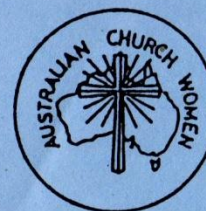


SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT DIRECTORY

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW News

We seek: to unite Australian Women in their allegiance to their Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the church.

February/March, 1995

President's Message

Hello again to you all!

*The "New" year of 1995 is well under way, and February has already arrived! I trust many of you will have had some "quiet" time of rest and relaxation over the holiday period, and feel refreshed. I was able to enjoy a brief period of "time out" during January, catching up on reading, personal sewing, watching tennis and visiting friends - not to mention the list of catch up chores that **didn't** get completed! I wonder if anyone else would like two January's on their calendar?*

Now we are back to business, and high on our priorities is our National Conference of A.C.W. here in Melbourne August 21-25. Executive spent a full day in discussion and planning on January 27th, and let me encourage you to come and share with us, what we are confident will be a time of "Learning and Listening, Loving and Laughing" together, as we explore the theme: "Jesus, Women, and the World".

Along with a number of other members of A.C.W., I attended the Ecumenical service held in Wesley Church, Melbourne on February 5th, as a part of the International Committee of World Day of Prayer meeting held from February 1st - 10th at Queen's College, Melbourne.

Successful conferences and meetings don't just happen - they take a lot of time in planning and preparation to ensure that everything goes well.

So it is with our own lives - if we are to experience the joy and peace that Jesus has for us, we need to spend time with Him - working through our priorities within family, Church and community activities - listening and talking with Him about what He wants us to do, where He wants us to be in service for Him.

Somehow, this often seems to be a struggle for us - finding time to spend with God - apart from all our "busy-ness". I am reminded of the words of the old Hymn, "Take time to be holy", and some of the instruction it gives us.

Take time.....to speak with the Lord
.....to feed on His word
.....let Him be your guide
.....be calm in your soul

As we spend time with Him, and practice His constant presence with us, our lives will grow in harmony with His will.

May His blessings be on your journey with Him.

Eunice

ASIAN CHURCH WOMENS CONFERENCE

As you can imagine, there has not been very much happening since the Conference. I guess we all went home to recuperate and think about organising our respective celebrations of Christmas. There is, however, more of the conference that I can share with you and I will as time and space permits.

One of the night activities was a feature on Fellowship of the Least Coin and it was a great thrill to see and hear some of the guests from regions other than Asia sharing with us.

The ICFLC conference followed immediately after the ACWC Assembly. You may like to note, for focussed prayer, some of the concerns for their particular region:

Africa - some parts of Africa are involved in bitter wars

Pacific - domestic violence, bought brides

Europe - particularly Bosnia where women are raped and dignity is gone. Another concern is that the wording "Fellowship of the Least Coin" is very hard to translate into words that mean the same idea and until this happens it is hard to promote FLC.

Latin America - pray for life-based Christian values

USA - out of control gun violence. More than once every hour someone dies of gunshot wounds in a country that believes war solves conflict.

Canada - the economy, job losses, cheaper Mexican labour being brought in, justice for women.

WCC and World Day of Prayer asks us to pray for cessation of violence against women, healing, reconciliation, and be aware of and fight for rights of aboriginal people.

I'm sure that as you pray, alone or in groups, this brief list may help to make your prayers more directed at specific issues that concern women in other cultures.

We have also had a request for articles for the Asian Church Women's Bulletin which is issued quarterly. The new Executive Secretary would like to alter the direction of the Bulletin in that her vision is that it not be so much a magazine that reports on meetings and conferences held, but that it be a forum for discussion, poetry, articles, music and so on. If you have any creative talent, or have a subject you think you would like to discuss in print, please send it through me at PO Box 570 Box Hill, 3124. I am to have all articles through to the Philippines by the 15th of the second month of each quarter.

I think that's enough space for this time. God bless.

Lynette Green, National Representative.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT NEWS

On 30th October we were saddened by the death of our loved Life Member (SA Unit), Mrs. Myrtle Wood, aged 88 years.

ACW in South Australia was formerly Women's United Church Association and Myrtle Wood became the Treasurer at its inception in 1936, following the combined group of women from some thirteen denominations who worked together on the float representing Church Women of South Australia which also included participation in creating the beautiful floral carpet for the Centenary celebrations for the foundation of South Australia.

On 14th November, 1952 the meeting recorded their appreciation of the fine service of Mrs. Wood as Treasurer over the period of sixteen years.

