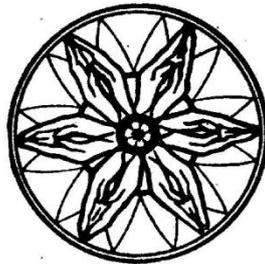


AUSTRALIAN FELLOWSHIP

of the

LEAST COIN



PRAYER IN ACTION

Quarterly News Bulletin

1973

The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a world wide non-structured organisation in which the members are pledged to pray regularly for peace, and as a token only, put aside the least coin of their country.

These symbolic "least coins" add up to considerable sums which are allocated around the world by the Asian Church Women's Conference. The amount that any country collects is never announced, but both East and West benefit (see the 1973 allocations in this booklet).

In Australia the coins are collected in glass jars with printed labels (available free from the State Convenors) and the offerings are presented at the World Community Day Service in October.

The following pages must be labelled "extracts", as certain short paragraphs (e.g. relating to the payment of FLC funds in Great Britain) have been omitted.

Additional prayers have been introduced so that people and projects may be prayed for with understanding. Apart from these prayers nothing except the notes on this page have been added to these Bulletins. The Working Committee hopes this will fill the gap until Volume 5 of "Circle of Prayer" is available in Australia. For the same reason the allocations from FLC funds for 1973 have been grouped with related prayers for ease of use at regular meetings.

EXTRACTS FROM THE QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN, JUNE 1973

The Asian Church Women's Conference have decided to discontinue the publication of the devotional book "The Circle of Prayer" and in its place we will be having a quarterly News Bulletin on the Fellowship of the Least Coin to keep you informed of the latest happenings. It is impossible to send a copy of this to every member, therefore we expect you to publish it in your magazines so that everyone will be able to know the latest news, and pray with understanding for the FLC projects mentioned in the Bulletin.

It is appropriate first to thank God for what this Fellowship of the Least Coin has meant to us during the past year. It has been a SOURCE OF STRENGTH TO SOME.

Lena Porter from Ireland writes: "God keep us save till morning light", means different now that law and order have broken down. So our hearts made a ready response when for the first time, women from my Church group heard about the FLC. We felt that here is something to give us courage and strength.

*O God of Peace, good beyond all that is good, in whom
is calmness and concord: do thou make up all the
dissensions which divide us from one another, and bring
us to unity of love in thee, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.*

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is God's miracle in our times, and the most exciting thing is that we have a part in this miracle.

Our small, valueless coins, put aside after each prayer for reconciliation and peace, have enabled us this year to give out a total grant of US\$79,400.00 for various projects round the world.

The Working Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference administering this fund, has been struck by awe and wonder, and have thanked God for this miracle.

However, we know that grants from FLC funds are very small in comparison with other church aids, yet the prayers of reconciliation offered by each member in private, and the lessons of love and forgiveness learned at His feet pay dividends far beyond the size of the amount.

Types of Projects supported by the FLC grants.

During the past three years, most of the projects that have received grants have been for human development, for promoting fellowship and rehabilitation programmes; but recently there has been a trend to get money for building, or to set up some ecumenical funds that a group is responsible for.

Below are some of the rules for making allocations from the FLC funds. These can serve as guidelines when you apply for grants.

1. The FLC fund is generally used for three types of projects:
 - a) To promote understanding and to deepen world-wide Christian fellowship by enabling people to get together in Conference seminar and study tours.
 - b) To allocate money for certain Church projects requiring temporary help to meet the challenge of today.
 - c) To demonstrate God's love and concern for his people in times of stress and calamity.

2. Projects, for which grants are requested, must be of an ecumenical nature.
3. Discourage grants for buildings and for building up funds.
4. Priority be given to requests from the members of the FLC movement.
5. Allocation to no one country should exceed US\$4,000.00 at a time.
6. The grants will be non-recurring unless a longer term is desired and so approved.
7. The funds shall be collected in a way determined by each national women's committee and forwarded to the Finance Dept. of the World Council of Churches, to be held in a separate account. Other suitable arrangements will be made in the case of countries from where money cannot be sent out.
8. All applications must be made through the National Committee of the Women's Organisation, or through the National Office of the member church, or the National Christian Council of the country. Individual applications will not be entertained.

How to Apply for a Grant.

