

THIRD ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

TOKYO - JULY 15 - 26, 1966

REPORT BY MRS. D.G. BADGER - DELEGATE FOR AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

I am deeply grateful for having had the privilege of representing Australia at the Third Asian Church Women's Conference in Tokyo. It was an unforgettable experience, from which I profited greatly not only from sharing in the exchange of ideas and gaining a wider knowledge of Asian countries, but especially from feeling the vigour of the Asian churches and the eagerness with which the women of Asia are taking their place in every aspect of society.

There were 17 countries represented at the Conference and regret was expressed at the inability of the delegates from Burma and Vietnam to attend because of the political situation in their countries. Approximately 90 delegates, observers and visiting specialists were present during the 12 days of study, worship and fellowship.

The theme of the Conference was "Abide in Me - Bear Rich Fruit" with the sub-title 'The Asian Woman Faces a New Day'. A very real sense of being "One in Christ" was experienced from the opening service on 15th July to the closing service on 26th July. At the opening service the theme was dedicated by Mrs. Jannuan Suriyakham, the conference chairman, and the address was given by Rev. Mrs. Tamaki Uemura, one of the 138 ordained women ministers in the Kyodan, the United Church of Christ in Japan. At the closing service the new planning committee was dedicated and token gifts for the Fellowship of the Least Coin were received.

The daily programme, which was somewhat too intensive, considering the oppressive weather, may be summarised as follows:-

7.00-7.30	Morning Meditation	Leader Rev. M. Lie (Indonesia)
8.30-9.30	Bible Study	Leader Rev. M. Takemori (Japan)
9.30-9.45	Singing	(Japan and others)
9.45-10.45	The Basic Beliefs The Position of the Church in a Community of Other Faiths	Leader Dr. Hans Margull (W. Germany) Leader Prof. Tong Shik Ryu
11.00-12.30	Study Commissions	
3.45-5.00	Workshops	
5.15-6.00	Vespers	
7.00-8.00	Cultural Hour	
8.00-9.00	Evening Programmes	

This pattern was followed each day except Sunday. On the first Sunday all delegates attended the International Christian University Church Service on the campus and groups were later entertained in the homes of Japanese staff of the University. The second Sunday we separated into small groups to attend worship in the local churches, which included Yokohama, a three hour journey. Again we were entertained by our Japanese hosts for the remainder of the day. On the other days the afternoon tea period was used as a further opportunity for fellowship with women from the local churches around Tokyo.

We were privileged to have the Rev. M. Takemori of Japan to lead the Bible Study periods. As well as being Professor in New Testament Studies at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, he is editor in chief of the "Journal of Biblical Studies" and chairman of the Calvin Translation Society. He also assists his wife in the Kichijoji Church where she is Minister. We made a thorough study of John 15: 1 - 15 as this was the theme of the conference, and also referred to other closely related passages.

Dr. Hans Margull from West Germany, who lectured to us on "The Basic Beliefs", is at present Visiting Professor at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and the School of Theology of the Doshesya University. Formerly he was Executive Secretary of the Department of Studies in Evangelism of the World Council of Churches. He said there was no need to re-affirm our first basic belief in one God and one God only, but it was less well known that the God in whom we believe is the one God who acts - God who acted in history and who is acting today. In speaking about Jesus he raised the question of His title, a title to witness to and to witness with. He concluded that unless we have Jesus in our hearts it is unlikely that we will find this title. In seeking an aspect under which to understand and affirm our faith in God's Spirit we were invited to consider the Holy Spirit as "Hope". The Holy Spirit speaks to us today in terms of hope and we are called today to be "Hope" for the people around us.

Third Asian Church Women's Conference (2)

Professor Tong Shik Ryu of Korea brought many challenging thoughts in his three lectures on "The Position of the Church in a Community of Other Faiths". He dealt with his subject under the following headings:-

1. The Church's proclamation of the Gospel to men of other faiths.
2. The ministry of the Church in the community of other faiths.
3. Fellowship of the Church in the community of other faiths.

He emphasised that we must rethink the meaning of mission which has to be distinguished from proselytising. He defined mission as spreading the love and truth revealed in Christ and encouraging people of other faiths to fulfil the love and truth they found in their own religious life so that they may participate in the Gospel.

Each day there were four groups involved in study commissions and workshops on the topics:

"The position of lay women in

1. The Home
2. The Church
3. Society
4. The World."

My particular group was "Lay Women in Society". The discussion outline began with the following questions:-

- A. What kind of changes have been taking place in your society in
  1. economic life
  2. the area of politics
  3. the area of cultural life
  4. the area of moral and spiritual life.
- B. How can we be effective witnesses in our society
  1. as individual Christian women?
  2. as Christian women's organisations?
- C. What are some new fields in which Church women can pioneer?

I do not have the full details of the workshop groups, but they will be published in full in the report of the conference proceedings.

The oral reports at the plenary session suggest there were similar threads running through the findings of each group. Emphasis was placed on the need for women to be well informed and to take their place alongside men.

Countries with similar backgrounds were grouped together for the conduct of evening vespers and cultural hours. As it was the turn of Australia and New Zealand for vespers on the day after Fellowship Day in Australia we decided it would be fitting to use the Fellowship Day service. Moreover, as we were fortunate in having the Rev. Winifred Kiek attending the conference as an observer, we took the opportunity to tell the other delegates about the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund. On the evening of our cultural programme time was needed for reports on the Fellowship of the Least Coin and projects aided by it, so we willingly gave up part of our hour for this purpose. I brought home with me a tape recording in which Mrs. Shanti Soloman, who founded the Least Coin Fellowship, described its origins and objectives.

In conclusion I would like to say that my attendance at the conference strengthened my conviction of the importance of Australia playing a part in the life of the E.A.C.C. I would like to thank the women of all denominations who made it possible for me to attend and would urge women of all churches to continue to support this important work. Let us ensure that we take full advantage of the opportunity to send at least one delegate to the Asian Church Women's Conferences which will continue to be held every four years.

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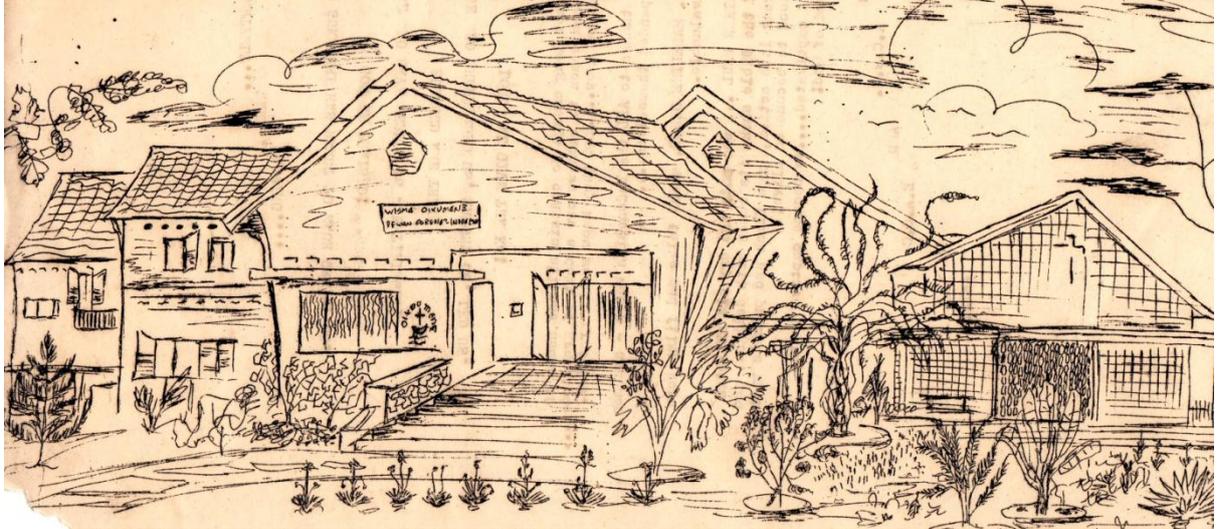
Australian Church Women,  
3rd floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY.

Sukabumi

day by day

SEPT. 17. 1970

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



THANKS.....

HEARTFELT...

WARM...

LOVING.....

FOR ALL THAT SUKABUMI HAS MEANT TO EACH ONE OF US.

GOD BE PRAISED!

FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED US - UNTIRINGLY.

BLESSED ARE THEY!

FOR ALL THOSE WHO SHEPHERDED US, TAUGHT US, LED US.

LORD, WE GIVE THANKS!

The page is not long enough to contain all the names of all the men and women to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.... but they know we know....and they know we are grateful.

But special thanks to ALL the Indonesian Women - and men - who have expended themselves....

TO ... DR. MADELINE BAROT, whose talks and films were invaluable.

TO ... FATHER PAUL ... who made the dry old skeleton of the Bible shake its bones with delight, and creak into action, grow flesh and pulsate with blood to become so alive!

And captivated....we became captive to the Word of God!

THANKS TO:

A.C.W.C.

AND

E.A.C.C.

AMIN!

THE WORLD AROUND US - The situation in Jordan is critical following Arab guerrilla opposition to King Hussein's appointment of a military government. Syria has already denounced the new military government in Jordan and the situation is explosive.

\*\*\*\*\*  
'Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways!..'

\*\*\*\*\*  
The International Red Cross is unable to visit the hostages. Three more Red Cross officials have gone to Amman to support their members there in efforts on behalf of the hostages.

\*\*\*\*\*  
'Reclothe us in our rightful mind....'

\*\*\*\*\*  
Israeli leaders deny they have violated the cease-fire. Mrs. Meir is to have discussions with President Nixon in the United States.

\*\*\*\*\*  
'In purer lives Your service find....'

\*\*\*\*\*  
In Cambodia military forces have not got through to communist held lines to relieve the eight battalions held there. In Vietnam 15 U.S. helicopters were shot down in one day.

\*\*\*\*\*  
'Dear Lord and Father of mankind....'

\*\*\*\*\*  
North Korea has called for a federation of the North and the South as an initial step to re-unification.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A team of technical experts from the Soviet Union will arrive in Djakarta this month to take up projects begun five years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*  
'Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm....'

\*\*\*\*\*  
Floods in Indian states of West Bengal and Gujurat are beginning to subside - 100,000 are homeless; more than 600 have lost their lives; it is estimated that 1,000,000 people have been affected.

\*\*\*\*\*  
'Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!'

WELCOME TO SUKABUMI - late, but good to see you....Mrs. Laura Burnett from Canada.

CAN YOU SAY? - 'I'm present, Lord'.....  
To be present - really present, not just a shadow, in any situation - means that one must be vulnerable. To be present is to be able to be hurt, to be willing to be spent - but it is also to be awake, alive, and engaged actively in the immediate assignment that has been laid upon us....Are we present in our world?

DID YOU KNOW? - That the hymn 'How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds' was composed by a captain as he paced the deck of his ship. His cargo - slaves from Africa....his destination - sugar plantations in the West Indies!

Which only goes to show, says Vilma Dube

JUST A THOUGHT - It has not been revealed what the average age of the members of this conference is, but even if it is only 35, between us we have had over 200 years more than Jesus had to do the will of God.....Mrs. Chiu Pan It, Singapore

IT IS NOT HE THAT HAS WATER THAT IS YOUR BROTHER....  
IT IS HE THAT GIVES YOU A DRINK.

SHANTI SOLOMON - we are so, SO happy to know that you have been appointed Executive Secretary. Our thoughts will go with you and our prayers will be for you. May God grant you strength and wisdom, love and courage.

NOW IS THE HOUR - when we must say goodbye....and in the midst of the farewells, let us listen to the voice of Margareth Dharma, Chairman, Local Arrangements..

'The first question asked me by arriving participants was: "Margareth, how do you survive...what's the secret?" I promised I would tell before the Conference closed, so let me tell you - it is prayer! Every time I had to solve a problem - and there were many serious ones - I took the difficulty to God in prayer. I asked Him to show me the way. There were troubles with visas and exit permits...I really prayed that immigration officials would be helpful. God answered my prayers: "The opening presentation was another obstacle. I thought there were no worries about it because everything seemed to be going well when, on September 2, the protestant man who had accepted our request to produce the 'Good Samaritan' told me he could not do it. There was nothing to say. I had to pray. And then I thought of my friend, the Roman Catholic priest who is the director of the R.C. Television center, 'Sanggar Prathivi'. He promised to do it in five days - I believe God opened the way for us to cooperate with our Roman Catholic neighbors.

