

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN WOMEN AT WORK

ORIGINE



APRIL 1980

- (1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ
- (2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

HAVE FAITH IN HIS PROMISES (written by Val Baker, HOBART)

Remembering anew the sufferings of Christ on the Cross, also the promises He gave us to believe and trust in, give us hope in the future.



Sufferings of Jesus, while in human form, are what we in the world today experience at some time in our lives: persecution, desertion, loneliness, abandonment and utter despair.

Before Jesus' crucifixion, He said "I am leaving this world, but I am sending you another who will teach you all things"

His comfort (the Holy Spirit) and guidance leads us to the scriptures, to be upheld by His promises.

God's promises are the breastplate to wear as protection



against the arrows and blows of this world. We can remember these promises:-

WHEN WORRIES OPRESS US Mat. 6 (your Father in Heaven)

"Do not start worrying, enstead be concerned with the Kingdom of God, and what He requiris fo you and He will provide all your needs, so do nor worry about tomorrow: it will have worries enough, there is no need to add to the trouble each day brings"

WHEN WE ARE WEARY Mat 11: 25-30

"Come unto me, all ye who are tired and heavy laden take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and hamble in spirit, and you will find rest".

ANXIOUS FOR DEAR ONES Luke 17

Jesus heaks ten men, only one thanked Hin, and the Lord said "Your faith has made you whole".

WHEN FRIENDS TURN FROM US Math 5

Jesus taught "Happy are those, when people insult you and persecute you, and tell lies about you: because you are my followers; be happy and glad, your reward is in Heaven".

We must be like lamps in this darkened world. Cor. 13 saysa "Love is patient and kind!" and again "Forgive seventy times seven " Luke 13

WHEN SORROW TAKES OVER (think of Jesus' prayer)

"My Father, if it be possible, take this cup from me not my will but thine be done" Mat. 26:39

We thank Val for these thoughts as we mediate on the life of Christ at this season of the Church Year (ED)

ECUMENISM IN ACTION - Report by J. Curtin

The Ecumenical Summer School has been taking place in Melbourne for the past seven years. All denominations are represented, coming from all parts of Australia. It is promoted by the Ecumenical Affairs Commission of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and at its commencement was launched with the co-operation of the Anglican Church. The Theme this year was MISSION, and was arranged as a prelude to the World Council of Churches Meeting in Melbourne in May, when the theme will be YOUR KINGDOM COME.

Participants arrived on Friday evening and proceedings were commenced with an Agape Meal. This was a happy way for Christians to enjoy each other's company and it was on that level that the programme for the week-end followed. Friendships were renewed as those who had been before, perhaps many times, were warmly greeted and new friendships commenced as the barriers of denominational differences receded and the fruits of the Holy Spirit were recognised and warmly responded to by all.

The chief speaker, Rev Michael Winter, had come from England where he is chaplain for London University, having formerly been engaged in pastoral work and seminary teaching. He is a writer and his latest book "Mission Resumed?" has been widely read. In an earlier work this author located the stress in the Catholic church as between two groups. The first accords the primacy to maintenance. This second lays the accent on mission. Earlier writings deal with parochial activity absorbing the time and talent of clergy and laity. The second book places the accent on evangelisation, the kerygma, spreading the Good News. This work of Mission is one which should engage the activity and energy of all Christians, especially at this time when society is desperately seeking purpose and a pointer to a goal towards which idealism can be directed.

Ecumenism in Action - cont.

In the opening Service, "A Light to the Nation" this wonderful truth that the Christian is meant to be a light and bring light to a world groping in the darkness of disillusion and discontent, was paramount. But pre-eminently, the stress was on gratitude to the Father for the wonderful way Jesus strengthens us to be lights for the world.

There were group discussions and speakers who promoted various means and methods in order to achieve the proclaiming of the Message with clarity and success.

This is an annual event of great significance, vitality and originality and it gives to all who participate the prayerful yearning for that unity among his followers for which Jesus prayed during the Last Supper - "Father, May They All Be One - as You And I are One".

oOo

SOME NEWS FROM VICTORIA:

Transport for Elderly Club Members.

For the past eight years volunteers from Waverly A.C.W. group have provided transport for elderly Jordanville people to their regular Tuesday meetings. About 17 people from the local housing commission area were taken to the Jordanville Elderly Citizens' Club for the meetings. Unfortunately this service is no longer available due to lack of drivers but appreciation was expressed for the community service rendered for so many years.

