

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

WOMEN AT WORK



SEEKS:

- 1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- 2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

MAY, 1979.

"I come to do Thy will, O Lord,
And Thy law is written in the depths of my heart." •

Ps. 39.7

The Infancy Narrative, Luke 2-4; 2-22.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights says the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and State. The "Family" as we know it and want to have it, is under attack. It is being ignored, even scorned. All sorts of relationships are commonplace and defended vigorously by a section of the community. Loyalty, endurance, stability and a willingness to accept the consequences of a decision freely made are attitudes which many young people growing up in this generation have either never seen, forgotten or choose to ignore. The mature adult must realise that these qualities are to be striven for with a determination which will protect those in their care, even at the cost of sacrifice and personal happiness.

Psychologists and counsellors are coming to realise that the disintegration of family life, the collapse and withdrawal of security, lack of a loving family relationship, being cast adrift and unsure of identity and permanence, wound and fracture a personality, causing abnormalities and inner tensions which find expression in rebellion, opposition and actions which can be self-

destructive and at odds with family and/or society.

Of the Ten Commandments, "Honour thy father and thy mother" is the only one to which is attached a blessing. If we look at the familiar passage in Luke referring to the infancy of Jesus, we read, "He was subject to them." This virtue of 'obedience' is a goal we should hold for any child. It is singled out in Scripture with special emphasis, and St. Paul says in Hebrews (5-8) ".....he learned obedience through what he suffered."

"He grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man." He was educated and acquired knowledge, he developed a healthy mind and body, and prayer, worship and study drew Him into a deep relationship with God which gained 'His favour'. He also 'gained favour with man'-- Thus we see Him as attractive and lovable, and having a care and concern for others; able to relate to people, inviting their confidence and affection.

Taking Luke's account as a whole, we get flashes of His heavenly origin .. when His parents take Him to the Temple in Jerusalem "to present Him to the Lord", both Simeon and Anna speak of Him as the source of Messianic blessings; on the occasion of their presence in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, the simplicity and mystery of His reply to his distracted parents when He was missing on the return to Nazareth, "I must be in My Father's House", gives evidence of youthful eagerness which demonstrates His dedication, "I come to do Thy will." This awareness of purpose in life and a goal to be attained, should be present in the life of all youth as they seek and search for the achievement of imperatives which alone will give fulfilment and enrichment to their lives.

Joan Curtin.

Is Marriage Going Out of Fashion. Canberra.

Figures released by the Aust'n Bureau of Statistics show that the number of registered marriages in 1977 was 104,918 - down 5,505 on 1976; & 9,111 compared with 1972.

The Aust'n Bureau of Statistics Report also shows that almost 1 in 3 Australians are being married in a civil ceremony. The figures correspond to the declining level of religious belief shown in the most recent census.

(A.C.W, Tasmanian Unit).

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LESSONS TO BE LEARNT IN PARADISE.

Tourists often have simple aims. To let their hair down, have "a wow of a time" and pick up what they can as cheaply as possible. The impact of their behaviour is overlooked. Yet, in an island paradise like Bali at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago, the impact can be quite destructive. There are two types of tourists - those who go on the cheap and those with money. The 'cheapies' go in search of an alternative way of life which frequently involves drugs. The rich, on the other hand, are bringing much needed dollars to Bali, stay in lavish hotels, go on tours and spend their money in shops.

In August, 1978, a team of 25 young people from Adamstown Uniting Church in Newcastle, visited Dhyana Pura and assisted with building a playground at an orphanage in Western Bali. During their stay, the group shared in cultural exchange, learning how the Balinese Christians relate to Hindus and how they share the Gospel in traditional Balinese dance form.

The Bali Church hopes more groups from Australia will visit Bali and stay at Dhyana Pura. In doing so, not only will they have greater opportunity to experience Balinese food, dancing, music and hospitality, but they will also be contributing to a co-operative venture in which the Bali people benefit. Food is grown in market gardens owned by local churches, the bricks used in building the centre were made in a brickworks operated by a local church; another parish runs a poultry farm, and income from the centre helps finance the centre.

