

12.

**** INFORMATION PAGE ****

ALL A.C.W. MONIES -- Affiliation Fees, Fellowship Of The Least Coin, Newsette Subscriptions, Offertories for Special Days and Donations to be sent to the **TREASURER:**

Mrs Helen Richardson
33 Lynwood Avenue,
DEE WHY, 2099.
(Tel: 9971 0278).

PLEASE NOTE:

- ⇒ For safety reasons **DO NOT** include the word "Treasurer" when addressing envelopes.
- ⇒ **ALL CHEQUES** to be made payable to "Australian Church Women NSW Unit Inc." and **NOT** to any individual person.

FEES from AFFILIATED GROUPS are due 1st March each year as follows:

Denominational Groups:	\$25.00 per annum
A.C.W. Local Branches:	\$15.00 per annum
Organisations:	\$15.00 per annum
WCTU NSW	
The Girls' Brigade	
Bible Society NSW	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' FEES due 1st March : \$10.00 per annum
(includes subscription to Newsette)

NEWSETTE is the journal of the NSW State Unit of Australian Church Women and is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Annual Subscription is \$5.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS to Newsette are requested from readers and should be sent to the EDITOR:

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NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN -- NSW UNIT INC

A C W seeks:

- ⇒ to unite Australian churchwomen 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.

Mission Statement

Australian Church Women believe that there is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God, Three-In-One. We believe that Scripture teaches that salvation is only through faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

PRESIDENT: Major Lyn Middleton Tel: 9529 6744

NUMBER 104

AUGUST 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Friends,

Greetings and best wishes to each of you. How lovely the rain has been that has fallen on so much of our land in recent weeks - refreshing, life-giving rain to a dry and thirsty land. We lift our hearts in thanksgiving. I pray that you have also known the showers of God's blessing upon your soul.

I recently took an afternoon to visit the Art Gallery to view the Archibald Exhibition. I was fascinated by the different approaches taken by the artists to portray their subjects. Some were very real to life - almost like a photograph. Others were more abstract, the artist having chosen to depict certain qualities or characteristics of the subject rather than a real-life likeness. A number were self-portraits and many of these were subject to the interpretation of the viewer.

As I reflected on this rather pleasant outing it came to mind that there is a sense in which we are all painting self-portraits every day of our lives.

2.

How we live our lives paints a portrait of who we are - our values, attitudes, beliefs, cares and concerns, and those who view our painting will be the interpreters of the message we are giving out. In Galatians 6:17 the Apostle Paul says, "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." It was obvious to all who came within the sphere of Paul's ministry that his life represented Christ. May it be that the portrait we paint by the life we live is the portrait of Christ!

*I would that others may see, the marks of Jesus in me,
For they will not believe, if they do not perceive,
The marks of Jesus in me!*

Readers will be interested to know that at the last Council of the State Unit it was unanimously carried that Mrs Beryl McLaughlin be made a life member of the NSW State Unit. Beryl has been a member of State Council for some 18 years as one of the Anglican delegates, and for 16 years has served on Executive as Editor of Newsette, at which she does an outstanding job. As she is also State Secretary of Woman's Christian Temperance Union NSW she provides reports of that organization, which is one of our affiliated groups, also. We congratulate Beryl as a worthy recipient of this acknowledgement.

May the Lord bless you all *real good!* Sincerely, Lyn Middleton

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION:

The ninety-nine people who attended this Service at Chatswood Salvation Army on Monday 16th May shared a truly inspiring and uplifting time together, one highlight being the message given by the guest speaker, Major Nancy McLaren, who was present in her official capacity as our ACW National President,

As well as the members of Executive and Council sharing in a re-dedication for another year of service, the program celebrated two very special anniversaries - the 40th year of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and the 50th year of Fellowship of the Least Coin - both truly reasons for rejoicing and thanksgiving.

The program included lively singing and several beautiful solo items, and was followed by fellowship over a tasty lunch, which was provided by the members of Council, and which rounded out a very enjoyable function.

