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

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

As this is the last issue of Newsette for 1994, we wish you much joy as you celebrate Christmas, and blessing as we go on into another year Remember ... Jesus is the Reason for the Season!!



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - NSW UNIT

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.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Lucelle King Tel: (046) 47.2226

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all;

I have been reading the latest copy of Asian Church Women's Conference News Bulletin, and have again been made aware of the plight of women throughout the world. In so many nations - Africa, India, China, Iraq etc. - women are treated as secondary beings. Western society is really no different, women are raped and violated in our own society. To quote Klara Kevehazi of Hungary: "After all, the political and religious life of a nation is very much what the women make it, and there can never be a widespread deepening of religious life unless the women, who have a great capacity for God, turn to Him in repentance and faith." Always remember that it was the women who first discovered that the tomb was empty! The woman is the centre of the home and family.

Are you earnestly seeking to share the gospel with women around you - your neighbours, your friends, and all with whom you come into contact? So many of our churches are stagnant and not growing, because we do not share our faith. Decide today to seek out one woman - perhaps in dire domestic circumstances - and not only pray for her but become a friend to her, so that you can earn the right to share the GoodNews



of salvation. Jesus Christ commanded us to GO! (Matt 28:19).

By the time you read this I anticipate having the privilege of representing ACW at the 10th Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference in Taiwan. I look forward to being able to share something of this experience with you.

As this is the last issue of Newsette before Christmas, I pray that this Christmas will have a special meaning for you and yours.

Lucelle King.

A TREAT FOR NSW EXECUTIVE:

Members of the Executive enjoyed a very special treat for their October meeting, when President Lucelle King invited them to hold it at the lovely home at Mt Annan (near Campbelltown) which she and Bruce have built for their retirement. It was a great pleasure to see their beautiful garden and the surrounding rolling green hills and countryside.

After a welcoming 'cuppa' we adjourned for our meeting, but later broke for a most enjoyable lunch, graciously provided by Lucelle, for which Bruce joined us in fellowship - also in waiting upon us and anticipating our needs. It was also great that he was on duty as 'kitchen-help' and did all the washing up when we resumed our meeting!

Thank you, Lucelle, for the invitation and for a happy and enjoyable day.

Beryl McLaughlin (Newsette Editor)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WORSHIP SERVICE:

For the first time this annual Service is to be held in NSW, to join with others in Australia and many Asian countries where it has been held for a number of years.

Our ACW City Branch agreed to host the 1994 Service, and it is to be held on Friday, November 18 th, at 10.30 a.m. at St PATRICK'S Catholic Church, Grosvenor Street City (close to Wynyard). The Theme this year is "Unity In Diversity."

Do come if you possibly can, and encourage Branch members and friends to attend - it is not just a women's gathering - menfolk are equally welcome.

Service Sheets printed in Chinese and Korean, as well as in English, will be available - so encourage any Asian friends to come.

SPECIAL DAYS:

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY, OCTOBER 1994: The Order of Service on the theme "We Are Called To Peace" which was written by a group of NSW Executive members, has been well-received and commended for its inspiration and challenge, according to reports coming in from the various branches and centres.

It is very pleasing to report that this year World Community Day was held at seven new venues, making a total of 44. The new places are Dulwich Hill, Fairfield, Gosford, Goulburn, The Entrance, Camden, and Penrith (recommenced after recess).

NEW STATE CONVENERSHIP:

The NSW Unit Council has ratified the Executive's recommendation for an additional convenership, in the area of Social Issues. Miss Heather Reid has accepted this responsibility, in addition to continuing as Membership Secretary.

With her valuable experience as a past teacher, and as a senior officer in The Girls' Brigade, which she represents on NSW Unit, Heather is ably fitted for this, and has already represented ACW at the National Council of Women Seminars on Violence in our community, and at the MAPA (Media Awareness) Training Workshops.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

Mrs Colonel Florence Peterson has been our ACW Delegate to this Council for many years, and as, owing to ill health, she has had to step down, we wish to record our gratitude and appreciation to her for her faithful representation and reporting back, over this long period of faithful service.

