



WOMEN AT WORK

MAY, 1977.

BREAK DOWN THE WALLS!

Between now and July many of our readers will be studying the Order of Service for Fellowship Day, and planning to use it in ways which will be most effective in their own situations. It is exciting to know that this service of worship will link the National Committee Meeting in Perth with groups of A.C.W. all over Australia. Not all will be meeting on 26th July, but at some time close to that date and in many places, gatherings great and small will be following the same programme, praying the same prayers, singing the same hymns and thinking about the same theme - BREAK DOWN THE WALLS!

The Public Meetings and Bible Studies following the opening session of N.C.M. will actually be an unfolding, a development, of the Fellowship Day programme. On Tuesday night the theme is LOOK THROUGH THE WALLS AND FIND YOUR NEIGHBOUR, followed on Wednesday morning by an Old Testament study with the same emphasis. Wednesday night's topic is BREAK DOWN THE WALLS AND SHARE YOUR FAITH. And on Thursday morning the Bible Study, Share Your Faith, will be from the Epistles in the New Testament.

At the final public meeting we JUMP OVER THE WALLS AND RENEW THE EARTH, with a Bible Study from the Gospels on Friday morning.

Arrangements for all sessions are well in hand, but there is at least one thing worrying our secretary, and here you may be able to help. WHERE ARE THE REGISTRATION FORMS? Some returns came in quite early, and yes, they do keep coming, but not fast enough. Please do your best to relieve Vera's anxiety and send them in as soon as possible.

We hope, too, that you are thinking about the business sessions of the N.C.M., and even if you are not able to be present, you may contribute to discussions by sending comments and suggestions. These we would welcome. Already we have received word that some members would appreciate a serious discussion on the future of A.C.W. - where we are going, what we have achieved and what we hope to achieve. A.C.W. - WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Also, preparation of Orders of Service for Special Days should be considered - whether or not the present arrangements are satisfactory.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON, AND THEN TO SEEING YOU ON JULY 26TH.

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Supaporn Kongphrom was one of the girls considered for a scholarship for 1977, but circumstances were such that we were unable to do for her what she requested (a four years' course), and her plans would not allow her to accept what we could offer. Recently, Supaporn wrote to Jean Vincent thanking her for her efforts on her behalf, and continuing, "I'm very glad to welcome you and anyone from the committee to come and visit me in Chiang Mai. Please write to me or let me know any time you need help. I met Mrs Sopit Chokchai She told me many things about what she did with her Australian parents I think she told you something about me. I really hope to meet you sometime in the future. I have told you before that I am going to get married this vacation. However, I still have plans. We think that we'll get married ..

right after we have our own house. I'll tell you exactly the time for the wedding day again. One more important thing is that my boyfriend will get Baptism to become Christian before getting married. Would you please think of us when you pray".

Even though we were not able to welcome Supaporn as a scholarship holder, we have established a link with her - and who knows what that may mean in days to come?

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From the Asian Christian Women's Conference News Bulletin we select the following extracts, believing they will be of real interest to you:

The A.C.W.C. is an organization of Christian women in Asia. It embraces Protestant women of Korea, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Burma, Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia and New Zealand.

With the discovery of new Asian selfhood, the women of Asia also felt an urge for solidarity and self-identity. Believing that the purpose of God for the churches in East and South Asia is life together in a common obedience to Him for carrying out His will in the world, the A.C.W.C. came into existence nineteen years ago.

VISIT TO EAST MALAYSIA

Mrs Ang Kim Kiat and the Executive Secretary made a trip to Sarawak and Sabah in February. This was the first time the A.C.W.C. made any contacts with the women of these provinces.

What a pleasure it was to meet the enthusiastic, committed women leaders, who knew very little about the ecumenical Church Organizations outside their own provinces. They have more contacts with Christian institutions in Singapore than in West Malaysia.

The means of communication are very limited in these provinces. Three to five hours' trip by boat from one place to another was very interesting but tiring. The boat is like a taxi taking passengers along the wide river from door to door. In each province there is a distinct difference between the native Christians and the Christians of Chinese origin. The Church is trying to help in developing leadership among the natives and in bringing the two groups together.

CREE INDIANS

Mr and Mrs Bartlett are working with the 'Cree Indians' in Northern Quebec, Canada. The excerpts from their letter will give you an idea of their work.

"With great surprise and gratitude we receive the grant for our work. We especially enjoyed this gift, because it did not come from our normal sources. We did not know of A.C.W.C. and are very grateful that such a group of women see fit to share in the Lord's work in this manner.

