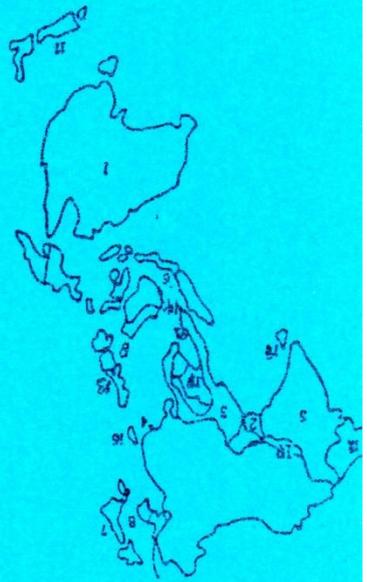


17. Thailand
16. Taiwan
15. Sri Lanka
14. Singapore
13. Philippines
12. Pakistan
11. New Zealand
10. Nepal
9. Malaysia
8. Korea
7. Japan
6. Indonesia
5. India
4. Hong Kong
3. Myanmar (Burma)
2. Bangladesh
1. Australia



(Listed in Alphabetical Order)
 THE COUNTRIES OF THE ACWC FAMILY

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HOW A C W C BEGAN:

Asian Church Women's Conference began in 1958 when women from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America were invited to attend the Presbyterian Church Women's Assembly in the United States of America.

The women from Asia felt a need to share their experiences, and a longing for one another's encouragement and assistance in leadership development, and opportunities to come together in ecumenical fellowship.

Their first Assembly was in Hong Kong in 1958, and thus the Asian Church Women's Conference was inaugurated.

THE A C W C EMBLEM:

The Emblem was designed in 1978 by women from Hong Kong. The hands uplifted in prayer and offering to God indicate the efforts of Asian Church Women for programs of development throughout Asia.



The cross is the central point which binds the Asian women together.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -
 'PARTNERS' WITH

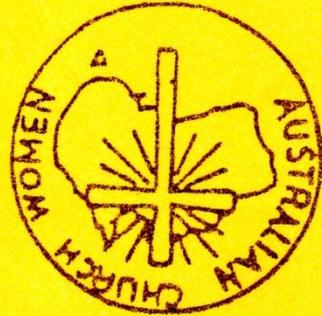
ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (ACW), together with other member countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC), has a financial commitment to assist with the administration and implementing of ACWC programs. Nationally, we are committed to a target of \$5000 each year of which \$500 is met by the New South Wales State Unit. To share in meeting this commitment, you are invited to become an ACWC "PARTNER."

The partnership fee is \$1.00 each year, which we invite you to pay through your Branch Treasurer, who will forward total partnership monies from your Branch, or you can send you fee direct to:

ACW State Treasurer: Mrs. D. Lumb,
 69 Myall Street.
 Concord West 2138.

DO YOU
KNOW
?



INTERDENOMINATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.....N.S.W.ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

LINKING WITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

N.S.W., CHILDREN'S FILM AND TELEVISION COUNCIL

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN N.S.W.

SPECIAL DAYS

FOR INSPIRATION, WORSHIP, PRAYER

ANNUAL DAY OF DEDICATION..MAY

FELLOWSHIP DAY..JULY

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAYS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

PROJECTS

TO ASSIST OTHERS

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

PARTNERS..ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S

CONFERENCE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

IS

ECUMENICAL

MEMBER BODIES

ANGLICAN..BAPTIST..CHURCHES OF CHRIST..PRESBYTERIAN..ROMAN CATHOLIC

SALVATION ARMY..UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX..UNITING CHURCHES

GIRLS' BRIGADE..WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mrs. Peg. Blake,
22 Parkview Street,
MIRANDA, N.S.W., 2228.

PROMOTIONS CONVENER

Mrs. Edith Ridge,
54 New Line Road,
WEST PENNANT HILLS, N.S.W., 2125.

SECRETARY

Council Meeting); each second year this Service includes the Installation of new State President for the ensuing two years and commissioning of new State Executive.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAYS

An extension of NSW Unit activities has been an annual 'Spiritual Enrichment Day' - another occasion when ACW members and friends may come together for learning and fellowship, and just to enjoy a special time together. These have been so well-received and of such benefit to those who came that it is planned to extend the morning program to a full day 'retreat' in the future, and also to arrange similar days in different areas.

ACW NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Every second year in September the responsibility for ACW at a national level rotates from State to State. The State or Territory where the National President and Executive have been based for two years arranges a five day residential Conference, with delegates from all the States/Territories attending. The program always includes excellent speakers and study leaders, business sessions to set the on-going policies and activities of ACW, and also plenty of fun and fellowship. The Conference culminates with the handing on of the national responsibilities to the new National President and Executive from the next State in rotation.

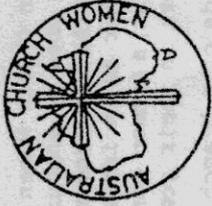
NSW STATE OFFICERS - 1992-94

PRESIDENT: Miss Phyl McKinnirey Tel: 630.3536
8 Fletcher Street Northmead 2152

SECRETARY: Mrs. Edith Ridge Tel: 875.1200
54 New Line Rd W. Pennant Hills 2125

TREASURER: Mrs. Dorothy Lumb Tel: 743.3360
69 Myall Street Concord West 2138

PROMOTIONS CONVENER: Mrs. Peg Blake Tel: 524.9397
22 Parkview Street Miranda 2228



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN New South Wales Unit

GUIDELINES

FOR

COMMENCING AN

ACW LOCAL BRANCH



INTRODUCTION

A branch of Australian Church Women offers much benefit to the churches of an area by encouraging women to take a more active part in the life and mission of the whole Church. Coming together as an inter-church group helps to develop mutual trust, a common concern and participation in the Lord's work in their community.

