comprises representatives of world-wide ecumenical women's organizations and of regional ecumenical Conferences of the Churches. Year after year the ICFLC learns to trust God more and more and to work in faith. The Committee meets every year to share the miraculous works of the FLC around the world and to decide on FLC grants for the following year. Application forms for project grants are received four months prior to the meeting. The members of the Committee study the application forms, pray about them, discuss and decide on each project without knowing how much FLC funding will be available for the grants they wish to allocate for each year. The "least coins" from around the world come in with prayers, quietly and gradually, to meet the needs for each year. Our gentle, loving and compassionate God never fails us. God does great works through the humble, the least, the marginalised and the poor. That's the strength, the promise, the beauty, and the surprise upholding the FLC prayer movement.

Every year ICFLC is invited by different regions to hold its meeting in their country. An exposure and a visitation programme is added to the regular business meeting in order for the representatives to know more about the region and to be aware of the issues and the concerns of the people there. ICFLC meetings have been held recently in: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (1995); Christchurch,

New Zealand (1996); Helsinki, Finland (1997); and Chiang Mai, Thailand (1998). Every four years the committee meets immediately following the ACWC Assembly.

## **FLC GRANTS**

Each year about 35 to 50 projects are given grants. Each Regional Women's Desk of Ecumenical Conferences, the Women's Desk of the World Council of Churches and the World Day of Prayer International Committee are given block grants to enhance their work and to strengthen ecumenical solidarity. Emergency grants for disaster relief and rehabilitation are also given.

In allocating grants, the ICFLC keeps in mind the following categories:

- Opportunities for awareness-raising and/or educating women on gender issues
- Programmes of literacy, health, social concerns and leadership development recommended by recognized Christian groups
- Programmes enhancing justice, peace and reconciliation for women and families, communities, countries and the world
- Opportunities for women to meet ecumenically in regional, national and world-wide gatherings

The following are guiding principles for grants to any project:

- Normally not to exceed U.S. \$6,000
- Usually non-recurring
- Not given for constructing buildings



## THE UNIQUENESS OF THE FLC

The FLC Prayer Movement is simple, yet significant and unique:

- 1 It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, color, culture or denomination. Christian women have solidarity through their common concern and love for humankind. Women of the world are bound together by both *giving* "least coins" and by women of every region *receiving* grants.
- 2 The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, urban or rural, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.
- 3 It is stewardship, both of the idea and of the Fund. When "least coins" are put together, along with the individual prayers offered by members throughout the world, they become a strong force in bringing about justice, reconciliation, and peace.

The "least coin" teaches us to be humble, to value the least, and to trust that nothing is impossible for God who can do great things from out of the least and the unexpected.

Least Coins may be sent at any time to:

**The FLC Custodial Fund  
Department of Finance  
World Council of Churches  
150-route de Ferney; P. O. Box 2100  
1211 Geneva 2; Switzerland**

or to:

**The FLC Custodial Fund  
Church Women United  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 500  
New York, NY 10115**

## Prayer of The Fellowship of the Least Coin

O LOVING CREATOR,  
WE PRESENT OURSELVES  
IN YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE  
TO THANK YOU  
FOR ALL THE BOUNTIFUL GIFTS OF LIFE.  
WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN  
WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER IN LOVE  
AND FORGIVENESS AROUND THE GLOBE.  
FREE US FROM ALL DOUBTS  
AND PREJUDICES, WE PRAY.  
INSPIRE US TO LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
HUMANKIND THAT WE MAY KNOW  
THE JOY OF GIVING AND RECEIVING.  
DEAR GOD, ACCEPT THIS LEAST COIN  
'TOKEN OF LOVE.'  
MAKE US MINDFUL OF THE MIRACLES  
OF THESE COINS.  
LET US HONOUR YOUR CREATION  
WITH LOVE,  
AS SHOWN THROUGH THE LIFE  
AND RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON,  
JESUS THE CHRIST. AMEN.

For more information, contact:

Esther Byu  
Executive Secretary ICFLC  
c/o Women's Department, CCT  
109 CCT Building, 13th floor,  
Surawong Road, Khet Bangrak  
Bangkok 10500, THAILAND  
Tele/fax: (662) 238-3521  
E-mail: [icflc@locinfo.co.th](mailto:icflc@locinfo.co.th)



## Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC)

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical Movement of Prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Many church women's organisations around the world have joined the Movement and promote it among their members. Together in a fellowship of prayer, they learn afresh to forgive and love their neighbours and to share the concern of God's people throughout the world.

Today women are very much concerned about peace and justice in the world. The death toll of wars has convinced them that armaments are not the solution to the problems of the world. They have also realised that expert knowledge, programs and demonstrations of peace can only be effective if the attitudes of individuals have changed. When we have learned to sacrifice, love and forgive, and to be reconciled with our neighbours, only then can we have inner peace and be at peace with others.

The power of prayer generates understanding, love and concern for others.

### Circle of Prayer

This booklet, prepared by the Asian Church Women's Conference, includes a brief history of the Fellowship and twenty-four devotional thoughts and prayers written by women of many countries. Available from State Unit FLC Conveners.

### The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

This is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation, a special and continuing project of the Asian Church Women's Conference. It began in 1956 during a goodwill mission to East Asian countries by an international team of women, sponsored by women in the United Presbyterian Church in the USA. It brings all Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer, without any discrimination of race, colour, culture or denomination. It enables all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, in urban or rural areas, to participate in the offering of their 'least coin' - thus enabling 'gifts of love' to be provided for projects all over the world. Australia is one of some sixty countries linked together in this unique movement.

