

**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the TREASURER: Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue
DEE WHY 2099
(Tel: 9971 0278).

PLEASE NOTE:

- ⇒ For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.
- ⇒ **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and **NOT** to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations:	\$15.00 per annum
Bible Society;	
The Girls' Brigade	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

NEWSETTE is the journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women and is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the EDITOR:

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

ACW Website: www.acwnational.org.au

A C W seeks:

- ⇒ to unite Australian churchwomen 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.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Jennifer Pepper Tel: 9874 4056
Email: rjpeffer@optusnet.com.au

NUMBER 119

MAY 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been giving much thought and prayer to our coming Spiritual Enrichment Day, which is held every second year, but we shouldn't have to wait for a special event to motivate our faith again - it should be an ongoing experience.

Some people like to give the impression that they are very spiritual and to be considered devout and holy, obviously walking on a different spiritual level to most who claim to be "Christian" - others go to the other extreme and do not want to be described as being "so heavenly minded that they are no earthly use."

If we are honest most of us at some time are guilty of wearing a mask - not revealing what we are really like or how we are coping in our Christian walk. Could I refer you to Chapter 23 of Matthew's gospel. In the NIV translation the chapter is headed the Seven Woes. I would like you to read through verses 13-29 and see if you can pick out the seven 'Masks' that not only the teachers of the law and the Pharisees in Jesus' day exhibit, but on

2.

self examination, how many do we actually wear?

Verse 13 - we pretend the Gospel is for everyone – but shut the door in people's faces. Do we welcome the stranger who comes along, the ethnic who really would like to belong, the young person who dresses differently or prefers different songs?

Verse 15 - we pretend the Kingdom belongs to God - but secretly build our own empire within the fellowship.

Verse 18 - we pretend to be committed to Jesus - but fail to keep our promises.

Verse 23 - we pretend to seek first the Kingdom - but major on the minors - the majors are justice, mercy and faith.

Verse 25 - we pretend everything is OK – but inwardly are falling apart.

Verse 27 - we pretend we are alive spiritually – but actually are as dead as a cemetery.

Verse 29 - we pretend to listen to God's Word – but fail to obey it.

I am sure very few could honestly say that some or all of these 'masks' have not applied to us at some time during our Christian walk. As a preparation for Spiritual Enrichment Day perhaps we can all focus on this passage of scripture and seek, with God's help, to remove our masks and enjoy a greater liberty in our faith and be open to what we can learn and do as we fellowship together.

We plan to focus our thinking at Enrichment Day on Micah 6:8 "*To act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly*". These words are not all that dissimilar to those referred to after Verse 23 above.

Be in prayer that the programme prepared and those who participate will indeed stimulate our faith and encourage us in witness in His name.

Jennifer Peffer

PASTORAL CARE:

Several of our council members are needing prayer support at the moment. *Judith Baker, Irene Carder and Peg Cameron* have all been in hospital. *Noelene Roose* would value your prayer as she faces chemotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer. *Winsome Penn's* Dad is undergoing chemotherapy for the treatment of lymphoma - Winsome is his carer. We thank God for answered prayer for two of our Associate members, *Enid Utber* and *Peg Blake*. We congratulate *Lucelle* and *Bruce King* on their 60th Wedding Anniversary - Lucelle, a Life Member and past State President wrote the words and music of our NSW Unit theme song "*We Being Many Are One In The Lord*."

Olive Edmondstone, Pastoral Care Convenor

3.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION

at

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

First Avenue (near corner West Parade) Eastwood

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009

at 10.30 for 11.00 am

Speaker: Lt Col Jan Condon

Salvation Army Secretary for Women's Ministries

Transport: Half-hourly Train service – Hornsby via Strathfield to Eastwood or Bus 515 from Circular Quay along George Street and also stops in Druitt Street.