There is a special application form for requests from the FLC funds. These forms can be obtained from the FLC promotional secretary, Mrs S. R. Solomon, c/- St. Stephen's House, 4 Rajpur Rd, Delhi, 110006, India. (In Australia, from Alder Hall, 30 Lawson Avenue, Morphettville, South Australia, 5043)

Gracious Giving and Receiving.

In the Fellowship there is no distinction of donor and recipient. Every member contributes her 'mite', and all may benefit from this fund. Therefore when we either give out the grants or apply for grants, we must keep in mind that gracious giving is not easy, but the art of receiving is more difficult. Therefore we must receive or give these gifts of love more graciously.

When charity becomes mechanical it loses its significance and grace. Reciprocal giving breeds self-respect, love and concern for others.

*God, grant to me the gift of seeing other men.
Let me see them not as female or male, black or
white, poor or rich,
Let me see their hearts, if they can inspire me,
Let me see their needs, if I can succour them,
Let me see their gifts, if they can help me,
Let me see their sorrow, if I can comfort them,
Let me see their wisdom, if I can learn from it,
Let me see your intent for them and for me, and
for all men in the design of brotherhood,
in Christ's name. Amen.*

Devotion - Reconciliation, II cor.5, 14-18

The purpose of the FLC is "to be a movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation, of love and concern for God's people throughout the world."

We would all agree that the need of reconciliation everywhere in the world is perhaps so great now as never before. At many levels between nation and nation, between race and race; between young and old, rich and poor; between Christians and non-Christians; between church and church, and even between groups within the same church. Strife and conflicts, disunion and distrust are flaring up in all sorts of communities and relationships. And often we feel rather despondent, almost despairing about it. Is there a way to reconciliation and peace? Can we, just ordinary women, not representing any worldly power, do anything about it?

There is an old legend that relates how, when Jesus had finished his work on earth, the Angel Gabriel met him and said, "Lord, Thou hast done a wonderful work on earth. What plans has Thou made for the carrying on of Thy work?"

"I have given the message to Peter and John, to Martha and Mary and the others," replied Jesus. "They will tell their friends and they in their turn will pass it on till the whole earth shall know".

"Supposing," said Gabriel that the fishermen get too busy with their fishing, and the women with their housework, or the friends forget to pass the message - what other plans hast Thou made, Lord?"

The Lord did not reply for a moment - then he answered quietly,

"I have no other plans; I am counting on them".

He is counting on us. Or, to say it in the words of St. Paul, "God has reconciled US men to Himself through Christ and He has enlisted us in this service of reconciliation". (II Cor:5, 18, N.E.B.)

He counts on US; he wants to enlist US in His service of reconciliation; He asks US to venture out with Him, to be Christians in the only real sense of the word: people who are reconciled to God through Christ, and who now belong to Christ and who know of a new way of living which they wish to share with others.

Alan Webster in his book about reconciliation, "Broken Bones may Joy", has this to say about what it means to be reconciled and reconciling people: "The proclamation of the victory of forgiveness and goodness... is a joyful proclamation, urging us in the first place to live in this way rather than to speculate or to argue. When Christians and Church take this path, then others can understand why the world needs the Gospel. Even small groups living and praying for reconciliation can be effective as words cannot. God knows how many would see the need for reconciliation and would follow Christ's way of life if His explicit disciples would have the courage of their convictions".

Are we willing and longing to be the means through which God's reconciling and healing love and will, may come to the small corner of the world where we live? Can He count on us in this service of reconciliation?

PRAYER *Lord, we confess that our lives are so often not in accordance with the great gift which Thou hast offered us in Christ; that we do not live as reconciled and reconciling people.*

We pray that Thou wilt come to us and awaken our faith, and that Thou wilt show us this new way of living and hoping and believing. Help us to break down the barriers of hatred and prejudice and fear wherever we find them. Grant that each one of us may be truly an instrument of peace and reconciliation. We ask this for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

PEACE IS REVOLUTIONARY

Jill Perkins who was our representative at the Peace Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, in May, 1973, writes "Keep the Conference going" was the sole and highly improbable resolution made by the 40 women from 29 countries who debated "Women's role in Peace Education", for the seven days in May..."

The Conference was a joint project of the two co-operative agencies of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches: the Women's Ecumenica Group and SODEPAX, the Committee on Society, Development and Peace.

