



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
ACW NEWS

NOVEMBER 2004

"Forward Together in Christ."

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.
Psalm 127



Australian Church Women seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries, to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

What a wonderful God we serve. A God who is Father and Lord, who is the creator and sustainer of life and has created all of our world and yet knows us individually as if there were only one to know.

We serve a God who has given us life and through His son has given us Life Eternal. He has given us a life to enjoy each other and especially to enjoy Him and all the gifts He has for us.

There is sometimes much debate in the Christian Church (and this debate has been around for quite a number of years) as to the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, which are available to all believers. If you are a reader of Selwyn Hughes' devotional help Everyday With Jesus, you will be following his writings on "The Harvest of the Spirit". The title of this study alone gives us an insight into some of the studies. Up till now (at the time of writing) we have looked at Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness and Goodness. Selwyn Hughes has brought out to us the many aspects of each of these fruits that we are to bear within ourselves as children of our God. When we, as believers, demonstrate these fruits, our not-yet-Christian friends, family and neighbours will see that God truly has done a wonderful work in our lives. Selwyn Hughes writes: "When the Holy Spirit is allowed to have His way in the life of a Christian, it is inevitable that they will want to live more righteously, be more godly. Imagine the impact in society if all Christians were to demonstrate in their daily relationships the nine qualities of the fruits of the Spirit. It might not in itself produce revival, but it would most certainly give the world a clear picture of what it means to be a Christian. We would not need to pray for a revival, because the wonderful signs of revival would already be apparent."

As I meet and join with the women of Australian Church Women I am constantly blessed and encouraged by the wonderful sharing of faith and witness that is very apparent in your lives. May you know and experience the constant love and fellowship of God's spirit as it is harvested in and through your lives in your area of ministry for Him.

October is a great month for sharing with other believers in ACWC gatherings and for joining together in World Community Day services. I am looking forward this year to sharing with Launceston (Tasmania) and Dee Why (Sydney) members as we celebrate the wonderful work of ACW.

God Bless you. NANCY.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Allocated Grants for Projects 2004

The Committee, prayerfully and with trust in God, has allocated Grants for 29 projects in 2004. Some of the projects are -- Women Empowerment through Education and Training; Women Capacity Building; Gender Awareness and Leadership Development; Nutritional and Life Training Skills; Health Program for Women and their Families; Women Daily Co-operative Project; Shelter and Service Centre for Domestic Helpers and Migrant Workers; Overcoming Violence Against Women; Women and Legacy of Nuclear Testing; Program for Children with Slow Development; and Children Growing Together in Peace.

Summary of Project Grants for 2004

Region	Amount in US \$
AFRICA	\$11,000.00
ASIA	\$27,000.00
EUROPE	\$ 6,000.00
LATIN AMERICA	\$26,500.00
MIDDLE EAST	\$13,500.00
PACIFIC	\$ 6,000.00
CANADA	\$ 4,000.00
USA	\$ 3,000.00
WOMEN'S PROGRAM, WCC	\$ 6,000.00
WDPIC	\$ 4,000.00
* For DESIGNATED GRANTS	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL	US \$112,000.00

Block Grants for 2004

Region	Amount in US \$
All Africa Conference of Churches	\$ 10,000.00
Asia: ACWC	\$ 20,000.00
Christian Conference of Asia	\$ 10,000.00
Caribbean Conference of Churches	\$ 10,000.00
Church Women United USA	\$ 5,000.00
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women	\$ 10,000.00
Latin American Council of Churches	\$ 10,000.00
Middle East Council of Churches	\$ 10,000.00
Pacific Conference of Churches	\$ 10,000.00
Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada	\$ 5,000.00
World Council of Churches Women's Program	\$ 10,000.00
World Day of Prayer International Committee	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 120,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR	\$ 334,000.00

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

GOOD NEWS ! Mereani has arrived in Australia. She came to Melbourne on Saturday September 11th. The Uniting Church Fijian Congregation has been looking after her at West Footscray for the first month. The Minister of the Congregation, the Rev. Jovili Meo and his wife Lisa, were in Fiji in September and since their return they have looked after Mereani's accommodation. The Victorian Unit members met Mereani and they have provided her with her immediate needs. Mereani was due to start work on Tuesday, September 21st. We look forward to receiving further information as it comes to us. Grateful thanks are due to the Victorian Unit for all the extras that will be required of them during Mereani's stay of 24 to 26 weeks. Thanks to Joan Tong for this information.