Now as I come to the closing of this Conference - I remember the closing worship of the W.C.C. Assembly in Uppsala. The Youth Delegation marched into the Cathedral while we, the choir, sang 'When I was hungry.... Were you there'. They carried big posters which read:

'WORDS.....words.....  
CAN WE OVERCOME WORDS?'

Can we? ... We, too, have passed resolutions....we have listened to millions of words....now each woman who has attended this Fourth Assembly at Sukabumi must go back to her country, to her church, to her community .... and commit herself to expending herself, to using herself to the utmost, to share the blessings of knowledge and insight ... and LOVE, as we have shared it here.'

THE ELECTIONS ARE O'ER - and we all ask blessings on:

Mrs. Esther Baustista ... Chairman  
Mrs. Ang Kim Kiat ... Vice-Chairman  
Mrs. Kathleen Davies ... Secretary  
Miss Rosalind Gurubatham ... Treasurer

AND A LAST WORD - but certainly not a final one from Rathie Selvaratnam: 'It is with a sense of thanksgiving and great joy that it has been possible for church women from the 14 Asian countries to come together and, as sisters in Jesus Christ, make real our oneness in Him, experiencing something of 'The Kingdom of God on earth'.

It has not been an easy task bringing together women from all over the world. There have been difficulties with visas, Government regulations, transportation.....but the Lord has been merciful. He has worked in wonderful ways to open doors for us. We prayed; we were sustained by prayers prayed by many, many friends around the world. He gave us strength abundantly and daily.

May we, now, as women who have discussed all aspects of true neighborliness, go forth to serve Him with deep humility of spirit, bringing His love, His joy, His peace, into every neighborhood we know. May the Lord be YOUR strength. May He keep YOU in the hollow of His hand.'

RATHIE - Blessings. May He keep YOU in the hollow of His hand!

WHEN ALL THE THANKS ARE BEING SAID - let us think of all the 'backroom boys' (and girls) who have worked so hard to make life 'move' around the Conference. This includes all those who typed and duplicated; who cooked and cleaned and washed; and it especially includes Rev. John ... without whose invaluable help 'Sukabumi - Day by Day' would have been a much less interesting production. His art designs, so fetching, so attractive...are also SO Indonesian. Lovely symbols of a way of life....and to Rev. John, we are deeply grateful.

SAYONARA...AUF WIEDERSEHEN...GOODBYE...SELAMAT DJALAN...AU REVOIR....

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS....LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

1978 ASSEMBLY STATEMENT

The Sixth Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference, a gathering of 106 Church Women from 22 Countries, convening in Gotemba, Japan on October 9-14, 1978 to consider the theme "Called to Change, Committed to Serve" through its Commissions on Home and Family Life, Church, Work and Society, hereby issues the following Assembly Statement.

Consonant with the spirit of the International Year of the Child in 1979, we affirm our belief in the right of the child to have a happy childhood and a bright future. We recommend the following issues for consideration and action in our respective countries:

1. Parents

Children, our promise and hope, have every right to loving and responsible parents committed to giving them the essentials of life.

2. Nutrition

There is need for adequate nutrition for children to ensure not only their physical but also their emotional and mental health.

3. Education

Children should be guaranteed equal opportunities for education to develop their potential and equip them for a full and rich life.

4. Environment

Wholesome physical, moral and spiritual surroundings which exert an uplifting influence upon personal development should be provided for children.

5. Exploitation

Children must be protected from exploitation which is harmful to their health and a hindrance to their development.

The well-being of women remains a continuing concern of A.C.W.C. The following issues, therefore, need to be considered and acted upon:

1. Education

Awareness by women of their potential and value as individual persons must be developed through continuing exposure to ideas and actual situations indicating the active roles women can play in today's world.

2. Theology

There is urgent need for a radical rethinking of the Church's theology and biblical understanding in relation to women.

3. Decision-making

Women must be allowed and urged to participate in decision-making bodies to ensure them the full exercise and protection of their rights and to enable them to make their contribution to society.

4. Involvement

Since Church women can better realise their goals in co-operation with different sectors of society, it is imperative that they also involve themselves in other groups including other women's organisations.

6. Rural Women

Rural women, being unaware of their rights and therefore more vulnerable to exploitation, must be helped to articulate and meet their needs and problems.

7. Urban Poor

The inattention and indifference to the plight of the urban poor is to be deplored. Responsible creative action is demanded.

Because the Church faces new challenges in a changing and needy world, we emphasize the importance of Church members constantly assessing

their lifestyle as a Christian response and witness to the world.

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On the basis of the above statement, we make the following recommendations:

1. SELF-AWARENESS PROGRAMMES -

- a. The constant involvement of all Church members in current trends in Society and their consciousness of political, economic and social change is vital.
- b. Members need help to understand their faith and express it in their own way.
- c. A radical rethinking of the Church's theology and Biblical understanding with regard to women must be promoted.
- d. Women, particularly those in the rural and depressed areas, need to be made aware of their potential and value as persons.
- e. Women must be aware also of the human dignity and value of all human beings.

2. LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION TRAINING

In order for women to develop their God-given gifts, the following programmes must be promoted:

- a. Leadership training programmes including worship.
- b. Adult education and literacy classes.
- c. Workers' Education programmes.
- d. Consultations of Theologically trained women and dissemination of results.
- e. Christian Education and Fellowship Programmes.
- f. Programmes on Meaningful living or alternative lifestyles.
- g. Links with community organisations and other women's groups.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICE -

The following community services must be provided:

- a. Pre- and Post-marriage counselling and marriage enrichment courses.
- b. Involvement of elderly persons in community projects.
- c. Adequate water supply and proper sanitation.
- d. Exchange programmes among church women officials on national levels.
- e. Responsible care of prostitutes and other exploited women.
- f. Health services and child-care facilities.

4. RESOURCE AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE -

An A.C.W.C. Resource and Communications Centre for Women's Concerns must be set up to:

1. Disseminate, co-ordinate and monitor all information related to:
  - a. The exploitation of women
  - b. Informed prayer and action with regard to the Fellowship of the Least Coin
  - c. Health education and sanitation
  - d. Family life
  - e. Availability of human and material resources
2. Serve as a Resource Centre rechanneling resources according to needs.
3. Develop a network of contacts across Churches and Nations.

## S T A T E M E N T

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

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

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

We commit ourselves

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

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

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

\* gov't = government

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOAN M TONG (MEMBER GENERAL COMMITTEE ACWC)

*Asian  
Church  
Women's  
Conference*

*1991 – 1994*



\* ACWC Day: 15th of November every year.

\* Friday, we pray for women in Asia and all the works of ACWC. Because we are believers in God, prayer is a vital part of all of our work. We have been experiencing this.

NAME : Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC)  
Founded : 1958 in Hong Kong (Nov. 15-30)

**How ACWC came into being?**

The story of the Asian Church Women's Conference goes back to 1958. In 1958 the Presbyterian Church Women in the United States of America invited to their Assembly church women from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. Before the Assembly in Purdue University, all the overseas delegates had their meetings in Stony Point. To them was given informations about American life and American Churches.

The late Miss Felicia Sunderlal from India was there. She was an outstanding woman leader and she did challenge all Asian delegates there.

With the discovery of New Asian selfhood, there was an urge for ecumenical fellowship among the Asian Church Women, and a longing to share their experiences of work and witness with each other's encouragement and assistance in leadership development compelled the Asian Church Women to come together in Hong Kong in November 1958. Rayann Ma was the organizing Chairperson.

Thus the Asian Church Women's Conference came into being and was formally inaugurated.

**ACWC, a continuing fellowship with others**

The Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) is an ecumenical organization of Christian women of Asia, Australia and New Zealand. It maintains close working relationship with the

Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and fraternal relations with other regional ecumenical women's organizations and women's groups of World Confessional bodies.

**1. Purpose :** Believing that the purpose of God for the Churches is life together in a common obedience to Him for the doing of His will in the world, the Asian Church Women's Conference is constituted so that women sharing a common faith in our Lord and Saviour may unite to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**2. ACWC Emblem :** The hands uplifted in prayer and offering to God indicate the efforts of Asian Church Women for programmes of development throughout Asia.



The cross is the central point which binds the Asian Women together. (This emblem was designed by the Hong Kong delegation to the 6th Assembly of ACWC in Japan, 1978).

**3. AIMS :**

- (1) To demonstrate His love in all areas of life through Programmes of development, justice and witness.
- (2) To declare our oneness in Christ and express our faith and responsibility through prayer, ecumenical fellowship and action.
- (3) To strengthen and promote women's capabilities to fully participate in church and society as equal partners with men.
- (4) To promote and support the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

**4. FUNCTIONS :**

- (1) To strengthen women to enable them to seek their place in decision making bodies in church and society as responsible citizens.
- (2) To encourage churches at national and local level to accept women as an integral part and consider them equal, created in the image of God.
- (3) To encourage and enable women to affirm and commit themselves to the cause of Justice and Peace to honour the creation of God.

**5. MEMBERSHIP :**

- (1) National Ecumenical Women's Organization of the National Council of Churches.
- (2) National Women's Organization of Churches which are members of Christian Conference of Asia but not of the National Council of Churches.
- (3) National Women's Organizations of Churches which are neither member of the CCA nor of the NCC.

**6. ACWC family countries**



1. Australia
2. Bangladesh
3. Myanmar (Burma)
4. Hong Kong
5. India
6. Indonesia
7. Japan
8. Korea
9. Malaysia
10. New Zealand
11. Pakistan
12. Philippines
13. Singapore
14. Sri Lanka
15. Taiwan
16. Thailand

(These are listed according to alphabetical order)

17. Nepal (for the 1st time came to 8th Assembly of ACWC)

**7. Structure**

**(1) An Assembly of ACWC meets once every four years**

An Assembly is the supreme policy-making body, however at this Assembly we celebrate our oneness in Christ and give thanks to God for our growth in the mission of the church. Also, it is time to share our experiences of joy, hardship, struggle and pain in the work. It is the time for us to set our priorities in the programmes and projects for the four years to come.

**(2) General Committee**

- a) One National Representative who was elected by the National Women's Ecumenical Committee or National Council of Churches from among its delegates to the Assembly.
- b) Three members elected by the current General Committee from among its members for the sake of continuity.
- c) Four members elected by the Assembly from a panel of seven names, submitted by the Nomination Committee from among the registered delegates.

**General Committee Members**

- a) Act as official correspondent for ACWC with the National Women's Committee in their respective countries.
- b) Promote ACWC in cooperation with their National Women's Committee.
- c) Implement the programme of ACWC in cooperation

- with their National Women's Committee.
- d) Carry out any other work assigned to them by the Assembly of the Executive Committee.

**(3) Executive Committee**

- a) The officers of the ACWC.  
 b) Three members elected by the General Committee from among its members, one of whom shall be a member of the outgoing Executive Committee.

**Executive Committee Members**

- a) Implement the policies and programmes of ACWC.  
 b) Promote ACWC and its projects such as the FLC, which is a continuing project of the ACWC.  
 c) Plan for and conduct the next Assembly.

**(4) Full time staff**

**Executive Secretary :**

ACWC does not have a headquarter like all other Christian organizations. So far, whoever has become the Executive Secretary of ACWC has used her home as the headquarters.