At the Annual General Meeting on 9th October, 1953, Mrs. Wood became the President.

At the Annual General Meeting on 8th October, 1954, the newly elected President, Mrs. Shanks, proposed that Mrs. Wood be made a Life Vice-President, seconded by Mrs. Winifred Kiek, who complimented her on her eighteen years of service.

'Life Vice-President' has now become 'Life Member'.

Maureen Clark,
Promotions officer ACW (SA Unit)

(We thank Maureen for the above report which was received too late for the November/December issue)

Reminder:

National Conference is August 21-25, 1995. Registration papers available soon. Plan to come to Corpus Christi Seminary, Clayton Victoria. Theme: Jesus, Women and The World

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Australian Church Women's National Conference in August will have the theme "JESUS, WOMEN AND THE WORLD". This is a very appropriate theme for the 50th year of United Nations work for peace and justice among the nations of the world. In 1995-1996 special celebrations are being planned throughout the world.

The United Nations has followed a path of independence from religion, national politics and culture, yet the first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly was held in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London, 50 years ago.

To mark this anniversary there will be four days of commemoration in Methodist Central Hall from January 10 - 14, 1996. The United Nations General Secretary, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, will unveil a special plaque. At this special occasion flags from the 158 member nations will be carried.

In September, one week after the ACW National Conference, the United Nations 4th World Conference for Women will be held in Beijing, China, with the theme "Action for Equality, Development and Peace". The World Council of Churches, together with various denominational world women's organisations, are funding and organising a meeting place where Christian women can come together and share their faith and experiences.

Joan Stott.

S.A. UNIT NEWS

Sister Patricia Pak-Poy, a Sister of Mercy, who attended the Non-Government Organisations Conference on Landmines in Geneva last year, was guest speaker at our May Unit meeting.

There are about 100 million unexploded landmines scattered over 62 different countries. They are scattered indiscriminately by the thousand from aircraft or blasted from shells. 2,000 can be delivered in 3 minutes. Some of them look like a powder compact and are coloured brown/green, and, because they are made of plastic, they are hard to detect and need very sensitive equipment. They are the most toxic pollution to affect mankind.

One person in 236 Cambodians has been injured by a landmine. Every month between 600 & 1,200 people (mostly civilians) are killed or maimed by landmines. It will take 40 years to clear the landmines from Cambodia and 4,000 years to clear Afghanistan at the present rate.

Although Australia does not produce landmines, the Australian Government does not yet support a total ban on the production, stockpiling, trade and use of landmines.

The UN Convention on Inhumane Weapons controls the use of weapons and, will meet in Vienna from the middle of September to October 13th this year.

Sister Pat urged us to write to our local Federal member of Parliament or the Prime Minister to request the Australian Government to support the total ban on the production, stockpiling, sale and use of landmines.

Maureen E. Clark
Promotions Officer
ACW (SA Unit)

NEWS FROM FORMER WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR

- DOREEN TIE CHIN BING -
(Submitted by Mina Whybourne)

"Thank you so much for all your lovely cards at Christmas. It's always very nice to hear from your side of the world.....

The school term started in December and now I'm teaching 9-11 year olds. I've never taught this class before and they can be a boisterous lot. They are all full of energy and sometimes when I come home from work, I just flop down on my bed and sleep. 17 of them can be very challenging.....

Our Church growth has been rather rapid this last few years. The numbers increased to a point that it actually got very cramped during Church services especially the Sunday school. So the Church decided that a new preaching point is needed, so now we've a new preaching point in Hui Sing Garden which is less than 5 minutes drive from our house. However Philip and I decided not to move to this new preaching point as our ministries are at Trinity Church. Now our Church has also established a bookroom called Trinity Bookroom where we can buy Christian books, items, cassettes, etc. It makes everything so convenient.

Philip and I will be joining a cell group for Bible Study...We look forward to that very much. Both of us feel that Bible Study is so important for our Spiritual growth. In fact Philip and I have our own private Bible Study once a week but we decided to join the cell group because we felt that fellowship is also very important.

'Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.'

In His love, Doreen.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE NEWS

By now your Unit will have received a copy of the Assembly Statement sent either by myself or Margaret Napier. It is worth reading. I recently received a letter from the ACWC Executive Secretary, Iluminada Domingo, so I will share some of that with you:

"A consultation on Military Slavery was held in Seoul, Korea on April 3-7, 1995. It was participated by 48 delegates from Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Philippines. The goal of the Consultation was to heal the brokenness to wholeness to participant countries who were victims of military slavery caused by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

"Partnership through Reconciliation" was the theme. To make it more relevant and into a realisation, the participants were immersed in the activities such as: Biblical Theological Reflection, Lectures, Trips to Historical places, Worship, Testimonies, Culture exchange of songs, dances and games.

