

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT.

A.G.M. held Nov. 9th, elections results:

PRES: Mrs. Sheila Hart, 'Chrisanne', (08) 264 1128
North Blvd. Tea Tree Gully, S.A. 5090

PRES. Mrs. Marj Dredge, 6 Melanto Tce., (08) 276 8874
ELECT: Marion, S.A. 5043

SEC: Mrs. Maureen Clark, 572 States Rd. (08) 382 1360
Hackham, S.A. 5163

MIN SEC: Vacant

TREAS: Miss Grace Sims, 7/27 Alexandra Ave., (08) 332 5174
Rose Park S.A. 5067

ASST. Vacant

TREAS:

WKS Mrs. Vi Bache, 52 Lyons Rd., (08) 261 7161
CONV: Holden Hill, S.A. 5088

FLC Mrs. Mary Wahrbichler, 73 High St., (08) 353 3369
CONV: Grange, S.A. 5022

COMMUNITY

CONCERN Miss Norma Bishop, 1/389 Glynburn Rd. (08) 31 4595
CONVENER Kensington Park, S.A. 5068

PUBLICITY

OFFICER: Vacant.

STOP PRESS

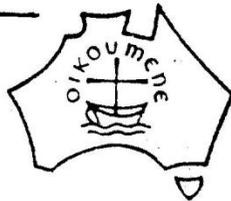
Some adjectives for the Assembly in Canberra - Splendid, dynamic, soul searching, heart-warming, inclusive, memorable!

I'm sorry that, due to space limitation, some interesting reports have had to be condensed.

EDITOR

FELLOWSHIP DAY, JULY, 1991

The theme for this service is "Praise the Lord with gladness".



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 a more effective place in the total life & mission of the church.

March/April, 1991

Dear Members,

We have begun a very special year, the one in which we will be holding our National Conference, which will have the advantage of the current thinking of the Asian Church Women's Conference Assembly in Jakarta last November and of the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra in February this year.



There is a need for greater participation and more frequent ecumenical sharing to enable the Holy Spirit to empower greater unity and greater respect of Christians for one another. It is our role to promote these relationships by inviting wider participation in our services and other gatherings. We must encourage participants to sit and talk with other denominations to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as we gather together united in Christ.

Let us commence our invitations now - ten personal ones - (post them if you wish) for our Special Days and our Conference.

With love and prayer,

Marie McCann

National President.



A.C.W.C. QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY, JAKARTA - Report from President, Marie McCann.

The Assembly was attended by 140 women of 16 countries, from Korea through to New Zealand; held at Kinasih Conference Centre, in the hills 40km from the city; the climate, though humid, was breezy and very pleasant.

The Indonesian politeness was outstanding and the spirituality and the fellowship between all the nationalities was very special. The Business Sessions, Bible Studies, Devotionals, Special Events, Cultural Evening, Church Services were all magnificently planned.

It was a great privilege to participate in sharing the concern of women who are heavily burdened in their efforts to free women from their heavy burdens of oppression in their homes, their work, and sadly, their churches; also to gain this knowledge and concern to bring forward to our own 1991 National Conference.

The new ACWC President is Mrs. Monika Mannan of Bangladesh. Margaret Napier, who has replaced Barbara Grealy as our National Representative, was appointed as Conference Secretary of ACWC, the position from which Dorothy Haensel has retired. Joan Tong was elected to the General Committee.



ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Greetings from the 'Top End'!



I'm sure we would all like to express a most sincere 'Thank You' to BARBARA GREALY who completed her 4 years as the Australian Representative to ACWC at the 9th Assembly in Jakarta in November, 1990. Her role as Executive Vice President was most significant and she accepted additional responsibility when Maya Michael was ill. She ably presented Australian Church Women's reports & concerns to our Asian sisters & her regular articles in our ACW News kept us informed of what was happening on the ACWC front.

Thanks are also due to DOROTHY HAENSEL who was elected from the floor of the Assembly in Bangkok in 1986 and took on the responsibility of Assembly Secretary in 1987 following the resignation of Boonmee Julkiree. As with everything, Dorothy does, she performed her tasks most efficiently.

During the Assembly in Jakarta, each country was asked to make a commitment to ACWC. The Australian delegation put forward the following statement:

"Members of Australian Church Women at this Assembly promise to promote ACWC among Christians in Australia, by sharing information on issues discussed here in order to raise awareness of the needs of our sisters in Asia, so we can respond.

We undertake to prepare and circulate a prayer calendar to encourage Australian church women to pray regularly for members of the ACWC Committee and member countries of ACWC."

Each national representative has been asked to put forward three prayer concerns from her country and so far seven countries have responded.

I feel the best way to promote this is to publish two months at a time in the ACW News. I hope Mavis will be able to set aside some space each issue for this and members will look for it and USE it. To allow time for circulation of the ACWC News, I will start from March.



