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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. UNIT



A.C.W. seeks:

to unite Australian women 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.

President: Mrs. June Graham
(Tel. 84-3484)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

I would like to share with you the following Statements:

"We, the participants of the 8th Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, November 2 - 7 1986, were challenged by the very large claim reflected in our theme "I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST". We struggled with how to proclaim this, without seeming arrogant and insensitive to the religious beliefs of millions of people in Asia. We affirm that Christ is our model for service and He empowers us to serve with confidence in our complex world. In this service we encounter suffering, but through suffering we are called to make room for Divine Initiative to work in us to establish Peace and Justice.

The theme was further explored through four commissions which dealt with Personhood, Family Life, Women in Society and Peace and Justice.

2. President's Message (Cont.)

We affirm that women and men are together, created in the image of God and therefore wholeness is God's gift to all people. All practices which discriminate against women in home, church and society must be eliminated.

We affirm that family life has a prime place in society in strengthening Christian values. We urge churches to provide counselling and pastoral care and to give priority to Christian Family Life Programmes. The Churches need to work in co-operation with secular and government agencies in order to improve the status of women and the welfare of children.

We view with great concern the existing position of women in society and the traditional ways of defining their roles. Christian women must voice their opposition to discrimination in different aspects of life especially in employment and systems of law and promote remedial action. The gap between different classes and races of women must be bridged.

We affirm that there can be no peace without justice. We must all strive to achieve Peace and Justice in social economic, religious, national and international conflicts.

Throughout all sessions of the Assembly, participants were aware of the fellowship shared as Christian women and of the special needs of women in their own countries. Exploring the theme together, the participants found strength to assert confidently that "THROUGH CHRIST WE CAN DO ALL THINGS".

Yours in Christ,
June Graham (President).

N.B.

CHANGE OF VENUE.

Please note change of venue for State Unit Meetings - these will now be held on the 1st Floor of the Uniting Church Office Building, 139 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Next Meeting: February 16th at 10.30 a.m.

Tea Duty: Presbyterian.

Mrs. Margaret Hilliard, Convener of the Mothers' Union Social Responsibilities Department will be our guest speaker.

A NEW YEAR BEGINS.

I stand in silent wonder
As the old year moves away,
That the love and joy of Jesus,
Are always here to stay.

I see Him working wonders,
and changing worldly sin
Within the lives of those He chose,
to follow after Him.

My eyes look out each morning,
On the gift of life He gives,
And joyfully I give my prayers
of hope because He lives.

His promises are written,
Inside one book so dear,
I claim them as I journey on
And cast on Him each fear.

Asking for His guidance
Believing He is there
With me - to take the lead,
In all I do.

For I can't know what each day brings,
Unfolding all anew,
But I am sure and safe with Him
Who owns the widest view.

Jane Rummey,
Sutherland Shire Branch.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 18th May 1987 - 10.30 a.m.
Annual Service of Australian Church Women
Wesley Chapel, 139 Castlereagh Street,
Sydney.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS.

A Christmas Card from Catherine Min of Korea, who studied in Adelaide in 1983, with greetings to the members of A.C.W., was received.

Mary Au, our 1980 student, Vicar of Calvary Church, Wong Tai Sin, Hong Kong, writes of the extensive work of her church - with 700 church members; a social service centre with 1200 members which runs children's programmes during the day and social and educational programmes at night for young people; a hostel for young female factory workers on low salaries and a canteen to supply reasonably priced food, plus 2 kindergartens. As Vicar of the parish, Mary is in charge of all activities.

Mary is also a member of the local youth committee, industrial committee, educational committee and sacred music committee. As chaplain of one secondary and four primary schools within the parish, she gives two sermons each month to each of these schools. With this very heavy work load she asks for our prayers.

Her real concern is the crime in Tze Wan Shan, where she worked in the Kindly Light Church 3 years ago. Here a church is planned with a building programme of 12,000,000 Hong Kong dollars. "The Government has granted the place". Mary continues "Please pray for us." She concludes "Finally, we shall pray for each other. May God bless the A.C.W. and guide you in your work".

Our small Committee will continue to contact these young women, serving their Lord, to the fullest and seek to assist them through prayer and any other way we are able.

At the time of writing, there is no further news of our Scholar from Burma, due to arrive in Adelaide this month.

Yvonne Davis,
W.K.S. Convener.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH, 1987.

This year's service has been prepared by the members of the International Committee - "Come and Rejoice" - and celebrate the Centennial (Year) of World Day of Prayer.
Will you please attend a meeting in your area?

PROMOTIONS REPORT.

