

Women's World Day of Prayer

New South Wales.

1 Elsie Street,
EARLWOOD.

25th October 1962.

Rev. Harvey Perkins,
Australian Council of Churches,
511 Kent St.,
SYDNEY.

26 OCT 1962

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Enclosed is the list of names and addresses of State Secretaries of W.W.D.P. Committees. We have not the names of the Presidents, who change more frequently than the Secretaries.

Mrs. Dabinett of South Australia is also the Liaison Officer for all States.

Thank you for the copies of reports received this morning.

Yours sincerely,

C. Mabel Bell

President.

Women's World Day of Prayer

United Council of
Christian Women

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

53. Kintail Road,
Applecross. W.A.
June. 24th. 1963.

Mrs. M. G. Wylie,
Convenor A.C.W.
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs Wylie,

In reply to your letter & statement of May 9th. sent to our President, Mrs J.B. Archibald, I wish to advise that this matter was again raised at our United Council of Christian Women's meeting held last Monday.

The Council would prefer to have further information on A.C.W., its objects, study groups etc., as we stated in our previous letter that we are already operating as combined Church women as well as organising Womens World Day of Prayer in this State. I enclose platform of Principles.

The Baptist, and Church of Christ denomination are with us as a Council, but would they be part of A.C.W. ? If not, we would then not be willing to affiliate and exclude these members.

Trusting for further information regarding your objects.

Yours Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Janet Johnston. Secretary.

Women's World Day of Prayer

United Council of
Christian Women

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

53. Kintail Road,
Applecross.
October 10th. 1963

The Secretary,
Interim Committee of Aus. Church Women,
3rd. Floor, 511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs Mc Kay,

Our Council wishes to thank you for your previous correspondence and although acknowledging the worthiness of your cause and ideals feel, that they are incapable of being involved in further commitments and for this reason we do not wish to affiliate with A.C.W. nor receive any further correspondence.

Thanking you,

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

(Sec.) J L Johnston

Women's World Day Of Prayer

Queensland Committee

19 Hevlin St.
Aspley
Brisbane

Brisbane, October 7th 1963

10 OCT 1963

Dear Mr. McKay,

At our Committee meeting yesterday your letter was brought forward regarding our affiliating with Australian Church Women. It was unanimously decided to confirm our previous decision that we cannot according to our Constitution affiliate with this organisation. Our work concerns only the organising & fostering of the World's Day of Prayer therefore we must decline your invitation to join.

Yours sincerely,
Constance Lawton
Hon. Secretary.

Women's World Day of Prayer

New South Wales.

1 Elsie Street,
EARLWOOD.

Jan. 9th 1963.

Mrs. B. R. Wyllie,
Convener: Interim Committee of A.C.W.,
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY.

10 JAN 1964

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

As I suppose it will not be long before a permanent Committee of A.C.W. is formed, I should now make clear the position of Women's World Day of Prayer State Committees throughout Australia.

Each one of the State Committees has decided against affiliation with A.C.W. We are neither a State nor a Commonwealth Movement, but a world-wide one with Headquarters in U.S.A. Consequently we cannot be affiliated with another Council. Our work is wholly and solely concerned with the promotion of the Women's World Day of Prayer; and although the various denominations represented on our Committees may be linked with A.C.W., that will not alter nor affect our position.

This decision is unanimous, and thus we should not be able to accept a seat on the Committee. Nevertheless we shall endeavour to work alongside your organisation insofar as that may be possible.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

C. Trabel Bell
Federal Liaison Officer

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

January 29, 1964.

Colonel Mabel Bell,
Federal Liaison Officer,
Women's World Day of Prayer,
1 Elsie Street,
EARLWOOD.
N.S.W.

Dear Colonel Bell,

Thank you for your letter of January 9 and your clear statement, as Federal Liaison Officer, of the position of the Women's World Day of Prayer in Australia in relation to Australian Church Women. We, of course, regret very much that Australian Church Women cannot have the full interest and cooperation of your committees.

