

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.
Turning Darkness into Light

23rd NATIONAL CONFERENCE

10 - 14 October 2011

Immanuel College

Novar Gardens SA

Australian Church Women National Conference Adelaide 2011 was held at Immanuel College, Novar Gardens.



Accommodation was comfortable, meals excellent, and the college gardens displayed some beautiful flowers, especially roses, and lovely trees.



ACW NSW Inc was represented by Isabel Hewitt, Lyn Middleton, Lillian Hodges, Pamela Freeman, Brenda Dickinson, Helen Richardson, Helen Hill, Nola Dickson, Loraine Hughes, and Marie McCann.

Renewing friendships and making new friends has to be a highlight of such gatherings, and this conference was no exception. *Turning Darkness into Light* was the theme of the South Australian National Executive, providing the focus for the Ecumenical Service and devotions. My recollection of Father Anthony Kain who was the speaker at the Ecumenical Service is that darkness is not necessarily a negative thing, but rather something that can be useful if used wisely. We don't need to dispel all darkness, but we must not let it overcome us. Some of the devotions led by State Units explored this concept in a helpful way.



In a short thanksgiving service, members of ACW who died in the last two years were remembered. Acknowledgment was also made of those who have been accorded recognition in church and community, and thanks given for all.

Bible studies were based on Colossians. The Rev. Joan Riley, an Anglican priest in Adelaide, gave us a good grounding in the community at Colossae before delving into the text. She then looked at the current situation of refugees and related their plight to the situation in Colossae at the time Paul wrote. Her personal encounter with refugees has made her think hard about the current situation, and some personal stories from Conference participants pricked our consciences too.



Business sessions were rather tense at times. By bringing in 'experts' to talk about incorporation and insurance, National Executive helped many in attendance to understand how these issues affect us. We must meet the legal requirements of our day, and the ACW Constitution is a case in point. More work is needed to refine this document.

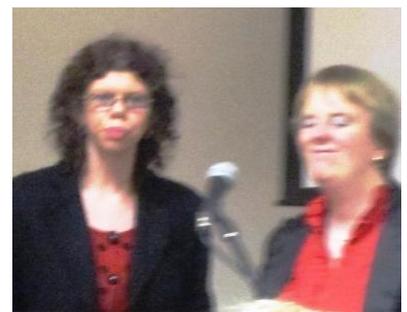
Reports were received from National Conveners, State and Territory Units, National Denominational bodies, and World Day of Prayer. Some of the stresses of finding and supporting Winifred Kiek scholars were given an airing, mainly because when National Conference is in Adelaide all the Trustees are able to attend. It is certainly instructive reading.



The new General Secretary of Asian Church Women's Conference, the Rev. Lee Moon Sook spoke at the conference. Since taking office the Asian region has been faced with crisis situations in a number of countries. From Australia Moon Sook was continuing to Lebanon to attend a meeting of the International Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin.



Hearing of *Tutti* one evening was truly enlightening. This organisation works with and for young people who have disabilities and whose ambition is to find employment in the performing and visual arts. Up to forty are undergoing full time professional training to equip them for a career, while others are



members of programs to enable them to perform in a range of concert and theatre events through a socially inclusive choral program. Two young women performed for us.

At Rostrevor College, a Christian Brothers boys' school, an Indigenous Sports Academy operates for students from Year 7 and at present has 43 students. The stated aim is to give a good all round education so that the boys will have the courage to walk in two cultures. Academic and practical subjects which prepare for business, commerce, art, engineering, building, conservation and land management are offered. A course appropriate to girls is under way at Loreto in Adelaide.



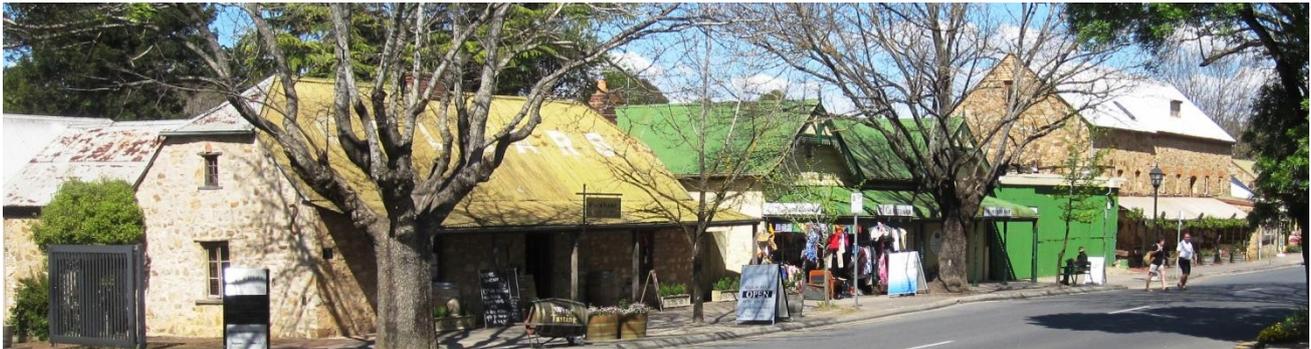
Four members of Conference, Donna Bryan (Vic, ACWC), Angela Devlin (ACT), Fran Moss (Qld) and Marion McCall (SA), formed a panel, and in a good humoured way gave an insight into their lives. Marion McCall is a real high-flyer and has her pilot's licence. It was informative and good fun.



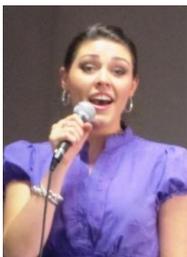
Continuing the fun theme, we shared our general ignorance at a trivia night.



