

# Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference



## Australian Church Women

Sydney, New South Wales

9-14 October 2005





Venue



Bible Study



Meal time

Where to begin? Having worked over the two years in preparation for National Conference it was a great relief to see it all come together. The New South Wales National Executive proved to be a great team, and we felt the absence of Jean Porteous who was unable to share with us at Conference because of ill health. Preparations were tuned as finely as possible with each member accepting responsibility as required. We appreciated the many gifts Executive members brought and their willingness to use them.



Lyn Middleton, Marie Craddock, Joan Tong, Nola Dickson, Brenda Dickinson, Eileen Holley, Edith Ridge, Shirley Wells  
Jan Harrison, Nancy McLaren, Cela Cooper, Isabel Hewitt (absent: Jean Porteous)

Celebration was the keynote of Conference, but as Vala reminded us, this not only gave us happiness but also brought responsibility for the future. To have two international guests of the stature of the Rev Valamotu Palu and Dr Esther Byu was certainly a godsend. Both are 'big' women – though perhaps seeing them together rather than hearing what they had to say might belie this thought.



Dr Esther Byu & Rev Valamotu Palu



Our focus on the Fellowship of the Least Coin enabled us to hear from Esther who expressed her joy at celebrating with us and brought greetings from the International Committee for Fellowship of the Least Coin which would meet in New Delhi soon after our Conference. As ICFLC celebrates the legacy of 50 years it is visioning the future and living the Jubilee. But is it possible to measure the power of prayer offered as least coins are given? Or the effect of grants on recipients? Clearly we need to embrace the least among us. The small folder we each received was loaded with information and challenges as we continue to promote Fellowship of the Least Coin in New South Wales. We were pleased to hear reports of two of the projects which have received grants in recent years. The audiovisual presentation on the history of FLC was well received – both on its showing and as a CD which all Units were given for their own use.



Pastor Annie Lewis-Bramall works with Hope Street Women's Space and she gave us insights into ways of reaching the marginalised, especially women working as prostitutes in inner city areas of Sydney. The work is characterised by 'walking slowly beside those in need' – accepting that there will be setbacks – seeking to find alternative ways of earning a living, working to enable grace in restoring life.



Sister Joan Westblade illustrated how prayer like a ripple on a lake is working to spread the element of compassion in nursing. This began with the four nurses from East Timor who came to Australia for a special primary health care program. The nurses did not see the value of the training immediately, but slowly it is catching on. Because of high illiteracy pictorial charts help patients and carers develop awareness of how to increase the value of treatment by taking care with cleanliness and showing compassion.





Following the Ecumenical Service at which Vala was the speaker, and our special lunch, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was marked by National Executive and each State/Territory Unit being presented with a copy of *Honouring Australian Church Women*. All Units will be able to reflect at any time on those who went before, rather than being restricted to each time national executive is in that State. We were introduced to the 'new entries' who included Marie McCann, Lucelle King, Mina Whybourne, Edith Ridge.



Bible studies were presented by Sister Patricia Stevenson and Captain Robyn Collins. Each was very different from the other, but both were instructive and thought provoking, picking up the theme of *Forward Together in Christ*. From the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Nehemiah we were given insights into prayerful approach, the value of teamwork and cooperation, making contact with the wider community, using conflict in a healthy way and being open to change. They were good starting points, but as Bible studies they were over all too soon.



We honoured deceased members in a beautifully presented segment arranged by Edith Ridge. A floating candle was lit for each State Unit as a flower was added to the bowl for each member who had died over the two years since last conference.

And we honoured the new National Life Members nominated by their States: Juanita Miller – Tasmania, Shirley Wells – NSW, Janet Watts and Leila Wilson – WA.



Janet Watts, Juanita Miller, Shirley Wells



Devotions were well prepared by each Unit, and the dramatic presentation of the 'Good Samaritan' by South Australia must rate a mention.

So too The Prayer Concert conducted by Lyn Middleton where we progressed from solo, to trio, ensemble, and full orchestra. Lyn had already set a good direction for the conference in her address at the Opening Service.



Amidst all this we devoted our attention to matters of business. We agreed that it would indeed be good to have an Australian Church Women website. Concern for the welfare of people with mental health problems resulted in a motion calling on governments to take it seriously and do something about it. We spent time considering the future aims and structure of Australian Church Women, a matter which we agreed needs to be revisited.

South Australia gave us an insight into their Community Concern Project – an annual series of events that raise money to help their chosen cause. It has an outreach into the wider community that is a good example to all.



Vala helped us to understand the fragility of the Pacific islands with the creeping threat of global warming. In Australia we must take heed. Heather Reid brought us news of the outside world, and from our idyllic location at Collaroy we tried to imagine the horror of devastation in Pakistan. Our retiring offering from the Closing Service was channelled through the National Council of Churches emergency fund for Pakistan.

The Salvation Army Sydney Staff Songsters brought us a delightful musical program. It was a treat to be part of the audience to hear and see their first rate performance.





The Good Shepherd Trading Circle which works to help women trade their way out of poverty provided a segment of information and opportunity to buy wares. Resembling something of a Boxing Day sale the tables were cleared more quickly than the Sisters could believe. Items of quality ranged from toys to clothing to household goods, and it is not surprising they were so eagerly bought. We are fortunate in Sydney that we can go to Ashfield and lend our support to this encouraging project assisting women in African, Asian and Latin American countries.

The NSW State Unit can be proud of the work done by National Executive. Nancy McLaren as President did a wonderful job, backed by a team who shared her vision and who worked hard to glorify God and serve those who joined us at Collaroy.



Nancy McLaren with former National Presidents of Australian Church Women  
Lorraine Davis, Shirley Brooks, Eunice Reidy, Nancy McLaren, Aileen Mortensen, Lee Edwards, Marie McCann

Thanks then to Nancy McLaren, Cela Cooper, Jan Harrison, Nola Dickson, Brenda Dickinson, Shirley Wells, Eileen Holley, Joan Tong, Jean Porteous, Edith Ridge, Marie Craddock and Lyn Middleton.

Isabel Hewitt  
Secretary NSW State Unit Inc



ACW CONFERENCE WORSHIP  
9-10-2005

ORDER OF SERVICE

**MUSICAL PRAISE** There is a Redeemer  
Light of the world (Here I am to worship)

**WELCOME TO ALL DELEGATES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PRAYER**

**ALTERNATE READING—PSALMS VERSES**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** Praise my soul (the king of Heaven)

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

**BIBLE READINGS:** LEVITICUS 8:23-24  
1 CORINTHIANS 3: 10-17  
ACTS 1: 1-8

**HYMN** Crown Him with many crowns

**MESSAGE:** A Community of Holiness &  
A Community of Action

**CLOSING HYMN** Praise Him—Jesus our blessed redeemer

**IN UNISON:** THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**A SONG OF PRAISE TO GOD**

*The God who saves, is great, the creator, our shepherd  
is holy.*

*Psalm 95: 1-7 & 96: 1&9*

**LEADER:** *Come, Let us Praise the Lord!  
Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us!*

**ALL:** **Let us come before Him with thanksgiving  
And sing joyful songs of praise.**

**LEADER:** *For the Lord is a mighty God,  
A mighty king over all the gods.*

**ALL:** **He rules over the whole earth,  
From the deepest caves to the highest hills.**

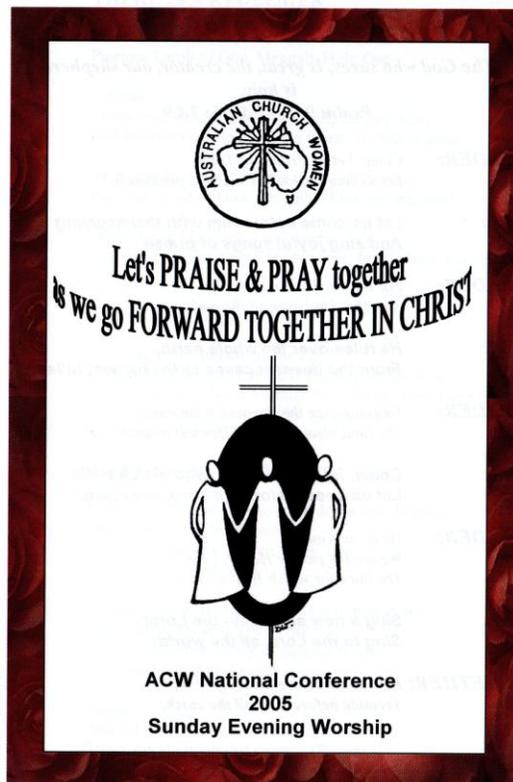
**LEADER:** *He rules over the sea, which He made;  
The land also, which He Himself formed.*

**ALL:** **Come, let us bow down and worship Him;  
Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker!**

**LEADER:** *He is our God;  
We are the people He cares for,  
The flock for which He provides.*

**ALL:** **Sing a new song unto the Lord!  
Sing to the Lord, all the world!**

**TOGETHER:** **Bow down before the Holy One;  
Tremble before Him all the earth!**



**THERE IS A REDEEMER**

There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One

Chorus  
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners, slain.

