

# Newsletter

## NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

State Unit of Australian Church Women

No.9

MAY, 1972

During the past twelve months we have sought to promote fellowship and co-operation between women of all branches of the Christian Church, and to provide an avenue whereby Christian women, as directed and used by God, may unitedly strive to establish His Kingdom on earth, by the application of the teachings of Christ to community, national and international relationships.

God made us a family.

We need one another.

We love one another.

We forgive one another.

We work together.

We play together.

We worship together.

Together we use God's word.

Together we grow in Christ.

Together we love all men.

Together we serve our God.

Together we hope for heaven.

These are our hope and ideals,  
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,

Help us to attain them, O God,  
Amen.

ANNUAL RALLY

Our New President, Mrs. N. Pfeiffer, of the Presbyterian Church, will be installed at the Annual Rally on Monday, May 29th, 1972 at 11 a.m. in the St. David's Presbyterian Church, Pacific Highway, Lindfield. All are invited to the Service. A light luncheon will be served afterwards in the War Memorial Hall.

President for 1972/73

Nancy Pfeiffer, a South Australian, wife of the Rev. N. Pfeiffer, B.A., B.D., minister of St. David's, Lindfield - Killara comes from a family that has an ecumenical history. Her forbears have served the Wesleyan, the Methodist, the Congregational and the Baptist communions as ordained ministers and her secondary education was in an Anglican school. With such an ecumenical background she felt moved to accept the invitation of the Presbyterian Women's Association of N.S.W. and the honour to represent them as President of the Women's Inter-Church Council. Mrs. Pfeiffer comes into office with humility, but reassured that with the prayers and loyal support of the members of the P.W.A. and the W.I.C.C. the work of the Council will be maintained and strengthened.

After completing her Social Studies Diploma at the Adelaide University, Mrs. Pfeiffer worked in the inner areas of Melbourne and for some time with dependants of men on active service in the three services. She considers it a privilege to have served the Church in three States, where problems faced are similar but acted upon with a difference due to geography, climate and social structure.

Mrs. Pfeiffer sincerely trusts and prays that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to do that which is best for the Church of God in these challenging times and that we may retain the proper humility that enables us to say from the heart 'To God alone be the Glory'.

Extracts from the Report of the National Committee Meeting of A.C.W. held at Deaconess House, Sydney, February 8/11th, 1972.

The theme of the N.C.M. was presented in a forceful and challenging way by Miss Jean Skuse (N.S.W. Executive Secretary State Council, A.C.C.) in the address she gave during the opening Service. 'For such a time as This' came as a kind of prod to the conscience of each woman present as the theme was developed showed how very much Christian women are needed today in all walks of life. Man has been involved in two basic struggles through the ages, the struggle to discover the meaning of life, and then to love life fully with human dignity and freedom. The speaker drew on her great store of experiences among many peoples in many countries to illustrate the inequalities due to economic pressures and racial prejudice. She assured us that white Western Christian Civilization is being judged today by its actions and not by its words.

"Peace is the absence of fear .... peace is the possibility of happy family life .... peace goes hand in hand with mercy .... for women to remain silent at such a time as this is to lose our reason for being .... today the missionary field is all around us, not in far-off lands .... Christ calls us to be the salt, the leaven, the light .... personal risk may be involved but remember that out of sacrifice comes resurrection and new birth ...."

Such thoughts and words as these struck responsive chords in the hearts and minds of listeners, and each left helped, in a personal way, for what the coming days of conference would bring.

The challenge of the theme was further developed in the three Bible Studies, in which Mrs. Barbara Thiering (Lecturer in Hebrew and Biblical Studies at the Sydney University) dealt with The Theology of Women - The Biblical View (O.T. & N.T.) and the Church's view. In Christ (Gal. 3:28) woman is a person, free to contribute to the benefit of society, to use her talents for the extension of God's kingdom, but the Church, as a rule limits the contribution woman can give to the local parish level. In Christ the separation of and differences between the sexes are to be broken down. The Church has dealt with the first two barriers Jew/Gentile, bond/free, but the third great barrier, male/female has yet to be broken down. Now is the great day of opportunity for the Church to lead and to put into practice the liberation of women in Christ.