A bus trip took us to the Colonel Light statue for a view over Adelaide city before visiting Hahndorf.



At the formal dinner a group of three – Mum and two daughters – sang for us.



Our Choice
is love



Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

We welcomed the incoming National Executive from Western Australia and wish them well, offering our support for the next two years, after which time we in NSW will be called to follow on. The theme is **Our Choice is Love**.

Isabel Hewitt

Your Light has come

Arise shine for your light has come:
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Behold darkness covers the earth:
and thick darkness is over the peoples.

But upon you the Lord shall rise:
and the glory of the Lord will appear upon you,.

Nations will come to your light:
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

No longer will violence be heard in your land:
nor ruin or destruction within your borders.

But you will call your walls 'Salvation':
and all your gates 'Praise'.

No more shall the sun be your light by day:
nor by night will you need the brightness of the moon.

For the Lord will be your everlasting light:
and your God will be your glory.

Isaiah 60:1-3,18,19.

O Christ the Light,
illuminate and cleanse the dark corners of the world,
where hang the cobwebs of apathy
and the dust of neglect.
Shine on faces made grim by poverty and war;
melt the icicles of despair,
and the hard frozen wastes of selfishness;
and let your searching rays
enclose the whole in one great radiance. **Amen.**

Delivered and made new in Christ, we pray:

Our Father ...

**Australian Church Women Inc
National Conference 2011**

**Adelaide SA
October 2011**

National Executive Devotions



Song: Christ Is the World's Light

Christ is the world's light,
Christ and none other;
born in our darkness,
He became our brother-
if we have seen Him,
we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's peace,
Christ and none other;
no one can serve Him,
and despise another.
Who else unites us,
one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's life,
Christ and none other;
sold once for silver,
murdered here, our brother-
He, who redeems us,
reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high!

Give God the glory,
God and none other;
give God the glory,
Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory,
God-with-us our brother:
Glory to God on high! *

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1968
MUSIC: Paris Antiphoner, 1681
TUNE: CHRISTE SANCTORUM

John 12:35; 36a; 44-46

Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.' After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. Then Jesus cried aloud: 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. *NRSV*

Hope

Hope, like a candle, lightens the darkness, Flickering,
fragile flame;
Hope, like a lantern, cancels the darkness, Always
remains the same.

Hope, like the sunrise, scatters the shadows,
Darkness resists in vain;
Nothing can crush it, nothing can kill it, Buried - it
lives again!

Christ is the candle; Christ is the lantern; Christ the
eternal flame;
Christ is the sunrise, scatt'ring our shadows; Christ is
the hope of men!

In Thanksgiving

We give acknowledge and give thanks for Australian Church Women members, who have received recognition for endeavours within the ACW, church and wider community.

ACT	Major Eileen Holly Mrs Cela Cooper	ACW ACT Unit Life Membership ACW ACT Unit Life Membership
NSW	Mrs Helen Hill Mrs Carmel Keys	OAM for service to Presbyterian Women Life Membership of Catholic Women's League Australia (NSW)
	Mrs Helen Richardson Mrs Joan Tong	Life Membership ACW (NSW Unit) Inc Life Membership ACW (NSW Unit) Inc
SA	Mrs Marion McCall Mrs Maureen Clark Mrs Shirley Birch	OAM for Service to Aviation Honorary Life Member CWL of SA Inc Certificate of Recognition of 25 years of service to ACW (SA Unit)
	Rev Nita West	Australian Government Volunteer teaching English in Thailand gratitude for assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development
WA	Mrs Joan Mann	Life Member United Nations Association of Australia (WA Division)

Honouring Australian Church Women

Sister Marie Craddock NSW Unit
Mrs Isabel Hewitt NSW Unit

Loving God, our Creator and friend, we thank you for our good life, for those who are dear to us, and for those who are at rest in you, who have found new peace and new life. We thank you for all who have helped and influenced us, for those whose contribution to church and the wider community has been recognised. We thank you for the measure of freedom we have, and the extent to which we control our lives; and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us, for our awareness of you and our hope in you. Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful and useful until our lives shall end, in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011



Thanksgiving Service



Monday 10 October 2011

They are not dead,
Who leave us this great heritage of remembering joy.

They still live in our hearts,
In the happiness we knew, in the dreams we shared.

They still breathe,
In the lingering fragrance, windblown, from their favourite flowers.

They still smile in the moonlight's silver,
And laugh in the sunlight's sparking gold.

They still speak in the echoes of the words we've heard them say again
and again.

They still move,
In the rhythm of waving grasses, in the dance of the tossing branches.

They are not dead;
Their memory is warm in our hearts, comfort in our sorrow.

They are not apart from us, but part of us,

For love is eternal,
And those we love shall be with us throughout all eternity.
Anon

Rose petals will be floated for each of the following members who has died since the last National Conference. We remember their lives, witness and work, especially to Australian Church Women over past years.

