



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN **ACW NEWS**

""We aim:- to unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PO Box 527 Prospect East S.A. 5082

(All Newsletter correspondence to this address please)

June - July 2001

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

"Jesus our Living Hope"

Agendas! Every month Maureen and I have a conversation about the "agenda" for the next Executive meeting. We need a well thought out agenda if the meeting is to run smoothly, and if we are to achieve the desired outcomes.

I have just returned from the N.C.C.A. Forum in Melbourne where we had an agenda that carried us over 5 days. It was a most interesting and challenging time as the mission of the church was reflected upon in an Ecumenical environment. Much food for thought as we ponder on the future of A.C.W.

Agendas help to give form to a gathering and enables business to be attended to in an ordered way. Most necessary!!

The gospel¹ reading that was set down for last Sunday was the story of a Samaritan traveller and his act of kindness and compassion. In thinking about this very well known parable one asks what new thing can be said. The story seems to need no explanation!

As I thought about it (with, I guess, my experience of the past week still fresh in my mind), I came to the conclusion that this could be a story about agendas.

There was the Innkeeper. He ran a respectable business, not a hospital - and he certainly wasn't about to take in some foreigner! What would his regular customers think? Each person in this story had his own agenda

Then there was the Levite! He was in a hurry! Those roads were dangerous. He wasn't about to put himself at risk. He had important business to attend to, so he hurried by.

And the priest? He had just had a wonderful time of serving in the temple. He was so enveloped in the experience of God's presence, and he was not going to allow anything to break the bubble. So he, too, hurried by.

And the wounded traveller still lay by the side of the road!

Daily we need to ask, "Whose agenda am I following? Mine --- or God's? Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. And you must love your neighbour as yourself."

Sometimes we are so caught up in what we believe to be "God's Business" that we fail to see the wounded traveller by the side of the road.

May I encourage you to be women whose lives are governed by a deep and abiding awareness that it is God's agenda which is important.

God's agenda is one of love and compassion and grace and HOPE.

"As often as you have done it for one of these you have done it for me!"

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Conference in September!

May God's grace and peace be your experience always.

Love Marj. (Marj Dredge-President)

INTRODUCING THE EXECUTIVE OF ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

You will be bedazzled by these beautiful ladies at our National Conference in September! The materials and colour of their saris... their personal gentleness and kindness... and their shared belief with us in our Lord Jesus Christ, will impress you.

President, **NANCY LIN**, comes from Taiwan, and also has the honour of being President of the International Committee of the Fellowship of The Least Coin. Vice-President, **UMA DAVID**, is from India, and represents ACWC on the ICFLC. Assembly Secretary, **DIANA MANSON**, is no stranger to our National Conferences, having represented Church Women United Aotearoa/New Zealand on a number of occasions.

ILUMINADA DOMINGO has also visited us previously in her role as the paid Executive Secretary of the ACWC office in the Philippines. Treasurer, **YASUKO NAKAYAMA**, from Tokyo, Japan, is a music teacher, and protested she was used to dealing with different 'notes' when elected to her position. **PADMA EBENEZER**, of Sri Lanka, has visited her daughters in Sydney on a number of occasions and is well known and loved by us. At this time, we are not sure if **ESTHER BYU**, ICFLC Executive Secretary of Thailand, will be able to join us. We pray she can

adjust her busy schedule. Lastly, your Representative, **BARBARA LACY**, will be very proud to introduce YOU to our very welcome guests.

We will be blessed to hear their stories, and whilst we agree Australia is the lucky country, we cannot be complacent or forget 'who is our neighbour' beyond our local area.

With love and prayers for a wonderful National Conference,
Barbara.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Many of you would be interested know that Mrs. Barbara Grealley OAM has moved house and her new address is: -

Unit13 David Read Lodge
462 Henley Beach Road
LOCKLEYS SA 5032

You had better change this in your address books straight away.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM LT. COL. LYNETTE GREEN IN KENYA

The following was printed in the Victorian Unit's April Newsletter: -

"Last Tuesday we went out on the final feeding distribution for the famine relief. It has been going for 6 months. Originally it was to go for 3 months, but thanks to the generosity of people from around the world we had enough to extend for another 3 months. The families have a registration card and they know when the trucks will come and they are all there waiting when the

truck comes in. They line up in an orderly fashion – mamas on one line and papas on the other and on production of the card they get maize, beans and oil. It would probably last most people 3 days to a week, but this has to last a month. They are so grateful. We have a team of younger Salvationists who handle the physical side of loading trucks and unloading and going on the distribution runs. They have built up a rapport with the people and it has been good for both sides. It is sad to see about one hundred people sitting under a tree a little way away from the truck. They do not have cards and they are waiting for any left overs. As it happened they had some remaining parcels this time, but 20 families missed out. Running parallel to the family feeding programme which has fed 15,000 families per month, we have the schools feeding programme. This started out to feed 19,000 children every school day with a meal of porridge. The same amount of food is now feeding 50,000 children every school day. What has happened is that school attendance has increased because of the feeding programme. In fact the attendance has increased by 37%. Teachers are writing to us and saying how much they appreciated the feeding programme because it means they can now teach the children instead of the little dears going to sleep from hunger. One school has had the best results for year 8 for some time and they attribute this to the feeding programme. We have the promise of enough money to keep that programme going until the end of the year. We have 399 Salvation Army schools and this feeding programme is covering all of them. By the end of the year we will have distributed 1,500 metric tons of food."

'And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

Closing Date for next issue will be 17th September 2001.

UNIT NEWS

QUEENSLAND

Greetings from the Queensland Unit.

We held a Musical Morning Tea at the end of May. Guest artists were the Sherwood Singers and the morning was very successful. Attendance was far greater than had been expected and the stall raised significantly more than in previous years.

Two of our ladies are having medical treatment; Molly Jean Hunt is having a Hip Replacement while Ailsa Skippen is undergoing a knee replacement. Our prayers are with them for their times of surgery and convalescence.

The city service for Fellowship Day will be held on July 27th at the Ann Street Church of Christ, the speaker being Rev. Ann Dittman.

Preparations for our Annual Meeting in August are under way. Annual Reports will be presented and Office Bearers elected for the ensuing twelve months.

It is then all steam ahead for National Conference in September. At the moment there are seven ladies looking forward to the trip down south. It will be good to renew friendships, make new ones and enjoy the fellowship and exchange of ideas as we meet together. Several will be accompanied by family and plan to holiday in South Australia following the Conference. All expect to return home renewed and refreshed, the better prepared to serve our God as He directs.

Jeanette Olsen (Publicity Officer)