I have discussed the Australian situation with Mrs. D. McLeod and Misses H. Turnbull and Clare Randall of the staff of United Church Women in the USA, which you refer to as your headquarters. Miss Randall as you will know directs the Women's World Day of Prayer. They have expressed surprise and regret that the World Day of Prayer committees in Australia find themselves unable to cooperate with Australian Church Women. As you know this was also a surprise to Dr. Madeleine Barot when she was here in Australia last October. Dr. Barot, at the request of United Church Women of the USA has written the service for 1964.

However, I think that I can appreciate the historical, financial and personal reasons which have dictated this policy for the Federal organisation of the Women's World Day of Prayer in Australia.

I want to assure you of the very real interest of Australian Church Women in the Day of Prayer movement. I would think that every member of the Interim Committee would be speaking at a Day of Prayer Service on February 14 and that they had all done so for many years. I want to assure you also of a very warm welcome into the fellowship of Australian Church Women when you feel that the time is right for you to cooperate with Australian Church Women in this way to link Women's World Day of Prayer in Australia with Community Day and Fellowship Day as they are linked at your headquarters in the USA.

p.t.o.

Here are two reasons why I regret the unanimous decision of your various State Committees. I am convinced that through Australian Church Women the Day of Prayer in Australia could have the interest and inspiration of association with the wider ecumenical movement in the World Council of Churches. It is regrettable that the Women's World Day of Prayer should be cut off from the ecumenical movement in Australia. In the USA where the Movement originated it is an integral part of the ecumenical movement. In the second place, a link with Australian Church Women would ensure that the Women's World Day of Prayer would be fully integrated into the congregational life of the Church in Australia. As you probably know the four existing Women's Inter-Church Councils in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane have now joined Australian Church Women and will function as state units of Australian Church Women while still retaining their own identity and name.

I trust that you will not regard this as a closed subject but that you will encourage your committees throughout Australia to think and pray so that together we may find the will and purpose of God on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs)
Convener.

c.c. State Committees of
Women's World Day of Prayer.



Change of mailing list

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

PRESIDENT
the Rev. B. R. Wyllie
GENERAL SECRETARY
the Rev. Harvey L. Perkins
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
the Rev. J. R. Neal

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

TELEPHONE: 61 4766
61 5224

TELEGRAPHIC:
"ECUMENICAL," Sydney
Third Floor,
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY

January 29, 1964.

Secretaries of Women's World Day of Prayer Committees.

Dear Miss Chapman,

In this letter I am sending you a copy of the letter which I received from Colonel Bell as Federal Liaison Officer of the Women's World Day of Prayer in Australia and also a copy of my letter of reply. Colonel Bell has pointed out that this is the unanimous decision of all State Committees of the Women's World Day of Prayer and it is for that reason that I am sending you a copy of both letters. If there is any further questions or problems which concern you I would be glad if you would let us have them.

With all good wishes for the observance of the Day of Prayer on February 14th.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

M. G. Wyllie
Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)
Convener.

*Dear Mrs Wyllie This letter
was sent to my late sister
Ruby Chapman. I understand
Mrs Linnett*

292 Elgar Rd

*Box Hill. Victoria is the Secretary now
Jean Chapman*

MEMBER CHURCHES:

Church of England	Greek Orthodox Church	Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Armenian Apostolic Church	Congregational Church	Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church	Churches of Christ	Salvation Army
		Society of Friends

Women's World Day of Prayer

New South Wales.

1 Elsie Street,
EARLWOOD, N.S.W.
22nd February 1964.

Mrs. B. R. Wyllie,
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY.

24 FEB 1964

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

With regard to your letter of 29th January, I was very sorry you should send a copy of that and of my letter to you of 9th Jan. to the State Committees, so close to the Day of Prayer. I had purposely refrained from doing so until after the Day of Prayer, so that none of the Committees should be disturbed until that Day for which we work the greater part of the year should be passed.

Indeed, I do not understand why you had to send the correspondence at all. Surely that is my responsibility. I cannot help the feeling that your action savours of that aggressive intention which was indicated as far back as the day of the Welcome to the New Delhi delegates at the Sydney Town Hall Meeting, when one of your number announced to me, out of the blue, "We are going to take over the World Day of Prayer."

The Women's World Day of Prayer movement in this country is as truly ~~ecumenical~~ as anywhere, as an examination of our records will show. It is operated with the least possible expense, with consequent benefit to the Bible Society and other projects. We have no intention of having any part of our funds diverted to other purposes, as would inevitably be the case were we to

-2-

become affiliated with A.C.W.