Car Parking In Second Avenue (Parallel to First Avenue)

Basket lunch

RSVP by May 13 to Isabel Hewitt, 35 Veda Street, Hamilton 2303, Tel. 4969 6336 Email: doug.isabel@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY

in

St James King Street Hall, Level 1, 1 Phillip Street. Sydney

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009

Arrive by 9.30am for Morning Tea - Programme to commence at 10am

ACW ladies and their friends are most welcome

THEME: Micah 6:8 "*To Act Justly, to Love Mercy and Walk Humbly*"
Excellent Speakers and Exciting Input from some of our own members

Tea, Coffee and Morning Tea will be provided

Bring your own packed lunch. Cost: \$5 per person

Programme will conclude before 3pm

An opportunity to enjoy fellowship, to learn, and be inspired.

A C W NATIONAL CONFERENCE

20 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

At **HERITAGE HOTEL, CANBERRA**

Cost \$700 plus \$90 for Early Registration. Registration Forms now available from Isabel Hewitt, address and contact numbers as above

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Easter greetings were sent to past and present scholars with whom we are in touch by email, with replies from *Leinamau* (2007 Scholar from Vanuatu), current scholars *Inese* and *Christine* from Australia, and National WKS Convener *Constance Aronson* also sent greetings .

Leinamau has been out on another island and led Easter studies based on Prophet Elijah, with 200 students plus many youth members. A "Youth with a Mission " group went with her and it was all a blessing. She sends her love to all .

Inese (Sydney) enjoyed relaxing with family over Easter, with her sister visiting from Fiji. She had put in a few assignments, had a heavy load at work (finance sector), as well as caring for her two little girls - she has had to cut back a bit on church ministry to fit things in.

Christine (Melbourne) very busy with assignments - more than expected in her allotted 12 months. The College has a strong Mission focus which she loves . She will be sending me her quarterly newsletter soon .

Imelda Marcos (2008) now in Jordan with language studies. Contact via email difficult now, but she managed to send some photos of the area and herself. I sent her a Graduation Card from us, even though she couldn't attend it herself through lack of finance as it was back in the Philippines.

Rache (McManus) Otto (1997) hopes to finish her Bachelor of Education this year, currently doing her final 15 weeks of prac teaching - 5 weeks at Miles High School and from July will do 10 weeks at Chinchilla High School (Q'ld). Her parents and Craig all help with care of Ivy May and Jayden. Ivy May does lots of after-school activities - dance, swimming and piano. Jayden at 8 months crawls and sits, attempting to pull up on furniture to walk . She sends love to all.

Beryl Kirkwood visited Assam (India) in February and brought back a letter from *Anju Borgoary* (2005 Scholar). She sent greetings from herself and the Baptist women as she works as Secretary of the Women's Committee, who are sponsoring the 13th Evangelist for outreach ministry. Anju was married in February 2007 and God has blessed them with a baby girl , now 6 months old. She is thankful for ACW past support and would value our continued prayers. There is a report of Beryl's visit on the following page.

The attractive pamphlets for the 2009 scholars, *Inese* and *Christine*, have arrived and will be sent out in the packs for the July Fellowship Day Services. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

MEETING WITH ANJU BORGOARY:

In 2005 *Anju Borgoary*, a young Boro woman in Assam, North East India, became our Winifred Kiek scholar. After completing her Bachelor Degree in Religious Education she did her post graduate Masters study in Pastoral Care, then joined the staff of the Boro Women's Department as an evangelist. Anju is thankful for the help she received to do this further training a long distance away in a college in another part of India.

The Boro are one of many tribal groups in Assam, where there are 440 language groups. They are of Burma/Tibetan origin and settled in the Brahmaputra Valley many centuries ago. The Boro Baptist Union has a strong evangelistic ethic and has appointed their own missionaries and evangelists to reach out to their own non-Christian Boros and other tribes where there is no Christian witness. Their geographical area borders the country of Bhutan where there is freedom of movement for trade. As a result the Boros have shared the gospel and ministered through medical help to Bhutanese people. Bhutan forbids any building for Christian worship but allows Christians to meet in homes; home churches are developing in the immediate area and women are warmly responding to the gospel.

