



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW News

We seek: *to unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
to help Christian women to take more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church.*



from our President

MARCH, 1987

"COME AND REJOICE"

By the time you read this we will have joined together to celebrate the Centennial Service of World Day of Prayer. I hope this was a wonderful day of fellowship and rejoicing for you.

"Come and Rejoice" says the theme for the service, "Rejoice always, pray constantly" says the Biblical reference from I Thess. 5:16,17. Are we a people who show our joy in His presence? Is our worship a joyful occasion?

I would share briefly some reflections of Rev. Navamani Peter given to the General Committee of ACWC. Navamani referred us to Psalm 150 as a pattern, showing us 4 things about the way we should worship:

- Where? - verse 1
- Why? - verse 2
- How? - verses 3-5
- Who? - verse 6.

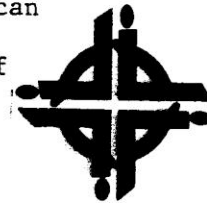
The Psalmist does not tell us to be solemn and silent in our worship, but to "Come and Rejoice".

The Lenten season is with us, observed by many as a special time of seeking, prayer and study. Let us not be overwhelmed by this, but to enter it with grateful hearts for the opportunity we are given; let us be joyful and thankful and carry this with us into worship.

We thank God for the wonderful vision of the American lady that has been taken up by so many, so that we have been able to be a part of this very special World Day of Prayer. May all who met take with them into the year the words, "Come and Rejoice" and share them with all whom they meet.

With love,

Dorothy Haensel





A.C.W. CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 12 - 19

1987

PLAN...PLAN...COME...COME...ENJOY...E N J O Y

"WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR, WERE YOU THERE?"

Members of National Executive are very busy planning details of the programme of Conference and the Seminar. A stimulating time is assured.

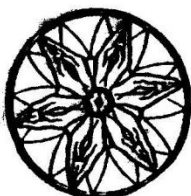
BOOKS containing background information on our Theme have been sent to Units and we hope that these will be handed around and read by as many as possible. Another idea for Units in preparation for the Seminar would be to organise a Workshop (or it could be an exercise for individuals) -

1. Select a country (not necessarily a Third World country)
2. Collect advertisements and stories from travel sections of newspapers relating to that country.
3. Look at the images they present about the place and the people.
4. Compare this with information from elsewhere, e.g. TV documentary, actual travel stories, etc.
5. How do you perceive the people and the country?
6. Repeat 2, 3, 4 and 5 above using travel brochures.
7. If members have friends or relatives in U.K. or USA, discover how Australia is being promoted in that country.
8. What is the image being promoted?
Why?
9. Is it really us?
10. Collect a few of your own State travel brochures and bring to the Conference.



GREETINGS
FROM

NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

GREETINGS to everyone for 1987. This is going to be a busy year; but I trust, a very happy and rewarding one for all of us.

This month all Units will be advised that it is time to be thinking of applications for Grants. Application forms are available from me and must be returned by May 31.

At the Quadrennial Assembly of ACWC in Bangkok, Shanti Solomon announced that she would be retiring as Executive Secretary of FLC. Shanti, who is founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which we all know is a Prayer Movement for Peace and Reconciliation, has been working as Executive Secretary since 1970, although she founded it in 1958. She also was Executive Secretary of ACWC 1970-1982. We shall miss Shanti and pray that God will bless her in her retirement.

We pray too, that we soon hear that we have a new and able successor to this gracious lady who has become a friend to so many.

In a recent letter, Shanti says:

"On behalf of the International Committee for FLC, I thank the women of Australia for their interest and for their contribution sent in, in time for Grant Allocations.

"The sum of money is a concrete token of our assurance that we Christian women are sincerely praying for Peace and Reconciliation, so badly threatened by the big powers. Today in India, we are observing Martyrs Day. Mahatma Ghandi was assassinated on the 30th January 1948. We are using this occasion to have joint prayer for Peace. At 3.00 pm people of all faiths will gather together in the place where Ghandi was killed and have a prayer session for Peace.

"By joining the Movement of Fellowship of the Least Coin, we Christian women are getting into the discipline of having concern for our neighbours.