The structure and needs of a branch will vary, as areas will have different resources and opportunities, and as those involved will bring a diversity of abilities and talents, so contributing in different ways to the work. Some districts will already have co-operation between the churches, e.g. visiting hospitals, nursing homes, care of the elderly, Prayer On Wheels, and sharing in worship in the World Day Of Prayer and at other times.

ACW 'SPECIAL DAYS'

ACW seeks to encourage church women to join together for worship and learning through its Special Days. The ACW National Executive chooses the Themes for these and the Services are written by State Units in turn.

Two Special Days are arranged each year:

1. FELLOWSHIP DAY in July, when offertories support the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and leaflets with information and photo of that year's W.K. Scholar are distributed.
2. WORLD COMMUNITY DAY in October, from which half the offertory goes to ACWC (Asian Church Women's Conference) with which ACW is affiliated, and half to ACW 'Special Project' for that year (decided by National Executive). Collections for FLC (Fellowship Of The Least Coin) are also received that day and FLC Leaflets distributed.

If an ACW Branch does nothing else but arrange the two annual Special Days, it is fulfilling the primary object of ACW, which is "to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

NOTE: When publicising Special Days Services it is good to mention that they are not just a "women's gathering" but that menfolk are welcome.

ESTABLISHING A BRANCH

To commence a Branch an interested person could invite representatives from two or more local churches to meet together and discuss the aims and purpose of ACW, with a State Executive member attending to assist if desired.

Branches consist of representatives from local churches, who pay a small annual affiliation fee, which provides the branch funds. Meetings are held at suitable times during the year, to prepare for the local Special Days Services and in some areas observance of the World Day of Prayer. Some branches become involved in various community activities or fund-raising.

A Branch will develop its own 'constitution' or format, such as term of office for President, Secretary etc. It is customary for these offices to rotate between the denominations and for Special Days Services to be held in as many local churches as possible.

RELATIONSHIP WITH STATE UNIT

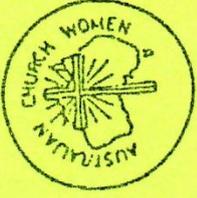
NSW State Council is not involved in the organisation of branches, leaving local arrangements to be worked out to suit the local circumstances. However, its officers are more than willing to assist in the initial stages, or at any time, if required, or to supply helpful material. There is a panel of Speakers available, some of whom are able to travel to country areas for Special Days.

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE COUNCIL

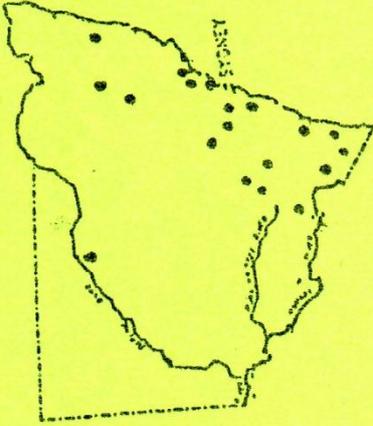
Any member of a branch is welcome to attend meetings of State Council, but the Branch is encouraged to appoint an 'official' Representative, who is entitled to vote. It is of great benefit to have such a representative, to bring State and National news, plans and projects to her Branch. Council Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month, except in July and October when Special Days are being held around the State.

ANNUAL DEDICATION SERVICE

All branch members and friends are invited to attend an Annual Dedication Service each May (held instead of the



Have you
heard
of our
Spiritual
Enrichment
Days



NSW COUNTRY BRANCHES SHOWN

COUNTRY BRANCHES: Armidale, Bateman's Bay, Bathurst, Bellinger River, Bourke, Cobargo, Cooma, Cootamundra, Dalton, Holbrook, Lampton, Mayfield/Newcastle, Narooma, Nepean, Tamworth, Terrigal, Upper Blue Mountains, Woonona, Yass, Young.

SYDNEY BRANCHES: Abbotsford, Bass Hill, Burwood/Concord, Castle Hill, Chatswood/Willoughby, City, Dee Why, Epping, Gladesville/Hunters Hill, Killara/Lindfield/Roseville, Lakenba, Lane Cove/Longueville, Mosman/Neutral Bay, North Ryde, Parramatta, St George/Hurstville, Seven Hills/Toongabbie Strathfield/Homebush, Sutherland, Turramurra/Wahroonga, Woollahra.

ARE YOU THERE

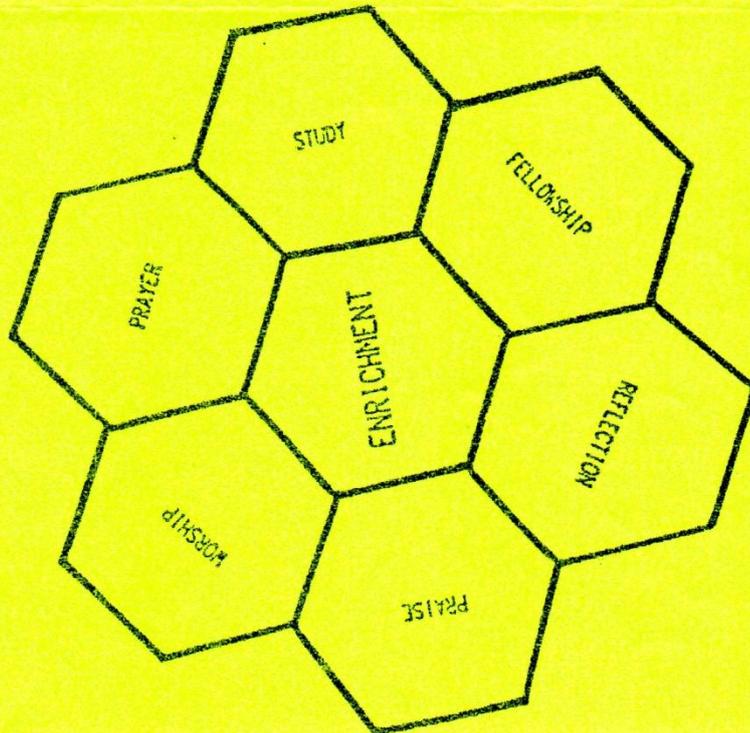


Contact Promotions Convener, Peg
Blake, if you would like more information,
at

22 Parkview Street
MIRANDA NSW 2228
02 524 9397

PLANS ARE IN HAND to hold SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY in the following areas in 1993:

- Woy Woy ... March
- Liverpool ... April
- Sydney ... July
- Hornsby ... August
- Griffith ... November



WON'T YOU JOIN US

at a venue near to you, as we leave our problems and cares behind and come, united, into the presence of God, sharing His Word in Bible Study sharing prayertime, enjoying quiet time of reflection and also sharing a meal in a time of happy fellowship

This all adds up to SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT and a strengthening of individual faith.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAYS (regularly held in the city) are being launched in the Sydney suburbs and in the country, in areas where a branch of Australian Church Women has not yet been established. We are sure that SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY will eventually be enjoyed state-wide, thus bringing opportunities for hours of happy fellowship, teaching and quiet reflection together for all women.



"We, being many, are one in the Lord"

LET US EVERY DAY

GIVE THANKS for our friends and neighbours

- .. next door
- .. in the community
- .. throughout Australia
- .. overseas



PRAY for

- .. peace
- .. improved relationships
- .. greater understanding among ALL people who live in Australia

CELEBRATE with those who belong together because of what God has done for each of us .. through

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March

ACW SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY

July

ACW FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE

July

ACW WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE

October

LOCAL BRANCHES

All the endeavours of Australian Church Women find their real meaning in the 'grass roots' involvement of members of local branches or fellowships. Such groups can be of inestimable value to all local Churches as they encourage women to come together in common concern for and participation in God's work in their area.

Each branch is asked to ...

1. Pay an annual affiliation fee of \$2.00
2. Appoint a Secretary who will receive our Newsletters, Orders of Service etc.
3. Appoint a representative to attend State Unit Council meetings, thus acting as a direct link.

Country branches may appoint a city member, as a proxy, to represent them.

We suggest, also, that branch members seek to discover a common task at community level. Branches are encouraged to observe the Women's World Day of Prayer (first Friday in March). In some areas local A.C.W. Branches are responsible for arranging services on this day.

The N.S.W. State Unit of Australian Church Women welcomes invitations to address groups seeking information about its activities.

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT:

Mrs. G. West,
8 Stewart St.,
ARTARMON 2064

SECRETARY:

Brig. M. Ward,
10/3 Robertson Rd.,
BASS HILL 2197

TREASURER:

Miss D. Mitchell,
33/250 Jersey Rd.,
WOOLLAHRA 2025

CONVENORS:

Winifred Kiek Scholarship:
Deaconess M. Andrews,
L/8 250 Jersey Rd.,
WOOLLAHRA 2025

Fellowship of the Least Coin:
Mrs. D. Woodhouse,
86 Fullers Rd.,
CHATSWOOD 2067

PROMOTION:

Mrs. M. McCann,
14 Daymar Pl.,
CASTLE COVE 2069

PUBLICITY:

Mrs. M. Baker,
79 Wongala Cres.,
BEECROFT 2119

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH

WOMEN

N.S.W. UNIT

BRIEF HISTORY

The N.S.W. State Unit of A.C.W., formerly known as the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, was formed in 1938, foundation members being representatives of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches and the Churches of Christ. The present membership includes the Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches, Churches of Christ and The Salvation Army.

A.C.W. AIMS

- * 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 denominations to worship, study and serve together;
- * To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.

MEMBERSHIP

Each denomination may appoint eight (8) representatives to the Council of the State Unit. In addition, 'special interest groups', such as the Y.W.C.A., Girls' Brigade and Woman's Christian Temperance Union may appoint two (2) each.

Similar State Units operate in all other States and the A.C.T. and Northern Territory.

PROGRAMME

Two 'Special Days' are planned each year ...

Fellowship Day in July, to emphasise 'fellowship' in the local community,

and

World Community Day in October, when a subject of world concern is selected as the theme.

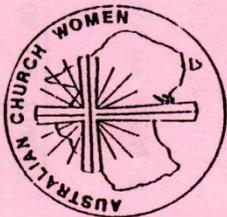
In both cases, themes are chosen and appropriate services prepared at national level.

PROJECTS

Winifred Kiek Scholarships are made available to enable Christian women from the less affluent countries of the Pacific and Asian areas to further their studies and enlarge their experience. In their own special field of work, either in Australia or elsewhere, thus fostering friendship and understanding among people of different nations. Offerings made at services on Fellowship Day are used to provide these scholarships.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin was founded by Mrs. Shanti Solomon, of India, and is administered by the Asian Church Women's Conference. Women all over the world share in this Fellowship when they put aside the 'least coin' of their country to symbolise the prayer which they have offered for reconciliation between individuals and nations. The thousands of dollars incidentally raised are used to support projects in all continents. Note that the emphasis is on the least coin for all women, rich and poor alike.

Group and individual offerings for the Fellowship of the Least Coin are received at World Community Day Services. The main collection on World Community Day is used to assist a particular project, chosen annually.



STATE CONFERENCE

APRIL 27-30

1994

CHRISTIAN FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

AT

GOLDEN GROVE



5 Forbes Street Newtown
NSW 2042 Australia

Telephone (02) 557 1642
Fax (02) 557 1412

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN came into being in 1965, uniting the existing State Women's Inter-Church Council, and prepared to share common tasks, and undertake united action. Australian Church Women forms a network of committed christian women, dedicated to encourage fellowship and service across denominational, national and international barriers.