FLC contributions from individuals and groups are sent through the State Units of Australian Church Women, to the National Executive, who forwards them to the International Committee of FLC, by whose executive the funds are administered. Details of amounts forwarded by participating countries are not publicised, only the total sum received. Applications for grants are invited from all countries. In the allocation of funds, special attention is given to assisting programs for the relief of the suffering and oppressed, and projects which will ensure women's developing and offer opportunities for women to participate fully in ecumenical movements.

*'What a joy and privilege is ours to be members of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and to be one with our Christian sisters all over the world in this fellowship of prayer for reconciliation! The small coins put aside after the prayer are only tangible tokens of our prayer. Yet, when put together, they interpret the divine power of love and reconciliation through concrete projects.'*

### Prayer of FLC

O loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept the least coin 'token of love'. Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life and resurrection of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The FLC Convenir for your State Unit is:

MISS SHIRLEY WELLS  
UNIT 125 HAYFIELD VILLAGE  
3 HOMELANDS AVE  
CARLINGFORD 2118

### How and When it was Begun

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, an idea born in the heart of an Indian woman, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, (based on Luke 21:1-4), has spread ever widening circles of Christian concerns among the women of the world.

This seed idea has been blessed by God as the members have interpreted it to their Christian sisters in various countries. The simplicity of this movement has caught the imagination of women in every continent.

### Uniqueness

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, women of the cities or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.

It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind. Women throughout the world are bound together in both giving and receiving.

It is a stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins when put together, become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world

# The Fellowship of the Least Coin



YOU ARE INVITED

to  
participate with Christians  
of every country

## THE BASIS OF BELONGING

is  
concern for peace and reconciliation,  
prayer for fellow Christians,  
intercession for those in special  
need of God's grace

become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.

### Gifts of Love

The Least Coin Fund is used to give grants for projects all over the world. These grants are 'Gifts of love' because the least coins are offered with a prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

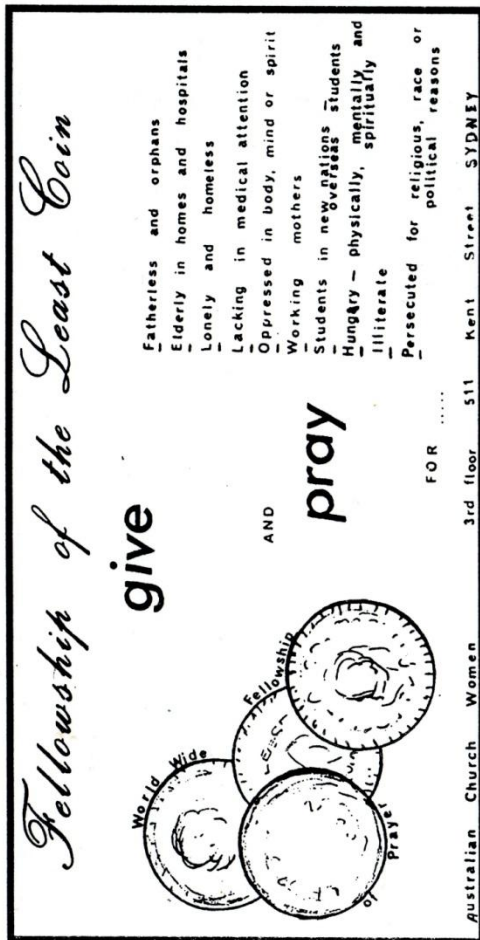
Details of the grants made each year are listed in the ACWC Quarterly News Bulletin (subscription \$7.50 per annum) which can be obtained from your State Unit FLC Convenir.

The amount collected in each country is never announced, only the total sum collected each year is mentioned. The FLC is primarily not a fund raising project, but a Movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest women in the group should be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving. These coins can be collected in symbolic containers, eg. in India, they are collected in tiny clay pots, empty match-boxes are used in Yugoslavia, etc.

### FUNCTIONS OF ICFLC

International Committee Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) approves grants for projects, frames policies and guidelines for the administration of ICFLC Funds. It also helps in planning and carrying out worldwide promotion and interpretation of this Movement.





One of the original labels used circa 1963

## Fellowship of the Least Coin 50th Anniversary Jubilee

Celebrating the Legacy,  
Visioning the Future,  
Living the Jubilee



Collaroy October 2005

MEDITATION :---1  
Volume (1)  
Mrs. Shanti R. Solomon  
Founder of FLC  
Mainpuri  
India



Almighty God, Whose Infinite Love was made manifest in Jesus Christ, grant me grace to love the peoples as myself.

Give me an understanding and a sympathetic heart for the national differences.

Help me to remove the clouds of suspicion and evil thoughts against others.

Teach me to put the needs of others before my own needs and let me put Thee before all else.

Grant that my part in the world's life today may not be to obscure the Divine Love but rather to make it manifest before the eyes of my fellow women.

I beseech Thee Father, to accomplish Thy purpose of bringing peace in this disturbed World through children, who believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER:

Dear Father, give to us of this Fellowship a consciousness of our mission as Thy children. Give us understanding for others. Increase our faith and create in us the desire to love and serve our fellow men. Through our selfless service may others truly know that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of the World. Amen. \*This prayer is taken from Volume 2.

Gracious heavenly Father, we thank you that your love for us is so great we are called your children. Help us to appreciate the honor of this partnership which has been bestowed upon us. May the Holy Spirit guide us to share this partnership in your love. Fill our hearts with selfless love for others. Amen. \*This prayer is taken from Volume 8.