Each of the State Committees has reached its own conclusion independent of the others. Each one has prayed and conferred over a period of time, and each one has acted on what each believes to be the will of God. I can add nothing further to that.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

C. Michael Bell

Liaison Officer.

Statement of Workshop
on
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

*From Mrs. Scheraga
to Mrs. Balger
to A.C.W.*

Statement of our Situation: We live in an era when God has planted the Church in every nation. Each church bears witness in its own situation on behalf of the whole Church of Jesus Christ, and at the same time enters into the ecumenical responsibility of bearing one another's burdens. We are grateful to God that there has grown up a world-wide expression of this mutual concern in the World Day of Prayer. In each of 127 countries this observance has emerged with its own history. Its meaning is enhanced by the realization that lay women on every continent have made possible this manifestation of Christian unity and obedience.

Therefore, Christian women from 42 countries, with communications from many others, gathered informally at Anderson, Indiana, July 6-11, 1967, would like to make the following recommendations to their sisters in other countries.

Recommendations:

1. **History.** There shall be prepared in each country or national unit a brief history of the World Day of Prayer as it has developed in that place. This material will be used in compiling a common background statement to be made available to all.
2. **National Committees.**
 - a. There shall be designated an official World Day of Prayer Committee in each country or national unit. Its responsibilities are to encourage the observance of World Day of Prayer in local communities and to transmit to their constituency the text of the worship service as translated and adapted, for their country, together with such preparatory materials as are felt advisable.
 - b. This committee shall be as representative as possible, taking into consideration the multi-racial nature of its society and the diversity of the several Christian traditions.
 - c. The committee shall name an official correspondent assigned to communicate with those preparing for the world observance and also with other World Day of Prayer committees.
3. **International Committee.**
 - a. An international World Day of Prayer Committee shall be formed. It shall be composed of the official correspondents of the national World Day of Prayer committees, plus six members at large chosen from the various continental areas of the world. Church Women United's Executive Director (or her representative) to be an ex-officio member.
 - b. It shall be responsible for the policy and planning of the World Day of Prayer, the general cultivation of observances and have over-all responsibility for developing the basic materials. The international committee shall not deal with financial objects of World Day of Prayer offerings.
 - c. It shall elect its own officers and develop its procedures of work. Its minutes shall be circulated to the entire committee.
 - d. The committee shall meet on a schedule which it may determine. It is recommended that meetings be held in various parts of the world in order to make

possible the presence and fuller participation of correspondents of different areas.

- e. When it is possible for an official correspondent to attend, each country or national unit shall assume financial responsibility for its own representative. To insure the presence of the six members at large, a common fund will provide for their expenses. This fund will be assured through the voluntary contributions from the several national World Day of Prayer committees.
 - f. It is further recommended that for the present the administrative responsibility of the international committee be carried by Church Women United (in the U.S.A.) and that the Executive Director or her representative shall be an ex-officio member. For the time being there shall be maintained a mailing list for sending out the service which will include, upon request, names of persons other than national correspondents.
4. Date. We recommend that the first Friday in March be designated as the day for world observance beginning in 1969. (It is hoped that this change will overcome certain limitations and conflicts caused by the flexible date.)
 5. The Service. The service itself shall make provision for new ecumenical experiences in worship (i.e., new expressions in music and art, as well as materials from various Christian traditions; provision for prayers more relevant to the crises in the world.) The programs should be designed to be simple and flexible, and be prepared in such a way that a national committee might omit certain sections and insert indigenous material and still keep within the spirit of the Day. It is hoped that official translations might be available in Spanish, French, Arabic, and Chinese, as well as English, in order to serve those language areas which cross national lines.
 6. Background Materials. Background materials on the specific service (i.e., data on writers, theme, etc.) should be made available well in advance for use in church periodicals and mass media.
 7. Provisional Committee. In order to begin to implement these recommendations, a provisional committee composed of six members at large and ex-officio, the Executive Director of Church Women United (or her representative), shall be established.
 - a. This provisional committee shall convene the first International Committee of the World Day of Prayer in Europe, in July 1968, at which time the six members at large will be chosen for defined terms of office. The provisional committee will then be dissolved.
 - b. The provisional committee is further charged with preparing the suggestions for the 1970 World Day of Prayer service.

