

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I consider what would be my personal feelings regarding this first year as president, I can do nothing less than give thanks to God, who by His Spirit has made me very aware of His love and His power. This awareness has come to me through the fellowship of love found here in the state council (NSW). Your encouragement and support has lifted my spirits over and over again and I simply want to thank God for you all.

Much of this year's council work has been to consolidate and extend the programme ACW provides. Through Fellowship of the Least Coin, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and Asian Church Women's Conference we have opportunities right at our front door that need to be attended to and worked with. Attendances at the special day services where these areas have been given prominence have been a great source of inspiration to many and provided ACW with the opportunities to witness about the success and progress in these areas.

Effort has also been made to further the effectiveness of the work of this council by greater participation of council members. It has been made clear that the work of ACW will only grow and develop if we, who are the representatives of our churches and branches go out 'there' to inform and witness that our work is an effective one. This is one of my main areas of challenge, that as president I should lead us on to a more effective work among the women of our church communities.

We are an 'ecumenical council'. We have an established base to work on. It is my desire to see this message spread more widely.

It has been easy to work with you. This has been facilitated through the work of all executive members who have faithfully attended to their tasks. I specially wish to pay tribute to Edith Ridge (Secretary) whose constant support and guidance has been my right hand. Edith is skilled as a secretary, and her knowledge of ACW cannot be faulted. Her graciousness in helping the 'new girl' has not gone unnoticed and I would like it written that without her the work of this council could not have gone forward in the smooth and excellent manner that it has.

It should also be written that Dorothy Lumb (Treasurer) is an excellent steward of our monies. Dorothy has not had an easy year health-wise, but we praise the Lord that He has lifted her up to be able to continue her work with us.

The highlight for me, was to represent ACW at the Asian Church Women's Conference at Kinaseh, Jakarta, Indonesia. Reports of this conference have been made in Newsette and the national newsletter of ACW. It has been with a great deal of delight that I have had the opportunity to represent you at many denominational meetings. Of special significance was the request to join our Catholic sisters at their state conference at Port Macquarie. This gave me an excellent opportunity to make ACW known.

Visits to special day services gave me the opportunity to affirm that the strength of ACW is in our branches.

1991/92 gives me the opportunity to further build on the base that we have. It is evident that greater interest and enthusiasm is being shown in many areas. I would like to strengthen council further by giving more specific direction to each denominational group (8 reps.). I envisage using each group as a council within the council to specifically work with their own churches, by informing, educating, serving, enthusing, and generally spreading the message of their involvement in ACW and encouraging more of their churches to participate in our activities.

I recommend that you all plan to be present at the national conference of ACW to be held here in Sydney at the Collaroy Conference Centre, September 9-13, 1991. We have the opportunity to use this conference as a stepping stone, and a great tool to assist us in the NSW council to go forward to greater things.

May God bless us all ...

Joan.

In presenting this report of the work of Australian Church Women in New South Wales, I give thanks to God for His guiding and strength and for another year of good health. Praise Him for the team of wonderful women who encourage each other and who make it a delight to work for this Ecumenical organisation.

The year began with the inspiring Dedication Service and Installation of our President. What a joyful occasion that was! And what a vital, energetic, innovative and spiritual President Joan Tong has proved to be. For all her leadership of us and for her friendship we thank her.

The year has been another busy one. We have been privileged to have as visitors to our country and to our Unit, three delightful young women. Doreen Tie from Malaysia was the 1990 Winifred Kiek Scholar. Her studies were here in Sydney and this gave us the opportunity of getting to know her and of assisting the National W.K.S. Convenor in her work with Doreen. Doreen endeared herself to us when she visited our Council meeting and shared her life story and hopes for the future with us. We love to receive her letters since she returned home.

Rachel Mathew represented her church, the Ma Thoma Church of India at the World Council of Churches' 7th. Assembly in February, 1991. As a W.K.S. Fellowship holder, she visited three State Units and N.S.W. was privileged to be one of them. At a special meeting called to enable us to meet Rachel, we enjoyed her company and learned much from her. It was a day of great fellowship for all who attended.

