

Australian Representation at Queen
Renee Women's Conference in Thailand

12.11.62

Mrs Edna Beales

143 St. John's Road,
Rangoon, Burma.
2 March, '62.

Subject: Invitation to the Asian Churchwomen's Conference, Philippines,
Baguio City, 12-23 November, 1962.

Dear Friends,

You are aware that the East Asia Christian Conference inaugurated at Kuala Lumpur in 1959 is slowly becoming a real factor in the life of the Asian Churches and we believe that every effort must be put forth to make it a vital channel of fellowship and witness. It is most gratifying to know that some Christian women of Asia have so early caught the spirit and import of this Conference and are making a move to rally Christian womenhood to this cause which is the cause of Christ. They wish therefore to hold a Conference of Asian Churchwomen from the 12-23 November, 1962, in Baguio City, Philippines, with the theme "Launch Out Into the Deep." They requested the EACC to sponsor this event and this request was granted whole-heartedly. The responsibility of inviting the delegates was made over to the EACC Committee for the Cooperation of Men & Women in Home, Church and Society and plans are underway and in good hands.

We invite your national council to send a delegate to this conference and we hope that she will be chosen with the following qualifications:

1. She should be actively related to the women's organization of the Church where she holds membership.
2. She should be one who has not had much opportunity of attending international conferences.
3. She should be elected representative of the Church's national women's organization.
- 4.

We shall be most grateful if you will send in the name of your delegate as soon as possible so that study materials can be sent to her for preparation for the conference.

Though this conference is called an Asian Churchwomen's conference, we would like to include our sisters of Australia and New Zealand as their countries are members of the EACC.

~~We are giving some help to our Asian sisters for their travel to the conference. But we are asking them to put forth some effort on their part too. Their response has been encouraging. May I request that your women's organization help to pay for your travel and the Conference will give hospitality throughout the conference.~~

Please address further enquiries to Mrs. Jael Cruz (Chairman of the Planning Committee) C/o Philippine National Bank, Dagupan City, Philippines.

This Conference is going to be the first of its kind and there are doubtless many things in our plans that need improvement or a different way of handling. We ask you to bear with us and we are confident that at this first conference the women gathered there from all the countries of Asia will work out better plans for future ones.

Yours in His Service,

(Mrs.) Louise Paw.

Chairman, EACC Committee on Cooperation of
Men and Women in Home, Church and Society.

April 4, 1962.

Mrs T. H. Coates,
Wesley College,
PRAHRAN, VICTORIA.

Dear Mrs Coates,

I have received an invitation from the Chairman of the East Asia Christian Conference Committee on Cooperation of Men and Women in Home, Church and Society, for an Australian to attend a conference of Asian Churchwomen, at Baguio City, Philippines, November 12-23, 1962. The invitation asks that a person be appointed by the National Council, that she be actively related to the women's organization of the Church where she holds membership, that she should be one who has not had much opportunity of attending international conferences, and that she should be an elected representative of the Church's national women's organization.

Of course here in Australia we do not have a national women's organization of the Church so I have not been able simply to hand this matter over to such a group. Several people have been consulted about it and this letter comes to you because it is felt that in the first instance we would like to ask you to accept nomination of the Australian Council of Churches to attend this Conference. However, I must add that we would be unable to provide finance but you might be able to handle that through the help of the women's organization to which you belong.

Of course, too, it may be that you feel that if you were to go it should be by the decision of some women's organization. We have felt that in the circumstances of women's organizations in Australia, we should not insist, hence this letter to you. But if you yourself feel this way, then we would ask you to act on our behalf in raising the matter with the Women's Inter-Church Council in Victoria in order to give that Council the opportunity to act on behalf of the ACC in appointing someone from Victoria (you or somebody else), to attend the Asian Churchwomen's Conference. If you prefer to act in this way I enclose for your use a copy of the letter I have received and ask you to present it to the Women's Inter-Church Council. With it I enclose a covering letter from me to you asking you to present it.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS,
General Secretary

Encl. 2.

8/4/62 sent
4/4/62

WOMENS WORK

~~XXXXX~~
511

April 4, 1962.

Mrs T. H. Coates,
Wesley Colloge,
GRAHAM, VICTORIA.

Dear Mrs Coates,

I am forwarding to you a copy of an invitation to the Australian Council of Churches to send a delegate to a Conference of Asian Churchwomen to be held in the Philippines this November. I am sending the invitation to you in the absence of any national women's organization linked with the ACC and with the suggestion that you invite, on the ACC's behalf, the women's inter-church council of Victoria to nominate to me a delegate to this Conference.

You would need to mention that the ACC has no way of financing such a nomination and we would hope that the Victorian inter-church council could find ways of doing this.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS,
General Secretary.

HLP:ms

Encl:

WOMENS WORKS



Postal Address:

Praxyan, S.I.

Victoria.

Wesley College
Melbourne

25th April, 1962

Dear Mr Perkins

Thank you very much for your letter Jane for the invitation to take part in the Conference of Asian Churchwomen, or rather to approach to the WICC of Victoria for their support. I feel this to be a great honour & I only wish that I could say I was available if it proves possible to finance the trip.

However it is not so easy to leave a family, & Tom & I both feel it would be especially difficult at that time of the year.

I have passed on your enquiries to the Vice-President of

the WICC here, Mrs Osborne Keen, who will raise the matter at the Executive meeting on Friday. I do hope it proves possible to send someone.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Coates.

20, June 1962.

Dear Friends,

This is to inform you that our Consultation on the Christian Family and Changing Society planned from 24 - 30 November 1962 at Baguio, Philippines will now take place in Petchburi, (near Bangkok), Thailand.

Please inform all delegates, both of the Consultation and the Asian Church Women's Conference of this change. I do hope they have not gone too far in their travel plans to inconvenience them.

The main reason for the change is the high costs in the Philippines. The new place Petchburi is 165 kilometres from Bangkok and right on the sea side. Accommodation in Hahd Chow Samran Hotel has been confirmed.

Though funds are limited we will consider helping Consultation delegates with some travel subsidy if no other help is available and if a request is made by the N.C.C. Be sure to let us know in good time with address to which the subsidy is to be remitted. If we do not hear from you on this matter we shall take it to mean that no aid is required.

I hope you will remember about the national report from your country of conditions and problems related to the subject and the efforts that are being made by the Church to meet them. We need this report early so that a general survey and study may be prepared by two people for presentation at the Consultation. Please also try to bring about 50 copies of this report with you when you come to Bangkok.

May God bless all of us as we prepare for the meetings in Petchburi in November.

With warm greetings,

Sincerely,

Louise Paw

Sd/- (Louise Paw),

Chairman, EACC Committee on
Cooperation of Men and Women
in Home, Church & Society.
143, St. John's Road, Rangoon, (Burma).

July 18, 1962.

Mrs T. H. Coates,
Wesley College,
PRAHRAN. Victoria.

Dear Mrs Coates,

I had not heard from Mrs Keen of the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council since you wrote to me on April 25 indicating that you could not attend the Conference of Asian Churchwomen in November, but had passed on my query to Mrs Keen so that the matter could be raised at the Executive of the Victorian W.I.C.C.

Time is running short for Australia to find a representative. If the Victorian W.I.C.C. is not yet able to find one, I think I should give the opportunity to another State where I have reason to believe the appointment could be made very quickly. Would you therefore please ask Mrs Keen whether the W.I.C.C. has appointed somebody and if not ask her to refer the matter back to me so that I may take it up with another State. The Australian Committee for the East Asia Christian Conference is finally responsible for any appointment of a representative that is made.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.
General Secretary.

EACc

Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

PRESIDENT:

~~Mrs. N. Faichney.~~

Joint Secretaries:
MRS. COLONEL H. W. SAUNDERS,
794 Canterbury Road,
Box Hill, E.11.
Tel.: WX 2568.

MRS. F. J. PELL,
18 Gordon Avenue,
Kew, E.4.
Tel.: WM 6923.

18 Gordon Avenue,
Kew,
Melbourne.

Rev. H. L. Perkins,
Gen. Sec.
Australian Council of Churches.

24 7 62
25 JUL 1962

★

Joint Treasurers:
MRS. D. H. PEART,
16 Baker Parade,
Ashburton, S.E.11.
Tel.: BL 4109 or MB 1024.

MRS. T. GRIEVE,
19 Elmie Street,
Auburn, E.2.
Tel.: WA 2781

Dear Mr. Perkins.

Your letter to Mrs. Coates concerning the sending of a delegate to a Conference of Asian Church Women to be held in November was passed on to a meeting of our Executive per Mrs. O. Keen. The matter was discussed but we felt there were one or two difficulties in the way of us nominating anyone, even were we able to find someone who was willing to go. First of all we are only a State Inter-Church Group and therefore could not speak for the whole of Australia. We are not in a position to assist financially anyone who could go, and I understand from the Rev. David Robinson, that the Victorian Inter-Church Council are not in a position to help either. It does so happen that our incoming President Mrs. Norman Faichney has for the past 4 months been overseas and will be returning at the end of next month, and another of our members Mrs. Lawrence Warner will be returning from American and Canada in November but unfortunately not coinciding with the dates of Asian Churchwomen's Conference. I am sorry that Mrs. Coates herself is not in a position to go. Perhaps at some future date it might be possible for us to have a conference of churchwomen on the Australian level - which at the moment seems to be very needful.

I am sorry if you have been inconvenienced and I hope you may yet find someone who could attend, and represent Australia.

Yours sincerely,

F. J. Pell (in)
Hon. Sec.

143 St. John's Rd.,
Rangoon, Burma,
30 July, '62.

The Secretary,
Australian Council of Churches,
511 Kent Street, 3rd Floor,
Sydney, N.S.W.

Dear Friend,

This is to remind you that the name of your delegate to the Asian Church Women's Conference is due. We shall be grateful if you can provide us with it at your earliest convenience. You will have received a notification of the change of the Conference site from Baguio in the Philippines to Petchburi, Thailand. The dates remain the same - from the 12-23 November, 1962.

Perhaps you have sent the name direct to the Chairman Mrs. Cruz of the Planning Committee. If you have done so, I shall be grateful if you will also give me a copy of the letter.

We do hope Australia will be represented at the Conference. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Louise Paw.

(Mrs. L. Paw,)
Chairman, EACC Committee on the Cooperation
of Men & Women in Home, Church & Society.

August 6, 1962.

Mrs L. Paw,
143 St John Road,
RANGOON. Burma

Dear Mrs Paw,

Thank you for your letter of July 30. We have not yet been able to find a delegate from Australia for the Asian Churchwomen's Conference., but are still trying to do so. We will let you know as well as Mrs Kruz as soon as we are able.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L PERKINS.
General Secretary.

Australian Council of Churches

(Affiliated With the World Council of Churches)

President:
Rt. Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson
General Secretary:
Rev. Harvey L. Perkins
Assistant General Secretary:
Rev. David M. Taylor
Treasurer:
Mr. Alan Ifo



ROOM 2, 3RD FLOOR
511 KENT STREET (CNR. BATHURST STREET)
SYDNEY

TELEPHONES
61-5224, 61-4766

TELEGRAPHIC
"ECUMENICAL" SYDNEY

August 3, 1962.

Mrs D. J. A. Verco,
55 Burns Road,
WAHROONGA. N.S.W.

Dear Mrs Verco,

I am writing to you as President of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council to offer you the opportunity of making an appointment on behalf of the ACC to provide Australian representation at the Asian Churchwomen's Conference in Thailand, November 12-23, 1962.

The text of the invitation which I originally received is attached. I should explain the reason for offering this opportunity to you so late. Originally we offered it to the Women's Inter-Church Council in Victoria and it is only now that we have learned that they are not able to fill the position. This will make it even more difficult for you to do so, but nevertheless I give you the opportunity.

Not having a national women's organisation of the churches in Australia, the only way that the Australian Council can act is to offer the opportunity to State organisations such as yours.

I must add of course, that we will be unable to provide finance for travel but you may be able to raise that from the various women's organisations linked with the Women's Inter-Church Council. If you are able to make the appointment please address your reply to Mrs J. Cruz (Chairman of the Planning Committee), G/- Philippine National Bank, Dagupan City, Philippines, with copies to Mrs L. Paw, 143 St John's Road, Rangoon, Burma, and to myself.

I am enclosing a circular containing all the information about the Conference required by anybody you appoint and would ask you to pass it on to that person, if you are able to make the appointment. I also enclose a certificate of authority which the member should take to the Conference and ask that you fill in the line with the person's name and church, followed by the words Australian Council of Churches in brackets.

If you are unable to use this opportunity please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Member Churches:
Church of England, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church,
Greek Orthodox Church, Churches of Christ, Congregational Churches,
Salvation Army, Society of Friends, Armenian Apostolic Church and
Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Harvey L. Perkins
General Secretary.

*Cl. Council of C. will confirm
at next meeting Sept. 19th*



THE METHODIST CHURCH of AUSTRALASIA
New South Wales Conference

PRESIDENT:
REV. NORMAN W. LICKISS, L.TH.
18 ESSEX STREET
EPPING
TEL.: 86-3450

SECRETARY:
REV. NORMAN G. PARDEY, L.TH.
28 TRYON ROAD
LINDFIELD
TEL.: 46-1705

The Parsonage,
18 Essex Street,
EPPING.
29th August, 1962.

