

N.S.W. STATE UNIT NEWS.

** WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. March 5, 1993.
" God's People : Instruments of Healing".

** ANNUAL DEDICATION SERVICE.
May 1993. Watch for details of time and place.

** FELLOWSHIP DAY. July 1993.
"Let Justice Roll on Like a River".
Offering - Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

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For any information about Australian Church Women write to-

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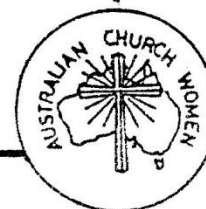
SPECIAL DAYS CONVENOR:

Mrs Peg Blake.
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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How do you feel about the theme "Forgive us as we forgive."?
Are you comfortable with these words?
2. Which story in the bible speaks best to you of God's forgiving love?
3. How in your life have you experienced forgiveness?
Share your story (in two's)
4. In what way, over the last 10 years, have you experienced the breaking down of barriers between
 - a. Christian denominations
 - b. race and culture
 - c. other living faiths
5. How can we use God's free gift of forgiveness and reconciliation in our family, Church and community life?

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

INFORMATION

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN came into being in 1965, uniting the existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils 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 boundaries.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN OFFERINGS are brought from individuals and groups to be dedicated at the World Community Day Service in October. These are then sent to the Treasurer of your State Unit.

THE OFFERING from this service is to be divided equally between our 1990 Winifred Kiek Scholar, teacher Doreen Tie, for supplies for a Toy Library and Resource Centre for the School for Mentally Retarded Children in Kuching, Sarawak; and Administrative Funds for Asian Church Women's Conference, of which Australian Church Women is a member organisation.

An Ecumenical Fellowship-Meal may be held before or after the World Community Day Service. The Discussion Questions on Page 7 may be used during the Service as indicated, or as part of a Seminar/Discussion Group.

Students of local schools may be invited to participate in the World Community Day Service. They may provide a choir to sing "The Lord's Prayer."

TODAY'S SERVICE was prepared by the Victorian Unit of Australian Church Women.

COVER DESIGN by Joan Cooper of the Victorian Unit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

"Learning to Forgive". Used with permission U.C.A. Commission for Mission, World Mission, Prayer Handbook 1982 "Widening Horizons".

Hymn Words: "Forgive our sins as we forgive", by Rosamond E Herklots (1905 - 1987) by permission of Oxford University Press.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

A Celebration of the Grace of God -

Together: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (Authorised King James Version)

HYMN: "To God be the glory, great things he has done" A.H.B. 85

or

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation" A.H.B.28

PRAYER: Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, it is with joy that we come together in worship and praise in your presence today. Your grace and mercy continually surround us and our hearts respond in love and thanksgiving.

We do not deserve your mercy for we have sinned against you in word and thought and deed.

Hear us, O God, as we make our confession and claim your promise that if we confess our sins you are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Thank you, Father,

Amen.

SOLO or CHOIR: "The Lord's Prayer".

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Bible Readings:

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 15:11-32 (may be read with mime, liturgical dance or narration

[four characters: narrator, father, sons 1 & 2])

ADDRESS: "Forgive us as we forgive"

HYMN: 'Forgive our sins as we forgive'
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
how small the debts men owe to us,
how great our debt to you.

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, reconciled to God and man,
our lives will spread your peace.

Rosamond E. Herkiots 1905 - 1987
Tunes: A.H.B. 435 "Belmont" (86.86) or
A.H.B. 50 "Wiltshire" (86.86)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

DISCUSSION on questions (optional - see page 7)

OFFERING: Fellowship of the Least Coin.
(Music voluntary during offering)

DEDICATION OF OFFERING: Prayer of Fellowship of the Least Coin.

'O Loving Creator' we present ourselves in your divine presence to
thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful
for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love
and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and

prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind
that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept this least coin 'token of love', make us mindful of
the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love,
as shown through the life and resurrection of your Son, Jesus the
Christ. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Leader God of Grace, who was in Christ, reconciling the world to yourself,
not holding our faults against us and entrusting to us your message
of reconciliation, hear our prayers as we bring before you the needs
of people everywhere. We pray for your Church with all its divisions.

People **May we be united in our love for you and in love and concern
for all your creation.**

Leader We pray for people caught up in conflict between nations and within
nations, in hostility and mistrust within communities and broken
relationships within families.

People **May all who work for peace, forgiveness and reconciliation at
all levels, as ministers, mediators and counsellors, be granted
wisdom and compassion and be encouraged by the support of
your people.**

Leader We pray for those whose beliefs and attitudes are different to ours:
for people of other faiths, for new settlers to whom our culture is
strange, and for aboriginal communities seeking to regain their
identity.

People **Grant us discernment that we may be freed from blind
prejudice and may strive to understand their needs. May they
see in us, who are your ambassadors, the image of your love.**

Leader We pray for people damaged by experiences of violence, cruelty,
deprivation or neglect, for those who have suffered physical or
emotional abuse and for those who abuse.

People **May they be cleansed of the burden of fear, bitterness and
resentment and learn to know the healing power of love.**

Leader We pray for those whose lives have lost their meaning - the lonely and the unemployed. We pray, too, for those who have lost their way and have sought escape in drugs or empty pleasures, or meaning in cults and dangerous practices.

People **May they be led to you, the source of all meaning, and find in you hope, forgiveness and reconciliation, and the way, the truth and the life.**

All Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let us sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light
Where there is sadness, joy.
All these things we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

OFFERING for Australian Church Women's Project and for Asian Church Women's Conference.

DEDICATION OF OFFERING: (Sung)

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, son and Holy Ghost."

Tune: "Doxology" - "Sing Alleluia" 72 or
"Old 100th" - A.H.B.573

SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

PRAYER: "Learning to Forgive" (Luke 15: 11-32)

Leader Our Father God, We Can see something of ourselves in the younger son in this story;

Response and we are glad of the joyous warmth of your forgiveness, and

your willingness to restore us to our places in your family.

Leader We can also see something of ourselves in the older son;

Response teach us to be more gracious in our forgiving.

Leader May we offer encouragement and support to those who are making a fresh start, setting aside anything we may know of past mistakes,

Response and rejoicing as you rejoice, our Father.

Leader May we be patient with those whose ways irritate us, remembering that we are not perfect ourselves,

Response and loving as you love, our Father.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

HYMN "Forth in Thy name, O Lord. I go," A.H.B.480

or

"May the mind of Christ my Saviour" A.H.B.537

BENEDICTION: (Sung)

"A new commandment I give unto you
that you love one another
as I have loved you,
that you love one another
as I have loved you.
By this shall all men know
that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another.
By this shall all men know
that you are my disciples
if you have love for one another.