In February it was a joy to meet Anju at Tukrajhar where the 82nd annual Boro meetings of over one hundred churches were being held and where 15,000 gathered together for worship. Anju is now married to an ordained pastor and they are the proud parents of a little girl born in November 2008.

At present Anju is the secretary of their Women's Department which supports thirteen women evangelists who work amongst village women including those in Bhutan. To support these workers, every time the Christian women cook for their families in their homes they set aside a handful of rice which they bring to the local Sunday Service, where it is sold and the money goes to the women's work.

Being an agrarian society, their rice crops are often affected by floods and pestilence and can result in a poor yield. These people know deprivation and hardship yet continue faithfully with the work God has put into their hands and the women exude a joyous passion and devotion.

Another promising young woman has commenced a post graduate course and is doing her BD over in the west of India. She could be a worthy candidate for a 2011 Winifred Kiek Scholarship and in this way we could encourage these women of God in their work.

(Reported by Beryl Kirkwood, Past ACWC Convener)

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

There have not been informative reports about FLC in past months, as the convener *Janet Lang* was first in the Shetland Isles in an interim ministry with her husband Tony and is now with him in another interim ministry in a parish in the highlands of Scotland. We are delighted that we will now have a new Convener, following the nomination at the recent ACW Council Annual Meeting of *Shirley Hodges*. We are delighted that Shirley has accepted this responsibility and look forward to receiving her reports for future issues of Newsette.

Beryl McLaughlin, Newsette Editor

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

To Christians nothing is more important than the support of our sisters' and brothers' prayers. Many in our ACWC sister countries have been in prayer for the people of Australia who have been so severely affected this year by fire and flood and their prayers have been sent to us with their greetings. The following letter was sent to us by our ACWC prayer partner, South Korea:

*"Greetings from the Korea Church Women United!
We have seen that the bushfires in south eastern Australia lasted for two weeks and they brought about many casualties. Our hearts bleed for those who are suffering from this disaster. We pray that our God may comfort and heal the people who have been injured and lost their beloved family members. We, as the prayer partner under the umbrella of the ACWC, will continue to pray that Australia and its people will recover from the effect of the big fire and take back peaceful life.
With life and peace
Lee Moon Sook General Secretary, Korea Church Women United"*

Important Announcement!

ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL CONCERT OF PRAISE

on Sunday 18th October 2009 commencing at 2pm
at Northside Community Church (Church of Christ)
34 Oxley Street (Cnr Pole Lane) Crows Nest
followed by Afternoon Tea.

This is our observance of our affiliation as one of the 18 countries of Asian Church Women's Conference. Do plan to come - you will enjoy a feast of fellowship and music.

Lyn Middleton, ACWC Convener

PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR 2010-11:

Our ACW Constitution provides that each two years the president shall come from a different denomination and we are pleased that *Nola Dickson*, who is already a member of Council, has been appointed by the Presbyterian Church to be our next State President.

SOCIAL ISSUES:

At the recent Harmony Day organised by the National Council of Jewish Women an interesting panel of four women of different backgrounds discussed their experiences in a new country and all agreed women's groups are the most important to help First Generation women to settle.

A Seminar on the position of Immigrant and Refugee women arriving in Australia commenced with a role play of the difficulties they faced. All were single mothers with children, whose husbands and male relatives had been killed. They had no language skills so could not deal with agents to rent accommodation, they could not work because of their children and agents did not want to provide homes. It was suggested that the old system of hostels may need to be reintroduced as in the hostels they learnt English, how to find jobs, how to go about renting, shopping and banking.

Health Issues: There is a need for changes in this area, to provide better care for the aged, young disabled and Rural Hospitals.

Paid Maternity and Parental Leave: still under discussion.

Gender Laws: The UN is being lobbied to attempt "Gender" laws for those not male or female - this just when Australia is returning to Male & Female Wards in hospitals - same-sex wards were distressing for many and the change will take 1-4 years to implement.

Death Penalty: Australia does not have the Death Penalty, so government should encourage those who do to change this penalty.

Abandoned Babies: Facilities are needed where babies can be left safely without any criminal charges, instead of being left in bins or in a park.

