

Australian Church Women

WOMEN AT WORK



SEEK: To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

To help Christian women to take more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church.

September, 1982.

Praying for Others Bible Reading John 17.

Throughout this year what beautiful times of prayer we have enjoyed as we shared together turning our minds and hearts to pray for our sisters in Burma. This has made me stop and give some thought to what it means to pray for others. To intercede on behalf of another, at the Throne of God.

I believe that when we pray for others, we exercise one of the most sacred aspects of the ministry of prayer to which we as Christians are called. When we intercede we become Bridge builders, between people in their need, and God the source of undeserved favour. We ask on behalf of others, often unknown to them, and plead their cause before God our Father.

How then should we handle this sacred trust?

It seems to me we should do so with hearts and minds set on first, finding the real needs, knowing what it is we seek to bring before the Lord. Secondly, as we gather this information, be sure that nothing of the situation is allowed to become gossip. It is also a good idea to make a list. When we take requests to God we ought to at least keep them in our minds. But more than that it helps us

to remember to say thank you, when our request has been answered.

Jesus in John 17. builds some wonderful bridges between His Disciples and His Father. Here Jesus intercedes on their behalf, and this prayer can become a real inspiration to us. When we take on the role of praying for others let us each remember, this is indeed a sacred trust to be done as unto the Lord.

Dawn Nibbs - President
Tasmanian Unit.

Information received from Audrey Sherwin
Publicity Officer - A.C.T. Unit.

"Hands across the Tasman"

The glow is just beginning to fade over Canberra after the visit last weekend of 24 New Zealand Church Women.

They flew to Brisbane on August 24th and then toured by coach the Queensland Coast and then into New South Wales visiting country towns on the way to Sydney. From there they drove to Canberra via Goulburn.

At 6 p.m. on Friday September 3rd a group of members and affiliates of A.C.W. - A.C.T. Unit waited in anticipation at Central Uniting Church. Two hours later the spirits and the temperature had sagged, but when the coach limped in the visitors were warmly welcomed by the President, Edith Ridge, and the relieved waiters. The tired travellers were whisked off to food and bed by their respective hosts and hostesses.

Saturday was spent seeing the highlights of the Nation's Capital. Canberra arranged an early spring showing of clouds of pink blossoms and spring bulbs, though the grass was brown.

By 8 p.m. when visitors and hosts and other interested Church members met at Reid Uniting Church for a social get-together, the room was full of greetings and banter. There is no better way to feel at home with a family than to share their bedrooms and queue for the bathroom.

The President persuaded those present to name the group they represented and exchange any interesting customs or innovations. Soon the contributions were coming from all directions and the camaraderie already established developed. The New Zealanders proved to have birthplaces ranging from the Shetland Islands to Texas, and their churches from Anglican and Assembly of God, to Presbyterian and Roman Catholic. By the end of the evening, pages of notes had been taken of names and addresses and the last word heard was "You won't forget to phone my Cousin Jenny?"

Sunday morning most of the visitors accompanied their hosts to their own church. After lunch they and their new friends exchanged heart-felt good wishes and the coach pulled off - a half hour early so that they could go to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and see Kangaroos "in the wild".

Next overnight stop was at Cooma, at the gateway to the Snowy Mountains, then to Holbrook "because they wanted us" and on to Melbourne two days before flying back to Auckland - glassy-eyed with fatigue but brimming with experiences crammed into nineteen days.

We in Canberra are very much richer for this flying visit. It has been a most satisfying ecumenical as well as international exchange.

The following are extracts taken from a letter from Mrs. Jessie Dennis, Queensland Unit.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR

We are enjoying being hostess to the delightful young woman from Fiji, our Winifred Kiek Scholar, who is studying at Alcorn College. Sala is highly esteemed at the College and is doing well in her studies. She attended one of our A.C.W. meetings and liked her. A tour of North Coast towns has been a highlight of her year. She visited and spoke at Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Mackay, in each town she was appreciated. We were disappointed that she could not take part in the Fellowship Day Service, but instead she went on a tour to Blackall and the mining town of Dysart - all concerned with

field work. We hope to have further opportunities of her company.

