

NEWSETTE

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

A.C.W. seeks: To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

President: Mrs. Glad West.

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No. 4 Registered for posting as a publication, Category "A" August, 1980.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

"Christ and Womanhood"

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond or free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal.3:28).

Christ came into a world where women were not considered equal with men, and in some countries things have not changed. However, Jesus treated women as friends and many became faithful followers, freed to carry out a loving, caring ministry towards the Lord and His disciples as they travelled throughout the land. Today we know that wherever the Cross of Christ goes, the standard of womanhood rises.

We must be thankful for the freedom in our country today, but even more important is the personal freedom we have in Christ, Who redeemed us to Himself. Jesus said, "If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

What then is the verse in Glatians saying to us? If left in its right context, we find that - in the needs of salvation - in the life of prayer - and in the living relationships to Christ, there is no difference between man and woman. Give thanks, therefore, that in His sight you are equal with all others and it is not your sex or your position that is important.

While recognising our equality, we must also realise that God created woman with very special role to play and He knows her emotional make up and her needs. Where women try to take a place of complete physical equality with men, they seldom find real happiness, so let us seek after His purpose for us as women and carry it out to the best of our ability.

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Events attended by President or Executive Members:

- April 18 A.B.M. Women's Auxiliary Service of Holy Communion and 70th Anniversary Luncheon, St. Paul's Burwood. President, Secretary
- April 18 Home League Women's Rally "Centenary Celebration," Sydney Town Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Commissioner K. Ward. President, Deaconess M. Andrews, Mrs. Lt.Co.E. Baker, Brig. M. Ward.
- April 21 Christian Unity Service, St. Mary's Concord, Luncheon. Speaker: Mrs. M. McCann. Topic: "A.C.W."
- June 1 Ecumenical Worship Service, St. Andrew's Cathedral. Speaker: Canon Barrington Ward; Topic: "Your Kingdom Come." Secretary Deaconess M. Andrews, Mrs. M. McCann.
- June 13 Caringbah - Sutherland Shire Branch Formation. President, Secretary, Mrs. G. Bent.
- June 20 Penrith, Christian Unity Group. Speaker: Mrs. M. McCann, Topic: "A.C.W."
- July 22 Formation of Branch at Seven Hills, Inaugural Meeting. President, Secretary, Lt. Col. E. Baker.

FELLOWSHIP DAY - JULY, 1980.

Meetings were held by the following Branches, reports of which we hope to give in due course.

Bankstown - at the Uniting Church; Chatswood/Willoughby - at St. Stephens, Willoughby;
City - at the Welsh Presbyterian Church; Epping - at St. Marks Lutheran
Cronulla/Caringbah/Miranda - at Church of Christ, Caringbah;
Lane Cove/Longueville - at Chatswood South Uniting Church;
Northbridge - at St. Marks Anglican; North Ryde - at Cox's Rd. Uniting Ch,
Parramatta - at St. Peters Uniting Church;
Strathfield/Homebush - at Strathfield Uniting Church;
Turramurra/Wahroonga - at North Turramurra Church of Christ.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY - 1980.

We have advance notice of the following meetings:

Chatswood/Willoughby - October 27 at R.C. Church, Chatswood;
Epping - October 31 at Beecroft Presbyterian Church.

The Annual Meeting and election of officers of A.C.W., N.S.W. Unit, took place in April. The following are the office bearers for 1980/81:-

President: Mrs. G. West; Past President: Mrs. M. McCann;
Secretary: Mrs. D. Woodhouse; Membership Secretary: Miss E. Blackwell;
Treasurer: Miss D. Mitchell; Acting Treasurer until October.
 Mrs. H. Stevens.

COMMITTEES:

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Mrs. G. Bent (Convenor).

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Deaconess M. Andrews (Convenor); Mrs. M. Stanhope, Mrs. L. King.

Promotions: Mrs. Lt. Col. E. Baker (Convenor), Mesdames M. Baker, A. Green, O. Lean, M. McCann, L. Pickering, E. Ridley, Brig. R. Smith, Brig. M. Ward, Major J. Venables (office bearer seex officio).

Publicity: Brig. M. Ward.

Representatives to organizations with which we are affiliated:

National Council of Women in N.S.W.: Mrs. G. West, Mrs. M. McCann;
Women's World Day of Prayer Committee: Miss E. Blackwell, Mesdames E. Grant, O. Lean, E. Ridley, Brig. R. Smith;
N.S.W. Council for Children's Films and T.V.: Mrs. M. McCann;
Fraternal Representative to the Australian Council of Churches,
N.S.W. State Council: Mrs. J. McCann

New Representatives to Council from organisations which are affiliated with us:

Women's Christian Temperance Union: Miss A. Lock, Mrs. A. Oliver;
Young Women's Christian Association: Miss M. Gutherie has joined ongoing representative Mrs. M. Vickery;

President's Message (contd.)