Rachel Sobana, also of India came to Australia only in March. Here she will further her nursing education as the 1991 W.K.S. Scholar. Already she has charmed everyone who has met her. We know she will be another successful Scholar.

Interest in A.C.W. continues to grow. New information kits produced this year will enable groups enquiring about A.C.W. to be informed and hopefully to be inspired to join us. There has been a steady quickening of interest in Fellowship of the Least Coin, which has kept the Convenor very busy.

One of the tasks the Executive most enjoyed during the year, was writing the Fellowship Day service on the theme, 'Praise the Lord With Gladness'. We hope that all our groups will receive the same blessing in using it that we received in writing it.

Our members have many talents which they are always happy to share. Two teams of our Council members worked lovingly to create the beautiful flower arrangements at the Flower Festivals held at the two great cathedrals of Sydney, St. Andrews and St. Marys. We were proud to see our name, Australian Church Women on these two lovely displays.

Highlights of our meetings have been:

- * Sharing the excitement of the National Committee as it plans for the National Conference in September, 1991. President, Marie McCann introduced us to this with her enthusiastic talk in the June meeting. Since then, we have added a Conference Spot to the agenda of Council meetings. The excitement will grow as we move closer to sharing in this Conference.
- * The two meetings when Convenors, Patricia Burke (F.L.C.) and Mina Whybourne (W.K.S.) shared their life stories with us and told about the work of their Convenorships.
- * The visit of Thelma Skiller of the World Council of Churches who talked about the W.C.C. Assembly in its planning stages. One of the things we were encouraged to do was to make 'Patches' for the Assembly. There are people in countries around the world have taken home with them

small mementoes created by some of our A.C.W. Members.
The beautiful devotional 'The Colours of Christmas' brought to us by Marjory Baker.

- * The report given by Marie McCann and Joan Tong on the Asian Church Women's Conference Assembly they attended in Jakarta in 1990. We were pleased to congratulate Joan on her appointment to the Committee of A.C.W.C. and wish her well as she travels to her first meeting later in this year.

The highlight of my year was in representing our State Unit as an Accredited Visitor at the W.C.C. Assembly. This was an experience I will never forget, and I thank A.C.W. for giving me the opportunity.

Three new ventures we have undertaken are :-

- * A.C.W. Pens. This project has proved a great success. The first run sold out very quickly. The pens being produced for sale in July, will celebrate the Fellowship Day service and carry the theme on each pen.
- * A meeting of the Executive with representatives of our affiliated denominations and organisations, gave us many good new ideas for increasing the work of A.C.W. We are implementing them as the year goes on.
- * Associate Members. Every year we say good-bye to old and valued friends and welcome new members. Early in 1991 we decided to invite previous delegates to join A.C.W. as Associate Members. In this way, we hope to retain our friends as they participate in A.C.W. at a new level.

We are grateful to the members who represent us at other organisations, to the members who host the morning teas each month, to the Convenors who faithfully carry out their tasks of Promotion, Publicity, Producing and distributing Newsette, looking after the Membership Lists, caring for the Winifred Kiek Scholar, helping us to be good stewards for Fellowship of the Least Coin. To Deaconess Mary Andrews we say 'thank you' for looking after the trading table during another year. We thank the Uniting Church for the use of its building and the Salvation Army for welcoming us to its lovely new headquarters.

The finances of the Unit are faithfully administered by the Treasurer, Dorothy Lumb. Whatever would we do without the cheerful and capable services of Dorothy? Thank you from us all.

It was with joy that we received the announcement that our member and friend, Miss Phyl. McKinnirey was chosen by her denomination to be the President-Elect. Phyl will become the second Catholic President at her Installation in May, 1992. We welcome her and look forward to working with her during 1991.

For all the blessings of this year we give thanks to God, and for all the days ahead we trust Him.

Edith Ridge. 15.4.91

Hon. Secretary.

SEVEN HILLS- TOONGABBIE BRANCH

The new President of this branch has been welcomed to the State Unit meetings as a delegate from her Branch. Mrs Doris Haberfield reported a good World Community Day, when Rev. Maureen Cripps was the speaker. Good attendance matched the fine offering and the collection for F.L.C. The members of this branch meet for a Christmas luncheon and concert. Gifts for the Smith Family are brought to this function.

