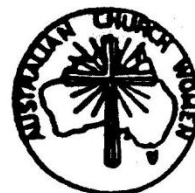


May you know all the blessings
of a joyous Christmas and New Year

IT
CAME
TO PASS
IN THOSE
DAYS THAT
THERE WENT
OUT A DECREE
FROM CAESAR AU-
GUSTUS THAT ALL
THE WORLD SHOULD
BE TAXED: AND THIS
TAXING WAS FIRST MADE
WHEN CYRENIUS WAS GOV-
ERNOR OF SYRIA, AND ALL
WENT TO BE TAXED EVERY ONE
INTO HIS OWN CITY. AND JOSEPH
ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, OUT
OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH, INTO JU-
DEA, UNTO THE CITY OF DAVID WHICH
IS CALLED BETHLEHEM. BECAUSE HE WAS
OF THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE OF DAVID, TO
BE TAXED WITH MARY HIS ESPOUSED WIFE,
BEING GREAT WITH CHILD. AND SO IT WAS
THAT WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE
ACCOMPLISHED THAT SHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED,
AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRST-BORN SON,
AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND
LAID HIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE WAS
NO ROOM FOR THEM IN
THE
INN.
LUKE 2:1-7



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

A C W 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 and mission of the church.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1983.

Dear A.C.W. friends,

Advent and Christmas approach with great speed! I wonder how Mary, the mother of Jesus, felt as her time drew near! For her the time probably both dragged and raced by. In addition to the usual apprehensions of a first-time mother-to-be were added her very personal anxieties, tensions and moments of bubbling joy that she had received a message from God that "she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit".



Her preparation would have included the physical putting-together of things as appropriate in her generation - obviously much less than is entailed in our affluent materialistic age. Most of her preparation would have been of herself with prayer for her baby, for herself and Joseph, and for the community into which her child would be born.

Our preparation for Christmas includes much that is materialistic, reflecting our affluence. Let us make a commitment that it will also include

- * extra time in prayer - that we may be laid hold of by the Spirit of God and respond as Mary did, 'I am the Lord's servant'.
- * extra time in Bible reading and study - that we may be enriched in our understanding of the Scripture teaching about the promised coming of the Messiah, the occasion of the birth of Jesus,

and the reflection on the meaning and purpose of that coming.

In our Parish we plan two different 'Advent Study' opportunities. One will be an in-depth Bible Study of the Prologue to John's Gospel, the other a series of Meditations on the Christmas message.

My prayer for you all is that you will make of this Advent Season a time of self-preparation, that the meaning and purpose of God in His self-revelation will be renewed in your spirits and visible in your lives.

Grace, joy, peace and love
from

Lee - Edwards.



GREETINGS
FROM THE NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE TO ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE

Circumstances this month are going to necessitate this piece being very brief!

Hopefully you all enjoyed this year's World Community Day Service 'Sharing our Harvest' and that the prayers and other offerings given will have beneficial effects on women and their families throughout the world.

November 15 is the ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Day of Prayer and groups affiliated with A.C.W.C. will conduct services in many Christian communities on this day. Although we in Australia won't be organising A.C.W.C. Day Services due to this date being so close to our Community Day services, we would encourage ALL members to set a few minutes aside to pray especially for our Asian sisters and for the special areas of concern that they have shared with us.

SHIRIN SAMUEL has asked for prayers for the meeting of the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin to be held in GENEVA from November 30.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



This year the Winifred Kiek Scholarship was offered to women of the Pacific region. Applications came in from Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea.

The Selection Committee met to consider applications and make a recommendation to National Executive. It is with great pleasure that the scholarship has now been offered to a young woman from Kiribati (formerly the Gilbert and Ellice Islands).

MISS FAILAUTUSI M. TEB'ATI is currently the Secretary of the Women's Fellowship of the Kiribati Protestant Church and is responsible for women's activities in all the outer islands. She will come to Western Australia early in 1989 and undertake training to improve her secretarial and management skills. She will be able to attend the A.C.W. Conference in Perth in September and after that will be available for deputation in the other states, before returning home at the end of the year.

West Australians are thrilled to know we shall be again having a Winifred Kiek Scholar in W.A., and look forward to 1989 with joy and excitement.

Meanwhile, things are very uncertain and very difficult politically for RASHMIRA MAHARJAN and her husband, and also for STELLA MIN. We ask for your continued prayers to uphold them in their difficult times, and to open doors so that we may be able to help them to take up their studies.



ALISON STEWART
Acting Convenor,
Winifred Kiek Scholarship.



UNIT NEWS

..... from VICTORIA.