The Eastern Cree are about 7,000 people living in seven villages. They hunt, fish and trap, and generally live off the land on a regular basis. A large portion of Quebec is their ancestral hunting area. They have a strong religious conscience. Also they display many fine traits and cultural practices that have biblical bases, such as strong family life and caring for each other. It is to this group that we hope to bring the Word of God in a fashion they can read and understand.

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F.L.C. GRANT

We are now able to tell you definitely that one of the F.L.C. grants for 1977 - a grant of \$1,000 - goes to the Aboriginal Women's Centre, Darwin. This is a project to provide a place where tribal Aboriginal women in and around Darwin, single or married, employed or unemployed, can meet and share together.

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This paragraph comes from the March edition of Third World News:

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

A group of 11 year olds in Singapore were asked to write an essay on: How would Jesus find the world today? Some of their thoughts were:

'The Saviour touched down at the U.N. and when He heard a ruler exclaiming words of peace He was very pleased. He thought the world was doing well; "This means Mankind heard my words and has changed." '

'Jesus toured the world and admired the high-rise buildings, jet-planes and cars which weren't there before and on seeing T.V. joked, "I see men also can make miracles just like me!" But He also saw war, hunger and exploitation and in the Holy Land He saw tanks, bombs, guns and hate.'

At the end of His visit He held a rally for the poor and went around town in a sound truck announcing it. "The world is not doing well", he said. "You need a lot of money for clothes and shoes and food and you don't have it".

At the end Jesus was arrested by the police for holding a rally and disturbing the peace."

HANDICRAFTS OF ASIA

No doubt many of our readers have seen the shops operating under this name in the capital cities. In the years since C.A.A. started this project, total sales have been well over \$30,000,000. Profits are near \$1.7 million, and two thirds of the profits, about \$1.1 million, have been returned to C.A.A. for its self-help aid projects overseas.

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NEWS ITEMS

Several state units of A.C.W. have recently held annual meetings, with the following office-bearers elected:

A.C.T.

President - Mrs I. Frost
 Vice Presidents - Mrs Taylor Rogers, Mrs Sherwin
 Secretary/Treasurer - Mrs Dunmester,
 37 Macleay Street,
 Turner A.C.T. 2601.
 Assistant Secretary - Mrs Sullivan

New South Wales

President - Mrs Lt Col. E.K. Baker
 Hon. Secretary - Mrs D. Woodhouse,
 86 Fullers Road,
 Chatswood N.S.W. 2067.
 Treasurer - Miss D. Mitchell
 Conveners - W.K.S. Deaconess Andrews
 F.L.C. Mrs G. Bent,
 45 Kitchener Street,
 Caringbah N.S.W. 2229.
 Publicity - Mrs McCann,
 14 Daynor Place,
 Castle Cove N.S.W. 2069.

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YOU'RE OFF

If you are planning an overseas trip, we suggest that you try to obtain the little folder, "You're Off!" produced by the A.C.C., Division of World Christian Action. It has some valuable comments - for instance:

"We hope you meet some interesting new people. Why not try talking, and listening, to your taxi driver, or bus driver, hotel maid or someone in the markets, or people at the local church. Learning even a few words of their language will help to show that you care about them".

FOCUS ON CHURCH WOMEN

On 26th April the third Focus on Church Women was held in St Andrew's Hall, Perth. The attendance was even better than at the two meetings before, and again, those present indicated that they would like the Forum to continue. We hope that the State Unit of A.C.W. in Western Australia will make this its own project and continue to arrange such gatherings two or three times each year.

Our speaker in April was Sandra Penrose, a young lecturer in Politics at the University of Western Australia and a mother of two young children. Sandra is also a speaker at one of the N.C.M. public meetings.

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On April 27th, the sudden death occurred of Revd William Ellis - Master of Kingswood College (University of W.A.). His wife, Norma, is Editor of "Women at Work" and our love and prayers have been with her during the past week.

During the service held at Wesley Church, Perth, great tributes were paid to both Norma and her late husband, and the memory will long remain with us of the large congregation joining to sing - "For the might of Thine Arm we bless Thee, our God, our father's God" - followed by a triumphant organ rendition of "The Trumpet Shall Sound" (Handel's "Messiah"). It is a witness to Norma's faith and her commitment to A.C.W. that she has edited this month's "Women at Work".

Members of the Working Committee.

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