

Plan to attend the  
ACW 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Day  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
Scots Church, Margaret Street, Sydney  
Contact person: Jennifer Peffer, 9874 4056

**President**

Mrs. Jennifer Peffer  
3 Meadowbank Lane  
West Ryde NSW 2114  
(02) 9874 4056  
Email:  
[jlpeffer@optusnet.au](mailto:jlpeffer@optusnet.au)

**Treasurer**

Mrs. Helen Richardson  
33 Lynwood Avenue  
Dee Why NSW 2099  
(02) 9971 0278  
Email:  
[halrich@bigpond.com](mailto:halrich@bigpond.com)

**Secretary**

Mrs. Isabel Hewitt  
35 Veda Street  
Hamilton NSW 2303  
(02) 4969 6336  
Email:  
[doug.isabel@gmail.com](mailto:doug.isabel@gmail.com)

**Special Days Convenor**

Mrs. Pamela Freeman  
52 Woodbury Street  
North Rocks NSW 2151  
(02) 9873 1701  
Email:  
[freeowp@netspace.net.au](mailto:freeowp@netspace.net.au)

**Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor**

Mrs. Judith Cayzer  
36 Vancouver Avenue  
Toongabbie NSW 2146  
Email: [tootoot@tpg.com.au](mailto:tootoot@tpg.com.au)

You are invited to:-  
The Asian Church Women's Conference [ACWC]  
gathering of celebration for 2008 to be held at  
The Salvation Army, Smith Street, Parramatta,  
Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, at 2.30 pm  
Enjoy a variety program by our multicultural churches  
Afternoon tea will be served following the concert.  
Contact person: Lyn Middleton 9529 6744



Australian Church Women

## Fellowship Day 2008



# Growing in Faith

## Australian Church Women

Australian Church Women was established in 1965 when women's interchurch councils from all states and territories came together to form ACW, fostering ecumenism and undertaking action on behalf of the churches.

Australian Church Women forms a network of committed Christian women seeking to unite across denominational, national and international boundaries and promoting peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## Winifred Kiek Scholarship

The offerings presented at Fellowship Day Services throughout Australia go towards this scholarship to honour Winifred Kiek, the first woman to be ordained in Australia. This scholarship is offered to Christian women of member countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference, multicultural Australia, and Pacific Island nations. The scholarship is used for supplementary training and further studies in theology or related fields. The 2008 scholar is Ms Imelda Aquino, from the Philippines, who is studying for a Master of Divinity at the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary in Manila.

**Today's Order of Service** was prepared by the ACT Unit of Australian Church Women. The cover symbolises our Growth in Faith. The preferred Scripture translation is the 'Good News Bible'.

Hymns have been chosen from Together in Song (TiS). Prayers are original or used with permission.

**Note:** The Order of Service is copyright and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for additional prayers where relevant for the current situation, and the substitution of hymns that are considered to be more well known and available locally. ©2008

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## Growing in Faith

Welcome, Greetings and Notices

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader** Faith is our response to God who reveals himself to us, at the same time bringing us abundant light and faith. Let us grow in Faith as we travel together.

**LET US PRAY** *(a prayer of faith by Dwight L. Moody)*

**Leader** I prayed for faith and thought some day faith would come down and strike me like lightning, but faith did not seem to come. One day I read in Romans: 'So then, faith comes from hearing the message and the message comes through preaching Christ'. I had closed my bible and prayed for faith, I now opened my bible and began to study and my faith has grown ever since.

**All** **Help us, Lord, to study and learn so that we may go on growing in faith. Amen**

**Hymn** **Faith will not grow from works alone**  
TiS 691 (Dunedin)

### PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND THANKSGIVING

**Leader** Help us Lord to remember that you are with us always and forgive us for our lack of faith.

**All** **Teach us that faith in you is all we need.**

**Leader** Forgive us, we pray Thee, and put a new heart within us. May we never entertain a wish or a thought that we cannot make into a prayer to Thee. *(Winifred Kiek)*

**All**            **Teach us that faith in you is all we need.**

Leader        We give you thanks for all those in the past who have set wonderful examples of living and working in faith.