Freedom brings great responsibility. I'm sure each of us has a distinctive witness and a special contribution to make. It may be within our Branches, throughout our districts and within our respective Church families.

In our topsy-turvy society, Christian women may well be a stabilizing factor today, so exercise your gifts with wisdom and love and the Lord will bless you each one.

With Christian greetings,

GLAD WEST
President.

STATE UNIT NEWS.

New Representatives to Council are:

Presbyterian Church: Mesdames C. Groat, B. Gunmow and H. Clements
Churches of Christ: Mrs. B. Broady.

We are pleased that all seven denominations are represented in full strength, eight members each, on our State Unit Council. The Promotions Committee reports new branches are coming into existence in both city and country. The Audio-Visual made this year has been well received as a medium of information at Lambton, Caringbah, Penrith, Lindfield and Seven Hills.

An honour and a responsibility has been given to Mrs. Heather Stevens, our Acting Treasurer, in being appointed by the Government to represent Australia at the non-Governmental Organisations forum for the mid-point of the United Nations Decade for Women World Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Conference took place July 14 - 24. We look forward to hearing a report.

At our June Council meeting three ladies were appointed to a committee to co-ordinate the thinking of the various denominational women's groups in matters of Social Responsibility. They are Mesdames Marie McCann, Heather Stevens and D. Hulme-Moir. We await reports from them in due course.

We welcome back to our Council Meeting on August 18, the five N.S.W. women who attended the Ecumenical Assembly in Los Angeles, U.S.A. and anticipate an interesting report that day.

The inspiring Service of Thanksgiving and the Installation of our new President, Mrs. Gladys West, took place on May 26 at the Northside Baptist Church. We thank the State Fellowship and local Baptist ladies for their assistance on this occasion. We wish Glad the very best for her two-year term of office.

The Annual Newsletter with reports was available at the May Service. Anyone not receiving it and desirous of doing so should contact the Secretary, Mrs. D. Woodhouse, 86 Fullers Road, Chatswood 2067.

PERSONAL PARS.

Mrs. Colonel Florence Peterson is assured of our prayerful sympathy owing to the Passing of her husband, the late Colonel Gordon Peterson.

Mrs. Olwen Lean and Miss Doris Mitchell were privileged to attend the Passion Play at Oberammergau and were very moved by it.

Mrs. Lucelle King attended the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Toronto, Canada, during July.

"Women in the Bible."

Sister Barbara Hutchinson, a Franciscan Missionary of Mary, from Point Piper, gave a most interesting and stimulating address on this topic at the June Council Meeting. The scholarly presentation and skilful analysis of the role of women in the Old and New Testament, pointed to the fact that the legal and social status of women were particularly congruent.

Many stories carried a deeper meaning of truth; the good woman was a gift from God. She personified Wisdom, that is, God present in creation, a reflection of the God Who cares, e.g., God cared about Hannah when she felt outcast but displayed her faith, after which she was abundantly blessed.

Men and women were created in the image and likeness of God and were made to relate in unity, which is the image of God. Jesus was Wisdom Incarnate, entirely devoted to the welfare of mankind and the poor and suffering in particular. His death was the point of the new Creation.

A study of women in the Bible helps God's woman of today to be aware of the importance of her role in God's plan for all humanity.

- reported by Marie McCann

Leadership Training.

The W.C.T.U. sponsored Rev. Gordon Moyes, of Wesley Central Mission, to instruct women in the skills necessary to speak before a hostile audience. His valuable advice is summarised:

1. Know your subject and the facts.
2. Bring your emotion and personal feeling into what you say.
3. Always assume the audience is friendly - speak as person to person.
4. Never apologise for the trivial.
5. Deal with interjections later or ignore.
6. Stand and deliver - make it definite.
7. If there is a microphone use it. Speak beyond it.
8. Rate of speech for large groups is slow.
9. Use notes - K.I.S.S. (Keep it simple, stupid!) Keep concepts clear.
10. Make your presentation slow and clear. Conclude with directions for action.

- reported by Marie McCann

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - N.S.W. STATE COUNCIL.

A report from Mrs. Joan Curtin, our Fraternal representative to the above Council:

"I have enjoyed the meetings and gatherings I have attended on behalf of A.C.W. Rev. Bern Stevens, Executive Secretary, is an energetic, selfless and enthusiastic force within the Council. Mrs. Dorothy McMahon, Associate Secretary, is diminishing her work within the Council to pursue divinity studies.

"During 1979 many interesting people passed through Sydney and the Council afforded an opportunity to many to meet them. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Alan Brash, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand, was invited to Australia at the time of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. He has been a worker in the international service to the ecumenical movement for 14 years. Dr. Karoly Toth, a Bishop of the Hungarian Reformed Church, was also here as President of the Christian Peace Conference.

