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**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Subscriptions for ACWC News, Offertories for Special Days, Payments or Donations, should be sent to the **TREASURER:**

Mrs Marie Majoor,
521 Mowbray Road,
LANE COVE 2066,
(Tel: 9428.2384).

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups : \$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches : \$15.00 per annum
Organisations eg YWCA,
WCTU, Girls' Brigade : \$15.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st June: \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

NEWSETTE is the official journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women, which is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the **EDITOR:**

Mrs Beryl McLaughlin,
2/15 Morwick Street,
STRATHFIELD 2135,
(Tel: 9744.8609).

Changes of Address or subscriptions should be sent to the **NEWSETTE MANAGER:**

Mrs Nola Dickson,
1/14 Forest Grove,
EPPING 2121.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHEQUES to be made payable to **'AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW UNIT'** and **NOT** to any individual person.



NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT

ACW seeks:

- ... to unite Australian churchwomen in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
- ... to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Mrs Janet Harrison Tel: 9744.8626

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FEBRUARY 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

My Dear Friends,

I have just put away our Christmas Cards and decorations. I don't know whether you are like me - just when I think I've put everything into the storage box and taped it up, I invariably find a bunch of holly or a few cards that I've missed - this year was no different, I had to re-open the box!!!

I do trust you had a meaningful Christmas with family and friends. it is so easy to sink back into the everyday routine without taking with us the wonderful message of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ - Emmanuel - God with us!

As we reflect on God's goodness to us every day - let me share a few verses from Lamentations Chapter 3 verses 21-23 (NIV): "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope; Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail - they are new every

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morning - great is your faithfulness.”

You may recall hymns based on these verses - “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” is one. Singing such hymns as we go around our daily routine encourages us in the Christian faith.

With my love, *Jan Harrison*

NOTE - NEW ADDRESS For PRESIDENT:

Jan and Graham have now moved from Wollongong, following his retirement and their address is 2/8-10 Morwick Street, Strathfield 2135. Their phone number is 9744.8626,

SPECIAL DAYS REPORT:

World Community Day was held in 29 centres in October. The theme was “New Beginnings, Bright Hope” and the Order of Service was prepared by the NSW Unit. The cover design by Lucelle King depicting beautiful butterflies was much appreciated. People appreciated the simplicity and beauty of the Service. A sense of friendliness and fellowship continued at the morning or afternoon teas. The excellent, happy speakers were informative and helpful. With many participants, everything went smoothly. Storytelling and singing were among the highlights. Many choirs and soloists added to the joy. One group was enthralled by the beautiful singing of a Korean choir dressed in their national dress. Some centres were able to have trading tables. A loving, gentle, prayerful spirit pervaded our time together.

The themes for 2001 are: Fellowship Day in July - “*In Jesus Life, Hope and Liberty*” and World Community Day in October - “*Living In Hope*”.

Thanks to all who helped me during the year.

Irene Carder, Special Days Convener.

ADVANCE NOTICE - ANNUAL DEDICATION SERVICE:

Our annual Dedication Service will be held on Monday, 21st May 2001 at 10.30 a.m. at St Thomas’ Anglican Church Enfield. Further details, speaker etc will be included in next Newsette.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

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Our thoughts and prayers continue with our WKS Convener, EDITH RIDGE, and her family, during this time of prolonged and ongoing therapy; may the Lord give her peace and his sustaining strength.

Christmas and New Year greetings have been received from some of our Scholars:

DOREEN TIE, 1990 Scholar from Kuching, Sarawak said that she and her husband Philip and little daughter Heather are well and Heather enjoyed her first year of school. Doreen’s second baby was due at end of January, so we trust has arrived by the time you are reading this.

NIGHAT GULZAR, 1994 Scholar from Pakistan wrote from Philadelphia USA where she and her husband are now working; Nihat very much appreciates the freedom compared to conditions in Pakistan.

RACHEL McMANUS, 1997 Scholar and her husband Adam are rejoicing in the birth of little daughter Ivy May last September and are happy in their ministry in Wauchope NSW.

