

A U S T R A L I A N C H U R C H

W O M E N

Resource Centre

Aims:

To keep all Units and Branches well informed
on ACW activities.

To keep Church Women and the public in general
well informed of the existance of ACW in their
community.

To provide Branches with a resource pool for
local projects.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

How to commence an Australian Church Women's Branch in your area.

A great deal of ground work has to be done before your first meeting. It is important that it is thoroughly done to ensure a good foundation for an active and useful branch.

Speak with a few women in your own Church about the aims of ACW, the overseas projects, special days. Try to get a young women's ear, heart and mind. Talk then, to the Guild presidents of other Churches one by one about the need for the Church women in your area to work together on certain issues. A current list of Presidents or Secretaries may be obtained from the Womens World Day of Prayer committee locally.

Arrange a planning meeting with representatives of each local Church present. If possible invite a State Unit office bearer to this meeting to explain the structure of ACW as well as the aims and hopes for this Branch.

Make sure you have plenty of leaflets (ACW, FLC etc.) and Women at Work, so that when these women go back to their Churches they will have something positive to show and refer.

Talk, talk and more talk about ACW will keep it on people's minds. Arrange to have your first meeting about a month after your initial planning meeting.

You may not know each other well enough to appoint a President, Secretary and Treasurer at this meeting, but an interim executive could be formed for the first 6 months or time designated by this meeting.

Arrange a project with which to start. Something that people can work on together. If it is near to July or October a good way to start would be on organising a special day: Fellowship Day or World Community Day.

Try to hold meetings monthly or every second month. For the first few meetings have ACW speakers who are experienced in certain areas such as Fellowship of the Least Coin, Winifred Kiek Scholarship, Asian Church Womens Conference etc. This way ACW will unfold gradually and not hit the ladies with a lot of new concepts all at once.

Have an "ideas" or "Suggestions" segment so that special needs can be brought forward for discussion and possible action.

Although we are not a fund raising organisation, funds will need to be provided from time to time. A trade table at meetings may help here.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Guidelines for Branch Meetings.

So you've just started an Australian Church Women's Branch in your area. Congratulations and welcome. A whole new world will open up to you as you work together with Christian women, not only in your community, but throughout Australia and indeed the world.

We know you will want to get the best out of each meeting so here are a few pointers to get you started.

★ Do not spend too much time on business. There, of course, will be some matters for attention, but try to get these done promptly so that plenty of time can be given to the task in hand.

★ Always have at least one project "on the go". People soon lose interest if nothing much is happening. Sometimes you will have more than one project going simultaneously. All members may not need to be on both activities. A sharing of work and responsibility is advised.

★ Make sure all the Church Guilds in your area have some idea of your current project. What appeals to some may not appeal to others, so that, for example, one woman may be very interested in Project No. 1 but not in No.'s 2 and 3. On the other hand someone else in her Church is interested in these other projects and because she has heard about them she is able to make herself available. The more women over all who participate the better the branch will be.

★ Always have a devotional time and share the leadership around the denominations. We can all learn from each other.

★ Write a report for your State Unit executive meetings so that they know what is happening.

★ Have you done something together which was exciting, successful and of great benefit to all concerned? Write to "Women at Work" your all-Australian paper and share the good news with us all.

RESOURCE SHEET

No. 1

Ideas for ACW Branches:

- Why not have a day retreat? A quiet time of Spiritual uplift and meaningful fellowship with each other.
- Provide Religious Education in Schools instructors OR
- Provide a "Granny" service for mothers of young children so that they can go out and do RE in schools.
- Form prayer cells to meet regularly to pray for special needs in your own community. Pray for overseas projects as well. Use Circle of Prayer.
- Have a Bible study. e.g. monthly theme: Women of the Bible, Ecology, War, Migrants, etc. and see what the Bible has to say about things.
- Contact Christian "shut-ins" (get names from Meals on Wheels or from individual Churches, district nurse in your district) distribute "Women at Work" regularly and create Fellowship of the Least Coin Prayer partners.
- Groups of 2 or 3 branch members to visit every womens group in your location to talk about ACW. Arm yourself with leaflets (ACW, FLC, etc.) and arrange for monthly order of Women at Work for that women's guild.
- Keep each Christian womens group informed on our projects, special days, WKS. Make a special point of finding all secretaries name and address. Up-date each year.
- Provide link for migrant women. Help with shopping, language, fashions, money etc. Introduce them to the Church.
- Organise World Community Day and Fellowship Day. Make sure every Church is represented at the planning meeting such as happens in most places for Womens World Day of Prayer.
- If a Christian radio or television station is in your area, they will be looking for volunteer typists etc. and also have prayer meetings. Support these by attending or by arranging your own group on their behalf.
- Support Life-line, Life, link etc.
- Contact your local Ministers fraternal. Arrange for ACW branch President and Secretary to speak to Fraternal. Inform of ACW aims projects etc. Solicit their aid in referring inter-Church and ecumenical matters affecting women to ACW.
- Write letters to MP's, media etc. on issues regarding which Christians should stand up and be counted.
- Rotation hospital visitation for long-term patients.

Issued by the Australian Church Women Resource Centre

RESOURCE SHEET

No. 2

Ideas for ACW Branches:

Plan to have at least 2 copies of "Women at Work" available at all Church womens meetings within two months. Increase orders as interest grows.