Mrs Eunice Kim, the former Executive Secretary, gave the keynote address while Ms Woranut Pantupong, our President conveyed the ACWC greeting.

As one family of God, let us continue upholding each other in prayer breaking the walls between region, denomination and class."

Lynette Green, National Representative

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

The members of the National Executive were disappointed to learn that our National Publications Editor, Elaine Johnson had received word that she was to move, with husband Ern, to South Australia. Ern and Elaine are Majors in The Salvation Army and, as such, are subject to these sudden moves around the country. The moving day was in the second week in January and by now they will have settled in to a new home and surroundings and into the thrust of new work. Ern is the Army's Public Relations Secretary for the State and Elaine is the Associate Public Relations Secretary. Later this year they are to go to Ghana for 3 months to share their knowledge with the officers there.

I'm sure that you will all be as disappointed as we were to hear that this move means that Elaine will no longer be preparing the **ACW News**. We have appreciated the articles and presentation of the News and are most grateful for the hard work and dedication put into the publication. Also very much appreciated has been her friendship and contribution to the National Executive membership and she will be very much missed.

Hopefully, Elaine may find time to meet up with South Australian members and keep the link going. In the mean time, thank you Elaine for every contribution you have made to Australian Church Women and God bless you in your new task.

At this stage in the life of the executive committee, Elaine will not be replaced as Publications Editor, but members of the executive will edit issues of the News until the National Conference.



World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service

As referred to earlier, the Service of Worship at Wesley Uniting Church on Sunday 5th of February was attended by delegates from over 70 countries who have been meeting at Queen's College Melbourne for their quadrennial conference.

Under the leadership of the Chairperson Mrs. Navamani Peter of India and the Executive Director, Eileen King of New York many of the delegates took part in what was a very interesting, challenging and enjoyable service. It was good to see so many of our ACW members in attendance.

Australian National Liaison Officer for World Day of Prayer, (our own Barbara Grealy) responded to the welcome given by Rev. Kevin Green, the Superintendent, Wesley Central Mission.

Prayers were led by persons of various nationalities using their own language and many sung responses by the congregation were given.

The address was given by Rev. Achara Brunelli BEd, BD who was born and educated in Thailand. While studying for her Bachelor of Education she became involved in the Student Christian Movement and was the first woman to be elected President of SCM Thailand. She was the program co-ordinator for voluntary workers who provided educational enrichment for deprived children. During her teaching career she started an educational program for slum children and co-ordinated a program for local women.

An East Asia Christian Conference scholarship enabled her to study at the United Faculty of Theology in Melbourne. On her graduating Bachelor of Divinity she returned to Bangkok to work as a school chaplain but returned in 1977 to marry Angelo Brunelli. They have two daughters.

After ministries at East Doncaster, Hawthorn, Waverley West and Glen Waverley, Achara is now ministering to the Highfield Road, Canterbury, congregation of the Surrey Hills parish of the Uniting Church of Australia and undertaking a Master of Ministry course with the Melbourne College of Divinity.

Following Rev. Achara Brunelli's address there was a liturgical dance and the choir sang an anthem.

The sizeable congregation was invited for coffee and biscuits after the service to mix with our overseas guests.

REPORT OF VICTORIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(From the VCC representative on Victorian Unit Executive, Mrs. Lieut.-Colonel Isabel MacIntyre)

Another chapter in the history of V.C.C. closed with the farewelling of the General-Secretary, the Reverend Robert Gribben on Wednesday 21st December, 1994. A special dinner was held in his honour at the St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. Robert will be taking annual leave and long service leave before he takes up his appointment at Wesley Uniting Church, Melbourne in April 1995.

Father Stelios Menis will temporarily act as a part time General Secretary, in this interim period.

Advance notice: "The Household of God"

"Living Under the Southern Cross" will be held on the 24th January, 1996 in St. Mary's and Newman Colleges, University of Melbourne, Parkville.

(a Project of the National Council of Churches in Australia arranged by the Churches of Victoria and incorporating the 1996 Ecumenical Summer School)

Those of you who have been involved in this in other places may like to plan now to attend.