FELLOWSHIP DAY

Several services were held in Brisbane, including a new venue - the Garden Settlement at Chermside. This was organised by Mrs. Margaret Reid, a former President of our Unit and longstanding member, who now lives at the Settlement. All agreed that it was a splendid Order of Service and The Salvation Army Women responsible for preparing it are to be congratulated.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting and election of Office Bearers, held in July resulted in Mrs. Val Clarke, Anglican, accepting the position of President. Mrs. Major Greentree was warmly thanked for having so graciously filled the position just vacated.

PROFILES

Profile of those elected as delegates and observers to attend A.C.W.C. Conference in Bali - 16 - 20th October 1982.

OLIVE ACKLAND

On National Working Committee of Australian Church Women -
Convener for Special Days
Also held position of Secretary, President, of Australian Church Women, Victoria Unit.
Representing Uniting Church on A.C.W. Victoria Unit and Victorian Council of Churches.
Member of Assembly Outreach Committee of Uniting Church Fellowship.
Convener, Fawkner Merlynston Inter-Church Women's Fellowship
Elder of Merlynston Uniting Church
Volunteer Worker at Coburg Citizen's Advice Bureau, also Treasurer Home Tutor.
Australian Representative elect for A.C.W.C.

STOP PRESS - Please note! National Committee Meeting - MELBOURNE
16 - 19th August, 1983.

MRS. VERA WILSON

Prior to union, Vera was President of the Presbyterian Women's Association in Western Australia and was involved in planning for women in the Uniting Church.

Has also been an active member of the W.A. Council of Churches and represented the Presbyterian Church at the Australian Council of Churches meetings when they were held in Brisbane.

Is a voluntary worker for Mental Health and at present works for the Christian Welfare Centre.

Held the position of F.L.C. Convener when the National Working Committee was held in Western Australia.

At present, Special Days Convener.

MRS. BERNICE MASON

Bernice was brought up by the staff at Norseman Mission in the Western Australia goldfield area.

She is married to Ben Mason who is the National Evangelist for the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. They have three beautiful and talented daughters and two sons.

Bernice plays the piano and accordion and sings with two of her daughters. She has, for several years, managed the catering for the annual A.E.F. Convention at Pt. Augusta.

In addition to running her home, managing her family during Ben's frequent and lengthy trips interstate, she has also been involved in running an Aboriginal Hostel in Adelaide.

MRS. LYNETTE GREEN

Has been an Officer of The Salvation Army for 15 years. Was President of A.C.W. Tasmania Unit.

Has been President of Church Women's Groups throughout Western Victoria Melbourne, Launceston and Hobart.

Co-opted member of National Working Committee of A.C.W.

Third generation Salvation Army Officer (Captain).

Promotion Convener for A.C.W. Tasmania Unit at present time.

MRS. DI JOHNSON

Married with two children. Living at Nungalinga College, Darwin, which is an Aboriginal Resource and Training Centre. Mature Age Student at Darwin Community College, doing an Associate Diploma of Ceramics Course. Is an active worker in A.C.W. Darwin.

OBSERVERS

MRS. MARIE McCANN

Member of Newman Society and State Executive of National Catholic Girls Movement. Worked as Secondary School Teacher at Beaufort and Preston High School. Worked as a Catechist Scripture Teacher at Chatswood High for last 16 years, was President of Loreto Kirribilli P. & F. Club Correspondent of Sydney Inner Wheel, Treasurer of Chatswood Catholic Women's League Night Group, President of N.S.W. Council for Children's Films and Television, a Director of the Board of the Board of the Catholic Weekly, Convener for Promotions, N.S.W. Unit and Past President of this Unit. Attended F.L.C. Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Manila.