When I stand in glory, I will see his face.  
And there I'll serve my King for ever, In that Holy Place.

**IN CHRIST WE ARE ONE**

We being many are one in the Lord  
Each one is different, but we're trusting in His word  
For we are part of God's family thru' Jesus Christ His Son  
Tho' we are many yet in Christ we are one  
We being many in Christ we are one.

**HERE I AM TO WORSHIP**

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see,  
Beauty that made this heart adore You,  
Hope of a life spent with You.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my god  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worth,  
Altogether wonderful to me

Bridge.  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross (Repeat.)

## PRAISE HIM

Praise him! Praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!  
Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail him! Hail him, highest archangels in glory;  
Strength and honour give to his holy name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children,  
In his arms he carries them all day long.

*Chorus*  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Tell of his excellent greatness;  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Ever in joyful song.

Praise him! Praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!  
For our sins he suffered and bled and died;  
He our rock, our hope of eternal salvation.  
Hail him! Hail him! Jesus, the crucified!  
Sound his praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,  
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.

Praise him! Praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!  
Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Saviour, reigneth for ever and ever;  
Crown him! Crown him! Prophet and priest and King!  
Christ is coming, over the world victorious;  
Power and glory unto the Lord belong.

## PRAISE MY SOUL

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,  
To his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like thee his praise should sing?  
Praise Him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless;  
Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows,  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels in the heights adore him,  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon bow down before him:  
Dwellers all in time and space,  
Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## PARTICIPATORY PRAYER.

**LEADER:** *Our Loving GOD, you are holy, pure and without blemish*

**ALL:** *We adore YOU. Please may our worship be in Spirit and truth*

**LEADER:** *Father God, you are the one who provided our Salvation*

**ALL:** *We bow before You now*

**LEADER:** *Father, you are great & greatly to be praised*

**ALL:** *We praise You now*

**LEADER:** *Father, through Jesus, you created all we enjoy*

**ALL:** *We thank You for this world in which we live*

**LEADER:** *Dear God, you made us in your image, for your glory*

**ALL:** *Help us by your Spirit to always seek to please You*

**LEADER:** *Almighty God, through Jesus, as YOUR WORD, Our Saviour, we come to you*

**TOGETHER:** *All glory, power and praise be Yours!  
Please accept us in Jesus' name, Amen*

## CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

Crown him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own;  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those he came to save;  
His glories now we sing  
Who died, and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring,  
And lives, that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace,  
Whose power a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease  
And all be prayer and praise;  
His reign shall know no end,  
And round his pierced feet  
Fair flowers of Paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love;  
Behold his hands and side.  
Those wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified;  
All hail, redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail  
Throughout eternity.

**Hymn:**

May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power controlling  
All I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only through his power

May I run the race before me  
Strong and brave to face the foe  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go

Arthur Cyril Barham Gould 1891—1953  
The Australian Hymn Book No 537  
CCLI no 77104

**MESSAGE FROM THE WORD**

Major Lyn Middleton  
President NSW Unit (Inc.)

**PRAYER**

**ACW NSW THEME CHORUS**

We being many are one in the Lord  
Each one is different but we're trusting in His word  
For we are part of God's family  
Thru' Jesus Christ the Son  
Tho' we are many yet in Christ we are one  
We being many in Christ we are one

All hymns and music copyright CCLI no 77104



**ACW NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
SYDNEY  
2005**

**Come Celebrate**

40th Anniversary  
ACW National  
Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Fellowship of the Least Coin



OPENING SERVICE

**OPENING SERVICE  
Monday 10th October**

**Welcome**

Major Nancy McLaren  
National President

**Acknowledgment of the peoples of this land**

**Reflection and Praise** This Land is God's Land

**Call to worship:** Eternal God, Unchanging

Eternal God, unchanging  
Through all the changing years,  
Whose hands all things created,  
Who holds the countless stars;  
Enthroned in heavenly glory,  
Yet not a God afar;  
Thou deignest to have dwelling  
Here where thy people are.

Forbid that man's achievements  
Should cause our faith to wane,  
Or see in human wisdom  
Our spirit to sustain;  
Lord, surely thou art shaping  
All things to thy design,  
And born of this conviction  
Is faith to match our time.

Though men have wrought confusion  
Thy hand still holds the plan,  
And thou, at length, decidest  
The destiny of man;  
Dominions rise and perish,  
The mighty have their day,  
But still thy word abideth,  
It shall not pass away.

Authors: Albert Ernest Dalziel (1892-1974)  
The Salvation Army Song Book No 6  
CCLI no 77104

**United Prayer**

"Spirit Divine, you alone can make me a new creature,  
For you alone are able to work within me.  
It is not new things I want,  
It is a new heart, a new life.  
Come into this heart of mine and give me peace.  
Come into this life of mine and give me joy.  
I wait for you." Amen

**Reflection**

"Bow the knee" CD Song

**Prayers**

Miss Heather Reid  
Mrs Nola Dickson

**Introductions:**

Reverend Valamotu Palu  
Dr Esther Byu

**Scripture:**

Ephesians 4: 1-16

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL  
EXECUTIVE

CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2005

'FRAGRANCE AND LIGHT'

A Service of Remembrance, using Flowers and Candles.

Introduction:- Edith Ridge

I count it a privilege to conduct this service of remembrance for ACW members who have died during the last two years. Conference is a time for drawing in the strands of friendship. I have delighted in watching people coming to this Conference greeting one another with joy. It is always like this, we come back together as members of a family -- the family of Australian Church Women.

You people who are new to Conference, believe me, this will happen to you, too, as you return to National Conferences of the future.

After two years there is much for friends to catch up on, for much has happened to us, experiences both good and bad.

Because we are 'family' we will share these experiences. Some of us have experienced sadness -- the loss of friends and family members has burdened and saddened us.

We come now to remember and honour those who have died, firstly those who were members of our families and other friends.

These flowers symbolise for us these people. As the flowers are different in colour and form, we recognise that the people we remember were different. The beauty and fragrance of these flowers remind us of the beauty and fragrance of their lives.

Prayer. *Loving Creator God, in the beauty of the earth, your creation, in the fragrance and beauty of flowers, we are reminded of your love and provision for all our needs.*

*The colour, beauty and fragrance of flowers speak to us of the people we have loved, your gift to us of family members; life partners; friends and companions on our way. We thank you for their love and the love we shared with them, some full of years, others whose life potential was cut short. They were all important to us. We valued some of them as friends of ACW whose support and encouragement we will miss. We thank you for all the ways our lives have been touched and enriched by these people we honour and pray for your continued comfort and presence with us. Amen.*

We now come to a short time of remembrance of those members of ACW who have died in the last two years.

Candle Lighting. Minnie Haskins' poem has been an inspiration to many people.

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
'Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!'  
And he replied,  
'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of  
God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known  
way.'*

We speak of Jesus as the Light of the World. In Matthew 5 we read where He told us that are to be the light of the world. These, the friends we honour and remember today were lights to us through their friendship and lights of the world through their love and service for our Lord.

So it is fitting that we remember them at this time by the lighting of candles and the gift of flowers.

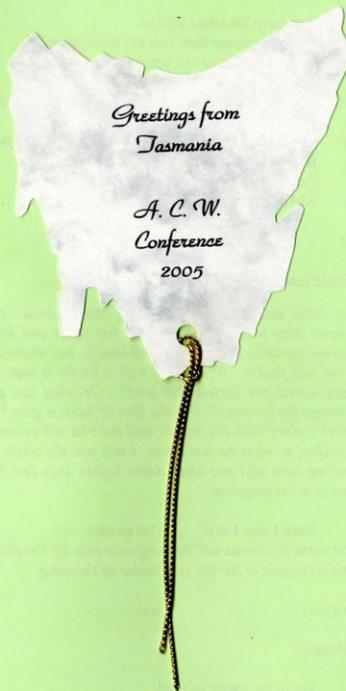
One representative from each of six State Units will come and light a candle and place flowers in the bowl as the names of the women from their Unit are read. (Music softly played here.)