Contributed by Mina Whybourne, Past WKS Convener.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

As we commence another new year, we wonder just what it will hold for us all - doubtless change, but also great opportunities for service, fellowship and worship together. May we each one pray for wisdom, courage and discernment in the face of so much suffering, despair and fear in our world, and may we, in our own circumstances, contribute towards peace, faith and love in our families, churches and communities.

Advice has just been received that three of the five Australian applications for grants have been successful - two submitted from NSW and one from South Australia. These are as follows:-

- ...\$4000 US for a “Parents’ Support Group” at Woolloomooloo, Sydney to be run by Baptist Inner City Ministries;
 - ...\$2500 US to Women’s Fellowship/Girls’ Brigade of Western Province of the Solomon Islands to provide a jointly-owned, motor-powered Canoe to assist in transportation and communication with outer and remote islands;
 - ...\$2500 US for “Facilitating Faith-Community (Parish) Nursing” in Western Australia - to introduce the concept of faith community nursing to Christian nurses through ecumenical seminars.
- Esther Byu (FLC International Secretary) has advised that it is not

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Esther Byu (FLC International Secretary) has advised that it is not possible to allocate more than three grants from any one country.

There are now new guidelines for grant applications available and I will be happy to send a copy to anyone requesting same. (Phone 9872.1719).

May I remind you that the new Circle of Prayer is available at a cost of \$2 per copy or \$3 posted.

A thought for the New Year: "God with us, going with us into the future He has in mind for us."

Shirley Wells, FLC Convener

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SERVICE:

The final ACW activity for the year 2000, on November 5th, the annual ACWC Service, was, as advertised, truly a "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" at Belmore Salvation Army.

Praise sung by all present, each in his or her own language - prayers and scripture readings in Chinese, Korean and English - a feast of lovely music from the Salvation Army Band, the Korean WCTU Singing Group and the beautiful harmony of the "All Nations Choir" from Bankstown Church of Christ, made up of young and older people from a number of ethnic backgrounds, and a flute and violin item by the young daughter and son of the Belmore Korean Salvation Army Corps officers.

A time of fellowship and 'getting to know you' over afternoon tea completed a very happy, friendly and worthwhile occasion, as we shared in this celebration of our unity in Christ with believers from the 17 countries with which ACW is affiliated as a member of ACWC.

Reported by Beryl McLaughlin, Newsette Editor.

MODERN SLAVERY:

A sobering article from ACWC Newsletter.

One form of modern slavery is the condition of workers. Globalisation, supposed to benefit workers, has given rise to the so-called flexibilisation or contractualisation of labor. Workers who have suffered terrible working conditions have now lost even their job security. They are hired only for 3 months and are then fired or rehired for another 3 months. These contractual workers have no benefits and union organising is

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subcontracting practices, and worse still the condition of child workers who are not only deprived of healthy growth and development but are terribly exploited and often suffer physical harm in work places.

The freeing of slaves prescribed in the Bible during Jubilee Year is something women would wish for their enslaved sisters, who are commodified in various ways in our modern society. The Philippines is still a favourite destination of male tourists from all over the world. Suffering from dehumanising poverty, women are forced to sell their bodies in order to survive. They are truly slaves in the hands of their pimps or bar owners. They get the smallest percentage of the money paid by their clients. They suffer violence, not only from their pimps but also from sadistic clients. They are inevitably infected at one time or another with sexually transmitted disease; some die of AIDS or self-induced abortions.

Still more pathetic are the prostituted children, aged 7-14, who are systematically corrupted. Usually they are unable to do what their customers want and they are introduced to drugs. The longer they are in the trade, the more addicted they are, and resort to drug-pushing; arrested and put in gaol, they launch into lives of criminality.

Another form of commodification is mail-order brides. Capitalising on the myth that Asian women are meek, obedient and subservient, marriages are arranged for first-world men with Asian women. Women, wishing to escape poverty, think that marrying a foreigner will afford them a new lease in life. There are some success stories, but the greater percentage of mail-order brides are trapped into marriages full of conflict and trauma. Now the Internet is being used to facilitate the mail-order bride business.