**8. GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF ACWC 1991-1994**

President : Mrs. Monika Mannan-Bangladesh ( )

Vice President : Rev. Navamani E. Peter-India (Methodist)

Assembly Secretary : Mrs. Margaret Napier-Australia (Anglican)

Treasurer : Mrs. Yoko Sugimori-Japan (Presbyterian)

**Executive Members**

- Mrs. Ruth Harwood-New Zealand (Anglican)  
 Mrs. Jenny Phuah-Singapore (Methodist)  
 Mrs. Woranut Pantupong-Thailand (Presbyterian)

\*\*\*

- Mrs. Joan Tong-Australia (Salvation Army)  
 Mrs. Dipika Das-Bangladesh (Baptist)  
 Mrs. Nancy Chow-Hong Kong (Lutheran)  
 Mrs. Krupaveni Prakashrao-India (Church of South India)  
 Mrs. Debora Sinaga-Indonesia (Lutheran)  
 Rev. Cho, Wha Soon-Korea (Methodist)  
 Mrs. Kimiko Ibaraki-Japan (Methodist)  
 Mrs. Shanti Ackariam-Malaysia (Lutheran)  
 Naw Khaing Thiri-Myanmar (Baptist)  
 Mrs. Khushnud Azariah-Pakistan (Church of Pakistan)  
 Mrs. Gloria F. Gaa-Philippines (Philippine Independent Church)  
 Miss Rita Wong-Singapore (Lutheran)  
 Mrs. Sita Perera-Sri Lanka (Anglican)  
 Mrs. Grace Arthur-Sri Lanka (Anglican)  
 Mrs. Ingrid Pi-ying Liao-Taiwan (Presbyterian)

Mrs. Supaporn Yanasan-Thailand (Presbyterian)

Executive Secretary : Mrs. Eunice Kim-Korea (Methodist)

Executive Secretary of ICFLC : Mrs. Shirin Samuel-Pakistan (Church of Pakistan)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF ACWC 1991-1994**

- Mrs. Monika Mannan  
 Rev. Navamani E. Peter  
 Mrs. Margaret Napier  
 Mrs. Yoko Sugimori  
 Mrs. Ruth Harwood  
 Mrs. Jenny Phuah  
 Mrs. Woranut Pantupong  
 Mrs. Eunice Kim  
 Mrs. Shirin Samuel

Present Office : The Executive Secretary  
 91-175 Shin Soo Dong  
 Mapo-ku, Seoul 121-110  
 Korea  
 Tel : 715-4684, 703-9951

**9. PROGRAMME CONCERNS for 1991-1994**

- (1) Ecumenical Decade, Churches in Solidarity with Women.  
 (2) Development for Theologically Trained Women  
 (3) Renew the Whole Creation.

- (4) Respect for Life  
 (5) Ecumenism  
 (6) Christ-The Way  
 (7) Migrant and Refugee Women  
 (8) Anti-prostitution  
 (9) Leaders Training  
 (10) Peace and Justice  
 (11) Children's Welfare  
 (12) Promote Fellowship of the Least Coin Prayer Movement at all times.

**10. CURRENT PUBLICATIONS**

- (1) The Asian Church Woman-A Quarterly News Bulletin  
 (2) Voices of Women-Volum I, II & III  
 (3) Asian Women Cry Out  
 (4) Women Also Can Do All Things Through Christ  
 (5) Migration-An Asian Problem  
 (6) ACWC's Visit to China  
 (7) History of Asian Church Women's Conference  
 (8) Hope in Families-An Asian Perspective  
 (9) Ecumenical Decade  
 (10) Peace & Justice

**ASSEMBLIES**  
of  
**THE ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

YEAR	PLACE	CHAIRMAN & EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	THEME
1958	Hong Kong	Jael Cruz (Chairman)	'Come. See. Go Quickly and Tell.'
1962	Petburi, Thailand	Jannuan Suriyakham (Chairman)	'Launch out into the deep.'
1966	Tokyo, Japan	Rathie Selvaratnam (Chairman)	'Abide in me... bear rich fruit.'
1970	Okioumene Sukabumi, Indonesia	Esther Bautista (Chairman) Shanti Solomon (Executive Sec.)	'Who is my neighbor?'
1974	Bangkok, Thailand	Agnes Loyall (President) Shanti Solomon (Exec. Secretary)	'Go thou and Do like Wise.'
1978	Gotemba, Japan	Gloria Santos (President) Shanti Solomon (Exec. Secretary)	'Called to Change. Committed to Serve.'
1982	Bali, Indonesia	Boonmee Julkiree (President) Eunice Kim (Exec. Secretary)	'Co-Workers in Christ for Renewal.'
1986	Bangkok, Thailand	C. Maya Michael (President) Eunice Kim (Exec. Secretary)	'I can do all things through Christ.'
1990	Kinasih, Indonesia	Monika Mannan (President) Eunice Kim (Exec. Secretary)	'In Christ-Freedom, Growth and Hope.'

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**ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**ASSEMBLY STATEMENT**

We, the participants of the 9th Assembly of ACWC held from November 1-6, in Wisma Kinasih, Caringin-Jakarta, Indonesia were challenged as we reflected upon the theme 'In Christ-Freedom, Growth and Hope'. It has been an enriching experience to have fellowship with 140 participants from 16 Asian countries and invited International Guests.

The theme was further understood through worship, Bible studies, keynote address and workshops which explored our roles as women in Ecumenism, Christ-the Way, Solidarity with God's Creation and Respect for Life.

We believe that Ecumenism can break the denominational barriers at the grassroots level bringing people together in unity and love. We encourage women and men to work together as equal partners in decision making structures in church and society.

We believe that the way of Christ will help us to be sensitive to the needs and struggles of women of Asia, and commit ourselves to action through studying and sharing the Word of God.

We believe and recognize the urgency to act in solidarity with God's Creation as responsible people. We commit ourselves as women to educate our families, churches, communities and governments by taking decisive actions which will lead to the healing process of preserving God's creation.

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**ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

**General Committee**  
(1991 - 1994)

Mrs. Monika Mannan  
c/o Rev. Joson Dass  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
No. 7, Green Corner  
Green Road, Dhaka 5, Bangladesh  
Tel :

Rev. Navamani E. Peter  
H. No. 107, 4th Cross 19th Main  
2nd Block, Koramangala  
Bangalore 560034, India  
Tel : 532552

Mrs. Margaret Napier  
13 Eugenia Street  
Nightcliff, Northern Territory  
Australia 0810  
Tel : 089-85-2356

Mrs. Yoko Sugimori  
1-7-1-404 Irima-cho  
Chofu-shi, Tokyo 182  
Japan  
Tel : 03-305-5340

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We believe that ACWC is :

- A community to express our faith in Jesus Christ.
- A community to uphold the aims and purposes of ACWC.
- A community to work for peace, justice and reconciliation through the Fellowship of the Least Coin
- A community to strengthen our fellowship with one another.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, the participants were challenged to press forward to work for the wholistic development of all people will commitment and confidence. We stand together with all those who yearn for freedom, growth and hope in Christ.

17



# ACWC

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

### ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

In Western countries we think of a 'Conference' as a meeting, but in Asian countries it is understood differently - it is what we would maybe call a 'Council' or 'Association.'

The Asian Church Women's Conference was envisioned in 1956 when women leaders from Asia attended an assembly with women from Africa, Europe and Latin America, in New York. By the experiences shared there, the Asian women were empowered and challenged to respond by serving in solidarity with their sisters in other Asian countries.

In November 1958 an ecumenical fellowship among Asian women leaders gathered in Hong Kong to launch a program on women's issues and to promote action for emancipation and dignity, ecumenism and mutual respect in a world of diversity.

Now in 1995, ACWC has a membership of 16 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), New Zealand, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand. ACWC envisions itself as a partner with individuals or organisations dedicated to the enabling of women and the whole of humankind in the struggle towards the creation of a society where there is more meaningful peace, justice and love.

A recent letter from Iluminada Domingo, ACWC Executive Secretary, told of a consultation in Seoul Korea in April, on Military Slavery. Participated in by Korea, Japan, Taiwan and The Philippines, the goal was to heal the brokenness to wholeness in countries who were victims of military slavery caused by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. The theme was "Partnership Through Reconciliation." "As one family of God" wrote Iluminada, "let us continue upholding each other in prayer, breaking the walls between region, denomination and class."

Our Australian National Representative to ACWC: Lynne Green, feels confident that the newly-elected Committee is a workable, capable, experienced executive, giving great hope for the four years ahead. They are:

- |                |                   |             |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| President      | Woranut Pantupong | (Thailand)  |
| Vice President | Rita Wong         | (Singapore) |
| Secretary      | June Leong        | (Malaysia)  |
| Treasurer      | Susan Chuang      | (Taiwan)    |
| Executive      | Uma David         | (India)     |
| - Members      | Kimiko Ibaraki    | (Japan)     |
|                | Joan Tong         | (Australia) |

## **PROGRAMS**

### **1. Christian Education and Nurture**

Its foremost task is to equip women in the wholistic development rooted in values of Asian heritage and proclaimed by the Good News of Jesus Christ. It involves two major areas of work: 1) Clerical and Laity formation, 2) Literature Development.

The clerical ministry provides ordained and theologically trained women continuing theological education for a firm grounding in theology and the scriptures with the end view that there is no end to learning and growth.

The literature program aims to undergird and assist all program concerns with printed study, liturgical and program guides whenever needed.

### **2. The Christian Witness and Service**

The Christian Witness and Service cluster as a program represents the "Faith Actualizing" component of which the main focus is the translation of faith into action. It is focused on the response of women to the demands of existing social realities and vast challenges towards the building of a just and humane society and fulfillment of God's kingdom.

Program objectives:

1. to maximize the participation of women in raising the consciousness of the general public on the global and national issues on women, ecology and environment.
2. to organize local and national ecumenical women for participation for wider efforts towards socio-economic development.

3. to formulate and implement programs that are addressed to the needs and problems of peasant, tribal and migrant women.
4. to facilitate services for victims of human rights violation in cooperation with both government and non-government organizations.
5. to engage and initiate interfaith dialogue - especially among the tribal groups for mutuality of mission.

Strategies of Implementation

1. Ecology and environment concern
2. Health
3. Socio-economic projects
4. Justice, peace and human rights program
5. Migrant worker program
6. Interfaith dialogue - Muslim and tribal groups

### **3. Christian Stewardship and Resource Development**

Program objectives:

1. to establish linkages with ecumenical and non-government bodies for promotion of ACWC program.
2. to strengthen the organizational capacity of the ACWC by acquiring material resources for social and economic productivity
3. to conduct research and documentation for history purposes.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Finance and Resource Generation
2. Research, Communication and Publication
3. Ecumenical and other Non-Governmental Partnership Relations

① d

27.9.95

I would firstly like to convey my thanks to you all for the invitation to speak and share with you our thoughts on our future association with Asia in Asian Church Women's Conference and Fellowship of the Least Coin.

I guess to those of us who have been involved for sometime and have been fortunate enough to have shared in some of the assemblies over the years, it is easy for us to sit back and visualise the scenario and form our own opinions, but for many here now and as I remember that feeling well, it won't be easy. So I will endeavour to simplify the picture for you. I would also like to give you a little of the history behind New Zealand becoming involved in Asia during the 1950's.

During the 50's N.C.C. in New Zealand was working as an intermediary between its constituent churches and the ecumenical movement abroad this marked the beginning of the New Zealand's association with Asia through the East Asia Christian Conference. Several overseas visitors came to New Zealand during this decade - 1950 - 1959, and their visits did a great deal to reinforce growing interest in Asia and to awaken New Zealand church people to the fact that outside the narrow confines of their Anglo-Saxon world there **were** leaders of outstanding quality.

The contact with churches and Christians overseas, and the beginning of our association with East Asia Christian Conference which came into existence in 1959 was a very important development in our history. New Zealander - Rev Alan Brash worked very closely in Asia during this time in the setting up of the East Asia Christian Conference so our ties in Asia were firmly established then.

It is surprising that N.C.C. developed so close an association with Asia rather than the Pacific region, but there are good reasons as I have discovered for this. New Zealand's geographical position places it in a peculiar predicament. It is difficult to say what region it belongs to anyway. During that same period of the 50's, New Zealand as a whole was developing ties with South East Asia, with the Colombo Plan, the S.E.A.T.O. treaty and troops being sent to Malaysia etc.

Whereas the Pacific Island were up to a point a known quantity, interest because of these other activities in Asia was growing - the discovery of the exotic half, known and unexpected, the possibility of trade. There was interest at Government level in South East Asia and from the churches point of view there was a discovery of Christian leaders of high and impressive quality.

The Asians were themselves anxious to have full Australian and New Zealand participation partly as a counter-measure lest the East Asia Conference of Churches should become or even appear a solidly Asian ecclesiastical power-bloc.

Rev Alan Brash was an enthusiastic advocate of closer association with Asia, and we were invited into the Asian Christian fellowship not as outsiders to observe, but as members of the Asian Family itself.

We believe this close association with Asia and Rev Brash's involvement in the setting up of East Asia Conference of Churches was why New Zealand women were invited to join Asian Church Women's Conference, together with our Australian sisters.

The first Asian Church Women's Conference - 1958 was held in Hong Kong, only Asians or people living and working in Asia were invited.

The second Asian Church Women's Conference was held in 1962 in Thailand - New Zealand and Australian women were invited and became members.

So you can see how the New Zealanders & Australians came to be invited directly relates to the situation developed in the setting up of the East Asia Conference of Churches - 1959 and New Zealand and Australians involvement in that.

