

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

WOMEN AT WORK



SEEKS:

- 1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- 2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

NOVEMBER, 1977

Christmas Greetings.

The members of the Working Committee send you warmest greetings at Christmas and wish you all a New Year filled with challenging service and bring you a Christmas reflection.

St. Luke says exultantly, "Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you!"

Like Job, so in today's world millions cry, "If only I knew how to find Him!"

Will just one find you Lord, through me?"

St. Luke goes on to say: "Then suddenly a heavenly choir burst forth in joyful songs of praise."

But, far beyond, in the infinite abyss of heaven, there was a Father's heart that was broken.

The angels could sing, the shepherds could rejoice and run to the manger in Bethlehem.

But the Father said nothing. His Son had gone to die.

He was born in Bethlehem to die on Calvary's cross. He gave us Christmas to remind us that He came.

This Christmas, mid the bustle of giving and receiving gifts, let us pause in gratitude for that other Gift:

Reflect on what it cost the Giver and make a response of love.

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Let's have courage:

"Lo I am with you always even unto the end."

We have hope:

"Behold I am making all things new."

So let's reflect on what it cost the Giver - and make a response of love.

Win Dougherty
President

CULTURAL STUDIES CONFERENCE= (cont. from October issue)

Cultural Conference, Goulburn, October, 1977.

A complete day and evening were devoted to the "Italian Way of Life", its glorious past, art and music. But modern problems were dealt with by Paolo Totare in his address entitled, "The Slum Economy, Naples". The Italian sense of community was emphasised. The Square of the Cathedral, Town Hall or centre of the village is regarded as the ideal place for their social and political life. They are a naturally gregarious people.

The Post-war period brought about tremendous changes as evidenced by the result of the new "Family Law" passed in 1970 and 1975 respectively, at the same time stressing once again the traditional difference between the industrial north and the rural south.

In spite of the changes brought about by the war, there still remains a strong feeling for family ties, loyalty to their religious Catholic tradition and an optimistic habit of hoping for the best in trying circumstances.

After an Italian dinner, a musical group, the Renaissance Players, entertained, using instruments, some of which were old and valuable, whilst others had been made from pictures in old books.

Mrs. Dorothy Buckland, Post-Graduate Scholar in Sociology (of Greek origin herself) read a paper on "The Greek family in Australia and the Process of Migration". There are approximately 300,000 Greeks in Australia. As with Maltese and Italians, family ties are strong. Marriages are as a rule, arranged in Greece, particularly in rural areas. The father is definitely head of the Greek family and his manhood is partly assessed by the control a man has over his family. Therefore, it is precisely in this area that the process of migration affects him most.

Art & Music.

A small but excellent Art Show was opened for inspection and a very well illustrated lecture on Greek music, ancient modern and classical was greatly appreciated. In History we went back a thousand years before Christ and then forward to the present day.

Father Stephanes Pappas read a paper on the Importance of the Greek Orthodox Church in the life of the Greek people. I quote, "We believe that the greatest contribution of the Greek Orthodox Church to the Greek people, from their very first meeting on European soil about 50 A.D was that it offered them that which they had lost for a long time and for which they had absolutely the greatest need - a uniting force in a common faith, which they had enjoyed for so long in the past, and which helped them to excel and create the miracle that was Greece. It gave them the uniting spiritual strength to reconstruct themselves, and to rediscover their identity, their role and destination in the history of mankind."

The Greek community entertained the 150 participants to an 11-course dinner, interspersed with folk music and folk dancing. Grace was offered before the meal by the priest of the local Greek congregation.

Marjorie Stanhope
F.L.C National Convenor.

DUBBO'S DONE IT!

The city of Dubbo is the wool and wheat centre of western NSW. It provides all the amenities and facilities of a modern city, not the least of which is a Drive-In Theatre

Aware that the majority viewing audience at this theatre was under 25, the local Ministers' Fraternal was greatly concerned that by far the largest percentage of films screened were rated R and AO. That the true facts could be known, an invalid pensioner from one of the local churches spent many hours at the library recording the film ratings in all advertisements appearing in the local press over an 18-months period. The result was alarming! Seeking to be firm but considerate, a deputation called on the theatre manager, showed him a copy of an open letter they proposed submitting to the press, and sought his comments. The manager was very appreciative of the fact that he was con-

tacted before wide publicity was given. He promised to approach the distributors but pointed out that, in the main they controlled the film distribution to his theatre. He would though, bring the local protest to their notice.