Mrs. D.J.A. Verco,
President Women's Inter Church Council.
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Verco,

It gives me pleasure to know that the name of Mrs. EDNA BEALES came before, and was approved by, your Executive Committee of the Women's Inter Church Council.

You can have every confidence that in Mrs. Beales you will have a worthy representative for the reasons I indicate hereunder:-

- a. Mrs. Edna Beales, more widely known as Edna Roughley, has been a writer to various religious journals for over 25 years, and at present contributes the Women's and Children's pages of our weekly publication "The Methodist".
- b. This talented lady has consistently occupied our pulpits in many city and country centres, and has been increasingly in demand as a speaker at Women's Rallies. In her own Church at Bondi she was for years the General Superintendent of the Sunday School.
- c. Mrs. Beales is also an experienced Scripture teacher in the State Schools, and at present is taking regular weekly classes in Epping and Homebush High Schools.
- d. In addition to these activities she has found time to lead a fortnightly Bible Study Class in my own Church at Epping for the past three years.

In Mrs. Beales we have a lady of high Christian principles, Missionary outlook, most conscientious and devoted in everything she undertakes, and if appointed as your representative to the forthcoming Conference, will justify the confidence placed in her.

Yours sincerely,

Norman W. Lickiss.

New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

55 Burns Road,
WAHROONGA, N. S. W.

3rd September, 1962.

Rev. Harvey Perkins,
Australian Council of Churches,
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Re Asian Church Women's Conference

At our Council meeting last Friday, our Executive's nomination of Mrs. Edna Beales, 24a Rawson Street, Epping, to attend the Asian Church Women's Conference as representative of Australian Church Women, was accepted unanimously, there being no other nominations. No member of the Council was in the position to find the finance necessary and the Council has no fund on which to draw for such a purpose.

I am enclosing a letter I received from Rev. Norman Lickiss setting out some of Mrs. Beales interests and activities in Church life and from this the Council judges that she will be a very worthy representative of Australian Church women.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Brigadier Baker has forwarded to Mrs. Beales the papers you sent to me, as you requested and I shall suggest that she contact you for any further information.

The feeling of the Council was that we regretted that we had not had sufficient time to build up a fund for the travelling expenses of our representative.

Mrs. Beales has consented to become an associate member of the Council and will be invited to meet the Council at our Community Day on Sept. 28th. Mrs. Beales has also agreed to take the time on her return to report on the Conference to any interested Church women's groups.

Yours sincerely,

Gaynor J. Verco.
President.

23 Fraser Street,
DULWICH HILL.
3rd. September, 1962.

Mrs. E. Beales,
24A Rawson Street,
BPPING.

Dear Mrs. Beales,

Re: ASIAN CHURCHWOMEN'S CONFERENCE
THAILAND Nov. 12-23, 62.

The members of the above Council desire me to write and express their great pleasure in the fact of your willingness to be nominated representative on behalf of the Australian Council of Churches at the forthcoming Asian Churchwomen's Conference in Thailand.

The Circular containing all the information about the Conference, together with a Certificate of Authority which you will need to take to the Conference is enclosed.

Your nomination will be forwarded to the General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, and will be confirmed at their next meeting on September 19th, 1962.

We trust that this visit to our Asian Christian friends, will be most beneficial to all of the delegates, and the days of preparation be rich in blessing and guidance.

With every good wish.

Yours in Christian Service,

EB.
Hon. Secretary.

*Circular &
Permit form
forwarded
also
EB.*

New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

Ph. LML188

23 Frazer Street,
DULWICH HILL.
5th September, 1962.

Rev. H.L. Perkins,
General Secretary,
Australian Council of Churches,
SYDNEY.

Dear Rev. Perkins,

Re: ASIAN CHURCHWOMEN'S CONFERENCE - THAILAND
NOVEMBER 12-23, 1962 - APPOINTMENT

In reply to your letter of the 3rd. ultimo relative to the above, addressed to the President of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council (Mrs. D.J.A. Verco) I would advise that Mrs. Edna Beales, our Methodist Representative has been nominated as our appointment on behalf of the ACC to provide Australian representation at the above conference.

I understand that this appointment will be brought to your next meeting on September 19th, and if accepted, I will write to Mrs. J. Cruz (Chairman of the Planning Committee) sending copies to Mrs. Paw and yourself as requested in your letter.

The Circular concerning the Conference has been forwarded to Mrs. Beales of 24A Rawson Street, Epping.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs. Brigadier K.)
Hon. Secretary.

God said: "Fear not for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine."—Isaiah 43:1

24a Rawson Street
Epping, N.S.W.

18.9.62

21 SEP 1962
Rev. Harvey Perkins,
Aust. Council of Churches,
Sydney.

Dear Mr. Perkins,

I rang to have a chat with you in regard to the Thailand Conference, but you were in Adelaide.

To date I do not know whether the Australian Council of Churches has confirmed the selection of myself as Delegate to the Asian Women's Conference; but the members (more accurately the Secretary of the Inter-Church Council) advised me to proceed with plans, and this I have done. The papers to enter Thailand ask for proof that I am indeed attending a Conference; so when convenient, and if your Council has approved, I should be delighted to have from you a letter confirming the appointment. The suggested journey will begin on Nov. 7th. (for I would like two days in Singapore) arrive in Bangkok on the evening of the 9th. leave Thailand on the 29th., after which I am going to see something of Hong-Kong and Manila, arriving back in Sydney on Dec. 12th.

I think you are sure to be sending word to Thailand regarding the Delegate; but as I have the Circular, you, perhaps,

may not have the address, so I'll include it here - just in case.

Secretary: Mrs. L. Paw,
143, St. John's Road,
Rangoon Burma.

This Conference should be a wonderful opportunity for both giving and receiving, and I'm more than happy with the anticipation and thought of it.

I trust your stay in Adelaide was all you could ask of it. The last time I met you was at the Conference of the Council of Churches that I reported for the Methodist; it seems a long time ago.

With every good wish,

Edna Beales
(Mrs. Edna Beales)
(Edna Roughley)

Asian Church
Women's Conference.

October 2, 1962.

Mrs Edna Beales,
24a Rawson Street,
EPPING. N.S.W.

Dear Mrs Beales,

Thank you for your letter of September 18.

This is to confirm in writing your appointment by this Council to represent Australia at the Asian Church Women's Conference in Thailand, November 12-23. This Council rejoices that Australia can be represented at the Conference and looks forward to your own participation as our representative and to your report on your return.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.
General Secretary.

October 2, 1962.

Mrs J. Cruz,
Chairman of the Planning Committee,
Asian Church Women's Conference,

Mrs L. Paw,
143 St John's Road,
RANGOON. Burma

Dear Mrs Cruz and Mrs Paw,

I am now able to inform you of the appointment of the Australian representative to the Asian Church Women's Conference in Thailand November 12-23. Our representative is Mrs Edna Beales, 24a Rawson Street, Epping, N.S.W. Mrs Beales is more widely known as Edna Roughly and has been a writer for various religious journals for over 25 years. She is She has occupied Methodist pulpits in city and country centres constantly and is in very considerable demand as a speaker at women's rallies. She teaches scripture regularly in public schools and has also been Superintendent of the Sunday School in her local church.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.
General Secretary.

cc: Mrs Beales

Australian Council of Churches

(Affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

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Rt. Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson
General Secretary:
Rev. Harvey L. Perkins
Assistant General Secretary:
Rev. David M. Taylor
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October 2, 1962.

Mrs Brigadier K. Baker,
N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council,
23 Frazer Street,
DULWICH HILL. N.S.W.

Dear Mrs Baker,

Thank you for your letter of September 5 concerning your nomination of Mrs Beales as the person whom the Australian Council of Churches could nominate for Australian representation at the Asian Church Women's Conference in Thailand in November.

We have pleasure in accepting your recommendation, and I have written to Mrs Cruz and Mrs Paw on behalf of the ACC and the Joint Committee of the Australian Council of Churches and the National Missionary Council for the East Asia Christian Conference under whose auspices the Church Women's Conference is being held.

I am very grateful for your help in enabling the Council to make a nomination for Australian representation at the Conference. We will all look forward to Mrs Beales' return and her report.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L Perkins
HARVEY L. PERKINS. *He HS*
General Secretary.

Member Churches:

Church of England, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church,
Greek Orthodox Church, Churches of Christ, Congregational Churches,
Salvation Army, Society of Friends, Armenian Apostolic Church and
Antiochian Orthodox Church.

15 Burns Parade, CHAPEL HILL,
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. 4080.

25th May, 1971.

Dear Mrs. Solomon,

The National Committee of Australian Church Women expressed a desire to extend to the Asian Church Women's Conference an invitation to hold their next Convergence in Australia.

I was instructed to write accordingly to the Secretary (Mrs. Davies, New Zealand) and I have enclosed a copy of the letter forwarded to her for your information.

The Working Committee is glad of this opportunity to send Best Wishes for your every undertaking from Australian Church Women.

In Christian Love,

(Mrs. C. Connell, Secretary)

COPY OF LETTER TO MRS. K. DAVIES - NEW ZEALAND - enclosed.

MRS. S. R. Solomon, Christian Compound, Civil Lines, Etawah, U.P., INDIA.

aerogramme sent

Copies posted as directed 25/5/71.

*Mrs P. Solomon
& Mrs Bailey.*

The Secretary,
ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

Mrs. K. Davies,
Avondale Vicarage,
CHRISTCHURCH 1,
NEW ZEALAND.

Dear Mrs. Davies,

It gives me much pleasure to write to you on behalf of Australian Church Women with a request that you convey to the Asian Church Women's Conference our invitation to hold the Fifth Asian Women's Conference in Australia.

It is realized, at the outset, that some delegates would find it very expensive indeed to attend a conference in Australia, but we would hasten to assure them that every endeavour would be made to keep costs at a minimum, and a most warm and sincere welcome would await them all.

Past experience with large conventions and conferences in Australia has proved that the least expensive, but most suitable, accommodation is obtainable in the various University Colleges. This, of course, restricts the fixing of conference dates to university vacation times when such accommodation is available. The long summer vacation (end of November to beginning of March), particularly in Canberra, our national capital, is a most lovely time of year - ~~not too cold, just pleasantly mild~~ *warm* ideal in many respects for an international meeting.

University Colleges are very popular and are much in demand for conferences. I mention this because, should the Asian Women's Conference consider accepting our invitation, it would be necessary to make an early booking to ensure that adequate accommodation was secured.

The next national committee meeting of Australian Church Women will be held in Sydney at Daughters House, 8th - 11th February, 1972, but the working committee, at present located in Queensland, meets monthly and we would be most happy to answer any queries or supply further information which could assist those responsible in arriving at a decision regarding the venue of the next Asian Church Women's Conference.

Warmest Greetings and Good Wishes from the Working Committee -

On their behalf,

Secretary

*Send copies to S. Solomon.
" " to Mrs Bailey for her information*

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

Avonside Vicarage,
Christchurch I,
New Zealand.

7th June, 1971.

The Secretary,
Australian Church Women.

Mrs. C. Connell,
15 Burns Parade,
Chapel Hill, Brisbane,
Queensland, AUSTRALIA. 4069.

Dear Mrs Connell,

On behalf of the Asian Church Women's Conference I should like through you to express our warm thanks to the Australian Church Women for their most kind and generous invitation to hold the next conference of the A.C.W.C. in Australia.

I will send on the invitation immediately to our Chairman, Mrs Bautista, for consideration by our Working Committee, and hope to be able to inform you of their decision within the next month or two so that there would be plenty of time for the necessary reservations to be made for our conference in 1974.

Speaking for myself, I would be delighted if the conference were held in Canberra, which is so suitable in every way.

I note that your Working Committee meets monthly, and I hope to be in touch with you again soon.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(in association with the East Asia Christian Conference)

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. Esther T. Bautista
San Fernando, La Union
Philippines B-515

VICE - CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Ang Kim Kiat
Methodist Headquarters
23 - B, Coleman Street
Singapore 6

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. Kathleen Davies
Avonside Vicarage
Christ Church 1
New Zealand

TREASURER:

Miss Rosalind Gurubatham
No. 9, 6 30 Petaling Garden
Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mrs. Shanti Solomon
Christian Compound
Civil Lines
Etawah, U. P. India

Collected Funds to:

East Asian Christian Conference
Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund
c/o World Council of Churches
Dept. on Cooperation of Men & Women
150 Route de Ferney, Geneva 30
Switzerland

June 24, 1971

Mrs. C. Connell
Secretary, Australian Church Women
Australia

Dear Mrs. Connell,

I have received a copy of your letter to Mrs. K. Davies inviting the Asian Church Women's Conference to be held in Australia come 1974. On behalf of the Asian Women's Conference, I would like to express our thanks for the kind invitation extended. However, I would like to state that this matter will be brought to the attention of the members of the Working Committee when it meets sometime next month. Whatever decision this committee will take, I shall be very happy to inform you.