Mina Whybourne (NSW past Convener WKS) has received word from Doreen Tan (Doreen Tie, Scholar in 1990). Doreen is now Principal of her Handicapped Children's School. Readers may remember that we assisted Doreen to develop and stock the Toy Library at this school. Doreen's own children, Heather and Brian, are both now at school.

From Judith Cayzer WKS Convener NSW writing in *Newsette*.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC)

Pat Walker our Representative to ACWC writes in her Report on 2004. "This year I have been trying to encourage Australian Women to join more fully with our Asian sisters through ACWC. Subscriptions to ACWC Newsletter have increased, but it would be good if **each women's group** could get a copy of the newsletter to hand it around among their members.

Since the "War on Terror", persecution of Asian Christians has increased. There has been violence in Indonesia and in many other Asian countries. Would we be brave enough to acknowledge Christ in these places?

Many countries have been ravaged by floods, typhoons and by diseases and have needed our prayers. But ACWC still continues to provide scholarships and projects for the betterment of women, to help them take a more equal place in their churches and to help provide a livelihood for the poor.

Much of the money to do the work of ACWC comes from the Signature Campaign, from Annual Affiliation fees and from donations. We have collected signatures in each state to combine with the annual collections from World

Community Day, so these collections should be sent to ACWC Treasurer as Signature Campaign.

This year we were privileged to meet together in Myanmar for the Executive and General meetings. These meetings forge deep friendships between us as Christians and as women.

Don't forget that in the new year (2005) you will be asked to nominate delegates for the 2006 ACWC Assembly. You will need a new Australian Representative and three other delegates. Bear in mind that **one of the four should be either indigenous or under 40.** " (A challenge for ACW. Ed.)

Other news from Pat tells us that our Prayer Partners in Hong Kong have moved to new premises in Kowloon:-

Hong Kong Women Christian Council

Unit 17, UG/F, Lok Tai House,

Lok Fu Estate, ong Tai Sin, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR.

Email: info@hkwcc.org.hk or www.hkwcc.org.hk

The ACWC Newsletter will be \$12.00 for the four issues in 2005. The April/June issue arrived after Shu-Wen's difficult time with back problems and the death of her sister.

She continues to research interesting stories from many countries. Articles in this issue include Usha Joshua's experiences as a Clergy Wife, "The Blooming of Hope and Peace"; from Ambon just before the savage attacks recently experienced in "It Happened Again" and Esther Byu, Exec. Secretary of ICFLC writes "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right". Joan Tong's report on the ACWC Day 2003 is also in this issue.

New South Wales Unit celebrated ACWC Day with a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon in October. This annual event is eagerly looked-forward to by A.C.W. members in this state. It is a delight to have so many of our Asian sisters join with us on these occasions.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Jean Porteous, National Convener reminds us that individual letters to politicians about social issues carry a lot more weight than letters from groups. We need to be writing about matters like Mental Health, Trafficking in Women, People held in Detention Centres. 2

If you are unhappy about unacceptable language in radio or T.V. programmes, don't sit and fume about it, write letters to the bodies concerned. You may be surprised at the response you get. Jean was !

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

FORWARD NOTICE

From 10th to 14th October 2005, the National Conference of Australian Church Women will be held at the Salvation Army's Conference Centre at Homestead Avenue, Collaroy Beach.

Set in spacious grounds at one of Sydney's northern beaches, the Centre overlooks the ocean, and is accessible by public transport as well as by car. Buses from the City run quite frequently and take about an hour to reach the Centre.