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The following is taken from an article in "Asian Church Women " (from many years ago) and was written by Shanti Solomon, the founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

"This movement is a discipline for finding peace within ourselves. After offering a prayer for peace and forgiveness, each member puts aside the least coin of her currency as a symbol of her covenant with God to forgive and love her enemies. Therefore the least or smallest coin has a significance for each member.

Secondly, the least coin is a tangible token of our equal status in fellowship with each other. No matter who and where the members are and what is their economic and social status, in this fellowship we are all equal. Together we are learning to love our enemies and have concern for everyone in need. The 'Least Coin' is a reminder of our prayer.

These least coins, when collected, become a visible token of our love, reaching out to the groups of women in their struggle for development, justice and peace. By sharing the sum of money, collected from these least coins, we share the concerns of the women around the world.



The  
**Fellowship**  
of the  
**Least Coin**



50th Anniversary  
Jubilee  
Celebration

9-12 October 2006  
Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia

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**Celebrating**  
the **Legacy**  
**Visioning**  
the **Future**  
**Living**  
the **Jubilee**

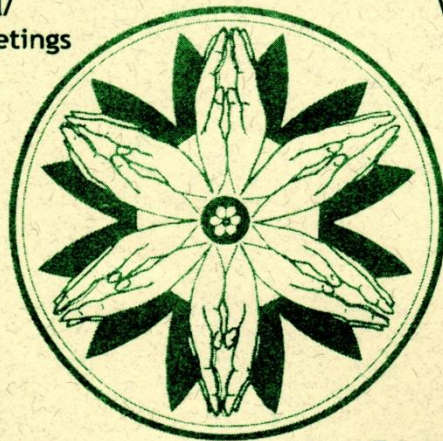


## **Networking**

Circle of Prayer  
Regional/national/  
international meetings

## **Ingathering**

Collection of least coins  
Worship Services



## **Stewardship**

Global projects for  
women and children  
Regional grants  
Emergency relief

## **Prayer**

Ongoing  
For peace, justice and  
reconciliation  
Ecumenical  
Inclusive

**Venue:**  
**The Federal Hotel,**  
**Jalan Bukit Bintang,**  
**55100 Kuala Lumpur,**  
**Malaysia**



## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, 12 October 2006  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

### PROGRAMME

#### Preparation

Music — *Mrs. Maija Vuorinen and her Choir, Finland.*

Procession with regional banners — “We are marching in the light of God.”

#### The symbols of the celebration —

- .. Lighting of candle — *Ms. Battu Jambawai, ICFLC Chairperson, Africa.*
- .. Offering of coins by regions.
- .. Offering of flowers — *Dr. Esther Byu, ICFLC Executive Secretary and Mrs. Jill King, ICFLC Vice Chair, Europe.*

Call to worship — *Rev. Valamotu Palu, Pacific Conference of Churches*

Hymn — “Herran Huoneen Ihanuus” (Ps. 84:2,4)

Prayer of adoration and confession — *Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam, Sri Lanka/ Australia*

Hymn — “When the heart is in quiet submission”

#### Celebrating the FLC legacy

Prayer of thanksgiving for fore-mothers/sisters — *Ms Ann Ferguson, Presbyterian Women of USA.*

Scripture reading — *Mrs Shirley Maginley, WCC Representative.*

Message: “Celebrating the legacy, visioning the future, living the jubilee” — *Dr. Esther Byu, ICFLC Executive Secretary*

Hymn — “We are all one in mission”

Prayer of intercession — *Mrs. Eva Findlay, New Zealand*

Challenges for “Living the jubilee” — *Rev. Valamotu Palu, Pacific Conference of Churches*

Prayer of dedication — *Mrs. Gloria Santos, Philippines*

FLC Jubilee song

Closing prayer and blessing — *Rev. Dr. Navamani Peter, India.*

## CELEBRATION BANQUET

Thursday, 12 October 2006  
6.00 pm

### PROGRAMME

Opening prayer — *Mrs. Jill King, Vice Chairperson of the ICFLC.*

Welcoming remarks — *Ms. Battu Jambawai, Chairperson of the ICFLC.*

Recognition and honouring —  
*Officers.*

Greetings/messages —  
*Representatives from regions and partners.*

Dinner and presentations —  
Prayer for the blessing — *Ms. Esther Kilagblian, Middle East.*  
Songs, stories, testimonies, power point presentation of the history of the FLC or projects etc.

Vote of thanks —  
*Mrs. Jill King*

Emcees —  
*Ms. Sylvia Lisk Vanhaverbeke, WDPIC.*  
*Ms. Cora Tabing-Reyes, CCA.*



**Voice 7:** Let us pray for the Caribbean:

We pray for inroads into our sisters' involvement in the global movement of prayer for justice, peace and reconciliation. We commit them to you, our loving God, and may your Spirit give us wisdom on how we can foster a closer and stronger sisterhood. We pray for our Caribbean sisters as they witness their faith amidst the natural and human disasters that besiege the region.

**All (response in song):** "Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us."

*Silence*

**Voice 8:** Let us pray for North America:

For continued solidarity with the oppressed and marginalized in society; to support service needs and do justice work in Canada and in our world. May our sisters' prayers and actions for justice, peace and reconciliation bring into their lives manifold blessings of the fruit of the Spirit as in Galatians 5:22. We specially pray for Joanne Instance, ICFLC Honorary Treasurer, as she goes through a journey of faith in dealing with cancer.

We pray for our sisters in the United States that their solidarity with the struggling poor of the global South in prayer and actions may hasten the bringing of our world closer into realizing God's household. We pray that they may be effective peace agents in their own country. We pray that they may find God's grace sufficient to face the challenges and difficulties of living in the midst of affluence and power.