Meanwhile, please accept my warmest greetings for and in behalf of the Asian Church Women's Conference, and once again I say thank you for the invitation.

Very sincerely,

Esther T. Bautista

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(in association with the East Asia Christian Conference)

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. Esther T. Bautista
San Fernando, La Union
Philippines B-515

VICE - CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Ang Kim Kiat
Methodist Headquarters
23 - B, Coleman Street
Singapore 6

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. Kathleen Davies
Avonside Vicarage
Christ Church 1
New Zealand

TREASURER:

Miss Rosalind Gurubatham
No. 9, 6 30 Petaling Garden
Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mrs. Shanti Solomon
Christian Compound
Civil Lines
Etawah, U. P. India

Collected Funds to:

East Asian Christian Conference
Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund
c/o World Council of Churches
Dept. on Cooperation of Men & Women
150 Route de Ferney, Geneva 30
Switzerland

December 8, 1971

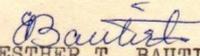
On behalf of the Asian Church Women's Conference and on my own, I wish to greet the Australian Church Women on the occasion of their National Committee Meeting.

In the Old Testament times, especially in Genesis, the role of women had been recognized. The power of woman was manifested in Eve, and altho it was said that the fall of man was due to woman, yet in the New Testament, the Bride, which is the Church, has the dominant role of bringing together in unity, understanding and love, its members. The liberation of women is due to the redeeming love of Christ in recognizing the role of women in the light of the Home, the Community and the World.

It is my sincere wish that at this National Meeting every woman present may understand the role she is to play in this great drama of life - to spread the Gospel, to share with great sincerity their concern for the needy and the oppressed, and to radiate the love and the warmth of Him whom we all love and serve.

May God richly shower His blessings upon this meeting that it may prove successful and fruitful to the end that each one may feel that she is called upon to join the ranks of other women to prepare the Church to serve with love.

Prayerfully yours,


(Mrs.) ESTHER T. BAUTISTA
Chairman, Asian Church Women's Conference

C/ Miss M. Bushill
21 Rajniwas Marg
Delhi-6

January 24, 1972

Mrs. C. Connell,
Secretary A.C.W.
15 Burns Parade
Chapel Hill,
Brisbane, Queensland,
Australia. 4069

Dear Mrs. Connell,

Many thanks for your kind Christmas greetings on behalf of the Australian Church Women. It is such a privilege to enjoy Christian fellowship with all Christian sisters around the world, just because we are the children of the same Father.

We shall be thinking of you all during the meetings of your National Committee, Feb. 21-11, 1972. Our Asian Church Women's Chairman has already sent you greetings on behalf of the Asian Church Women's Conference. Mrs. F. Bailey and Mrs. Olga Badger, the members of the Working Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference will convey our greetings to you in person as they will be attending it.

The ACWC Working Committee met in Hong Kong, Jan. 10-13, 1972. We did consider your gracious invitation to hold our fifth Assembly in Australia, but the total cost of bringing 120 delegates to Australia makes it impossible to accept your kind invitation. We are grateful to you for extending the invitation.

So far no place has been fixed for the Assembly. We are exploring the possibilities of finding a suitable place in Asia. Our Assembly will take place in 1974.

You will be interested to know that the Committee has passed that this year I tour Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. I would be grateful if you could chalk out a programme for my visit to your country. It must be done in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches. Also let me know when will it be suitable for you all to have me. I think I shall go to Australia first and then come to New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and back home. I plan to spend a month out on this tour.

Kindly convey my greetings to the members of your National Committee. Though we are thousands of miles away, but we are very close to each other in the spirit of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. May this Fellowship lead the Church women all over the world to bring peace on this earth. May this time of meetings be a time for exploring new heights of God's presence and new depths of experiencing His redeeming love in the fellowship of others. While the women in the west are striving for their identity and social justice, let us think of new ways of meeting the challenge of the day of witnessing His love to others.

May this time spent together in planning, may prove worthwhile for your future programme, and for His glory.

I am very keen to collect some short, simple experiences of individuals, who have found the Fellowship of the Least Coin a movement of great spiritual significance, also ways of collecting the coins.

As we promote this international movement of Prayer, may God bless each one of us with inner peace and help us to learn the lesson of loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Sincerely yours

Shanti R. Solomon
Mrs. Shanti R. Solomon.

A U S T R A L I A N C H U R C H W O M E N

26th June, 1972.

CIRCULAR MEMO.

TO STATE UNITS, MEMBER GROUPS and NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

1. RE SPECIAL DAYS, 1972 - FELLOWSHIP DAY & WORLD COMMUNITY DAY. Reports on the celebration of these days would be of great interest and help in future programming. Comments on attendances, participation, comments and criticisms, financial support of offering, etc. should be included in the end-of-the-year report for inclusion in the Working Documents prepared for the National Committee Meeting, 1973.
2. NOTICES OF MOTION RELATIVE TO A.C.W. CONSTITUTION must be submitted within not less than three months of the National Committee Meeting.
3. RE LETTER FROM BRIGALIA BAW, W.C.C. (Renewal & Renewal Movements) - As directed by the Working Committee, duplicated copies of the letter and statement on the WOMEN OF BANGLADESH have been included with June Minutes, so that you may make this specially desperate need as widely known as possible and encourage an immediate spontaneous response where possible in financial support.
4. RE VENUE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING, 1973 - Following careful consideration of all factors which have bearing on the decision of the venue for the 1973 meeting, the following points were made:
 - i. As the next A.C.C. General Meeting will be held in August '73 in Melbourne, it will not have direct bearing on the time or venue of the A.C.W. National Committee Meeting.
 - ii. Costs of available accommodation in both Canberra and Melbourne are considerably in excess of those paid at Deaconess House, Sydney, in addition to which, A.C.W. was generously given use of facilities. (Remaining time does not permit further enquiry re available accommodation.)
 - iii. A.C.W.'s previously accepted responsibility for fares and part-fares plus some accommodation costs would be much increased if the venue were either Canberra or Melbourne.
 - iv. Personal accommodation costs to those committee members not assisted financially would be greater than for the '72 meeting, if the '73 meeting were held in Canberra or Melbourne.

In view of these facts, the secretary was requested to enquire from Deaconess House, Sydney, and to make a firm booking, if accommodation from February 6th to 9th, 1973, was still available. Subsequently, the Committee of Co-operation was to be advised of the decision reached as a result of these enquiries.
5. RE VISIT OF MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON - Although the Working Committee still awaits advice from Mrs. Solomon concerning final booking arrangements for her planned visit to Australia, September-October, as prepared by QANTAS, it was felt that notification of the dates (yet to be confirmed) should be given to State Units. This will enable some tentative arrangements to be made pending further word from Mrs. Solomon. Notification of any subsequent alteration of dates will be sent immediately to those affected by it.

ITINERARY SHEET as prepared for MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON by QANTAS, and forwarded to her on 27th March (Air letter). -

FLIGHT	DAY & DATE	CITY	LOCAL TIME	FLIGHT	DAY & DATE	CITY	LOCAL TIME
BA714	Wed. 6th Sept.	NEW DELHI	lv. 9.15 a.m.				
	" "	SINGAPORE	ar. 5.40 p.m.	N.G.			
BA720	Sat. 9th Sept.	SINGAPORE	lv. 5.45 p.m.	1310	Mon. 2nd Oct.	TOWNSVILLE	lv. 11.50 a.m.
	" "	PERTH	ar. 11.05 p.m.		" "	PT. MORESBY	ar. 2.10 p.m.
TN507	Tue. 12th Sep.	PERTH	lv. 12.50 p.m.	1380	Mon. 2nd Oct.	PT. MORESBY	lv. 4.30 p.m.
	" "	ADELAIDE	ar. 5.50 p.m.		" "	LAE	ar. 5.30 p.m.
TN509	Fri. 15th Sept.	ADELAIDE	lv. 11.00 a.m.	1361	Wed. 4th Oct.	LAE	lv. 10.40 a.m.
	" "	MELBOURNE	ar. 12.30 p.m.		" "	PT. MORESBY	ar. 11.40 a.m.
TN445	Tue. 19th Sep.	MELBOURNE	lv. 9.25 a.m.	1305	Thu. 5th Oct.	PT. MORESBY	lv. 12.40 p.m.
	" "	HOBART	ar. 10.30 a.m.		" "	BRISBANE	ar. 3.15 p.m.
TN444	Thu. 21st Sep.	HOBART	lv. 3.50 p.m.	TE818	Fri. 6th Oct.	BRISBANE	lv. 6.50 p.m.
588	" "	SYDNEY	ar. 6.30 p.m.		" "	AUCKLAND	ar. 11.45 p.m.
TN475	Sun. 24th Sep.	SYDNEY	lv. 9.50 a.m.	NZ	Several daily	AUCKLAND	
	" "	CANBERRA	ar. 10.45 a.m.			CHRISTCHURCH	
TN426	Tue. 26th Sep.	CANBERRA	lv. 5.35 p.m.	QF337	Mon. 16th Oct.	CHRISTCHURCH	lv. 6.45 p.m.
	" "	SYDNEY	ar. 6.10 p.m.		" "	SYDNEY	ar. 7.50 p.m.
TN408	Wed. 27th Sep.	SYDNEY	lv. 8.50 p.m.	PA811	Tue. 17th Oct.	SYDNEY	lv. 11.00 a.m.
	" "	BRISBANE	ar. 10.05 p.m.		" "	DJAKARTA	ar. 3.15 p.m.
538	Fri. 29th Sep.	BRISBANE	lv. 6.15 p.m.	ML203	Fri. 20th Oct.	DJAKARTA	lv. 9.55 a.m.
	" "	ROCKHAMPTON	ar. 7.50 p.m.		" "	SINGAPORE	ar. 11.50 a.m.
532	Sat. 30th Sep.	ROCKHAMPTON	lv. 1.20 p.m.	BA713	Mon. 23rd Oct.	SINGAPORE	lv. 9.00 p.m.
	" "	MACKAY	ar. 2.20 p.m.		Tue. 24th Oct.	NEW DELHI	ar. 1.35 a.m.
456	Mon. 2nd Oct.	MACKAY	lv. 10.05 a.m.				
	" "	TOWNSVILLE	ar. 11.10 a.m.				

about 10:00 am
with warm regards
this connection.
I shall be writing to you
again next month in
Dear Mrs. Connell,

Christian Compound
Civil Lines
Elaivali, U. P. India
July 8, 1972.

First of all let me apologize to you for not acknowledge your letter of May 16th and the suggested itinerary you have sent. On June 1st I was going on 20 days trip to Karai to attend the EACC staff and the Working Committee meetings, therefore had to get ready for it with my reports, future plans and other things. Hence some how got neglected the reply.

Many thanks for having the itinerary prepared. Since I am going to Singapore and Jakarta this month, there will be no need to stop in these two places. Hope this will cut down the itinerary by a week. Since I do not have to spend three days in Singapore and another three days in Jakarta, could I start my trip on the 8th from Sillie and reach Perth at the same time as given in the itinerary. The rest will be the same for Australia and New Zealand and then slight changes on my return journey. From Sydney

I would like to go straight to Singapore. Stop there one day and on to Malaysia and Aceh. I did show it to BOAC here and they think it is all right. The bookings will be done next month.

On the 18th of this month I am going to Jakarta for the meetings of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of the Reformed Churches and on my way back I plan to visit the Women of Singapore. I shall be meeting the Women of Jakarta while I am there.

I am very grateful to you and your Committee for taking so much pain to prepare an itinerary for me. It is a great help.

A few facts about Shanti Solomon.

Born Sambhal, Utter Pradesh, India, A Hindu father and a Christian mother. Her father was murdered by his own Hindu group when he became a Christian, Shanti was 6 weeks old then.

Shanti teacher of English and Geography before her marriage to Reuben Solomon.

Reuben son of a Methodist minister, Prof. of History and psychology, at a Hindu University.

Shanti was until recently Sect. for Women's work of the United Church of North India.

She is a member of the EACC Working Committee.

A Consultant to the Life and Action Unit of the EACC.

A member of the Resourcement Conference of the Executive Committee of the EACC.

✓ A Vice-President of the World Alliance of the Reformed Churches (Pres. and Congs.)

✓ Chairman of Committee on Women's work in the Dept. of Co-Operation and Witness.

X Co-Ordinator of all Women's Work in the World Alliance of R.C. Exec, Secty, FLC.

Dear Cora,

I hope some of this is useful, I am sure that there are many more things she does in her own setting, however this gives a little picture of the kind of activities she is engaged in.

She has just returned from Djakarta, where she was attending the World Alliance Meetings. Also in June she was in Hong Kong for a meeting for the Resourcement Conference Exec Com. and then in Seoul for the EACC Working Com. meetings.

Would you pass on to Joyce Pope my congrats and best wishes for her job as Fed. Pres. of C.W.F. I was delighted to hear she was elected.

I hope all the arrangements are going well for Shanti's visit, it has clashed forme with a YW Seminar, however that is just one little thing, but I am Hoping we may get her to the Y for lunch and meet the women there, some who will probably hve never heard of her.