Mrs Marie McCann has undertaken this position in Colonel Peterson's place.

<p align="center"> PLAN NOW TO ATTEND IN 1995 ACW NATIONAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 21ST - 25TH VENUE - CORPUS CHRISTI SEMINARY CLAYTON VICTORIA THEME - JESUS, WOMEN AND THE WORLD </p>

REPORT OF ECUMENICAL LUNCHEON:

This our first Ecumenical Luncheon, on August 29, was a wonderful time of blessing and fellowship for the 60 ladies who came together. The only disappointment was that Marie McCann, the initiator of the event and the advertised speaker, was unable to be present owing to a nasty accident the previous day. It was therefore providential to have two Fijian visitors, brought by Joan Elliston, attending as President of the National Council of Women (NCW) - Esiteri (Esther) Kamikamica, past president of NCW of Fiji and currently president of the Ecumenical Council of Fiji, and Mary Siganiscocu, who lives in Sydney and is president of the Fiji Women In Sydney Ecumenical Council.

Following fellowship over a 'cuppa', State President Lucelle King expressed a warm welcome and conducted a rollcall of denominations, then asked each lady to say where she came from. This showed that people had come from many parts of Sydney and the Central Coast. Lucelle sang "It's Great When You Get Together With All Of God's People" - and it was! People sat next to people they'd never met before - forced upon them by an ingenious seating arrangement!

Mrs Joan Elliston gave a greeting and brief review of the National Council of Women, with which almost 80 women's organisations are affiliated, including Australian Church Women, and the place of women's groups in our community today. The Luncheon included this focus on NCW to recognise and observe NCW Week, August 19-26.

Following prayer, scripture reading by Marie Majoor (State Treasurer) and grace, the 'sumptuous' meal was served by members of Executive and helpers. Between courses, we sang our ACW theme anthem "We Being Many Are One In The Lord", Peg Blake (Promotions Convener) gave a recitation of a wonderful story in poetry on the triumph of the human spirit when we 'get up and go on' even we have fallen many times; Lucelle then sang another inspiring song.

After Dessert, Esiteri gave us a 'thumbnail sketch' of her life and witness for the Lord. 35 years ago, she graduated from the University of New England at Armidale, having come as a scholarship winner from her home country. She has recently re-visited the University to receive a special Alumni Award given to former students who have made a significant contribution to the community after returning to

their country. Esiteri has been active in the Methodist Church of Fiji, has been a teacher, and is now very happy to be a grandmother! She won the hearts of all, with her very positive word regarding the ministry of women.

Mary then spoke briefly of her activities with Fijians living in Sydney, saying that coming to our Luncheon was a God-given opportunity to meet with Australian Church Women, and feels that there are possibilities for further fellowship between us and her women. (Both ladies have since attended the World Community Day Service at Dulwich Hill).

To conclude, Lucelle sang The Lord's Prayer, and all joined in singing the Dosology. Lucelle then announced that Marie McCann had agreed to attend a second luncheon on October 31, so that there would still be an opportunity to hear of her time in China.

DEACONESS'S DOINGS:

Deaconess Mary Andrews AM has recently been made a Life Member of National Council of Women NSW, and at their annual Foundation Day Luncheon at Parliament House Dining Room in August, was a nominee for the NCW 'Woman Of The Year' Award for outstanding achievement in community service. Mary has also just received an Illustrated Certificate from the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge UK, selecting her as "International Woman Of The Year 1993/94" for her service in China and for the aged.

In the same week, Mary received goodwill messages and photos from some US World War 2 air veterans at the 52nd anniversary reunion of the air raid on Tokyo - she had met them after their plane crashed in China following the raid and they were brought to the hospital where she was serving as a missionary - they still remember her caring for them.