The Australian Church could learn much from the Balinese Christians. The Balinese church is very young - its first baptised member and first ordained minister are both still alive. We can learn from the simplicity of the church and see how they operate without great financial structures. It is a young church, vital and alive.

"In Unity".

1st member: I thought the sermon was divine. It reminded me of the peace of God. It passed all understanding.

2nd member: I thought it reminded me of the mercies of God. I thought it would endure forever.

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR.

Mrs. Captain Eite Boiva, 25 years old, married, two children - a girl of 5 and a boy of 3. Her home is in Onamuga, via Kianante, Eastern Highlands Prvince.

Eite is a trained Nurses' Aide and a Salvation Army Officer. Her Scholarship is enabling her to further her Theological Training, and also gain experience in some of the kinds of specialised nursing which is just beginning to take their root in P.N.G.

- a) Alcoholic work;
- b) With old people;
- c) Mentally/or Physically Handicapped.

The Salvation Army has undertaken supervision of her course. Eite has settled happily into the Salvation Army Training College, and is enjoying the course.

Olga Badger.
Convenor, W.K. Scholarship.

WORLD-WIDE ECUMENISM.

In May, 1980, the World Council of Churches Commission on World Mission and Evangelism will meet for the first time in Australia: viz. in Melbourne. Theme for the world gathering of church leaders, evangelists and missionaries is "YOUR KINGDOM COME."

A preparation committee, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Frank Cutriss, has been appointed 'to consider ways in which Australian Churches might make their contribution to, and obtain maximum benefit from, this Conference.'

The Conference will be closed for two days to allow all 500 delegates to be disseminated to all States and the Chairman has urged that groups be formed now to study the theme, and make plans for inviting some of the delegates.

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FROM ASIA.

In October 1978, Rev. Aung Khin, General Secretary of the Burma Council of Churches, attended Christian Conference of Asia meetings in Singapore. His presence made the meeting memorable as he was the first churchman allowed out of Burma for an ecumenical meeting since 1963.

His presence was also a reminder to the meeting of how precarious the position for the Church is in several Asian lands.

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MAKING A START: It is all too easy to shrug and say we can't change the world without even trying.

No one likes to be called foolish. Yet this is often the word used for people who attempt something out of the ordinary. The first person to think that pictures could be shown on T.V. was no doubt laughed at, just as those were thought mad who set out to prove that the earth was round, not flat. Whenever we fly in the face of convention, we risk being ridiculed and called fools.

The world thinks it is wise, but isn't it rather stupid, as well as wrong that, in a world of plenty, it seems impossible to organise the distribution of food to save the starving millions? If the teaching of Christ was taken more seriously, the world would surely be a better place; from the beginning Christianity has never been considered wise, simply because it is out of the ordinary, and threatens the accepted way of the world.

Christ's own friends said, "He is out of His mind" Mk. 3.21 because he cared more for people than for his own comfort.

Our Lord's teaching goes against convention and the world's principles, with its frequent insistence that people matter more than material belongings. It is true we can do little to alter matters, but if everyone took that view, nothing would ever be done. In our own small sphere, we must begin by showing a spirit of love and unselfishness which goes beyond normal and ordinary behaviour - allowing others to take our place in the queue, not retaliating or complaining when we are wronged, being more considerate when driving, and really believing that it is more blessed to give than to get.

Not much, you say'. But it is a start. Our neighbours and friends may think us foolish, but even St. Paul remarked that, "We are fools for Christ's sake". (Cor. 1 4-10)

Devotion used by
A.C.W. Tasmanian Unit.

Year of the Child: Correction accomplishes much: encouragement accomplishes more.

Goethe.

PERPETUAL MOTION.

Being National Liaison Officer of the International Women's World Day of Prayer Committee, keeps Head Deaconess Andrews of Sydney busy responding generously to invitations because of her presence at the International Conference held in Zambia, 1978. Hardly back from the north, we find her travelling south.

It was an enthusiastic group of members of the Victorian Australian Church Women and the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee with whom she shared the experiences and slides of the 4th International Meeting of the W.W.D.P. in Zambia. The meeting took place on 20th April.