(Reported by Newsette Editor)

3.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT DAY:

This year's Spiritual Enrichment Day, on 18th July, was held in St James' King Street Hall, a pleasant venue that offered warmth on a cold morning. State Executive members provided the morning tea, and we thank those who ensured that all who wished to eat and drink were satisfied before the sessions for the day began.

"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

Lyn Middleton set us thinking about the shared treasure of humanity, pushing us to get beneath the words to find understanding. Describing the treasure as "the renewal of the image of God within us through the light of the glory of the gospel" led us on to consider what an image is. I chose to draw an apple which looks remarkably like a pumpkin! Joan Tong went for paper folding to make a hat. Our past experiences helped us to create something new.

Sister Marie Craddock told us something of her background, the loving family that set her firmly on the path she has followed. A good storyteller captures the attention of the audience, and Marie had us wondering what would come next. Her humour is a gift as engaging as her smile, and we were honoured to hear her story.

Major Beatrice Kay came across as a person of great courage - courage that she attributes to her faith. Through the medical challenges her husband has faced Beatrice is able to see God at work in a way that many would find daunting.

We were humbled and challenged by these women.

The ten prayer activities Lyn had arranged for us reminded us of Fellowship of the Least Coin; Winifred Kiek Scholars; our Christian journey; thanksgiving; praise; Christ-likeness; God's mercy; fellowship; worship; ministry. We could write a prayer, send a letter, contemplate, seek forgiveness, commend someone in need of assurance.....

Too soon it seemed, we dispersed, grateful for the fellowship and for the opportunity to enrich and expand our Christian experience. Those who were in attendance will continue to reflect on the content heard and read, thankful for the work of Lyn especially, but also for the contribution of Marie and Beatrice.

(Reported by Isabel Hewitt, NSW State Secretary)

4.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

It is nice to hear from past scholars and *Mina Whybourne* (past WKS Convener) and *Rachel McManus* (1997 Scholar) are still in touch. Rachel wrote recently that she and little Ivy May are well and she had some exciting news! Rachel is now engaged to Craig and they will marry later this year on 26th November, then move to Sydney, where she will continue her studies, and Ivy May will start school in 2006 - she says GOD has been very good to her.

No recent news of present scholars, *Anju Borogoyary* from Assam, India, studying for her Masters in Religious Education, and *Siok Cheng Chew* from Sarawak, Malaysia, studying by Distance Education for Advanced Certificate and Bachelor of Philosophy in Autism Study. Do keep these two girls in your prayers.

From ACW National News, word from *Celestial Lusi* (2001 Scholar) from Solomon Islands. "Thank you very much for all your prayer support for me. I am now back in my home village. My ministry is with my local church. I'm Secretary for our church, teaching Sunday School children and taking some teaching sessions for my church Women's Fellowship; also teach Christian Education at Kaotave Christian Vocational Centre. Another thing I want to let you know - I am ENGAGED - to John Prasad from India and our wedding will be on 9th July this year, then we will go to live in Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea - I will let you know of my ministry there."

At the Annual Dedication Service in May, the following prayer was used:

"Our loving Father, we thank you for the vision you gave *Winifred Kiek* 40 years ago. It has grown and provided training for many young women to minister to others so that they too would know your saving grace. We give thanks and pray for the Trustees in South Australia who handle the finances, oversee and choose the Scholar for each year. We especially pray at this time, as applications come in for a Multicultural Australian young woman for 2006, and ask for wisdom and guidance for the Trustees in this. We pray also for your hand to be on our National WKS Convener, *Joan Tong* and the one who will follow in that task in October.

Over the years women from Asia, Pacific and Australia have broadened their knowledge in their field of ministry and served you and your people. Through this they have shown others your love and no doubt many have come to know you as Lord and Saviour.

5.

We pray for your hand to be on these past Scholars. We pray for our past 2004 Scholar, *Mereani*, who has learnt much and returned to her homeland, Fiji, to continue her ministry to women in the sex industry ... what a difficult area! ... but not with you Lord ... so we pray your protection on her and for courage and boldness in implementing appropriate programs in that area.