In Remembrance

ACT	Evonne Sullivan IS JP National Life member ACW Inc Merle Fitzpatrick
NSW	Deaconess Thora Thomas Mrs Ethell Wladysiuk

SA Mrs Alison Gent
Mrs Alice Saunders
Miss Margaret L Davey CBE
Major Ruby Peeke
Mrs Jean Middleton
Mrs Noreen Schahinger
Mrs Alder Hall

TAS Nan Geale
Joan Davis
Marie Price
Peg Lambert
Agatha Schouten

WA Marjorie Scurlock OAM

Philippians 1: 1-11

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. *NRSV*

APPRECIATION

The National Executive of Australian Church Women Inc thanks the following:

Immanuel College & Staff
Secretary of Leaders of Christian Churches SA

Speaker: Geraldine Hawkes
Rev. Fr. Anthony Kain
Parish Priest of the twinned parishes of Glenelg and Plympton
Facilitator - Office for Worship Adelaide Roman Catholic Archdiocese
Lecturer Sacramental Theology and Liturgy - Flinders University

Organist: John Slater
Pianist: Harry Matear
Soloist: Natalie Tate
Floral Arrangements: Kath Smith
Candles: The Norwood Salvation Army
Conference Banner: Valerie Hill and John McKeand

Mission of ACW Inc

Australian Church Women Inc seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Prayer Movement brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination. Christian women have solidarity through their common concern and love for humankind. Women of the world are bound together by giving of the 'least coins'.



8

ORGAN PRELUDE:

John Slater

CALL TO WORSHIP: 'Witness to the Light'

National Vice President Wanda McKeand

And darkness was upon the face of the deep,
Darkness – deep, black darkness!
And God said, "Let there be light!"
And there was light!
Light! Penetrating the darkness.
Light! Dispelling the darkness.
And God saw the light, and it was good.

Extract: Exploring Worship – Virginia Talmadge

SOLO: 'Candle of the Lord'

Natalie Tate

PROCESSIONAL / HYMN: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(Congregation please stand) (TIS 111)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
O my soul praise him, for he is your health and salvation.
Come all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends us.

Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, our best hopes confounding,
sheds forth his light, scatters the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Joachim Neander 1650-80
tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 and others

2

ECUMENICAL SERVICE



Immanuel Lutheran College Chapel

10 October 2011

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND:

National President Margaret Flint OAM

ECUMENICAL GREETING:

Geraldine Hawkes
Secretary of Leaders of Christian Churches SA

READING / RESPONSE:

'That we may have Light'
National Vice President Dorothy Ferrier

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge you as the Light of the World:
Lord, lead us from darkness to light.

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge you as the light to the nations:
Lord, help us to reflect the light of your love.

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge you as the true light from heaven:
Lord, let us always live in the light of your holiness.

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge you as the light that overcomes the darkness:
Lord, guide us and shine your light on our daily path.

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge you as the eternal light of our life.
We are your children of light.

Prayers for the People
Edited by Michael Perry with Patrick Goodland and Angela Griffiths
Published by Marshall Pickering

SCRIPTURE READING:

1 John 1:5-7 (NIV)
National Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor Maureen Clark

HYMN:

Be Thou my Vision
(TIS 547)

Be Thou my vision. O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

3

REFLECTION The Psalmist tells us to "rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him". In Isaiah we are told that "in quietness and trust is our strength". This is a reminder that prayer is two way communication. Let us pause for a moment for quiet reflection.

Let us pray together:

Lord, I want to hear with perception, to hear and understand.
Help me this day to be tuned in to you and others, to be the person you need me to be.
In Jesus' name I pray. AMEN

Final Prayer: "Made for Light"

In your presence, Holy Creator, we celebrate the knowledge that we are creatures who are made for light: solar light, starlight over Uluru, moonlight on rolling ocean waves, dawn light over city towers, sunlight on mountain ridges; Christ light: Bethlehem light, Galilee light, cross light and Easter light in churches, markets and our cemeteries: God light, true light, grace light, joy light, love light, most beautiful and everlasting kindly light.

Holy God, you have made us for yourself, and our light is darkness till we find our light in you.

Blessed is your name on earth and in heaven AMEN.

Bruce D.Prewer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jacinta Shailer sgs "Travelling Afar in Search of the Infinite" from *Wildflower Journey Prayers (2007)* p.9. Used with permission

Rita Snowden "In the Morning" from *A Woman's Book of Prayer (1968)* p.22

Bruce D. Prewer "Made for Light" from *Australian Prayers (revised edition 2002)* p.25. Used with permission of author.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIT
Tuesday Morning Devotions

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 103 verses 1-4 (from *Psalms Now*)

Hymn Holy Holy Holy TIS 132 Tune: Nicæa

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning to you our praise shall be;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore you,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before you,
God everlasting through eternity .

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide you,
Though the sinful human eye your glory may not see;
You alone are holy; there is none beside you,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name, in earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy: merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayer

Leader Praise to you, God of Creation
For you have created a world of wonder
For us to explore.
As we journey on each day
Bless us with deep joy and peace,
Accompany us, Companion God,
And free our road from harm and danger,
From resentment, anger and misunderstandings,
May the road ahead thrill us
With enchantment and adventure.

Reader 1 As each day unfolds,
May we take, as part of our daily life
A heart rapt in wonder
With which to rejoice in all we see,
As we open our eyes and ears to wonder,
May we take time to discern
The hidden meanings
Of the events of this journey-
of possible dead ends and dreary delays,
of possible wrong turnings and rainy days

Reader 2 Always aware of your cosmic Presence
And of your abiding love.
We shall rejoice in all that happens-
The surprise and sudden change,
The clash of plans and hopes.
This will give us courage and strength
To radiate life to Mother Earth,
To search the hidden treasures
Still unexplored in ourselves
And those we meet. AMEN

Jacinta Shailer,sgs

Scripture Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)

Prayer : Let us pray together

I am thankful, O God, for every reminder of your holy love, and your power, and your presence in this day to which I waken.

Nothing can happen without your knowledge;

Nothing can involve me in joy or sorrow without your care:

Nothing can tempt me beyond your power to keep me true;

Nothing in heaven or earth can destroy the peace

You give me which passes all understanding.

