

NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. UNIT.

A.C.W. seeks:



to unite Australian women in their
allegiance to their Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ;
to provide opportunities for Christian
women of different denominations
to worship, study and serve together.

President: Mrs. Edith Ridge
(76-6093)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Once I read a story about a man who dreamed that he visited a town that was well-known to him, but as he walked around its streets he found that there was something very strange about the place. Familiar land-marks were missing; there were empty blocks of land where there should have been buildings that he had known all his life. Where was the school that he had attended as a child, why had the library and the Art Gallery been demolished? Surely his old church would still be standing, but, no. His church was gone and so were all the other churches of the town. Even stranger, there was no hospital or ambulance service in the town and the children's home had gone too. In fact, all the buildings that had offered a service to the people of the town had disappeared. It was then that he began to hope that this was just a nightmare, but just before he awoke, he found that on a notice board on each empty block of land was this message: "If I had never come". When he awoke, he remembered his dream and those words and recognised that the "I" in the message referred to Jesus. He knew the truth that all that is good and lovely in life has its origin in God and he knew also that the caring and loving expressed by many services to people has always been initiated by the followers of Jesus.

(Cont. Page 2)

President's Message (Cont.)

Such a dream has thankfully not come true for us. We can sing the words of the old hymn "Rejoice and be glad, The Redeemer has come. Go, look on His cradle, His cross and His tomb". Soon it will be the Christmas season again, when we celebrate the coming to us of God's great gift, His Son, our Saviour and Redeemer. I always feel that Christmas time is the most important time of all, for if Jesus hadn't come, there would be no more to the story at all, no healing ministry, no parables, no cross, no resurrection. And we would be a people without hope.

At this Christmas time, perhaps during Advent, take some time out to consider what difference it would have made to you "if Jesus had never come". And then on Christmas Day, join with Christians all over our country, all over the world, in a song of rejoicing and thankfulness for this great gift of God.

The Executive joins me in wishing you all a holy and happy Christmas and a time of refreshment and relaxation over the holiday period.

Edith Ridge.
President.

MRS. BLANCHE FERGUSON.

The members of Strathfield-Homebush Branch were saddened to hear on Saturday 15th September of the death of their loved friend Blanche Ferguson. We were accustomed to seeing Blanche at our meetings and at the special days services as well as the Women's World Day of Prayer services, for Blanche believed in Australian Church Women and worked always for the coming together in fellowship of the women in her district.

In 1982 the Branch elected her as their President and she served her one year's term with grace and distinction. A "gentle lady", Blanche was strong in her faith and at the Service at her Church, St. David's Presbyterian, Strathfield, the beautiful story of her life and faith was told. Even if the minister had said no words at all about this lady, the tribute would have been paid by the presence of the people who came to bear witness to the kind of person she was. The Church was full to over-flowing, and indeed the people were the tribute. We thank God for every remembrance of Blanche Ferguson.

Edith Ridge.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS.

August	10	Uniting Church Annual Thanksgiving Service
"	15	President's Day, National Council of Jewish Women, N.S.W.
"	16	Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union Annual Luncheon & Rally, Randwick.
"	30	National Council of Women N.S.W. meeting
Sept.	18	Funeral Service for Mrs. Blanche Ferguson.
"	19	Baptist Women's Fellowship Ladies' Day - Central Baptist Church
"	23	Belrose U.C.A. Women's Annual Service.
"	28	Annual Meeting of Anglican Deaconess Institution - Bible House.
Oct.	4	World Community Day at Bass Hill Retirement Village
"	5	Bi-Ennial State Conference of Catholic Women's League - Crypt of St. Mary's Cathedral.
"	10	W.C.D. St. Andrew's, Abbotsford
"	10	Annual General Meeting, Sydney, Y.W.C.A.
"	11	U.C.A. Synod Fellowship Gathering
"	11	Opening Annual Synod, Uniting Church - St. Stephens.
"	16	Opening North Sydney Branch A.C.W.
"	16	Funeral Service for Mr. Jessup.
"	18	Strathfield W.C.D.
"	23	Lakemba W.C.D.
"	24	City Branch W.C.D.
"	26	North Ryde W.C.D.
"	29	Strathfield-Homebush Branch meeting.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS COME AND GO!

The 1984 Winifred Kiek Scholar, Dr. Sushila Rao from Madras, India seemed to be no sooner here before we heard she was going to Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and will then visit Perth on her way home, so we in N.S.W. have not seen as much of her as we had at first anticipated.

Dr. Rao is a fully qualified Doctor from Madras - she studied the Bridge Programme at the Booth Institute with Salvation Army and spent ten days at the Salvation Army farm at Berkeley Vale.

On her return from Berkeley Vale, Mrs. Elizabeth Walker met the President, Mrs. Ridge and brought Dr. Rao to visit Goodwin Village. They visited residents in different parts of the village to give Dr. Rao some idea of the Anglican Retirement System. While having afternoon tea in Miss Doris Mitchell's unit, Dr. Rao shared with us some of the challenges of her work in Madras. She has done much work in counselling troubled people and has worked in a cleft clinic in Mandaveli, Madras, at a Leprosy Control Unit and South East Asia Missions Orphanage.

Our hearts were touched as Dr. Rao shared the loneliness of the situation in which she lives in the midst of a rather hostile Hindu community - but her faith in God enables her to witness for Him. She is concerned about the drug scene in India, which is growing every day. Pray for wisdom into how she may use the knowledge and experience she has gained and that finance may be available for projects. If any readers have any contacts or missionary friends in Madras, Dr. Rao would be delighted to know about them. She had never met an Australian in India!!

