

NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. UNIT.



A.C.W. seeks:

to unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;
to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

President: Mrs. June Graham
(Tel. 484-3484)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The theme for World Community Day this year - "The World - our Responsibility" has made us all aware of our role in sharing the blessings God has given to us, both spiritual and material - with our neighbours.

But who are our neighbours?

Recently I was fortunate to hear an address given by Rev. Dr. Vinaj Samuel from Bangalore, India, on the Parable of 'The Good Samaritan'. He pointed out that the priest and the Levite, who hurried by on the other side of the road from the injured man, excused their behaviour by pretending he wasn't there; they were too busy and there could be many problems if they stopped - so they made him the 'invisible man' in their minds. Rev. Dr. Samuel suggested that many of us do exactly the same. We pretend that these folk are not our responsibility - that the poor, the sick, the elderly, the drug-abuser, the alcoholic are not our concern. But it was Jesus who told this Parable to

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President's Message (Cont.)

the lawyer who had asked Him who was his neighbour? Hence to be obedient to our Lord's commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves, Jesus expects us to pray and to accompany our prayers with practical love and help, as He would, to those who have need.

Remember, the Theme for the Adelaide A.C.W. Conference in September was "When I needed a neighbour, were you there?", which reinforces Christ's teaching in this Parable. As the Christmas period approaches, let us not be so busy that we overlook our responsibilities to those families who are in need.

God's Joy and Peace to you all this Christmas time.

June Graham.
President.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS.

31.8.87	Women's World Day of Prayer & A.C.W. Reception for Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam	President & members
11.9.87)	A.C.W. Conference, Adelaide	President,
18.9.87)		Secretary, Treasurer President-Elect
23.9.87	Baptist Women's Fellowship	President
25.9.87	St. Mary's Cathedral, Flower Festival	President
15.10.87	Terrigal W.C.D.	President (speaker)
20.10.87	P.W.A. Castle Hill	do.
23.10.87	Welcome Service to Mrs. Treadgold, Central President, Mothers' Union	President & Mrs. Baker
28.10.87	A.B. M. Annual Meeting	President
30.10.87	St. David's, Dee Why	President (speaker)

Greetings to all partners in the Fellowship of the Least Coin. I hope to have met many of you during the month of October and will certainly be hearing from hundreds more as this is the month of dedicated giving to F.L.C.

The following are excerpts from letters to the National Committee: "Early this year, the 'Mary Haven Family Care Ministry' in Brisbane received a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The gift of US \$1,000, converted into an Aust. total of \$1,392.02 for which they were thankful to God.

"The Ministry is a Pastoral Apostolate of the Sisters of St. Joseph under the direction of Sisters Julie O'Gorman and Kath Carroll.

- *** Hospitality is offered free of charge
- *** Those who desire may make a donation
- *** Care of children of resting mothers is arranged elsewhere
- *** Food is received from St. Vincent de Paul Society
- *** Other costs are provided by the generosity of the public.

All this so that mothers with a need will have a chance to sleep, to read, to walk, talk, knit, sew, fish, swim, laugh, cry, think a chance to give her new strength to go on performing her invaluable vocation of MOTHER."

The new Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Mrs. Shirin Samuel, was able to be at the National Meeting in Adelaide, despite her son's accident. Shirin sends her greetings to all ...

"May you experience the work of the Holy Spirit to witness the power of surprises and miracles of God working all around you. May Fellowship of the Least Coin become a gift from the women of the world for the whole humankind. It is a ministry of sharing your joy of Peace and accepting others as they are."

Remember these folk in prayer.

Glad West
Convenor.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP.

As there is still no definite news from Burma, we are requested to continue to pray for the overall situation.

The following news of our 1988 Scholar has come from the National W.K. Convenor, Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase:

" Rashmira Maharjan, the 1988 Winifred Kiek Scholar, lives in Kathmandu, NEPAL. We have never yet had a Scholar from Nepal, a country where Christians are a small minority and the Christian Church is not strong. Rashmira is the wife of one of the deacons of the Nepal Christian Fellowship and the Pastor of this group writes that her energy, her initiative and her keen insight into women's affairs have been of great value to them. She is a faithful and dedicated leader.