Three types of shared accommodation will be available -- the so-called "Hotel Rooms", Deluxe Rooms and Cabin Rooms. Ensuities are provided in the Hotel and Deluxe Rooms, and in some of the Cabins.

For those arriving in Sydney prior to the Conference, accommodation will be available at the Conference Centre on Sunday, 9th October. Details regarding the registration and accommodation fees will be provided in the first half of 2005.

If our readers need more encouragement to attend this Conference, let us tempt you with the following information:-

- * Cameo Speakers will bring up-dated information on projects that received FLC Grants.

- * Bible study leaders are announced : Peg Blake , Robyn Collins and Sister Colleen O'Sullivan.

- * Free Time will enable you to enjoy the lovely grounds of the Centre and we will delight in showing our guests the beauties of the northern beaches.

- * We hope to introduce our guests to our gracious Governor, Professor Marie Bashir.

- * Overseas participants are being invited.

STATE UNIT NEWS

QUEENSLAND UNIT held its Annual Meeting in August. Representatives of affiliated organisations were in attendance.

The President, Mrs Lorraine McKenna welcomed Ms Sandra Waterton from Anglican Refugee and Migrant Services. Sandra spoke of the work being done with refugees and migrants. Of particular interest was the after-school programme. Where English is not spoken in the home, work and assignments can be a problem for children. Special assistance is given to these children by helpers. Because of a lack of funding the programme was stopped, but has now

been recommenced. Members of the Queensland Unit were able to give donations to assist in maintaining this important programme.

All reports of the past year's work were printed and received. In addition to those of the Unit officers and Conveners, there were reports from Queensland Churches Together and Branch reports from Bundaberg and Mackay.

The Election of Officers resulted in some new people taking office.

Congratulations are due to new President, Mrs Aileen Mortensen, well-known as National President when the National Executive was based in Queensland.

New Secretary, Mrs Averil Jell will take over from Mollie Jean Hunt in February. Thank you, Jeanette Olsen new Publicity Convener for this report.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

This report was written by Life Member Evonne Sullivan AM. Thank you Vonnie. "Greetings to ACW members throughout Australia. We extend to you all our best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas, with good health and happiness in 2005, when we will once again meet at National Conference.

During September Unit members were delighted to be invited to celebrate the 75th anniversaries of three of our affiliated organisations. We attended the anniversary function hosted by Canberra Baptist Ladies' Fellowship, where the guest speaker was former ACT President, Joan Adcock of Adelaide. Later in September members were present at the very enjoyable afternoon teas hosted by St. Columba's Uniting Church (Braddon) Ladies' Fellowship and the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Forrest) Women's Association respectively. The ecumenical spirit was a joy to behold at each of the three functions.

It is with deep regret that we advise the passing of a loved and respected Life Member of the ACT Unit, Mrs Stella Taber. Stella joined the Unit in 1988 as a delegate from the Holy Cross branch of the Mothers' Union. She served as WKS Convener, tendering hospitality to several Winifred Kiek scholars over the Years. President Jean Hambley was privileged to offer a tribute to Stella at her funeral service."

VICTORIA UNIT

From ACW (Vic) News I quote their President's Message.

"Welcome everyone as we start this new time together to further God's work. I wish to thank you all for allowing the installation of the Executive Committee to take place a week early so I could go overseas."

Congratulations and welcome to Lorna English, President of Victoria Unit. She heads a new Executive and it looks like a strong team. I look forward to receiving more copies of their News from Convener, Captain Donna Bryan.

NEW SOUTH WALES UNIT

"Word and Walk" was the theme for the 2004 Day Conference of this Unit held in September.

Major Geanette Seymour took "Walking in the Word" as her subject for the devotional address in the morning session. The Reverend Colin Scott told the audience about Hope Street Urban Compassion, a project of the Baptist Church. Jan Corbett-Jones was the afternoon speaker on Kairos Prison Ministries.