So Asian Church Women's Conference was born: The Asian women involved in the setting up of Asian Church Women's Conference had a longing to share their experiences of work and witness and to encourage and assist each other in leadership development. The urge for Ecumenical fellowship was strong. From 1958 - Asian Church Women's Conference was first a sub-committee of East Asian Conference of Churches. Fellowship of the Least Coin, which was founded in 1956 became a continuing project of Asian Church Women's Conference. The Fellowship of the Least Coin programme also became part of East Asia Conference of Churches and made a extremely important monetary contribution to this - often as an emergency fund for their more imaginative ideas.

There were some difficult times as Asian Church Women's Conference developed and defined their identity within the East Asia Conference of Churches and in 1978 Asian Church Women's Conference and Fellowship of the Least Coin cut their ties with East Asia Conference of Churches and changed its constitution.

At present the Asian Church Women's Conference has 16 member countries and has established partnership relations with ecumenical organisations in Asia, Europe and North America. It maintains ecumenical relations with the Christian Conference of Asia (C.C.A), World Council of Churches (W.C.C.) and National Council of Churches. As a movement of prayer, it is an advocator of the programme of World Day of Prayer and Fellowship of the Least Coin.

In considering our future association with Asian Church Women's Conference, I think we as New Zealanders and Australians have to think not only of our own worth to Asia but also of their worth as Christian women to us and our countries. We also have to assess our personal contribution at times, our personal testimony and personal experience can be very inspiring and encouraging as long as it is not distorted with our own prejudices or traditions associated with our own Christian teaching. It is not enough to bring our personal experience to those global situations, we are considering we need to be sensitive and to discover the answers the Bible gives to the concrete problems of today. In other words the Christian teaching to the situation:-

\* Luke Chapter 10 v 25-37 (especially v 29)

If the Bible has no effect on our own lives, if it has no effect upon our political and social problems, then we know something is wrong. We know that when we receive the Gospel something changes.

Our Lord entered into concrete situations he spoke to the concrete situation of Jerusalem of his time we need to apply this to our situation here. We need to be open to the leading of Gods Holy Spirit.

I have regarded this time with Asian Church Women's Conference as an opportunity God has entrusted to me. I pray he will keep guiding my path within this organisation.

So now from a pragmatic perspective, let's consider the lives and personalities of the women of Asia. Firstly we need to realise these women have to be very strong both in voice and in conviction, to be Christians in Asia. Remembering that in the communities Hinduism, Buddhism etc are not only religions but are a way of life. The laws and privileges etc are based on religion. Christianity is not only swimming against the tide, but it can mean your family is significantly disadvantaged. They also have to be strong simply to be women, both in that physical capacity and in their mind. They are used to having to stand up against the flow of opinion and fight hard - often just to be heard in their communities. Asian women tend to be very intense in their endeavours - they are serious in their theological studies. They are serious about solving the problems of injustice in their own countries, life often weighs very heavily on them. It is of course a learning experience and a test of patience for everyone as we begin to understand why others behave the way they do - I know it is easy to feel offended and pushed aside by the seeming harsh and militant way some of the women speak, especially in the plenary sessions. For most, they have had a long history of oppression or war and it is difficult for them at times to forget and forgive.

As we learn to share, forgive and accept one another, there comes that deeper insight into another's life and the difficulties they have had and continue to have. There are often tears, but I think often these are incredibly cleansing times for all, onlookers as well. I for one have learned so much about myself and my own faith. I have grown in my own outlook on life, Christianity and church in general. This is the benefit of our sharing with the wider Christian community.

**Should New Zealand & Australia still be involved?**

We as New Zealanders feel strongly the need to be involved with Asia still. We feel that our roots go back so far and that there is still a very strong bond between ourselves and our Asian sisters. There is still a real need to come together for the women of these countries as they need reassurance they are not alone in their sorrows, they can share in the joy and sorrow of others, find tolerance and trust, and where they can worship and celebrate Christ together.

I believe the pioneers of Asian Church Women's Conference were very wise to include Australia and New Zealand as members as this has brought us into a closer relationship with women from around our geographical area, a relationship which has given women a wider vision of the oneness of their faith, oneness in Christ whatever our race or heritage. I believe women have a crucial role to play in the church and in society, between opposing forces in society, and in areas within the Church from which by tradition they have been excluded.

But at a more grass roots level for us, as our society becomes truly multi-cultural I think our commitment to Asia is even more vital.

Some have this concept of New Zealand as the "Land of milk and honey". Women we shared with were very surprised when we told them the way the influx of Asians impacts upon our country.

Just some examples:-

At home in New Zealand - real estate is being unrealistically inflated by wealthy Asians buying in the upper end of the market. There is racial tension in schools with the influx of Asian students, brandishing mobile phones and driving expensive cars. Asian workers in factories and the sex industry are being exploited by both New Zealand & Asian businessmen in New Zealand alike. Just recently, nearly one whole aircraft full of Phillipino girls arrived, was investigated and sent back - the contact person in New Zealand was an Asian man.

There is plenty of work to be done, sharing caring and creating awareness in all of these areas in New Zealand and in Asian society, and I believe women can help in breaking down hostility and building up relationships - We learn to do that in our homes - it is elementary to family life, and it is a gift we must use.

The other practical way New Zealand & Australians are often involved which may seem demeaning or trivial, to us and our capacity to contribute, is to help with interpretation either orally or in written form. Remembering English is the language of communication, which is often very difficult for some. Problems arise with misunderstandings high on the list. This is a way that with great sensitivity we can be "used" to diffuse an uncomfortable situation (and I use that word "used" in a positive way).

I know Asian women enjoy New Zealand & Australia being involved - they see us as neutral and able to mediate. They enjoy our relaxed and spontaneous way. We bring a natural joy with us to conferences, a joy that is heightened when New Zealand and Australia mix, I might add. Sometimes they look in wonder, but they also find it infectious, and I am sure find themselves doing things they never thought they would.

We have all got so much to give and still so much to learn. Asian Church Women's Conference provides an incredible opportunity for us if we want to use it to learn from and then to share with others. Its latest Quadrennial Programme just circulated by the Executive Secretary Illumindo Domingo is comprehensive and visionary in accordance with the Asian Church Women's Conference Mission Statement.

This statement:-

**The Church as a body of Christ follows the mission to be the "Salt of the earth and steward" - being like salt and steward, the Church has a life giving mission called to be committed to the task of preserving, nurturing and caring the integrity of Gods creation.**

Likewise Asian Church Women's Conference being a body of Christ develops the gifts and potentialities of women; to provide education, awareness needed in attaining the vision of self-reliant, self-propagating.

I have been blessed by having the privilege of being involved in Asian Church Women's Conference, my faith has deepened and my knowledge has been increased, and I have become aware of the great variety and depth of the Christian Churches in Asia.

Asian Church Women's Conference has faced challenges as it has had to become self supporting but we have confidence to face the future supported by member countries.

We have confidence that with Gods grace it will continue to be a vital link in the network which enables Christian women to better serve their Lord and master, Jesus Christ.

I would like to pay tribute to Kitty Hamilton who was the first New Zealand woman to join Asian Church Women's Conference by leaving these thoughts collected during her involvement.

**"We can't do anything for Jesus unless we first let him do something for us"**

**"God isn't bothered about a good life he is bothered about a life he can use"**

**"Of course there has to be authority, but the one in authority should bring the other into freedom and responsibility"**

This paper was presented by Mrs Janice Shearer, (representative of Church Women United Aotearoa/New Zealand to Asian Church Women's Conference) at the Australian Church Women's Conference, Melbourne, August 21st - 25th, 1995.

**ASIAN CHURCH WOMENS CONFERENCE (ACWC)  
KOREAN VISIT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER JOAN TONG  
OCTOBER 19 - 21, 1996**

**PURPOSE OF VISIT:** To strengthen and consolidate the work of ACWC in Korea;  
To demonstrate partnership, through ACWC with Korea and other member countries;  
To provide the opportunity for dialogue between KCWU and ACWC;  
To take greetings to National Women's Desk;  
To meet denominational member groups of KCWU;  
To fellowship and worship with Korean people:

The visit of Joan Tong to Korea was a very positive experience. An excellent itinerary was prepared by KCWU (Yun, Moon Ja, General Secretary of KCWU), and a wonderful guide and translator was provided by KCWU (Kim Nak Kyung, also accompanied by Chong Hyewon). The courtesy and hospitality accorded Joan was first class. The co-operation of many people provided the opportunities needed to fulfil the purpose of the visit.

**OCT. 19:**

**11.00a.m. The first meeting was with the KCWU executive.** At this meeting the work of KCWU was explained, with particular regard to the projects and activities.

**COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR MIGRANT WOMEN WORKERS:** This is a unique initiative of KCWU. Opened in 1995, the centre provides a setting for communication between church women and foreign workers. Through this facility, the aim is to protect human rights of foreign women working in Korea. This is done through counselling, health services, education, problem solving and providing shelter.

KCWU brings together women of different denominational groups for fellowship, and to witness to Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. There are many committees who deal with various parts of the program. These include: planning; education; church and society - this is a fascinating area, for it focuses its efforts on forgotten and exploited women (Comfort Women), and works for the eradication of crimes by U.S. military personnel in Korea, UN presence is not unwelcome in Korea but there are problems; World Day of Prayer Committee (WDP) - and it was with great enthusiasm and excitement that material for the 1997 WDP prepared by the Korean women was presented; Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC); finance committee - working for financial independence of KCWU; human rights committee - this committee works for justice and human rights, providing support for scholarships for second generation victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, along with other aid for victims of war, knitting for prisoners of conscience; environmental preservation committee - provides educational material for anti-nuclear movement; peaceful

reunification committee - possibly one of the most poignant works of KCWU, through worship and education.

Joan observed that the dedication and commitment of energy and enthusiasm to the work of KCWU was without reserve. It was a most humbling experience to be exposed to the 'inner workings', and to realise the immense impact of the women of KCWU to both church and society. They are facing real problems, and doing something about them - not just talking, or putting words on paper. (The rest of the report will reveal activities of KCWU).

Following the meeting, lunch with the KCWU executive was hosted by the president Sung, Bong Hee at a traditional Korean restaurant. The food was magnificent and the company gracious.

**1.30p.m. Action for Migrant Workers' Rights** - a demonstration was held at a local festival to highlight the plight of the migrant worker, supported and organised by KCWU. This was a peaceful and orderly presentation by a number of young people - mainly students, who held banners calling for an end to the poor working conditions for migrant workers, backed by a large display of photographs showing the results of accidents and poor conditions in the work place. Many unscrupulous employers don't even pay the workers. One banner displayed the words ' **WE ARE NOT SLAVES, WE ARE HUMAN**'.

The aim of the demonstration was to publicly call for compassion and support for approaches to government officials with these problems - who remain largely unmoved.

**5.00p.m. Concert with migrant workers** - featuring musical group "New Heaven New Earth". This group is committed to assist the plight of the migrant workers. The minister introduced the concert, commending the group for becoming involved in social issues in the community. There are 200,000 migrant workers (from Russia and China - many of these of Korean descent, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Africa, Peru, Philippines. The major problem is that many of these are non-Korean speaking.)

The story was told of the pastor who was arrested and imprisoned for allowing migrant workers to protest and 'camp' in church grounds - and some of these workers were presented to the congregation, as they told their story there were tears and strong emotions. Laws are needed to protect basic human rights for safe conditions, satisfactory wages and compensation for injuries.

**OCT. 20:**

**2.00p.m. Visit to Women's Church.**

Rev. Sook Ja is the minister of this church and also the founder. She is also an executive member of KCWU and the country's representative to ACWC.

This service was the 7th anniversary celebration. Present were a number of the comfort women to whom this church ministers and through KCWC is helping them to present their claims for recognition and suitable compensation from the Japanese - this is still a very sensitive area. The celebration included liturgy and liturgical dancing for reconciliation between church and society with particular

regard for the situation of the comfort women. Their stories were told and there were strong emotions by both participants and members of the congregation. A large group of visitors from Europe came to share the experience. They were in Korea specifically for preparation for the World Day of Prayer, to get in touch with the people and their needs. This was a very special time for them. Then there was the celebration of the reconciliation - lots of singing and dancing, traditional Korean folk songs of freedom. Following the service a wonderful feast of Korean food was enjoyed by all.

**OCT. 21:**

11.00a.m.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES KOREA (NCCK), WOMEN'S DESK**

Lee, Moon Sook, Executive Director, Women's Committee.