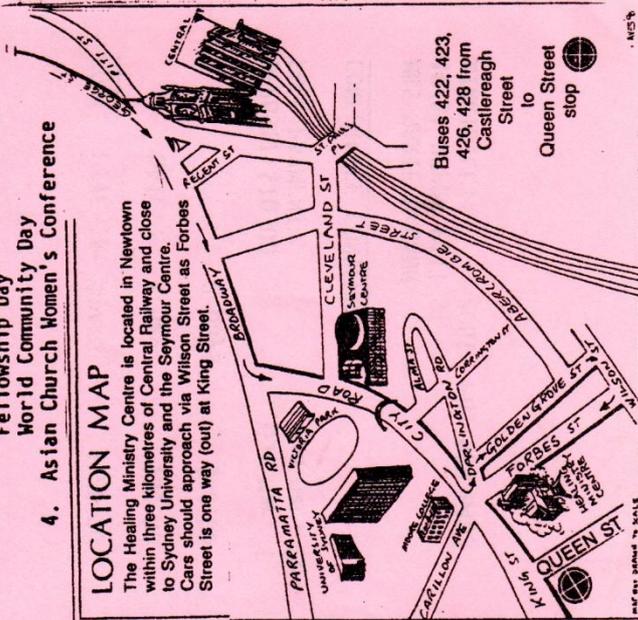
Council members represent the following denominations: Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, Ukrainian and Uniting Church; and from the following affiliated bodies: The Girl's Brigade, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and Young Women's Christian Association.

ACW encourages concern for the world-wide Church through its projects -

1. The Fellowship of the Least Coin
2. The Winifred Kiek Scholarship
3. Special Days - Fellowship Day
World Community Day
4. Asian Church Women's Conference

LOCATION MAP

The Healing Ministry Centre is located in Newtown within three kilometres of Central Railway and close to Sydney University and the Seymour Centre. Cars should approach via Wilson Street as Forbes Street is one way (out) at King Street.



Buses 422, 423,
426, 428 from
Castlereagh
Street
to
Queen Street
stop

THEME: CHRISTIAN FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

SPEAKERS:

- Thursday: **ROBIN BALI : KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
- JULIE BRACHENREG** - The Girls Brigade.
- Friday: **DR. MARLENE GOLDSMITH** -
Chairman of Standing Committee on Social Issues.
- REVD. DAVID GILL** -
General Secretary Australian Council of Churches.
- REVD RAY WILLIAMSON** -
Executive Secretary NSW Ecumenical Council.

AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE

- * To establish and expand CHRISTIAN FOCUS ON THE FAMILY
- * To deal with reports, business and forward planning. Also motions: to be presented by members. (Due March 31.)
- * To explore and seek advice as to how branches best operate.
- * To look at issues in the church which cause concern to women; spiritual, cultural, social, and educational.
- * To see what is happening ecumenically and to determine our role within this.
- * To prepare recommendations from the conference for church and society.

PROGRAMME

- WED. 27:** Live-in registration commences. 4.00 p.m.
- Evening Free
- THUR. 28:** Conference / Daily Registration 9.00 a.m.
- FRI. 29:** 8.45 a.m. daily registration 9.00 a.m.: Dr. M Goldsmith
- Each day will be a complete day till 9.00 p.m.
- SAT. 30:** Leave centre after breakfast. (Three & Five Day packages available for any part of the Conference. Contact the Centre Manager)

COST: LIVE IN: 3DAYS \$125.00
DAILY: 1 Day \$30.00
2 Days \$60.00

DEPOSIT \$10.00
FULL PAYMENT Due Mar. 1
Due Mar. 28

CONFERENCE CONVENOR:

MRS MARIE McCANN
10/51 UPPER PITT ST
KIRRIBILLI 2061 PH: 929 6483

APPLICATION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PH: _____

LIVE IN: _____

(SHARE ACCOMMODATION)
1 DAY: _____

THURSDAY
FRIDAY

2 DAYS: _____

THURSDAY
FRIDAY

PLEASE TICK AS DESIRED

SEND WITH DEPOSIT AND/OR PAYMENT

CONFERENCE CONVENOR

MRS MARIE McCANN
10/51 UPPER PITT ST
KIRRIBILLI 2061

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (NSW UNIT)
STATE CONFERENCE. APRIL 27 - 30 1994

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY
CHRISTIAN FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

PROPOSED PROGRAMME:

Wednesday 27: 4.00 p.m.	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION Light refreshments available.
8.30	Soup & sandwiches.
THURSDAY 28: 7.30 a.m.	CHAPEL
8.00	Breakfast
8.30	REGISTRATION (Patio)
9.15	SESSION CONVENES:
9.30	OPENING DEVOTIONS CANON HOLBECK TO WELCOME & OPEN CONFERENCE
10.00	Morning Tea
10.20	SESSION CONVENES: SINGING
10.30	SPEAKER & DISCUSSION GROUPS ROBIN BALI - THE FAMILY, SCRIPTURAL PERSPECTIVE. (Introduced by Jeanne Sutherland)
11.30	BUSINESS SESSION: BRANCH REPORTS (2 mins), MOTIONS.
12.30 p.m.	Lunch
1.50	SESSION CONVENES: SINGING
2.00	SPEAKER & DISCUSSION GROUPS JULIE BRACKENREG - THE FAMILY (Introduced by Heather Reid)
3.30	Afternoon Tea
4.00	BUSINESS SESSION & REPORTS Appraisal of past, direction for future. Questionnaire for group.
5.30	Dinner
7.00	WORKSHOP: Branches - how formed; effective programme.
8.30	DEVOTIONS

FRIDAY 29:	7.30 a.m.	CHAPEL
	8.00	Breakfast
	8.30	REGISTRATION
	8.45	SESSION CONVENES: SINGING
	9.00	MARLENE GOLDSMITH (Introduced by Phyl McKinnirey Thanked by Edith Ridge)
	10.00	Morning Tea
	10.20	SESSION CONVENES: SINGING
	10.30	REV. DR. DAVID GILL - AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (Introduced by Marie McCann)
	11.30	REV. RAY WILLIAMSON - ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NSW (Introduced by Mrs. Col F Peterson)
	12.30 p.m.	Lunch
	1.40	SESSION CONVENES: SINGING
	2.00	WORKSHOP: Assessment of all discussion groups. Discussions leading to conference statement.
	3.30	Afternoon Tea
	4.00	REPORTS: Family, ACW Branches, Ecumenism
	5.00	STATEMENT RECEIVED
	5.30	DINNER
	7.00	PRAISE & WORSHIP CONCERT VAL KENNEDY & MARGARET HALL
SATURDAY 30:	8.00 a.m.	Breakfast
		DEPARTURE