Dr. Rao feels she has benefitted greatly through her visit to Australia. Continue to remember her and her family in prayer.

The Scholarship holder for 1985 is MISS BONNIE ARUA from Papua New Guinea who has been accepted and enrolled at Alcorn College, Brisbane. Pray for her as she prepares to come to Queensland.

What a privilege and joy it is to be called to be co-labourers with God in the extension of His Kingdom through assisting the work of the Winifred Kiek Scholars!

Mary M. Andrews (Deaconess)
W.K.S. Convener.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.

5.

To my dear friends:

Think about Christian women in Lebanon, the Caribbean, El Salvador and drought-stricken Africa - all of whom love their Lord just as we do. Will they be singing "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" as they celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas time?

Let us continually uphold and strengthen them by prayer.

Glad West.
FLC Convener

UNITING ABORIGINAL & ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS.

\$3,000 was allocated to the Congress by the Fellowship of Least Coin Committee. (see Page 6).

This Congress was formed in August 1983 to give the aboriginal people a voice within the Uniting Church. Its main aim is Evangelism which the aborigines interpret as caring for the whole person. Rev. Charles Harris, the Chairman of the Congress, says "We are convinced that this is God's time for our people. This is God's leading, the challenge is before us. Please recognise our responsibility and freedom under God. Your role must be to support, pray, give and encourage".

"X" and "R" RATED PORNOGRAPHY.

In response to a letter received from Mrs. Joy Robinson of Young, urging A.C.W. to take some action to prepare a submission to Parliament on the matter, a letter was sent to the Premier of N.S.W., Mr. Wran on behalf of A.C.W. N.S.W. Unit. A few days later, Mr. Wran announced that steps would be taken to ban these harmful videos in N.S.W. It was also moved at a later Council meeting to send a letter of commendation to Mr. Wran. The letter has been sent assuring him of our support for any action taken in this regard.

Brig. Mabel Ward.
Hoh. Sec.

1984 ALLOCATIONS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.
(Cont.)

PACIFIC

<u>Australia</u> - Uniting Aboriginal and Islanders Christian Congress	3,000
<u>New Zealand</u> - South Auckland Health Centre for Pacific Islanders	4,000
<u>Papua New Guinea</u> - Programme for women (Recommended by WCC Women's Desk)	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>\$9,000</u>

LATIN AMERICA

<u>Mexico</u> - Nutrition programme for elderly poor	5,000
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NORTH AMERICA

<u>Canada</u> - Riverdale Immigration Centre	6,000
<u>U.S.A.</u> - Church Women United - Hospitality to Global Participants in Ecumenical Assembly	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>\$16,000</u>

GLOBAL

Global happening - sponsored by Church Women in the U.S.A. and Fellowship of the Least Coin	25,000
Worship Book for Women prepared by World YWCA, W.C.C. Women's Desk & Lutheran World Federation	2,000
World Alliance of Reformed Churches - Symbolic support for Women's Desk	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>\$28,000</u>

Total allocated: \$116,000.

Emergency Grants for Relief and Rehabilitation	\$10,000
Emerging Opportunities for Projects in line with FLC priorities	\$5,000

FELLOWSHIP DAY REPORT.

The theme "Life together" was very well received and all Branches considered it a most outstanding Service.

Meetings at Burwood, Mosman, Sutherland and Cootamundra had very large attendances - Cootamundra Branch's service was the first big function to be held in the new Baptist Church.

Bellambi held its first Service and wrote that "they were thrilled to be part of this wonderful movement of Australian Church Women".

Twenty-one City centres held Fellowship Days and nineteen Country centres - a most encouraging and exciting witness for our Lord.

Marie McCann

Promotions Convener.

Berowa Branch had its first service at the Uniting Church, Asquith when a most enthusiastic group of 16 ladies enjoyed the Service. Mrs. Jess Longmuir was the speaker. A Fellowship of the Least Coin group was formed.

(Reported by Mrs. Reddin),

We congratulate Council Member, Miss Doris Mitchell, on her election as President of the Pan Pacific (S.E. Asia) Women's Association (N.S.W. Group). This is an International organisation with most of the countries in the Pacific area participating in its activities. Its aims are to foster friendship, understanding and peace.



In Australia, the special project is for the education of girls and women in Papua New Guinea - scholarships for secondary school students and a prize is provided for an outstanding woman student in the University of Papua New Guinea.

Our loving sympathy is extended to Mrs. Margaret Jessup in the loss of her husband.

Readers of the Asian Churchwomen's Bulletin are asked to renew their subscriptions promptly for 1985. This Bulletin is a very worthwhile magazine and new subscriptions are welcome. The National Executive has asked for these subscriptions earlier than usual. The annual cost (4 issues) is only \$2.50 to be in the hands of the Treasurer by the end of November.

Subscriptions for Newsette for 1985 are due by 31st December, - \$2.00.

To assist those dealing with the subscription list, would you kindly co-operate by completing the enclosed form and attending to this matter promptly. If you do not wish to receive the publication, would you please indicate this to us to save expense. All subscriptions to our

Treasurer, Mrs. E. Walker,
19 Ontario Avenue,
Roseville, 2069. (Tel.46.2176).

Cheques should be made payable to "Australian Church Women".

Contributions to Newsette are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Mina Whybourne, 99 President Avenue, Carlingbah, 2229 (Tel.525-4339) before the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

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