A.C.T. Unit	<b>Stella Tabor Betty Laurie</b>
N.S.W. Unit	<b>Pat Clough Connie Groat Ruth Moore Alwyn Warren Brigadier Ruth Smith Margaret Jessup MAVIS BUATEH SHAW</b>
S.A. Unit	<b>Veronica Sladdin</b>
Tas. Unit	<b>Marie Hewitt</b>
Vic. Unit	<b>Joyce Kippax Bernadette Foster</b>
W.A. Unit	<b>Mollie Smith Vera Wilson Flora Hunt</b>



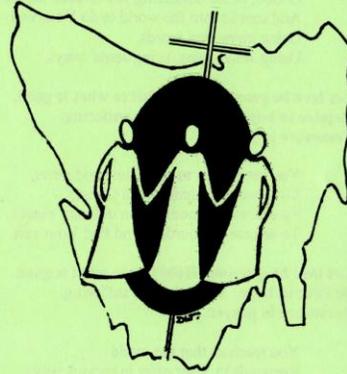
Prayer. *In you, Father, we are one family in earth and heaven. We remember with thankfulness the good and faithful of all generations, and especially our own loved ones who, having finished their life on earth, now rejoice before you in the fullness of light. Help us to follow the example of these faithful servants and bring us with them to the fullness of your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Conclusion. We have honoured the memory of these people precious to us. Go forward together in Christ the Light of the World. "Put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."



## Australian Church Women

Conference 2005.



Evening Devotions by Tasmanian Unit  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2005.

### FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST.

**Welcome:** Narelle Digney

**Prayer:**

**Song:** We're Together Again (Songs of Praise No 286)

**Responsive Reading:** A Prayer for Disciples

Marlene - O God, in the beginning you created us, partners,  
James And sent us into the world to do Your will -  
Using more than words,  
Using Jesus' eyes, using Jesus' ways.

**All: Let love be genuine. Hold fast to what is good.  
Rejoice in hope. Be patient in suffering.  
Persevere in prayer.**

Shirley - You prepare us to proclaim good news,  
Brooks To move confidently with Christ,  
To share God-moments in ordinary places,  
To release our burdens and find Your rest.

**All: Let love be genuine. Hold fast to what is good.  
Rejoice in hope. Be patient in suffering.  
Persevere in prayer.**

Kath - You teach us that the world  
Pearce Responds to Your offer in various ways.  
Some wither in its passing.  
Some flourish in its grounding.  
You increase Your family by adoption.  
We share an extravagant inheritance.

**All: Let love be genuine. Hold fast to what is good.  
Rejoice in hope. Be patient in suffering.  
Persevere in prayer.**

Ronnie - You have breathed into us  
Palmer The knowledge that You are always for us  
And that nothing can separate us.  
Though at times we sink into our doubts,  
Your love never ceases its compassionate reach for us.

**All: Let love be genuine. Hold fast to what is good.  
Rejoice in hope. Be patient in suffering.  
Persevere in prayer.  
AMEN.**

**Reflection:** Juanita Miller

including Bible reading from Matthew 16: 24 – 28

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom."*

**Song:** Here I Am Lord. (TIS no 658)  
First verse & chorus will be sung as a solo by Narelle  
Then all to join in for the remainder of the song.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Time of Silence:**

**Narelle:** Go in the name of God  
AMEN.

Here I Am, Lord.  
Daniel L. Schutte  
© 1981 New Dawn Music

I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make the darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

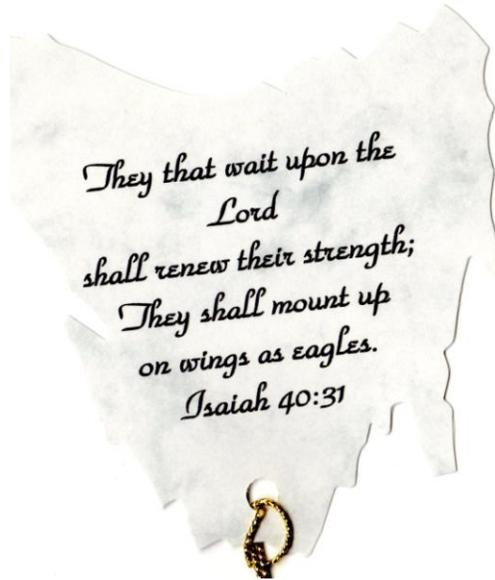
*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life for them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*



WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN

Gordon Jenson

We're together again praising the lord  
We're together again in one accord  
Something good is going to happen  
Something good is in store  
We're together again praising the lord.

**Hymn - (Tune - Regent Square) - C.G.Taylor**

Now we come, our Heavenly Father,  
One in glad fraternity.  
Needing still Your guiding mercies,  
Stronger faith, more fervent view;  
All Your blessing,  
Now confessing,  
We would praise and worship You.

Through the years, your Spirit guided  
Those who blazed the path we tread,  
In the glow of faith they laboured,  
By the Bread of Life were fed;  
While their yearning,  
Hearts were learning,  
More of Christ, their living Head.

Lift we then, their torch with gladness,  
Pledging all to this high aim -  
Your lost world reclaimed from darkness,  
Yielded to your sovereign claim;  
Visions firing,  
Hearts inspiring  
Go we onward in Your name!

(Public domain)

### Living Life to the Fullest.

#### Readings from the Psalms -

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him all you peoples,  
For great is His love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord  
endures for ever.

Not to us O Lord, but to Your Name be the glory.

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His  
commands.

**Prayer -** O, God, Lord of all life, help us to use this day well.  
Help us to use today to know You a little better,  
To do our work more diligently, to serve our fellow men  
a little more lovingly:  
To make ourselves by Your help a little more like Jesus.  
This we ask for Jesus sake, Amen (Barclay)

#### Narration and Comment -

1. The first items in the container represent the biggest, the most important  
decisions that we will ever make. That is, the decisions to make God the  
centre of our universe, to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and to  
rely on the power of the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance.

Our loving and merciful God sent his Son into the world that all might have  
life through Him. This decision of ours to follow Him will be reflected in  
all the choices that we make throughout our lives.

2. The second group of items represent the things we care for - our church,  
our families, our vocation. Though these are important to us the extent of  
our commitment will be influenced by the primary decision that we made  
to follow Christ.

3. The third group shows that we also have room in our lives to engage in  
activities to keep our bodies and minds healthy and active - these include  
our interests, sports, crafts, musical expertise and appreciation, reading, and  
writing. God has given us gifts and skills such as these to make our lives  
fulfilling.

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## Australian Church Women Conference Devotions Queensland Unit 2005



4. The fourth group demonstrates that there is always a place in our lives to  
help others, represented by the addition of the water. In Matthew 25, Jesus  
spoke of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick and the prisoners. If  
we would be His followers, there must be a practical concern for those in  
need.

Our lives are presented as a gift to the One whom we follow so that  
together we may go forward in Christ.

*Help us Father in this fast moving world  
To take time to let love grow.  
Guide us to the right choices for our time  
Making us more open for love to flow.  
May we always put you first,  
Before riches, fame and personal gain,  
Nurturing and building stronger lives  
With patience, gentleness and love our aim*

Carol Lee Harding.

#### Prayer - ALL

O Lord, open my eyes  
That I may see the needs of others;  
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;  
Open my heart so that they need not be without succour;  
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak  
Because of the anger of the strong,  
Nor be afraid to defend the poor  
Because of the anger of the rich.  
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed  
And use me to bring them to those places.  
And so open my eyes and ears that I may this coming day  
Be able to do some work of peace for Thee,

Amen

Alan Paton

2

ACTS 15:1-35

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.

So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers.

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.

But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.

After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers.

And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us;

and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us.

Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?

On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.

After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me.

Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name.

This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up,

so that all other peoples may seek the Lord-- even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.'

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God,

but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood.

For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues."

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers,

with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the believers of Gentile origin in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.

Since we have heard that certain persons who have gone out from us, though with no instructions from us, have said things to disturb you and have unsettled your minds,

we have decided unanimously to choose representatives and send them to you, along with

our beloved Barnabas and Paul,  
who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by  
word of mouth.  
For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden  
than these essentials:  
that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is  
strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.  
Farewell."  
So they were sent off and went down to Antioch. When they gathered the congregation  
together, they delivered the letter.  
When its members read it, they rejoiced at the exhortation.  
Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen  
the believers.  
After they had been there for some time, they were sent off in peace by the believers to  
those who had sent them.

---

But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, and there, with many others, they taught and  
proclaimed the word of the Lord.