1994: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

The official emblem for the Year was designed by Swiss artist, Catherine Littasy-Rollier, and is a simple visual design with a set of symbolisms - a heart shaded by a roof - the two linked together with another heart, thus symbolising not just life and love alone, but also home, warmth, caring, security, togetherness and tolerance. The design indicates openness, symbolising the idea of a building block of society. The brushstroke makes the design an open one, and also indicates individuality as well as continuity and a hint of uncertainty. In this way the design becomes the abstract symbol of the complex notion of the family which in itself is a symbol: the symbol for the smallest democracy at the heart of society.



**Australian Church Women
N.S.W. State Conference 1994.
SPEAKER: JULIE BRACKENREG
STATE COMMISSIONER
THE GIRLS' BRIGADE**

When I was a child I had a dream of what my ideal future life would be - I would live by myself, with maybe a dog or cat, in a small cottage surrounded by a very pretty garden, far in the countryside. Nearby would be mountains where I could go walking and also a headland and beach where I could sit and watch the waves on the rocks.

My only companions would be my books, music and God. My chief occupation, besides a life of prayer and reading, would be writing and my contact with people would be severely limited.

As happens in most dreams I hadn't even considered the real issues -
how I would have money for

food,

clothing

or the hundreds of books I would own;

how I would afford the small cottage and garden,

or any responsibilities I might have to the world and those around me.

The dream never came true - except for small precious moments that I steal away from my usual life and just go "missing with God" for a day - one day maybe the dream will become reality but in the meantime I thoroughly enjoy living to the full the life God has given me to live:

as a wife and mother [now there's a couple of ideas that weren't part of the dream!]

as a daughter of older parents [where they'd disappeared to in the dream I'm not sure]

and in ministry to hundreds of girls and women in The Girls' Brigade.

As I grew through my teenage years I knew, as a Christian teenager, that God had a definite ministry for me but, what it was, was always a puzzle.

During my teenage years I knew of nothing that a girl was able or encouraged to do in terms of ministry other than overseas missionary service - preferably of a medical nature. So there were occasionally times when I imagined myself in Africa or China as a doctor or nurse or perhaps teacher - not that I wanted to do any of that - I certainly didn't feel God pointing me personally in those directions.

But God had plans which began in the strangest of ways.

One night just after I had begun University my mother went along to my sister's Girls' Brigade Company to see if she could help out [I knew nothing of this group - it was somewhere my younger sister went each week.] When she returned home my mother came into my bedroom and said "I don't know anything about this sort of thing - I've never taught Sunday School or been on camps - but you have, if you'll just come along and see what it's all about and tell me what to do - I think that the Captain needs some help and I could help if I knew what to do."

Lying there in bed I could not imagine that this was how God was to open for me the door to my particular ministry for Him. In fact, in those first struggling years, when that Company of sixteen girls grew to ninety with just three Officers - Mum, me and Beverley with the Cadets - I never thought much about it being a ministry - I was too busy just keeping afloat - going through Uni and planning and running a programme for about 40 Juniors on my own each week - no one taught me how to teach at Uni - I learnt all that, by experience, at Girls' Brigade.

In fact the idea that Brigade is a ministry is one that is still new to many of our women. For many of us - I am sure, like many of you, our involvement in Brigade, like your involvement in other areas of church work and ACW is just "something you do". But if you are where God has placed you, working for His kingdom, then you are in ministry for Him and all that you do needs to be seen in that light.

What then is this ministry of Girls' Brigade?

It began 100 years ago in Dublin in Ireland and from there has spread to "the uttermost parts of the earth". Taken by ladies of vision from country to country around the globe until there are now some quarter of a million women and girls actively involved each week in well over fifty countries. Add to those the millions who have been in Brigade as girls and gone on to follow many varied paths in their lives and you can see the impact of one woman's work with a small group of little girls so long ago.

To those of us in Brigade our "Brigade Family" is a very important part of our lives - the fellowship between leaders is a real and tangible thing and it remains a special bond even long after we think Brigade has finished with us and we with Brigade. This bond is so strong because it crosses demoninational boundaries - we learn to see and love our sisters in Christ, simply as that "sisters" - we are not Baptists, Anglicans, Congeregationalists - we are one in Christ who is our head and cornerstone. This seems to many of us to make the artificial divisions of body of Christ, made by human minds, so paltry and petty. [example: Teen Ranch camp/ ICGB night of praise.]

Our sisters are those who are nearby and those who are far away - our links with our sisters in many lands are just as real to many of us as our links with our sisters with whom we work week by week. In Brigade we are one, regardless of our standard of living, our dress, our culture, our language, our education. We see women enabled by Brigade to reach their full potential and with God's help to conquer obstacles of poor education, race and sexual inequality through their Brigade training and leadership responsibilities. [example: Helen/ women of Africa/ women in Romania.]

As a leader within Brigade I stand in awe at the way in which God uses women - the huge variety of gifts with which he has equipped even the simplest of women - the way in which God inspires some of the women of greatest mind and intellect I have had the fortune to meet, to work for Him in new and imaginative ways - to train others and share their talents unstintingly for the glory of God's kingdom. [I am privileged to have known the women of Howlong and world leaders of Brigade as sisters in Christ.]