The hospitality of the Salvation Army was much appreciated. We enjoyed the comfort and privacy of the meeting auditorium and relished the food served to us at morning and afternoon teas and at lunchtime.

NSW Unit holds a Day Conference in September on the 'off' year of National Conference and it is always a most enjoyable and informative day, when members encourage their friends to attend. There is always a good response.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA UNIT

We heard with pleasure that two members of the Unit are enjoying a well-earned overseas holiday. Have a great time, Lee (Edwards) and Marie (Majoor) and come home safely.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA UNIT

In the South Australia Unit's Newsletter I read 'God's promises mean you always have something wonderful to look forward to'.

The Unit has at last become incorporated.

President Coralie Wright sent National Executive her report of attendance at the National Council of Churches of Australia (NCCA) Forum held in July. Coralie was privileged to attend, representing ACW as an Observer throughout the Forum. She writes " This five day gathering of delegates of the 15 participating Church bodies and a number of Observer groups was held at Lincoln College, Adelaide.

Visitors included the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), leaders of Councils of Churches from the Pacific, Asia, New Zealand and other Australian churches as Observers, who all addressed the Forum. A highlight was Sunday Evening Evensong at St. Peter's Cathedral with the formalisation of the Covenant of Commitment by 15 heads of churches, which had been signed on the Sunday afternoon during the Forum.

One of the overseas visitors was the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches based in Fiji. This Tongan woman, the Rev. Valamotu Pala was a most interesting person to talk with. Vala is also the International President of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. She was very interested to hear about ACW and in particular our National Conference in 2005."

Coralie's report gave a good overview of many of the reports presented to the Forum. In particular, one of the recommendations took my attention. I quote:-

"Decade to Overcome Violence. (DOV) 1. The Forum urges member Churches to engage in active peacemaking, sharing with the DOV Working Group initiatives undertaken:-

2. That Forum members commit themselves and take every opportunity to ensure their Churches are committed to cultivating a CULTURE OF PEACE.

3. That the Forum encourages the Executive to continue the position of DOV Coordinator from January 2005 for up to 3 years, subject to funding availability."

SPECIAL DAYS

By the time you read this, both our Special Days for 2004 will be over. Fellowship Day service, written by the New South Wales Unit on the theme 'My Peace I Give to You' was a lovely service. I particularly liked the final blessing : May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'

World Community Day service, written by the South Australian Unit enjoined us to 'Be one, That the World May Believe'. This timely reminder of what ACW is all about surely inspired all ACW members to greater effort in 2005.

Margaret Knauerhase's words in the hymn written for this service prayed 'Make us one, make us one, as Christ prayed we should be;

Make us one, make us one, Lord, together yet free;

In worship, in service, in spreading the word,

O let us be one in the name of the Lord.'

The themes chosen for the services in 2005 are:- Fellowship Day "Together in Love and Fellowship" and World Community Day "Come, Let Us Celebrate Together -- Living the Jubilee."

Father,
the unity of your church
is both your gift and your desire;
may we be one
as you are one with Christ,
that you may be glorified in our life together,
and the world may believe,
in Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

'Just as His star led the way for the Wise Men,
Jesus' light never fails to lead us
His truth always shines brightly to lead us on our way.'

We wish you all many blessings at this Christmas time and in 2005. Nancy, Cela, Jan, Isabel, Nola, Brenda, Shirley, Joan, Jean, Eileen, Marie, Lyn, Pat and Edith.

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and the Princes are home,
When the Shepherds are back with the flock,
THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS begins.

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To up-build the nations,
To bring peace to all people
To make music in the heart."

From The 'Card' a Christmas Play BOE Resources, NSW UCA.

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CONTRIBUTIONS to ACW NEWS are eagerly sought. Please send them to The Publication Editor, Edith Ridge, 54 New Line Road, West Pennant Hills. NSW 2125

If you enjoy reading ACW NEWS, pass it on to a friend and share our Good News.

Deadline for the February Issue - 14th January 2005. Please.