## Acts CHAPTER 2: 1-12

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.  
And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled  
the entire house where they were sitting.  
Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.  
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the  
Spirit gave them ability.  
Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.  
And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them  
speaking in the native language of each.  
Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?  
And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?  
Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus  
and Asia,  
Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors  
from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,  
Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of  
power."  
All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Fatherless and orphans  
 Elderly in homes and hospitals  
 Lonely and homeless  
 Lacking in medical attention  
 Oppressed in body, mind or spirit  
 Working mothers  
 Students in new nations  
 Hungry - physically, mentally and illiterate  
 Persecuted for religious, race or political reasons

give  
 AND  
 pray

FOR  
 Australian Church Women  
 3rd floor 511 Kent Street SYDNEY

One of the original labels used circa 1963

## Fellowship of the Least Coin 50th Anniversary Jubilee

Celebrating the Legacy,  
Visioning the Future,  
Living the Jubilee



Collaroy October 2005

MEDITATION: ---1  
Volume (1)  
Mrs. Shanti R. Solomon  
Founder of FLC  
Mainpuri  
India



*Almighty God, Whose Infinite Love was made manifest in Jesus Christ, grant me grace to love the peoples as myself.*

*Give me an understanding and a sympathetic heart for the national differences.*

*Help me to remove the clouds of suspicion and evil thoughts against others.*

*Teach me to put the needs of others before my own needs and let me put Thee before all else.*

*Grant that my part in the world's life today may not be to obscure the Divine Love but rather to make it manifest before the eyes of my fellow women.*

*I beseech Thee Father, to accomplish Thy purpose of bringing peace in this disturbed World through children, who believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

**PRAYER:**

*Dear Father, give to us of this Fellowship a consciousness of our mission as Thy children. Give us understanding for others. Increase our faith and create in us the desire to love and serve our fellow men. Through our selfless service may others truly know that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of the World. Amen. \*This prayer is taken from Volume 2.*

*Gracious heavenly Father, we thank you that your love for us is so great we are called your children. Help us to appreciate the honor of this partnership which has been bestowed upon us. May the Holy Spirit guide us to share this partnership in your love. Fill our hearts with selfless love for others. Amen. \*This prayer is taken from Volume 8.*

### FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The following is taken from an article in "Asian Church Women" (from many years ago) and was written by Shanti Solomon, the founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

"This movement is a discipline for finding peace within ourselves. After offering a prayer for peace and forgiveness, each member puts aside the least coin of her currency as a symbol of her covenant with God to forgive and love her enemies. Therefore the least or smallest coin has a significance for each member.

Secondly, the least coin is a tangible token of our equal status in fellowship with each other. No matter who and where the members are and what is their economic and social status, in this fellowship we are all equal. Together we are learning to love our enemies and have concern for everyone in need. The 'Least Coin' is a reminder of our prayer.

These least coins, when collected, become a visible token of our love, reaching out to the groups of women in their struggle for development, justice and peace. By sharing the sum of money, collected from these least coins, we share the concerns of the women around the world.

### Lord of the Years

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided;  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for the word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for one and all, our nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world, where men disown and doubt you,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us –  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past now behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

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## The Fellowship of the Least Coin

### Chorus

It's a fellowship of prayer,  
It's a fellowship of care,  
It's a fellowship of giving round the world.  
It's a fellowship of power  
It's a fellowship used each hour.  
It's the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

### Verse 1

A least coin, a small coin  
A coin that unites and not divides.  
A small prayer, sincere prayer  
A prayer that unites the world in peace.

### Chorus

### Verse 2

All nations pray as one.  
Join hands in the circle of prayer.  
Pray for peace and justice  
For reconciliation of our world.

### Chorus

## HISTORY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN IN AUSTRALIA

As we in Australia prepare to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of F.L.C. our minds go back to the wonderful and timely way God led us into the Fellowship, and we thank and praise Him for the privilege of being able to join with our Christian sisters in so many countries, to pray for Peace, Justice, Reconciliation and to offer our least coins for those in need. We have been truly blessed.

In 1963 the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women was struggling to find ways in which to co-ordinate the work of Christian Women in the churches in Australia. The Winifred Kiek Scholarship had been devised to help train for leadership women from the Asian countries and to offer them experience in Australia which they could not obtain in their own country. But it was felt that something with practical implications as well as spiritual values was needed.

At this time a Mystery donation of \$1,000 US dollars was received by the Australian Council of Churches from the Fellowship of the Least Coin for work amongst Aboriginal children and women. "What is this Fellowship of the Least Coin?" and "Where has the money come from?" were just two of the many questions asked by the Council of Churches.

Mrs Verco, one of our members (and a present Life Member of Australian Church Women) had heard about the Fellowship whilst on a visit to the U.S.A. and after many enquiries were made, the women of the Congregational Fellowship were able to tell the moving story of a group of dedicated and concerned Asian Christian women who saw the great need for God's reconciling love in a world torn apart by hate, suspicion and greed.

Australian Church Women were asked to promote and administer the Fellowship in Australia. Help for Australia had come from Asia where utmost poverty was to be found. It was a humbling and startling thought.

God had answered our prayer for a project which would unite Christian women together in prayer and giving around Australia.

Miss Thelma Skiller, our Secretary, produced a label to put on a bottle/container for "least coins" and to remind the givers to pray. The first issue was soon used. Later Deaconess Mary Andrews asked an artist friend to design a label which had the Cross at the Centre with a woman kneeling in prayer beside it. Superimposed on the label were the words "Fellowship of the Least Coin - We live and pray for Peace in the World; Peace in the Home; Peace in the Heart."

Promotion of the Fellowship has been faithfully carried out by our Church Women and today in practically every part of our Continent, individuals and groups are praying and offering their least coins and the meditations from the Circle of Prayer have helped us understand more fully the needs and problems of our sisters in Christ.

Australia was represented at the F.L.C. Silver Jubilee meetings in Manila, and the challenge of those meetings was shared by the ladies who attended. Major Eileen Holley attended the 40th Anniversary celebrations in New Zealand and encouraged us by her interesting and informative report.

We are grateful to the Asian women who taught us not only to pray, but the lesson of giving and receiving with God's reconciling love.

Again we have been truly blessed - Thanks be to God.

(Compiled from various F.L.C. records.)

Shirley Wells  
National FLC Convener

Allocations from the FLC to Australia, (In American Dollars)

1963	Australian Council of Churches for work among Aboriginal children and girls.	\$1,000
1964	Christian Bookshop, New Hebrides Girls' Hostel, Tahiti	\$1,000 \$2,000
1965	Aoba Islands Hospital	\$1,000
1966	Pacific Islands Christian Programme of Methodist Church Home and Family Programme PCC Radio Work, Melanesian Council of Churches	\$1,000 \$1,000 \$1,000
1968	Work among Migrant Youth in Victoria	\$1,000
1969	Marriage Guidance and Family Institute, Pacific Islands Handicraft Training Programme, Suva. St. Christopher's Multiracial Home, Fiji Girl's Hostel, Tahiti Pacific Islands Lay Leadership for Women	\$1,500 \$1,000 \$2,000 \$1,000 \$1,000
1970	Nutrition Seminar, Haiti Pacific Urban Industrial Mission Marriage Guidance and Family Institute Assistance to PCC General Secretary's Housing	\$1,000 \$2,000 \$1,000 \$1,000
1971	Marriage Guidance Institute, Victoria Marriage Guidance Institute, Fiji Development Training in Community Life for Aboriginal Australians	\$1,000 \$1,500 \$1,000
1973	Aboriginal Health Education in Australia International Social Service, Victoria Boat, for Vatnabare Hospital, Duke of York, Rabaul New Britain Aboriginal Resource Centre, Darwin Kindergarten Training in Australia for Fijian	\$ 700 \$ 500 \$ 700 \$1,000 \$1,000
1974	Girls' Brigade; Pacific Training. PNG Training for Fijian Kindergarten Teacher	\$2,500 \$2,500
1975	Aboriginal Medical Service, Australia Nungalinya College, Darwin. Australia	\$1,500 \$5,000
1976	Care for the Outcasts of Society, Bourke NSW	\$1,000
1979	Australian Church Women, Christian Causeways Pacific (bringing NZ and USA Churchwomen to National Meeting in Sydney)	\$2,000
1980	St. Christopher's Home, Fiji	\$1,000
1983	Mamre Family Support for Handicapped Children Research - Handicapped Children in the Outback Services to Vietnamese refugees, Victoria Leadership Training - Aboriginal Resource Centre	\$1,000 \$1,500 \$1,500 \$1,500
1984	Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress	\$3,000
1985	Minibus for Vietnamese Evangelical Church, Adelaide.	\$2,000
1986	Nungalinya College - National language, literature and computer facilities for Aboriginal women.	\$4,500