But Brigade is not just the women of today - it IS THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW. For within Brigade our sisters range in age from 6 to 66 and beyond. The Brigade family is certainly a family with a lot of kids and they come from every background and are all learning to "Seek Serve and Follow Christ" - for that is our mission and ministry. There are lots of things we do in Brigade - we do physical things - anything and everything - the latest crazes are indoor rock climbing, roller skating and abseiling - we teach girls many skills from resuscitation to cross stitch - we have fun, fun fun - campovers, sleepovers, non-sleepovers and all the rest - but our aim is to bring girls through their involvement in the Family of Girls' Brigade into God's Family and into a supportive local church Family.

Too often the concept of Family is used in a negative fashion -

families tie you down - especially if you're 17 and want to escape -

families tie you up - especially if you're 37 with three kids and wanting some time of your own -

families are demanding, restrictive, prying, argumentative, but mostly they are not filled with people of our own choosing.

BUT it is within families that God's plan for individuals is worked out. God, himself is a God of relationship He is a triune God and within that Trinity there exists a perfect and intimate relationship. God has made man to bear his image and part of that image is our craving for perfect and intimate relationships with others. The creation of individuals within families is God's plan. No one comes into this world without a family of some sort - but sadly many of these families are unable to function and this in turn frustrates the good functioning of our whole society For it is in families that we learn to live with others - al beit painfully and at times not very well - but

families can be and should be the place where we learn how other people work and how we work,

families can be and should be the place where we know love and support at each faltering step we take on the road to maturity,

families can be and should be the place where we learn the value of working together to achieve goals

families can be and should be the place where God is modelled through our compassion and care for each other.

Sadly we know that only some and at times none of the above ideals have any truth in many "families" of our society. Whatever the reason for failure it is here that God gives individuals a second chance. Biological families may opt out, abandon you, walk away or push you away, but our message as Christian women must be to all people that there is one family in which YOU are personally acceptable, personally loved and personally important - God's family.

Sadly we know too that many outside this family see the earthly manifestations of God's family as exclusive, irrelevant hypocrites whose relationships are as tainted and broken as those to whom they would dare to preach. Within the church the ideals of "family" have far to go -

we look upon other branches of his family with suspicion, fear, loathing and downright hatred.

we hold ourselves and our small circle up as being the one true keeper of the faith and cast disparaging glances upon those who don't keep the faith in exactly the same tradition as we do.

we of European (and especially Anglo Saxon) background look with pity upon others of different culture and suspect that their theological understanding can't be as full, as deep or as pure as our own - so we do these people a favour - be dominating their own culture by our own in the name of "sharing the Gospel" and helping them become part of "God's family".

The Family of God on earth IS spoilt but it is from inside this family that we need firstly bring about some measure of re-establishing God's own patterns and then to reach out to those beyond this family and draw them not to ourselves but to God wherein they will see a perfect model and find the answers to the needs with which their own imperfect relationships have left them.

For the ladies of Brigade the idea of Family is indeed a widely spread concept with many layers. By God's grace He has given us in our Brigade Family another model which broadens our horizons and shows us more clearly His will for all people. We are not and cannot be forever solitary beings in our cottages by the sea we are required to live in God's world modelling for others, through our lives and ministries, the way in which God would have His creation live.



**DO YOU
KNOW**



INTERDENOMINATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

LINKING WITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

N.S.W. Children's Film and Television Council

National Council of Women N.S.W.

SPECIAL DAYS ...

FOR INSPIRATION, WORSHIP, PRAYER

FELLOWSHIP DAY - JULY

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY - OCTOBER

ECUMENICAL LUNCHEONS

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAYS

PROJECTS TO ASSIST OTHERS ...

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

PARTNERS - ASIAN CHURCH

WOMENS CONFERENCE

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
IS
ECUMENICAL**

MEMBER BODIES

**ANGLICAN..BAPTIST...CHURCHES OF CHRIST..
PRESBYTERIAN...ROMAN CATHOLIC...
SALVATION ARMY...UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX..
UNITING CHURCHGIRLS' BRIGADE....
A WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION...
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Mrs. Edith Ridge
54 New Line Road
West Pennant Hills 2125**

Phone: (02) 875 1200

PROMOTIONS CONVENER

**Mrs. Major Joan Tong
8 Metella Cres
Belfield 2191**

Phone: (02) 718 8640 (Evenings)

SECRETARY

MEMBERS and FRIENDS

"COME!"

N.S.W. STATE UNIT
AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT DAY

THEME: "I do have faith....help me to have more"
Mark 9:24

MONDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 1992 - 9th Floor Polding House
276 Pitt Street Sydney

COST: \$5.00 - includes morning tea & basket lunch
RSVP: 2nd September 1992 - Mrs Edith Ridge 875 1200

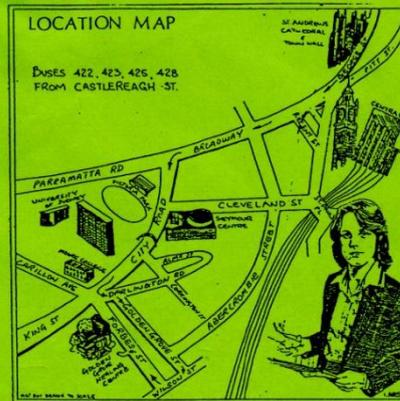
PROGRAMME

- 10.00 a.m. DEVOTIONS Mrs Peg Blake
Australian Church Women
- 10.45 a.m. MORNING TEA
- 11.00 a.m. SPEAKER Rev. Shirley Maddox
Uniting Church, Strathfield
- 11.45 a.m. REFLECTION Mrs Brenda Robbiliard
Family & Local Court Support
- 12.15 p.m. SPEAKER Mrs Janice Moulay
Catholic Women's League
- 12.45 p.m. BENEDICTION GRACE
- 1.00 p.m. LUNCH

HOW DO I GET THERE ?

The Healing Ministry Centre is an extension of St. Andrew's Cathedral Healing Ministry.

Accommodation is available if you wish to stay overnight either before or after Spiritual Enrichment Day and arrangements may be made by contacting the Centre Manager on 557.1642.