This very remarkable lady has also been honoured by the William Clark Anglican College at Kellyville NSW, by having a House named after her. This is a wonderful Christian school which in 5 years now has an intake of 700 pupils. Mary was able to speak to the pupils in 'Andrews House' who were greatly interested in hearing some aspects of her active Christian witness for our Lord. Mary's Bible Verse for living her life is Philippians 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ." Canon Alan Langdon and Dr Grace Warren have been similarly honoured by the school. (Mina Whybourne)

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

National Executive have received news from Nighat Gulzer, of Lahore, Pakistan, our 1994 Scholar. She is delighted to be able to use the computer skills she learned in Adelaide, in her position as accountant in the Women's Office of the Raiwind Diocese, and is very grateful to ACW for the opportunity of gaining this knowledge. She is also very appreciative of the time she spent visiting ACW members in Victoria, Canberra and Sydney.

Deaconess Barkat Das (1978 Scholar) in a letter to Deaconess Andrews reports that all is going well at the Girls' Hostel, which she manages. There is a much happier atmosphere and she thanks ACW members for their prayers and asks that we continue to pray for her.

Exciting news from 1980 Scholar Rev Mary Au - she has been awarded a 3-year scholarship to study at St. George's College, Jerusalem.

The WKS Trustees recently met to select the Scholar for 1995. Many applications have been received from the Pacific Area, so it will be interesting to hear from whence our next WKS Scholar will come and where she will be studying.

Mina Whybourne (WKS Convener)

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM INDECENT IMAGES LAW;

This Act being brought before NSW Parliament by Dr Marlene Goldsmith MLC is to prohibit the display of sexually explicit images in retail stores and other public places accessible to children. The introductory paragraph reads:

"The object of this Bill is to protect children from exposure to images of a sexually degrading, violent or otherwise unsuitable nature displayed in connection with publications for sale or distribution at shops and other public places. The Bill provides that, with certain specified exceptions, an offence is committed if such material is displayed so that children under the age of 10 will have access to it."

Dr Goldsmith has written to our State Council to thank us for our encouragement with what she is trying to achieve, saying "Support such as that received from your organisation spurs me on all the more, as I know my aims are supported by a very large group of the population."

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

"Dear Partners in prayer and prayerful action in Fellowship of the Least Coin" is the way Shirin Samuel, Executive Sec. ICFLC, began her recent letter in which she sends greetings on behalf of the International Committee. Shirin tells us that reports received from the 1994 grants have been most encouraging, and on behalf of all who have benefited, she thanks all who have devotedly prayed for, given generously, and shared in the concerns of so many people in great need.

60 applications have been received for 1995 grants, coming from all parts of the world, for people with varying needs. Some are suffering because of lack of material resources to meet basic needs; some are in minority situations and suffer through religious fundamentalism; some are isolated from their families, some unable to witness to their Christian faith, some cannot afford leadership training or Bible Study. Many are refugees and migrant workers. Shirin asks us to continue to make all these people our prayer concern, as we offer our least coins. Our sharing will bring joy and comfort to these people.

There are still some copies of Circle of Prayer Volume 12 available, and I have a good supply of offering boxes, leaflets, bookmarks and prayer cards.

Would you kindly note that, as from 20th December, my new address will be: Unit 125, Hayfield Village, Baptist Community Services, Homelands Avenue, Carlingford 2118.

Shirley Wells (FLC Convener)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE in TAIWAN:

This 10th Quadrennial Assembly of ACWC is being held from November 2nd to 8th - just about when you will receive this Newsette - so do pray, as you read this, for all those met together in Hsinchu Bible College, for fellowship, learning, sharing and mutual encouragement. Our NSW representatives are Lucelle King and Joan Tong. The Theme is "Partnership Through Christ In A Changing World", which will be addressed through sub-themes Partners In The Church, Partners With The Family, Partners With God's Creation, Partners With Others, led by very able speakers from Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea, Japan and New Zealand.