1987	Family Care Ministry	\$1,000
1988	Meningie Aboriginal Christian Centre (Machines to teach women sewing and self-reliance)	\$3,000
1989	Operation Understanding. To finance a Christian Aboriginal Woman and White Woman together to travel to each State in Australia to meet with ACW members and other Christian Women in an effort to develop better understanding and relationship between all women	\$5,000
1990	Women's Prison Chaplaincy in South Australia	\$3,000
	Leadership Training for Women in New Guinea - Tasmania	\$1,000
	Women, the Church and Domestic Violence – Victoria	\$5,000
1992	Ministry to Women leaving Prison in Victoria	\$5,000
	To provide follow-up to assist with providing basic needs	
	Spiritual Project for Aboriginal Women	\$3,400
	Women's Refuge and Training Centre in Tasmania	\$2,000
1994	Kuri-Ngai Partners – Liaison officer – NSW	\$6,000
1995	Mail Bag Club and Junior Mailbag – YWCA – Qld.	\$500
	Shalom Christian College – QLD, applied for by NSW	\$5,000
1996	Lowarda Aboriginal Corp. WA	\$3,000
	Jewellery and Artifact Business	
	The Girls' Brigade, NSW	\$2,000
	Yappera Stage 2 Development	
1997	WEC Missionary Training College	\$2,000
	Resources for women training for ministry	
	Launceston College, Tasmania	\$4,000
	School Chaplaincy, Australia	
1998	Brenton Carey hostel Pakistan – applied for by NSW Unit	\$5,000
	Young Aboriginal Women Self Esteem program, Redfern, NSW	\$4,000
	Somali Refuge Women's Sewing Group, Auburn, NSW	\$4,000
2000	Cressy-Campbell School Chaplaincy, Tasmania	\$2,000
	Leadership Development Girls' Friendly Society, Qld	\$3,000
	AIM Bible College Computer Project, Northern Territory	\$3,000
	North West Hospitals' Chaplaincy, Tasmania	\$2,000
2001	Women's Fellowship/Girls Brigade – motorised canoe, Solomon Islands	\$2,500
	Parents' Support Group, Woolloomooloo, Sydney	\$4,000
	Facilitating Faith Community (Parish) Nursing, WA	\$2,500
2002	Train the Trainers, Health Education, East Timor	\$3,700
	Girls' Friendly Society, National & International Conferences, Anglican, Qld	\$2,000
	Embracing People with Intellectual Disabilities, WA	\$2,500
2003	Somali Women's Sewing Group, Melbourne	\$3,000
	Churches Together Aboriginal Partnership, Qld Churches	\$3,000
2005	'Journey to Wholeness'. A project of Uniting Care, Kwinana, WA	\$3,500
	'Grace in Restoring Life' for the Women's Space at Hope Street Urban Compassion in Woolloomooloo, NSW	\$4,000

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN SHARE THEIR REFLECTIONS  
ON FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Reflections from Nancy McLaren, National President

What a privilege I have had to be the Convener for the Fellowship of the Least Coin in New South Wales for the last two and a half years.

During my time I have had the privilege of speaking at services where I have been able to promote the wonderful history of this great movement.

To see the way that people have responded to the legacy that has been left to us by Shanti Solomon in not only giving of our least coin in our currency but the prayers and participation that have taken place has been wonderful.

Reflections from Vera Wilson, Western Australia

One of my early memories of FLC was the occasion of Mrs Shanti Solomon's first visit to W.A. not long after FLC was established in Australia. She had to cancel several flights from India because of delay in getting her visa and finally arrived at Perth Airport in the middle of the night. The State President and I were at the Airport to meet her and saw her for a few minutes as she had to rejoin the plane to keep a speaking engagement in Adelaide the following day - having already missed the meeting we had arranged to welcome her to W.A. When I rang the S.A. Convener after the plane left here she was relieved to know that Shanti would arrive in Adelaide the following morning.

Another memory is of the W.A. celebration of the 40th anniversary of FLC. Early in the year we contacted all FLC Groups and suggested that anyone who wished could make a little red bag and during the year fill it with 40 five-cent pieces. These were to be brought or sent to the Community Day Service in October. The response to this idea was amazing and the Treasurer was not popular at the Bank when she turned up with many hundreds of five-cent pieces!

Reflections from Anne Kennedy, Victoria

Fellowship of the Least Coin has captured the imagination of church people here in Victoria. The amount of prayer and reconciliation has resulted in amazing spiritual and financial support for all. The Circle of Prayer booklet is well received.

\* Mrs Fran Downes (Life Member) and Rev. Elizabeth Alfred attended the FLC Silver Jubilee celebrations held in Manila in 1980. A Special Service was arranged by Winifred Kiek Scholar, Mrs Rathi Selveratnam in October 1981 at Collins Street Baptist Church.

\* In November 1996, a Special Service was held at Collins Street Baptist Church to celebrate 40 years of FLC. The Speaker was Mrs Rathi Selvaratnam, who was President of Asian Church Women's Conference from 1966-1970.

Reflections from Eva Cooper, South Australia

It amazes me that wherever I give a talk, people are surprised to know how many countries are involved and that FLC has spread world wide. The Circle of Prayer booklets are widely used in South Australia and people are amazed to hear how the smallest coins can amount to such a large figure and be used to help so many people.

In 1981 the Silver Jubilee was celebrated with a Thanksgiving Service and Dinner - Mrs Rathi Selvaratnam (a former President of ACWC and the first Winifred Kiek Scholar) was the Guest Speaker.

/over

### Reflections from Janet Abrahamffy, Australian Capital Territory

In 1964 the World Community Day collection was £27.10.0d and in 1965 our first FLC collection was £18.11.0d. As half-pennies were the least coin at that time, it meant that 8,924 half-pennies were collected, hopefully changes into larger coinage for the WCC collection

Over the years our collections have steadily risen. I don't think Shanti would approve, but if we can raise money for worthwhile projects to help Christian women, any where in the world, to have self respect, dignity and to stand on their own feet – well I don't mind if we get coins from unbelievers (who in all probability just throw their least coins away) as we dedicate our collections at our World Community Day services to helping others, maybe even to some of the unbelievers who threw the coins away in the first place. We will just have to pray all the harder to cover Shanti's wish for a prayer with a coin.

For my part, I have enjoyed going around to various church groups to tell them about FLC. The only problem for me is, I admire Shanti so much as a person and her idea, that I find it hard to stop talking about her and her FLC.

### Reflections from Margaret Florence, Queensland

Over the last years as I have spoken to many groups, I have found that although they have supported FLC for many year, they have not heard, or have forgotten its story. Their appreciation of this, especially on the emphasis on prayer, ha made their support more meaningful and has encouraged me greatly.

### Reflections from Shirley Wells on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of FLC in NSW

Over 100 women gathered together to give thanks to God for His enabling and guidance over the years, and for the privilege we have had to be part of the Fellowship for 34 years. The International visitors (en route or returning from their meetings in New Zealand) gave glimpses of the work of FLC in Asian countries and we were inspired and encouraged by their visit.

The cutting of the Anniversary cake by Shirin Samuel was a highlight of the program and a time of sharing at lunch was enjoyed by all.

### Reflections from the Solomon Islands.

Extract from "Speech of Word of Thanks" by the Executive of Solomon Islands' Central West Union Girls' Brigade and the United Church Women's Fellowship for the 2001 FLC Grant of \$2,500.

"The Funding Agency - Fellowship of the Least Coin which enabled us to purchase a durable, high quality Yamaha boat has alleviated the soaring expenses of hiring boats. In the first three months, the boat made a total of 16 day runs and if this is calculated at the normal hiring rate of \$200 per day, a saving of \$3,200 has been made (an average of \$1,000 per month).

We convey our grateful thanks for meeting our need in extending God's kingdom in this little part of the world."

### Reflections from Tasmania

On reflection concerning Fellowship of the Least Coin occasions, I have to say that whenever we have received a grant for one of our applications, the joy has been overwhelming.

The year we received very necessary finance for the ongoing Christian Chaplaincy work at the Launceston College as well as money for upgrading the needs of the library at the World Evangelical College, we were all like excited children on Christmas morning.

The great rewards have been when we have had the pleasure of recipients coming back to our meetings and services as guest speakers telling us just how well and truly blessed the projects have been through the receipt of the grant. *Janita*

Great is Thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not  
As thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter and spring time and harvest,  
Sun, Moon and Stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**Luke 7:36-50**

I am the woman who washed your feet, Jesus. You ask me to leave my old ways behind me. Fill me with true sorrow for the times when I have wandered far from you and your message. I, too, can experience the generosity of your forgiveness when I come to you with the tears of repentance.

**Let us pray together...**

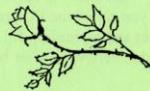
We believe in God, who out of love created the world.  
We believe in Jesus, who out of love came to live on earth.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who out of love breathes life through us and through all that we do as Australian Church Women.

**Final Prayer**

Thank you for the people who have been good medicine for my spirit. Their love has enriched my life and filled my heart with happiness. Jesus, you called your disciples friends. You recognised the great blessing they were for you on your journey. Thank you for the gift of my significant persons, for the privilege of walking through life with them. Remind me often of the strength and courage these loved ones give to me. Remind me that I am called to be generous and humble with the deeds I do and.....

*May the shelter of God embrace us.  
May the Dance of God play in our joyful moments.  
May the peace of God be with us wherever we are on our journey.*

Amen.



Acknowledgement of ideas from 'Out of the Ordinary' by Joyce Rupp

**Western Australian Unit  
Australian Church Women**

**National Conference 2005  
Tuesday evening devotions**



**WELCOME AND GREETING**

Good evening everyone. I welcome you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our evening devotions. I bring greetings, good wishes and God's blessing from our President, Leila Wilson, and the members of the Western Australian Unit.

On this day we have been reflecting on the Fellowship of the Least Coin and we wish to celebrate Jesus' invitation to love one another as Jesus loves us.

We wish to recognise that every small act of kindness makes a difference to ourselves, others and our world.