LIVING WATER



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
INVITE YOU TO A
SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY

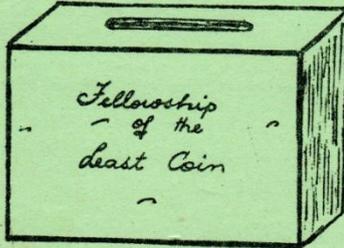
MONDAY JULY 19TH, 1993.
10AM - 2.30PM

AT THE HEALING MINISTRY CENTRE
5 FORBES STREET, NEWTOWN.
COST: \$10.00 INCLUDES MT/AT/LUNCH
CONTACT: MRS EDITH RIDGE, 875.1200

LIVING WATER

- ✓ 10.00am. MORNING TEA
- ✓ 10.30am. Devotions Mrs. Edith Fleteau
- ✓ 11am. Reflections using Music Jeanne Sutherland
- ✓ 11.30am. Morning Speaker on the theme. Mrs. Lucelle King
- 12.30pm. Lunch Break
- 1.15pm. Afternoon Speaker on the theme Mrs. Patricia Burke
- 2.30pm. Close the day with Afternoon Tea

SMALL BEGINNINGS



SMALL BEGINNINGS

by Fran Downes

Let's go on an international journey in quest of the least coin, to discover what it is doing in six continents around the world. The Fellowship of the Least Coin has been referred to as one of the most remarkable calls to international sharing of our times, and it is a powerful influence for good that women have. It also can be thought of as a modern miracle.

We must start on our journey in Japan, because the Fellowship of the Least Coin was born out of the distress caused when a bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. On our way we meet with an American woman writer who had decided for herself to find out what anything so meagre as a least coin can do. She visited 10 nations where the women themselves explained how they were trying to help to the best of their abilities in housing, food shortages, famine and floods. As this American writer travelled round she found, among these Asian women, what the power of prayer does in their lives. She also said, "I have caught the spirit of the least coin which shares concern for every race and creed."

It is not in this American writer that our interest lies, but in an Indian woman - Shanti Solomon (whose first name means "peace", and her surname "wisdom").

To understand how much the Fellowship of the Least Coin can mean, both to women who have nothing and the women who have everything, we need to listen to Mrs. Shanti Solomon as she unfolds her dream - the yearnings of her heart for uneducated, deserted women, whether in the African bush, Vietnam ricefields, or in Australia - that women may have a new sense of their own identity and of their kinship with other women around the world.

Shanti, even though she holds two degrees, is so humble, and she really cares. She knows what it is to be hungry and without money, and about injustice - her father was murdered because he became a Christian.

In 1956 the National Council of Presbyterian Women in U.S.A. sponsored a group of six women - one Japanese, one Indian and four American - for a Pacific tour to take in Alaska, Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Hong Kong. The purpose of these visits was to

2.

strengthen a world-wide Christian fellowship among women to share mutual joy and concern, to study the Bible, to pray together and to re-affirm that all of us are the members of one family in Christ.

This team first visited Tokyo where together they planned their continuing trip; but the postwar bitterness from one country to another and towards the American women, because of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, dismayed them.

And then the Japanese team member and Shanti were refused visas for Korea. The rest of the team wanted to call off the visits to the other countries, but Shanti said, "No, you go on as planned. I want to ponder all this in my heart. I will wait for you in Manila with our Christian friends, studying to see if perhaps I myself have wrong thoughts."

She said to herself - the wounds of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are still raw - that I can understand - but the Americans too lost many of their sons in the tragedy of war. As Shanti searched her Bible she found the answer she was looking for in the story of the Good Samaritan who helped the man who fell among thieves. She said, "We village women in India have drawn away our skirts from the troubled war-torn mothers and children everywhere. We have been like the priest who passed by on the other side, saying 'this is not my business'."

Shanti was still pondering while she and a group of women in a Manila church read together the Gospel of Mark. When they reached the twelfth chapter - where Jesus comments that the widow who gave her two small coins, worth one cent, had given more than any other person because she had given all she had, Shanti's heart gave a great leap. The widow's mite - that is the answer! You have to give yourself along with your least coin - real giving is throwing off 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 token of her concern - possibly the smallest coin of her country - which, like the widow's mite, would help sick or troubled people everywhere and bring about reconciliation between people.

3.

When the rest of the team met again with Shanti in Manila and she told them of her idea, the American women said, "We do not think our church women back home would want to be bothered saving only twelve pennies every year."

"That is what is wrong with you Americans", Shanti pointed out. "You do not understand how humiliating it is to be always on the receiving end as we are in Asia. The paisa, the least coin of my country, is only worth a fraction of an American penny, but even the poorest village woman can afford to give it to someone worse off than she is."

"The village woman needs to do this for her own sake to stand up proudly. It is important that the rich and poor, educated and illiterate, can give on the same level. If you of the West draw aside you will be the loneliest women in the world - your great wealth has divided us - let's see if the least coin can draw us together."

After a few months the American women back home gladly joined the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The idea of praying and giving - person to person on an equal basis in both East and West - has swept round the world, and now is to be found in the six continents and in over 80 countries.

This is not another denomination - or an organization with monthly meetings and deadly dull reports. It must be a sharing by women everywhere, insisted Shanti, regardless of political or theological differences. It sprang up in the Far East, in India and Manila - spread through all Asia - then leapt the oceans to the West - because it answered the desperate need of women everywhere.

The decision that individual women as well as groups might join the Fellowship of the Least Coin has opened the door of participation to Roman Catholic women and others, but surprise was shown when Buddhist and Moslem women applied for membership in this Christian women's movement. And the answer was, "Why not? You pray to the same God, and if you want to help in Christlike giving to the needy of all nations - "Welcome". After all, how can we foster the peaceable kingdom unless we exhibit equal tolerance ourselves? Our job as women is to show love.

You cannot see a prayer or an atom, but both can have great power for good.