NUNGALINYA WOMEN PLAN FOR THE FUTURE:

For many years, graduates of the Darwin-based Certificate Course in Bi-Cultural Life Studies have been taking skills, knowledge and ideas back to their communities. Now they are asking for parts of the Course to be taken to remote Women's Resource Centres.

At a Seminar at Nungalinga, past students spoke of the extensive work taking place in Women's Centres scattered across the Top End, telling of strong women using these places for cooking, sewing, washing, crafts and health issues, as well as for caring for children and the elderly.

Led by staff members, a group of women asked the NT Education Minister & the Aboriginal Development Unit for support, presenting their needs using a large banner they had painted. The government responded by providing a grant for the College to conduct Training Needs Workshops in eight Arnhem Land communities. Two women, Adi Dunlop, former teacher, and Shirley Gundhumawuy, graduate of the course, are to deliver these workshops; their brief is to listen to what Aboriginal women are saying and report back on the needs of the women at each of these communities. The workshops will respond to grassroots needs, building on Nungalinga's network of goodwill and empowering the women to negotiate, prioritise, and find solutions, and hopefully will be the forerunner of an important extension of the College's work.

(Nungalinga was supported by World Community Day Offertories several years ago - Editor)

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION:

WCTU Annual Thanksgiving was held in September, when representatives of the Local Unions (branches) gather to bring in their thankoffering, and share in using the same Order Of Service as other State & Local Unions around Australia and across the world. The guest speaker at this year's Sydney Thanksgiving was Audrey Oldfield, author of the book "Woman Suffrage In Australia", the centenary of which is currently being celebrated, and in struggle for which the WCTU was in the forefront 100 years ago. She spoke of the life of Jessie Ackerman, one of the outstanding pioneers and campaigners for the improvement and welfare of women. The Service was led by Dora Quarmby, one of WCTU's representatives to ACW State Unit. Beryl McLaughlin (WCTU State Secretary)

INFORMATIVE ITEMS from "HERSAY":

(News Bulletin of NSW Women's Consultative Committee)

NSW GOVERNMENT ACTS AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION:

NSW Govt recently took a leading role in human rights when a Bill making Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) a criminal offence was introduced in the Upper House. FGM refers to several different traditional practices, usually performed between the ages of 1 week to 14 years, as a means of ensuring women's virginity until marriage and faithfulness after marriage.

The UN World Health Organisation (WHO) has appealed for an end to FGM, saying that up to 114 million women world-wide have been scarred by the practice. The UN Declaration Of Violence Against Women, to which Australia is a signatory, calls FGM an act of gender-based violence against women.

Kerry Chikarovski, Minister For The Status Of Women, said: "It is acknowledged that while incidence of FGM is unusual in Australia, the NSW Government feels compelled to send a clear message, that this practice will not be tolerated in this State."

WOMEN AND TRANQUILLISERS:

Some people don't realise that the prescribed medicine they are using may be minor tranquillisers; among others, these include Valium, Serenax, Mogadon. Such medication may be useful in providing relief during crisis periods, but they don't usually solve your problems - they may reduce your ability to sort out problems. You may also get into a situation where you feel you can't cope without them; other difficulties can include withdrawal symptoms when you try to stop.

REDUCING VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS:

Representatives from six schools talked about their experiences at a Seminar held in Parliament House Theatre arranged by the National Council of Women, the second in an ongoing program Men & Women Against Violence. The schools involved were Warilla Primary, Mt Druitt High, Liverpool West Primary, James Busby High and North Sydney Demonstration School. This NCW initiative is supported by Kerry Chikarovski, Minister for Status of Women, who opened the Seminar, and by Virginia Chadwick, Minister for Education & Training.

WHAT A HEEL!