July 11, 1967.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FEDERAL LIAISON OFFICER

56 Kew Road,
Graceville,
Brisbane 4075

2nd December 1967

Mrs. G.I. Duke,
38 Argyle Street,
EAST BENTLEIGH.
3165 Victoria.

Dear Mrs. Duke,

I received your letter (envelope post mark dated 29th November 5 p.m. yesterday.

Thank you for the invitation for a representative of our organisation to attend the annual National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women in Sydney from 13th to 16th February 1968.

I have made copies of your letter which will be sent to all State Committees and when I know if a representative is to attend and who she is to be I will let you know.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. R.S.C.)



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
OF AUSTRALIA.

National Committee

56 Kew Road,
Graceville
BRISBANE 4075 Q'ld.
19th March 1968

Mrs. G.I. Duke,
Secretary,
Australian Church Women,
VICTORIA.

Dear Mrs. Duke,

On behalf of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer of Australia, I have to thank you for your letter containing greetings from the Australian Church Women. Your expressions of good will were much appreciated.

At the conclusion of our consultation in Melbourne last week the National Committee was formally inaugurated. During our deliberations the policy of the World Day of Prayer of Australia was considered and the following resolution was passed

" That the Women's World Day of Prayer of Australia resolves to preserve the identity and autonomy of the Movement as its sole concern is to call women and girls to prayer on the 1st Friday in March of each year."

Therefore there is no intention at present for the National Council to affiliate with the Australian Church Women or any other body.

We trust that the work of Australian Church Women will continue to prosper and that its work will be more and more appreciated.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ed Dingle (Mrs. R.A.C.)

NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER.

Unfortunately I seem to have mislaid the copy of the Programme I intended to enclose.

It was nicely printed on a small card-like paper folded in three.

The title of the training programme was "TALKABOUT"

The studies were based on our Federation pledge

I accept the call to Christian Womanhood and promise by God's help to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. To make my home a place where He is loved, my Church a centre where He is worshipped and my country a realm where He is honoured".

The first session's Theme	My Home a place where He is Loved
second	My Church a centre where He is worshipped
third	My country a realm where He is honoured
fourth	Christian Womanhood.... I promise to serve."
fifth week	Seminars in districts with resume of previous lectures and discussion group findings.
sixth week	Dedication service.

I will post you a copy of the programme later when and if I can find one somewhere in town.

Regards,

Arthur Dingle

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Miss Gudrun Diestel, *Chairman*
8504 Stein über Nürnberg 2
Deutenbacher Strasse 1
Germany

Mrs. Laura Burnett, *Canada*
Mrs. Esther Coker, *Sierra Leone*
Mrs. Margareth Lie Dharma, *Indonesia*
Miss Amal Halaby, *Lebanon*
Mrs. Sylvia Talbot, *Guyana*

Margaret Shannon
Administrative Secretary
475 Riverside Drive, Room 806
New York, N.Y. 10027

March 7, 1969

TO: National World Day of Prayer Committees
TO: Correspondents, translators, and denominational leaders
who enable a wider observance of the World Day of Prayer

FROM: Margaret Shannon, Administrative Secretary

On this week when we are celebrating the reality of "growing together in Christ", this general mailing is sent to you with the plans for the 1970 service.

It is sent on behalf of the international committee formed last summer at Val-
lingby, Sweden, by representatives of the interdenominational national com-
mittees of the World Day of Prayer. According to their adopted rules, any
national or regional interdenominational committee is eligible to appoint a
liaison person to the committee. Through its executive committee, whose
names are listed on this letterhead, the committee recommends and develops
the annual themes, arranges representation at national and regional meetings
of church women, and works toward extending and strengthening the WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER. The next meeting of the international committee will be in
Asia September 20-24, 1970.

Since this begins a new era, we are anxious to get our records in order, for
the heart of our work is in communication with each other. Therefore we are
asking any of the 900 persons receiving this material to respond by an airform:
1) if you need to receive a similar mailing next year; 2) what your role is in
preparing for the observance; 3) the languages or country or region in which
it is used. (Some national committees have already responded.)