Many of these women, not knowing the language, alien to the culture, become recluses in their homes. When the marriage turns sour, escalating into violence, they are helpless. Going home would mean never seeing their children again. Many cases have been documented of Filipino wives killed by their husbands in Australia. A Swiss newspaper relates the fate of Filipino women marrying Swiss men - prisoners in their homes, their husbands do not teach them the language - many cases of maltreatment and prostitution - women going insane or attempting to commit suicide.

Another form of women trafficking is contract work, mostly domestic service in the capitals of the world. Women high school or even college graduates work as domestics abroad to help their families. They too are exploited and often maltreated, many are raped by employers. Women

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exported to Japan as entertainers suffer worse fates.

The Women's Movement is a great sign of hope in resisting the effects of globalisation. There are militant actions against trafficking of women and abuses of child labor. There are service groups like Crisis Centres, Women's Legal Bureau, Migrant Women's Centre etc. that give service to the victims of violence and to returnees needing re-entry help. But actually at the root of all forms of exploitation and oppression of women, is patriarchy - patriarchal values and structures. There is a great need to awaken the consciences of men and women and the churches about this fundamental reality.

From ACWC Newsletter, September 2000.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN:

In 1896 when the Council was formed, eleven women's organisations joined, such as Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Womanhood Suffrage League, Sydney University Women's Association and Women's Literary Society. Today there are some 80 affiliated organisations and NCW is affiliated with the International Council of Women which includes the women of many countries. ICW is represented at the United Nations and their voice is heard.

In Australia, the first issues tackled in 1986 were *Women's Suffrage* and *Equal Pay for Women*. Soon after Federation, Australian women gained the vote - long before those in England, where the suffragettes' persecution was fierce for almost 20 years. Equal Pay has been, and still is, a continuing struggle. The inclusion of *Domestic Arts* in the school curriculum, and gaining *Libraries* and *Kindergartens* for the young were advocated and won.

In 1902 NCW supported the *State Childrens' Bill* and in 1904 the *Protection of Young Girls Bill*, the *Infants Protection Bill* and the *Criminal Law Amendment Bill*. In 1909 they established the *Alice Rawson School for Mothers* in Darlinghurst and in 1910 proposed setting up *children's playgrounds* in inner Sydney.

During the 1914-18 War, a *Women's War Census* was undertaken by NCW to co-ordinate women's war work and they pressed for equal pay for women working in men's jobs. In 1916, with 39 women's groups now affiliated, representatives were appointed by the Government to the *Film Censorship Board* and to the *Soldiers' Repatriation Committee*.

In 1918, after 20 years of agitation, the first woman *Inspector of Schools*

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was appointed. In 1920, NCW pressed for women *Justices of Peace* and *Women as Jurors*. In 1922 NCW was instrumental in founding a *Chair of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* at the University of Sydney. In 1928 action was taken to ensure a woman should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality. In 1929, the foundation of the *Board of Social Study & Training* was a NCW initiative which later became the Faculty of Social Studies at University of Sydney.

Other involvements include setting up of *Meals on Wheels*, *Housekeeper Emergency Services*, *Sexual Offences Legislation* and many other issues, all aimed at improving the lot of women and their families. Our society would be much poorer without the advocacy and support of NCW, whose motto was and still is "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you" - powerful words of Christ. Through all these activities, Church Women's Associations have been staunch supporters and often leaders of the action.

From PWA SPAN Article by Marion Smith, NCW Vice President.

NSW COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S FILMS & TELEVISION:

ACW Representatives on this Council, which is affiliated with Young Media Australia, are Lily Hanlon and Helen Hill. The year 2000 brought encouraging progress. A new name and logo has been adopted, to better reflect our aims and objectives in today's world - this is "*Monitoring Media for Youth*" (MMY).

In first term 2001, a pilot project will be carried out in one of our public schools, where Years 5 and 6 classes will complete a Questionnaire on what they watch and their opinions and suggestions regarding the media. This project includes a contest with a book-token prize for the winner and also one for the school library. If the outcome is positive, we hope the project may be extended to other schools.

From Dorothy Kenning, President/Beryl McLaughlin, Secretary, CFTV.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION:

As part of WCTU's 118th Annual Convention, a LUNCHEON will be held at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney on Monday, 26th March 2001, with the theme of "CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF FEDERATION IN AUSTRALIA" - Speaker will be *Rev Dr Gordon Moyes* and *Elaine Nile MLC* will be the Parliamentary Hostess. Cost \$33.

