

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH
WOMEN

**WORLD
COMMUNITY
DAY**

October, 1978



**"THE THIRD WORLD
AMONG US"**



WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

Gives us opportunity for two offerings:-

SPECIAL PROJECT OFFERING - This year our offering will go to the Narmada Education Academy in Satara, which is in the mountains 185 miles from Bombay, India.

Kalpana Airan, our Winifred Kiek Scholar in 1973, studied at Sydney University and completed the three basic levels of the Special Parent Education Certificate.

Kalpana returned to the Narmada Education Academy and set up a "Family Education Centre" project. She began with eight mothers and their children from the "untouchable" people.

The Narmada Education Academy is attracting a great deal of attention in many parts of the world and its development is being watched with interest. A Social Worker is needed who will go out into the villages and encourage women and children to come into the project, develop their own initiatives and so be able to commence a project in their area.

More teachers are needed as well as buildings and books. Many lives will be improved and enriched by this project.

LEAST COIN OFFERING - We bring for dedication the least coins which we have prayerfully put aside each month during the year, sharing in this with women around the world.

* * *

THE THIRD WORLD AMONG US

CALL TO WORSHIP: O loving Lord, be near us in this time of worship
Open our ears to hear your voice
Open our eyes to behold your glory,
Open our hearts to receive your grace,
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

HYMN

RESPONSIVE

Leader: When we look at our theme "The Third World Among Us" do we ask ourselves: Who comprises the Third World? Do we know? Do we care?

Yes, the world with all its deep needs is right here among us. The oppressed, the depressed, the deprived, the hungry, the forsaken, those suffering and struggling against injustice, those with lost hopes. We must seek the fullness of life for every human being. Our constant prayer must be for hope, joy and peace, through the love of Jesus Christ.

Lord, all people are equal in your sight, may we help to bring equality to all people in the world.

All: *Lord remind us that the world belongs to God, and that he loves all people with universal regard.*

Leader: Lord, help us to bring justice for all people, for those who have nothing, those who have no power and no voice, for those oppressed and depressed, the sick and hungry, the imprisoned, and those in war-torn countries.

All: *Lord, remind us that Jesus Christ pleads for us, not anxiously or desperately, but as the victorious Son of the Father.*

Leader: Lord, help us to accept responsibility by our thoughts and actions for what is happening in the world today.

All: *Lord, give strength of character, love of truth to all who direct the way people think and work for responsible government in all places.*

Leader: Lord, help us to share our wealth, wealth of possessions and wealth of ideas, that the developing nations may gain fulfilment. These nations have a rich heritage of culture and traditions that we too might share.

All: *Lord, teach us to give freely of our time, and money, and energy with love, even as Jesus taught us to love.*

Leader: Lord, keep us from pride and prejudice, dishonesty and deceit, from malice and hatred, from evil speaking.

All: *Lord, we are all guilty of forgetting that you have made us in your image, and that only in seeking your forgiveness may we truly be your children.*

Leader: Lord, may it please you to have compassion on all those who are denied the basic things of life, especially in the countries of the Third World, emerging into new freedoms.

All: *Lord, remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us, our leader, our guide, the constant sharpener of minds and compassion.*

We ask these things in the name of Him who loved us, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together:

*Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,*

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.*

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever.

AMEN.

HYMN

READING: Matthew 25: verses 34 - 40 Good News Bible.

'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.'

The righteous will then answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!'

PRAYER.

All: O God, our heavenly Father, who sent your only Son to redeem the world. Give to the people at this time a new awareness of the Third World among us. The greed and selfishness of mankind has broken and divided the world, brother fights against brother. Hunger, oppression and injustice are part of so many daily lives. Forgive us our negligence in meeting the needs and hopes of all people in their demands for freedom, dignity and justice. Lord, help us to dedicate ourselves to you, that your love may be brought into many more lives. In faith we ask this in your name. AMEN.