Let me not require of any other today a standard beyond that which I require of myself;

Let me be as wide eyed to others' good points as to my own;

Let me not ridicule anyone's stumbling efforts or take pleasure in anyone's failure;

Let me be as ready to excuse another's mistakes as I am to find excuses for my own;

Let me be as patient with others' lagging steps as you are with mine.

Let me forgive others as freely and as really as I am myself forgiven.

So teach me to live well this day, through Christ my Lord.
AMEN

Rita Snowden



STORY: DON'T PASS ME BY
(A 4th Course of Chicken Soup for the Soul)

At different stages in our lives, the signs of love may vary: dependence, attraction, contentment, worry, loyalty, grief, but at heart, the source is always the same. Human beings have the rare capacity to connect with each other, against all odds.

Michael Dorris

PRAYER:

God of Light, Creator of a universe that combines both dark and light, I seek your strength to renounce the darkness of evil, yet embrace those dark experiences within which growth and maturation can occur. Help me resist the temptation to seek only the brighter side of life, like the moth that is eventually consumed by the very light it seeks, and be ready to embrace those times when shadows fall and darkness surrounds me.

May I be enriched by the contrast, nurtured in the slower pace of moving with few signs to guide. And when the darkness seems impenetrable, then lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, lead thou me on until the darkness once again retreats and I walk again in the warmth of your light and love.

BENEDICTION:

Let the Spirit of the Lord Christ guide your way.
Whether walking by night or by day,
Walk in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Who rose from the dead to give you new life in him. Amen

(Excerpts from 'Gentle Darkness' by Roland Croucher)

BIBLE READING:

You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning: my God turns my darkness into light.

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind consider it nothing but joy The testing of your faith produces endurance.

I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord.

He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into light.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

(Psalm 18:28, NIV; James 1: 2-3, NRSV; Isaiah 45: 3; Job 12: 22; Psalm 23: 4; Psalm 139: 11-12 – all NIV)

PRAYER:

Waiting in the Darkness

And God's voice was heard
'coming out of the darkness
while the mountain was all on fire'.
Deuteronomy 5:23

For the darkness of waiting,
of not knowing what is to come,
of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
we praise you, O God.

*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the day. light*



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

23RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

IMMANUEL COLLEGE
ADELAIDE

OCTOBER 2011

QUEENSLAND UNIT
DEVOTIONS
WEDNESDAY MORNING
12TH OCTOBER 2011

For the darkness of staying silent,
for the terror of having nothing to say,
and for the greater terror of needing to say nothing,
we praise you, O God.

*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the day. light*

For the darkness of loving
in which it is safe to surrender,
to let go of our self-protection,
and to stop holding back our desire,
we praise you, O God.

*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the day. light*

For the darkness of choosing
when you give us the moment
to speak, and act, and change,
and we cannot know what we have set in motion,
but we still have to take the risk,
we praise you, O God.

*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the day. light*

For the darkness of hoping
in a world which longs for you,
for the wrestling and the labouring of all creation
for the wholeness and justice and freedom.
we praise you, O God.

*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight,
the deepest night is clear as the day. light*

(from 'Be Our Freedom Lord' by Terry C Falla)

Those attending Conference"-

Mrs. Dulcie French Pres.
Mrs. Marie Byrne Pres. Elect
Mrs. Juanita Miller Secretary
Mrs. Kath Pearce Treasurer
Mrs. Shirley Brooks Life Member



Wednesday evening 12th October 2011

Opening Prayer

John 8: 12.

The words of Jesus explaining the way of light rather than despair of darkness

Hymn 276...There's a light

Light over dark

Matt.5: 6a

Story shared¹

Hymn 666....We are marching

Closing prayer

Tas State Unit meetings throughout the year are held in Launceston and Devonport. The AGM is held in Launceston where we are happy to welcome any members from Hobart who travel the 200+ Ks. to join us. This year being the year to begin praying for an additional country being Mongolia, we made plans to have someone of that country speak to us. In Launceston the well respected Worldview Centre for Missionary training has a large number of international students on campus. Enquiries brought into our lives a lovely young woman called Jargal. Along with her Aussie husband they have returned from Mongolia to Tas. in order for Jargal to extend her English studies and other necessary subjects. Between Jargal and Jeff we have been privy to hearing of so many facts of life in Mongolia that one would never read about. From hearing about the harsh winters where nomadic people house their goats indoors [tents] with them for animals and people alike to keep warm. Even so dozens of newborn goats perish in the freezing -50 degree temp. We have learnt of the great plight unemployed sink into by taking up vodka drinking. The street children given help by the limited resources the Good Neighbour Soc. is setting up. People in the cities travel on bad excuses for roads. We feel privileged by the friends we have made in this young couple who by the way expect their first baby while still in Tas. In February of next year. We pray Gods Blessing

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

23RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Panel: Wednesday 12 October 2011

Donna Bryan from Victoria



Currently a Salvation Army Captain serving in Victoria. Mother, grandmother, international traveller, technology guru, friend extraordinaire!
ACW: member of ACW Victorian Unit and a past President of the same.
ACW Inc.'s representative to Asian Church Women's Conference; ex officio member ACW Inc; National Executive. She has attended ACWC Assemblies and is the first Australian President ACWC.