Not every R or AO rated film has been banned from the Drive-In but numbers have been greatly reduced.

Dubbo's Ministers' Fraternal, their congregations and the City Council seek to improve the quality of family life in their bustling city.

Win Dougherty.

AN ALABAMA VISITOR.

Friday, 14th October, became a day of sharing the faith and making a new friend. At short notice, four members of the Working Committee, Glad West, Joan Curtin, Doris Mitche and I met with Mrs. Gay Caffee, President of Church Women United, Mobile, Alabama.

The time spent together was very interesting as we spoke of our respective organisations. This however, proved not quite, but almost incidental to our discussions. Openly and deeply we shared our concerns for migrant people, negro people, aboriginal people, racism and discrimination, conscious and unconscious, which are realities in both our countries. We talked of religious discrimination.

Gay Caffee told us of one whole district in the State of Alabama where the total membership is black - white women refusing to participate. (As I travelled home, I pondered on the reality that in all States and Territories in Australia, the women are almost entirely white and non-migrant.

We rejoiced in the ecumenical movement which is giving us the tremendous spirit of one-ness in Christ and His mission. We spoke of our indebtedness to Women's World Day of Prayer, Fellowship and Community Day Services which have broken down so many walls.

Before Glad and Joan left us and in the quiet atmosphere of the Women's Club, we came very close to each other and God whom we approached in prayer, committing ourselves to each other and His service, and shared the peace.

Win Dougherty

And WHO IS Gay Caffee?

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Gay Caffee is a most interesting person as I discovered over breakfast at her hotel. A New Yorker, she moved to Alabama with her husband many years ago. Having degrees in Arts and Social Science she lectures at Mobile University, is President of Mobile Church Women United and is a member of the Catholic Women's League. Gay's husband was a doctor of medicine whose research took him to many conferences in all parts of the world. Alone now, Gay continues their involvement in community and migrant concerns and deep commitment to better race relationships. She was touring Australia with a group of educationalists.

A VISITOR FROM THE A.C.T.

1 It was good to have Ruth Burmester from the A.C.T in Sydney during October, and to hear that the members of Canberra unit are pleased to be involved in preparing Community Day Service, 1978.

OUR 1978 WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS.

Miss Tapati Das of Bangla Desh Y.W.C.A begins her four-months study tour in December, visiting the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan and India. She will be observing handicraft programmes in the Y.W.C.A and community, preparing herself to return and direct the Y.W.C.A Handicraft Centre at Dacca.

Sister Barkat Dass is making preparations to come to Australia to undergo refresher courses in various aspects of nursing and some theological studies to better equip herself for service in Pakistan. Her study programme is still being arranged by the Winifred Kiek Committee which will keep us informed as plans are formulated.

Betty Davis

Convenor, W.K. Scholarship

IT'S A BOY!!!

CONGRATULATIONS and our very best wishes to Rev. Vio Lamalo Lima and his wife, Terani (Aisake) at the recent arrival of their small son, Paul.

Terani, then from Fiji, was a Winifred Kiek Scholar. She spent most of her study in Queensland. She and her husband are working in the Uniting Parish of Enoggera, Queensland. So, in a sense, she has come back to what we hope she regards as her second home.

PROFILES - OUR CONVENORS ON THE WORKING COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Betty Davis, (W.K. Scholarship Convenor).

Council member A.C.W (NSW Unit), member of the National Council of Women and of the Committee of the Uniting City Churches. President of Women's Auxiliary to Methodist Overseas Missions and Vice President of NSW Methodist Women's Federation, Federal Board of Mission Uniting Church, member committee World Mission in NSW, on Board of Mission and Board of Communications for Uniting Church in Australia, NSW. Served 20 years as a missionary in Fiji, the last three of which with the South Pacific Commission as an Administrative Officer Community Education Training Centre for Pacific Island Leaders.

Mrs. Marjorie Stanhope - F.L.C Federal Convenor.