Best wishes to you all at Acw.

Greetings and love.

Olga

Shanti is a widow now

reply - 17. 8/72

MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON -- "Personal Glimpses"

Following are quotations from the opening chapter of Grace Nies Fletcher's book, "In Quest of the Least Coin", in which the author says she "unweaves the strands of the life story of Shanti Solomon" as it was told to her by Shanti herself.

- * "Shanti Solomon, whose first name means 'peace' and whose surname connotes 'wisdom', is the splendid new woman of Asia, educated by Christian missions, who does not trot meekly behind her husband, carrying the bundles, but who stands proudly beside her man."
- * "Shanti, born in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, India, is the daughter of Nanhe Mall, the twelfth child of the family." (Shanti's father grew up as a Hindu; her mother was born into a Christian family; only three of the twelve children survived.)
- * "Shanti's father was murdered by his own Hindu family for becoming a Christian. When Nanhe Mall decided to be baptized he went all the way and became an evangelist." (Shanti was only six weeks old when her father died.)
- * "Being a widow in a Hindu family is almost to die yourself or to become a vegetable with no voice of your own. At thirty-three, my mother further defied public opinion by becoming a Bible woman in our village. Not overly strong in body, working long hours for little pay, she nevertheless ran a gay and happy home; she taught us three children how satisfying it is to stand on your own two feet. Often there wasn't quite enough to eat and seldom meat to fold into our chapattis, but we learned early to share what we had."
- * "Shanti today is a small, gentle woman with infinite compassion in her dark eyes. She has known hunger, deathly fatigue, injustice in the murder of her father and despair at watching, helpless, for two years while her husband, Reuben Solomon, slowly died. But she has also two college degrees, has been around the world several times and has been welcomed by many nations as the representative of her great country, free India. She has little money but never worries about tomorrow."
- * "After her graduation from Isabella Thoburn College, Shanti taught English and Geography for ten years in various Indian schools before she and Reuben were married at Budaun, U P, in 1950. The son of a Methodist minister, he was professor of history and psychology in a Hindu college. Higher education is a status symbol in India, so their wedding was an important social affair to which even her father's estranged family came, bearing gifts."
- * "Their home was a 'model' house which with very little more investment than the usual, could be duplicated in any village. It had mud walls three feet thick; even then the white ants came through and were a pest. She cooked on a model 'smokeless chulha' (stove) and her house and kitchen were open at all hours for whoever came to see and, it was hoped, learn."
- * "She had a pile of poster teaching aids for child care, personal hygiene, charts for learning how to read, instructions for sewing and knitting clothes for a family. If a child got sick she would take him with his mother to the local hospital, stand by to interpret what the doctor prescribed in everyday words the mother could understand. Thus she helped overcome the villagers' fear of foreign medicine. She utilized every opportunity to teach by example."
- * "Shanti did not preach with words but if the villagers asked her why she and her husband were helping them in their community projects, she would say simply, 'Because we are

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followers of Jesus Christ.' If they wanted to know more, she told them."

- * "When there was bitter warfare between Moslems and Hindus in India, Shanti went to terrified victims on both sides to ask, 'What can I do to help YOU?' This early she had the belief that religious differences do not necessarily result in hate but may be resolved by love."
- * "In 1956, the Presbyterian Church organized an International Fellowship Team of Reconciliation - six church women were to go to Alaska, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines to try to knit together the raveled sleeve of Christian forgiveness. Shanti Solomon was asked to go from India; other team members included a Japanese and four Americans."
The Pacific Team gathered first in Tokyo, where together they planned their continuing trip. But the postwar bitterness dismayed them, for both Shanti and the Japanese team member had been refused admittance into Korea." (The team invited two new Asian members to replace them). 'I want to ponder this matter in my heart', Shanti said. 'I shall wait for you in Manila with our Christian friends there, studying to see if perhaps I myself have wrong thoughts.'
- * "She was still pondering while she and the group of women in the Manila church read together the gospel of Mark. When they reached the twelfth chapter where Jesus comments that the widow who gave her two infinitesimal coins had given more than any other because she had given all she had, Shanti's heart gave a great leap. 'The widow's mite! That's the answer!' Shanti cried aloud. .. Her dark eyes shone, her lips trembled with eagerness to make them understand. 'You have to give YOURSELF along with your least coin. Real giving is a throwing off of pride. Only when our hearts are empty of self can God fill them with love and forgiveness. Why could we not start a fellowship where all women - any woman - shall pray for another in a different land? There must be some concrete symbol of her concern - possibly the smallest coin of her country? Like the widow's mite, help people sick, in bad trouble everywhere? What do you think? Could we do this?'" ..
- * "You can't see a prayer or an atom, but both can have great power for good. If women all over the world taught understanding of each other in their homes to their children, who knows what might happen? To release this power may take time, but what other practical way is there to prevent war? The one small coin we save every month wouldn't amount to much but it would be a beginning."
- * "When the rest of the Team met Shanti again in Manila, one American said sceptically, 'I do not think our church women would want to be bothered with saving only twelve pennies every year!' 'That's what's wrong with you who have everything', Shanti pointed out patiently. 'You don't understand how humiliating it is to always be on the receiving end as we are in Asia! The paisa, the least coin of my country, is worth only a fraction of an American penny, but even the poorest village woman can afford to give it to someone worse off than she is. She needs to do it for HER OWN SAKE! To stand up proudly. It is important that rich and poor, college graduate and illiterate, CAN GIVE ON THE SAME LEVEL. If you of the West draw aside your skirts, you'll be the loneliest women in the world. YOUR GREAT MONEY HAD DIVIDED US; LET'S SEE IF YOUR LEAST COINS CAN DRAW US TOGETHER!'

When the invitation was later extended to other Christian women in the United States, South America, Europe and Africa, they gladly joined the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN first sparked in Manila.

- * "The idea of praying and giving person to person, on an equal basis in both East and West, has swept like wildfire around the world. Women in seven countries that first year began saving their tiny coins in as many kinds of receptacles as there were nations."
- * "'This must not be just another organization with monthly meetings and a deady dull secretary's report', Shanti insisted. 'The Fellowship is a spontaneous sharing by women everywhere in the power of the spirit which may be turned to a given end as surely as sunlight focussed by glass upon a bit of wood may burn. The small coins should not interfere with either local or other church giving, for they are only SYMBOLS.'"
- * "By the end of the first year, the Asian women were startled to find that these coins, some so valueless that when a person dropped one she did not stoop to pick it up, amounted to \$11,000. Next year it totalled \$20,000. The tiny coins continued to accumulate till they amounted to \$100,000. Little did they dream that within ten years this money would amount to over half a million dollars!"

(The first Asian Church Women's Conference was held in Hong Kong in 1958. It was agreed that this organization should administer the funds. This conference, with headquarters in Bangkok, includes in its membership churches extending from Korea on the north, south to Australia and New Zealand, west to Pakistan and as far east as Japan. The women formed a Central Committee to interpret and promote the Fellowship of the Least Coin, to receive applications for grants and to make recommendations to the All-Asia Conference as to where the funds from the Least Coins should be spent.

IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP -

Not more than the least coin in our currency may be given to this fund, in order to keep the idea that every woman can give the same amount to this project.

The covenant of prayer and world fellowship must be emphasized, rather than the form of raising money or the amount.)

- * "Today the Fellowship of the Least Coin has contributing members, or has given aid, in Australia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Britain, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States, Vietnam, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia. .. The Fellowship goes on and on quietly, with its comparatively small gifts, forging little links of understanding and reconciliation between one nation and another, weaving the hopeful fabric of peace."

.. .. .

Other chapters of the book, "In Quest of the Least Coin", are concerned with the story of peoples and projects which have received gifts from the Fellowship: each is an eloquent testimony to the existence of the fellowship. Chapter Three, "The Cross and the Lotus",

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commences with this verse by Sara Lindsay -

"With careless hand I gave the coin,
It seemed as nought to me.
The least of all my goodly share
As gift? A mockery!
My sister in her distant land
Gave one least coin, like me;
But went without her evening bread
To share her poverty.
Within the cup which feeds Thy lambs,
Our coins became, through Thee,
The golden coin of Fellowship -
Thy love - the alchemy."

** **

MRS. OLGA BADGER (Member of the Planning Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference) has kindly supplied additional information, outlining Mrs. Solomon's current activities and interests. -

MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON is a VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NEW WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES. She is Chairman of the committee on women's work in the Department of Co-operation and Witness, and is also Co-ordinator of all Women's Work in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Mrs. Solomon a MEMBER of the EAST ASIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE WORKING COMMITTEE, a MEMBER of the RESOURCEMENT CONFERENCE of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the E.A.C.C. and a CONSULTANT to the LIFE AND ACTION UNIT of the E.A.C.C.

Mrs. Solomon is also serving as EXECUTIVE SECRETARY of the ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE which carries responsibility on behalf of Christian women of six continents for interpretation of the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN of which is the FOUNDER.

Until recently, SHANTI SOLOMON was Secretary for WOMEN'S WORK of the UNITED CHURCH of NORTH INDIA.

She has just returned from DJAKARTA, where she was attending the WORLD ALLIANCE MEETINGS. In June, she was in HONG KONG for a meeting for the Resourcement Conference Executive Committee, also in Seoul for the E.A.C.C. WORKING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, and on completion of her visit to AUSTRALIA, NEW GUINEA and NEW ZEALAND, will be attending special women's meetings in MALAYSIA.

ASIA'S "SPLENDID NEW WOMAN"

In describing her as "Asia's splendid new woman", authoress Grace Nies Fletcher pays tribute to the fact that SHANTI SOLOMON has "arrived". The humble background from which she emerged to walk with serene confidence on the national and international scene was probably the refining influence which brought to light the gold of her character.

The twelfth child, and one of three to survive, of a Hindu father and a Christian mother, Shanti learned early the cruelty of intolerance and prejudice. Her father on becoming a Christian (very early in Shanti's life) was murdered by his own family for the step he had taken. With indomitable courage, her mother defied public opinion, ran a gay and happy Christian home for her three children, and taught them "how satisfying it is to stand on your own two feet". Often there was not enough to eat, and they learnt early to share what they had.

Shanti Solomon today is a gentle woman with infinite compassion. She has known hunger and deathly fatigue, injustice in the murder of her father, and despair at watching, helpless, for two long years while her husband, a professor of history and psychology, slowly died. But she also has two college degrees, has been round the world several times and has been welcomed by many nations as the representative of her great country, free India. She has little money but never worries about tomorrow.

Before her marriage Shanti had taught English and Geography for 10 years in various Indian schools, and she later drew on her knowledge and experience to teach local villagers in child care and personal hygiene, as well as how to read and how to knit and sew to meet family needs. Her house and kitchen were open at all hours for whoever came to see and it was hoped, to learn. She helped in every way she could, teaching by example rather than words, at the same time using every opportunity to affirm her Christian faith, but never discriminating in her kindnesses to Moslems, Christians or Hindus. In times of bitter warfare, her offer to terrified victims was, "What can I do to help YOU?"

Small wonder then that this woman's dream of a worldwide fellowship of women has seen fulfilment in her own lifetime. Refused admittance to a country in the immediate post-war years because of her nationality, Shanti applied herself devoutly to solving the problem of bringing the world's Christian women together on a common basis. Her solution came in the inspiration to found the Fellowship of the Least Coin, a fellowship in which participating women pray for each other - for peace in the world, in the home and in the heart. As token of her participation, each woman gives each month the least coin of the currency of her country. "The one small coin we save every month won't amount to much," she said, "but it will be a beginning." When some women of the western world tended to deride the smallness of the gift, she declared, "Your great money had divided us; let's see if your least coins can draw us together!"

The idea of praying and giving, person to person on an equal basis in both East and West, has swept like wild-fire around the world. It started that first year with women in seven countries, and gifts of "least coins" at its end totalled \$11,000. Little did they dream that within 10 years this money would amount to over half a million dollars. Not more than the least coin may be given and emphasis is on the covenant of prayer and world fellowship. Today the Fellowship of the Least Coin has contributing members and has aided many and varied projects in twenty nine countries around the world. "The Fellowship goes on and on, with its comparatively small gifts forging little links of understanding and reconciliation between one nation and another, weaving the hopeful fabric of peace."

As well as being founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, MRS. SOLOMON is

a VICE-PRESIDENT of the NEW WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES,
Chairman of the committee on women's work in the Department of Co-operation and Witness,
Co-ordinator of all Women's Work in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches;

a MEMBER OF THE EAST ASIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE WORKING COMMITTEE,
a MEMBER OF THE RESOURCEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the EAST ASIA
CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE, and
a CONSULTANT to the LIFE AND ACTION UNIT OF THE E.A.C.C.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE which carries responsibility on behalf of Christian women of six continents for interpretation of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

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During 1974, Mrs. Solomon travelled in both North and South America, firstly to the Assembly of Church Women United at Wichita, and later to Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Guyana and Trinidad in the joint interests of World Day of Prayer and Fellowship of the Least Coin.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

SUMMARY OF FILE ON VISIT OF MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON TO AUSTRALIA - SEPTEMBER, 1972.