Angela Devlin from Australian Capital Territory



Wife, mother, Secretary, Sales, Marketing and Management Library Officer, Assistant School Secretary, Administrator, Manager.qualified teacher of religion; held various executive positions in the CWL at Regional, Archdiocesan and National levels and has coordinated and arranged conferences at all levels; life time member in former branch of the association; served as Secretary on the Board of her Parish school and as a parent representative on the Board of Stirling College, Canberra.
Volunteer at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, helping with archives & photographic collections; volunteer on the Pastoral Care team at Calvary John James Hospital; Ministry of Reading and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at her Parish Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah, ACT. She enjoys cooking, reading, writing, travelling, music, theatre, cryptic crosswords, Sudoku and spending time with family, especially her four grandchildren, and a wide circle of friends.

ACW: presently Minute Secretary, ACW (ACT Unit); a delegate to NCW (ACT); Minute Secretary of National body of ACW 2007.

Marion McCall OAM from SA



"On A Wing And A Prayer"

Frustrated opera singer, who became a partner, parent, grandparent, poet, pilot and performer instead! Retired and retiring!!
Published poetry: "Out of Willochra", "Dreaming in Willochra" "Nullarbor West" and "Hello God!" and in December, 2010, a book mail@madeline.com written by her cat! Her poetry often reflects her faith and the

experience of being a Bishop's wife.

Aviatrix Achievements: When David was Bishop of Willochra in SA learnt to fly at age 50! She has flown 16,000 hours and won three International Flying Competitions as well as the Nancy Bird Trophy. David and she own a Cessna 172, JCS.

Musical director of many musicals but, as a Bishop's wife has a profile in the community and does a lot of public speaking and addresses many different groups of people.

ACW: a recent discovery! President Elect ACW SA Unit.

Fran Moss from Queensland



Minister's daughter, mother, grandmother, tennis identity, Church Council member, Elder over many years,

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Synod Council (Victoria); the Presbytery Representative for Maribyrnong Valley for seven years; Victorian President in 1992 and 1993. She has attended every National Conference/Celebration of the UCAF since the first one held in Melbourne in 1983? and was UCAF National Secretary from 2000- 2003.

She attended three South Pacific Seminars (Samoa, New Zealand and Tonga) and two World Assemblies of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (England and South Africa).

ACW: UCA Rep on Australian Church Women in Victoria in 1994; President in 1996-7. She moved to Queensland at the end of 2004 and joined the ACW Qld Unit as a UCA rep. She was Unit President for 2009/10 She has attended three ACWC Assemblies: Korea 2002, Malaysia 2006 and Indonesia 2010 as one of the ACW Inc. Delegates.

National Executive 2011-13

We consecrate our term as Australian Church Women Inc National Executive to your service, O Lord; may all our thoughts, words and actions be well-pleasing to you and serve the good of our sisters and brothers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All: We pray that God the Holy Trinity make us strong in faith, hope and love, defend us on every side; guide us in truth and peace; grant us to live in harmony with one another in accord with Christ Jesus, so we may with one voice glorify our God and Father. Amen.

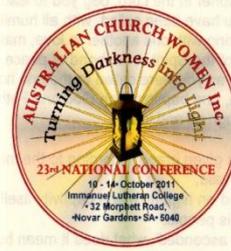


**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011**

Installation and Dedication

Incoming National Executive 2011-13

13 October 2011



Introduction:

President National Executive Australian Church Women Inc:
Margaret Flint OAM

Song: Here I Am, Lord.

Incoming National Executive

President:	Major Laurel Pearce
Vice President:	Reverend Lee Edwards
Vice President:	Mrs Marie Majoor
Secretary & Minute Secretary:	Mrs Margaret Ker
Treasurer:	Mrs Leeola Loughnan
Fellowship of the Least Coin Convener & Special Days Convener:	Major Olive Dell
Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convener:	Mrs Meryon Goode
Social Justice:	Vacant
Publications:	Vacant
Publicity:	Vacant

Ephesians 4:1-13

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the

Here I Am, Lord. (TiS 658)

I the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte

Brother, sister (T/S 650)

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

© Kingsway's Thankyou Music

saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. *NRSV*

Act of Commitment

Leader: We are called to a life of faithful service and witness.

You have been elected to serve as the National Executive of Australian Church Women Inc 2011-13

Will you give yourself joyfully to this responsibility, offering praise and thanksgiving to God?

Response: We will, with God's help.

Leader: You have been given many gifts to build up the body of Christ. Will you be open to receive the witness of others and to walk with them in a journey of faith?

Response: We will, with God's help.

Leader: May God, who has chosen you for this task, graciously dwell in you and give you the strength and compassion to fulfill it.

Leader: To ACW Units gathered.

Will you, as people of God, encourage the new National Executive members by remembering them in prayer and accepting them as partners in the gospel?

All: We will.

Presentation of badges

Prayer of Dedication/Commitment

All: Eternal God and Father,
by whose power we are created
and by whose love we are redeemed:
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

Reading John 12:1-3 (NIV) This reading portrays a costly spontaneous act of love by one willing to be vulnerable in order to express her love.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Prayers of petition and intercession

The petitions will be offered by ACW members from each state. After each you are invited to join in singing the response.

Response (sung)

u-bi ca-ri-tas et a-mor u-bi ca-ri-tas De-us i-bi-est
(where there is charity and love, the love of God abides.)

Closing Blessing: Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV)

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Acknowledgements *Ubi Caritas et Amor* Composer: J. Berthier copyright © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé, France. Used with permission Word of Life International Licence number 7295

Introduction of our Theme: Our Choice is Love

Song "Our Choice is Love" *Tune "All through the Night"*

Spirit moves across the water

God's choice is Love.