If there is a Neighbourhood house in your area near some of your members, perhaps an after school roster system could be set up to talk to the children, listen to them read and reading to them. This could be done in a Church hall if there is no neighbourhood house, especially in underprivileged areas.

If your ladies are interested in singing, form a small choir who will be able to sing at Fellowship Day, World Community Day, Womens World Day of Prayer. No need to meet all year round (unless you want to). Four practices before each function would be enough, preferably in the Church in which the following service is to be held.

If there is a special interest display going on in your town, why not set up tables and join in. There is usually something going on in shopping malls, centres, district shows, etc. Have supply of ACW leaflets. Tell inquirers about FLC and Winifred Kiek scholarship and about local projects. Photos of your activities would be of interest too.

What about a "Whitsun" walk (or similar for other Festivals)? Walk from Church to church and hold short services in each place.

International Year of the Disabled Person

Organise an ecumenical Church service for disabled persons. Select a Church in your area that has good facilities. No steps, good PA system, wide aisles etc.

Hold a seminar with disabled to find out their needs. Discuss and formulate plans at seminar.

Provide "Granny" service to relieve parents of disabled children for a few hours every now and then.

PRESS RELEASE

THE _____ DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL
COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN WILL LEAVE
TODAY FOR HOBART WHERE THE CONFERENCE IS TO BE HELD.
STATE PRESIDENT MRS..... WILL LEAD
THE DELEGATION. OTHER DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS WILL
BE
.....
THE CONFERENCE IS HELD EVERY TWO YEARS AND FORMULATES
THE PLANS AND POLICIES OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

Issued by the Australian Church Women Resource Centre

For new Branches:

CHURCH BULLETIN COPY

A LOCAL BRANCH OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN WILL
BE COMMENCING IN THIS AREA ON

AT

AT .

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN HAVE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS
PROJECTS INCLUDING THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST
COIN AND WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP.

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL CHRISTIAN
LADIES TO JOIN.

FOR MORE DETAILS RING _____

ON _____ (phone.)

Issued by the Australian Church Women Resource Centre

PRESS RELEASE

TO CELEBRATE THE SILVER JUBILEE YEAR OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN, MRS. RATHI SELVARATNAM IS MAKING AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF AUSTRALIA PROMOTING THE FELLOWSHIP AND GIVING INSIGHT INTO THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS.

MRS. SELVARATNAM IS WELL QUALIFIED TO SPEAK OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ESPECIALLY CONCERNING WOMEN. SHE IS A PAST PRESIDENT OF ASIAN CHURCH WOMENS CONFERENCE, LAST YEAR SHE WAS A DELEGATE AT THE ALL AFRICA THEOLOGICAL WOMENS CONSULTATION IN IBADAN, NIGERIA AND FOLLOWING THAT EXPERIENCE SHE ATTENDED THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN IN MANILA WHERE WOMEN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD GATHERED.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN IS A PROJECT OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

MRS. SELVARATNAM WILL BE SPEAKING AT A SERVICE IN

ON

AT

Issued by the Australian Church Women Resource Centre

PRESS RELEASE

THE 1981 AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN WINIFRED KIEK
SCHOLAR IS MISS MALINI WEERASINGHE.

MALINI WEERASINGHE IS STUDYING AT DEACONESS HOUSE
SYDNEY WITH EMPHASIS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

THE SCHOLARSHIP IS FOR ONE YEAR AND ON HER RETURN TO HER NATIVE SRI LANKA SHE WILL BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO ARRANGE SEMINARS AND TO TRAIN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE LATEST TEACHING METHODS.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN REMEMBER THE LATE REV. WINIFRED KIEK, BA, BD, WITH A SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN ANNUALLY TO A CHRISTIAN WOMAN TO FURTHER HER EDUCATION; AND IS INTENDED FOR THOSE WHO GIVE LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH LIFE.

MISS WEERASINGHE WILL BE SPEAKING AT
ON AT

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PRAYER PARTNERS

As a result of person to person prayer partnership at an Asian Church Womens Conference in the seventies, the National Committee of Australian Church Women endorsed the idea of a country to country prayer partnership.

Australia's Prayer Partner is BURMA

Will you remember the women of Burma in your prayers?

To make a more meaningful approach to our praying, the National Working Committee is allotting each Unit with a particular month on which to focus our Burmese friends.

Your month is:

Perhaps during this month you could:

Organise a few small prayer groups in the homes of branch members to especially pray for the women of Burma.

Write a letter to

assuring her of your prayers, asking her to pass on to the women of Burma your thoughts and prayers for them and telling her of any prayer concerns in your area. This is a partnership of prayer and they are praying for us.

Find out all you can about Burma customs, food, clothing, climate, culture so that you may better understand the women for whom you are praying. Better still if you can find someone who has lived there or been in Burma to come and share something of their experiences with you.

Place an article in each of the denominational womens newsletters or papers issued in your state.

Make sure as many Christian women are involved as possible in this ecumenical outreach of prayer.

Are you a regular reader of "Women at Work"?
How many copies of "Women at Work" do you
get at your Branch? Is this enough for at
least five copies to each Church in your
district?

"WOMEN AT WORK" is your paper. It is the
official organ of Australian Church Women.
It contains information of the work of
Christian women around the nation. Write
to "Women at Work" and express your views,
tell us what your branch is doing, what your
Church is doing in your community. This will
inspire others, perhaps give them some bright
idea to follow.

Read "Women at Work" then pass it on.

Make sure it gets into the hands of Christian
women everywhere.