Global Financial Crisis: Government has met with major church welfare organisations to discuss a plan to track and respond to the impact of the global financial crisis on vulnerable Australians.

Human Rights: Women have a key role in promoting human rights so we must be active in embracing the opportunities to uphold the dignity of life.

Carmel Keys, Social Issues Convener

PUBLICITY:

I am sure you have all had a wonderful Easter and God has come again afresh to you through the remembrance and celebration of the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

The Service of Dedication is to be held at Eastwood Baptist Church, at 11 am on Monday 18th May. President Jennifer has put a lot of effort into making this a wonderful occasion where we can get together to celebrate and rejoice in what God is doing through Australian Church Women. Guest Speaker is *Colonel Jan Condon*, the Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Secretary for Women's Ministries. Please come and join us at Eastwood Baptist Church.

Don't forget the ACW National Conference 21-24th September 2009, to be held in Canberra this time and registration forms are available from Secretary Isabel Hewitt.

Nancy McLaren, Publicity Convener

SPECIAL DAYS:

Materials for Fellowship Day Services in July have been sent to the branches. This Special Day continues with the development of the theme for 2009, *Faith In The Future*. The topic presented in this Service is "*Our God Is Ever Faithful*" based on the reading in 2 Kings 4:1-7.

Offertories received from this day will support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust (WKS) which sponsors Christian women students from multi-cultural Australia, Pacific Island nations, and member countries of Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) to continue studies in their particular field of ministry.

Your support of Fellowship Day in your area is appreciated. Please pray for such gatherings and for those who administer the Trust Fund. May your Fellowship Day be a time of encouragement and blessing.

Pamela Freeman, Special Days Convener

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 13th June 2009. The State President, *Rev. Tara Curlew* of the Uniting Church has been appointed General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCCA).

Thank you for your continuing prayer support for this Council which seeks to bring churches together in supporting various ecumenical projects.

Pamela Freeman, ACW Representative to NSW Ecumenical Council

BIBLE TEACHING MISSION IN MYANMAR:

This, my third trip to teach in Myanmar, went very well, with only a few hiccups. *Mr Ted Penney* of the Bible Society was the leader for the trip north and the team consisted of three men and three women.

We arrived on December 29 2008 but learned next day that all flights to Kalaymyo were cancelled, so had to drop our plans to go there. We and our hosts were very disappointed, but were able to change our flight to Mandalay to a day earlier, thus giving us three days instead of two to run the Bible Teaching Seminar there. More than 100 people attended the seminars, held at Grace Presbyterian Church which had space to run six groups at the same time. My translator for three days, *Gloria*, was a lovely person and was very excited and enthusiastic about my material on Exodus and found it very helpful.

On two afternoons they took us sightseeing. One drive was very hair-raising in a **very old bus** driving up extremely narrow, steeply winding mountain road with no protective barrier - one did not dare look down, when passing a car coming down one kept one's eyes closed and prayed!

Our flight times for our next location, Myitkyina, were changed twice, so we had to reduce our Seminar there to two days. However God's sovereignty was evident again. We were told that because there was a big Festival on we would not get on a plane; however they put on an extra flight for foreign tourists. The very efficient government administrator asked if we had come for "**The Festival**". "Yes" we replied, we were there for the Festival - we did go for one hour on the Saturday night!

The Seminars were held at a large church, a long way out of town in a farming community looking onto rice fields. All the cooking was done in the open, things were very basic. More than 150 people attended and they were greatly encouraged and enthusiastic about the Bible teaching from all six teachers.

We had one day's rest before returning to Yangon (Rangoon) and *Narelle Hadfield* arrived from Jakarta to join our team. I rejoice to report that this Bible Training in Yangon was the "**Jewel in the Crown**" of the whole mission trip. 309 Mothers' Union women came from 4 dioceses - a record number! They sat each day (4 days) enthusiastically while I taught from Exodus, *Naomi Penney* from Hebrews and *Narelle* gave studies from John's Gospel. Accommodating all these women was a logistical nightmare which *Margaret Bennett* our host, MU Diocesan President and her MU Worker *Rachel* did graciously. Women were sitting in the aisles and part of the church was curtained off for some to sleep.