Kim, Hee Won, Chairperson.

Women have been at the fore-front of social reforms in Korea for decades, Women initiated movements to improve the economy, simple measures such as rice-saving, the money from which was contributed to projects for these reforms. Women took on a no smoking, no drinking policy in order to pay debts to Japan. Currently the Rice Fund is for the reunification of north and south Korea - 1 sack of rice is given, and the money raised goes into the fund. A certificate is given "CERTIFICATE FOR RAISING FUND FOR PEACE"

This department explores ways to implement equal participation of women and researches various programs and policies to promote social reforms. Major works of this committee include: a program for mid-level leadership of Christian women, for women pastors, and differently abled women; a seminar on women's human rights; consultations on women and children in multicultural contexts, and the Christian women's movement.

The program of the NCCK Women's Desk includes the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. Seven denominations are affiliated, not all are actively involved, and generally it's difficult to get support.

This also gave the opportunity to talk about the relationship of Australian Church Women (ACW) in the ecumenical scene, and the partnership of ACW with ACWC. Encouragement was given to foster ecumenical relations at every level, ACWC seeks to serve the needs for service to church and society in each participating country. This is in keeping with the work of this committee for solidarity with other Christian women's organisation and women's social organisations.

Kim, Hee Won was the host of more excellent Korean hospitality at the Ambassador Hotel.

1.30p.m.

**NATIONAL CHURCH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CWA) of the PROK OFFICE.**

Song, Jong Suk, Executive Officer, Kung, Ju Hye, Executive member.

"We have come to realise that we as women are called to participate in God's Mission (Missio Dei). ... We believe that the creation of a healthy and life-giving culture and the work toward the reunification of our country are our association's two most urgent goals."

CWA is the pioneer of women's groups in Korea. The task of this association is most detailed and inclusive, with committees covering study and planning,

*mission, education, church and society, membership, human rights, finance, peace and reunification and scholarship.*

*The CWA has two special projects:*

*The Lay Training Institute for Women which publishes materials and provides programs for women labourers. Every Monday, study courses are provided in Bible subjects, Counselling and Leadership.*

*Bethany House, a home for retired women church workers.*

*1420 congregations are involved with 80,000 members. As with other groups involved in this tour, there is evidence of single-minded dedication and commitment to the program. The prayer movement for reunification has a committed group of up to 2000 women who go without breakfast on Sunday, not only to pray for reunification but also to give.*

### **2.30 p.m.: THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANISATION OF THE PCK OFFICE**

*Wha Ja, Hwang, General Secretary of NKPW (National Korean Presbyterian Women). Kim, Ok Ja, Moderator.*

*The most fascinating part of this visit was the fact that the 18 story building housing this organisation is the result of a dream to build a centre from which its mission could be conducted. It was dedicated in 1990. In 1988 the Women's Continuing Education Centre was founded in order to help NKPW accomplish its goal of raising up women leaders who will answer God's call to serve.*

*In 1990 the Institute for Korean Church Women's Concerns was established in order to address problems faced by women in the church. The institute is committed to improving women's position in the church, encouraging the democratisation of the church and ensuring women's participation in development of church policy.*

*For 62 years, NKPW urged the Presbyterian Church of Korea to amend its constitution permit the ordination of women to the offices of elder and pastor. Years of prayer, hard work and struggle culminated in the vote by the PCK General Assembly in 1995 to ordain women. In 1998, NKPW will celebrate the 100th birthday of the first local Presbyterian women's organisation. In thanksgiving members are raising funds to construct four churches to be led by women pastors. They are also raising money to support a chair for women's development at the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul.*

*3.30 p.m.*

**Korean Council for the Women drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan**  
*Office. This office works not only for Korean concerns, but also supports international movements for human rights. All violence against women in wartime is their specific project, and they have called on governments all around the world to support their cause.*

*There is still no apology from Japan, although the atrocities have been admitted, but they say they are not morally responsible. (It was of interest to learn the Attorney Ustina Dolgopol of Flinders University, Melbourne has been a strong advocate of this cause.) A full submission has been presented to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The recommendations of this*

*submission include the raising of the awareness of these issues and to restore the dignity of the women who suffered.*

*The foregoing only touches the surface of the work of these organisations. One cannot help but be affected in both mind and soul through exposure such as was the privilege I, Joan Tong, was able to share and be part of. The impressions are touched with deep humility, affected by the witness, the devotion, the courage and the commitment of the women of Korea. Their focus is clear, and the hearts are dedicated to the work of God.*

*The aims and objectives of this visit were met very simply and easily, through the co-operation, courtesy and hospitality given.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*ACWC should liaise with the national women's desk, as well as the ecumenical women's organisation in Korea, promoting partnership at the national as well as the local level.*

*ACWC should continue to work to strengthen partnership with all member countries, through understanding and an effort to reach those who are working with both hearts and hands to uplift all who need the ministry of the church.*

*JOAN TONG  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER  
ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE*



## REPORT TO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

### 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

14-19 NOVEMBER, 1998

Eleven Australian Church Women attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Asian Church Women's Conference held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 14-19 November, 1998.

There were 7 members from NSW Unit, 1 from ACT Unit and 3 from Victorian Unit.

Following the National Conference in Canberra, 1997 the delegates to the Assembly were: Lynette Green (National Representative), Joan Tong (member of the ACWC Executive Committee), Barbara Lacy (elected incoming National Representative) and Jean Thomson. Observers were: Heather Reid, Lucelle King, Shirley Wells, Kayleen Manton, Helen Richardson, Marie McCann. Rathi Selvaratnam was a special guest of the Assembly as a former President.

The Victorians and Jean Thomson left Australia on 7<sup>th</sup> November to enjoy a five day holiday prior to the Assembly. Because of commitments with the Executive Joan Tong arrived with Marie McCann on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the rest of the delegation arrived on 13<sup>th</sup>.

During the pre Assembly time, we enjoyed a visit to McKean Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre, a ride on an elephant at the Elephant Camp in the mountains, visited the Orchid Farm and generally appreciated the sights, sounds and smells of Chiang Mai. We attended the First Thai Church on Sunday night for an English speaking service. Barbara and Lynette were privileged to meet with the Bishop of Chiang Mai, Bishop Sangval for five hours and were treated to visits to the Sacred Heart School of 4,000 pupils and 200 teachers, an Italian meal, and celebrating Mass at a Convent run by Spanish Nuns for the young women of the hill tribes who are taught sewing for a trade to help them to be self sufficient without having to resort to prostitution for income. These girls live in and work at making garments and every night at 7.30 pm they celebrate the mass with the Bishop.

The Executive Committee met on 12<sup>th</sup> and the General Committee met on 13<sup>th</sup>, with the Assembly proper beginning with the Asian Festival on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately this was to be held in the Lobby of the Hotel and open to the public, but we were given the gymnasium on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor which cut down on passing traffic and Assembly members were left to buy from each other. The Australian stall was popular with many souvenirs. These were provided by assembly

participants, and the Victorian Unit provided cash to purchase souvenirs from the markets in Melbourne so that all that we sold was clear profit. Barbara Lacy was able to get 100 snack boxes of sultanas which were also popular. We are happy to say that we raised \$260 (Australian dollars). This was a great effort considering we had to carry it all along with us. I will be recommending to the ACWC Executive that, although for us the stall was a success, the effort was not worth it. We had to take lots of extra luggage and then give away what we didn't sell. Following the Asian Festival, we enjoyed a formal dinner.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> each participant was assigned to a local church to meet for worship and lunch together. This was a great experience for us all.

The official photographs were taken at 3.00 pm and the Official Opening Ceremony commenced at 4.00 pm (or thereabouts give or take a half hour). Three hours later we were slightly comatosed and fully welcomed out. Keynote speaker was Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang of Indonesia. Following the Opening Ceremony we repaired to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor for an Agape meal cross legged on the floor and enjoyed Thai cultural display of music and dancing.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> the business proper began. The devotions at 8.00 am were led by Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Singapore. This involved song, prayer, an anthem, liturgical dance and a re-affirmation of servanthood using the symbols of cloth, candlelight, jar of clay, and hands held high.

The Bible Studies were led by Mrs. Sharon Ruiz-Duremdes. The first one was based on "Breaking In and Reclaiming Our Space". The Scripture was Mark 14: 3-9 outlining story of the woman with the alabaster jar of ointment.

The theme presentation was this day on REJOICE by Ruby Korver. Ruby outlined some of the ACWC past especially in relation to Japan.

The business sessions began with reports from the President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer. The International Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin also presented their report. All regions of ICFLC were represented.

Each day a WEAVING TOGETHER small groups session was held. Questions resulting from the morning Bible Study or the Theme Presentation were offered to each group. The plenary was to be presented in a creative way.

The Solidarity night comprised the countries of Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore and Malaysia. They presented dance, singing and skits concerning their countries.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> commenced with the regional devotions. This was the day we had to organise and used the 1998 Fellowship Day theme "A Message for all Seasons". This flowed through very well considering all the trouble and uncertainty there was about it. It was, in fact, a very moving time of devotion. All countries involved (New Zealand, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and

Australia) kept to the theme and kept to the time limit.

The second Bible Study was brought by Mrs. Ruiz-Duremdes. This was "Breaking Up and Responding to Urgent Needs". There was time for questions following the presentation.

The theme presentation today was RECLAIM, presented by Wu, Fu Ya. This was a most moving paper and time for discussion and sharing of stories after.

The second business session involved all the country reports.

The WEAVING TOGETHER II was held in the small groups and the plenary provided time for sharing with each other.

The solidarity night featured the countries who provided the morning devotions: Japan, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Korea and also included Laos. Australia delegation paraded in their skirts and T-shirts which were greatly appreciated. The video of ACW activities and sights of Australia were well received and also we played a short video of Bimbadeen College.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> The South Asia region provided a time of devotion to commence the day. Songs, scripture and lighting of the lamp plus a skit about divorce in the language of Pakistan set the tone for the day.

The third Bible Study entitled "Breaking Out and Rejoicing Over Fulfilled Expectations" was again conducted by Mrs. Sharon Ruiz Duremdes.

Dr. Chuleepran S. Persons presented the third of the theme presentations. RESPOND. It was a very challenging and moving paper.

Following lunch a business session was conducted to tidy up the cosmetic changes needed to the Constitution. This took some time as delegates were not clear on what changes were being made. This is one of the difficulties in holding the conference using English which is a second language for most countries. The difficulties were ironed out and the changes, as suggested by a commissioned committee were accepted.

The cultural night was conducted by the South Asia region and included rather a lot of groups which meant that it was a rather lengthy night. The ICFLC group did a skit and two RC Nuns from the Netherlands were attending as observers and told us about their work and showed a video. Their special interest was reclaiming girls from prostitution in Europe.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>. The business session commenced at 8.00 am to deal with unfinished and new business. The Australian Representative, following discussion trends during the Assembly moved that Prayer Partnerships between ACWC member countries be re-established. This was approved unanimously by the assembly and later in the day the partnerships were distributed. AUSTRALIA is partnered with PAKISTAN. It will be the responsibility in the first instance of the

incoming National Representative to contact the National Representative of Pakistan to set up contact points for the partnership. The partnership will continue for the quadrennium.

The Closing Ceremony was held in the Conference room and included expressions of thanks to participants and organisers. It also included the bringing in of the tapestry. All participants were invited to submit a triangle of material with their name, country, and women's issue/something of themselves and these were sewn together during the conference by the local committee and presented to the closing ceremony.

Following the closing ceremony the new general committee met for a business meeting.

The Assembly concluded at 7.00 pm following the closure of the general committee meeting.

The NSW participants left at 5.00 pm to spend a few days in Bangkok and the others left the following morning at 9.00 am.

The badge of office as an executive committee member of Australian Church Women and the copy of the ACW constitution will be presented formally to Barbara Lacy at the Victorian Unit meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Contribution by Australians: Major Joan Tong was the chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Major Lynette Green was re-elected to the General Committee for a further term of 4 years and Mrs. Barbara Lacy was elected to be a member of the Executive Committee. This means that when the National Conference of Australian Church Women meets in 2001 to elect the delegation for the 2002 ACWC Assembly we will again only need to elect 2 delegates as Barbara and Lynette will already be delegates.

We are grateful to the National Executive of Australian Church Women for all their support in the preparation given to Lynette Green and the Australian delegation.