READING: (From Michel Quoist: Prayers of Life Pages 91,92 Logos Books)

Lord, why did you tell me to love all men, my brothers?
I have tried, but I come back to you, frightened . . .
Lord, I was so peaceful at home, I was so comfortably
settled . . . I was alone, I was at peace . . .
But, Lord you have discovered a breach in my defences.
You have forced me to open my door . . .
I left my door ajar. Now, Lord, I am lost!
Outside men were lying in wait for me.

I did not know they were so near; in this house, in this street, in this office; my neighbour, my colleague, my friend. As soon as I started to open the door I saw them, with outstretched hands, burning eyes, longing hearts, like beggars on church steps.

The first came in, Lord. There was after all some space in my heart.

I welcomed them, I would have cared for them . . . my little flock . . . There were more of them, they were wretched, they overpowered me without warning.

We had to crowd in, I had to find room for them. Now they have come from all over, in successive waves, pushing one another, jostling one another. . . They have come from all over town, from all parts of the country, of the world; numberless, inexhaustible . . . They come bending under heavy loads; loads of injustice, of resentment and hate, of suffering and sin . . . They drag the world behind them, with everything rusted, twisted, or badly adjusted . . .

Lord, my door is wide open . . . There's no more room for me at home.

Don't worry, God says, you have gained all.
While men came in to you,
I, your Father, I your God, slipped in among them.

SOLO OR CHOIR ITEM

ADDRESS

HYMN During the singing of the hymn, collection will be made for World Community Day Project (see inside front cover)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father, this is thy world and I pray Thee to keep alive in my soul a deep sense of kinship with Thy children everywhere. Grant that no feeling of contempt may affect my attitude toward any of Thy children, regardless of race, colour, or class. Help me to view all men as Thou dost

view them. Enable me through my personal contacts to freshen their hopes and strengthen their joy in Christian living.

(Grover C. Emmons)

All: *Hear my prayer, O God.*

Leader: We thank Thee, O God our Father, for the blessed hope of a better world. May all Thy creatures, whom Thou hast created in Thine own image, and who are striving for bread, for justice, for freedom, and for human brotherhood, find Thee in their hearts and be ruled by Thy will.

(Lillian McNeer)

All: *Hear my prayer, O God.*

(Everybody's Prayers - United Society for Christian Literature)

Leader: Lord, cleanse us afresh by your Holy Spirit indwelling our hearts, that we might claim your blessing on these our gifts, and wisdom for their use in your service.

We ask Thee to bless the work of all agencies who are working to further Thy kingdom. Look in mercy, we pray thee loving Father, on the many millions who are hungry and therefore at the mercy of disease. We remember especially the men, women and children of the Third World, whose only home has been the refugee camp. May such help and love be given them, that being so deprived can be borne more easily.

Let us remember the depressed, those whose minds and outlook have been affected by false ideologies and false loyalties. Finally, let us remember those who are victims of hate, injustice and cruelty.

All: *O God, whose ear is open to the prayers of Thy children, be pleased to accept these our petitions in the name of Him who laid down His life, that men may have life and have it more abundantly.*

F.L.C. COLLECTION: During music provided by the organist, Fellowship of Least Coin collection will be received. The congregation and those bringing forward the offering will stand and say together the dedication prayer.

All: As on the days and weeks in which we have set aside these gifts and offered our prayers for peace and reconciliation, we again, with these our gifts for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, bring our prayer that they may be used in the Lord's service and bring hope, joy and peace to those that receive and those that give. In the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

HYMN

BENEDICTION:

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit rest upon us, and upon all our work and worship done in His name. May He give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us now and for evermore.

Amen.

*

SUGGESTED HYMNS

THY KINGDOM COME, O GOD

(No.321 Book of Common Praise, St. Cecilia 66.66
No. 152 The Psalms - Church Hymnary)

ALL THE EARTH PROCLAIM THE LORD

(No.100 The Australian Hymn Book)

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

(No.576 Book of Common Praise : Mozart 77.77)

WHERE CROSS THE CROWDED WAYS OF LIFE

(No.654 Book of Common Praise 66.66 Fulda or Remington)

PREPARED BY CANBERRA CHURCH WOMEN