**All (response in song):** "Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us."

*Silence*

**Challenges for "Living the jubilee" – Rev. Valamotu Palu, Pacific Conference of Churches.**

(One representative from each region will say the main challenge from their region. The representative will light one candle before leaving the altar).

**Prayer of dedication – Mrs. Gloria Santos, Philippines.**

**FLC Jubilee song**

**Closing prayer and blessing – Rev. Dr. Navamani Peter, India.**

**Song Response:**

"We are one in the bond of love, (2x)  
We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God,  
We are one in the bond of love."

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, 12 October 2006, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

### LITURGY

**Preparation**

**Music – Mrs. Maija Vuorinen and her Choir, Finland.**

**Procession with regional banners – "We are marching in the light of God."**

**The symbols of the celebration –**

- Lighting of candle – *Ms. Battu Jambawai, ICFLC Chairperson, Africa.*
- Offering of coins by regions. The FLC as a movement (representatives from regions/countries) will drop their coins into a large transparent bowl of water placed by the altar. The Choir will provide soft background music as a response to 'coin gestures'. When coins are dropped into the bowl the water will rise. This symbolizes the growing of the movement.
- Offering of flowers – *Dr. Esther Byu, ICFLC Executive Secretary and Mrs. Jill King, ICFLC Vice Chair, Europe.*

**Call to worship – Rev. Valamotu Palu, Pacific Conference of Churches.**

**Hymn – "Herran Huoneen Ihanuus" (Ps. 84:2,4)**

**Prayer of adoration and confession – Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam, Sri Lanka / Australia.**

**Hymn – "When the heart is in quiet submission"**

**Celebrating the FLC legacy**

**Prayer of thanksgiving for fore-mothers/sisters – Ms Ann Ferguson, Presbyterian Women of USA.**

**Leader:** Let us thank God for the lives of women who have inspired us in the Fellowship of the Least Coin. We gather their names in a basket like a gathering of harvested grains. In God's caring hands, their lives have become fruitful and we who benefit are called to do the same for the younger generations.

Representatives from regions will place names of fore-mothers/sisters in a basket on the altar: Africa, Asia, Canada, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Pacific, United States, WCC, WDPIC.

**Song response – "Ay-Ay Salidummay, let us give thanks to God"**

**Scripture reading – Mrs Shirley Maginley, WCC Representative.**

**Message:** "Celebrating the legacy, visioning the future, living the jubilee" – *Dr. Esther Byu, ICFLC Executive Secretary.*

**Hymn – "We are all one in mission"**

**Prayer of intercession – Mrs. Eva Findlay, New Zealand.**

**Leader:** O compassionate God, you have journeyed with us in the midst of our life difficulties and in our struggles to experience life in its

wholeness. You are our Source of faith, hope and love. Please hear our prayer as we intercede for all those who support and are supported by our prayer movement for justice, peace and reconciliation through the least coins offered in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Silence*

**Voice 1:** We pray for Africa:

For our sisters and their communities' struggle to have access to safe drinking water for their families and irrigation for their crops in Kenya; (pause)

For the churches' trauma healing after the war in Sierra Leone, health education on HIV/AIDS, economic rehabilitation through vocational training, and literacy program so that women may find their dignity as human beings created in God's image; (pause)

For community projects of alleviating poverty and assisting women living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable groups in South Africa and Zambia.

**All (response in song from STB #120 first line):** "Have mercy on us, O have mercy on us."

*Silence*

**Voice 2:** We pray for Asia:

For the Sudanese women refugees and the loving concern of Australian congregations that these women from another land may build their self confidence, regain their dignity and find space to build relationships in a foreign land; (pause)

For the street children of New Delhi, to find a safe haven, feel God's protecting hands and find new life through a village center; (pause)

For women students' need for ecumenical leadership development through the joint project of World Student Christian Federation-Asia Pacific and Student Christian Movement; (pause)

For the Asian Christian women to be passionate in praying and working for justice, peace and reconciliation personally and collectively, to effect changes in the home, in the church, in the community and in the nations, both in relationships and in structures and systems.

**All (response in song):** "Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us."

*Silence*

**Voice 3:** We pray for Europe:

For capacity building, ecumenical leadership development and bonding of young women of South and South East regions of Europe; (pause)

For more understanding through interfaith dialogue, loving actions for justice regarding migrants; inclusiveness and respect of diversity all over Europe; (pause)

That the self-awareness training of Romanian women help to prevent

depression, suicide, domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking in women; (pause)

That women may be encouraged and inspired in hearing stories of women's struggles to overcome violence, hopes and convictions, engagement for more justice, peace and integrity of creation, visions of communities of women, men and children.

**All (response in song):** "Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us."

*Silence*

**Voice 4:** Let us pray for Latin America:

For the raising of consciousness and awareness on the issue of trafficking in women and children in Argentina and Latin America; on working women's rights in Brazil; on indigenous women's rights and political processes that affect their lives; (pause)

For the training of women on gender justice in Santiago de Chile; for the reconstruction processes in lives of women in Bogotá, Colombia in surviving violence; for women's empowerment in addressing domestic violence and strengthening women's ministries in faith communities in Honduras; and for developing technical skills for extremely poor and deprived young women in Guatemala.

**All (response in song):** "Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us."

*Silence*

**Voice 5:** Let us pray for the Middle East:

We pray for women as agents of peace in the whole Middle East. We especially pray for courage in the midst of danger, hope in the midst of despair, love in the midst of hate, wisdom for alternative solutions and faith in Your abiding presence and in Your will in the midst of all the difficulties of violent situations in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel. We pray for all women and children who suffer more in wars and conflicts.

