

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

WOMEN AT WORK



SEEKS:

- 1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- 2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

OCTOBER, 1977

A greeting from our Vice President, Deaconess
Mary Andrews

"In everything, by prayers and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

The challenge before A.C.W. at home and abroad demand much wisdom, understanding, insight and power for action. We may ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?", "Our sufficiency is of God."

As the new Working Committee faces its tasks, it would ask every member of the A.C.W. 'family' to remember that the greatest service we can render for each other is to pray with each other that in all that we think or say or do may be for God's glory and for the extension of His kingdom. Prayer is being in the presence of God on behalf of His world, the Church and the individuals with whom we are in contact.

God works for those who wait on Him. God will do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think (2 Cor. 9.8) God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always

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have enough of everything, and may provide in abundance for every good work."

Some people have their hours and minutes so filled with the Lord's affairs that it seems impossible for them to undertake anything else, however small. Yet is it not to such people that we instinctively turn in time of need and rarely in vain. Wealth is variable, but time is not. Everyone has the same amount, whatever the age, experience or gift. Yet the person who gives God time generously often seems to have yet more time to give. If we desire to be generous towards God, He will give us blessings in abundance, time, money, energy or talent so that he may daily demonstrate the riches of His grace.

Mary Andrews

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP.

A very enthusiastic letter was received from Tapati Das of Bangla-Desh expressing gratitude for the scholarship which will enable her to undertake an observation and training course with the Y.W.C.A. This course will be for four months and will commence in December. She is making enquiries about visas, and finds that in Bangkok she will need to apply for a Philippine visa/ She hopes to secure her visa for Taiwan while she is in Hong Kong. At present, she is engaged in preparations for the International Management Workshop on the Crafts Industries which will include participants from Y's in Korea, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Fiji and Papua-New Guinea, as well as local participants. This takes place from 19th September to 14th October at the Y centre. Expressing anticipation of these new experiences which will not only benefit her personally but the Y of Dacca Crafts Centre, she promises to keep us informed.

NEWS FROM KALPANA AIRAN, INDIA.

Kalpana has written expressing concern to Mrs. Win Dougherty, that she has received no news from A.C.W for some time. Although both Win and Deaconess Andrews have written, these letters have evidently gone astray due no doubt to the disruption of mail services because of recent strikes. Kalpana promises to send photos of the existing School Project together with the new school building. She

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writes, "Our Project works the whole day with two batches of fifteen mothers and fifteen children in each. This year from June, seventeen children have been admitted to formal school. They are fully sponsored for their educational needs and two meals a day. By now, twenty-three women have been able to open bank accounts with the amounts earned from their craft work. Some of them have started saving and depositing their personal money too, and that is what we aimed at in this scheme i.e. introducing and developing saving habits. Mr. Grey has sent a gift of learning aids designed by him which is worth NZ\$300.00. The new Project and School building which is of three floors, will be completed by January, 1978. The unforeseen and sudden fund made available for it is thought of as a gift of hard work by many people; but to me it is a symbol of God's support to a person who is rendering a selfless service by using God-given talents i.e. my father ..."

SOME PROFILES OF OUR WORKING COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT. Mrs. Win Dougherty. Win is a Life Member of A.C.W (NSW Unit); member, Board of Communication Services, Uniting Church. President NSW Auxiliary Christian Television Association. Marriage Counsellor, J.P. Executive NSW National Council of Women, local parish and community involvement.

VICE-PRESIDENT. H/Deaconess Mary Andrews. With Church Missionary Society in China and India 1938-1951. H/Deaconess Sydney Anglican Diocese. Principal, Deaconess House, 1952-1976. NSW Inter-Church Executive, WKS Convenor. Interim Committee 1963, A.C.W. Represented A.C.W at International Inter-Denominational Conference, Taize, France, 1967. 1971 represented A.C.W at Church Women United, Wichita, USA. 1972 World Federation of Deaconesses New York Conf. and in Bethel, Germany 1975. 1973 Conference Deaconesses Communities, England. 1977 Conference, Versailles & Denmark. 1977, Delegate International Council of Women Conference, New Delhi.

4) CULTURAL STUDIES CONFERENCE. (From Mrs. M. Stanhope)

A Green Paper recently released on Immigration Policies and Australia's Population (A.G.P.S Canberra 1977) concludes thus: "There is no good reason why migrant groups and the Australian born community should not combine for a harmonious and integrated society, while at the same time enjoying a diversity of traditional cultures.

Goulburn (NSW) College of Advanced Education provides regular students with all the training they could desire, but it is also conscious of a need to be linked with the community in a very real way. So it has developed this idea of a "Cultural Conference". The first was organised in 1975 on Islamic, Arabic and Hispanic Cultures. In 1976, four South East Asian Countries were studied - Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. This year, the Mediterranean was the focus of attention, especially Malta, Italy and Greece, in the belief that exposure to the cultures and values of other societies enriches the experience of individuals and provides them with a set of alternative values and practices against which to judge their own.

We explored the cultural heritage of these three major immigrant donor countries, dealing with topics as diverse as religion, music, art, family life, political developments, craft and food; the latter quite practically with ethnic dinners.

Among the dozen or more speakers were George Paciullo, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Al Grasby, Commissioner for Community Relations, Paolo Totaro, Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, Josephine Zammit, Maltese Co-ordinator of Ethnic Radio, Dr Tessi, Italian Cultural Institute; Dorothy Buckland, University of NSW, and Father Stevenes, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia and New Zealand.