The resolution to keep going may not be dramatic, but it is not impossible. Women from many parts of Europe, North America, Latin America, Australia, Asia, Africa... women in their 20's and in their 60's... experienced a rare sense of belonging together. They intend to nurture that experience nationally and internationally, working for peace in specific situations.

Is there a role for women in peace? If so, is this role one in which women participate, or would their achieve the goal of peace only with what men say and decide women should do?

The Conference felt that there is a role which women must take up in the field of Peace education. We are constantly aware that people the world over are deeply and persistently longing for peace. Peace for them means far more than a mere absence from war. "It is characterised positively by freedom, justice, truth and love". For such peace we must all strive.

Peace within: 'In a world torn by dissent and violence it is easy to urge national leaders to legislate to enforce peace. This, of course overlooks the fact that national leaders' peace springs from individuals, within the basic family unit. Families who have resolved to fill their homes with peace of God are making a positive contribution to peace on earth and goodwill toward men".

Jesus, by your death you broke down the barriers between Jew and Gentile, Greek and Barbarian, male and female, slave and freeman. Heal the tragic divisions of our world, between East and West, black and white, Arab and Jew, so that each man may respect his brother as someone for whom you died. Amen.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

CHILE As I am writing this Bulletin the front page of our daily newspaper had this flash: "Chile under Martial Law, President and two others commit suicide". Let us pray for the political rest of this country.

Mrs Ana Zattele de Arye of Santiago, Chile, wrote in her letter of July 31, 1973 "As you learned from our letter sent to Mrs Gladys Maylor, last year, La Union de Mujeres Evangelicas de Chile joined at that time the FLC.

"The many blessings received from praying daily for our friends in other countries, as well as for our own people of Chile, have strengthened our faith and made us aware of His presence among us.

"Evangelical women from all over Chile, this long and narrow country, May '72-May '73, prayed and collected the smaller coin of their country in empty tins of Nescafe. Last May there was a special ceremony in each town where we have branches of La Union. Each member brought her Nescafe tin to the altar and that action was really moving. Each tin was amazingly heavy".

Korea Miss Hyung Duk Pahng is the Editor of the "Christian Home" magazine. She writes, "When I came back home from Singapore, I heard about the allocation of \$3,000 from the FLC. I am thankful for your love and concern from God's people throughout the world, and especially for our work. I am sending my sincere appreciation and love to you and each of the members of the FLC, who offer their small coins with a prayer of love and reconciliation. We feel the weight of responsibility of using this love gift. It will be very helpful for our work. We will publish the "Christian Home" monthly for the purpose of trying to help homes to practise the teachings of Christ in their family life, and to be Christians."

"As you know the "Christian Home" monthly magazine is the only inter-denominational family magazine in Korea. Eight Christian Women's Institutes are sponsoring it. Copies go to individuals, churches, prisons and the men on the front lines, and are deeply appreciated whenever received. We also hope to appeal to non-Christians on the basis of better living, family planning and

social issues in order to witness for Christ".

England In the small town of Watchett in Somerset the women came together for a meal and a closing meeting before the summer holiday. This was their annual function. My letter reached them that very day. Mrs Jean Miller-Mead, president of that group wrote that the women received the letter with great interest and decided that the first item on the agenda for the next meeting would be to launch their membership of the FLC.

Let us remember these women in our prayers, so that the real meaning of the FLC movement be the message of reconciliation.

Scotland Miss Jenny Auchinichie, who was one of the Church of Scotland missionaries in India for over 30 years, and who is now Hon. Sec. of Scottish Committees for the Women's World Day of Prayer, has been asked by the women of Scotland to promote FLC as well. She reports that the FLC Fellowships have been organised in 11 places and they have also sent their contributions to Geneva.

We welcome them into this Fellowship of prayer, and thank God for His blessings upon this movement. May this movement help each member to learn to have peace within, so that we may help in establishing peace in our times.

May peace and goodwill, O God, dwell more and more in the hearts of members of our fellowship, in their homes, in the world. Help us to further accomplishment of Christ's mission by following Him as Saviour and Master, in His Name. Amen.

New Zealand Last year in October when I visited Auckland, Mrs L.