Our two young women for 2005, *Anju* from India and *Siok* from Malaysia - please go before them so that all will go smoothly for them; also for protection and balance in all areas of their lives.

LORD, over these years, Australian Church Women have faithfully given finances and prayerful support through individuals, groups and Fellowship Day giving. We pray that you will continue to stir us, motivate and inspire us, to remember this work and we thank you again for the privilege thus far, of 40 years of the *Winifred Kiek Scholarship* and for your faithfulness in answering our prayers and we give all this to you in the name of your Son, *Jesus*. Amen"

Judith Cayzer, WKS Convener

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

I would like to thank all those people who were responsible for putting together the wonderful presentation of the history of Fellowship of the Least Coin at our Annual Dedication Service in May. It was a very fitting way to celebrate the Jubilee and the legacy of the Fellowship.

It is very important to remember the story of Mrs *Shanti Solomon* and how this small beginning became a worldwide prayer movement amongst women from all countries - even though our aim is to help the poor and the destitute through our gifts of love, these gifts are nothing without our prayers, faith and love.

I am happy to announce that the International Committee of FLC have allocated thirty grants for projects for 2005. The details of these grants are set out on the next page, and will be of great interest to you all.

I have two copies of *Shanti's* autobiography "*A Legacy And A Legend*" - they are \$5.00 each and I can obtain more if required.

I have sold twenty copies of the latest "*Circle Of Prayer*" and am waiting for more to arrive, so please be patient.

Janet Lang, FLC Convener

Fellowship Of The Least Coin

6.

7.

Allocated FLC Grants for Projects 2005

AFRICA

1. Afforestation Project 2000, Cementso, Adjanda Road, Aburi, Ghana
2. Kiga and Micro Business Self Help Group, Gatanga Location, Thika, Kenya
3. Jokoyando Self Help Group, Otonglo Village, Kanyakwar Location, Kisumu, Kenya
4. Orphans Knitting Project, Mathare Slums, Nairobi, Kenya
5. Community Support Association, Kalingalinga Compound, Lusaka, Zambia
6. Chifundo Orphanage Home Care New Kenyama Plot 67 - Lusaka, Zambia

ASIA

1. Joint Women and Youth Consultation on HIV/AIDS, Gender and Human Sexuality, NCCP, Quezon City, Philippines
2. Young Women Doing Theology (YWDT), AWRC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3. Leadership Training for Mongolian Church Women, Asian Church Women's Conference Project for Mongolia
4. Leadership Training for Cambodian, Lao & Vietnamese Church Women in 2005, Asian Church Women's Conference Project, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

5. Journey to Wholeness, Kwinana, Western Australia
6. Re-Making of Eva Project, Hong Kong SAR, China
7. Helping mentally diseased People, Kotobuki-Cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Japan
8. Literacy Program, Por Daus Village in Cambodia
9. The Women's Space, 64 Mc Elhone Street, Woolloomooloo, NSW 2011, Australia

EUROPE

1. Oxford Place Children's Centre. Oxford Place Methodist Centre
2. Eleventh World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, July 2006, W F M & U C W Eleventh World Assembly, Korea
3. "Beyond Feminism? Women and Men in a New Humanity" - Ecumenical and Theological perspectives, EFECW, St Petersburg, Russia
4. Finances and Project Management in Low Income Communities, EFECW, Bulgaria

LATIN AMERICA

1. Workshops on medicinal plants based upon a reflection of the use of curative herbs in the Bible, Province of Concepcion, Chile
2. Sorority and empowerment. A pastoral

- accompaniment for women living with HIV, Maracay-Edo Aragua Venezuela
3. Regional Encounters and Workshops for Women and Development of Gender consciousness and community solidarity in Brazil. Porto Alegre, and Other points in the Southern Region of Brazil
 4. Literacy, Health and Leadership, Municipalities of Momostenango and Chichicastenango of Guatemala
 5. Women for life and peace, Barranquilla - Colombia
 6. Caring for the Caregivers, San Jose, Costa Rica