Details from Beryl McLaughlin, WCTU State Secretary

OLYMPICS FEVER at SILVERWATER PRISON:

During the Sydney Olympics, the hijacking of a Korean Olympic vehicle by two prisoners escaping from Silverwater Correctional Facility trained the world's media focus on the athletes' closest neighbours - the Silverwater prison complex is literally across the road from the Olympic Athletes' Village.

At the precise moment the prisoners were escaping, a USA Team Chaplain, *Madeleine Mims*, was visiting Silverwater's Women's Prison, Mulawa, after discovering this was the Village's near neighbour. Madeleine was immediately interested; being highly committed to prison ministry in America, she had been keen to visit a gaol while in Australia, and this seemed like the obvious opportunity.

Contact was made with Mulawa gaol through Anglicare's prison chaplains Christine Gyllies and Marie Percival. This led to some hurried arrangements by the chaplains and the gaol governor was able to invite Madeleine to give a motivational speech and a one hour concert to the prisoners. Madeleine had been a competitor at four Olympics as a track athlete, winning gold in the 800 metres and silver in the 4x400m relay. A resident in Tulsa, Oklahoma, she spends much time touring the world as a Christian speaker and well-known gospel recording artist.

Over 50 prisoners attended the concert. Madeleine sang a number of gospel tracks including "How Great Thou Art" and "God's Woman." In her motivational speech, Madeleine explained how God has helped her overcome adversity to win a gold medal. Born with spinal meningitis, doctors expected her to die or be mentally retarded. "My mother prayed to God, "If you give my baby back to me I'll raise her for you" she said. She had been a slow learner at school and had struggled academically, but now, with university degrees, including a Masters in Divinity, she told the prisoners that thinking you are stupid is 'no excuse' for not achieving. A shy child, she would never have believed that she would be speaking and performing around the world. "If you are a shy person you better watch out, because you are the sort of person God wants to use," she said. The prisoners were visibly moved by her talk, some left in tears. Afterwards many mobbed her for an autograph. Madeleine then visited some prisoners isolated from the rest and gave impromptu performances to those women unable to attend the main concert. Her beautiful rich voice echoed round the buildings and received rapturous applause. As she left, some prisoners gave her a good-humoured chant of "Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi" to take back to team USA.

From Prison Fellowship NSW News

NUNGALINYA COLLEGE. DARWIN:

Sending Christmas Greetings, College Principal, *Rev Wali Fejo* said "Our students have all completed their studies for the year and are heading back to their communities. We celebrated their graduation with a joyful cross-cultural ceremony on 14th December. Over the years I have noticed tears of joy at our graduations. At graduations at other colleges - are there tears? They don't seem to mean so much. When we see tears shed at our graduations they touch the depths of our hearts. The students have battled through so much to finish their courses, and there is such a sense of pride and achievement - our graduations are a time of real rejoicing and celebration."

Alice Springs Beanie Festival:

Who would have thought that the germ of an idea from some students would turn into a major community event, enjoyed by both Aboriginal and non-indigenous people alike?

The Festival grew out of the desire of Aboriginal women to pass on beanie-making skills to the next generation. It gave an opportunity for them to display their distinctive and colourful work. Now it is a major four-day event, with music and craft demonstrations, and has been officially recognised as a wonderful contribution to the Reconciliation process.

The crafts that are made on the remote area communities provide many of the women with a means of contributing to their search for economic independence. What began as a minor interest has turned into a major cottage industry that can flourish without electricity or mechanised equipment.

The most recent Beanie Festival in November was attended by 5000 people over the four days. The "Desert Spinners", a group of western desert women, gave a wonderful demonstration of traditional indigenous spinning methods, and more than 100 artists displayed their work. One satisfying aspect, and an indication of its success, was that over \$13,000 was raised for the artists.

If you are planning a winter holiday, the first weekend in July is a good time to be in Alice Springs, and if you have any old wool cluttering up your cupboards, send it to Nungalingya, and it will be put to good use.

From Nungalingya News.

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SOME BIBLE SOCIETY UPDATES:

The DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, situated in the middle of Africa has endured many years of war and political and monetary crises.