In the plenary sessions, Dr. D'arcy Wood and Miss Pamela Gruber further developed the theme. The group discussion topic was 'For such a time as this' - the increasing participation of women in the economic life of our country, with its attendant problems and areas of concern for Australian Church women -

Head Deaconess Mary Andrews shared with us her visit to Wichita, U.S.A. in May '71, for the Church Women United Assembly attended by over 2000 delegates, (including 119 international delegates). The theme of the conference was 'Break Through', a shorthand way of talking of the emergence of women from the "caterpillar-chrysalis stage" to the full maturity of the "butterfly". The butterfly emblem was the badge of the participants. 'Break Through' was fully realised when Mrs. Claire Harvey of Jackson, Mississippi, was elected president of C.W.U. - the first black woman, and the first working woman to be elected to this important position.

Resolutions. (of particular interest)

"That as from 1972, the method of calling applications for W.K. Scholarship be by defining geographical areas and inviting applications for these areas in rotation through the National Council of Churches in these areas."

"That South Australia become the location for the Working Committee of A.C.W. as from February 1973."

"That a MEMORIAL BURSARY be awarded each year to the successful applicant for the W.K. Scholarship, to be applied by her to the purchase of study books".

"that the amount of the Memorial Bursary to be awarded annually be \$50."

"that a Trust Fund for the contributions received in tribute to former A.C.W. members be established".

"that the Girls' Brigade be invited to become affiliated at national level with A.C.W."

Wybalena Trust monies.

On Wednesday, March 22nd, '72 the new wing at Trenayne Residence was named the WYBALENA WING by Mrs. Lt. Colonel G. Carpenter (President of W.I.C.C.) in the presence of Mrs. C. Lynam (President) and Board of Directors of Sydney, members of the Trenayne Residence Committee and members of the Council.

BRANCHES DAY - - March 20th, 1972.

Once again members of Council and members of Inter-Church Fellowships and groups met to enjoy fellowship together and the programme prepared by the Promotions Committee.

A pictorial history of A.C.W. compiled by Mrs. Joan Coates of Melbourne illustrated Mrs. Verco's account of how A.C.W. came into being.

It was good for us all to remember - to have the gaps filled in - and to realise how much we owe to former office-bearers. Snapshots of national committee meetings in Sydney and Melbourne - the six scholarship holders - of Rev. Winifred Kiek - and a stirring challenge from Head Deaconess Mary Andrews to us all to be worthy of our heritage and be the dedicated Australian church women that today's opportunities demand.

A.C.W. Projects were presented by Mrs. Olga Badger who gave us up-to-date information about the allocation of F.L.C. monies and some of the projects that had benefitted in recent years - in 1972 \$60,000 was allocated by A.C.W.C. - \$1,000 was granted for the Institution of Aboriginal Affairs at Alice Springs as submitted by A.C.W.

Mrs. Margaret Ralph brought us news of former W.K. Scholarship Holders and shared with us the visit of the 1972 Scholar, Terani Aisake to the N.C.M. in February '72.

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Terani Aisake, deaconess of the Methodist Church, grew up on the tiny island of Rotuma, 400 miles N.N.W. of the Fiji Group. The need to earn her own living took her to Suva where she worked for Fiji Electric Co. Selected by her church to be trained as a deaconess, Terani spent two years attending morning lectures at the Methodist Theological Inst. 12 miles from Suva, afternoon lectures plus Home and Hospital Visiting were directed from Deaconess House. Her third training year was spent at the Commission Education Training Centre. Since training Terani has worked in the Methodist Department of Christian Citizenship and Social Service, assisted at Scripture Union Camps, children's clubs and Sunday schools. Terani is now studying at the Methodist Training College, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, which will enable her on returning to Fiji, to undertake greater responsibilities for her church, including deaconess training among her own people.

Deaconess Terani Aisake will visit N.S.W. and Canberra in early December.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.

By courtesy of a good friend I received a stimulating publication from U.S.A. called 'The Church Woman'. In recent numbers there has been a series of articles entitled "Women of Achievement", which set me thinking of two such women - Shanti Solomon, founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, with her great yearning to involve christian women in a world-wide healing fellowship of prayer, in token of which they would lay aside the least coin of their currency each month. What a privilege it will be to meet her in person when she comes to Australia later this year! And - Rathie Selvaratnam, who has undertaken to promote this Fellowship as she travels in many countries representing Asian Christian Women, The World Day of Prayer, and many other christian interests, and whom I met in Sweden at the first International Women's World Day of Prayer Committee in 1968. Many of us enjoyed renewing friendship with Rathie when she came to Australia in 1970.