In Adelaide, which was clothed in autumn glory, women from all over South Australia representing W.W.D.P and friends and members of A.C.W. State Unit met on 23rd April. Glowing reports were given of the response to this year's World Day of Prayer Service on "SPIRITUAL GROWTH".

Experiences and slides of the Zambian Conference were shared with the enthusiastic and representative group.

It was good to witness the growing together of leaders of A.C.W. and W.W.D.P. in these States.

Mary Andrews.

FOR A KOREAN PROJECT - A TALK ON NEW GUINEA.

Each year, the Women's Auxiliary of the Australian Board of Missions (Anglican) choose a project and set a target to raise a set sum of money for that special purpose. This year, 1979, it is raising \$16,000. to help the Church in Korea. In Korea there is no national religion but the number of nominal Buddhists is twelve million, unorganised and with no political influence, and the Christians number six million.

The Women's Auxiliary know the need of the Koreans to rent rooms and establish churches, finance the training of clergy, new priests from country areas and retrain experienced clergy in a changing society.

Night schools are a necessity for students to learn to read and write. Economic pressure means working by day and job improvement means learning by night.

The Sydney Committee of the Women's Auxiliary invited to their Annual Meeting, the Rev. Fred Danmaker. assistant to

the Chairman of the A.B.M. to speak about his visit to New Guinea During the Christmas holidays, 1978. Five years had elapsed since his last visit and he saw quite a few changes.

With his family, he visited the hospital and saw many children dying of malnutrition. His wife wept to think some of them would not live to celebrate Christmas. There is great family care in the hospitals. The patient is surrounded by his family who care for him and comfort him and attend to all his needs. The only person with no family with him was a white boy.

There is a rural drift to the towns from outlying villages and tribes. These are mixing, and young people are marrying outside their own tribal villages. If the marriage breaks down and children are involved, nobody wants them and there is a real problem. If a mother dies, nobody wants the baby or children of the mixed marriage. Sometimes a relative from the old village will come and take a baby back to the village, but usually they are unwanted and available for adoption.

Question time revealed some interesting facts. For instance, 'malnutrition'. Quite unnecessary because the people grow good nourishing food, but take it to the market and sell it, then buy coke and sweets, etc.. The tragedy then is that the hospital does not have enough modern equipment to cope with the numbers who become ill and have to be admitted.

The Highland land is so poor, it cannot grow good food, and it is so steep the women must tie themselves to pegs in the ground while they plant to prevent their falling and rolling down the hill.

Usually, the number of children in a family would be about nine - girls are useless except for sale value, but boys are in the form of life insurance, and work for the parents when they are old. In many cases, only four of the nine children will survive and achieve adulthood.

Only 50% of children can go to school because of lack of facilities, and 33% can go past 6th grade.

Papua-New Guinea needs as much financial support as ever, and all is used in diocesan projects. They themselves are not let able to carry the financial burden. The address concluded with the quote: "MISSION is happening everywhere. The Kingdom of Heaven should be made known TO God's people, BY God's people, FOR God's people.

Margaret Jessup.

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK.

WHAT IS A CAUSEWAY?

"A CAUSEWAY" is a modern road rising above marshy ground, bridging a gap which otherwise mires us down and keeps us from finding each other," This is the way in which Church Women United of the USA refer to the programmes which, from time to time, they have embarked on to bring them into close personal touch with women of other countries, in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This year they are planning a "Pacific Area Causeway", which will bring them to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji in September next. The Australian segment will involve their attendance at the National Committee of Australian Church Women, meeting at the Caritas Christi Conference Centre, in Wahroonga, Sydney, September 10 - 14.

In addition to the CWU party, we shall be welcoming five representatives of the Women's Committee of the National Council of Churches in New Zealand, so that the NCM will take on a truly international flavour. In addition to the usual business sessions, time will be spent in discussing matters of mutual concern - with particular reference to the Theme of the meeting - "THE FAMILY - ITS FAITH AND ITS FUTURE". For the Australian participants -- representatives of our A.C.W State Units and of the denominational women's organisations, this will be an exciting and memorable encounter with friends from overseas, a time for sharing and learning, as we walk together on our Causeway.

Doris M. Mitchell.
Honorary Secretary.

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