.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.

TURRALUNA-WARRIINGA BRANCH.

At the Annual meeting of this branch, affiliated churches bring reports of their activities. Bible studies are growing in the area. Groups for hospital visiting are very active. "Care Groups" have been formed. They organise teams to help with driving people who need this service, also arrange for food to be sent to people in need. One group supported a mother at the birth of her child by sending someone to be there with her. In fact, this happened twice.

This branch like many others, organises the World Day of Prayer service in its area. The Branch President and Secretary change each year, as they are drawn from the host churches for the two services they arrange.

.o.o.o.o.o.o. .o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.

HILLARA- LINDFIELD-ROSEVILLE BRANCH

This branch is increasing in interest and lovely fellowship;-- many representatives sincerely express their thankfulness for the opportunity of sharing with ladies of other denominations -- The churches who offer help, find a great blessing follows after the service. We have immediate response for requests for future services, the churches count it a privilege to be asked to host a service. Nine churches in the area participate.

Mollie Craig, Hon. Sec.

.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.

N.S.W. Ecumenical Council.

In last year's report of the work of the Council, the good news was the foreshadowing of the joining of the Roman Catholics as full members of the N.S.W. Ecumenical Council.

Bishop Bede Heather, of the Parramatta Diocese, told how this could be done; by contacting the Bishop of each A.S.S. Diocese, as the Bishop is autonomous in his own See.

This has now been accomplished as far as the Parramatta Diocese is concerned.

etc as Mrs. Peterson protest.

COMING EVENTS

- June 17 Council meeting. 10 a.m. for morning tea. Meeting, 10.30 5th. Floor, 222 Pitt St. Sydney.
- July Fellowship Day services. Theme: "Praise the Lord With Gladness" Our own N.S.W. service. W.K.S. Collection.
- August 19 Council meeting.
- September 9-13 National Conference meetings. Ask for special brochures.
- September 16 Council meeting.
- October 21,22 Packing Days for World Day of Prayer. Helpers welcome.
- October World Community Day Services. Theme: "Forward Together in Faith" service written by the Tasmanian Unit. F.L.C. DEDication.
- October 28 Spiritual Renewal Day. 10 a.m. Salvation Army Functions Rooms, Floor 4, 140 Elizabeth St.Sydney.
- November 18 Council meets for its Christmas meeting. Branch reports welcome at this meeting. Please invite the President and other officers of your Branch to attend as our guests.
- March 6 World Day of Prayer Services. Theme: "Living Wisely With Creation".

O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Every year we welcome to the Council new delegates. We are pleased to have them join us, as we believe that the strength of our organisation is in its membership and we hope we are always open to new ideas and fresh enthusiasms.

But every year we are also sad to say 'good-bye' to old and valued friends as they retire from our Council.

And this year we decided to do something about it!

We are offering to friends of A.C.W. the opportunity to become Associate Members. This is our attempt to keep in touch with people who have been Council members and can now no longer serve as Delegates. They will of course be welcome to attend all our meetings as non-voting members, whose input to the meeting will be welcomed by the President when requested. \$10 per annum will secure each Associate Member all the year's copies of 'Newsette' and any other mailings that we make to members, including the list of the year's meetings and the Annual Newsletter.

If you would like to become an Associate Member or if you know of some-one you could recommend to us, please let us have the names and addresses as soon as you can.

O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O

Report of the World Council of Churches' Assembly, February, 1991

This was my first experience of a World Conference. How did I ever get to go to such a thing?

A.C.W. sent me, my organisation paid for my registration as an Accredited Visitor, which gave me all the papers for the Assembly and the opportunity to attend Plenary Sessions and other sessions of the Assembly.

It was the experience of a life-time, and for the privilege, I thank A.C.W. from the bottom of my heart.

I was able to share some of the experiences with the Council in March and here for the readers of the Annual Newsletter are my impressions of some of the Highlights.

National President, Marie McCann was there, also National Secretary,