MARCH

SINGAPORE (Rita Wong - National Representative
Jenny Phuah - General Committee Member)

- Pray for women to have a balance between their work and their church commitments.
- Pray for Singaporeans to break out of their consumer mentality and affluence spiral.
- Pray for the increasing number of single women to find joy in the Lord.

KOREA (Rev. Cho Wha Soon - Nat. Representative
Eunice Kim - Exec. Secretary)

- 1995 will be the 50th year of division of Korea into two (South & North) by two big powers. Korea is planning to have a big celebration of the Jubilee year - a sacred year! Pray that Korea can have unification before 1995.
- Pray for the Korean victims & their families who are still suffering as a result of the atom bomb in the Second World War.

- Pray for the prisoners of conscience.

SRI LANKA (Grace Arthur - Nat. Representative
Sita Perera - General Committee Member)

- Pray that peace may prevail in Sri Lanka especially in the North and North East.
- Pray for Mission 1991 and the National Committee, that the Gospel message may be taken to all parts of the island.
- Pray for people returning from Middle Eastern countries, needing counselling and employment.

I encourage you to use these prayer requests in whatever way you can - both privately and at any gathering or meeting you hold, either collectively or as individual countries.

P.S. The Assembly in Jakarta was a very special time and as I felt the above needed to be said, due to space limitations, I second the reports of the other representatives. Thank you for allowing me to represent you there.

God bless,

Margaret Napier

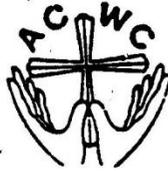
P.S. Asian Church Women's Conference's Constitution states:

PURPOSE: Believing that the purpose of God for the Churches is life together in a common obedience to Him for the doing of His will in the world, the Asian Church Women's Conference is constituted so that women sharing a common faith in our Lord and Saviour may unite to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



ASSEMBLY STATEMENT

We, the participants of the 9th Assembly of the ACWC held from November 1-6, 1990 in Wisma Kinasih, Carangin, Jakarta, Indonesia were challenged as we reflected upon the time "In Christ - Freedom, Growth and Hope". It has been an enriching experience to have fellowship with 140 participants from 16 Asian countries and invited international guests.



The theme was further understood through worship, Bible studies, keynote address and workshops which explored our roles as women in Ecumenism, Christ the Way, Solidarity with God's Creation and Respect for Life.

We believe that Ecumenism can break denominational barriers at the grassroots level bringing people together in unity and love. We encourage women and men to work together as equal partners in decision making structures in church & society.

We believe that the way of Christ will help us to be sensitive to the needs and struggles of women in Asia, and commit ourselves to action through studying and sharing the Word of God.

We believe and recognise the urgency to act in solidarity with God's creation as responsible people. We commit ourselves as women to educate our families, churches, communities and governments by taking decisive actions which will lead to the healing process of preserving God's creation.

We believe that ACWC is:

- A community to express our faith in Jesus Christ
- A community to uphold the aims and purposes of ACWC
- A community to work for peace, justice & reconciliation through the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
- A community to strengthen our fellowship with one another.



Through the working of the Holy Spirit, the participants were challenged to press forward to work for the wholistic development of all people with commitment and confidence. We stand together with all those who yearn for freedom, growth and hope in Christ.

Joan Tong

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 9 - 13TH SEPTEMBER '91



BLUE RIBBON EVENT

More than a month of 1991 has slipped away from us already & our National Conference is coming closer every day. The Collaroy Conference Centre, just up the coast from Manly, where our National Conference will be held, is a very pleasant place to spend a few days. The theme of the Conference is 'We being many, are one in Christ', and our Bible Study leaders and Seminar speakers will follow different aspects of this theme.

Registration forms should be available in early March, a little later than we had hoped because some speakers we approached could not confirm their availability until Feb.

Bible Studies will be held each morning, led by women from different denominations. On Wednesday 11th, we have planned a Seminar Day which will be open to all, especially those not able to attend the Conference for the full time. On that day our Bible Study will be a little earlier, so that we will be ready to greet our Day Visitors and begin the Seminar at 10 am. There will be three speakers during the day on themes 'In Christ Freedom', 'In Christ Growth', 'In Christ Hope'.

The next day we will attend a reception at Sydney Town Hall and spend some time in the city before returning to business. That evening we will have a concert of fellowship and fun and we are asking each Unit to present an item, so get those rehearsals under way.

Our opening and closing services will be held in the Conference Centre Chapel, set on a hill with a magnificent ocean view on one side and bushland on the other. The full length glass walls will allow us to admire God's creation while we worship.

You Are Invited

Sydney and the northern beaches have many attractions for visitors, so why not extend your visit and stay on after the Conference to enjoy some of them. Members of the National Committee and the New South Wales Unit will be able to offer some hospitality or advise on other accommodation available.