REV. FATHER THOMAS D'SOUZA, S.D.B., was our special guest at the August meeting and gave a vivid insight into Christian life and work in Burma. Because of the

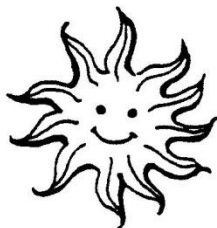
persistant work of early missionaries to Burma, the Church is still alive there, with 2 million Christians in the community. Christianity is not oppressed officially, but it certainly is indirectly. (There is religious tolerance if you abide by the Govt. regulations.)

Father D'Souza spent three years trying to come out of Burma, and is not able to return under the present regime. His advice in regard to Stella Min coming out to study as W.K. Scholar, was to keep presevering. Please continue to pray for Stella Min and other Christians in Burma, particularly at this present time of crisis in their land.

MARION DODDS.

..... from QUEENSLAND.

MRS. LENA MEADOWS has retired as F.L.C. Convener and Mrs. A. GREEN has accepted the position. She says it was F.L.C. which first attracted her to A.C.W. A Minute of appreciation was passed to Lena: "She has been a wonderful ambassador all over Queensland, and her name comes up regularly when visitors travel to other centres." FAREWELL to Lena, and many thanks; WELCOME to Mrs. Green.



Thank
you

..... from WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ECUMENICAL DECADE 1988-1998,

CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN



An exciting ecumenical Service was held in Trinity Church, Perth on Sunday, October 16, 1988 at 7.30 p.m. to mark the opening of the

Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women.

A large congregation of both men and women enjoyed the service based on the theme 'The Song of Creation'. Prayers, readings, etc. had been prepared by women and women from Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Greek Orthodox and Uniting Churches took part in each section of the Service.

Guest Speaker was MRS. ARUNA GNANADASON, Secretary of the All-India Christian Council and Executive Member of World Council of Churches Commission on Women in Church and Society, who gave an inspiring address.

A moving part of the service was when young women gift-bearers presented those heads of Churches present with earthenware pots, each planted with a seedling, and charging them as follows:



"The earth in this pot represents the dust from which you and I, both, were formed.

The seedling in this pot represents the potential for my fruitfulness in the church.

I charge you to water the earth and nourish the seedling, encouraging it to grow to its full strength and glory.

Do not deprive or hinder it or crush the seedling. For you are servants of the One who a bruised reed would not break, a smouldering wick would not snuff out, who in faithfulness would bring forth justice."

These pots, with female and male symbols linked and placed under the cross, have been crafted by Noele Thomson, a Religious Sister of Mercy of the Catholic Church.

Supper at the end of the evening provided a pleasant time of fellowship.

LEILA WILSON.

THE HYMN OF THE CAVES

(1 Kings 20: 11-13)

I hide within my cave of fears.
The wind blows fierce, the wind blows high.
Then, trembling still, my poor heart hears
The still small voice that whispers by:
"Loved child of mine, why are you there?
I am as close as inmost prayer."

I hide within my cave of grief
For dear ones gone, who come no more.
The earthquake strikes beyond belief
My shaken life, my spirit sore.
The still voice breathes: "Why are you here?
Both you and they to me are dear."

I hide within my cave of shame
For all I've done and left undone.
It sears me with its scorching flame,
With nowhere on the earth to run.
The still voice in my inmost soul
Says "Once I died. Now you are whole."

I creep from caves wherein I hide.
The wind and earthquake both are past.
The air is cool, the world is wide.
I hear the still small voice at last.
"What need of any cave have you?
Come, take the task you are to do!"

MARGARET KNAUERHASE.

TUNE: St. Petersburg A.H.B. 297 11.



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**



Another REMINDER about bookings for the 1989 Conference and for either of the tours in which you may wish to join.

The dates for the Conference to be held at KINGSWOOD COLLEGE are SEPTEMBER 11 to 15, 1989.

The two suggested Wildflower Tours are:

- # 3-day South-West Forest Tour
September 7 - 9. (Est. cost \$300)
- # 6-day Northern Wildflower Spectacular
September 17-22 (Approx. \$600)

Please refer back to your September issue of A.C.W. News for particulars of the tours, then **GET YOUR SEATS BOOKED EARLY** as most tours book out early in the year!



**BOOK
NOW!**

P.S.

.. from the Editor.

As you will have realised, this edition of A.C.W. News is the last for 1988.

PLEASE NOTE that the next issue will be in February 1989.

Items for that issue will need to be in my hands by January 15 PLEASE!

(MRS. BARBARA BOURHILL,
36 Stock Road, ATTADALE. W.A. 6156)