In the *Southern Ubangi* region, years of efforts to evangelise the Mungo people are beginning to bear fruit. Hundreds of people are coming to Christ and the churches are being inundated with requests for Scriptures;

In the *Kinshasa* area, the distribution of a few copies of the Lingal New Testament to soldiers at a garrison highlighted the thirst of many for the Word of God. These people are regularly involved in skirmishes that can result in injury or death, so there is a real sense of urgency to give them the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel;

The *Equator Province*, during the rebel war, was badly affected by violent conflict; towns suffered terrible destruction and people lost most of their possessions, for many this included their Bibles. The churches of the area have asked the Bible Society to provide 7000 Bibles and 1200 New Testaments to meet this urgent need.

Maniema and other rural areas like it are far from the nearest commercial distribution point. The people are paralysed by extreme poverty - even to obtain salt, sugar, soap, clothes or other basic items, they have to journey hundreds of kilometres. The bus fare is beyond their means - they walk or may be able to hitch a ride from a passing lorry.

One day, a villager was riding on a lorry with other impromptu passengers when the lorry broke down. Taking advantage of the delay, a man from Kinshasa read the Bible and preached to the other passengers. God spoke to the heart of at least one passenger and he gave his heart to Christ. Back in his own village, this man shared the good news he had heard with his fellow villagers. He told the story to everyone he met and shared with them the one verse he could remember. Many villagers also became Christians.

Some time later a mission was organised for the region. Imagine the surprise of the mission group when they found a thriving church in one village - a village they had been told had never been reached with the gospel! There was great rejoicing amongst the villagers as they were given Bibles. The man who first brought the gospel home to his village is now their pastor.

From Bible-A-Month Partners Newsletter.

ANOTHER SNIPPET from THE CONGO:

Despite the difficulties as war continues to devastate The Congo, in the Diocese of Kindu nearly 3000 women in various Mothers' Union groups met to hear teaching on the peace that comes from God that lasts forever.

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One such group reported: "We met at a village on the river. Some came by canoe but most walked the 20 kilometres through the forest. 542 women attended and 385 took communion." MU members from several parishes were unable to attend because of the presence of armed bandits in their areas.
From CMS 'TODAY'

OIL AND COCONUTS.

This story began in 1992 when a village soap-maker in Mozambique appealed to a visiting consultancy team to come up with a method of producing oil directly from his community's coconuts. If such a technology existed or could be developed, it had the potential to radically transform the lives of poverty-stricken coconut farmers around the world.

Later in that year, Dan, an agricultural economist at the Australian National University and leader of the team that had visited Mozambique, learned of a cold-press method of extracting oil from sun-dried coconut, a local technology developed by the people of Tuvalu, a remote south Pacific Island, which had been killed by the copra trade and cheap imported vegetable oils. Recognising its economic potential, Dan worked in collaboration with the CSIRO and colleagues to develop the fine-weather village technique into an all-weather cottage-industry technology. The quality of the oil was stunning.

Dan set up Kokonut Pacific Pty Ltd to further refine the technology and take it back to the islands. Today the Direct Micro Expelling (DME) system developed by Dan and his colleagues can produce pure virgin oil at the farm household level within 1½ hours of opening the coconuts. In 1997 the company began to sell DME equipment, training and consultancy services, and DME units are currently operating in South Pacific and Caribbean countries and the technology is helping to protect fragile environments by enhancing the incomes and living standards of people from their most sustainable local resource. Villagers are now producing this remarkably pure natural oil in commercial quantities, and uses for it include cooking, soap, massage oil and cosmetics, and even as a direct substitute for diesel.
From T.E.A.R. Magazine 'Target'

CAMBODIA - CARING FOR CHILDREN:

Missionaries began a drop-in centre for children in Phnom Penh. On the opening morning, just one child arrived, explaining that the other kids didn't come because they didn't have clean clothes. The missionaries said "That's not a problem!" So the boy skipped out and he was back in no time with another 6 children. They now see some 30 children every day. Many of them collect and sell rubbish as their families' income and have had little schooling. They love the games, stories, songs and reading and maths classes.
From CMS 'TODAY'