International Women's Festival 7 - 10 March, 1980

A Festival was held in Melbourne to celebrate International Women's Day and the midpoint of the Women's Decade. Representatives from the Victorian Unit of

Australian Church Women were active participants in the planning of the Festival. Programmes were arranged for the holiday weekend and included the two principal Women's World Day of Prayer services in Melbourne and a gathering in the City Mall which was followed by a procession through the streets of Melbourne to the Carlton Gardens. Members joined in the march and distributed balloons and literature at the picnic in the gardens.

Organizers of the Festival were drawn from a wide cross-section of the community and included for the first time members of A.C.W. as a unit.

oOo

BOOK REVIEW

"A Woman's Book of Prayers" - Rita Snowden. Collins
Fount Paperbacks \$2.95 Fifteenth Impression 1979

Rita Snowden is a deaconess of a New Zealand Methodist Church. While she was bedridden with a heart-condition Rita started writing. Now fully recovered, she often travels representing her Church, such as at the World Methodist Conference in Oxford.

"A Woman's Book of Prayers" was published in 1968 and has been reprinted since. There are daily prayers and readings for one month. Another section of the book has readings and prayers for Special Days. Rita has also included prayers for a wide range of activities and occasions such as "A Birthday Prayer" and "Before Shopping for Clothes". Her prayers are a delight to read. They combine concern for others with praise for God. The range of prayers show that all things are worth taking to God in prayer.

An example is "Prayer before a Routine Job".

"O God, this must be done though it's dull.
Give me the courage to begin and to put it off no
longer; And give me the perserverance to complete it.

"Prayer before a Routine Job" - cont.

I am glad that no line can be drawn between things - what we call 'sacred', and what we call 'secular', What we do once in a while, or have to do continually is important to you.

Accept the skill within my hands, today,

Give me good judgement and patience.

Forgive me, if I've been lazy about starting this job.

Let me find pleasure in things beautiful and good and true. AMEN".

RUTH THOMAS

oOo

"WHERE THE ILL WIND BLOWS GOOD" - by R. Rolleson
Information Officer Aust. Council of Churches

Ill winds on Laguna de Bay, south east of Manila, in the Philippines, blow 'good' along with the bad for the small fishermen who live on the Lake's shore.

In severe typhoons the large, often illegal, fishpens owned by big fishing operators in Lake Laguna are destroyed, releasing the fish into the lake, thus improving the catch of the small fishermen. For these poor fishermen the risk of their flimsy houses being destroyed or their long fishing boats being sunk is a reasonable price to pay for the resulting increased catch.

The expectation that ownership of the fishpens might eventually go to the small fishermen has proved a wild dream. The high cost of investment and maintenance preclude them from even setting up a small fishtrap, much less a fishpen. But it is here that the ill winds of the typhoon blow 'good' destroying the fishpens and releasing the fish into the lake.

oOo

From - "GRACES AT TABLE" - Rita Snowden

For the food of many seasons, and the service of many hands, accept our thanks, O Lord. AMEN

THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE HAS NAMED DELEGATES WHO will represent Australia in Manila during November/December 1980 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Applications have now closed and applicants have been advised of their selection: following is a list of the names and addresses of the delegates:-

- MRS BARBARA GREALY SOUTH AUSTRALIA
- MRS HEATHER STEVENS N.S.W.
- MRS MARIE PRICE TASMANIA
- MRS MARJORIE STANHOPE N.S.W.
- MRS MARIE McCANN N.S.W.
- DELEGATE MARY ANDREWS N.S.W.
- MRS FRANCES DOWNES VICTORIA
- MISS NAIDA BRUMFIELD N.S.W.

Sincere congratulations to the delegates and gratitude to all State Unit Secretaries for their prompt and considerate co-operation.

Signed Marie Price
F.L.C. Convenor
National Working Committee
Dated March 1980

Our thanks to Marie for this prompt information and for the work she has put into the arrangements to make sure things will run smoothly for those of you who will be representing us all at this great occasion. Our thoughts and prayers go with each and every one of you. ED.

Please keep your articles coming in for Women at Work the response so far has been fair but we can always do with more news from the States