ALL letters by AIR

From Mrs. Solomon,
letter from DELHI,
dated 24/1/72

Advising - impossibility of holding A.C.W.C. next conference in Australia; agreement of Asian C. W. C. C'tee to Mrs. Solomon's proposed visit to Australia and New Zealand to take approximately one month, also requesting preparation of itinerary within this time limit.

To Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Bne.,
dated 29/2/72

Forwarding itinerary as suggested, prepared by QANTAS, for consideration with suggestion that the time for the whole visit be extended to permit longer and more satisfactory visit to the larger cities; Cost A.\$1320. approx

From Mrs. Solomon,
letter from DELHI,
dated 11/3/72

Requesting revision of itinerary to take 6 weeks in accordance with suggestion also inclusion of P.N.G., Singapore and Djakarta; Advising that cost of travel would be paid from her budget: (hospitality in Australia to be provided through Australian Church Women).

To Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Bne.,
dated 27/3/72

Forwarding new itinerary, prepared by QANTAS, for alteration, suggestion or approval, requesting advice in good time to advise State Units of A.C.W. so that adequate preparation and planning could be done.

To Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Bne.,
dated 16/5/72

Enquiry re itinerary - whether satisfactory and if bookings were being made accordingly. (Copies of QANTAS Itinerary forwarded to States with June Wkg. C'tee Minutes, so that tentative plans could be made).

To Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Bne.,
dated 6/7/72

Expressing concern at no word re Itinerary and Bookings, and advising that States had received copies of the itinerary for planning purposes.

To Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Bne.,
dated 13/7/72

Enclosing request received from Mrs. Sharp (Pt. Moresby) for longer visit to P.N.G., and suggesting that this be taken into if bookings still to be made; also requesting advice re final bookings as no confirmation received to-date.

From Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Etawah, India,
dated 8/7/72

Apology for belated acknowledgment of Itinerary (due to absence from India); requesting alteration which would not affect commencement of visit in Perth on 9th Sept, also alteration at end of visit making stops at Singapore and Malaysia, remainder to be as scheduled; advising that bookings would be completed during August.

From Mrs. Solomon,
letter from DJAKARTA,
dated 20/7/72

Requesting alterations to itinerary after Brisbane visit to permit departure by direct flight to Auckland after trip to P.N.G.; advising desire to be in Auckland, 6th - 8th, and Christchurch, 9th - 11th October, and requesting direct flight from Sydney to Singapore to permit arrival in Malaysia for special meetings 13th - 15th October, also requesting (i) estimated cost of trip after alterations made; (ii) four copies letter of guarantee re expenses incurred in Australia during visit (i.e. outside India); (iii) copy of amended Itinerary to be forwarded to Mrs. Sharp, P.N.G.

To Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Bne.,
dated 3/8/72

Forwarding QANTAS revised itinerary (altered as requested and providing for longer time in P.N.G.); advising reasons for particular changes to connect with direct flights desired; * estimated cost of fares, \$1370.20 approx.; enclosing 4 copies of letter of guarantee as requested; advising copy of amended itinerary forwarded to Mrs. Sharp, P.N.G.

From W.I.C.C. Tas
letter from Hobart,
dated 7/8/72

Requesting alteration to itinerary to include Launceston where Mrs. Solomon was desired as guest speaker at Annual Convention of Catholic Women's League on Tuesday, 19th Sept.

To Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Bne.,
dated 15/ '2

(Addressed to Mrs. Solomon, C/- Secretary, A.C.W. W.A. Unit).
Greetings and Welcome to Australia.

To Mrs. Wilson, Sec.,
A.C.W. W.A. Unit
dated 15/8/72
from Bne.

Presenting request from Tasmania for inclusion of Launceston and setting out chance necessary if Mrs. Solomon agreeable to this. Requesting that letter of welcome and greeting be handed to Mrs. Solomon on arrival also that, should Mrs. Solomon be willing to add Launceston to her Tasmania visit, arrangement be made with T.A.A. Perth office for transfer to flight to accommodate the request.

To Mrs. Warner, Sec.,
W.I.C.C. Victoria,
from Bne., 15/8/72

Alerting to possibility of change in departure time from Melbourne, 19/9/72, in event of Mrs. Solomon flying to Launceston instead of Hobart.

To Mrs. Cocks, Sec.,
W.I.C.C. Tasmania,
from Bne., 15/8/72

Advising action taken to meet request for call at Launceston.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

SUMMARY OF FILE ON VISIT OF MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON TO AUSTRALIA - SEPTEMBER, 1972.

- From Mrs. Solomon,
letter from Etawah, India,
dated 24th August,
received Brisbane, 7th
September.
- Acknowledging receipt of correspondence (3/8/72), and
advising that although it was not known whether money for ticket had been
forwarded to India, Mrs. Solomon was preparing to leave Delhi to
reach Perth as scheduled on 9th Sept., and that cable would be
sent on departure for Perth.
- (No cable was received advising departure on 9th Sept., but following enquiry
from Dept. of Immigration and helpful co-operation, it was assumed that
arrangements were proceeding satisfactorily).
- From Immigration Office, Bne.,
'phone call to A.C.W.
President, Mrs. Dennis
Thursday, 7/9/72
- Enquiry re visa application of Mrs. Solomon. Following conversation, official
advised that reply would be cabled to India immediately to expedite
arrangements for Mrs. Solomon's departure from India and arrival in
Perth on 9th September.
- From W.I.C.C. S.A. Secretary,
Mrs. Howie, 'phone call to
Mrs. R. Haigh, Bne. even. of
Monday, 11th Sept.
- Advising non-arrival of Mrs. Solomon in Perth, information having been re-
ceived of visa difficulties and possible cancellation of visit.
(Advice subsequently conveyed to President and Secretary).
- To Dept. of Immigration, Bne.
'phone call by President,
Mrs. Dennis
- Request for information concerning Mrs. Solomon's visa difficulties.
Official enquiries made through Canberra, with reply 'phone call
being made late 12th, that there had been no delay in Australia
following receipt of request from India on 7th September re visa
for Mrs. Solomon, Australia's reply having been cabled as advised
on that day. Immigration Dept. believed delay caused in India over
lateness in lodging application for visa.
- From Mrs. Wilson, sec.,
A.C.W. W.A. Unit, letter
received Bne. 13/9/72
13th
- Advising cable received from Mrs. Solomon, Friday, 8th Sept. - "Departure
delayed - visa difficulties - will inform you of arrival",
informing that (i) next flights into Perth having been checked, on non-
arrival of Mrs. Solomon, alternative plans were made for special
functions; (ii) telegram had been sent to Mrs. Howie in South Aus.,
advising delayed departure of Mrs. Solomon.
- To Mrs. Solomon (from Sec.,
A.C.W.) Cable, 13/9/72
- "Take up itinerary Melbourne, 15th. Cable arrival time Doreen Strack, 66,
Tennyson St., Moonee Ponds."
- To Mrs. Wilson, W.A., 13/9/72
Telegram
- "Please advise Shanti Solomon to take up itinerary Melbourne, 15th".
(This sent in case Mrs. Solomon departed India before arrival of cable above.)
- 13/3/72
letters to W.A. Unit, N.S.W.
Unit & Tasmania Unit
- W.A. explaining need for Mrs. Solomon to proceed to Melbourne and advice to
Mrs. Strack as hostess in Melbourne.
N.S.W. & Tasmania, alerting to situation and possible need to alter plans.
- 14/9/72
From Mrs. Badger (Hostess
N.S.W.) Telegram
- "Understand Shanti not arrived. Health visa. Is tour off? Advise.
- From Mrs. Solomon, Delhi,
Cable
- "Leaving India for Perth on 16th. Send name of contact person in Melbourne
to address in Perth."
- From Mrs. Wilson, W.A.
Telegram
- "Shanti Solomon advised arrival Perth 11 p.m. on 15th Flight BA 720. Have
wired Melbourne."
- To Mrs. Badger - Telegram
in reply
- "Shanti arriving Perth 15th. Has been requested commence itinerary
Melbourne. Advise Mrs. Pfeiffer.
- To Mrs. Strack (Hostess
Victoria) 'phone call
- Explaining situation and requesting information and assistance should word
be sent of arrival time in Melbourne.
- 15/9/72
To Mrs. Wilson, W.A.
Telegram (To ensure meeting
on arrival Melbourne)
- "Please advise Doreen Strack, 66 Tennyson St., Moonee Ponds, Shanti's
arrival time Melbourne.
- From Mrs. Wilson, 'phone call
- Advising Shanti booked on flight London to Sydney & unable to ascertain
information beyond arrival in Sydney.
- To Mrs. Badger, Sydney, 'phone:
- Requesting check with Sydney Airport re arrival flight 720 from Perth, arrange
for flight to Melbourne, and subsequently advise Doreen Strack.
- 18/9/72
From Mrs. Badger, Sydney, 'phone: Advising flight 720 delayed 24 hours, but Mrs. Solomon not a passenger.
Further advice being sought; Mrs. Strack being kept informed.
- To Mrs. Wilson, W.A.
Telegram
- "Any news of Shanti?"

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

3.

SUMMARY OF FILE ON VISIT OF MRS. SHANTI SOLOMON TO AUSTRALIA - SEPTEMBER, 1972.

18/9/72

From Mrs. Wilson, W.A., (p.m.) "Shanti hoping arrive Perth midnight tonight. Keeping Strack informed."
Telegram

19/9/72

From Mrs. Strack, Melbourne
'phone call, 6.45 a.m. Advising Shanti's arrival in Perth, 2 a.m. and on her way to Melbourne, arriving at 8.30 a.m. Arrangement being made to get her on flight to Tasmania, 1.40 p.m. and Tasmania being notified.

To Mrs. Badger, Sydney, 'Phone Advising arrival in Melbourne not Sydney, at 8.30 a.m. from Perth, to take up itinerary in Tasmania following 1.40 p.m. flight.

To Mrs. Davies, New Zealand, letter Notifying re amended itinerary following Mrs. Solomon's request to complete visit by 12th October in time for return to Malaysia, 13th. - In case direct word from Mrs. Solomon not received.

To Mrs. Badger, N.S.W.
To Mrs. Solomon C/- Mrs. Badger
letters - Express delivery Submitting suggestion for alternative return route from Sydney to Perth on Wednesday, 11th October (via Melbourne, Adelaide) to connect with flight to Singapore on 12th (day being taken from N.Z. visit to achieve this with least possible disruption of scheduled bookings. Alteration to be arranged with QANTAS Sydney office. (Advising action to alert cities to be taken immediately on receipt of favourable reply from Mrs. Solomon.)

From Mrs. Warner, Sec.
W.I.C.C. Vic. letter Advising action taken to cancel extensive planning for Mrs. Solomon's visit.

21/9/72

From Mrs. Wilson, W.A.
letter Advising re Shanti's arrival in Perth on Tuesday morning, 19th, 2 a.m. and subsequent departure for Melbourne; also request for call at Perth if possible, on return journey.

From Mrs. Warner, Victoria Advice and report up to time of arrival of Shanti in Melbourne. Successful morning function held at Independant Church, 10.30 a.m. prior to departure at 1.40 p.m. for Tasmania (Launceston), where Mrs. Solomon would take up her itinerary as scheduled and continue from that point.

(Replies to Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Warner delayed pending advice from Mrs. Solomon in response to suggestion to alter direct flight from Sydney to Singapore to brief calls at Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, according to flights and times as set out.)

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(In association with the East Asia Christian Conference)

CHAIRMAN :

Mrs. Esther T. Bautista
San Fernando, La, Union
Philippines B-515

SECRETARY :

Mrs. Kathleen Davies
Avonside Vicarage
Christchurch 1
New Zealand

TREASURER :

Miss Roselind Gurubatham
No 9, 6/30 Petaling Garden
Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia.

From : Executive Secretary
and
Promoter Fellowship of
the Least Coin
C/O Miss M. Bushill
21 Rajniwas Marg
Delhi-6

Nov. 21, 1972

Mrs. C. Connel
15 Burns Parade
Chapel Hill
Brisbane, Queensland 408 9
Australia.

Dear Cora,

You are so good to write to me before I have a chance of writing to you to tell you what a wonderful experience I had in Australia. Thank you very much for making such efficient plans for my visit. The other day I showed some slides, given to me by the women in Sydney. Every one who saw them, enjoyed them. Thanks for sending the news paper picture and also the slides. They will be useful in my next trips.

Since I have come back, the first week was spent in attending to my household duties, because while I was in Australia, my electric meter was stolen and our house had no electricity. My sister is old and cannot attend to these things. After that I got busy attending to my mail, but the pile does not seem to get any smaller, because every day some more letters are added to the accumulated pile. I am always trying to attend to the priority jobs and can never catch up with my mail.

Our Chairman has gone to the States to settle down there. She has taken up a job there, but she will come back in June next year to attend the EACC Assembly and our Planning Committee meeting.