We pray for the ecumenical leadership training for young women in Egypt and Lebanon, the seminar on healthy hearts in Bethlehem and the regional workshop on overcoming violence against women and children. May women's work for peace bring fruit, O God.

**All (response in song):** "Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us."

*Silence*

**Voice 6:** Let us pray for the Pacific:

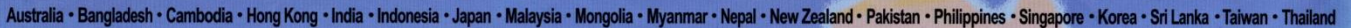
For the struggles for fullness of life among Pacific women working to alleviate poverty and overcome gender injustice; for ecumenical leadership training among young women; for awareness raising and theological reflections on HIV/AIDS and strategic actions of women in churches.

We pray for women's reflections and actions on integrity of creation amidst the threat of climate change affecting the islands.

**All (response in song):** "Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us."

*Silence*





Sixty five delegates and one hundred and twenty-one observers from thirty countries, twenty guests and twenty one local visitors gathered in celebration for the 13th Quadrennial Assembly of Asian Church Women's Conference and 50th Anniversary of ACWC and FLC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 08-13 October 2006.

- the inspiration and guidance we have received from God from the inception of ACWC and FLC.

- the selfless service and commitment of the founders of ACWC and FLC, especially Shanti Solomon who had the vision and courage to start fellowships and movements fifty years ago and the foremothers who led them.

- that women are created in the image of God and not less than men in any way.

- that women have been blessed with the strength and power of creation and transformation for reconciliation, peace and justice.
- that ACWC and FLC continue to act as a

- support and welcome the positive input and vitality of young women to lead us on through the next fifty years.

- all initiatives and moves to improve and value the leadership role of women in society and family; particularly in the worship and decision making of our churches.

- the degradation of women in any way particularly all types of violence, trafficking, physical mutilation, prostitution or any form of commodification.

- with horror the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS with its stigma especially from within the family and lack of access to medical treatment.

- conflicts in the name of religion, ethnicity, caste, race or gender.

- to organize opportunities for interfaith dialogue among women for their mutual support.

- the setting up of a Young Women's Committee within ACWC.
- to take an advocacy role and support women as they strive for gender justice.

- re-read the Bible with women's perspective to seek Christ's liberating power against any exclusion.

- support education, awareness and mobilization of resources for disaster preparedness.
- initiate and support continuing education for protection of women and their families against violence in any form including HIV/AIDS.
- address poverty and seek alternative ways towards a just economy for women.

Being Christian women of Asia, we have the privilege and responsibility to fulfill the will of God in our part of the world. Let us commit ourselves to celebrate the legacy, live the Jubilee and vision the future with hope and trust in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



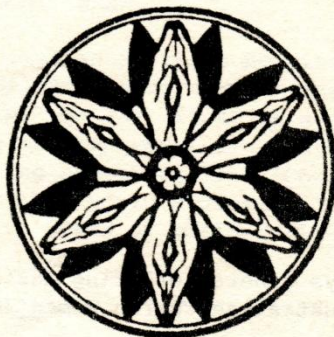
# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

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## ANNUAL SERVICE

AUSTRALIAN  
CELEBRATION  
SERVICE  
FOR THE  
SILVER JUBILEE  
OF THE  
FELLOWSHIP OF  
THE LEAST COIN



1956 - 1981

WESLEY CHAPEL  
139 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Monday, 25th May, 1981

at

10.30 a.m.



Wesley Central Mission is thanked for the use of the Chapel today.

Warm thanks are expressed to our organist Mrs. E. Ridley, our pianist Brig. Ruth Smith and to our solist Mrs. Doreen Moore.

Today's general offering assists the expenses of Australian Church Women (N.S.W. Unit).

The Silver Jubilee coins gathered will go to F.L.C. in New South Wales as part of our special effort this year.

You are invited to a light luncheon in the Meeting Rooms on the first floor, where we shall hear Miss Alison Watson and Miss Sue Newman, speakers for the International Year of Disabled Persons.



CELEBRATING THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

CALL TO WORSHIP - ALL STAND

PRAY TOGETHER: THANK YOU GOD FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER TODAY.  
FILL OUR HEARTS WITH THANKS FOR THE PAST, JOY  
FOR THE PRESENT AND ANTICIPATION FOR THE FUTURE.  
GRANT OUR FATHER THAT AS WE MEET IN YOUR NAME,  
WE SHALL BE STRENGTHENED BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,  
SO THAT OUR SERVICE MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE BUILDING  
OF YOUR KINGDOM. AMEN.

Leader: This is a special anniversary service. As you know  
this is the Silver Anniversary of our Fellowship of  
the Least Coin. We want it to be a joyous celebra-  
tion. Please turn to your neighbour and greet her  
with joy, saying something like 'Congratulations!  
Thank God for this world organization. Thank God  
for twenty five years of world fellowship. Peace  
be with you.'

Hymn: TO GOD BE THE GLORY

1. To God be the Glory! Great things He hath done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth  
hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people  
rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the Glory! Great things He hath done.

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God!  
The vilest offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a Pardon receives.



3. Great things He hath taught us, Great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son!  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Leader: As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, let us look back on the historical highlights of this remarkable movement, beginning with the Gospel reading of the Widow's Mite.

St. Luke 21:1-4 (Good News version)

A pause to reflect on the reading.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

READER: Miss Malini Weerasinghe. Winifred Kiek Scholar.

India: "1956 was a time when Christian women were concerned to heal the hurts of war and to seek reconciliation among people whose nations had been torn by conflict. An International Fellowship Team, sponsored by Presbyterian women in the U.S.A., under the leadership of Margaret Shannon, went to the Pacific to study the Bible with women of Asia and talk with them about these concerns.