Rashmira is now 33 years of age and has two children, a daughter and a son. She herself was born into a religious Hindu family but at 14 began work in a Mission hospital. It was here that she learned of Christ, and was converted. She suffered persecution from her family, was kept locked in a room, and even left without food but she writes: "Even so, I was very happy, because the living God was with me. I was not even hungry.

She is trained as an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, as a Health Assistant, and has studied Tropical Medicine, but what she is seeking from our Scholarship is training to help in Christian service, teaching and counselling. For this purpose she needs a College with some understanding of the problem she faces, a background similar to her own and instruction which will be relevant to her situation. For these reasons, we have recommended that she spend an academic year at the Ecumenical Christian Centre in Bangalore, India. She will use what she gains from this to enlarge and enhance her Christian leadership in Nepal.

We ask that all Australian Church Women will pray for Rashmira, giving thanks for her courage and dedication, and asking for God's blessing on both her studies and her subsequent service in Christ. We would also ask your prayers for the unsuccessful applicants for the Scholarship, that they may not be discouraged in their work by their natural disappointment at not being chosen. It is encouraging to us to know that there are such capable leaders among the women of Asia.

Let us all welcome Rashmira Maharjan to our Scholarship and into our hearts and lives."

Our Committee is now busy sending Christmas greetings to the girls who have been assisted in their studies through the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Yvonne Davis.
W.K.S. Convenor.

VIDEO VIOLENCE.

At the A.C.W. National Conference in Adelaide, the following motions were passed:

"That this Conference calls upon the Attorney General, Mr. Bowen and the Federal Government to immediately implement the Recommendation of the Senate Select Committee on Video Material to place a moratorium on 'X' material and tighten up on the violence in 'R' and to prevent the laws of the States being undermined by postal distribution from Canberra.

"That this Conference calls upon the Federal Government to ensure that the Joint Select Committee on Video Materials finalises its Report without further delay so that the issue can be properly dealt with by the Parliament."

It was requested that all A.C.W. members write to

Hon. L.S. Bowen, MP.,
Attorney General,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

under the terms of the Motions. We would ask that all members reading this Newsette write immediately to Mr. Bowen.

6. REPORT of the A.C.W. NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR
held in Adelaide from 12th to 18th September, 1987.

Twelve ladies (including the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and President-Elect) from the N.S.W. State Unit had the very great privilege to attend this Conference held at Henley Beach a suburb of Adelaide.

The S.A. members made us all very welcome - we were staying at the 'Del Monte Lodge' and the meetings were held in the Church of Christ Complex nearby.

Holy Communion was held in the Chapel on Sunday morning led by Pastor John Selvaratnam. Bible readings were taken by Life-Members, Deaconess Mary Andrews and Mrs. Marjorie Verco and the Incoming President, Rev. Lee Edwards from W.A. The Opening Service was held on Sunday afternoon in "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church", a very modern building. This was a moving service with a procession of banners and the Baptist Choir. The address was given by Rev. D'Arcy Wood, the President of the Australian Council of Churches, his theme being the 'vine, unity and the fruit'.

Devotions were taken each morning by State Units.

Bible Studies were led each morning by Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam on the themes - 'The Good Samaritan', 'The Great Banquet' and 'the Final Judgment'. We moved into groups for some very interesting and stimulating discussions.

There were many vital business sessions when various pertinent motions were passed, including several brought forward by the Tasmanian delegates regarding Video Violence, (mentioned elsewhere in 'Newsette' for your attention).

