



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

"WOMEN AT WORK"

Feb 1976

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL IN 1976: FROM THOSE WHO ARE THE CHURCH IN LONDON - faced with great urban questions in a growing secular world.... FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN BUDE, CORNWALL - a small group with a great sense of belonging to a world-wide fellowship.... FROM WORSHIPPERS AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL - concerned about communicating the contemporary "Word".... FROM CHURCH MEMBERS AT NAIROBI REPRESENTING THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD - hearing the call to 'keep on keeping on' as people of faith during questioning times and wilderness periods.... FROM SHANTI SOLOMON - very aware of her relationship with Australian Church Women.... FROM A VERY BEAUTIFUL RAE SONG, OUR NON-ARRIVING W. KIEK SCHOLAR - looking forward to a 1976 study time in Geneva and still hopeful of coming to Australia! FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST AFRICA - full of life and deeply thoughtful about issues of this day and age.... FROM BRIAN AND JILL POLKINGHORNE, FORCE 10'S 'RECIPIENTS' IN 1975 IN TANZANIA - living out a message of enthusiasm, challenge and practical helpfulness.... FROM VIOLET SAMPA, OUR 1971 WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR - 'fighting' fit as she serves her people and makes decisions about her future.... FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA - at its Synod meeting, demonstrating the national understanding of 'participatory democracy'.... FROM THE BEAUTIFUL SEARCHING AFRICAN PEOPLE - ever so wise in their openness and simplicity.... FROM DOROTHY WACKER, BACK IN APPECROSS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA - ready to ask herself and you a thousand questions as the year progresses!

THE FIRST: ARE WE CLAIMING THE PROMISE OF THE POWER that Christ offers us in 1976, to MEET THE NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE?

Yours in fellowship as A.C.W. President,
Dorothy Wacker

It was good to welcome our President back to the Working Committee meeting. We thank Peg Eaton for taking up the responsibility while Dorothy was away. Dorothy's greeting will give you just a foretaste of the supplement we hope to produce with our next issue, telling a lot more of the story.

* * * *

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS

Jean Vincent has passed on a letter from Sarrah Ah You, from which comes this extract:

You wrote to me for some past information about my life. I was at one of our Church Colleges, that is Leulumoea Fou College, from 1967 to 1970. Then I entered the Teachers' Training College of Western Samoa from 1970 to 1973. In 1974 I went out to New Zealand, spending about six months there. I returned home and spent one and a half years in my present teaching school, which is a Mission School belonging to our church. My special interests include these activities - reading, debating, being a character in a play, and my favourite sports are volley ball, cricket, basketball, etc.

What I expect from my study in Fiji is more education to extend my knowledge, in order to gain experience to help my work here in our country.

If I am qualified and return to Samoa, I can benefit my church by giving practical work and explaining things which I learned at school, so that life would be much easier and cheaper to the people of Samoa.

Thank you very much for your suggestion to fit in the Girls' Brigade in Fiji. I shall be happy to take part if I have a chance.

More news comes from Kalpana Airan, who is enjoying her work with pre-school children and their mothers. By January 1976 she hoped to have settled all the business details concerning the land for the new building, and February should see the Foundation Stone laid. Her father in Bombay, and Kalpana and her brother in Satara were hard at work promoting the venture.

* * * * *

Mrs McIntyre of the Working Committee corresponds regularly with Kalpana and keeps us up to date with the news. Many of our readers will know Mrs McIntyre and will be interested in her present work. She is President/Secretary of all Salvation Army Fellowships and Home Leagues in Western Australia. This means visiting centres from Port Hedland to Albany, from Perth to Kalgoorlie, possibly twice a year - no mean achievement with our distances. And on these visits she is also an ambassador for F.L.C. and W.K. scholarship. During her association with A.C.W. in Victoria and Western Australia she has developed a personal relationship with many of the W.K. scholars and has collected a great deal of useful material including a set of slides with a script of F.L.C. beginnings and work, and, recently, tapes of the National Committee meeting in Adelaide - a valuable Working Committee member for Western Australia. An accident put Mrs McIntyre out of action for some months last year, but you will be glad to know that she is back at work again.

* * * * *

From Tasmania we read of another A.C.W. member doing interesting things.

"Mrs Mary Walker is the Presbyterian delegate to our state (Tas.) executive meeting. She is a writer and poetess in her own right and has published her material from time to time.

Mary was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and is to have the pleasure of visiting that city in March, where she has been invited to be special guest speaker on Australian Poetry to the Edinburgh Poetry Club.

For some years Mary has corresponded with several well known Scottish poets, some of whom have been her guests at her home in Longford, Tasmania".

* * * * *

New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

The members of the N.S.W. Inter-Church Council held a retreat in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral on 8th December, 1975. The beauty of the prayerful surroundings was conducive to meditation and reflection, and periods of the day were set aside for these. The theme of the Retreat was 'Jesus Christ Frees and Unites'. Free discussion followed the two addresses given by Mrs Barker of the Pitt Street Congregational Church and H/Deaconess Andrews. In the afternoon a panel consisting of H/Deaconess Andrews, Sister M. Francisca and Mrs M. Stanhope, gave a short resumé of different aspects of Christian witness. About fifty women attended the day, which concluded with a short ecumenical Service of Confession and thanksgiving, the litany for Christian unity as composed by the Abbé Couvrière, and a renewal of Christian commitment. It was a day of spiritual refreshment, joy and deep fellowship, and, as an annual event, would have much to recommend it.

The occasion was an opportunity to pay tribute to H/Deaconess Andrews as she retires from the office as Principal of Deaconess House where she has been working for the past twenty two years. Prayers and best wishes were offered as she moves to take up her appointment as chaplain at Elizabeth Lodge, Elizabeth Bay.

* * * * *

Secretary: Miss Vera Dean, 33 Booker St, Dianella, 6062.

Editor: Mrs Norma Ellis, Kingswood College, Hampden Rd, Nedlands, 6009.