Member of Churches of Christ Christian Women's Fellowship for which body she is an appointed representative to A.C.W (NSW Unit) and the Women's World Day of Prayer State Committee. Served as State President W.I.C.C. and Convenor of F.L.C. Represented World Day of Prayer Committee at 1st International Committee in Sweden. A member of the National Council of Women.

Mrs. Heather Stevens - "Special Days" Convenor.

Resource and Liaison Officer for Women's Ministries with the Board of Education for the Uniting Church in Australia, NSW Synod. Asst. Secretary Federation of Methodist Women NSW, Executive member Australian Federation of Methodist Women. Secretary NSW Uniting Church Women's Interim Committee. Member of NSW Synod Steering Committee Uniting Church Fellowship. Council member A.C.W (NSW Unit).

Happiness is where it's found, seldom where it's sought.
Happiness is a by-product of an effort to make someone
else happy.
Happiness doesn't come from doing what we like, but liking
what we do.

BOOK REVIEWS.

God is a Sea. BY David Walker.

The Dynamics of Christian Living. This book contains reflections on the cultivation of the God seed within human existence. They explore the nature of the divine life to which it gives birth, the means that can be used to facilitate its growth and its ultimate expression in prayer.

THE End of Dreaming. BY Ingrid Drysdale & Mark Durack.

Ingrid and David Drysdale began their married life as missionaries from the United Aboriginal Mission to the Bardi on Sunday Is. off the north-west coast of Western Australia. With Mrs. Mary Durack Ingrid has written a most inspiring book showing the courage, initiative and enthusiasm which enabled them to enjoy the challenge of hardship in a primitive situation and win the love and confidence of the Bardi. The Drysdales pioneered the Maningrida Settlement in Arnhem Land, again with success, showing a sensitivity towards and perception of, aboriginal culture which enabled them to win their co-operation and develop staying power in their enterprises. In retirement, they have returned to the Bardi and "hope to live out their days with the Bardi."

From Dorothy Woodhouse (Secretary, A.C.W (NSW Unit)).

In the areas of concern suggested for study programmes, the one I found appealing was "The Multi-cultural Society - Migrant Women" and I think of their possible feeling of isolation and estrangement among people whose language they perhaps cannot speak yet. Therefore, I was very interested when the Premier's Department in Sydney sponsored "Carnival, '77", a cosmopolitan celebration from 1st-9th October, and took it as an opportunity to mingle with Ethnic groups living in our country.

The Sydney Domain was crowded with people of many nationalities. I tasted their food and found it strange. Likewise, when I attended festivities in a park in the local area where a "Hangi" was held. Maoris and New Zealanders were observed in action songs and dance and during a 'baby showing' mothers brought forward their children but not in a competitive spirit.

During that week, there was much activity in Music, Dance, Theatre, Film, Sport and street parades.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK.

Will Secretaries of State Units and all readers of "Women at Work" please note that the next issue will be published in February, '78. The "deadline" for receipt of material for inclusion in that issue will be Monday, February 6th. The Working Committee would like to include items of news from State Units as a regular feature of "Women at Work". Please keep us supplied!

To any groups who are undertaking to study "Multi-Cultural Society" as an "area of concern", we would like to commend the series of brochures "People in Australia" published by AUSTCARE as part of their Education Project. They deal with ethnic groups who have come from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, East Timor, Armenia and Chile, and each provides a useful bibliography. They are available from Austcare Offices in your State.

The Asian Church Women's Conference Executive Committee plans to arrange in the member countries, a series of ecumenical consultations to explore the place and extent of the participation of theologically trained women (ordained and unordained) in the total life and mission of the Church. Mrs. Fran Bailey, Vice President of A.C.W.C is the Co-Ordinator of these consultations and has asked us to furnish her with a list of the names of theologically trained women in our country. I should be glad to receive from readers of "Women at Work" any names and addresses and details of theological degrees held by women in Australia. If you can help, please do so as soon as possible.

We should also be delighted to receive any news of former Winifred Kiek Scholars and their present addresses in order to bring our records up-to-date.

With warm greetings,

Sincerely yours,
DORIS M. MITCHELL
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