Cora, we are collecting devotional material for the "Circle of Prayer" booklet. Can you find two ladies from Australia, who can write two devotions and send them to me before Christmas. This time some women have expressed the opinion that in this booklet we must tell something about the main thrusts that the women in each country are involved in. We want one devotion be based on the project that the National Council of women are trying to have for their own country- describe why this project and what do they achieve by it, what are the problems they have to face etc., finally a short prayer asking God to give strength to overcome those problems. The second devotion can be on a project through which your women have an outreach programme, like giving scholarship to students from other countries. Or perhaps the history of this scholarship and for how long it has been going on, how many countries have been helped. Finally a closing prayer. Please follow the pattern of the "Circle of Prayer" Vol. vii. The theme for these devotional thoughts can be - "Active Faith Produces Fruit."

Thanks again for all you and your Committee did to make my trip to Australia so meaningful. The sweet memories of friendship, fellowship and Christian witness will always be my precious treasure. Do convey my greetings to all of them.

Enclosed is the oil painting on the Peepal leaf. This tree belongs to the Banyan Tree family and is considered sacred by the Hindus in India. In the morning it is a common sight to see some Hindus pouring water at its roots and mumbling some prayers. This brings you my Christmas greetings and all the love and gratitude I have for you. It is wonderful to know you.

Shanti Saloman

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

77 Hawthorne Road,
HAWTHORNE, Q. 4171.

18th December, 1972.

Dear Shanti,

The following is the other "Circle of Prayer" devotional requested from A.C.W. I understand Cora has explained that it was coming. My apologies for the delay, but I thought it would be good to have this prepared by Rev. Winifred Kiek if she were able and this meant correspondence with South Australia first. It could be the last published work she will do. The introduction is mine, so please edit if necessary. Here it is:

"To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church" - this is one of the aims that led Australian Church Women to initiate the Winifred Kiek Scholarship which offers supplementary training for a Christian woman from overseas who has already received her basic training. The scholarship is intended for those who give leadership in church life and for those who need strengthening as Christians for their work in the world. It was named after Rev. Winifred Kiek, B.A., B.D. of South Australia whose active involvement in the work of women within the Church had been recognised for many years.

The following devotional has been written by Mrs. Winifred Kiek.

GOD'S HELPFUL SERVANT

READING: Luke 2, v.45-52
2 Timothy 2, v.15

When we hear the commandments "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength and thy neighbour as thyself," we often think most about loving our neighbour and do not pay much heed to the first part, which is equally important. To love one another adequately, we must be adequate servants of God, as Paul tells Timothy. Our heart and soul must feel and our mind and strength must understand and be equipped. God has given to each of us some ability to use for Him. It is our duty to develop all our powers for his service.

Some, such as those who study in Australia by means of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, have been chosen to be leaders. They need our loyalty and moral support, for leaders need faithful followers to build up a band of God-fearing people. Followers, too, need to be fitted and furnished to carry on His work in the world. Let us then seek every opportunity to qualify ourselves mentally for the place which God calls us to fill. Heart, soul, mind and strength must all be devoted to Him.

PRAYER: Lord, help me to be the best that I can be. Take my skills and abilities, my intellect and strength and fit them to fulfil Thy purposes. Help me to devote to Thee my mind and all my powers. Give, I pray Thee, to scholarship holders and students, patience and perseverance, and help all people to grow in heart and soul and mind and strength.

WINIFRED KIEK, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

I hope, Shanti, this is what you require. We felt the introduction necessary to enlarge upon what Cora has already sent you, but if too lengthy, and it may well be, we leave it to you to make the point you wish for this edition of Circle of Prayer.

The influence of your far too brief visit to Australia will remain with us for a long time. I do hope you continue in good health and strength to carry out this work you are doing.

With loving greetings this Christmas Season of 1972 and may God's richest blessings be yours in the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs E. G. Pope)
Convener, Winifred Kiek Scholarship

DRAFT OF ARTICLE FOR "CIRCLE OF PRAYER" -

READ: St. John 17:1-3, 6-8, 20 and 21; St. Matthew 25:31-40.

"ACTIVE FAITH PRODUCES FRUIT"

"I pray that they all may be one, O Father! May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me."

"AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN" is the cherished title by which all women who are members of Christ's Church in Australia can claim to be aptly described. It is a title which directs women back to the words of our Saviour's prayer and His reason for praying it, and charges them with responsibility to share in the answer to that prayer.

The purposes, aims and projects of Australian Church Women emanate from knowledge of the expressed desire of our Lord, and are so bound together that sincere endeavours to fulfil the purposes also serve the projects. "Australian Church Women" at its establishment stated its aims to be -

- To UNITE Australian church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- To PROMOTE co-operation of men and women in the 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 churches to worship, study and serve together, and
- To ENCOURAGE fellowship across all barriers.

The celebration together of special days (World Day of Prayer, Fellowship Day and World Community Day), involvement in local community concerns, study, discussion, participation in worship and service are all directed at meeting these aims: so, too, are the special projects which reach out in love to women of other lands and cultures and to aboriginal women of Australia.

Encouragement to all women to participate in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, the selection of a project outside Australia to receive the money offerings that are a part of the World Community Day Service,

the plea for a compassionate response to the unhappy and often desperate plight of women in other countries, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship which offers supplementary training to a woman from another country - all of these are part of the expression of the aims which justify the existence of the national 'body' which calls itself "Australian Church Women".

Each Australian State has its own Unit of A.C.W. and these have local projects quite independently of the national body. At State level there is opportunity for personal involvement in the "on-the-spot" needs of the community as well as in the denominationally organized projects that are concerned with social problems, the welfare of aborigine people and of migrants.

But Australia is an affluent country with scant experience of the rigours and hardships of real poverty, and none at all of the horrors of war or the tyranny of oppression. Therefore we kneel in humility and shame to ask forgiveness for the unshared burdens and the tears of despair that are the daily lot of so many women beyond Australia's shores, with whom we have not been "as one".

PRAYER:

Help me, dear Lord, in every circumstance of my life to be ready and willing to be a part of the answer to your prayer "that they all may be one" "that the world may believe."

Amen.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(In Association with the Asian Christian Conference)

CHAIRMAN :
Mrs. E. T. Bautista
Philippines
VICE-CHAIRMAN :
Mrs. Ang Kim Kiat
Singapore
RECORDING SECRETARY :
Mrs. K. Davies
New Zealand
TREASURER :
Miss R. Gurubatham
Malaysia.

From : ACWC Executive Secretary
and
Promoter of Fellowship of
the Least Coin
C/O St. Stephen's Home
4 Rajpur Road
Delhi-110006

Jan. 28, 1974.

To
Mrs. Joy Smith
360 Marion Road
Plympton, S.A. 5038.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

Your kind letter of greetings, sent through Mrs. D. W. Bailey, was read out in the meeting of the Planning Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference held in Manila, Philippines, January 26-28, 1974. The members of the ACWC Planning Committee wish to express their gratitude for this kind letter. What a privilege is ours to strengthen each other by our prayers.

Now it is my pleasant duty to convey the greetings of the ACWC Planning Committee, members to the Australian Church Women's National Council as they come together in Adelaide from the 12th to the 15th February 1974 for their annual meeting.

As you meet to plan the future program may you all be guided by the Holy Spirit to plan everything for His glory. May these meetings be a source of inspiration and rededication for the members to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Yours in His Service
Shanti Salomon
Executive Secretary
ACWC.

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

26th February, 1974.

Mrs. Shanti Solomon,
A.C.W.C. Executive Secretary,
C/- St. Stephen's Home
4 Rajpur Road,
DELHI. 110006. INDIA.

Dear Mrs. Solomon,

Thank you sincerely for your letter of greeting sent to our President, Mrs. Joy Smith, before our National Committee Meeting. It is good to know that others hold us in their prayers as we seek to plan for future service in His name. The week was a busy one and I am sure we were all very aware of our need "to love one another" as we sought to share our joys and frustrations.

During the meeting, Mrs. Frances Downes, F.I.C. Convenor in Victoria, presented an article which had appeared in the Melbourne "Age" on 24th January, 1974.* A copy of this, together with her reply is enclosed for your information, and any action you may consider necessary.

With Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

* As we were somewhat concerned about it,

COPY TO MRS. DOWNES

Women urged to set up emergency funds

A WORLD-WIDE appeal for women to give the smallest coin in their currency to help set up depots in potential disaster areas was suggested by Mrs. Sybil Cookson in Melbourne yesterday.

Mrs. Cookson, an immediate past chairman of the British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Free-

dom, is visiting Australia for the first time.

She is a consultant on the WILPF executive.

The league has consultative status with the United Nations.

The United Nations theme for 1975 will be "women." Mrs. Cookson's idea is that the coin scheme would involve women throughout the world in emergency and relief work.

In spite of the "women

only" style of title, the league has male members. The name remains for special reasons, Mrs. Cookson said.

"In countries like Lebanon and sections of India where women have not got their full rights, an organisation exclusively for the benefit of women is still needed."

The league's main aims are universal disarmament, peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of war.

"War is lunacy. The money spent on arms could be spent on construction", she said.

In its campaign against war, WILPF is supporting International Red Cross for humanitarian law in armed conflict.

This includes the banning of nuclear weapons, napalm and chemical and biological warfare.

WILPF is also concerned with the law of the sea and the preservation of the resources of the ocean bed for the heritage of mankind.

As a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Mrs. Cookson recently attended its international conference representing the executive of WILPF.

She said there was "a crying need for information and facilities on family planning which must go hand in hand with social and economic welfare."

Mrs. Cookson has represented WILPF on the UNA Women's Advisory Council and is now a member of its planning committee for population. She also belongs to the UNA national disarmament committee and Amnesty International.

By CAROLINE SWAN.

Reply, 2.2.74.

THE suggestion by Mrs. Sybil Cookson that women all over the world help themselves by raising money through a contribution of the smallest coin in their currency (Accent, 24/1) has had a forerunner in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Mrs. Cookson, an immediate past chairman of the British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is visiting Australia.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin for Christian Women was the brainchild of Mrs. Shanti Solomon, of India, and was started in 1956.

The convener for Victoria (Mrs. Frances Downes) says: "From the often despised 'least coin' more than \$1 million has been raised in

more than 50 countries to help in projects around the world."

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

26th February, 1974.

Rev. Brian Walsh,
Secretary,
World Christian Action,
100 Flinders Street,
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000

Dear Mr. Walsh,

Following the decision of the 1973 National Committee Meeting to give 50% of their 1973 World Community Day offerings to World Christian Action's "Women of Bangladesh Appeal", it gives me pleasure now to forward a cheque for \$772.60 to aid this project.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

26th February, 1974.

The Principal,
Pacific Theological College,
P.O. Box 388,
Suva, Fiji Islands.

Dear Mr. Quigley,

Further to our letter of 21st June, 1973 stating that 50% of the World Community Day offering would be donated to the training of a woman student from the Gilbert Islands at the Pacific Theological College, I now have pleasure in enclosing cheque for \$A745.00 to be used for this purpose.

With Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

Mrs. Shanti Solomon
St. Stephen's Home
4, Rajpur Road
Delhi - 110006
I N D I A

21st March, 1974

Mrs. J.B. Murchland
33, Wilson Tce.
Glenelg East
S.A. 5045.

Dear Mrs. Murchland,

Thank you for your letter of February, 26th '74 and for sharing the articles on Mrs. Cookson's speech and Mrs. Downes reply to it. It is very disturbing to see that the others are taking up the same idea and using it to achieve their own ends. Fellowship of the Least Coin is a movement of prayer and reconciliation and ultimately promotes peace - Christian Peace, but this does not mean that people can divert these funds for their cause or confuse women to give their least coin to ^{then} you and ^{UNO} owe.

Could you please send me Mrs. Cook's Address, if you can get it from Mrs. Downes. I am going to circulate this news in my next News Bulletin in order to make the women aware of this rival campaign.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Shanti

Shanti Solomon
Promotional Secretary, FLC.

Recd
2/4

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

9th April, 1974.

Mrs. H. A. Downes,
1 Sherwood Road,
MT. WAVERLEY. VIC. 3149

Dear Mrs. Downes,

I had a letter this week from Mrs. Shanti Solomon, who, like you, is most concerned about Mrs. Cookson's idea. She is planning to circulate this news in her next Bulletin, but is also keen to contact Mrs. Cookson personally. Would you be able to obtain Mrs. Cookson's address please, and let me have it as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



1 Sherwood Rd
Mount Waverley 3146
April 16 1974

Dear Mrs Marchland

Thank you for
your letter of 9th April - just
received - re Mrs Shankie
Solomon's reply.

I have not got Mrs
Sybil Cookson's address; but
will see if a friend can
do anything for me, which I
am sorry to say will take
some time, organising.

I gave Frances Bailey

²
a letter I received from Mrs
Cookson written from Sydney
thanking me for sending
her F. Leaf Coin; but cannot
remember whether she includes
her home address or not.

Could you check
with Frances Bailey about
this?

I would have thought
Mrs Solomon would have
been able to get Mrs
Cookson's address through
United Nations States

³
of Women!