The divisions among people and nations became very real when Shanti Solomon of India could not go with the Team to Korea because these two countries did not have diplomatic relations.

As she stayed behind in the Philippines, Shanti Solomon was burdened by two concerns - the need for reconciliation in a divided world and a longing that women everywhere, even those who would never travel, might be aware of belonging to a worldwide fellowship of Christians. As she read again the story of the Widow's Mite, the thought came to her that women everywhere - poor or rich, educated or illiterate, from rural or urban areas - could pray for those in other lands and, as a token of



their prayer and desire for reconciliation and peace, set aside the least coin of their country for a common fund .... so, the Fellowship of the Least Coin was born!"

READER: Mrs. M. Stanhope.

Philippines: "Carmen Armonio of the Philippines was asked to go to Korea with the team. Out of her own great suffering in the war, she could bear testimony to the miracle of forgiveness and to God's reconciling love". "Women in the Philippines responded gladly to the idea of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and were among the first to participate. The first Dedication of the Least Coin was at a gathering of women in the Greater Manila conference in September, 1957. Each woman recited a verse of scripture as she put her twelve coins in a decorated basket. In the years that followed, women throughout the Philippines became a part of this fellowship.

Reader: Deaconess Mary Andrews.

China: "1958 marked a time when Asian Church Women felt the need to know one another and to begin working together. In the spring, a group of Asian women in the United States got together to make plans for the first Asian Church Women's Conference which was held in Hong Kong that year. At this conference, Asian Church Women accepted responsibility for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and agreed to promote it for a four-year period. They also determined to 'stay together' and planned for a continuing and widening relationship which Least Coin Funds have helped to make possible."

Reader: Mrs. Helen Richardson.

Thailand: "When Asian women gathered for their second conference in Thailand, they rejoiced in the growth of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Feeling the need to re-affirm



prayer as the vital element of the Fellowship, they asked the women of Hong Kong to prepare a 'Circle of Prayer' to be used each month as prayer is offered and the least coin set aside. The Fellowship sign was designed in Hong Kong: it is a circle of praying hands forming a lotus flower, the symbol of Asia."

Reader: Mrs. Marie McCann.

Japan: "The Tenth Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin was celebrated as women from sixteen Asian countries gathered in Japan in 1966. Now, women of every continent and many countries were part of the Fellowship through both giving and receiving. The Least Coins gathered in creative ways and sent to a common fund, now amounted to thousands of dollars each year. Grants were made to projects in all parts of the world. For the first time delegates from Africa and the Middle East attended the Asian Church Women's Conference."

Syria:  
Lebanon: "Women of Syria and Lebanon have participated in the Fellowship of the Least Coin almost from the beginning and projects in the Middle East have received grants from the common fund. In 1969 a representative from Lebanon was invited to participate in the first All Africa Women's Consultation made possible by a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. These meetings helped build bridges of love and understanding between women of the Middle East and women of Asia and Africa."

SOLO: Mrs. Doreen Moore. 'Because He Lives'.

Reader: Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse.

Canada: "Women of Asia prepared for their fourth conference to be held in September. Women of Canada have recently become part of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. We have designated our Thanksgiving time to receive offerings for the Fellowship from across Canada. We have received funds from the Fellowship for a project chosen



by Asian Church Women for Indians and Eskimos of the Yukon and Northeast Territories - sometimes called the Forgotten People of our nation."

This year Shanti Solomon, the Founder, was named Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Reader: Mrs. Glad Bent.

Australia: "In this year of 1972, Women of Australia have been part of the Fellowship of the Least Coin - in receiving and giving - for almost ten years. We were honoured in this year of 1972 by a visit from Shanti Solomon. Asian Church Women have prepared the fourth volume of 'Circle of Prayer' on the theme: 'Who is my Neighbour?' It contains twenty four meditations and prayers by women in various parts of the world."

New Zealand: "When Asian Church Women gathered for their fifth conference in Bangkok, they decided that the central committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin should have world wide representation, reflecting the world wide nature of the Fellowship and recognition that gifts to and grants from the Fellowship included all countries."

Reader: Mrs. Heather Stevens.

Singapore: "As the Asian Church Women gathered in 1978 for their sixth Assembly, they rejoiced not only in the significant developments in their twenty years of relationship with one another through ACWC but looked forward with great anticipation to the celebration of the twenty fifth anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which has demonstrated in a remarkable way the deep significance of small acts of faith and love."



"The year 1980 marked the International Celebration of the Jubilee in the Philippines - the place where the Fellowship of the Least Coin began. Participants included those related in a special way to the history of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and representatives of participating countries were invited to share in this world wide celebration".

Leader: "This year of 1981 marks the twentyfifth anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It is a time to look back and ahead, using the experiences of the past to build a better future".

SPEAKER FOR SRI LANKA: Miss Malini Weerasinghe.

HYMN: JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the doubt of dark away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All Thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.



3. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning star began;  
 Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.  
 Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,  
 Joyful music lifts us sun-ward in the triumph song of life.

OFFERTORY: General Offering.

Leader: Our special silver coin offering for the Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee, will be brought personally to the front for the Dedication.

ALL STAND: DEAR LORD AND MASTER, GRANT THAT AS WE OFFER OUR COINS OUR HEART MAY OVERFLOW WITH LOVE. HUMBLE OUR SPIRITS TO SERVE. MAY WE UNGRUDGINGLY HELP THE NEEDY AND SEEK NO REWARD FOR OUR LABOUR. MOULD US ACCORDING TO THY WILL AND USE US AS WILLING INSTRUMENTS IN THY SERVICE. SEND US FORTH AT THY COMMAND TO DO THY BIDDING. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.