Ghanesunderum was not there, but she left a letter with friends to be delivered to me. She was proud to introduce herself, because she and her husband were financed from the FLC funds to go to Auckland via Ceylon, and work in the project "Church and Society Commission". (See 1973 allocation list).

She was introduced to the FLC movement by a Burmese lady during the Second Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference. Since then she has been introducing it to a number of women's groups in New Zealand, and is a strong supporter of the FLC.

Vietnam Not all the conditions in Vietnamese orphanages are what we take for granted for our own children. "There are exceptions where a good family atmosphere prevails in Vietnam, but for most, it is the tiny iron cot, the dirty cushion the bottle of thin condensed milk with the scissor slashed teat. The tiniest baby has to cope with the ensuing rush of milk around his tonsils, unhelped, unwinded. If, in a gasp for breath, the bottle topples over, it empties into his clothing, hair and bedding. It is not long before the fat, rosy, golden little creature with his soft pouting little lips is reduced to a pale, ill-fitting skin stretched over the usual complement of articulated bones, its lusty cry to an apologetic wail".

The Gordon Barclay Vietnam Fund is merely one of the many organisations working for children of Vietnam, but their work is distinctive and vital.

The World Council of Churches has also established RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION FUND IN INDO-CHINA. It seeks to help the people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos to decide and plan

the priority projects to rehabilitate the victims of war.

The Asian Christian Service, a project of the Asian Christian Conference, has been rendering a great service to the people of Indo-China. Several Grants from FLC funds have been given over the past ten years.

Dr. Bui Duy Tam, Dean of Medicine at a Saigon University, said, "Reconstruction without reconciliation is meaningless".

Canada Mrs Ruby Water, General Secretary of Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, sent a prompt reply after receiving the first News Bulletin. I would like to share it with you all: "You have asked a number of questions in the News Bulletin which I shall attempt to answer. There is a definite growing interest in Canada in the FLC. We have a small informative card which we send out. Our News Letter has had short articles on the FLC, and longer articles have been released to denominational magazines. The most recent article is to come out in print this fall... Council members as well as staff publicise the FLC at every opportunity as they meet people across the country in connection with the World Day of Prayer, or other ecumenical activities.

"We keep track of all people or groups who send in donations to FLC, but the exact number or the variety of denominations would be hard to estimate."

"The FLC was included in a Council Consultation 18 months ago in which women from across Canada were involved. This fall another Consultation Retreat will have on its programme our

involvement and responsibility to the FLC."

We take off our hats to the WICC of Canada for their efforts to promote the FLC Movement.

I am sure several other groups must be doing much more, but unless you share it with us, how can we know about it?

This Bulletin brings my Christian greetings to every member, and I hope you are just as thrilled as I am to be a member of this Fellowship. May God bless each one of you.

Florida Scott-Maxwell's words describe well the FLC:

"We pray that we will never by our smallness prevent another from being all that was in him or her to be; and that we find in each other those latent riches that needed a welcome before they could appear".

Sincerely yours,
Shanti Solomon,
 Executive Secretary,
 ACWC.

Heavenly Father, who hast reconciled us to Thyself through the cross of Thy Son, and hast committed to us the ministry of reconciliation: Grant that we who bear witness to Thy reconciling word with our lips, may also demonstrate Thy reconciling power in our lives.

Amen.

ALLOCATIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN FUNDS

US\$	1971	1972	1973	Total
America & Canada	6,000	8,000	10,500	24,500
Latin America and Carribean	4,000	6,000	3,500	13,500
Europe	3,000	Nil	5,000	8,000
Africa	9,000	3,500	5,000	17,500
Asia	25,300	20,900	24,700	70,900
New Zealand & Australia	1,500	2,500	4,700	8,700
Pacific	16,500	1,000	5,000	22,500

I U.S.A.