The singing was so wonderful and joyful especially when they sing in parts

unaccompanied. They are so grateful for the teaching and we leave studies, which are translated into their own language, for them to use during the year. Once again our translators were excellent.

We praise God for enabling us to have this ministry and you for your prayerful support. We were thankful to God for bringing all these women together and for the great opportunity to teach them His word - it means so much to them, firstly to be able to spend four days learning, reflecting and soaking up the scriptures and secondly, they never have the opportunity to get away - **life** for them is **survival**.

(Reported by Norma Dumbrell)

A BOOK REVIEW:

When browsing through a Christian bookstore I came across a book called *"My Journey Into Alzheimer's Disease"* by Robert Davis, published by Tyndale House.

A few of my friends either have one of the many dementia illnesses or have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Most of us think that this particular illness is only associated with older people, but even younger folk can suffer from this affliction.

Rev Robert Davis wrote this book in 1988 when he was 54, just one year after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He wrote it because he wanted to help family and friends to a better understanding of what it felt like to be the patient.

The author was brought up in a loving Christian home and came to know Jesus as his Saviour at an early age. After Bible College training then Theological Seminary he became a full-time pastor. He wrote that *"the highest and noblest title was not 'pastor' or 'minister' but instead 'servant of Jesus Christ.'"*

Rev Davis writes candidly about his life and the leading of the Lord Jesus, his illness and his attitude towards it. This frank sharing of his thoughts and feelings, while no doubt very painful for him, is a tremendous help in understanding the needs and care of those who require all the loving kindness that can be given by their family, friends and carers.

I have found that by reading this book I have a deeper understanding of this traumatic illness. I thoroughly recommend it.

(Contributed by Jean Porteous, Past State President)

NEWS BITES FROM THE BIBLE SOCIETY:

The Bible Society continues to have amazing access to our public schools, getting young people excited about the Bible and keeping them engaging with its life-giving words. Through the free distribution of Bibles and Memory Verse Calendars, fun media presentations, and visits by the *"Jesus Ute"* thousands of Aussie kids are being given the opportunity to have a personal encounter with God's Word.

One Scripture Teacher wrote to Bible Society recently *"I shared with my Year 6 class that I had prayed to the Lord to show me where the money would come from to buy Bibles for the class - maybe my husband would get a little extra work, or a bill might be less than expected. I rang the Bible Society, hoping simply to borrow a few Bibles to whet their appetites for the Word and was told we could have enough for everyone to have their very own! One boy stopped - stared - amazed - then announced loudly 'That's a real miracle, that's what that is!'"*

In just one week, the Jesus Ute visited 8 schools, reaching over 2,000 students and distributing 1500 Gospels. By last June Children's Worker Rick George had conducted 73 *King of Fools* shows in schools and churches across NSW, with another 62 booked for the rest of the year. Rick's fun multi-media presentation inspires children to live for Jesus and make a positive difference in the world. 5,000 Bibles, 20,000 Memory Verse Calendars and 15,000 Jesus Ute Gospels have been distributed through these ministries.

From South Africa comes another facet of Bible Society ministry:

WORLD HOPE MINISTRIES receives correspondence from countless prison inmates. Every month there are some 200 requests for Bibles. Some write to say thank you for Bibles received and one, from Victor Thabiso Mothung tells of a life transformed by God's living Word: *"Thank you for the Scripture materials I received from you. Surely Jesus would say 'I was in prison and you came to visit me ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*

Pastor Willie Dengler conveyed his thanks for over 20,000 Bibles supplied by Bible Society donors in person when he visited NSW last October: *"Our challenge is to try and make a difference on the inside so that when those who have committed crimes are released they are changed people through the power of Jesus Christ."*

(From Bible Society Bibles@Work Newsletter)

A Final Thought ...

Don't tell **God** how great the storm is - tell the storm how great **God** is!