#### DEDICATION

President and State

Executive Members: We affirm the aims of the Australian Church Women, New South Wales State Unit.

To unite Australian Church Women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

To promote co-operation of men and women in the Church family and Society.

To help Christian Women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the church.



To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together;

To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.

ALL: Consecrate to Your Service, O Lord, all members of Australian Church Women, New South Wales State Unit, with their offerings of personality, character, talent and ability, that the lives so dedicated may be channels through which Australian Church Women will be used to bring blessing to Christian Women throughout the State.

Council Members:

Support us we pray from day to day, that we may all work together in harmonious co-operation to the end that we may glorify our Maker and Redeemer.

ALL: Pour out your Spirit in full measure on all members O God, that wisdom, strength and direction may be theirs as they need. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

Leader: We present before you, Lord, all of Humanity, with its progress and its vision for the future, together with all its setbacks and clings to the past.

TOGETHER: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER. (This response is repeated after each prayer).

Leader: May our prayers and our desires for peace throughout your world be assisted by each individual here represented, so that Your will may be seen to be done.



- Leader: We pray for understanding and mutual trust, for co-operation between people of different beliefs and cultures.
- Leader: We bring before You all who suffer pain and do not have the possibility of receiving adequate attention; those who suffer from hunger and die because they do not have sufficient food.
- Leader: We pray for all refugees - victims of oppression, injustice, cruel cultural or racial prejudices.
- Leader: For our own country with its particular needs.
- Leader: For Your Church in the world; its mission and ourselves, Your messengers.
- Leader: For our task, as part of the Church where You have gathered us, to be light and the salt.
- Leader: For the sick, the dying, the lonely, the sad, the misunderstood, the bereaved - grant them the Peace of mind found only in and through Your Love.
- Leader: Give all women everywhere the insight required to mould each new generation, to build strong, concerned Christian young people with courage to follow their Lord and stand up for the rights of others.
- Leader: Lord, hear our prayers, both spoken and unspoken. Grant to each of us Your mercy. Give us always the courage and strength to serve You to the best of our ability. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Benediction: And now, may the grace of Christ our Saviour, and the Father's boundless love with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon us from above. Amen.



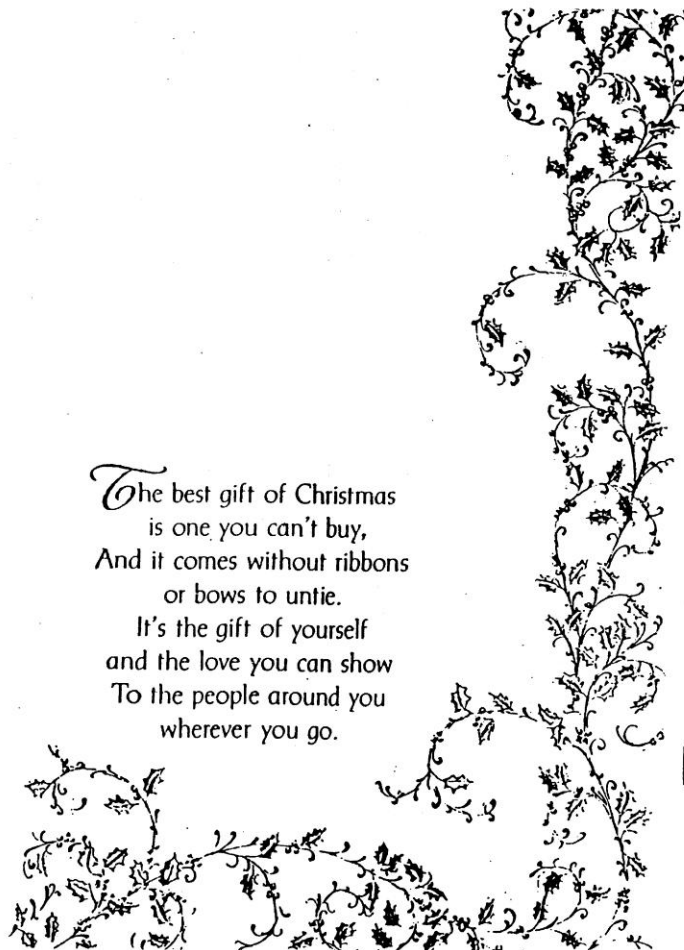
COUNTRIES INVOLVED WITH F.L.C.

AFRICA  
AUSTRALIA AUSTRIA  
BRAZIL BANGLADESH BURMA  
CAMEROON CANADA COLUMBIA CHILE  
CARRIBEAN EGYPT ENGLAND FRANCE GHANA  
GERMANY GUYANA GUATEMALA HOLLAND HONG KONG  
INDIA INDONESIA IRAN ITALY IRELAND JAPAN KENYA  
KOREA LATIN AMERICA LEBANON LIBERIA MALAYSIA  
MEXICO NEW ZEALAND NIGERIA NEW GUINEA NORWAY  
PACIFIC PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES PORTUGAL ROMANIA  
RUSSIA SABAH SPAIN SCOTLAND SIERRA LEONE  
SWEDEN SWITZERLAND SYRIA SRI LANKA  
SINGAPORE TAIWAN THAILAND U.S.A.  
TRINIDAD URUGUAY VIETNAM  
YUGOSLAVIA ZAMBIA  
VENEZUELA WALES  
ZAIRE

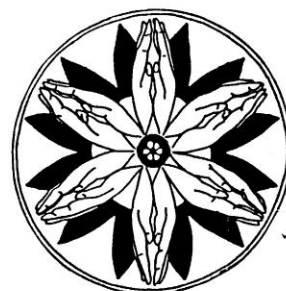
AN ASIAN SERVICE ADAPTED FOR AUSTRALIA BY F.L.C. COMMITTEE



The best gift of Christmas  
is one you can't buy,  
And it comes without ribbons  
or bows to untie.  
It's the gift of yourself  
and the love you can show  
To the people around you  
wherever you go.



