



1963

WEDNESDAY

JULY 24th

FELLOWSHIP DAY

Theme:— Let Us Give



Arranged by the Women's Inter Church Council of Victoria

THE INFINITE PLENTY

QUIET MUSIC

MEDITATION:

Contemplating the symbols of Christ's broken body, holding in our hands the little piece of bread, we see more clearly that bread, to feed anyone, must be broken. His Body was broken that our souls might be fed and have life. Bread must be broken to be shared. Hungry, even starving people are needing sustenance and we hold so tightly what has been given to us so freely.

At this one great hour of sharing can we, with hearts broken at the remembrance of our own selfishness, not dare to break our little morsel of bread? Can we not reach out to share with those needy ones that which is not ours but His?
Margaret Hendrichsen.

PRAYER:

O God, we would see the world as Thou wouldst have it; where justice prevails and plenty abounds; a world free from greed, crime and poverty; a world sustained by the love of each for all. Help us to live up to our responsibility so that Thy will may be done in earth as in Heaven.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: L.M. Tune, "Fulda"

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| 1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,
Where sound the cries of race and clan,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man. | 4. The cup of water given for Thee
Still holds the freshness of Thy grace;
Yet long these multitudes to see
The sweet compassion of Thy face. |
| 2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,
On shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed.
We catch the vision of Thy tears. | 5. O Master, from the mountain side,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again: |
| 3. From tender childhood's helplessness
From woman's grief, man's burdened toil,
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
Thy heart has never known recoil. | 6. Till sons of men shall learn Thy love,
And follow where Thy feet have trod;
Till glorious from Thy heaven above,
Shall come the City of our God. |

SCRIPTURE James 2: 14-26

OF GOD CAN BE

UNISON PRAYER

We thank Thee, Our Father, for the many privileges we enjoy; for the unfailing provision of our daily needs; and for the happiness and security of home and family.

We thank Thee, too, for the Church—the “Household of Faith”, the family of those who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. From different denominations we come, and bow before Thee, conscious of our one-ness within the family of the Church.

We are met to pray for that greater family to which we belong as members of the human race. Even as we pray the greater number of these Thy children lack the bare necessities of life, many of them to the point of death.

May our sense of one-ness with them be so strong that we can know no rest till we have explored every avenue of helping to supply their need.

Help us, O God, to give not only what we can spare, but to deny ourselves that we may give the more.

So shall we give the cup of cold water to our Lord Jesus, who suffers still with His stricken children. So may the Church be indeed His Body, enabling His love and compassion to be communicated to those whom He would serve still.

Forgive our sins and shortcomings, and make us more worthy of our high calling, for His sake, Amen.

HYMN: 8.7.8.7. Tune: “St. Oswald”

Is thy cruse of comfort failing?
Rise and share it with a friend,
And through all the years of famine
It shall serve thee to the end.

For the heart grows rich in giving
All its wealth is living grain.
Seeds, which mildew in the garner
Scattered, fill with gold the plain.

Love Divine will fill thy storehouse
Or thy handful still renew;
Scanty fare for one will often
Make a royal feast for two.

Is thy burden hard and heavy?
Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden
God will bear both it and thee.

A READER:

We need to be aware of the extent of the problem of hunger in this world. It has been termed the “biggest crisis in the history of our race” and we would rejoice in this, the first attempt to get the nations to co-operate to do something for the good of mankind. Let us remember that the direct, charitable supply of food can only bring temporary relief; so foreign aid must be carefully planned to put into the hands of farmers the tools that enable them to increase their own productivity. We believe that our humble gift is not too small to be the medium of a miracle in the hands of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

RELEASED

THROUGH

US

DEDICATORY PRAYER:

O God, we acknowledge our utter dependence upon Thee for all that we have and are. Accept our gifts as an expression of our love for Thee and an offering toward the desperate need of our brothers and sisters in other lands. May we, with grateful hearts, be ever willing to share our all with them. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

SCRIPTURE **Matthew 25: 31-46**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

Leader: Thou, who art the Creator of the universe, of this our earth and of us, Thy creatures, made in Thy image;

Response: We praise Thy Name, O Lord.

Leader: For this land of ours with its open spaces and its rich endowment of natural resources;

Response: We thank and praise Thee, O Lord.

Leader: For Thy great bounty to us in this rich land and for the skills which enable us to produce far more than we can ever need for our own sustenance;

Response: We thank and praise Thee, O Lord.

Leader: For our failure to recognise how wonderfully we have been blessed and for the feebleness of our gratitude to Thee;

Response: We ask Thy forgiveness, O Lord:

Leader: For having been so slow to understand and respond to the dire need of our fellow men in countries ravaged by war, drought and famine;

Response: We ask Thy forgiveness, O Lord.

Leader: For our unwillingness to give and give and give again, as Thou hast to us, that starving and underprivileged peoples might be fed;

Response: We ask Thy forgiveness, O Lord.

Leader: Upon the work of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and upon all who are waiting to be saved by its endeavours;

Response: We ask Thy blessing, O God.

Leader: So speak to our hearts, Lord, that we may, by our concern for these needy ones; our prayers and sacrificial giving, fulfil our 20th century discipleship by obedience to Thine age-old command: "Give ye them to eat".

Response: In Thy Name we present our petitions. Amen.

SOLO

ADDRESS

HYMN: L.M. Tune: "Holly"

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone,
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that, while I stand
Firm on the rock, and strong in Thee
I may stretch out a loving hand
To wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt and when and where
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

BENEDICTION:

O Thou source of all light, open our blind eyes to suffering and need.
Deepen our love so that we will be concerned for the welfare of all man-
kind. Touch our spirits with wisdom; fill our hearts with Thy love and
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus stood on a hillside in Galilee facing a hungry multitude. Their spirits had been fed by his words, and now at evening they needed food for their bodies. In their human need they touched His heart. He had infinite power from the Father to feed their bodies as He had fed their souls. Only one thing was lacking—a human hand stretched toward His in giving, that He might multiply that gift as He gave it back to hungry men. And a little boy gave all that he had. The giving of ourselves can be such a medium not because of the amount we give, be it large or small, but because we give as completely as he. He gave all he had and so became one with those who had nothing; then they were all truly together—together with Christ. And so the miracle could happen. Jesus could release for all of them the infinite plenty of God.

The offering received from this service will be devoted to the Freedom From Hunger Campaign. Please forward to Mrs. T. Grieve, 9 Serpentine Street, Mont Albert, Victoria.

For your interest and information

The aims of the Women's Inter-Church Council are as follow:

- (a) To promote friendship and co-operation between women of all branches of the Christian Church.
- (b) To promote the unity of the Christian Church through fellowship in Christ.
- (c) To provide an avenue whereby Christian women, as used by God, may unitedly strive to establish His Kingdom on earth by the application of the teaching of Christ to Community, National and International relationships.

FELLOWSHIP DAY, created by Christian Women in years past for the furthering of a fellowship that would mean action, gives communities a chance to look together upon this new era in this world where our families live.

It challenges women of the Churches to fuse their strength into leadership within the community; to dispel fear; to fulfil the hope and the faith which lies within this Atomic Age.

The call is urgent. Requirements are great. We believe Christian women will accept the challenge.