Will write again
if my friend has any
success in obtaining
Mrs S. Cookson's address

Yours sincerely
Fran Davies

⁵ I will be away on
holidays from April 28th
until end of May:



1 Sherwood Bee
Mount Waverley 3146
18/4/74

Dear Mrs Murchland

I was able to
get Mrs Sybil Cookson
address far quicker
than I first thought
It is:-

MRS SYBIL COOKSON
TRELAWNY'S COTTAGE
SOMPTING
SUSSEX BN. 1515-OAX
ENGLAND.

Recd.
22/4

2

Would you mind passing
on my thanks to Alder
Hall for her letter to me,
and tell her I would
like 400 F.L. coin
leaflets and
150 labels

Thanking you
yours sincerely
Fran Lewis

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

22nd April, 1974

Mrs. Shanti Solomon,
St. Stephen's Home,
4 Rajpur Road,
DELHI. 110006
India.

Dear Mrs. Solomon,

Thank you for your letter of 21st March with news of the action you intend taking in regard to Mrs. Cookson's suggestion. It will certainly be a pity if women become confused about the two different ideas.

I have been in touch with Mrs. Downes and the following is Mrs. Cookson's address:-

Mrs. Sybil Cookson,
Trelawny's Cottage,
Sompting,
Sussex. B.N.1515-OAX
England.

To date, we have heard no further mention of her idea here, but we will certainly advise you if the matter comes up again.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

THE PACIFIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Vuya Road, Veiluto,

P.O. Box 388,
Suva, Fiji Islands

Tel: 311 100
311 331
Student: 311 902

13th May, 1974.

Mrs. J.B. Murchland,
Secretary,
Working Committee of Australian Church Women,
33 Wilson Tce,
Glenelg East, S.A. 5045,
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Mrs. Murchland,

Thankyou very much for your letter of 26th February, 1974 regarding the money given by Australian Church Women for the support of Miss Maanana Ioteba, a student here for the Diploma in Religious Education from the Gilbert Islands Protestant Church. (For some reason your letter did not reach here until April.) I enclose the Bursar's receipt. This is a most generous gift from the Australian Church Women, and the College, Maanana and the Gilbert Islands Church are most grateful. This is a real investment in people. Miss Ioteba is doing very good work, and will I am sure be a real asset to her Church and people. Such a trained person can do a great deal for the life of the Church - especially when she is also possesses considerable personal gifts, as Maanana is. She is a person with a great sense of fun, with a very pleasant manner, and a capacity for independent thinking. She is engaged here in quite a wide - ranging field programme, as well as an academic course; one of the advantages of having the PTC in Suva is that there is a wide range of situations which students can study and explore, and a variety of programmes in which they can participate. Some of her course work has been taken at the University of the South Pacific, and some at a nearby Roman Catholic Teachers' College. We are confident that she will return to the Gilberts well equipped for her work there and we are so grateful to A.C.W. for helping to make this possible.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Alan Quigley
ALAN QUIGLEY
PRINCIPAL

Encl:
AQ/rd:

c.c. to the Rev. Koae Taburimae,
Secretary,
Gilbert Islands Protestant Church.

*Recd
17/5*

10 4 1974 No. 7
Received from *Secretary, Working Committee
Australian Church Women*
the sum of *eight hundred and
seventy seven* Dollars
and sixty Cents
being for *Donation from the World
Community Day offering to the
training of a woman student
from the Gilbert Islands at PTC*
Received with thanks.
\$ 877-60
(A.\$ 745-00)

PACIFIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
BURSAR'S ACCOUNT

DUTY
STAMP

New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

(State Unit of Australian Church Women)

Tel. 328.7119.

33 Macquarie Towers,
250 Jersey Road,
Woollahra. NSW 2025.

18th July, 1974.

The President,
Australian Church Women,
360 Marion Rd.,
Flympton, S.A. 5038.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

RE: "AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN" - Brochure.

At the last meeting of our Executive Committee, we looked carefully at the sample draft submitted for our consideration, and I am asked to acquaint you with our thinking on this matter.

The first impression was that the publication appeared dull, and we hope that, if, as we assume, it is to be a duplicated publication, you can arrange to use a coloured paper- light blue with perhaps bronze blue ink would be attractive. The use of the symbols adds interest.

The 'set up' is somewhat cramped, we feel- due, of course, to your desire to get it all on two sides of a foolscap sheet. We wonder whether a little more might be placed on the final page- perhaps the par re the Memorial Bursary Fund, thus enabling the inner 'spread' to be spaced rather more generously.

In the section headed "Projects" (a) W.K.S.- par.2- we suggest that "the Pacific" might be omitted, since Papua New Guinea is in the Pacific area-- so that this part might read-"scholarship holders have come from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, British Solomon Islands, India and Africa (Zambia)."

We will not place a definite order just at present, but should like to know whether the brochures are to be provided free of charge, if not, what the price will be, and how soon we might expect to be able to obtain them.

You may be interested to read the enclosed newspaper cutting concerning the appointment of a Sydney woman to act as Administrator with the Gordon Barclay Vietnam Fund. The local Committee of this Fund were delighted when they received news that the F.L.C. grant had been received- \$ 1500 (US).

I am wondering whether you have received copies of the F.L.C. Quarterly News Bulletins yet; these were, I think, to be sent to the State Units. A friend who had one, received from another source, lent it to me, and I found it most interesting and informative.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

PROJECTS INCLUDE - 'WYBALENA' GIRLS HOSTEL, FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN,
WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

Barbara M. Mitchell
President

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

10th September, 1974

Miss D. Mitchell,
33 Macquarie Towers,
250 Jersey Road,
WOOLLAHRA. N.S.W. 2025

Dear Miss Mitchell,

I was going through correspondence to-day when I realised that I had not asked Joy to mention the matter of Quarterly News Bulletins when she was in Sydney. We were very interested to hear that you have seen a recent one. Alder Hall has never received one. The only one we have seen was received by Fran. Bailey last year and was used as a basis for the "Prayer in Action" bulletins. Fran. has only received the one issue. I have written to Mrs. Solomon to see if this can be rectified, so hope it may not be too long before we can make the information from them available to the States.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST, S.A. 5045

Mrs. Shanti Solomon,
St. Stephen's Home,
4 Rajpur Road,
Delhi. 110006
INDIA.

Dear Mrs. Solomon,

At a Working Committee Meeting some months ago, we received news that Quarterly News Bulletins on the work of Fellowship of the Least Coin were going to be issued. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Fran Bailey reported that she had received one and we were most interested to read it.

At our National Committee Meeting in February, at the request of delegates from various States, it was resolved that as copies of the Bulletin came to hand, information from them should be sent to each State to be used to keep members informed of the work of F.L.C.

Neither Mrs. Bailey nor our National Convenor of F.L.C. (Mrs. Alder Hall) has received a copy since then. (Actually, Mrs. Hall has not received any copies since the scheme was initiated.) Could you please advise if, in fact, these Bulletins are still being issued and whether it would be possible to have Mrs. Hall's name included on the mailing list if they are.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

C/o St. Stephen's Home
4, Rajpur Road
Delhi-110 054
Sept. 26, 1974

Mrs. J.B. Murchland
33 Wilson Tce.
Glenelg East
South Australia 5045

Dear Mrs. Murchland

Received your letter dated nill and I am pleased to know that your Committee takes such keen interest in the promotion of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

I must confess that due to the forth coming Assembly It has been impossible to even think of the News Bulletin. I have been all alone in the office with only one helper, who can only do typing when I have written anything. English is a great language problem for the younger generation. They cannot write anything if not dictated with every second word spelt out. The News Bulletin should take time and must be done with care, which I have not had this quarter. Last issue was out in May this year.

This is the first time we are having a systemetic way of getting ready for the Assembly, so much correspondence has to be done that I have decided not to have any more issues till after the Assembly. Sorry to disappoint you.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours

Shanti
Mrs. S.R.Solomon.



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Quarterly News Bulletin

Issued from ACWC Executive Secretary's Office
C/o St. Stephen's Home
4 Rajpur Road
Delhi-110006.

4th Quarter, 1974

Devotion: PRINCE OF PEACE

We live today in a very threatening world. All around us there are outbreaks of violence: on the international level in our cities and villages and in many homes. We do not seem to have within ourselves the sufficient resources of wisdom and power to make peace and to prevent outbreaks of violence. Our world-problems seem too complex and our various interests and insights differ too much. How then to direct our actions: where is our hope for our future?

Already ages ago the Israelites believed in a messianic promise, the coming of one who would bring peace. They passed it on from one generation to the other and Isaiah expressed it clearly in 9: 2-7. Each year with Christmas we celebrate this great fact of all ages; "Christ the Messiah has come to us". And with the celebration of Easter, Christianity witness: "Through him all things will be reconciled".

But peace in Christ is not a static situation, some things people enjoy who live in material welfare, safely protected from trouble by well organized power structures. No, Christ's peace includes a calling to share in the work of the Holy Spirit for the promotion of love and justice in every corner of the earth. In Christ, love, peace and justice come together. In him "righteousness and peace have kissed each other", as the Psalmist says so beautifully (85:13). Christ's peace may even ask sacrifices. "I have not come to send peace but a sword," are Jesus' words in Matthew. We are warned not to follow an easy path (matthew 4:8-10).

- Cox van Heemstra
The Netherlands.

The Fifth Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference was held in Bangkok; October 18-24, 1974. In view that 1975 is an International Women's Year and the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women have declared that the central theme of the year to be "Equality, Development and Peace". Therefore, we Asian Church Women have expressed our determination to promote the fellowship of the Least Coin extensively in our countries. The prayer of reconciliation, offered sincerely for ourselves and for others, can do wonders in creating an understanding for each other and can be the basic step to understand the true christian meaning of reconciliation which the Prince of Peace is ready to give to each one. Next year let us all try to promote this Ecumenical movement as an effort to promote Peace.

Last year Mrs. Sybil Kookson appealed to Australian women to promote this movement as an effort to promote Peace and Freedom. Mrs. Kookson is an immediate past chair person of the British section of the Women's International League for

contd.....2/-

Peace and Freedom. She was visiting Australia in the beginning of this year. Since then I have had a chance of meeting her and I also agree with her that the Fellowship of the Least Coin can be a basic Christian Act to gain love and understanding for each other and will give inner peace to those, who sincerely ask for it.

This News Bulletin was started to promote the F.L.C. movement, and to share the news with the members. We are pleased to report that this year the amount of the 'Gifts of Love' has increased which means that the membership has also increased.

Miss M.P. Pringle, Hon. Treasurer of National Women's Council in Scotland sent the 'Gift of Love' contribution from 27 districts and the amount has increased by 100%.

Mrs. Leita Fendall, National Secretary for promoting F.L.C. in New Zealand 1971-73, reported, "The Fellowship continues to grow steadily. There has been an up-surge of interest since Shanti Solomon's visit to our country, especially in and around Auckland where the local Secretary is a very keen promoter of this movement. Every member of the NCC Women's Committee in New Zealand brings it to the notice of women whenever they address women's groups - no matter what they are speaking on !!! The membership has increased. This year's donation sent to Geneva was about 1½ times the amount sent last year".

In Sri Lanka Mrs. Abeynaike, the president of National Ecumenical Committee of women has devoted most of her time to the promotion of the Fellowship.

Projects: Koinonia, Americus, Georgia, U.S.A.

Mrs. Florence Jordan, one of the staff for Koinonia projects writes: "The generous gift from the Fellowship of the Least Coin means such to us both for its usefulness and as the gift of love it represents. I had not heard much about this movement and am intrigued by the idea. Those, who have little, often feel that their little is worthless. They feel that their own need deprived them of the joy of giving. Your idea was certainly a blessed inspiration."

National Farm Worker's Ministry: California, U.S.A.

It was most appreciative to again receive a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. My work is to organize Church women in support of the Farm Workers here in the U.S.A.

Agbayani Retirement Village is a fruit of union contracts and the "Gifts of Love". Agbayani Retirement Village is a monument to Paulo Agbayani. And this summer it will become a home for up to 79 farm workers who are too old to do farm labour.

Of the first workers moving in most will be Filipino men. These men came to the United States in the 1920s and 30s, thinking they could find good employment and opportunity. Many of them came to the state of California, young and single. Here they found laws forbidding them from marrying American women, and laws prohibiting them from becoming citizens and from owning land. After World War II those laws were ruled unconstitutional, but by then many of the men were old.

contd....3/-

Agbayani Village is a reminder to us of the question, "What happens to farm workers when they are too old to support themselves?" After they have spent their lives tending and harvesting the nation's food, don't they deserve a place to live in dignity and with some security? It is pitiful that only 79 can live in the Village. We need hundreds of Villages. But who will build them?

The money for building materials for Agbayani Village came from the first contracts that the United Farm Workers Union made with grape growers. In those contracts was stipulation that for every box of grapes packed the grower would pay 2¢. When those contracts expired in the spring and summer of 1973, the growers decided to switch to the giant Teamsters Union in an effort to defeat Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. There is no more money now to build other Village was donated. The United Farm Workers must regain their contracts if services for and by farm workers are going to be extended across the country.

Pat Hoffman
National Farm Worker
Ministry.