MIDDLE EAST

1. Micro-Credit Enterprises, Slum Areas in Suburbs of Cairo and (8) Presbyteries, Egypt
2. Women's Least Coin Offers Bread on the Table, Sidon - South of Lebanon
3. Support of Saint Ephrem Home for Children Homeless, Orphans and Social cases, Bicfaya Atchane, in the Lebanese Mountains, Lebanon

PACIFIC

1. "Women of Hope", Veiuto, Suva, Fiji
2. "Capacity building for Women of Nauru", Aiwo District, Nauru

8.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

A report has been received from *Pat Walker*, National Convener for ACWC, documenting her trip to Cambodia in May for the Executive Committee Meeting of ACWC, which consisted of 9 executive members. A tentative program was drawn up for the quadrennial General Assembly to be held in Malaysia in October 2006. Other business dealt with included Scholarships, Tsunami Relief projects for Sri Lanka and India, healing and trauma counselling, disaster management and preparedness, the re-orientation of Tsunami victims to earn a livelihood, and other welfare concerns.

The final two days afforded opportunity to take part in a seminar for women on Micro Finance. The FLC program seemed to form quite a big part of this time. The following day was spent focussing on Gender Justice, particularly in relation to the fact that women are often denied their rights to equality before God, and also suffer domestic violence. The ladies were encouraged to read their Bibles as a love letter - not a newspaper. Jesus loves us. Our churches should be healing communities empowering women to take part in the ministry.

In ACW National News, mention is made that two ACWC Executive members have met with the women of Mongolia where they discussed the possibility of developing a relationship between the women of that country and ACWC. They were able to meet with key pastors of the Mongolian Evangelical Alliance.

On the home front, readers, I ask you to please ensure you have Sunday, September 25th marked in your diaries, when this year's Pleasant Sunday Afternoon is to be held at the Northside Baptist Church at Crows Nest. Government Bus Number 273 stops right outside the Church. For those coming by car, free parking is available all day Sunday in the Council Car Park behind the Church. Access to this Car Park is from Holtermann Street. The closest railway station is St Leonards but that is quite a distance to walk to the church. Afternoon Tea will **precede** the program at 2.45 pm.

Winsome Penn, ACWC Convener

A C W 20th NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

It is not too late to book in for what is shaping up to be a wonderful Conference at the Salvation Army Conference Centre at Collaroy from 9-14 October. If not able to be there for the full time, do plan

9.

to come at least for a day. The best day to do this is for the Open Day on Wednesday 12th October, when *Governor Marie Bashir* will be attending and other different and exciting things are planned. Registration cost is \$20 per day, Meal cost is \$15 per meal, except on the Open Day when the special Lunch will cost \$20. For any other details, or to register, phone National Treasurer, *Nola Dickson*, on 9868 2559.

PAN PACIFIC & S.E. ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

At the President's Luncheon in April the speaker was *Sara Gaunt* from Oxfam (which now incorporated Freedom from Hunger and Community Aid Abroad). It is PPSEAWA's program each year to honour the International Year, and 2005 is the Year of Microcredit. Sara told of the work of Oxfam in times and places of disaster, especially since the Tsunami last December. By early February, Oxfam had raised over \$20 million. The short-term aim was to provide water, sanitation, food and shelter. The mid-term aim was primary health care, food and water. In the long term, the aim is rehabilitation - schools, roads, bridges etc. Sara spoke of the impact of the tsunami on women - many more women and children died than men.

In May, the speaker was *Jennifer O'Halloran* from NATSIEC. She works for the National Council of Churches, and spoke about Reconciliation, its history, needs and future paths. The three main projects of NATSIEC are 1. *Theology* - to explore Christianity from the perspective of Aboriginal people. 2. *Women* - attempting to develop resources to help Aboriginal women access help to further their communities. 3. *Youth* - to organise meetings to encourage the interchange of ideas and to look for future leaders.