Humankind from dust of new earth

God's choice is Love

Dove to tell us flood is over

Red Sea crossed from Pharaoh's anger

Guide across the desert's danger

God's choice is Love.

Son once born in simple stable

Jesus chose Love

Gathering round him his disciples

Jesus chose Love

Hands outstretched to heal and comfort

Father's words brought to his people

Crucified and risen for us

Jesus chose Love.

As we follow in his footsteps

Our choice is Love.

Christ above and Christ within us

Our choice is Love

As we serve the ones he died for

As we bring his kingdom closer

As our hearts fill with his Presence

Our choice is Love.

Explanation of emblem



Our Choice is love



Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ADELAIDE 2011

10-14 OCTOBER



OUR CHOICE IS LOVE

DEVOTIONS

THURSDAY EVENING

13 OCTOBER

PREPARED BY THE INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Scripture Ephesians 5:1-2 (The Message)

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Lighting of Candle

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.

Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly.

That my life may only be a radiance of Yours.

Shine through me, and be so in me

That every soul I come in contact with

May feel Your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!

Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,

So to shine as to be a light to others;

The light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine;

It will be you, shining on others through me.

Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me.

Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example,

By the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do,

The evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You. **AMEN**

John Henry Newman

Song:

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
 And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
 That's how it is with God's love:
 Once you've experienced it,
 You spread his love to everyone.
 You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding;
 The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming
 That's how it is with God's love:
 Once you've experienced it,
 You want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
 You want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found;
 You can depend on him, it matters not where you're bound,
 I'll shout it from the mountain top:
 I want the world to know,
 The Lord of love has come to me,
 I want to pass it on.

Repeat I'll shout it from the mountain top

© Kurt Kaiser, 1969, Texan Baptist musician
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Benediction:

Loving God, you send the warmth and light of your love into our lives, streaming into all the shadowy corners dissolving the darkness. Let us go out radiating the light and love of Christ, and taking up the cost and the commission of Jesus to share the gospel of peace everywhere. Amen

Thank you and God bless you as you walk in His Light.

Call to Worship:

We have been born for life abundant in the realm of light. Let us praise the God of our salvation; let us give glory to Jesus the Christ, the light of the world, the light of our lives.

Song:

When we walk with the Lord
 In the light of his word,
 What a glory he sheds on our way;
 While we do his good will,
 He abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Not a shadow can rise,
 Not a cloud in the skies,
 But his smile quickly drives it away;
 Not a doubt nor a fear,
 Not a sigh nor a tear,
 Can abide while we trust and obey.

Original words John H. Sammis, 1846-1919. Public Domain

"Walk with Light"**Bible Readings:**

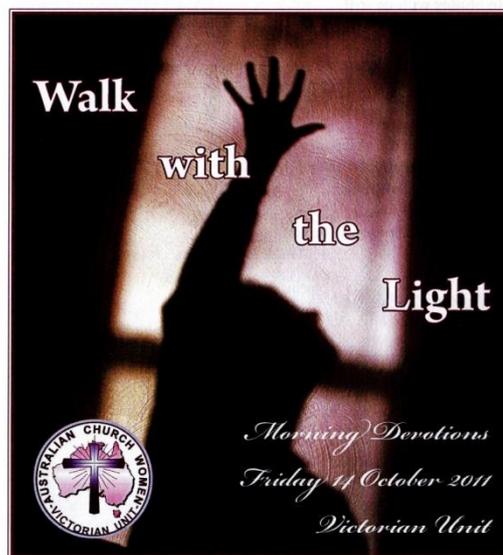
Ephesians 5:8-10
 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Responsive Prayer:**Leader:**

Loving God, we turn our hearts to you today and seek your help. Many times we feel alone and isolated, uncertain of the future, burdened by the past, we are imprisoned in the present.

*Australian Church Women Inc.
 National Conference 2011, Adelaide*

"Turning Darkness into Light"

**All:**

O God, give us light to help us find the way.

Leader:

We pray for those whom life has treated cruelly; the orphan and widow; those who feel the rejection of another; those who experience pain and suffering; those who are wracked with grief.

All:

O God, give light to troubled hearts.

Leader:

We pray for those whose lives are lived in darkness:
 the darkness of mental anguish;
 the darkness of poverty;
 the darkness of sinful desires;
 the darkness of hate filled hearts.

All:

O God, you are the light of our world, grant us faith.

Leader:

We pray for those who bear the burden of leadership:
 those you have called to lead our churches;
 our pastors and elders;
 the heads of state and leaders of our nation;
 leaders in the community, in business and culture;
 those who serve us in health care, education and social welfare.

All:

Loving God, you have come to us in Jesus the light of the world and shown us the way of life. Look with compassion upon us all and grant us your peace. In the name of Jesus Christ our light, we pray. Amen

Meditation:

"We are light"

Notes to Study Session 1

The Letter to the Colossians:

- A **détero pauline** letter in the Bible – that is, a letter not written by the hand of Paul himself, *but by someone close to him.*

4.18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains.

Grace be with you.

[In the Greek version] *The greeting of Paul is by my hand.*

A subtle, yet important difference in interpretation.

- **When was it written?** Around AD85 give or take 5 or so years. *Same time as Matthew, Luke & Acts*
- **Where was it written?** Perhaps from Ephesos, about a hundred km away, or perhaps even as far away as Rome.
- **Who was it written for?** The people of the churches in Colossae, Hierapolis and Laodikeia, three cities in the Lykos Valley in south western Phrygia.