Ecumenical Council of Women, Kerala, India.

Mrs K.K. Geroge, the Secretary of Ecumenical Council of Women in Kerala, India was grateful for a small grant of US \$ 200, which enabled her to bring 70 Christian women, belonging to different denominations, together to discuss the status of women in India and their role in the Church. The meetings were a source of great inspiration, information and Christian fellowship. It has also given a food for thought. They are still seeking ways of more effective witness in society.

The Girls' Brigade Pacific Fellowship:

"You will be delighted to hear that over training programme in Papua New Guinea is progressing very well.

Miss Susana Karava, whose home is in Kerema, Papua has been travelling constantly since March of this year, conducting training classes throughout the Western Districts of New Guinea, including Manus, Madang, throughout the Sepik area, Balimo and Baiyer River. She writes of great interest by the women and girls in Girls' Brigade since it gives them an opportunity of learning skills of use to them in their village life, and stimulates them in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus and promotes a desire to live a more full Christian life. Susanna will be back in Port Moresby in August for training courses there, and all who have participated have expressed their thanks for the fact that she has been enabled to do this.

contd.....4/-

Miss Emily Saerson has continued in her area of the Bougainville districts where she is responsible through the Christian Education Department of the United Church to work and oversee women's work and Girls' Brigade. The same applies to our third Training Officer, Miss Linda Edoni whose area embraces the Papuan Islands.

• • • These three local young women are doing a really fine Christian service for their Lord.

• • • In January we have planned a Fonomarae (or Camp) which is to be held at Kabakada near Rabaul in New Britain and all three training officers will be holding responsible positions in the camp programme. It is hoped that 40-60 girls will be able to attend from all parts of Papua New Guinea, together with 15 from Australia, 10 from New Zealand, 2 from the New Hebrides and 2 from the Solomon Islands. The theme is to be "The Power of the Holy Spirit" and I am sure it will be a most joyous and blessed time.

Mrs. D. Carrick.

Congregation Commitment to Reading: Madras, India.

I am very glad to inform you that there has been welcoming signs of interest and commitment for the above project. The Working Committee of the Synod of the Church of South India's endorsed this project and commended it for implementation to all the Churches of the C.S.I.

Secondly, THE GUARDIAN has highly commended this project.

Thirdly, the Literature Development Board of the National Christian Council has decided to observe one Sunday as Literature Sunday in the Churches of India. The theme for this Literature Sunday has been decided upon as "Congregational Commitment to Reading".

Already there are small small discussion grounds springing up in congregations so that congregations may get committed to reading and discussion.

We have also published various booklets and books which will lend themselves for promoting this project.

I take this opportunity to bid you goodbye and also thank you for the grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. I am sure that this project will bear much fruit and all the Managerial Staff of the CLS have decided to promote this project vigourously.

"Niji-no-Ie" Rainbow Haven.

We wish to thank you very much for your kind gifts of US \$ 2,000:00 from the Fellowship of the Least Coin Funds. Here is a progress report of the Residence Home for Retiring Women Pastors and Christian Workers with a picture of it.

We named it "Niji-no-IE" (Rainbow Haven). The one-story house seen farther end is the Residence Home quarter, and the building this side is the so-called public quarters where there are halls for services and meetings, diningroom, kitchen, bathrooms, some rooms for visitors to stay, etc. The oil painting on the wall of the lobby was painted by one contd.....5/-

of the Federation members, and was named, "The Way to Jerusalem". She is a winner at various national exhibitions.

As soon as the building was completed, many churches and Christian groups began using the public quarters for their summer conferences and retreats. Practically there were no days that the building was not occupied till the middle part of October, (of course, except Sundays and half day on Saturdays). Those who were there were satisfied with the place very much and were most grateful to have such a place for church gatherings. As to the residence Home, it will take a little longer to start functioning. To make it a really homelike place for the residents to live permanently, the Committee have been making their uttermost efforts to fix it nicely; besides, they have to be very careful in selecting the residents-to-be for a comparatively small capacity at this stage. (Ten for the first period with a hope that it may be enlarged some day when more funds shall have been raised.) We hope, however, it will begin functioning early next year. May we have your prayers for the Home - for its growth as God intended and hoped.

Toshiko Hayashi
Executive Secretary
National Federation of
Kyodan Women's Societies
J a p a n.

The Marigot Vocational School - Dominica, West Indies.

We greet you from the island of Dominica on the West Indies, and particularly from Marigot. We are pleased to report that THE MARIGOT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL has been progressing steadily and has been attempting to meet the needs of the young people in this community which it set out to help originally. We continue to offer classes in Typing, Home Economics, Wood Craft, Agriculture.....and more recently, English, Basic Mathematics, and Hand work which includes Crochet, sewing and other related subjects.

We are very grateful to you for your substantial contribution to our school of US \$ 1,500.00. We will use the same to purchase as many Type-writers as that money can purchase. At the moment, our class in typing numbers 22 students and we have only 8 type-writers. So we are very much indebted to you for your generosity, and we continue to pray God's blessings on your work.

Neville D. Brodie.
Dominica, West Indies.

European Seminar and Study Tour.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the 'Fellowship of the Least Coin Grant' for having made it possible for me, a woman of the Third World to attend the European Seminar and Study Tour from 15th September to the 6th October, 1973.

It was indeed a meaningful and fruitful experience for me and I will continue to live my Christian life upon the guidelines God has set down for us and try to follow and teach others from the additional lessons and examples that I have learnt from my seminar in Europe.

Pamala S. Wahab
Georgetown, West Indies.

contd....6/-

Miss Gudrun Diestel, the Chairman of the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer 1970-74, in her letter introducing the theme for this years world Day of Prayer wrote:-

"When in 1970 we asked all of you which issue was most important to you, the over-whelming answer from all corners of the world was "Peace". Meanwhile we write 1973 but looking at the world in which we live, Peace is still our longing, our hope and our task.

Peace is more than having no war. In the Christian understanding it means to get the chance to live a full life and be in one accord with God and people around us. Peace is a process something dynamic. "Peace on the earth" - the message of the angels to the shepherds in the field - this great gift of God starts where old and young, husband and wife in the family can overcome what separates them - where groups from different tribes or nations in village or town break through distrust and discrimination - wherever your prayerful heart includes people affected by the news that comes over the radio."

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Bright New Year.
May the Prince of Peace be our guide and Saviour.

PRAYER: "Lord of space and time,
enable us to see you as the lord of here and now;
assure us of your constant care so that
willingly we give ourselves in caring for others;
enfold us with your eternal love so that
we respond by reaching out in loving kindness of others;
satisfy our longing to see you in those
we encounter so that we may reflect something of
your spirit to others."
Amen".


Shanti Solomon
Executive Secretary, ACWC.

&
Promotional Secretary, FLC
C/o St. Stephen's Home
4, Rajpur Road,
Delhi - 110054,
I n d i a.

ANIL.

A.C.W.C. RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that:

1. Church women should be instrumental in helping all women to become more economically productive by sponsoring classes on cottage industry, back-yard gardening, agriculture etc.
2. Church women should initiate a review of the curriculum and methods of the educational system, so as to make it more relevant to the needs of the time.
3. This A.C.W.C. should call upon Christian women everywhere to shake off their indifference and to take an active interest in the political life of their countries, to exercise their suffrage, to run for office if necessary, in order to influence the processes of decision making. Women should sponsor forums and discussions on political and social issues affecting the community where they are and serve as a medium of dialogue between citizens and government officials.
4. Church women should be instrumental in interpreting what is done and can be done together with people of other faiths in social action programme, and joint participation in study sessions.
5. Church women should be instrumental in helping young people to become aware of what is happening around the world, and to their neighbours, to develop in the young a capacity for discernment.
6. Church women should first of all understand the true meaning of "neighbour", that it exists not for itself, but for the whole world. They need to re-examine the priorities in terms of their responsibilities towards their neighbours. They should be instrumental in helping the church to reconstruct itself to make it more relevant to the whole society.
7. Every delegate should make a detailed report of the conference to her National Council and/or Women's organisation and continue her study of the theme and share it with others.
8. Church women should be instrumental in initiating and promoting adult education, such as literacy.
9. The A.C.W.C. should be an instrument of change, by taking a stand or issuing a statement of policy on basic and controversial issues.
10. A.C.W.C. should seek deeper involvement in the life of Asian Christian Service in Vietnam and Laos by:
 - a. prayer support of the Administration,
 - b. financial support to continue the work and send such support to ICA Secretary, 24 Foxall Street, Elanora Heights, N.S.W. Australia 2101
 3. reading and becoming knowledgeable about Vietnam and Laos.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

COPY OF LETTER FROM MISS BRIGALIA BAM - World Council of Churches, Education and Communication Unit,
RENEWAL and RENEWAL MOVEMENTS.

Dear Friends, I am writing to you today concerning the Women of Bangladesh. After you have read the enclosed description of their plight, please consider whether it might be possible for you to help them and what provision could be made from your budget. This is likely to be a long-term problem, so planning ahead in our budgets will be as important as the much-needed immediate emergency grant. They will indeed be grateful to you.

Apart from my own colleagues in the World Council of Churches who are working on the overall situation, I am in touch with the International Women's Council, and we have all agreed not to set up separate projects in this connection. We have agreed to work through the existing bodies in Bangladesh and the special committees set up there.

We shall be working through the Director of our relief committee, Mr. Amit, who is most concerned about the situation of these women and about the fact that there is not yet enough money allocated to help them. So I have decided to make an appeal to the solidarity of church-women around the world, and hope very much you will be able to respond with your usual great generosity!

This brings all my best wishes to you. Yours sincerely, BRIGALIA BAM.

THE WOMEN OF BANGLADESH

It is now well known that one of the most terrible features of the war in Bangladesh was the rape of some 200,000 women. Some observers even allege that the rape was part of a deliberate policy designed to create a new race to unite East and West Pakistan. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that the effect has been to bring a difficult social problem to the country. The women have been thrust deep into an interior conflict within their country: on the one hand, they are officially described by the Government as heroines, on the other is the fact that, within the culture, they are regarded as "disgraced" by their families as well as by any potential husband. A Malaysian woman who visited Bangladesh in an East Asian Christian Conference programme to help the women said: "It would be hard for a westerner to understand how terrible this is for a Muslim woman. Most have been isolated from men since puberty. Many would never even show their own faces to anyone other than a husband."

In addition to the social stigma, many thousands of children are expected to be born who are not wanted by their mothers and who will be regarded as outcasts in the society. No one knows the full extent of the problem, though there have been reports of widespread abortion, and it is feared that there will also be infanticide if something is not done for the girls, most of whom are aged between 12 and 25. It is clear in this situation that blankets, food and saris are not enough. The need is for imaginative social programmes that restore self-dignity and provide skills and training for the women to take a full part in the society.

At the present time, a wide variety of programmes are in operation, or projected, which cover everything from simple relief to consideration of the part the women can play in the future of Bangladesh. The Sisters of Charity, led by Mother Theresa of Calcutta, have opened a Shishu Bhavan (Children's Home) in Dacca, to handle as many as 100 women in advanced stages of pregnancy and to care for children after birth. There are other homes in Pabna and Rajshahi. But the work has started slowly, as the girls are unwilling to come forward. It looks as if the society has been able to absorb at least some of the girls. The Sisters plan to teach skills to the girls. Courses include sewing, cooking, book-keeping and weaving. Altogether they will care for about 1,000 girls.

A small group of Bangladesh social workers have drawn up a Bangladesh Women's Emancipation Programme, supported by the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Their manifesto begins: "Bangladesh is free, but only one half of our people are free. The other half are not allowed to decide their own course in life, nor are they free or properly prepared to take part in the emancipation of Bangladesh. We owe to our women emancipation, social and cultural, as much as we need their brains, their hands, their hearts in the build-up of our nation".

A first aim of the programme is to help the violated women. Abortion will be provided for those who wish it. (Abortion is itself, however, a difficult religious and social issue in a Muslim society). But emphasis is also placed on the need for basic education and vocational training.

The Bangladesh Ecumenical Relief and Rehabilitation Service has outlined a pilot programme for training 25 girls as nurses or nurse aides. This will be under the direction of Prof. Ayesha Nabi of the School of Social Welfare, Dacca University. The girls will be trained to Bangladesh professional standards and guaranteed employment on completion of the course. But only \$200,000 has been set aside, from the \$13 million programme, for women's projects.

An imaginative scheme has been suggested by a British sociologist, Richard Hauser, which is designed to help the outcasts "attain greater dignity than would normally have been the case, by being given the choice to become members of a group recognized for its social value and having status inferior to none and equal to the best in the country." He foresees the creation of an "order" of women, with no religious connections or vows, who would work as national, community and neighbourhood workers. His plan also envisages the setting up of a number of orphanages where the children could receive loving care.

The need is for full integration in the society by means of education and employment. Training courses are required and opportunities must be given for such things as cottage industries. Social workers are required who can give counselling to the women and also organize courses in child-care and health education. Large sums are needed to ensure that worthwhile programmes aimed at meeting the real needs of the women can be realized.

** ** *