MRS. BARBARA GREALY

Has been a member of the Executive of A.C.W. South Australia Unit since early 1973 and for five years F.L.C. Convener. Was an observer for the Catholic Women's League at the National Committee Meeting held in Adelaide. Represented the Catholic Women's League Australia at the National Committee Meetings in Adelaide, Perth, and an observer in Sydney. Was Treasurer of the Committee of 4 South Australians who arranged the first Australian Consultation of Theologically Trained Women, under the auspices of the Asian Church Women Conferences in Adelaide - 1978. Was one of the Australian delegation to the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of F.L.C. in Manila. International Secretary for C.W.L. Australia to the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (W.U.C.W.O.)

MRS. JAN EASTHER

State Treasurer and later State Secretary A.C.W. Tasmanian Unit.
Registered nurse - Midwife Certificate.
Member of Mothers Union (Vice President), Inner Wheel, Penguin Club,
Anglican Women's Fellowship, National Council of Women (Convener for
International Relations and Peace) Married with 4 children.

LEADER OF COMMISSION ON STRATEGIES AND RESOURCE FOR PEACE

MRS. DOROTHY McMAHON

Full time Theological student and expects to have completed the
requirements for ordination into the Ministry of the Uniting Church
by November 1982.

Positions held in Church: Assembly Commission for Ecumenical Affairs,
Synod Standing Committee for N.S.W.

Is a member of the A.C.C. National Executive.

Was the Australian representative on the General Committee of the
Christian Conference of Asia- attended Sixth Assembly in Bangalore,
India. Co-chaired the first Asia Women's Forum in Penang.

In the area of peace issues:

Was a member of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Was President of 'Mothers and Others for Peace' and edited its
Newsletter. Attended a Conference on "A Woman's Role in Peace
Education" organised jointly by the World Council of Churches and the
Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace, which was held in Nicosia,
Cyprus.

THE PRICE OF PEACE

One World Week, September 26th - October 3rd, provides an opportunity
for all Australian Christians to focus attention on our responsibility
as members of the world community. In the coming years you are
invited to focus your program on the theme "The Price of Peace".

PERSONALITY

The new Secretary of the Victorian Council of Churches, Sister Mary

Leonora Moorhead, belongs to the Order of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She holds a Theology Degree, and almost finished an Arts Degree and before joining the Order qualified as a nurse and teacher. She has been teaching in Brisbane and will take up her position early next year. The job has brought her back to live at Sacre Coeur, the school where she spent her childhood. Even the gardener and some of the nuns who knew her as a child are still there. Sister Mary Lou is refreshingly candid, and never gives expedient answers. She hopes that having a position of authority might help to change attitudes about the role of women in her own church.

HELP GIVEN BY AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1. VOLUNTEER MEDICAL TEAM TO LEBANON

Two doctors and eight nurses have gone to Lebanon to join an international relief effort assisting the victims of war in Lebanon.

The team joins other skilled medical recruits from Europe and North America and, after arrival in Lebanon, will be placed in hospitals arranged by a special medical co-ordinating group established by the Middle East Council of Churches in conjunction with World Council of Churches.

This is part of a US \$3 million emergency relief programme being undertaken by the World Council of Churches.

The Australian team is one of the largest groups sent and the cost to the Australian Council of Churches is \$25,000. Donations, which are tax deductible, can be sent to Australian Council of Churches, 199 Clarence Street, Sydney, or to State Councils of Churches.

2. VICTIMS OF INDONESIAN VOLCANO ERUPTION

The Australian Council of Churches has sent a message of concern and a gift of \$2000 to the Indonesian Council of Churches for the victims of the recent Mt. Galunggung eruptions in West Java. Donations to assist the victims can be sent to the A.C.C:

FAMILIES IN AUSTRALIA - NATIONAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

In Melbourne Sept. 18-21 a Conference on Families in Australia will discuss questions such as "What is a healthy family?". "Why are so many families breaking up?". "How can the Church help families to Change?". An ecumenical line up of speakers and over twenty workshops on a variety of subjects and issues about families are planned. Organised by Australian Council of Churches.

Rita Callander - Convener - Women at Work - Phone 489 7512.