2.1 For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face.

4.13 For I testify for him that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

- **Why was it written?** – Issues in Kolossai for new christians were a cause of concern to the christian leaders. Numerous religions were vying for prominence. Sometimes these religions had ideas that were appealing to the christians, even though it caused them to deviate from the faith that they were learning.
- **Intermediaries between God and Christ** – it seems that there were competing ways of thought, or philosophies in Kolossai that encouraged people to believe they needed to appease other beings in order to secure the access to God.
- **Plato's universe** – strata of beings made up the universe. Human beings were lowest, supreme God was highest, and semi divine beings were in between: thrones, dominions, rulers, powers, elemental spirits of the universe, and sometimes angels.

Darkness turning into light - a goal of the letter writer: the people are erring from their ways, and falling into darkness, and Christ is the light.

1.21 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him.

➤ **Christian Church in Colossae**

- When the Byzantine Empire was collapsing and bandits were roaming the countryside the final inhabitants of Colossae moved to the safety of nearby Honaz, which lies in the shelter of the great Mount Kadmos, second highest mountain in Turkey.
- A Byzantine fortress is built on the mountain which afforded some protection.
- Local Christians prayed to Saint Michael for deliverance.
- Saint Michael of Khonai/Honaz was a protector of the city and region. His healing miracles were preserved in an eleventh century Byzantine story.
- The writer of the Letter to the Colossians admonishes Christians for angel worship.

➤ **Archaeological prospects at Colossae**

The period of colonialism in the 18 and 19 hundreds led to archaeological finds being removed from the countries in which they were found. It's why so many Egyptian artefacts ended up in the British Museum, why the Elgin marbles are still there.

Countries like Turkey are now more reluctant to give up their artefacts and even if it means a site remains unexcavated that is preferred to having an overseas interest claiming what is nationally theirs.

Archaeology is no longer treasure hunting, not just digging things up. It's a serious science which crosses over with the humanities. The latest equipment is used - geophysics, GPS soundings, careful and painstakingly slow excavation and data recording which takes decades.

Bible studies ACW National Conference Adelaide 2011 – Rev Joan Riley

Archaeology helps set the context of the issues faced by the people of Colossae. Writing at the time was rare, and contemporary witnesses were dying out. The spoken word was all important. In Colossae the believers met in the home of Nympha.

Chapter 1: 15-20 is a poetic passage, especially in ancient Greek which is a tonal language – it is even poetic in English. It was probably a cut and paste used in worship and sung. The passage is to show the supremacy of Christ/God over the many dark forces believed in at the time. Christianity promised more than any other religion could.

Other poetic passages include the Magnificat, passages in Philippians, Ephesians 3: 14-21 and 2: 4-7, Revelation – worthy is the Lamb, Luke 2: 29-32

The contemporary issue was that of bondage – binding captivity and imprisonment in Colossae and in the letter to the Colossians.

Turning in Circles by Geoff Goodfellow

Tampa incident 2001 was to manipulate votes at the expense of those who are disempowered. Contact reveals 'real people'.

2: 8 See to it that no takes you captive . . human tradition (which may be abused)

4:3 . .that God may open a door – love, hope

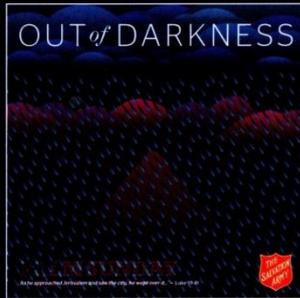
Mystery cults – initiation – writer wanted to draw people into the mystery of Christ. Christian rite of initiation was in the open.

4: 10 Names others like Paul by way of encouragement – Aristarchos, Mark the cousin of Barnabas. Was being a prisoner a prisoner of war? Or perhaps being a prisoner of spiritual war?

4:38 Remember my chains – there is a cost to discipleship. Persecution, martyrdom followed for Christians.

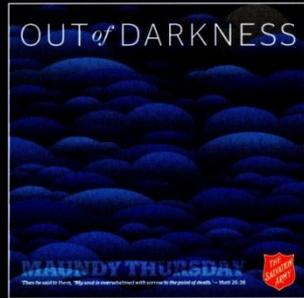
1: 13-14 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The "Out of Darkness" resource pack leads us on a journey, back to Calvary, back to the sites and the events that define who we are as the people of God. We join Jesus on his journey towards Jerusalem, and find that in the darkness of his journey to the cross, God's purposes were being achieved. The series climaxes with the resurrection, that marvellous light that floods throughout Christian history, showing that no matter what happens in life, God has a good plan for the restoration of the whole of creation that will be fulfilled.



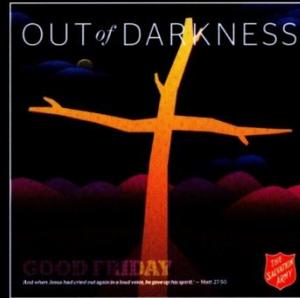
Palm Sunday – Luke 19:28-44

Jesus wept that the Jews did not recognise the time of God's coming to them. The rain here depicts the tears of Jesus.



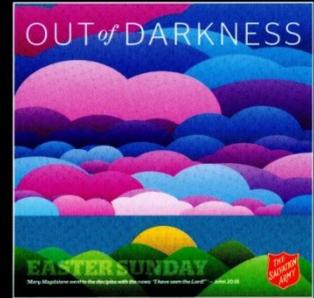
Maundy Thursday – Matthew 26:36-50

In Gethsemane we see the struggle Jesus had in submitting to God's will. The clouds here depict Jesus' turmoil.