**HYMN: In Christ there is no East or West TIS 459**

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find,  
His service is the gold cord close-binding humankind.*

*Join hands, then, people of the faith whate'er your race may be;  
Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north,  
All Christlike souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.*

**THIS IS HOLY GROUND (Monica Brown)**

You are here, so this is holy ground.  
In all that is You are here.  
This is holy ground, the ground of my being now  
My spirit bows to You upon this holy ground.

**A Disciples Prayer (Joyce Rupp)**

**Let us pray together.....**

How easy to believe that I am an instrument of your love when my life is going well, O God. How difficult to believe this when my life seems to be going nowhere, or is filled with many concerns and activities that wear me out. Yet, you greatly desire to proclaim your goodness through every part of my life, no matter what the situation is.

I do not need to have good feelings in order to be an instrument of your love. I do not need to always feel satisfied with what I am attempting to be, and to do, in order to be a disciple of yours. It is the intention of my heart that makes the difference. Deep within I long for you and I give myself to your cause. I place my heart in yours and enter as fully as I can into your loving embrace.

I am your messenger, ready to tell of your enormous kindness and mercy. I will trust in you. I believe that those with whom I live and work will see your love shining through all I am and all I do. Amen.

*The candle is now lit.....*

**ACTS OF KINDNESS**

Your stone is to remind you of the many positive acts of kindness that you do. Take a moment or two to reflect on something kind that someone has done for you. What happened and how did you feel?

Jesus said 'I am the living water that never runs dry'.  
*(Water is poured into the bowl)*

Jesus said 'Love one another just as I have loved you'.  
*(Water is poured into the bowl)*

Jesus said 'I come that you may have life and have life to the full'.  
*(Water is poured into the bowl)*

A small act of kindness makes a big difference to others and our world.

Representatives will now come forward and drop their stones in the water. This will create a ripple effect. This shows how an act of kindness touches many lives. As this is done reflect on a deed of kindness you have done. What happened, how did you feel?

A small act of kindness changes minds and hearts.

**Scripture Reflections:**

*As we reflect on our discipleship let us listen to what some of Jesus' friends had to do:*

**Luke 19:1-10**

I am Zaccaeus, I too, need to leave behind my concerns of what others will think of me. Jesus, when you approach my tree of life, when you ask to come to the home of my heart, may I be ready. Help me to respond to your call and to live the message of the Gospel, even though I may experience criticism and rejection.

**John 4:1-42**

I am the Samaritan woman. I am asked to leave behind my doubts about my own self-worth. Jesus, you called me to appreciate my own goodness. In my moments of self-doubt and hesitation, fill me with a disciple's heart. Help me to listen to you and to believe in your belief in me.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**  
*National Conference, 2005*

*South Australian Unit Inc.*

**C.D.O. — WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?**

**SONG**

When I needed a neighbour, were you there,  
were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

REFRAIN: *And the creed and the colour and  
the name won't matter, were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there  
were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

When I needed a shelter, were you there,  
were you there?  
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there,  
were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there?

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there  
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

REFRAIN *And the creed and the colour and  
the name won't matter, I'll be there?*

Sydney Carter  
(c) of the Australian Hymn Book Company

**SCRIPTURE — Luke 18: 25-29**

**'WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR'**  
(A Modern Day Parable)

**SCRIPTURE — Luke 18: 25-29; 36-37**

**POEM — Open my eyes**  
(~~M. Kraemer~~)

**PRAYER**

**SONG — A New Commandment**

A new commandment I give unto you  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this will others know that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another;  
by this will others know that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another.

*(Unknown)*

A Modern-Day Parable, based on 'The Good Samaritan' - Luke 10:30-37.

Narator: One morning a woman was walking on her own on the road towards Collaroy, when a car drew level with her, and out jumped two hooligans, who pushed the woman to the ground, snatched her handbag and PC, then got back into their car and drove off at high speed, leaving the poor victim lying on the ground upset and in a state of shock. Shortly afterward an official looking car driven by chaffeur came down the road, in the back seat sat a smartly dressed lady. The car passed the injured woman, then stopped. The smartly dressed woman alighted, taking care not to get too close to the victim.

Smartly dressed woman: You poor thing, are you alright? I would be delighted to help you, but I'm a councillor on my way to an important meeting of the Collaroy Shire Council where we have an important subject to discuss this morning, we will consider "the high rate of crime and road rage and assaults", so I really can't stop, however I will be able to use your present situation as an example of what needs urgent attention. I'll try to organise an ambulance for you if I can, must go."

Narator: The woman returned to her car and was driven off at high speed to her meeting. A little later another car down the road, driven by an anxious looking woman, who on seeing the victim at the side of the road, stopped, got out of her car and came near to the victim.

2nd Woman: "Oh, how dreadful, you do look bad, but I'm terribly sorry I'm in such a rush, I'm the secretary of the Collaroy Branch of ACW, and we have a special guest speaker this morning on "Our role in the community", so it is necessary for me to be on time, but be assured I will see that we will pray for you and that you will soon be feeling better. God bless you."

Narator: The secretary returned to her car, and with a backward glance at the injured woman drove off in the direction of Collaroy.

After some little time a scooter could be heard chugging down the road, it came in sight and when it reach the road victim, the rider stopped her scooter, got off and propped the scooter up against a tree. She came over to our victim, bent down closely to see her injuries.

Scooter rider: "You certainly have had a bad time of it, and need help. I'll get my firstaid kit and a bottle of water which I've got in my carry bag, We'll get you fixed up."

Narator: She goes over to her scooter, takes her carry bag and returns to the injured woman and gently gives her a drink on water, then carefully wipes her cuts and bruises, talking soothingly as she administered the firstaid.

Scooter rider: "I'm on my way to a family do, I'll just give my mother a call to let her know I'll be a bit late". uses her mobile phone. "Mum it's ~~over~~ <sup>CHOICES</sup> here, I'll be a bit late in getting to the do, I'm giving a hand to a lady who is in a bit a of state. No, I don't know what her name is, but she needs a hand, and I'm it, See you." "Now do you think you can stand up, I'll help you". Helps the other woman to stand up, Now I'm sorry we haven't got better transport, but with the high price of petrol at present, I use my scooter. You sit on the back, hang on to me, and if we take it slowly we can make it into town and to the emergency dept. at the hospital where they will give you a check up just in case of any damage."

Narator: Together they mount the scooter and slowly disappear down the road towards Collaroy and the hospital.

We all have C.D.O. occasions, times when we have <sup>CHOICES</sup> ~~choices~~, make Decisions and see the Outcome of those decisions. Our "parable" this morning, based on ~~LUKE~~ <sup>LUKE</sup> 10:30-37 shows that situations may arise when there are alternative choices requiring quick decisions to be made, when the right outcome is dependent on the right decision."

This play written by Margaret Greenslade, was presented at the 2005 National Australian Church Women's Conference held at Collaroy N.S.W., S.A. members were the cast.

C.D.O - *choices, Decisions, Outcomes*

**ACW CHORUS (NSW State Inc)**

We being many are one in the Lord  
Each one is different, but we're trusting in His word  
For we are part of God's family  
Thru Jesus Christ His Son  
Tho' we are many, yet in Christ we are one.  
We being many in Christ we are one

Words and music Mrs Lucelle King  
Arranged Helen Scott 1991

As we have celebrated and worshipped together today  
may God be glorified and blessed

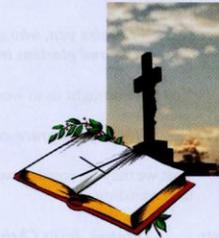
Our special thanks to  
Reverend Valamotu Palu  
Mrs Yvonne Hopper  
Mrs Brenda Dickinson  
and all who have taken part

**All songs and music are used with copyright  
CCLI no 77104**



# Ecumenical Service

**ACW National Conference  
2005**



PROCESSION OF BANNERS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND

WELCOME President Nancy

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP Vice President Cela

Leader: We give you thanks, Lord God, for you are our salvation

Response: Lord we thank you

Leader: May we always look steadfastly unto you, the Saviour and benefactor of our soul.

Response: Lord we look to you and praise you

Leader: O God, we remember with thanksgiving every moment of grace with which you have blessed us.

Response: Father you have blessed us

Leader: We have been enslaved and you have ransomed us, weary and we have strengthened, wayward and we have been restored, sorrowing and you have comforted us.

Response: We praise you, who are slow to rebuke and swift to bless, and glorious in your faithfulness

Leader: You have brought us to worship your glorious name.

Response: Give us your grace and power

Leader: That we may be counted worthy to sing your praises with understanding

Response: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

GREETINGS

Secretary Mrs Isabel Hewitt

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

WKS Convenor Major Joan Tong

HYMN All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia, alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

Chorus O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice:



And all ye men of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and on him cast your care;

Dear mother earth, who day by day Unfoldest blessings on our way, O praise him, alleluia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them his glory also show:

Let all things their Creator bless, And worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One:

Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) trs William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

READING FROM THE WORD Psalm 66

CHORUSES SIS 262 For I'm building a people of power

For I'm building a people of power And I'm building a people of praise That will move through this land by my Spirit And will glorify my precious name.