Jennifer has held a series of talks, the first one in Redfern, entitled "Hearts Are Burning", to re-ignite and further the flame of reconciliation. She concluded her most interesting and challenging talk by saying that Reconciliation is important, because if we can't deal fairly with this country's original people, how can we deal fairly with others, such as refugees and people of different religions?

The speaker for the June meeting was to be *Linda Bartolomei*, whose subject was to be "Refugees in Australia" but this report is being written before that date.

Edith Ridge, ACW Representative to PPSEAWA

10.

SPECIAL DAYS:

For World Community Day in October, half the offertories are allocated to fulfil our Australian commitment to Asian Church Women's Conference. The other half of the offertories, will be shared between two Special Projects which have been selected by the National Executive, and these are as follows:

1. *Retreat Centre Parakaleo* in Sheffield, Tasmania, which offers Christian-based counselling and support to Tasmanians struggling with issues of suicide. Parakaleo means "to lift someone up and move them forward in a positive direction". The Centre receives no Government funding.

2. *After-School Programs for Indigenous Children* in Broken Hill, NSW. The Aboriginal Church connected with the Baptist Church wish to commence programs to provide useful activities as opposed to unhelpful free time.

One of the Special Projects for 2004 was *Kairos Prison Ministry* and a letter of thanks says "Please accept our appreciation and thanks for the kind donation in support of Kairos Prison Ministry. The money will assist us to sponsor guests at the next Kairos in Goulburn Correctional Centre in July and at the Kairos Outside in Canberra in October. Your donation makes a big difference. It will be spent entirely on providing for our guests, as team members will be self-funding. It will allow us to offer the program at no cost to our guests, as many could not afford to attend otherwise. The awareness that they are receiving the program as a gift facilitated by the wider Christian community helps them to appreciate that they can be loved by people they do not know and this can be a rare and precious experience. Your generosity will remind them that they are not truly alone and help them to celebrate this time with dignity."

SOCIAL ISSUES:

Fairtrade Coffee (and Tea) are available at all Oxfam shops. When we buy this, the small scale farmers who grew it get a decent return for their work, unlike others who get paid 30% less than they did 15 years ago. Buying *Fairtrade* products helps them to afford the basics of life - food, shelter, health care and education for their families. Oxfam shops are listed in the telephone directory - there is a convenient one in Centrepoin in Sydney.

Joan Bird, Social Issues Convener

A PLACE OF HOPE FOR DRUG REHABILITATION:

For more than 20 years *John and Honi Reiffler* have been running a marvellous Christian program known as *SHERWOOD CLIFFS COMMUNITY CENTRE*, just 25 minutes from Coffs Harbour in northern NSW. The Centre takes men along with a family or two who come for long-term rehabilitation in a self-help farm location. Cows are milked, hens are raised, sugar cane is grown, along with horses, fruit trees and vegetables. The project even runs their own school so that staff members' children can stay at home. This has been referred to in an earlier Newsette. There has now been a new development. *Carol and Ian Harrigan* have taken over the running of Sherwood Cliffs, as John and Honi have moved to establish a similar centre for women on a property just 5 kilometres away. Because of the quality of their activities, there is usually a very long waiting list of people wanting to enter this remarkable community.

(From NSW Drug Awareness Council Magazine 'Tempo')

The *Kaluluangu Aboriginal Women's Centre* in Halls Creek WA would appreciate any second-hand clothes (NOT synthetic fibres because of the climate) for women, babies and children, and t-shirts, jeans, boots and socks for men. Items can be sent post-free to Kaluluangu Aboriginal Women's Association, Reply Paid 79002, Halls Creek WA 6770. *(From Australian Women's Coalition News)*

I'm on a Committee

Oh, give me a pity, I'm on a committee
Which means from morning to night,
We attend, and amend, and contend, and defend,
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur,
And re-iterate all of our thought;
We review the agenda with frequent addenda,
And consider a load of report

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,
And the points of procedure are fun!
But though various notions are brought up as motions
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve,
Since it's out of the question for us.
What a shattering pity to end our committee,
Where else could we make such a fuss?