Good Friday – Matthew 27:45-56

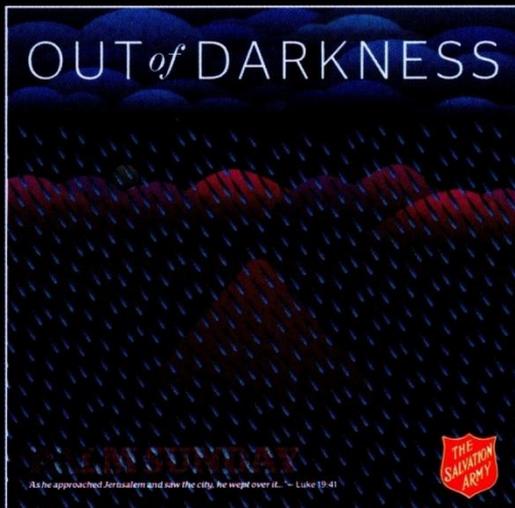
On the cross, Jesus felt forsaken by the Father, however he still chose to trust God.



Easter Sunday – John 20:1-18

The disciples did not expect the resurrection. God is a surprising God.

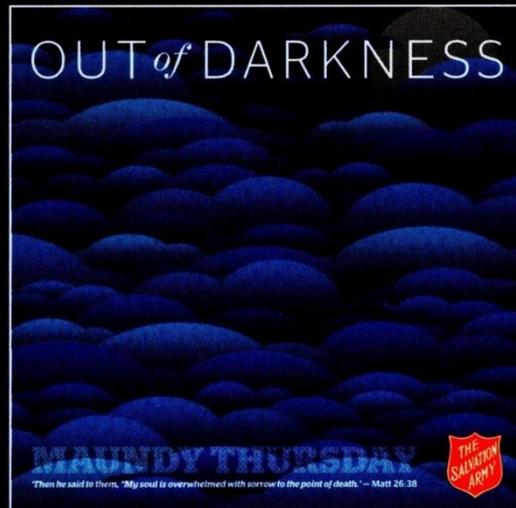
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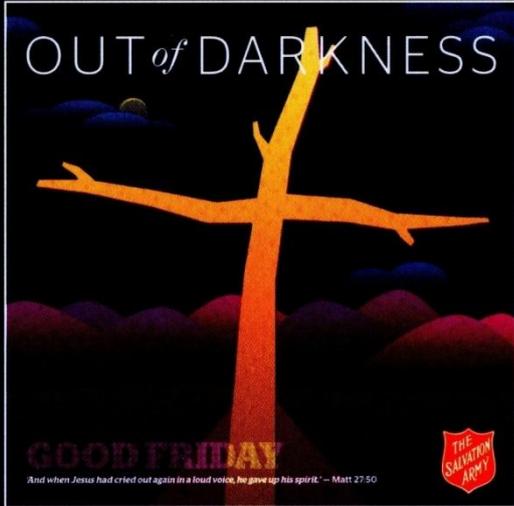
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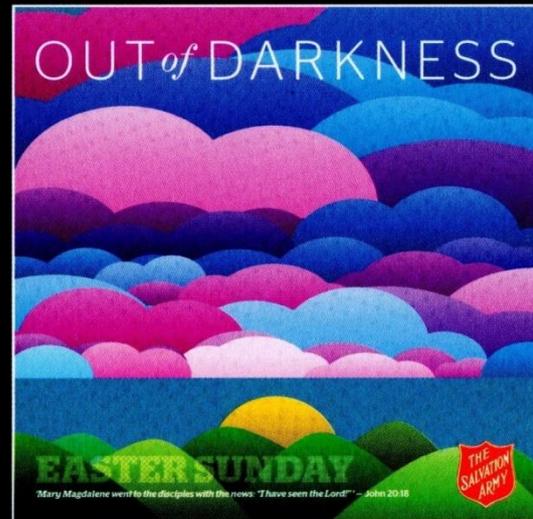
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Easter Sunday – John 20:1-18

The disciples did not expect the resurrection. God is a surprising God.

Turning in Circles

from *Punch On Punch Off*

In the 1950s when the doors crept open
migrants & refugees were often referred to
as new Australians
later in the 60s old Australians —
were finally included in the census
& in the early 70s the White Australia Policy
was officially dismantled
this was post-war Australia
long before post-modernism
& imported Italian woollen suits
(no value adding here)
when the Snowy Mountains
Scheme employed bogs wogs & dagoes
just like the whitegoods industry
& the car industry
& the manufacturing industry
& the building industry
& most other hands & feet industries
(’til tariffs took their toll)
these new Australians — they got a go
as well as some of the older ones
though blacks were still discriminated against
& roo meat remained petfood
& bush tucker reserved for missions
yes this was even before
the humble Lebanese cucumber
could call Australia home
now in this new millennium
my landlord is Greek
my dentist Korean
my coffee shop Italian
my fruit & veg Cambodian
my supermarket Vietnamese
my smallgoods maker German
my computer man Sri Lankan
my legal advisor Greek
my neighbours Swedish
Croatian Prussian & English
my nephew & niece Anglo-Italian
my grand-daughter Anglo-Indian —
& my phone book half-full
of names i can barely pronounce
it’s 2001 when the Tampa sails into history
& a nation full of wogs
& bogs & dagoes & boat people
of all persuasions are scared
by a container full of wogs
& political parties
of the so-called left & right —
turn in circles
in concentric circles —
their greed & their power
sucking at the vortex.

Geoff Goodfellow

Spreading the Light of Christ



*Australian Church Women Inc.
23rd National Conference
Adelaide 2011*



*Sturt's Desert Pea, Swainsona formosa,
Photograph: Nita West*

ACW SA Unit