Lynette Green,  
1994-98 ACWC NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

**The Assembly Statement of the 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial General Assembly  
of Asian Church Women's Conference**

Sixty six delegates and fifty three observers from eighteen countries and fourteen guests gathered together from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 for the 12<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial General Assembly of Asian Church Women's Conference in the Bahrom Education Centre at Seoul Women's University, in Korea.

The Assembly was a time when women from different cultural, traditional and ethnic backgrounds came together with their own stories and experiences.

The Assembly accepted Nepal as the 18<sup>th</sup> member of the ACWC family.

While business matters were being settled, the challenge of the Bible study sessions stood out as a highlight and began to colour our thoughts and responses.

We were shown how previously we have read the Bible through our cultural eyes and this had coloured our responses or lack of response to the needs of others.

Who of us can forget the story in Judges of the nameless woman and how she was used or the story in Mark of the woman ostracized socially and by religion because of her condition. A challenging question indeed, "Who's sitting on your shoulder when you are reading the Bible?"

A rose will always bring to mind the story of the 15 year old girl in jail for a non-violent protest. "Say yes to Non-violence! No to Violence!"

We realized in sharing together that in some churches women are not given enough opportunity as coworkers in the ministry of the Church and some are not heard.

We recommend therefore, that the NCC/Ecumenical Bodies of each nation be encouraged to support initiatives taken by women's groups to address gender issues. The Assembly calls to women's Groups within and outside the Asian Church women's conference:

- ◆ To heed the cry of our sisters in conflict areas and countries torn by religious and internal strife.

Women are called upon to pray for and work towards peace for all;

- ◆ To look into the issue of migrant workers who for economic reasons leave home and family and are abused in the foreign land. Churchwomen are encouraged to make it serious concern and help migrant workers, especially the women.

The Signature Campaign has been accepted as an ACWC regular programme.

We affirm that women and men are created in the image of God to be equal partners in the ministry of God.

We affirm that we will uphold each other in prayer and support each other in every possible way especially through the Prayer Partnership Programme for the next quadrennial. We affirm that ACWC will continue to support initiatives that build self-esteem and encourage women who need to strive to use their talents in ministry.



?, Fran Moss, Jean Thomson, Lisa Jackson, Pat Walker, Barbara Lacy



The 13th Quadrennial  
General Assembly of  
Asian Church Women's Conference,  
ACWC



**OPENING WORSHIP**

The **50<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary Celebration  
of ACWC and FLC

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

9 October 2006  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS  
OF THE ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
OPENING SERVICE**



9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006  
FEDERAL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

**THEME: "Celebrating the Legacy,  
Visioning the Future,  
Living the Jubilee"**

**SERVICE ORDER:**

**I. PROCESSIONAL**

All National Representatives and A.C.W.C. Exec Committee members assemble outside.

\* Hymn: **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee  
God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee  
Opening to the sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness  
Fill us with the light of day

Thou art giving and forgiving  
Ever blessing, ever blest  
Well spring of the joy of living  
Ocean depth of happy rest  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother  
All who live in love are Thine  
Teach us how to love each other  
Lift us to the Joy divine

All Thy works with joy surround Thee  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around Thee  
Center of unbroken praise  
Field and forest, vale and mountain  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
Which the morning stars began  
Father love is reigning o'er us  
Brother love birds man to man  
Ever singing, march we onward  
Victors in the midst of strife  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life

Processional with flags and banners take their place in front, facing the assembly.

\* stand



## II. \* WELCOME

A.C.W.C. President / C.C.M. Women's Work Committee Chairperson  
A.C.W.C. Executive Committee members are seated

## III. \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Shu-Wen Chiang  
Executive Secretary

*L: This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord – a lasting ordinance. (Exod. 12:14) Let us worship together on this auspicious day.*

*R: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph.2:10) In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

### \* Psalm 98 (sung)

- O SING unto the Lord a 'new' song : for he hath 'done' marvellous' things.  
2 With his own right hand and with his' holy' arm : hath he 'gotten him'self the ' victory.  
3 The Lord declared' his sal'vation : his righteousness hath he openly' shewed in the' sight of the' heathen.  
4 He hath remembered his mercy and truth, toward the' house of ' Israel : and all the ends of the world have seen the sal'vation of our' God.  
5 Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord' all ye.' lands : sing re-' joice and ' give' thanks.

\* stand

2

### \* Psalm 98 (cont.)

- 6 Praise the Lord up' on the' harp : sing to the' Lord with a ' psalm of thanksgiving.  
7 With trumpets ' also and' horns : O shew yourselves joyful be'fore the.' Lord the' King.  
8 Let the sea make a noise, and all that' therein' is : the round world and' they that' dwell there' in.  
9 Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together be'fore the' Lord : for he is ' come to ' judge the' earth.  
10 'With righteousness shall he' judge 'the' world : and the' people' with' equity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end.  
Amen.

## IV. ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Rev. Lin Ni Ling  
Executive Committee

*L: We know that we cannot truly celebrate our oneness if we are at odds with our neighbours. So let us acknowledge our need for forgiveness and reconciliation. Let us offer our prayers of confession in the presence of God.*

*R: God our Father, we give thanks to you for the Asian Church Women's Conference. We have not always lived as if it was important to us.*

*Forgive us for putting our own self-interest first, for failing in our responsibilities, for avoiding what we do not like doing and taking A.C.W.C. for granted.*

*Awaken in us a sensitivity and awareness to the needs of each other, the need for true empathy and fellowship.*

*Help us to be agents of love and peace in our churches and communities, to strive to be worthy of Your Name. Grant to us Lord, Your peace and joy.*

\* stand

50<sup>th</sup>



3

*L: Listen! Here is the good news. Jesus said, The person who comes to me I will not turn away. He has come to forgive our failures, to accept us as we are, to set us free from our sins and to make us what we were meant to be.*

*All: To God be all honour, praise and glory. Amen.*

## V. \* PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Juwita Suwito

### Come On And Celebrate

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)

### "Oh Tuhan Pimpin Lah Langkahku"

#### O Lord God, Set My Feet On The Way

Oh Tuhan pimpin lah langkah ku  
Ku tak brani jalan sendiri  
Serta mu tu lah doa ku  
Ajar ku merendahkan diri

O Lord God, set my feet on the way  
I'd be foolish to journey alone  
Stay beside me forever I pray  
Keep my hand humbly held in Your own

Menurut firman mu tiap hari  
Jadikan pelita dalam gelap  
Mencari domba yang sesat  
Itu lah kerinduan jiwa ku

With Your teaching my guide every day  
I can hold out a torch in the dark  
Attracting all those who have strayed  
Then I hope they will join me on Your path

\* stand

4

### We'll Walk The Land

We'll walk the land with hearts on fire  
And every step will be a prayer  
Hope is rising, new day dawning  
Sound of singing fills the air

Two thousand years, and still the flame  
Is burning bright across the land  
Hearts are waiting, longing, aching  
For awakening once again

(Chorus):

Let the flame burn brighter  
In the heart of the darkness  
Turning night to glorious day  
Let the song grow louder  
As our love grows stronger  
Let it shine! Let it shine!

We'll walk for truth, speak out for love  
In Jesus' name we shall be strong  
To lift the fallen, to save the children  
To fill the nation with Your song

(Chorus)

### Lord The Light Of Your Love

Lord the light of Your love is shining  
In the mist of the darkness shining  
Jesus light of the world shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us  
Shine on me, Shine on me

(Chorus):

Shine Jesus shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze Spirit blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow river flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth Your word, Lord  
And let there be light

Lord I come to Your awesome presence  
From the shadows into Your radiance  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness  
Search me – try me – consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, Shine on me (Chorus)

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story  
Shine on me, Shine on me (Chorus)

\* stand

50<sup>th</sup>



5

## VI. \* AN EXPRESSION OF OUR SOLIDARITY IN CHRIST

A. Annamany  
The President

We believe that in the beginning was the Word  
that the Word was with God  
that the Word was God,  
that through the Word all things began.  
Through an outpouring of love  
God created the heavens and the earth.

We believe that God created man and woman in His image  
Loving us as a mother loves her child  
Gifting us with the freedom to achieve and to fail,  
Liberating us from people and situations that enslave,  
Sharing our human condition and saving us from sin.

We believe that God has chosen women  
to be in partnership with Him,  
to live and love humankind like He did,  
to give birth to deeper values,  
to touch, to heal, to listen, to care.  
to give flesh to the gospel.

We believe that the Word is with us now  
And will be until the end of time;  
That there is a hope for tomorrow  
despite the discouragement of today.

We believe in the promise of a new world order  
when Jesus shall come again  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and establish God's glorious peace in this world.

*Source:*  
"Celebration" - Lydia N. Niguidula  
"Woman Prayer Woman Song" - Miriam Threse Winter

\* stand

## \* A.C.W.C. 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SONG

50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

Wo-men of A-sia in ce-le-bra-tion go-thered come  
praise and a-dore Him whose Name you do bear His  
mer-cy and good-ness for fif-ty years pro-ven. Now  
wor-ship and thank Him whose grace you do share.

Lyrics and music by  
Gita Rajendran

Women of Asia in celebration gathered  
Come praise and adore Him whose Name you do bear,  
His mercy and goodness for fifty years proven,  
Now worship and thank Him whose Grace you do share.

Faithful in worship, and faithful in service,  
Women of Asia your Lord you have known,  
Now give Him the glory and give Him the honour,  
As wisdom and stature on you He bestows.

In churches of Asia your fellowship sharing,  
In churches of Asia your Saviour proclaim.  
Go share your great blessings with those who are longing.  
Redemption, God's Peace and great Love to acclaim.

In nations of Asia let's celebrate Jesus,  
In nations of Asia let's crown Him as Lord.  
Let's give Him our lives and our hearts in contrition  
As gifts ever pleasing our God to adore.

\* stand

## VII. CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

Dr Usha Joshua  
Vice President

"Come see...go tell" Mt.28:1-10 President, Rayann Ma speaks in 1958

"Nothing could be more fitting than this theme for our Asian women at the dawn of our new day. This was a generation of women who had gone through the trauma of war; who had been bound and sheltered too long by tradition and culture and who had taken the role of second class citizens at home, in church and in society. Now was the time to be freed, to reach out and to share what was most dear in their hearts with their sisters in faith.

Through the strengthening of our faith in God and through this supportive fellowship in Christ, we would be able to attempt things which had seemed impossible to us. There was surging of life within each of us. This opportunity of sharing one another's experiences and witness, and working together for the future was rare joy and renewal."

### Response:

Grant us compassion, grant us faith  
That we may see Your holy way  
With every age comes challenge new  
For you and me in A.C.W.C.  
Thus must we strive in our smallness  
To be like Christ in His wholeness  
While on the road of sacrifice  
Our heavenly Father we glorify

## VIII. VISIONING THE FUTURE

Patricia Walker  
Assembly Secretary

"Called to Change - Committed to Serve" President, Agnes Loyall speaks in 1978

"A.C.W.C. has promises to keep because it is committed to demonstrate Christ's love in all areas of life. As long as our sisters in Asia are exploited, as long as there is a violation of human rights and dignity, A.C.W.C cannot rest. We must move on to right the wrong, to bring healing and wholeness. A.C.W.C. is called upon to do everything within its power to accelerate this process of change.

One does not have to look far to discover that the Church in its structure, in its liturgy, in its constitution and rules is a male dominated body. The church has perpetuated and strengthened the false belief of women's dependency and emotionality and their image as weak dependent, hyper-emotional and non-intellectual beings.

A.C.W.C has the task of enhancing the status of women and equipping them to participate intelligently and responsibly. They must be equipped to be self-reliant and look to the future with faith and courage."

### Response:

Prayer by Olive Ackland, Executive Committee 1978-1982

"Lord, give the member-countries of A.C.W.C. a vision for the way ahead. Show us how we can support each other in meaningful ways. Grant each member a sensitive understanding of all countries and their needs, and enable us Lord to be a community of prayer. With your love in our hearts and your Spirit stirring our soul, we look forward with joy and hope, knowing that Your Grace and mercy will always be with us."

## IX. LIVING THE JUBILEE

A. Annamany  
The President

Asian Church Women's Conference

We began our journey with "Come see...go tell" [Hong Kong 1958] and then felt the need to "Launch out into the deep" [Thailand 1962]. As we experienced the Holy Spirit leading us to "Abide in Him and bear fruit." [Japan 1966] we went on to answer the question "Who is my neighbour?" [Indonesia 1970]. In response we had to "Go and Do Likewise" [Thailand 1974]

With "The Call to Change and Commitment to Serve" [Japan 1978] A.C.W.C. grew numerically and spiritually. We recognized ourselves as "Co-workers in Christ for Renewal" [Indonesia 1982]. There was also a new confidence which emerged in "I can do all things through Christ" [Thailand 1986].