Under the enthusiastic care of Mrs. C. Butler this Fellowship has grown in N.S.W. during the last few years and it was with great regret that we accepted her resignation when she left Sydney to reside in the Gosford area.

In consenting to become Convenor for N.S.W. I am accepting the privilege of serving in a Fellowship that has already been blessed both in its circle of prayer as well as in its world-wide ministries of mercy.

If you wish to join the Fellowship please contact -  
MRS. R. W. STANHOPE. 36 Dettman Avenue, Longueville. 2066. Ph.42.6078  
The devotional book 'Circle of Prayer No. 4' is available for  
30 cents plus postage.

Majorie Stanhope.

Shanti Solomon, Executive Secretary for Asian Church Women's Conference Planning Committee will be visiting Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand, during September and October '72. Watch out for further announcements of Shanti's itinerary and especially her visit to N.S.W.

World Community Day, 1972, brings blessings.

Miss Ho Lay Kum, a Malaysian student studying at Deaconess House, Sydney, was invited to speak at a World Community Day service at Padstow. She asked a Cambodian student, Miss Vandhy Yit, to accompany her, which she rather reluctantly did. The story of Lay Kum's discovery of the Lord Jesus Christ impressed Vandhy. After the meeting the organist was asked by Vandhy to explain why a person had to acknowledge being a sinner before becoming a Christian.

After a chat Vandhy was given a tract. That night she dreamt she was given the courage to confess Christ like Lay Kum. Very early the next morning she awoke and made the great decision.

Just after 6 a.m. she flew into the Principal's office and announced she was a Christian. The Principal, expressing joyful surprise, asked when she made the decision. The reply was "Just now"! Since then Vandhy has grown much in the grace and in the knowledge of the things of God.

On the 11th April, 1972, at Deaconess House she was baptised by the Archbishop of Sydney. Pray for Vandhy as she seeks to present the claims of Christ to her fellow Cambodians and for the twenty overseas students representing most countries in South-East Asia who are living at Deaconess House, that they too may discover the One who is the Way.

Mary M. Andrews.

Special Days - 1972.

Fellowship Day, which is held on the fourth Friday of July, or the nearest suitable day, will have the theme "Rejoice in Hope". The offerings will support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

World Community Day (fourth Friday in October) will have the theme "The Human Environment". Project 'Satya Watjana' a Christian University in Central Java, to provide scholarship for christian students.

Orders of service are obtainable from Mrs. Down, 177 Copeland Rd. Beecraft. 2119. Phone 84.2587.



Churches appoint woman to key position. The N.S.W. State Council of A.C.C. has appointed a woman, Miss Jean Skuse as Executive Secretary for the next three years. This is the first time a woman or a lay person has been appointed to this important position.

Miss Skuse brings a wide range of experience to her task. She is at present World Secretary for the Federation of Methodist Women. For the past 15 months Miss Skuse has been Associate Secretary of the Council. We wish her well.

Mrs. Margaret Ralph has been appointed by A.C.W. to the A.C.C. Division of Studies and Communication.

Join the Movement for Christian unity, reconciliation and service. The ecumenical movement links more than 250 churches throughout the world. The A.C.C. is part of this world-wide movement for a united witness.

Your participation, in prayer and through financial support is needed. Join the fellowship of people across Australia who are working for the renewal of the Christian Churches and for co-operative efforts in service. A.C.C., P. O. Box 111, Brickfield Hill. 2000.

Literature, Notelets and Pens obtainable from the Promotions Secretary (see under). Study booklets at 20 and 25 cents each.

Pamphlets - Parents and Teenage Revolution - 10 cents each.

Children are people. 12 cents "

'In quest of the Least Coin' - Fletcher - \$3.99 - on order.

Notelets (25 sheets and envelopes) 45 cents each.

Biro pens 20 cents "

'Women at work' - monthly newsletter from A.C.W.

N.S.W. W.I.C.C. 1971/2 Annual Report

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Office bearers for 1972/3.

President: Mrs. N. Pfeiffer, 2 Provincial Rd., Lindfield 2070(42.2746)

Pres. Elect.

Secretary.

Treasurer: Mrs. C. Perriam, 6/37 Ormond St. Ashfield. 2131 (798.6481)

Publicity: Mrs. J. Curtin, 7 Upper Cliff Rd. Northwood 2066(42.6191)

Promotions Sec. Mrs. G. Carpenter, 529 Homer St. Earlwood 3006

(78.8507)