



FLC

MOVES & TOUCHES

For Peace, Justice and Reconciliation

Fellowship of the Least Coin

December 2008

From the Chairperson of the ICFLC, Jill King
... With much love

*S*reetings from Chesterfield on a grey November day – from a house surrounded by scaffolding and dirt! We are having some work done on the outside of the house, including overdue replacement of the rain gutters all round the roof. It's noisy, messy (inside and out), inconvenient and very ugly: "change and decay in all around I see". But on the plus side – the men doing the work are friendly and conscientious, and will do a good job, and when it's done, the house will look much better and be more sound. So I mustn't complain, must I?

But I do hate change: I don't like the chaos and risk that it may entail, I don't like my secure little routines being disrupted, I don't like losing old friends. And, if you hadn't already guessed, that brings me to the recent meeting of ICFLC in Toronto – not the mention of chaos, because it was beautifully organised by Cora, our Executive Secretary, and our hosts from WJCC – but the mention of losing old friends. My stint on the committee is over, and I'm very sad that I won't be working with those wonderful women any more: I will miss them.

But this is not about me: it's about continually renewing the FLC house, so that it's a sound base from which to reach out to those who need a bit of help to make the changes they need in their lives – be it skills training, health education, freedom from abuse....

Shanti Solomon knew about the necessity of facing change, of taking risks, of reaching out. She was able to do that from a base of security – her faith in a loving God. I invite you to carry on building a house for all God's people, so that a baby born in a stable can feel at home among us.



The ICFLC is grateful to the able leadership of the outgoing officers: Jill King of Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women as Chair; Esther Kilagibian, of Lebanon as Vice-Chair; and Joanne Instance of Canada as Honorary Treasurer. Many thanks...



As I write what will be my last greetings as Honorary Treasurer, I bring you greetings from Canada and thank you for your friendship and concern over the past nine years that I have had the privilege of serving in this position. I have met some wonderful people from all over the world and this has enriched my life in many ways. Pat Allinson will be taking on this responsibility in 2009. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of this movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation in this troubled and chaotic world.

Advent has just begun as I write, and the return of Advent attempts to remind us that the vital themes of December are not shopping expeditions to the mall, festive outings, extra holidays – not even connecting with special people; rather they are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – the latter most pronounced in the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ – Emmanuel, God come to be with us. Indeed what can be a greater contrast with the self-centeredness that really lies at the heart of the current economic upheavals, and even a great deal of the terror in the world than this greatest gift from the God who loves us. We are blessed and must continue to pray – trusting in God's Grace and guidance as we share our least coins so that many more can experience God's love.

I would like at this time to express my thanks and appreciation to all of you for your prompt transfer of the least coins to the Trust Fund in Geneva and to the Finance Department of the World Council of Churches, for their continued assistance in administering these funds. My love and appreciation to the members of the ICFLC (past and present!) and assurance of my support in anything that I can do.

May God continue to bless us all as we continue with this prayer movement of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Sincerely,
Joanne Instance
ICFLC Honorary Treasurer
2000-2008



Blessed Christmas, Hopeful New Year!

From: Cora and Lorraine

A Glance at the 28th Annual Meeting

The ICFLC Annual Meeting was held successfully at Toronto, Ontario, Canada on October 27-30, 2008.



Worshipping God who gathered us



The ICFLC



The theme of the ICFLCAM "Inclusiveness in the FLC Vision" was tackled in Bible study led by Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson. She challenged us, like Shanti Solomon, to engage with other circles. Lois said, "Jesus is always in the edge."



To Joanne: "With deep appreciation for your commitment, love and courage"



To WICC, our Host: "With thanks for your hospitality on this occasion and appreciation of your long term practical and imaginative commitment to FLC."



Fran Odette who shared on "Women with Disabilities & Deaf Women's Program"

Valuing Creation



at the Niagara Falls



Taking time to visit the oldest Maple Tree

ICFLC elects new officers



Esther Kilagblian of Middle East as Chair; Shirley Maginley of WCC Women in Church and Society as Vice-chair, Pat Allinson of WICC as Honorary Treasurer, with Cora

2008 new ICFLC members



Margurite A. Carter,
National President for Church Women United-USA and member of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church who hails from California.

Dr. 'Asinate Samate,

representative of the Pacific Conference of Churches, an ordained minister of the Free Wesleyan Church in Tonga (or Methodist Church in tonga).



Rev. Yamina Apolinaris,
representative of the Latin American Council of Churches, Directora Ejecutiva Corporación Milagros del Amor (CorMA) who belongs to the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico.