## IN REMEMBRANCE OF HER



FELLOWSHIP  
OF  
THE LEAST COIN



A person of beauty is a joy forever.

**Mrs. Shanti Solomon,  
A Great Woman of VISION and PRAYER**

**A Tribute to the Mother, the Founder and the First  
Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin, a World-wide Ecumenical Movement of Prayer for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, was conceived and born out of a vision given by God to Mrs. Shanti Solomon.

In September 1956 she participated in the Pacific Fellowship Mission team of women from different countries who felt the urge to go and seek reconciliation with the people in war-torn countries in Asia. On the trip her visa for Korea was refused. She remained in Manila, Philippines to wait for the group's return. During that time she reflected on the national and economic barriers that keep women apart. She realized that prayer surpasses national boundaries, and if each woman set aside the "least coin" whenever she prayed for peace and reconciliation, even the poorest woman could participate on a somewhat equal basis with the more affluent woman who would also set aside the same "least coin" when she prayed. So the movement was born and spread quickly not only among women in Asia, but also among women of all the continents in the world. "Prayer", not "money" has always been the primary emphasis of the Fellowship of the Least Coin Ecumenical Prayer Movement. It has become a simple, yet, a unique act of praying for justice, peace and reconciliation.

"FORGIVENESS" had been Shanti Solomon's testament of Faith. She again and again admonished saying "Forgiveness and reconciliation are the basis of our Christian faith and we have to learn and practice it in our lives to prove that God is love and we Christians have to learn that we should be ready to forgive those who have hurt us most, because Jesus does the



same and is always ready to forgive us. This as a reminder is needed most today.

Through the act of prayer we learn to get reconciled with those who hurt us most, and thus enjoy peace of mind. Forgiveness brings reconciliation which breeds love for our enemies and promotes peace. The setting aside of a least coin is intended to be a symbol of the givers willingness to forgive - a reminder that we must often take the first step if there is to be genuine reconciliation. The smallest coins collected as a fund become a message of love and peace to those who are helped. Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.' God help us to be the agents of peace."

Miss Dorothy Wagner, who worked with Mrs. Solomon for many early years in building the FLC into an international movement, says, "Her name so well described her. Shanti means Peace. She was a wise peacemaker! Through the Fellowship of the Least Coin she has encouraged prayer and peace making throughout the world."

Rev. Mary Cline Detrick, the former Chairperson of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) resounds, "Indeed, a peacemaker had been born into the world, and she embodied peace in the broad areas of service that she was pleased to assume. She embodied living simply on behalf of others and being constantly in prayer."

Greatness and magnanimity of heart were reflected by the simplicity and genuine humility of Shanti. She won the hearts of people and established a lasting relationship with them in her calm and quiet way; attending to the needs of others with a listening heart and compassion. She knew and was acquainted with grief and pain, and yet never allowed herself to be bitter or hardened by hatred and deep hurt. She followed the example of her Lord Jesus Christ in order to forgive and to pursue peace. She said, "Forgiveness is not a case of

holy amnesia that wipes out the past. Instead it is the experience of healing that drains out the poison from the wound."

We, thousands and thousands of women around the global Christian Community are celebrating the life, the vision and the work of Shanti in many ways and forms in memory of her and in giving thanks to God, who is her Maker, her Source of Vision, Hope and Strength.

Let us listen to the Voices of Tribute and Thanksgiving from all over the world.

*"Thank God for her life, work and vision which has united us with the people of Christian faith beyond our countries boundaries."*

*"Shanti Solomon, a Saint who let the light in. She shed the light of the gospel into the dark corners of separation. Her concept of prayers for peace united with coins for reconciliation has changed women's lives throughout the world. Although Shanti Solomon will be missed, her legacy will live as long as there are people who care."*

*"We have lost this great woman. She is an icon of the great gift that women bring to the church. Thousands of women know her name and will remember her with affection. She was an inspiration to so many women."*

*"We drew inspiration from her simplicity, love for people of less importance, patience and humility."*

*"It is very sad to lose the founder and mother of FLC, but we share the glory of knowing that she is with her Lord whom she loved and served so well. We are sharing the news with our women and asking them to honor her in any way that is possible through their local program."*

*"It is a time of rejoicing and celebration of the life of a remarkable woman who has left us a beautiful legacy of prayer."*

*"We have known Mrs. Shanti through her lively ministry through FLC and all what it stands for. We are both blessed and honored to be identified with Shanti and the movement she established and we renew our commitment promoting the justice, peace and love too."*

*"We thank God for the manifold ministries He so graciously achieved through Shanti."*

In memory of our beloved Mother, Aunt, Sister and Friend Shanti, may we pause to allow ourselves to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and be inspired to do justice, to love kindness, to forgive and to walk humbly with our Lord.

Glory and honour to God who turns the simple, the humble and the least into great and miraculous deeds.



Esther Byu  
Executive Secretary, ICFLC  
October 31, 1998

*(The following two Bible Studies were prepared and led by Rev. Dr. Pirkko Lehtio at the ICFLC Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, October, 1997. Rev. Lehtio worked in some parishes in Finland as full-time female theologian for more than 18 years; as General Secretary of the Helsinki diocese 11 years and Professor of Religions Education, Practical Theology and Feminist theology at the Hong Kong Lutheran Theological Seminary 1990-1996)*