As with the Fellowship Day Service, the World Community Day Service seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended in the various parts of the State. The theme "To the World with love" was a good one and lent itself to be spiritually uplifting and challenging.

Thank you to all the branches who were prompt in returning their Report forms. The amount of money that came in was very encouraging and those who receive the gifts, I know, will greatly benefit. We do give thanks and praise to God for your generosity.

Will all Branch Secretaries please note my change of address. It is now - 2/7 Croydon Street, Lakemba, 2195 and my telephone number is 750-3224.

May God richly bless you all as you enter another year of service for the Master.

(Mrs.)B. Finlay,
Promotions Convenor

8.

AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT AT RANDWICK.

Was it Divine Providence that the threatening storm veered away from the racecourse, as Pope John Paul with 250,000 others, saw it building up in the west, just as day began to turn into night? The sky upstaged the man-made panorama beneath and reminded us of Heaven which is our ultimate goal - that place beyond tawdry materialism.

— It was my privilege to represent A.C.W. which enabled me and my son John to be seated among the representatives of the various Churches. A television view of any big event is always best for detailed observation but to be present and part of an enormous spectacle for Christ is to savour an exciting and meaningful atmosphere.

The Spirit blew across our minds like the flags fluttering above the green grass at the racecourse, the birds flew as symbols of hope across the sky. The Pope gave the moving

NAIROBI, JULY, 1986

The World Federation of Methodist Women Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya, last July, brought together women from units in nine areas - South and East Africa, West Africa, Latin America, North America, East Asia, West Asia, Europe, Great Britain and Ireland and South Pacific - to share their faith and experiences.

The opening ceremony, when representatives wore their national costumes, was particularly colourful. The Kenya Women's Choir stood out in their bright yellow costumes, especially printed with a map of Kenya and the WFMW symbol, the Tree of Life, which in Kenya is the coffee tree and the coconut palm. The Choir of 60-70 members came from all parts of Kenya and was trained in small village groups by the conductor, who travelled around the countryside to prepare them for their task of providing music and entertainment during the week of the Assembly.

Each day began with prayer in each of the four residential blocks of the University of Nairobi, where the Assembly was held. After breakfast buses arrived to transport us to Taifa Hall, about a mile away, where the daily meetings took place.

Participants were allotted to a workshop group which met on three occasions. There were twelve groups, each dealing with an aspect of importance to women. The resolutions that came from these workshops indicated the needs of those taking part and will influence the focus of WFMW for the next five years.

During the Assembly, A History of the World Federation of Methodist Women 1923-1986, called 'Methodist Women - A World Sisterhood' was launched. The election of officers for the next five years took place and they were installed at the closing communion service. The President and Treasurer are from USA, Vice President from India and Secretary from South Africa. The South Pacific Area President and Vice President are Margaret Gordon (New Zealand) and Susana Setae (Papua New Guinea).

Helen Richardson, Uniting Church.

10. PARTNERS WITH A.C.W.C. A reminder to members who have become PARTNERS WITH A.C.W.C. that their \$1 for 1987 is now due. For those who are not familiar with this project, A.C.W.C. (Asian Church Women's Conference) is an ecumenical organisation of Christian women of Asia, Australia and New Zealand formed in 1958. Each member country (16 in all) has been set a target, the total of which will meet administrative and general expenses. The Australian target is \$5,000 per annum. Therefore the National Executive of A.C.W. invites you to become a partner with Asian Church Women's Conference by making a contribution of \$1 annually. 5,000 partners would achieve our goal of \$5,000. Please join if you have not already done so - and send your name, address and payment of \$1 to our State Unit Treasurer, Mrs. D. Lumb (see below).

Subscriptions for Newsette (\$2.00) should be sent direct to the Subscription Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse,
86 Fullers Road,
Chatswood, 2067, Tel. 419-6772.

If you are unfinancial for 1987, it will be indicated in the box ~~()~~.
Receipts will only be issued on request.

All other monies, including donations, subscriptions to A.C.W.C. Bulletin (\$5.00), Affiliation Fees, "Partners with A.C.W.C." donation, should be sent to the Treasurer,

Mrs. D. Lumb,
69 Myall Street,
Concord West. 2138. Tel. 73-3360.

All cheques should be made payable to "Australian Church Women".

Affiliation fees are due on 1st March 1987 as follows:

Denominational Groups State level	\$10.00	per annum
Special Interest groups, W.C.T.U., G.B.	5.00	" "
Local Branches of A.C.W.	5.00	" "

Contributions to Newsette are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Mina Whybourne, 99 President Avenue, Caringbah, 2229, (Tel. 525-4339) before the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

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