Happy New Year. I greet you as sisters around the world who join me in prayers and putting aside least coins. We are one in the Spirit and let's remain like that. Let the Prince of Peace fill us with hope and assurance. *Esther Kilagblian*
Lebanon

Although we cannot touch each woman around the world, we pray and we think about each other in Jesus' name. *Shiu-Wen Chiang,*
ACWC, Taiwan

Blessings of peace and joy to all of you my dear sisters, from your sister from the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI). May the celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus remind us that we live in hope, even in troubling times. Alleluia, Christ is with us. Rejoice for he is our peace. *Rev. Yamina Apolinaris,*
CLAI



May our journeys lead us to the Christ Child Who journeys with us as we reach so many children in need—for it is He who told us that whatsoever we do unto these Little ones—we also do to Him. May God bless you and make You a blessing at Christmas.

Annette Poitier, WDPIC
Bahamas

May the simplicity of the stable in Bethlehem and the love of the Christ Child give you Peace and Happiness at this Christmas Festival. With blessings and love from New Zealand.

Pauline Yates

May the hope of Christ's birth, death and resurrection bring us closer together in sisterhood. *Shirley Maginley (WCC), London*



During this advent season it is my prayer that the spirit of the Christ Child will bring a new joy into your life. It is the vision of ICFLC that all God's children know of God's love and saving grace.

Margurite A. Carter, National President
Church Women United—USA

Blessings to our sisters all over the world from the women of the FLC Movement in Canada and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. May his light shine forever. *Pat Allinson*

Dear FLC Sisters Worldwide,

I send you love and blessings as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, and my best wishes for your health and happiness in 2009.

Jocelyn Rait, Ottawa, Canada
ICFLC Member 2001-2004

May the peace and joy of Living Christ be with you throughout the season of celebration and into the New Year with all its challenges. In love, *June Dyer (Toronto)*

May the gift of a life warmed by the Love of Jesus enrich you throughout the New Year. *Stan Mengel, USA*



Can we respond to the challenges of poverty, climate change and financial chaos? Yes, thanks to our Immanuel God—God is with us and for us. *Paul King, UK*

May our least coins be a blessing to all people. May the sharing bring peace to the four corners of the world so that the mission of Jesus be carried out. *Irene Churchill, Canada*

May the peace and the blessing of this holy time be with you all and may 2009 be the best year ever. With love, *Anne McKinnon (the bag lady)*
Hosting Committee, Ontario, Canada

Greetings from Canada, Because of the incredible strength shown on the smiling faces and amazing voices of women who have gathered with us from around the world, we are assured of peace in our uncertain times. May this hope, love, peace and joy remain within our hearts so that the star that first shone in the East may be the guarding light also in the West, South and North. *Inez Penney*



Writing and offering Greetings!

May the remembrance and celebration of the babe born anew in our hearts bless us all. As the New Year approaches may we be inspired and renewed to respond with love and understanding, peace and love in all our goings and comings. May our vision of peace and reconciliation reach those in need around the world.
Gail Mengel, USA

How good to put faces, personalities and love together—when I hear of a country in the news I'm reminded of this memory and shared love. Claire Heron, Canada

"Christmas is a time of hope." Everyone longs to be home for Christmas. However, we have many men and women fighting for peace that will not realize that dream. However, the FLC does offer us hope through prayer. We can all join hands in a spiritual chain to renew each human being's hope in life and humanity.
Eleonor Arless, WICC Communications Chairperson



It is my prayer that FLC and WDP continue to grow and spread like a soothing salve on a wounded world with continued prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation.
Marilyn Fortin, WDP Canada (WICC)

May we humbly pray unceasingly that the spirit of the Fellowship of the Least Coin will keep us burning with peace, justice and reconciliation for our world. Let us persevere by moving on and touching the lives of others in His name. With love and best wishes for a meaningful Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Gloria M. Santos, Philippines

At the dinner to launch the 90th Anniversary of WICC at Newman Center, Toronto

Two presidents: Nareeboon of Asian Church Women's Conference and Judith Snowdon of WICC



With our WICC sisters, we sang and continue to sing "Let Us Widen Our Tents," composed by Judith Snowdon.

Jill giving greetings as Chair of ICFLC



Widening the tents of ICFLC to include "good husbands"

Ocean of Hope

tears of joy
like those from wedding fall
as rain
upon church pews echoing
sacredly
in silent places
not ever heard before
but, now
throughout a single world
like thunder sound
and mine... simply... humbly... lost...
with in yours as I become now
as one
with you
together... all combined
as ocean of hope
restless
and illuminated
by the days'
now and rising sun

poem written by a "good husband",
Sonny Atkinson, November 6, 2008

At the Toronto FLC Ingathering Service October 28, 2008.



Jill King giving greetings and introducing the ICFLC and AM guests



Prepared by: Corazon Tabing-Reyes and Lorraine A. Kamatoy
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