The Executive of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) was also holding meetings and we had the privilege of meeting these gracious Asian ladies - Mrs. Maya Michael of India, (President), Mrs. Kazuko Hayashi from Tokyo, Japan (Treasurer); Miss Siong Ting Wong from Sarawak, East Malaysia; Mrs. Monika Mannan from Bangladesh; Mrs. Ingrid Pi-Ying Hong from Taiwan and Mrs. Eunice Kim from Seoul, Korea (Executive Secretary). Mrs. Dorothy Haensel (the retiring National President) was appointed New Assembly Secretary and Mrs. Barbara Grealy is Vice-President. There are now 16 countries affiliated with A.C.W.C. It was splendid to have five women from New Zealand and Samoa present for the first time.

We were especially asked to pray for the son of the newly appointed F.L.C. Executive Secretary, Mrs. Shirin Samuel, who was in a serious accident two days after she was appointed to her position. He is now in London and responding to surgery. Mrs. Samuel is a delightful lady and seeks our prayers as she carries on from Mrs. Shanti Solomon, the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Mrs. Muriel Olsen, an aboriginal lady, spoke to us of her hatred that had now turned to love towards the white people in Australia. She shared some horrific experiences with us of her early childhood.

The Seminar on Tourism was led by Rev. Peter Holden from the Australian Council of Churches. He gave a paper and film entitled "The Room with no View" showing the effects of Tourism especially in Asian and African countries. There was much thoughtful discussion as we met in groups on several occasions.

Fellowship was enjoyed as we travelled by 'bus on Tuesday through the Barossa Valley to Nuriootpa Memorial Hall where we met with the local members of A.C.W. and heard the F.L.C. reports. A welcome was given to Mrs. Shirin Samuel who stressed the need to share, sacrifice and pray.

We enjoyed the country-side again on Thursday when we visited Victor Harbour to meet with the local women and enjoy lunch at the Salvation Army Complex. We looked at travel brochures and endeavoured to make an ideal one in our groups. It was felt that many current travel brochures tried to attract for the wrong reasons and were misleading.

The closing Service was very moving as candles were lit and passed by the retiring Executive from S.A. to the incoming one from W.A. After a final delicious supper, we said 'good-bye' feeling we had learned and shared much about each other, especially our sisters from Asia.

Marjory Baker.



Every morning lean your arms awhile
Upon the window sill of heaven
And gaze upon your Lord
Then - with the vision in your heart
Turn strong to meet your day.

8. FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS - St. MARY'S CATHEDRAL - 25th September.

We extend our congratulations to Dame Monica Gallagher and her Committee for producing such a magnificent display of flowers - the arrangements were very beautiful and the Cathedral was ablaze of colour - it was a wonderful concept. Mrs. Marie McCann and Mrs. Marjorie Baker on behalf of A.C.W. based their beautiful arrangement on Scripture, John 14:27 - "My peace I leave with you".

NEXT MEETING of A.C.W. STATE UNIT: Monday, 16th November, 1987

Venue: Piccadilly Court, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney.
5th Floor.

Special Morning Tea - for Life Members - Mrs. Marjorie Verco and Mrs. Mabel Wyllie.

Bring and Buy Table.

Branch Reports to be presented.

Readers of the Asian Church Woman Bulletin are asked to renew their subscriptions promptly for 1988. The cost (4 Bulletins annually) is \$7.50 to be paid to the Treasurer by 15th December 1987. New subscriptions are welcome.

Subscriptions for Newsette for 1988 are due by 31st December 1987 \$2.00 and should be sent direct to the Subscription Secretary :

Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse,
86 Fullers Road,
Chatswood. 2067. (Tel. 419-6772).

To assist those dealing with the subscription list, would you kindly co-operate by completing the enclosed form and attending to this matter promptly. If you do not wish to receive the publication, would you please indicate this to us to save expense. Receipts will only be issued on request.

All other monies including donations, subscriptions to ACWC Bulletin and Affiliation Fees should be sent to the Treasurer:

Mrs. D. Lumb,
69 Myall Street,
Concord West. 2138. Tel. 73-3360.

All cheques should be made payable to "Australian Church Women".

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