In more recent years there has been the desire to "Rejoice, Reclaim, Respond" [Thailand 1998] and to "Restore, Reconcile, Rejoice" [Korea 2002].

Today we are called to "Live the Jubilee" [Malaysia 2006].

**X. A MEDITATION ON THE THEME**                      Gloriosa Rajendran

An offertory will be taken for ACWC Projects & Scholarships.

**XI. THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Said together in the national language of each country.

**XII. \* Closing Hymn: Sent Forth By God's Blessing**

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The worship is ended: O now be extended,  
The fruits of His service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching, our hungry souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for man.  
His grace shall incite us, His love shall unite us  
To work for His kingdom and further His plan

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
The task of our every day life we will face,  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
Embracing as brothers all men of each race.

One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,  
Unite us as one in His life that we share.  
Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,  
Give honour to Christ and His name that we bear.

\* stand

**CHOIR**

Ms Esther Richards     (Leader)  
Mrs Maureen Chand  
Mrs Lorene Chong  
Ms Ruby Thirumany  
Mrs Seonaidh Chai  
Mrs Blossom Duriaratnam  
Deaconess Ruth Ong  
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Ms Ann Jebaratnam     (Organist)

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE SERVICE**

Mrs Gloriosa Rajendran     (Chairperson)  
Ms Esther Richards  
Ms A. Annamaney  
Mrs Sheila Ramayah  
Ms Ann Teoh





## **Sharing the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) with the Australian Church Women, ACW**

September 25, 2007

report by Shu-Wen Chiang, ACWC

Luke 15:8-9, 1 Corinthians 10: 17

### **The Brief History of the ACWC**

*The seeds of the ACWC were sprouted in 1956 in America, and the first ACWC Assembly was held in 1958 in Hong Kong. Now, we have 19 member countries. Mongolia became the nineteenth member country in 2006. And now, we almost have a 50-year history.*

When women have been bound or sheltered too long by tradition and culture and have been given the role of second-class citizens in their society, the churchwomen really need a supportive fellowship in Christ. Frankly, only women have the sensitive minds to feel the plight and situation of others; only women have the patience to listen to others' stories; only women have the insistence to form a group to support each other and look for the peace of the world. Like the woman who is presented in Luke 15:8-9, we don't give up any small thing. When she found it, she can share her happiness with others. The ACWC is an excellent example of how to practice Jesus' teaching in this story in the world.

### **The Change of the ACWC**

Through our almost 50-year history, the ACWC has modified their visions and missions to fit our Asian sisters' real needs. The initial purpose for founding the ACWC was to form an Asian Churchwomen's platform for gathering and fellowship. However, since I took the position of the Ex. Sec. in 2002. Then I found that, from the trend of ecumenical development, people's expectations about the vision of an ecumenical organization has moved to include missions and practical projects. The ACWC still maintains the function of an Assembly for churchwomen's gatherings and promoting the relationship and fellowship. In fact, from our sisters' sharing, the ACWC has taken action to respond to their appeals. These years, the ACWC has become the ecumenical partner of the member countries in different ways. The ACWC doesn't only work for but

with our sisters. We have developed such projects as the following: training programs for leadership/women's economical independence/educating & empowering young women, promoting attention to gender issues and violence against women.

**For example:**

The ACWC has aided Indonesia to develop the economical training program for the women who have been suffering during the religious conflicts in Ambon. Following this project, they are planning to found a women's consultation center.

There is an economical training program in Bangladesh and Myanmar and a study of the gender issue in HK.

Since 2004, the ACWC has worked together with Cambodia to develop the Literacy Program, Primary School Program and Credit-Loan Project in that country.

The ACWC has supported the tsunami-affected ACWC member countries like India, Sri Lanka and Thailand to develop the projects for post-tsunami rehabilitation with a focus on women and children.

There are more details about the ACWC projects and programs which are listed at the display area. You may take your time to review them.

We have shared our thoughts, love and resources with each other. We have supported each other, too. The ACWC has formed a completely faithful family.

**How to Promote the ACWC**

You may ask me, how can we know the ACWC better? Here are some different ways you can follow:

- 1) Read the ACWC brochure.
- 2) Subscribe to the ACWC Newsletter --it is quarterly. You can get some more knowledge and information about the ACWC which will be helpful for you to understand the Asian Churchwomen.
- 3) Encourage your sisters to attend the ACWC Day Service every year.
- 4) Receive the message about sharing from the **Mongolia** National Representative, Ms. Donna Bryan.

*Australian*

About how to promote the ACWC:

- 1) Practice the ACWC Day on the third Sunday in November each year. The ACWC has designed the liturgy for that special day. It is a chance for women's solidarity.

2) Promote the Signature Card: You can invite any brother and sister who identifies with the goals of the ACWC to sign his/her name on the card, and ask him/her to donate the money to support the ACWC.

3) Promote the FLC prayer movement. Understanding the historical relationship between the ACWC and the FLC, it is difficult to separate them into two parts. It is the ACWC members' responsibility to promote the FLC.

4) Practice the ACWC prayer partner program. From 2006 to 2010, Australia and Korea have been prayer partners. Because of weakness in English, Korea has been a silent partner. But please still pass your needs for prayer to Korea and remember their needs in your prayers. During next year, when the ACWC resolves the problem of the National Body in Nepal and Nepal returns to the ACWC family, the ACWC would like to invite Australia to take care of Nepal as your prayer partner.

Some future plans between Japan/Mongolia and Taiwan/Cambodia: The ACWC has extended the first partnership from 2006 to 2010. Japan has immediately developed a series of future plans to work with the ACWC newest member country, Mongolia.

5) Promote the women's projects in your country and share them with other ACWC member countries.

### **The Current Concerns of the ACWC**

When the ACWC has faced the changes of the ecumenical world and is modifying her status to adopt the real mission world, we compact different challenges and some of them are directly linked to our Asian situations. At the ACWC 13th Assembly I already listed some challenges the ACWC is facing for our sisters. Here I would like to highlight some of the current situations and challenges ACWC member countries are facing in general and which we need to keep in mind as we move forward:

#### **The Sensitive Political Situation in Some Member Countries**

Some member countries are controlled by martial law or communist governments while some face violence against Christians as in Nepal, Pakistan, Cambodia and Myanmar.

#### **Awareness of Gender Issues**

Due to the diverse and complicated context of multi-faith, multi-cultures, traditions, and values in Asia, the gender issue is still a new concept to many Asian countries. Feminist theology and the idea of equality between men and women are still sensitive subjects in many of our member countries and churches.

#### **Awareness of Violence Against Women**

This issue is strongly linked to the gender issue. So far, the ACWC has cooperated with the CCA. These studies have been promoted well in different member countries.

### **Awareness of HIV/AIDS**

In most Asian countries, open discussion of sexual matters is banned. The issue of HIV/AIDS more often than not is mistakenly categorized as a sexual issue only. The knowledge of the actual development and infection of HIV/AIDS is vague in most Asian countries. This is an issue the ACWC cannot avoid facing. It should be one of our future tasks.

Sensitivity and awareness of the above challenges serve to remind us how we can develop the ACWC vision in the future. Praise to our Lord, these significant issues have been the topics that were discussed in our sharing groups during the 13th ACWC Assembly. The conclusion is presented in the ACWC Statement. Please be reminded that the input and responses from these issues is very important to the work of the ACWC.

### **The Current Challenges of the ACWC**

Beyond the above concerns, I am raising here two main issues which the ACWC are struggled with and share them with you.

#### **Mission Battlefields in Asia**

"The multiplicity of denominations and freelance missionary evangelism is a major threat to Asian churches and Asian ecumenism. Several Asian countries (Cambodia, Nepal, Bhutan and Mongolia) are now missionary battlefields. Mainline denominations in several Asian countries face threats from aggressive missionary evangelism by overseas missionaries and churches. These groups of missionaries are only sowing the seeds of division and encouraging local churches to shift their membership from one denomination to another. For example, the Christians in Bangladesh are a microscopic minority; their total numbers may be only around 400,000. But we can find 46 denominations in the country competing with each other. About 150,000 Protestants are divided into 45 denominations. The statistics from Cambodia and Nepal may show even more fighting." (In Panel III, Dr. Mathews George at the CCA Jubilee)

As the Ex. Sec. of the ACWC, I would like to share the difficulties of maintaining the ACWC membership in the member countries. The concept of ecumenicalism is not popular in some areas; the boundaries of denominations are firm.

For example, since Mongolia became our newest member country and the ACWC-Mongolia is the first Churchwomen Organization in Mongolia, the ACWC should try our best to help them to establish the organization. After I visited Mongolia, I found that: "After the 1980's when Russia withdrew from Mongolia, the Reformed Churches and

other Protestant Churches were introduced to Mongolia. But Mongolian Christians don't have clear ideas about "denominations" and most churches belong to "Free Churches". You can say that Mongolia isn't bound by the regulations of denominations and they have more freedom to develop their own faith style. But Mongolian Christians should be careful about: 1) the worship process, 2) the explanation of the Bible, 3) the identification of the Holy Spirit. It is now too free and people can format the faith in their own ways. Therefore it is very important to help our Mongolian sisters to organize Bible Studies and other seminars."

When Mongolia became the member of the ACWC, they began to face the different kinds of theology and the ecumenical movement which they had never experienced before. Therefore they have struggle in their own minds and have arguments with the outside world they contact.

Keep trying, be patient, pray to our Lord and listen to His direction are some of the ways we can follow.

### **We Are Looking for Financial Independence**

In these several years, the ACWC has appealed to our members to face the financial problems of the ACWC. Since only a few Asian countries have the ability to share their resources with others we still need some support from outside ecumenical organizations; actually we really expect that the main donations should come from our own member countries. Since most of the Asian Churches are used to rely on the support from outside churches and organizations, it is not easy to change our identification from a receiver to be a giver. These years, from the development of the ACWC, we have been changed step by step and we know how to share our resources with others. Here I would like to raise some examples to share with you:

1. After the tsunami disasters in 2004, our member countries collected money to support Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and India to develop the post-tsunami projects in those countries.

*India \$ 5,163.07 USD Sri Lanka \$ 12,631.58 USD*

Through the help of Japan and Taiwan, until 31 Oct. 2005 the AICCW received the amount of 5,163.07 USD to support the Post-Tsunami Project in 1) India. "Healing Touch Program for the Tsunami-affected Women in India". 2) Sri Lanka appealed for the budget amount of 12,631.58 USD for the "Tsunami Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Program". Malaysia, Japan and Taiwan have fully supported that project.

Before I came for the Conference, I received a CD copy of CD which includes the 10 students' reports and photos. They had accepted support from 2005 and they will finish their study in 2008. Time has passed so fast. You can find their photos in the display area. Those children are grown up both in body and mind under the support of the ACWC. I am proud of them!

## 2. Send a missionary to Cambodia

The CCA held the program of "Women's Ecumenical Accompaniment for Vision and Empowerment, (WEAVE)" in Cambodia until the end of 2005. In this program, the CCA supported a missionary in Cambodia. After the evaluation, Cambodia still needed the missionary to accompany them for one more year. Therefore, our ACWC Taiwan member, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) continually supported Rev. Dominica, the ecumenical accompanier through the ACWC as the channel, to continue to assist the KCCWD and the Kampuchea Christian Women one more year (2006).

3. The mission in East Timor. After a 2-year preparation, through the effort of the CCA, the missionary, Rev. Dominica will be sent to East Timor for 2 years. After 2 years, the CCA and the ACWC will have an evaluation for continuing the mission in East Timor or not. If the conclusion is positive, the ACWC will take care of the program from 2009.

## 4. The scholarship

Education is the only hope for the girls in poor countries. That is why the ACWC has tried our best to maintain the program even though we face the tight financial situation. It is hard to say no to the applicants. The amount they request is not a big amount. But they rely on the "small" amount for their tuition and accommodation. The total amount was 2,827.00 USD. But the ACWC only had 529.00 USD to be divided amongst the scholars. Then, should we be based on our limited budget to say no to these girls? No, we cannot say no. We have to try our best to collect the resources to fit the need. We appreciate that the applicants are financed by the local churches of the PCT (Presbyterian Church in Taiwan) and the GBGM which supports the amount needed to balance the scholarship.