"Please convey my warm greetings for the New Year to Australian Church Women".

from Jean Middleton
National Convener for FLC

**** PLEASE PRAY HARD for those involved
in choosing the person to promote
Peace and Reconciliation among the
peoples through the FLC prayer movement.

from ACWC Quarterly News Bulletin



AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

- CHURCHES OF CHRIST -

The Theatre of the Hobart University Centre was the venue for the 22nd A.C.W.F. Conference, with 400 present. Mrs. Dorothy Hartam was a gracious President supported by an executive of Tasmanian ladies responsible for various parts of the program.

Audio-visuals, "The Parables of the Tidepool" and "The Parable of the Waves", featuring beautiful Tasmanian scenery provided inspiring closing meditations for morning and afternoon sessions.

In the Missionary Focus, Miss Julie Trinnick, a teacher in Vanuatu, brought a greeting and recognition was made of over 30 years' service in Aborigines Missions by Miss Edna Lincoln who received a Medal of the Order of Australia General Division, in recent Australia Day awards.

Lorraine Jacobs, wife of the World President of Churches of Christ from Christchurch, New Zealand, brought a response on behalf of the visitors and invited everyone to the World Convention Assembly in Auckland in 1988.

World CWF focus was brought by Dorothy Hartam—Present Australian representative on World CWF. Mrs. Joy Sansome from Queensland was appointed to become representative after the next World Convention.

Speaker was Mrs. Mary Fewchuk from Christian Women's Convention International who told how she had heard and responded to the call to Christian service and how it had brought the greatest rewards and joys of her life. (She is 72)

The next Federal Conference (42nd General Conference and 23rd Women's) will be held in Canberra in January 1989. Mrs. Pat Kerr is the new President with Margaret Howard and Val Murray as Secretaries. Dorothy Hartam (who has also been connected with ACW in the past) was thanked for her leadership over the past two years.

Some "lucky" people had 5 or 8 day tours of lovely, lovely Tasmania after the Conference.

WHEN I AM STILL

*I need to be still before my Maker his voice to hear,
Be still of inner feelings as to him I draw near;
Then his gentle touch of beauty my being will he fill
In those precious silent moments when before him I am still.*

Pat Kerr



JOTTINGS....

.... from the Australian Representative to ACWC

Many THANKS to State Units who have acknowledged my Circulars referring to nominations for the position of Executive Secretary to the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and the promotion of the ACWC Quarterly Bulletin and FLC.

There have been no NOMINATIONS from ACW for the FLC position - some said they considered this position should be held by a woman living in Asia, with which I totally agree. I have not heard how many nominations were received; but will keep you posted of developments.

Last month, Dorothy Haensel and I received invitations to attend the DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS of Methodist women in Burma, Tahan District. Unfortunately it was impossible for either of us to attend, but on your behalf, a bank draft was sent to them to help with their work as a mark of our congratulations to them on their anniversary.

I am wondering how successful State Units are being in their promotion of PARTNERS WITH ACWC which helps to provide ACW's annual contribution towards the administrative costs of ACWC. I realise that the members of your affiliated denominations are receiving calls on all sides for contributions to this and that; but it would be wonderful if you could encourage them to realise that if they could ALL contribute \$1 each year (less than a loaf of bread in S.A.) ACW would be in a much healthier situation to meet their dues.

Referring to the PRICE OF BREAD, I wonder if we could all be motivated to offer the price of a loaf of bread (i.e. \$1.00) in recognition of the fact that the bread we all take for granted is often unavailable to so many women and their children in some of the countries affiliated with ACWC.

Barbara Grealy.

PRAYER POINT: "PRAY for the new General Committee and Executive Committee Members to have kind hearts, patience, courage, vision and commitment for the work of ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Especially pray for Maya Michael, our President, to lead and guide all Asian women with love and partnership."



from ACWC Quarterly News Bulletin.

from here & there

... from WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR 1978, BARKAT DASS, now Director of Nursing at the Holy Family Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan.

"My work is going on very well and all is well with my family. My father, even at 87, still enjoys good health.

"I have really enjoyed God's blessings in the form of good health and fellowship of friends. I have been able to serve in my school where I have 78 students (this is the training school for nurses). Board results have been excellent. I will send you our graduation report.

"I still remember the good old days and wish there was some possibility to see all of you in person. Do write if you can.

"With Love, Joy and Peace."

Barkat.



....WOMEN IN TAIWAN. Some 70 women took part in a Seminar/ Workshop sponsored by Christian Conference of Asia Women's Desk. Some subjects for discussion were the changing roles of women in society, problems concerning working women and the situation of tribal women, the overall theme being, "WOMAN TO WOMAN...UNITING ASIAN WOMEN TOWARD THE STRUGGLE FOR FOOD, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM".