The Collaroy Centre can accommodate over 350 so there is room for everyone. Please consider this a very warm invitation to come - as a delegate, observer or visitor - to our National Conference next September.

Helen Richardson

National Secretary.

* * * * *

IMPRESSIONS OF THE ACWC ASSEMBLY - KINASIH, JAKARTA
NOV. 1-6, 1990

from Barbara Bourhill, ACW Delegate.

As I think back over the magical week of my first Overseas Conference and look at all the highlights, I realize that they were all due to two "Wonderful's" - wonderful people and Wonderful organization! I've

decided to talk a little about our own Muriel Olsson. Most of you would have met or heard Muriel as she travelled around Australia in 1989 with Rev. Lee Edwards as the recipient of an ICFLC grant. Several Units had submitted Muriel's name as an observer to represent Aboriginal women at the Assembly. She certainly was well chosen! Muriel was a marvellous Ambassadors for our people - both black and white. She mixed freely with all the participants and was sought out often to tell more of her life and her spirituality. She was in the same workshop group as I was, and she spoke gently but with great feeling about the problems her people face in Australia; but also told of the hope she felt when she saw many good things emerging, such as the spreading of Christianity in the North of Australia by the Aborigines themselves.



At the closing stages of the ACWC Assembly in November, each country was asked to plan some form of on-going programme to continue the work of the Conference in some way until the next Assembly in 1994. The Australian delegates and observers decided that we would each write a piece for the "ACW News" - one for each issue featuring some aspect of the Assembly, or participant, of special interest to us.

I volunteered to be first, so I've enclosed my piece as above.



CONGRATULATIONS

From VICTORIAN UNIT: We congratulate our Treasurer Mrs. Helen Banks on being elected as Australia's Representative to The Churches of Christ World Christian Women's Fellowship. Helen will take office in August, 1992.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Greetings to all for 1991.



Many of our well-known friends from overseas will be attending the WCC Assembly in Canberra. These will include Shirin Samuel, Executive Secretary and Promoter of FLC. Later she will visit ACW in Tasmania. Unfortunately we will not all meet her.

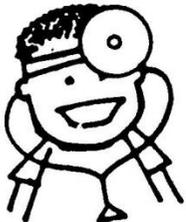
Let us work together with what we have, and be in prayer for our Conference in September.

Peace be with you.

Glad West,
Convener.

W.K. SCHOLARHIP

It was thrilling to receive a letter from Doreen Tie during January, to not only thank ACW for all her experiences in Australia last year, but also telling of her work as soon as she arrived home in Kuching, Sarawak, on 11th December. She has already met with the staff & outlined some of her ideas. She said the Principal & her colleagues were glad to hear & happy to adopt these ideas. Doreen is teaching a class of 16 intellectually impaired children aged 9 - 10 years.



Rachel Sobana, our 1991 scholar, a nurse, from Nagercoil, Sth. India arrives in Sydney on Feb. 26th. Rachel will visit hospitals in NSW, ACT, Tasmania, Brisbane Melbourne, Adelaide & Perth, flying home from Perth on Dec. 9th. Dates have not been finalised yet, but in the next issue of ACW News, we will publish a definite

itinerary. I'm sure you will enjoy meeting her & escorting her to various hospitals to observe their methods of administration.

I have received Christmas greetings from Rashmira Maharjan (1988 scholar) and Melini Devananda (1981 scholar). Keep praying for all our scholars. After experiencing life in another country it is sometimes very difficult to settle back into one's own culture and get on with the job.

Lucelle King,
Convener.

o o o o o

OSWOMEN

OSWOMEN is the newsletter of the Office of the Status of Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. It is produced quarterly and is distributed to approximately 10,000 subscribers. OSWOMEN reports on current programs & policies relevant to advancing the status of women, & includes interviews, reviews of publications, & a calendar of upcoming events. If you are not already on the OSWOMEN mailing list, but would like to be, send your name & address, with particulars of organization and areas of interest, also your phone number to OSW publications officer 3-5 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2602.

**ATTENTION
WOMEN**



"Help When Someone Dies" - This booklet provides a guide to bereavement measures & Social Security entitlements. Supplies can be obtained by contacting the Distributions Officer, Information & Public Relations Phone (02) 2278873.

We were pleased to receive a letter from Lorna Stevenson of Alice Spring, in it she says: "I write to advise that after years of inactivity, we celebrated World Community Day in October with the service of worship provided. After the service I appealed for someone to represent Australian Church Women among us & MRS. SUE TAYLOR, 12 DeHAVILLAND DRIVE, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870 offered to do so.

Our new beginnings are small with about 20 Uniting Church women & 2 Lutherans at that service. Other churches invited did not respond. Sue brings enthusiasm to the task & she certainly has my support."

JOIN THE GROUP