If only women all over the world taught understanding 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 help this world of ours?

FROM THE OFFERINGS:

It was never dreamt that after 10 years, over one and a half million dollars would be given for projects round the world.

Trying to put into the words of Spanish or English, or any other language, how the women of the Fellowship of the Least Coin are helping in relief work for the sick, homeless and down-trodden of six continents, is rather like describing a sunrise to a blind person - all one can do is to give a feeling of colour and glory!

As a major part of Least Coin offerings is spent on relief work and evangelism, it was also decided to reserve some for ventures of international fellowship among women, or to send women delegates to ecumenical meetings, because when women meet each other in person, forgiveness becomes easier. The movement to unite all women in prayer and mutual giving took a great leap forward whenever women of cultural and political differences met face to face.

The following are but a few projects that have been helped in the last year:-

In Hong Kong, Least Coin provides bread and shelter for crippled T.B. men too old or twisted to go out to work; they sit in their rooms doing light handwork, weaving and embroidering - which is such a gracious art in this centre, where tourists beat down prices!

There also, nurseries have been set up so that children, especially babies under two years old, do not have to be confined alone all day in a sort of chicken coop, because their mothers had to leave them while they worked on the roads.

Help is also given to Helon Keller Homes for blind babies, in Jerusalem.

Assistance to crippled children in Kenya.

Homes for aged Christians, and Family Life Education in Delhi, India.

Training programmes for native Indians in North Western Canada.

Gifts to 46 Pastors' wives in South Vietnam.

Home for retiring women in Japan.

Opportunity was made on Women's Day of Prayer in March 1974 for women from Asia and America to celebrate this service with Japanese women at Hiroshima. The theme was "Make us Builders of Peace", and the world-wide Order of Service was written by the Japanese women.

ALSO HELPED ARE:

Handicapped persons in Argentina - Rehabilitation programmes.

Girls' Brigade Pacific Fellowship - Training in Papua New Guinea.

Aborigines in Australia - Development training in community life.

In 1976 Australia received \$4,000 for Nungalinya College, Darwin, and \$2,000 for Missionary Sisters of Charity in their work among the Aborigines and outcasts at Bourke, New South Wales.

----oOo----

The first information about Fellowship of the Least Coin came to us here in Australia in 1963, when the Australian Council of Churches received a cheque for \$1,000 from the women of Asia for work among Aboriginal girls.

Imagine our surprise on receiving this money, and our embarrassment that the women of Asia, where utmost poverty is to be found, sent us Australians this gift. What a humbling experience this was! In 1964 the Fellowship of the Least Coin began here, quietly spreading from one State to another.

In Australia last year \$5,000 was given from our least coins. Since 1963 Australia has been given gifts towards seven projects - so not only do we send, but we receive.

God has blessed many participants, and likewise the recipients. Although these least coins were never considered to be the most significant part of the Fellowship - these combined gifts have encouraged thousands of women to enjoy international Christian Fellowship and to share in the healing power of love, in witnessing to Christ's love for mankind.

Thus a modern miracle was born. It has brought together women round the world in prayer and reconciliation - for when we have prayed and when we have listened, only then can we give our least coin token.

Unfortunately, so many women here in Australia have not caught the real vision. They seem to think it is just giving money - 5 cents, 10 cents, or even 20 cents - and not even a prayer. It would not matter if we did not give the coin - except for the equal sharing with our Asian sisters.

Never before as now, are our prayers for reconciliation and peace for the world needed more. We are the nation builders of the world, leaders in our own right. Our life is indeed a many-splendoured thing. It is we who know the miracle of loving and being loved. The wonders of the modern world have been laid at our feet, giving us time to live, to work and to be quiet.

Our boundaries of love and service have extended beyond our homes into the cities, the slums and the outlying villages. The world has become our parish. We have become the eyes of the world. May we be aware of our many-splendoured lives, and our responsibilities in our homes and in the eyes of the nation. Remember that we can no longer live on our individual islands, that we cannot live alone, and that we all belong to the same world.

A. FELLOWSHIP PRAYER:

Father, we would pray that it is not with a careless hand that we give our coin, even if it does not mean much to us. We pray for the women in other countries who give their least coins like us, but go without their evening bread to share from their poverty.

Father, within your cup which feeds your lambs, our coins, through You, become the golden coin of fellowship and love.

----oOo----

Amen.

B. The Devotional Handbook of the Fellowship of the Least Coin is "The Circle of Prayer", and it contains monthly prayers for use by women all over the world as they participate in the Fellowship. The Symbol on the cover is six pairs of folded praying hands, representing the six continents.

A set of 30 colour slides with commentary (tape or cassette) is available from - Mrs. J. Strack, 66 Tennyson Avenue, Moonee Ponds, Victoria 3039. No charge, but return by Registered Post.



THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation.

It is a special and continuing project of Church Women's Organizations around the World.

Together in a fellowship of prayer Christian women learn anew to love and have concern for God's people throughout the world.

Anyone who wishes to join the Fellowship of the Least Coin, must promise to spend some time in prayer whenever she has strained relationships with another person, or a group of persons or a nation.

After spending some time in prayer for reconciliation and forgiveness, put aside the smallest coin of your currency as a tangible token of your prayer. These coins are collected each year and are blessed in a special service of dedication. The total sum is sent to the National Least Coin Fund.

The FLC Fund is an international fund belonging to Christian women and men of participating countries.

It is administered by an international committee with its base in Asia, related to the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC)

The Finance Department of the World Council of Churches is the Banker for the Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund.

The amount collected in each country is never announced; only the total sum collected each year is mentioned.

BECAUSE FLC IS PRIMARILY NOT A FUND RAISING PROJECT, BUT A MOVEMENT OF PRAYER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

Each local group decides what should be its smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest women in the group be able to give without feeling the pinch of giving.

All requests should come through the National Ecumenical Women's Committee or through the National Council of Churches.