.... NEW DIRECTOR The Council of the Ecumenical Christian Centre, Whitefield, Bangalore, has announced that Susy Nellithanam has taken over as Director.

.... WOMEN IN PRISON There are about 40 (known) women prisoners in the Soviet Union who have been imprisoned for religious activities. The oldest known prisoner is Ukrainian Catholic, Oxana Meshko who is now 81. She was a prisoner in Stalin's camps from 1947-54 before being forcibly interned in a psychiatric hospital in 1980. In 1981 she was sentenced to 6 years of strict regime labour camp.



PRAY *** FOR HER AND OTHERS LIKE HER *** and for those who, with great courage, witness to their Faith in face of difficulty and danger.





VICTORY THROUGH PRAYER

by Deaconess Mary Andrews
Life Member of A.C.W.

We are assured "*with all this abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all needs.*" Philippians 4:19. The real victory for all Christian service is won in secret before hand by prayer and praise.

Someone has said, "Only praying hands can build the Kingdom of God. They are God's mighty ones on earth - God's Master Builders". Prayerlessness would appear to be the greatest sin of Christians in Australia today. Is that the reason why so many churches are being closed compared with those opening? I wish those closed churches could have been transported to China where it is estimate 2 new churches are being opened every day. A recent news release said that no sooner was a church opened than it was filled with worshippers.

In Fuzhou where I worshipped last August in the Cathedral, over 3,000 people participated in the service in a church opened only a year ago. My friend Rev. Chen En-foh opened a church in October '85 in Hangzhou and a year later 400 crowded into it. In Shanghai Mo-en church over 5,000 have been baptised in three years.

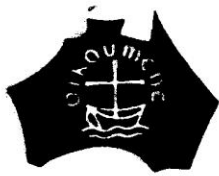
Behind this phenomenal growth is a great prayer movement as hundreds meet each day to pray in homes and churches. They have identified themselves with the Lord who identified himself with those in need. If we do not pray as much as our Lord did, we are saying that we are wiser and more capable than he and imply that we do not need to pray as much as he did. He spent much time in prayer - often whole nights. He was conscious that in His person was the Kingdom of God. May we become more conscious that Jesus is with us and wherever we go, He goes.

When I was being given a lesson by a Chinese teacher in 1938 he said, "When you stepped on China's shores, the Lord Jesus stepped on too, didn't He? That challenging thought has remained with me. In answer to prayer, God has been working miracles in China and has filled us with amazement. The church has moved from a position of weakness to one of strength.

*One Lord, one empire, all secures
He reigns and life and death are yours
Through earth and heaven one song shall ring
The Lord Omnipotent is King.*

May God's Spirit enable us to see miracles being worked as we pray for the ministry to which He has called each one of us.

(reprinted from "Anglican Deaconess Fellowship of Prayer" with permission



ECUMENICAL UPDATE

CYCLONE DAMAGE - Cyclone Uma has left at least 50 people dead and thousands homeless in Vanuatu.

The Australian Council of Churches on Feb. 12 gave a donation of \$20,000 towards rehabilitation. Since power and telephone communication have been cut by the cyclone, the country's precise needs are still unclear.

ACC is waiting on advice from partner churches about how Aid money should be spent, but indications so far are that it will be used chiefly for shelter materials, water containers and sterilisers. Food may also be required.

ACC is a member of a consortium of Aid Agencies called the International Disaster Emergency Committee (IDEC) which has launched an Australia-wide appeal to help Vanuatians rebuild. Private donations to IDEC's Vanuatu appeal are tax deductible and may be made through any branch of the Commonwealth Bank or sent direct to ACC, P.O. Box C199 Clarence St. Sydney 2000.



WCC ASSEMBLY DATES CONFIRMED - The Central Committee of the WCC, meeting in Geneva in January confirmed the dates of the 7th WCC Assembly to meet in Canberra, February 7-20, 1991.

An Assembly Planning Committee has been set up, headed by the Rev. Dr. Avery Post of the United Church of Christ, USA. 19 countries are represented on this Planning Committee which will begin work this year. Churches are invited to suggest an appropriate THEME for the Assembly.

ACC PRESSES GOVERNMENT ON REFUGEES - The closure by the Thai Government of the Khao-I-Dang Refugee holding camp on the Thai-Kampuchean border has prompted the ACC to urge that the Federal Government of Australia accept more refugees.

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