**All**            **We thank you Lord. Amen**

Leader        We think of women of great faith in our time, all the voluntary workers in our community – from the very young to the elderly.

What an example of faith Winifred Kiek has given us. In 1927 Winifred was the first woman to be ordained in Australia in the Congregational Church (now Uniting Church). During her long life she worked tirelessly for the rights of women in the church. She was a pioneer for the formation of Australian Church Women of which she was one of the first National Life Members. Winifred worked for peace in local, state, national and international organisations, attending many world conferences during her long life, including the 3rd ACWC Conference in Tokyo when she was over 80. Because of her concern for women in Third World countries at that time, she was influential in the founding of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, which has been awarded every year since 1965.

Winifred often spoke about faith and said that 'Faith rightly contains a certain reverent agnosticism'. She was not concerned that some things are always a mystery. Her faith was prepared for surprises, but she firmly believed that love, wedded to righteousness, is at the heart of things and we should hold fast to the certainty of God's love.

*(from 'Winifred' by Margaret Knauerhase)*

Leader        Let us pray for faith like Winifred's,

**All**            **Lord, help us all grow in faith. Amen**

**Hymn**        **Brother, sister, let me serve you**  
TiS 650 verses 1, 3, 5, and 6 (Servant Song)

## **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

*(From 'Prayers of the Faithful' by Hugh McGinlay, used by permission of Desbooks)*

Reader 1     Australia is 'The Land of the Holy Spirit'. *(pause)*  
May we be people who are thankful for the gifts of the Spirit; for the bounty of the land; for the many cultures of the people. May we care for our country and all who call it home.

**All**            **Lord, hear us.**

Reader 2     We pray for the spirit of tolerance. *(pause)*  
Australia is gifted in the variety of its people. May we respect all the people of Australia, with a special concern for the original inhabitants of our land, and may we rejoice in the variety of gifts God has given to the people.

**All**            **Lord, hear us.**

Reader 3     We pray for the Spirit of Justice and Peace. *(pause)*  
Australia is a land blessed by God. May we show forth our gratefulness to our God by the concern for justice in Australia, especially towards those whom society rejects.

**All**            **Lord, hear us.**

Reader 4     We pray for the spirit of being content with what God gives us. *(pause)*  
Jesus declares happy those who are poor in spirit. May we be content with what God gives us – not greedy or materialistic in our outlook – but content with what we have and at peace with our God and our land.

**All**            **Lord, hear us.**

Leader        We pray for leaders of governments, and we pray for all who work for peace. We remember all who have died in faith. Sow in our hearts the seeds of faith, that from these seeds your reign on earth may grow.

**All**            **Loving God, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for all the Winifred Kiek Scholars, women of faith, working in their chosen field of endeavour for God in their own countries.

All **Loving God, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray today especially for Imelda Aquino, our 2008 scholar, and ask that you be with her in all she does for the growth of your kingdom in her work with women in the Middle East.

All **Loving God, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

**Amen**

All **The Lord's Prayer**

Solo (Optional)

### **BIBLE READINGS**

Hebrews 1: 1-3, 11-12, 35-40

Matthew 15: 21-28

Luke 17: 5-6

**SPEAKER Growing in Faith**

**OFFERING** An offering for the work of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship will be taken up during the singing of the following hymn.

**Hymn Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee**  
TiS 599 (Nottingham)

All **We ask you Lord to bless this offering and use it for furthering your kingdom. Amen**

Leader We go now to continue what we have learned and believed. We go to pray always and not to lose heart. We go to proclaim God's message of hope and to be shaped by his word, which promises faith and peace to all who believe.

All **May God be quick to answer prayers and may Christ Jesus inspire faith within us and equip us for every good work as we grow in faith. Amen**

**Hymn God gives us a future**  
TiS 687 (Camberwell)

### **FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING**

*(From Canberra & Goulburn Archdiocesan CWL Prayer Day, 2003)*

Leader God of all creation, we praise you and thank you for our country. May we all live in peace, respecting one another in mutual love. Grant us what we, and all Australians, need this day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Leader May the God of truth and love make us eager to share our gifts with others and help us to grow in faith.

The Blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all as we go forth from this place.

All **Amen**