	US\$
1. Family Centre in West Garfield Park, Chicago	2,000
2. Joint Health Ventures in Hollywood, U.S.A.	2,000
3. Assisting minority group women's participation in civic affairs in U.S.A.	1,500
4. Villa International, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.	1,000

O God Almighty and Merciful: remember in pity such as are this day destitute, homeless or forgotten by their fellow men. Uplift those who are cast down; cheer with hope all discouraged and unhappy people, preserve with Thy heavenly grace all who are tempted. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of Him who lived among us, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 5. Seminars on Moral and ethical issues in Family Planning, Cuernavaca, Mexico. | US\$ 2,000 |
| 6. Mexican border project for economic development, Crystal City and Eagle Pass in Texas, U.S.A. | 2,000 |

II Latin America and the Carribean

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Evangelism among the Japanese immigrants in Latin America | 500 |
| 2. Linden Clinic, Guyana. | |

Almight God, grant us courage to challenge evil, strength to avoid compromise, wisdom to maintain justice and vision to know Thy will. We pray in Our Redeemer's Name. Amen.

III Europe

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Educational Renewal Fund, Geneva. | 2,000 |
| 2. Eastern Europe Seminar and study tour. | 3,000 |

IV Africa

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Towards building fund for study and cultural centre, Zaire, Congo, Africa. | 4,000 |
| 2. To install an electric plant at Mamba Mission School in Swaziland, Africa. | 1,000 |
| 3. Seminar and study tour, Middle East. | 3,000. |

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst say to Thine Apostles, Peace I leave with you, my Peace I give unto you; regard not our sins, but the faith of thy people,

and grant us that peace and unity which is agreeable to Thy will. For Christ's sake. Amen.

V Asia

	US\$
1. Seminar on human development, Manila, Phillippines.	1,500
2. A vehicle for Highland Mission Conference in United Church of Christ in the Phillippines.	1,500
3. To buy a piece of land in Jajasan, Diokonia, West Irian, Irian, Indonesia.	1,500
4. Youth Laboratory in West Java, Indonesia.	1,000

Lord, hear us in these times of trouble and difficulty; strengthen us by your loving kindness, help us to love you perfectly, and so to be freed from fear. Amen.

5. Home for retiring women in Japan.	2,000
6. The "Christian Home" magazine, Seoul, Korea.	3,000
7. All Kerela Christian Women's Conference, Kerela, India.	200
8. Congregational committment to reading, Christian Literature Society in Madras, India.	700

Teach us to think more truly, Father, that our minds may be the Saviour's resting place. Help us to speak more truly, that our lips may be worthy of repeating this glorious message. Guide us to live more truly, that we may be the persons He wants us to become. Amen.

9. ACWC Seminar on Family Life Education, Delhi, India.	8,000
10. Towards the cost of one jeep, for the Anglican Church in Rangoon, India.	2,000

11. Bangla Desh relief and rehabilitation. US\$ 2,000

AN EVENING PRAYER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE:

Watch Thou, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch or weep tonight, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend thy sick ones, Lord Christ; rest thy weary ones; pity thy afflicted ones, bless thy dying ones; soothe thy suffering ones; shield thy joyous ones. And all for Thy Love's sake. Amen.

12. Towards the gifts for 46 Pastors' wives in S. Vietnam 300
13. Rural Kindergarten project, Chiangmai, Thailand. 1,000

VI Pacific

1. Boat for Vatnabara Hospital, Duke of York Is., off Rabaul, New Britain. 4,000
2. Scholarship to train a Fiji kindergarten teacher in Australia. 1,000

Let us pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding; that the blessings of peace be theirs, to live and work in harmony and sympathy with others. Amen.

VII Australia and New Zealand

1. Aboriginal Health Education Project in Australia. 500
2. International Social Service, Victoria, Australia. 700
3. Church and Society Commission of the National Council of Churches in New Zealand. 500
4. 6A Trust Inc., Christchurch, New Zealand. 1,500

5. Regional consultation for Deaconesses in New Zealand.	US\$
	1,500

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom alone cometh wisdom and understanding; be present with thy servants, and grant that they, seeking only thy honour and glory, may be guided in all thy ways, serving Thee through the help of thy strength and grace. Amen.

VIII ACWC General

1. Emergency Fund.	5,000
2. ACWC Literature and Committee Meetings.	2,000
3. ACWC Conference Reserve.	5,000
4. FLC Promotional Work.	5,000
5. Executive Secretary's annual budget.	3,000
	<hr/>
	Total <u>18,000</u>
	Grand Total <u><u>179,400</u></u>

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to Thee, so ~~en~~wide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills that we may be utterly dedicated to Thy service; then use us, we pray thee, to Thy glory and the welfare of Thy people, for Christ's sake. Amen.