## **Conclusion: Face Our Challenges Together**

Finally, thank you for giving me the chance to revise the ACWC activities, missions, programs and the future here. To be honest with you, the Australia Church Women always play an important role in the past and current history of the ACWC. Besides the advantage of language and financial situation, from many aspects we can find that:

1. Australia is a Christian country and your faith is mature. People expect to receive more messages from Australia.
2. From our ecumenical experiences, our Australian sisters and brothers are more friendly and liberal to people than other western countries. You have the open minds to listen to others. Therefore people would like to work together with Australia.
3. Australian Christians are happy to share their resources with others. From my working experiences, I have visited many countries and I can find the Australian missionaries' footmarks in many countries which need help. For example, the post-

tsunami projects in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, East Timor and Mongolia. Like the subject of the 2007 ACW Conference, "Sharing the Loaf". It has witnessed the teaching of the Bible-- 1 Corinthians 10: 17, "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

We--the Australian sisters and all of ACWC members-- are sharing the same loaf of faith. Our relationship is not only to maintain the relationship of the big ACWC family, but to enlarge the kingdom of heaven in the world.

May God's blessing and love be with every woman.

Your sister in Christ,

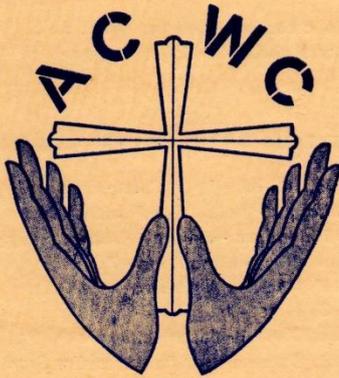
***Shu-Wen Chiang,***

The Executive Secretary of the ACWC

**The ACWC Secretariat Office**

3, Lane 269, Roosevelt Road, Sec. 3, Taipei, 106 TAIWAN  
Tel: 886-2-2366-0775/Fax: 886-2-2369-9274/acwc@seed.net.tw

ASIAN  
CHURCH WOMEN'S  
CONFERENCE



1979-82

**ACWC EMBLEM**

The ACWC Emblem on the front cover is designed by the Hong Kong delegation to the Sixth Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference, held at Tozanso YMCA Retreat Centre in Gotemba, Japan, Oct. 9-14, 1978.

The hands uplifted in prayer and offering to God indicate the efforts of Asian Church Women for programmes of development throughout Asia.

The cross is the central point which binds the Asian Christian Women together.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1979-1982**

**Mrs. G. M. Santos** - Philippines - *President*  
**Mrs. A. Loyall** - India - *Vice-President*  
**Mrs. G. Rajendran** - Malaysia - *Assembly Secy.*  
**Mrs. Jean Chen** - Hong Kong - *Treasurer*  
**Mrs. R. H. Cocks** - Australia - *Member*  
**Mrs. C. S. Engel** - Indonesia - *Member*  
**Miss Hana Kawai** - Japan - *Member*  
**Mrs. S. R. Solomon** - India - *Executive Secy.*

**PRESENT OFFICE :**

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
6, Rajpur Road,  
Delhi-110054.  
India.

## **A CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP**

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

With the discovery of New Asian selfhood, there was an urge for ecumenical fellowship among the Asian Church Women, and a longing to share their experiences of work and witness with each other's encouragement and assistance in leadership development compelled the Asian Church Women to come together in Hong Kong in October 1958. Thus the Asian Church Women's Conference came into being and was formally inaugurated. The year 1978 marked the twentieth anniversary of the ACWC.

### **ACWC Seeks :**

To demonstrate God's love in all areas of life by growth in Christian faith and responsibility through study, prayer, service and ecumenical action, also to declare our oneness with all Christians everywhere.

### **PROGRAMME CONCERNS for 1978-1982**

1. Emphasis on the growth and development of Children.
2. Promotion of the Fellowship of the Least Coin as a continuing Project. Preparations for its Silver Jubilee in October 1980.

3. Leadership Training at National and Local Level.
4. Programme of Self-awareness.
5. To continue to explore the place and extent of involvement of Theological Trained Women in the total Life and Mission of the Church.
6. Development of Rural Women.
7. Community of Men and Women in Church and Society.

## **WORKING TOGETHER**

The ACWC normally meets in Assembly once every four years. Representatives from national ecumenical Women's Council of each member country come together for a time of fellowship and to work out the priorities of Programme for the following quadrennium.

The General Committee is composed of 23 members representing all member countries. It is the policy making body and usually meets before and after the Assembly. The four officers and three other members elected by the General Committee from among its members form the Executive Committee, which meets once annually to put the Assembly Statement into action oriented programme.

A full time Executive Secretary is responsible for promotion and follow up programme.

## CURRENT PUBLICATIONS



1. *First Four Years of International Women's Decade. (1975-78).*

It is a report of ACWC activities during the period 1975-78.

2. *Circle of Prayer Volume Seven.*

This is a book of devotional thoughts and prayers contributed by women of different countries for use when giving offerings to the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

3. *The Fellowship of the Least Coin.*

It gives detail information of :

- a. What is Fellowship of the Least Coin ?
- b. Detail Account of Projects that were helped by a grant from FLC Fund during the quadrennium 1975-78.

4. *Voices of Women.*

An Asian Anthology.

5. *A Quarterly News Bulletin.*

Annual Subscription

US \$ 2.00

**ASIAN  
CHURCH WOMEN'S  
CONFERENCE**



**1983-1986**

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1983-86**

*Ms. B. Julkiree - Thailand - President*  
*Mrs S. Samuel - Pakistan - Vice-President*  
*Mrs E. Findlay - New Zealand - Assembly Secy.*  
*Mrs P. Wee - Singapore - Treasurer*  
*Mrs O. Ackland - Australia - Member*  
*Mrs M. Michael - India - Member*  
*Mrs G. Rajendran - Malaysia - Member*  
*Mrs E. Kim - Korea - Executive Secy.*

**PRESENT OFFICE :**

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

91-175 Shin Soo Dong,  
Mapo Ku, Seoul 121  
Korea

Tel: 715-4684

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4. *Voices of Women.*

An Asian Anthology. I and II

5. *The Asian Church Woman*

A Quartely News Bulletin

## PROGRAMS

### 1. Christian Education and Nurture

Its foremost task is to equip women in the wholistic development rooted in values of Asian heritage and proclaimed by the Good News of Jesus Christ. It involves two major areas of work: 1) Clerical and Laity formation, 2) Literature Development.

The clerical ministry provides ordained and theologically trained women continuing theological education for a firm grounding in theology and the scriptures with the end view that there is no end to learning and growth.

The literature program aims to undergird and assist all program concerns with printed study, liturgical and program guides whenever needed.

### 2. The Christian Witness and Service

The Christian Witness and Service cluster as a program represents the "Faith Actualizing" component of which the main focus is the translation of faith into action. It is focused on the response of women to the demands of existing social realities and vast challenges towards the building of a just and humane society and fulfillment of God's kingdom.

#### Program objectives:

1. to maximize the participation of women in raising the consciousness of the general public on the global and national issues on women, ecology and environment.
2. to organize local and national ecumenical women for participation for wider efforts towards socio-economic development.

3. to formulate and implement programs that are addressed to the needs and problems of peasant, tribal and migrant women.
4. to facilitate services for victims of human rights violation in cooperation with both government and non-government organizations.
5. to engage and initiate interfaith dialogue - especially among the tribal groups for mutuality of mission.

#### Strategies of Implementation

1. Ecology and environment concern
2. Health
3. Socio-economic projects
4. Justice, peace and human rights program
5. Migrant worker program
6. Interfaith dialogue - Muslim and tribal groups

### 3. Christian Stewardship and Resource Development

#### Program objectives:

1. to establish linkages with ecumenical and non-government bodies for promotion of ACWC program.
2. to strengthen the organizational capacity of the ACWC by acquiring material resources for social and economic productivity
3. to conduct research and documentation for history purposes.

#### Implementation Strategies:

1. Finance and Resource Generation
2. Research, Communication and Publication
3. Ecumenical and other Non-Governmental Partnership Relations



The

## ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



### Historical Background

The Asian Church Women's Conference was envisioned in 1956 when women leaders from Asia attended an assembly together with other women from Africa, Europe and Latin America in Purdue University, Stony Point, New York, U.S.A. During the assembly the Asian women were empowered by the experiences shared with them and were challenged to respond to be in solidarity with their Asian sisters.

In November 1958, an ecumenical fellowship among Asian women leaders gathered in Hong Kong to launch a program on women's issues and what they can do to promote emancipation and dignity, ecumenism and mutual respect in a world of diversity.

At present, the Asian Church Women's Conference has a membership of 16 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

### Our Vision

The Asian Church Women's Conference envisions itself as a full partner with individuals and organizations that are dedicated to the enabling of women and the whole of humankind in the struggle towards the creation of a society where there is more meaningful peace, justice and love.

As an organization, ACWC envisions Asian women in unity become more capable of discovering themselves, and realizing their gifts

and potentials, they contribute more forceful and sustained efforts towards the development of a stronger family and community, rooted in faith and sustained by the Holy Spirit so that Shalom may finally be attained.

As an advocate of women's rights and welfare, ACWC sees itself working beyond the boundaries of culture and creed, color and race so that stronger regional networks of women leaders and organizations may emerge that together and in unity recognize in action their role and responsibility in the family, the society and the Church.

### Mission Statement

Women in the process of becoming, even in unity and togetherness, need the sincere support and affirmation of the entire society. Christ is in the center of all efforts and programs as the Asian Church Women's Conference seeks avenues to help lead women in the journey from brokenness towards wholeness and genuine dignity.

Women in partnership through Christ shall endeavor to help restore the dignity of the marginalized, the oppressed and the discriminated by building models and exemplars among themselves whom they can follow in their struggle towards a better quality of life and living.

The Asian woman, like her sisters the world over, has a special gift that enables her to touch and inspire others in the work and mission of the Christian church. All of us are the principal beneficiaries of God's creation and therefore we must become more aware and faithful stewards of the ecological balance in the environment,

and more importantly, of a societal environment where there is loving concern for our neighbours.

### We Believe

that Creation is the Lord's; we will take decisive action which leads to the healing process of preserving God's creation.

that all peoples are created by God; we will serve all peoples with special care for the disadvantaged, the lonely, the elderly, the disabled, the orphans.

that the family is God's ordained; we as members commit ourselves to promote family values.

that women in partnership through Christ shall endeavor to restore the dignity of the marginalized, the oppressed and the disadvantaged irrespective of culture color and race and work towards liberation.

that partnership is to be in solidarity with the Church to be emptied as exemplified in the life of Christ.



## THE COUNTRIES OF THE ACWC FAMILY

(Listed in Alphabetical Order)



1. Australia
2. Bangladesh
3. Myanmar (Burma)
4. Hong Kong
5. India
6. Indonesia
7. Japan
8. Korea
9. Malaysia
10. Nepal
11. New Zealand
12. Pakistan
13. Philippines
14. Singapore
15. Sri Lanka
16. Taiwan
17. Thailand



# PARTNERS



## ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

### HOW A C W C BEGAN:

Asian Church Women's Conference began in 1958 when women from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America were invited to attend the Presbyterian Church Women's Assembly in the United States of America.

The women from Asia felt a need to share their experiences, and a longing for one another's encouragement and assistance in leadership development, and opportunities to come together in ecumenical fellowship.

Their first Assembly was in Hong Kong in 1958, and thus the Asian Church Women's Conference was inaugurated.

### THE A C W C EMBLEM:

The Emblem was designed in 1978 by women from Hong Kong.



The hands uplifted in prayer and offering to God indicate the efforts of Asian Church Women for programs of development throughout Asia.

The cross is the central point which binds the Asian women together.

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - 'PARTNERS' WITH

## ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (ACW), together with other member countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC), has a financial commitment to assist with the administration and implementing of ACWC programs. Nationally, we are committed to a target of \$5000 each year of which \$500 is met by the New South Wales State Unit. To share in meeting this commitment, you are invited to become an ACWC "PARTNER."

The partnership fee is \$1.00 each year, which we invite you to pay through your Branch Treasurer, who will forward total partnership monies from your Branch, or you can send you fee direct to:

ACW State Treasurer:

Mrs. Marie Majoor  
521 Mowbray Road,  
LANE COVE 2066