Build your church, Lord Make us strong, Lord Join our hearts, Lord Through your Son Make us one, Lord In your Body In the kingdom of your Son (Dave Richards) Thank You Music

SIS 201 How lovely on the mountains How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him Who brings good news, good news Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness: Our God reigns, Our God reigns. (Leonard E Smith Jnr) The Source

God in you, God in me Making us all we can be Created in His image Let us live in His will God in you, God in me. Words and Music William Himes Copyright 1997

SIS 390 Open our eyes Lord Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus To reach out and touch Him And say that we love Him Open our ears, Lord and help us to listen Open our eyes, Lord We want to see Jesus (Bob Cull) Maranatha Music

PRAYERS Prayer of thanksgiving- past & future Publicity Convenor Sister Marie Craddock RSJ Prayer of praise Treasurer NSW Unit (Inc) Mrs Helen Richardson

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST Mrs Marie McCann OAM Past National President

TIME OF REFLECTION

- 1. Father, I thank you for today.. Just as it is I know it is my day but I want it to be your day too.
2. Father, if you would have all of your creation praise you then how much more should I, your child, praise you too.
3. Father, at the early part of this day I join with fellow believers to thank you for life itself, for faith, for freedom and for the fellowship we can share together.
4. Father, as we open your word, open our mind to receive from you what will help us to go forward together in your Son's name

READING FROM THE WORD Colossians 3: 1-4; 12-17

SOLO Mrs Brenda Dickinson Nat. Exec. Minute Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE WORD Reverend Valamotu Palu Pacific Conference of Churches

PRAYER

## THIS LAND IS GOD'S LAND

This land is God's land,  
It's rolling hills and plains,  
This land is God's land,  
It's city streets and lanes,  
In hearts that love Him truly,  
In lives that bring Him praise;  
For this land is God's land,  
AUSTRALIA

This land is god's land,  
Though some have never heard,  
This land is God's land,  
O! may their hearts be stirred.  
His love can overcome them,  
His spirit set them free,  
For this land is God's land,  
AUSTRALIA

This land is God's land,  
We claim it as His own!  
This land is God's land,  
To Him belongs the throne.  
Lift high the name of Jesus,  
Proclaim His power to save;  
For this land is God's land,  
AUSTRALIA

Words & Music Major Howard Davis  
CCLI no 77104

### Hymn:

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord: - is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night;  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Daniel Schutte*



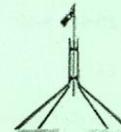
## ACW National Conference 2005

Wednesday evening, 12 October

### Devotions

*"Celebrating Winifred Kiek"*

ACT Unit



*Opening prayer.*

Dear Lord, as we come to the close of this day of celebration and remembrance, we give thanks for the wisdom and foresight of Winifred Kiek in establishing the Fellowship.

We ask your blessings on the Trustees as they continue to administer this wonderful scheme.

We would ask too, Lord, that you bless all Winifred Kiek Scholars, both past and present, as they finish their studies and take the skills they have learned into their own communities to teach and to lead.

Help us Lord to be more aware of the help we can give in our own communities as we go "forward together in Christ".

*Hymn.*      *Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go*

*Reading.*    Psalm 25:4-5, 9-10

*Meditation.* Psalm 23

*Hymn.*      *I, the Lord of sea and sky*

*Blessing.*    From Ps 121

**Hymn:**

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,  
my daily labour to pursue,  
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know  
in all I think, or speak or do.

The task Thy wisdom has assigned  
O let me cheerfully fulfil;  
in all my works Thy presence find,  
and prove Thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand,  
whose eyes my inmost secrets see;  
and labour on at Thy command,  
and offer all my works to Thee.

Give me to bear Thine easy yoke,  
and every moment watch and pray,  
and still to things eternal look,  
and hasten to Thy glorious day.

For Thee delightfully employ  
whate'er Thy bounteous grace hath given,  
and run my course with constant joy,  
and closely walk with Thee to heaven.

(Charles Wesley)

*(After Eucharist)*

## **FULL ORCHESTRA**

**LEADER:** O God our Father, give us the fruit of your Spirit in our lives.

**ALL:** Love that we may love you as you have loved us, and that we may love our fellowmen as you love them;

Joy, that we may be happy ourselves, and that we may help others to be happy;

Peace, that we may never again be restless and worried and nervous;

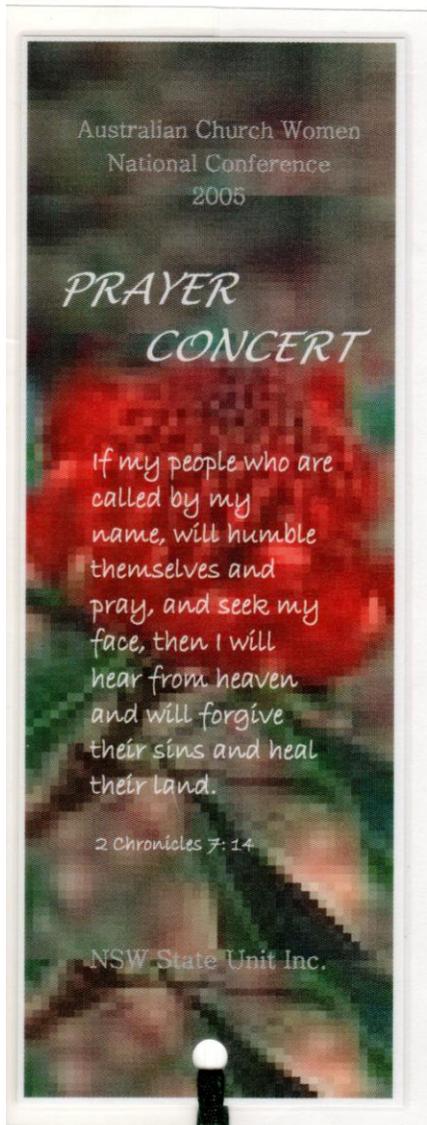
**LEADER:** Grant us these things, O God.

**All:** Patience, that we may no longer be irritable and in too big a hurry;

Kindness, that we may desire to give rather than to get, to share rather than to keep, to praise rather than to criticize, to forgive rather than to condemn;

Goodness, that we may be an example and a help to all;

**LEADER:** Grant us these things, O God.



**ALL:** Faithfulness, that through all the chances and the changes of life we may be true to ourselves, true to our loved ones and true to You;

Gentleness, that we may be humble and not proud and that we may never deliberately or carelessly hurt others;

Self-control, that no moment of impulse or of passion may make us to injure another or to bring shame on ourselves.

**LEADER:** Grant us these things , O God.

**ALL:** Amen

William Barclay.





**LEADER**

Our friends here, cannot do this task alone.  
As Christian women it is our responsibility to use our gifts and talents in whatever way that God is calling us  
To bring the message of His love and forgiveness to our communities, our nation and our world.

**LEADER TO MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

As members of State/Territory Units and Affiliated Groups, will you commit yourself to prayerfully support the National Executive,  
And to uphold the aims and objectives of Australian Church Women.

**ALL** We will, with God's grace.

**PRESENTATION OF BADGES**

**DEVOTIONS** Incoming National Executive

**CLOSING PRAYER**



**ACW National Conference  
2005**



**Change over &  
Dedication**



**FORWARD TOGETHER WITH CHRIST.**

**Unless the Lord builds the House, the builders labour in vain. Psalm 127:1**

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS** Major Nancy McLaren

**SONG:** Help us to help each other, Lord,  
Each other's cross to bear;  
Let each his friendly aid afford,  
And feel his brother's care.

Touched by the lodestone of thy love,  
Let all our hearts agree,  
And ever toward each other move,  
And ever move toward Thee.

Help us to build each other up,  
Our little stock improve;  
Increase our faith, confirm our hope,  
And perfect us in love.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)  
Salvation Army Song Book

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

**INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING EXECUTIVE**

**ACT OF COMMITMENT**

As we look to the future of Australian Church Women, we give thanks to God for these women who have accepted the role of National Executive.

We acknowledge that there are many differing gifts being offered today as they endeavour to serve the Lord Jesus Christ within Australian Church Women.

We thank God for their willingness to accept the challenge of using these gifts.

We acknowledge that this task will take time, it will take energy, enthusiasm and it will take effort as they serve you in the role of National Executive.

**LEADER TO INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

In recognising the gifts and talents that you have to offer, the members of Australian Church Women have appointed you to be the National Executive for the next two years.  
During this time will you accept this responsibility, as Christian women, with the understanding that you have the practical and prayerful support of members of Australian Church Women throughout Australia and strong in the knowledge and wisdom that when God calls a people to a task He also equips.

**INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

**We will, trusting in God for His guidance and strength**

**LEADER TO INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

Will you commit yourselves to serve this body with love and sensitivity as we go forward together to seek to be an effective witness wherever we serve in ministry for our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

**INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

**We will, relying on His grace**

## Hymn

Here I am Lord, it is I Lord ...

## Benediction

### Leader

The blessing of our God, the One of plenteous grace, love, and power is upon us, enabling us to fulfil our calling. God has need of you.

### All

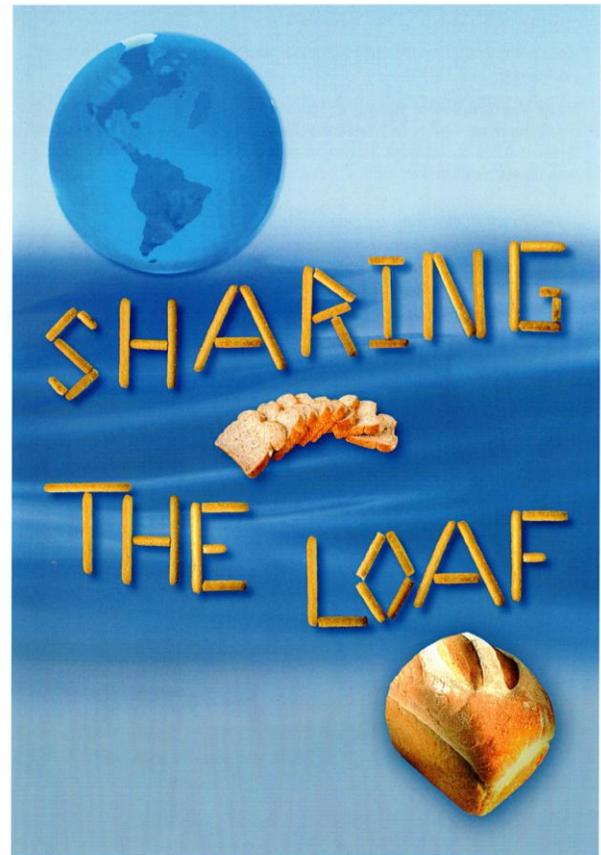
We make ourselves available.

### Leader

God now sends you.

### All

We go in the power of God's love.



## Call to Worship

'Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again'  
Ecclesiastes 11:1 (NIV)

Invest your lives in the things of God and you will reap the rich reward of God's approval. For as we have received so are we to give, as we have been blessed so are we to bless. Let us worship the God of unrestrained giving, with unrestrained praise.

## Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the almighty ...

## Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

O God, throughout our days, you bless us, because it is your joy so to do; and in blessing us, you invite us to share your joy, not only in the receiving, but in the sharing in the blessing of others out of the bounty you have bestowed upon us. And we marvel, For your goodness exceeds the reaches of our minds your love stretches the limits of what we perceive to be possible. Help us to translate our experience of your providence into gospel for others. Help us to point the way to faith in you, by our example of loving trust in you.

## Scripture

Matthew 14:13-21

## Reflection

### Sharing the Loaf



## Prayer of Intercession

### Leader

Creator God,

You sow, and the harvest is abundant; you plant, and the crop is plentiful. In this great and wondrous world you have given all that is necessary For all your people to be satisfied.

### People

Yet so many are hungry, so many have no home; There is a growing chasm in our country between rich and poor. We are to blame that the harvest is not enjoyed by all!

### Leader

O giver of all that is good, teach us your children the wisdom of sharing; Break open the stubborn hearts of the selfish. Raise up leaders who want every person to enjoy the earth's rich bounty. May your spirit of generosity be seen everywhere.

### People

O God, we are a people who understand hardship; We know the ravages of flood and the barrenness of drought. We know the pain of living with harsh conditions. Sustain we pray, those for whom life has become unbearable! Here at home, or far away, we pray for those who have given up hope.

### Leader

Wherever people are trampled down by the powerful, bring justice. Wherever people are used and abused, bring hope and healing. Wherever people cry out from the pain of life, bring healing. Wherever loss and grief crush the human spirit, Bring peace to restore and make whole again.

### People

Thank you, our Father God, that you hear the prayers of your people. Let us look to see where we can share in the answer. In love we come to you—in faith we seek to share in your work.

### Leader

May your grace, love and power be upon each one of us, Enabling us to fulfil your calling, In the blessed name of Jesus, Amen.

Thank you for your participation in this very special  
National Conference for Australian Church Women  
40th Year Celebration

As we go from this place may we each experience  
again the blessing of God the Father, the  
fellowship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the  
guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Let us go

#### **FORWARD TOGETHER WITH CHRIST**

as we seek to love and serve God in the ministry to  
which He has called us.



## **CLOSING SERVICE**

### **Australian Church Women National Conference Sydney 2005**



#### **REFLECTIONS**

#### **PRAYER**

#### **GO WITH A WORD OF SCRIPTURE**

Mark 6: 1-13

#### **GO WITH A WORD OF WITNESS**

#### **AMAZING GRACE**

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved,  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'This grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
Than when we've first begun.

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#### **THOUGHT FROM THE WORD OF GOD**

#### **OUR AIMS**

To unite Christian women from those Churches and  
Christian communities which confess the Lord Jesus  
Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures  
and commit themselves to the glory of the One God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

*To promote co-operation, understanding and  
reconciliation between men and women in church,  
family and society*

To help Christian women to take a more effective  
place in the total life and mission of the Church

*To provide opportunities for Christian women of  
different denominations to worship, study and serve  
together*

To encourage fellowship, service and understanding  
nationally and internationally

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**



**AUSTRALIAN  
CHURCH  
WOMEN**

**NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

**10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>  
October 2005**

**FORWARD  
TOGETHER  
IN CHRIST**



### Trading Circle Story

#### WHO WE ARE

The Good Shepherd Trading Circle is a non-profit company established by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Australia in 1995 to support women in micro-enterprises initiated by the Sisters internationally.

We do this by:

- marketing their products in Australia and New Zealand
- supporting their development by providing small grants for equipment, materials and training
- raising consciousness of the situations in which the women and their families live and of issues like fair trade

We are committed to fair trade and solidarity with women and their families who struggle within the global economic structures to find a way out of poverty.

#### GOOD SHEPHERD TRADING NETWORK



Countries in Good Shepherd Trading Circle Trading Network, 2000

The Good Shepherd Sisters are in 67 countries. Their mission is to women and girls and their families who are marginalized in society for various reasons. They believe passionately in the dignity and unique value of each person. This commits them to join with all who struggle for a world which is just and fair for all.

In many very poor areas of the world, poverty is the major enemy. Whether this poverty is caused by war and violence, by natural disasters, by the corruption of national leaders, by the behaviours of companies and major players on the global economic landscape - the effects on the lives of the people is the same. They suffer malnutrition, ill health, unemployment, illiteracy, homelessness, constant anxiety for the future of their children. Women and children are the ones most likely to bear the heaviest burdens of poverty.

In a number of situations like these, Good Shepherd Sisters have established skills training and employment generating projects for women and girls and some for the men and boys as well.

These employment projects often have a local market focus e.g. a cooperative laundry in Davao, Philippines; a jam-making enterprise in Baguio, Philippines;

the making of leather goods in Bangalore, India; a small bakery in Peru: a welding project in El Obeid, Sudan.

Other projects need markets outside their local areas. This is where the international network of the Good Shepherd Sisters is able to assist, through organizations like the Good Shepherd Trading Circle in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Good Shepherd sponsored projects similar to the Trading Circle exist in other countries as well:

[Global Women's Exchange, New York, USA](#)  
[Sharing Fair, Toronto, Canada](#)  
[Sharing Fair, UK](#)  
[Friends of the Good Shepherd, Netherlands.](#)



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## Good Shepherd Trading Circle

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### *The Producers*

Through the international network of the Good Shepherd Sisters, the Good Shepherd Trading Circle supports women's skill training and employment generation projects in a number of African, Asian and Latin American countries.

The women who make our products live in urban slums or poor rural areas of various Asian, African and Latin American countries.

[Asociacion de Mujeres Desplazadas, Hunacayo, Peru](#)

[Centre Fihavanana, Antananarivo, Madagascar](#)

[Diriya Kantha Hamuwa](#)

[Euphrasia Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya](#)

[Fatima Self-Help Centre, Bangkok, Thailand](#)

[Gawang Kamay Cooperative, Manila, Philippines](#)

[Isan Pottery, Nong Khai, Thailand](#)

[Isan Weaving and Regina Centres, North-East Thailand](#)

[Likas Lunas Card and Herbal Project](#)

[Navodhini, Bangalore, India](#)

[Pinatubo Ash Art Ware Project](#)

[Teko Joja Kufia Rembiapope, Asuncion, Paraguay](#)

[Villa Shalom, Maria Droste Centre, \(Bantul\) and \(Tangerang\), Indonesia](#)