The theme and material were prepared by a group of five women from as many
different countries and reviewed by the international committee last summer.
This committee is anxious to continue the significance of the fellowship in
prayer in a uniform use of the same theme, scripture, prayer petitions, and
one of the hymns. It is as anxious that parts of the service, however, be
developed in a way which will be particularly meaningful in the vernacular to
the persons sharing in the experience. You will find it helpful to be in touch
with others doing the service in your area, in order to avoid duplication of
effort.

The enclosed material on the 1970 service will be the only material sent this year, since it is inappropriate to use the American printed form. However, we would encourage international exchanges of your final programs. A copy of the children's service and the international Call to Prayer for 1970 will be sent this summer to the liaison person of each national WDP committee, and to any other person who requests it.

The World Day of Prayer is different from any of the other days of prayer, not only in the fact that it occurs in more countries than any other, but also because its leadership and planning have been in the hands of lay people. At this time when fear besets so many people, the message which they wish to send in 1970 from continent to continent is found in the scripture: "Every one helps his neighbor, and says to his brother, 'Take courage!'" (Isaiah 41:6)

There will be a ready response to the words which Elijah originally expressed and which were set to music by Felix Mendelssohn in his oratorio Elijah:



On the first Friday in March 1970, let us affirm together the promise of God: "If with all your hearts you truly seek me, Ye shall ever surely find me."

C O P Y

International Committee on
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Margaret Shannon
Administrative Secretary
475 Riverside Drive,
Room 806
New York, N.Y. 10027.

January 16th 1970.

Deaconess Catherine I. Ritchie,
C - Presbyterian Board,
G.P.O. Box 100
Sydney Australia.

Dear Deaconess Ritchie,

Your name has been familiar to us in the last couple of years through the kindness of Myrner Buschmeyer. Perhaps she was not aware at the time of the service that she rendered to us in relating to Christian women in Australia. We remember you as the immediate past president of the Australian Church Women.

It is our privilege to introduce Mrs. Charlotte Browne-Mayers who will be in your city from Wednesday, February 4 through Friday, February 6. She is staying at the Wentworth Hotel. With her great concern for women around the world, she hopes to meet key persons who can help interpret to her the work of the church in various areas and the great potential of women as they play a major role in the present and future of society. I am enclosing a biographical sketch and picture that will help you to know Mrs. Browne-Mayers and make much better use of your brief time with her. She is involved in the conferences as she travels with her husband.

We covet this opportunity for both of you. We send our warmest greetings to the women of Australia and trust that you will be represented at the meeting of the International Committee on the World Day of Prayer in Bangkok, in September.

Most truly yours,

Margaret Shannon.

Mrs. Charlotte Browne-Mayers,
45 West 54th Street,
New York City, N.Y. 10119.

Mrs. F. Ashton

Mrs. Charlotte Browne-Mayers is traveling in the company of her husband around the world for a period of six weeks to relate to various women's groups and attend conferences related to the concerns of the church. The advanced information about Mrs. Browne-Mayers will help you know her in order to make the best possible use of her short hours with you.

Until August of 1969, Mrs. Charlotte Browne-Mayers was an associate general secretary of the World Council of churches in Geneva, Switzerland, and the director of its largest agency, the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service. She headed a division which coordinates a comprehensive programme through with W.C.C member churches and their agencies undertake to relieve suffering through 600 church-related projects in 80 countries. She was the first woman to hold the position of WCC associate general secretary.

Prior to her appointment with the World Council, Mrs. Browne-Mayers was director of Adult Education Activities with the Standard Oil Company (N.J.). She also handled liaison with institutions of higher education for the company's public relations department.

Before assuming her post with Standard Oil, she directed adult education programmes for the Young Women's Christian Association in Brooklyn, New York.

Appointed by Governor Nelson H. Rockefeller to the New York State Women's Advisory Council and the Advisory Committee of the New York State Guidance Centre for Women, she also served on the Mayor's Task Force on Youth and Work in New York City.

A member of the United Church of Christ (SA) Mrs. Browne-Mayers functioned for ten years on the Commission on Church and Economic Life of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and in 1967 was elected to the executive committee of its Division of Christian Life and Mission.

Mrs. Browne-Mayers has travelled widely, and is especially familiar with Europe and Latin America.