"Eight programmes were broadcast on the A.B.C. during March this year, based on the theme, "Your Kingdom Come" series of studies.

"At the Annual Meeting of the Council in March reports were received. Forty delegates from the W.C.C. Conference in Melbourne will visit Sydney and country parishes; and in Sydney an Ecumenical Rally is planned. Many of the member churches' missionary bodies will participate. One World Week is being planned for the last week in September when the focus will be on development issues."

ECUMENICAL SUMMER SCHOOL.

Mrs. Curtin reports that this event has taken place in Melbourne for the past seven years with all denominations represented. The theme was "Mission," chosen as a prelude to the W.C.C. Conference.

One speaker, Mr. Peter Thomas of Melbourne, put forward a new idea to help people understand the message of salvation and redemption. He spoke of the Australian eagerness to support the underdog, the one who is considered to be receiving a raw deal. The presentation of Jesus, as "the Suffering Servant" could appeal to the Australian mentality. Recognising the One sent on a Mission, going about doing good, persecuted, incurring the enmity of the ruling classes, who saw his conduct and preaching as a condemnation of theirs, inevitably set on a collision course, which ended with His death.

How appealing to sympathise when Jesus was downtrodden and misunderstood, and how easy to see that He achieved the ultimate for us as was proved by the Resurrection.

A Report from Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse

It was my privilege to hear a number of the delegates to the Melbourne Mission and Evangelism Conference of the W.C.C. speaking in various areas of Sydney,

Mrs. Gopal Ratnam from United Church of South India, President of the Council of Churches and the Board of Vellore Hospital, and Rev. Bernard Spong of the United Congregational Church of South Africa spoke of their countries at a gathering at the Australian Council of Churches.

During the Conference many of the overseas delegates flew for the weekend to many centres to share with those who had studied the book "Your Kingdom Come," which was the theme of the Conference. Lane Cove study group invited two delegates, Rev. Mervyn Assur, a coloured South African Lutheran, whose ideas differed from those of Finland's Eastern Orthodox Monk, Father Ambrosius. This proved a stimulating day!

An invitation to the Y.W.C.A. on the Sunday preceding the Conference enabled some of us to hear the World President of the "Y" from the Carribean, Dr. Nita Barrow, during her brief time in Sydney. This was informative of the wider world scene.

At Chatswood, Swiss scholar, Prof. Arnold Bittlinger, a consultant to the Melbourne Conference spoke in simple terms to an interested audience, while at the A.C.C., Dr. Kosan Sprinang from the Commission of the W.C.C., participation in development, spoke of his country, Thailand, as well as the World Council. These were some of the 600 who mostly came from overseas to the Conference.

A final challenge came from Canon Simon Barrington-Ward, British Secretary of the Church Missionary Society at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, on Sunday, June 1, when he spoke to a large congregation. All the mainstream churches and orthodox churches combined for this Mission and Evangelism Celebration and a display from the Mission Boards of the churches and the Bible Society was held in the lower Town Hall.

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On Wednesday, May 21, an inspiring Ecumenical Service was celebrated by the Administrator, Rev. Father W. Delaney, at the lovely church of St. Mary's, Concord. This had been requested by the Committee and members of Concord Catholic Women's League so that they could unite in prayer with the other Christian women in the area. Invitations were sent to the women of eighteen other churches. Mrs. Marie McCann was guest speaker and told the history and aims of Australian Church Women (N.S.W. Unit). Mrs. Eileen Barry with Mr. Frank Ward as accompanist entertained with song at the light luncheon service served by the Catholic Women's League, Concord.

- Reported by Mrs. L. Pickering.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

We congratulate Council Member, Mrs. Lorna Oates, on her election as President of the Mothers' Union, Anglican Church, Diocese of Sydney. Mrs. Oates, who also is first Vice-President of the National Mothers' Union, is succeeded as Secretary by Mrs. Gillian Garforth.

The Presbyterian Women's Association of N.S.W. also have a new President, Mrs. Helen Clements, whom we will welcome also as a new Council member.

At their Annual Meeting the Churches of Christ elected Mrs. Betty Broady as the new President, Mrs. Broady also becoming a Council member.

Mrs. Betty Checkley has been named President-elect of the Baptist Women's Fellowship of N.S.W., to take up office in September.

Congratulations to the Uniting Church in Australia on celebrating its 3rd Birthday on June 22!

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"NEWSETTE" is the official journal of the N.S.W. State Unit of A.C.W.

Subscription - \$2.00 per annum

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - DUE BEFORE NOVEMBER EDITION
Please post subscription with name, address and phone number to:-

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14 Daymar Place,
Castle Cove 2069

Contributions to Newsette are requested and should be sent to our Publicity Officer - Brigadier Mabel Ward, 10/3 Robertson Road, Bass Hill 2197.
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