Mrs. Josephine Zammit, who among a number of other responsibilities is President of the Maltese-Australian Women's Association, took us back in time to Phoenicians, through to the 2½ centuries when the Knights of St/ John ruled the Islands, to subsequent British rule, and then to present independence.

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Her address covered many facets of Maltese life: education, traditions, etc.. The Maltese became one of the earliest countries to embrace Christianity, and in fact much of Maltese life revolved around the norms and spiritual values of their Church. Family life and ties are of great importance. Some interesting figures - 350,000 inhabitants in Malta, 400,000 in Australia.

To be continued in November issue

RESOURCE MATERIAL.

In the Areas of Concern which will be chosen for study and action by the States, the following resource material is suggested for the study listed No.5 on page 5 of the Minutes of the National Committee Meeting, "Trades Unions and Women" :-

"The Gentle Invaders" by Edna Ryan & Ann Corlan

"My Wife, my Daughter and poor Mary Anne" by
B. Kingston;

Women in Australian Parliament and Local
Government, A. Viola Smith.

Further material obtainable from the Trades
Hall in each State includes Union of
Australian Women in the Trades Hall;

Further material available from the Anti-
Discrimination Boards in all States;

Library; Look up "Women" index heading,
Australian publications Index List,
Affairs in Australia.

We would also like to suggest that States
inform the Working Committee of their choice
of theme/s for the study programme.

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BOOK REVIEWS

JESUS ACCORDING TO WOMEN. Rachel Conrad Wahlberg.

Here are 9 N.T. stories given fresh interpretation in the light of today's plea for women's rights. Jesus may have treated women "with intimacy, high regard and naturalness," but scripture commentators have ignored the encounters Jesus had with women and emphasised side issues. Mrs. Wahlberg informs us of the prejudices that have made "the woman who lost the coin" parable seem like a quaint housewife's tale, and not a story about God's diligent search for those lost. A liberating book.

SERGEI. Sergei Kourdakov.

Reviewed by Mrs. Edna Baker, President ACW (NSW Unit)

This is a most gripping, challenging and soul-stirring book. Sergei at 22 was a Russian Police Squad Leader. This is his own story of his persecution of Soviet Christians, his incredible escape, and his search for the faith of those he persecuted. In his book completed in draft before he died, Sergei tells of his childhood in Soviet State orphanages, his education in communism, and how, while training as a Naval Cadet, he had a special Operations Squad formed by the KGB to break up secret meetings of Christian believers. In 150 raids which he personally conducted, several Christians were killed or permanently injured. Sickened by the brutality, Sergei made plans to escape to the West. While serving as a Radio Officer with the Soviet Navy off the Canadian coast he jumped ship one stormy night in 1971 and swam ashore to freedom. Sergei was unable to forget the courage of the Christians he had persecuted, and eventually came to share their faith. This book was written to make known to the world the full story of their suffering, as an act of reparation and in gratitude for their part in his own conversion.

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+ If drudgery only means dreadfully hard work, +
+ I admit the woman drudges in the home as a +
+ man might drudge at the Cathedral of Amiens, +
+ or drudge behind a gun at Trafalgar. But +
+ if it means that the hard work is more +
+ heavy because it is trifling, colourless +
+ and of small import to the soul, then, as +
+ I say, give it up; I do not know what that +
+ word means. +
+ To be Queen Elizabeth with a definite area, +
+ deciding sales, banquets, labours and +
+ holidays; to be Whiteley within a certain +
+ area, providing toys, boots, sheets, +
+ cakes and books; to be Aristotle within a +
+ certain area teaching morals, manners, +
+ theology and hygiene; I can understand +
+ how this might exhaust the mind, but I +
+ cannot imagine how it could narrow it. +
+ How can it be a large career to tell +
+ other people's children about the Rule +
+ of Three, and a small career to tell +
+ one's own children about the Universe? +
+ How can it be boring to be the same +
+ thing to everyone and narrow to be +
+ everything to someONE? +
+ No, a woman's function is laborious, +
+ but because it is gigantic, not +
+ because it is minute. +
+ I will pity Mrs. Jones for the hugeness +
+ of her task; I will never pity her for +
+ its smallness. +
+ G.K.Chesterton. +
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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:

At the recent meeting of the National Conference in Perth, it was agreed that every effort should be made to ensure that the themes and services for "Special Days" be provided as far ahead as possible, and the incoming Working Committee was asked to accept this as a guiding principle.

At our first meeting, we gave thought to this matter, and, after discussion, agreed on the themes for 1978, they are

Fellowship Day (July), "THE WAY AHEAD".
World Community Day (October) "THE THIRD WORLD

AMONG US"
We immediately sought the assistance of two groups who we hoped would undertake the preparation of the Orders of Service. We are delighted that both have indicated their willingness to accept the challenge. The Fellowship Day Service is to be prepared by the Fellowship of the Chester Street, Epping (NSW) Uniting Church and that for World Community Day, be Canberra Church Women. Our warm thanks go to these friends and we look forward to seeing the results of their work. As decided by the National Committee, the Working Committee will prepare and send out master sheets to the State Units, who will be responsible for printing or duplicating as required.

In reply to letters of greeting sent on behalf of the new Working Committee to officers of the Asian Church Women's Conference and Church Women United, we have heard from Mrs. Shanti Solomon in Delhi and Miss Dorothy Wagner in New York. Both send cordial greetings and good wishes to A.C.W. members. The Triennial Assembly of Church Women United was held in July; their new President is Rev. Mary Louise Rowand.

Doris M. Mitchell.
Hon. Secretary.

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