With the renewed popularity of very high-heels and platform shoes, be warned that these can cause serious pelvic and back damage.

FROM CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION:**Another Wonderful Story:**

From the very start of his ministry, Ernst Christoffel, the founder of Christian Blind Mission International, could not help but open the doors of his School for Blind Children to the deaf and disabled children who came to him for help - he knew they had nowhere else to go. Here is the story of one of these:

Sore Toinja spent the first 13 years of his life in Burkina Faso (West Africa) dragging himself through the dry dust that covers much of his drought-prone land. Having lost his fight with Polio, he was resigned to viewing the world from his pitied position on the ground. His hands were calloused and rough from their double duty as feet. Because he was barely mobile, Sore's disability was so limiting - he could not get to school, and no one thought to teach his young hands to do more than pull him painstakingly from place to place.

If Sore's father hadn't heard about the Centre in Zabre where physically disabled children could learn to sew, Sore would still be on the ground, with little respect and even less joy or hope. But his father did hear about the Centre, and he brought his unhappy son the 50 kilometres to Zabre.

When Sore saw the thin, disabled legs, but the busy, skilled hands of the children at the Centre, he began to cry. For 13 years he had believed he was the only disabled child in the world! Now he saw this wasn't true - he was no longer alone.

Sore stayed at the Centre long enough to learn the art of tailoring. He learned to drive a 'three-wheeler' - a hand-crank tricycle, which the Centre gave to him - and he was given a sewing machine to take back to his village.

Today, Sore supplies his family with clothing. He even sells some of his products at the local market. Upright in his three-wheeler, Sore is alive and beaming with the challenges ahead of him. He has experienced the love of God in action, and has seen that this love reaches everywhere, even into the dirt, to embrace a young boy named Sore.

Zabre is an example making community-based rehabilitation work in co-operation with its original rehabilitation Centre. Fieldworkers go out to teach blind people gardening on their own plots of land, thus many more are being rehabilitated.

BIBLE SOCIETY WORLDWIDE NEWS IN BRIEF:**NEW BIRTH - NOT DIVORCE:**

January 1994 saw the birth of the Bible Society of Slovenia. 9 months earlier the first-ever meeting of representatives of every major denomination had taken place. The former co-ordinator of Bible work in the former Yugoslavia, which included Slovenia, was present at that meeting, and said: "This is not a day of divorce - it is a day of new birth:"

BULGARIANS WAIT IS OVER:

October 1993 saw the long-awaited day when Bulgarian Courts approved the registration of Bible Society of Bulgaria. As well as the task of translation, this will be a source of Scriptures for some 9 million people, including Turks, Macedonians, Gypsies, Armenians and Russians.

ARABIC BIBLE LAUNCHED:

The first inter-confessional translation of the complete Bible into Arabic was launched in Lebanon in November 1993. The Good News translation is close to the Arabic that people use daily, yet consideration was also given to the Arabic-speaking world beyond the Middle East. This translation is the result of over 25 years of hard work, much of it during the sixteen years of fighting in Lebanon.

NEW BIBLE SOCIETY IN WAR ZONE:

In spite of the darkness of civil war, the leaders of some seven denominations gathered for the very first time in Belgrade, Serbia, and agreed to form a new Bible Society.

This is the fourteenth European Bible Society to be established recently in former communist countries, including the those mentioned above, and the Croatian Bible Society, constituted in Zagreb in October 1993.

GENESIS JOURNEY:

600 copies of Genesis produced in Papua New Guinea for the Tabo people of the far western province were printed in Madang, flown by Missionary Aviation Fellowship to a landing-strip near Mapodo, then taken by motorised dugout canoe down the Aramia River to the Tabo region. The first shipment of 150 copies was sold within a week.

REJOICING IN ASSAM:

Assamese is spoken by some 12 million people in North-East India, most being Hindu or Muslim. The small but active Christian church are rejoicing in the release of the first Assamese Common Language New Testament.