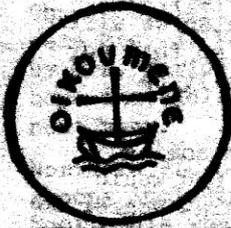


Australian Church Women

WOMEN AT WORK



SEEK: To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

To help Christian women to take more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church.
August, 1982.

"BE STILL AND KNOW"

During a recent study of sections of the Psalms I found myself once more reading the eleven verses which comprise that great favourite - Psalm 46 with its well known exultant praises to the All-powerful Creator who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, who alone can control the fury of nature, calm the seas and make wars cease. It concludes with the re-assuring promise "The Lord of Hosts is with us" and again that He is our refuge.

Taking the verses separately I became aware again of those wise words we all need to consider daily as we go about our daily living. This help God offers has been well proven over the centuries .. His people pray to Him in distress and confusion and He is there to guide and protect, leading them through their trouble. His refuge is likened to a fortress. We can be sure of God's presence and power.

And then, quite suddenly, verse ten begins with the words "Be still and know that I am God." A command to standstill .. to observe His mighty creation all around us .. to be still and listen as God speaks to us. In all the rush and bustle of life we are called to "be still."

The streets of our towns and cities are filled with the noise of impatient car horns, screeching brakes, sirens wailing and roar of the speeding transports. Everyone in too much of a hurry to pause and pray. We have become a nation of "pill-poppers" .. why? We are told it's to help us relax .. keep us alert .. calm our nerves .. give us energy! The media doesn't help - so much greed and so much violence! And we must keep an eye on that clock or time will beat us again. In many homes fast food is a way of life because with all our computers and press-button home appliances we still find ourselves trying to fit 48 hours into a 24 hour day. No time here to pause and pray.

Time is a gift from God to be used by us to His glory, yet so many people find themselves a slave to time wishing they had that extra hour or two in the day or that time would stand still!

Let us hear God's command and obey!

Through prayer we will receive the power to control our time, by handing over our lives to God and finding the time to listen. We will become aware of the power and control of the Holy Spirit so that our tendency to rush breathlessly through the day will gradually be replaced by a more meaningful and ordered life.

Jesus used His time wisely, fulfilling the purpose of His coming. He is our example, showing us the way to accomplish what God would have us do, setting aside that special time each day to draw nearer to our Heavenly Father. We, in our turn, must set a Christian example to all whose lives we touch, for although each one of us has her own life to live, let us not forget we are all part of God's great plan and of the Christian family.

As members of the Australian Church Women we are given great opportunities to be examples of Christian love and service, so let us always be conscious of our obligation to glorify God in all we do and to use our time wisely.

Yvonne Davis.

President .. N.S.W. State Unit.

TASSIE TALKS

Launceston have been busy again for the Travel Fund and recently held a function at the home of the President Mrs. Shirley Brooks. Forty-three ladies attended and raised \$84. Twenty ladies from this branch have conducted services in several aged persons homes in the city and have recently welcomed two new members to branch meetings.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Devonport branch Mrs. Captain Olive Bell was elected as President. Mrs. Effie McCormack relinquished the position of President after many years of valuable service on the executive. Mrs. McCormack founded the Devonport branch seven years ago. At their Fellowship Day 70-80 ladies gathered to hear State FLC Convenor (and former National FLC Convenor) Mrs. Marie Price give the main address, (which was excellent I hear.)

Burnie ladies had a morning tea at the Baptist Church recently. A letter from this branch to MLA Mr. Max Bushby called for an enquiry into ethics and a stand against bad language on the electronic media.

Hobart - Fellowship Day was held for the first time on the Eastern Shore of Hobart. Between 60 and 70 ladies met in the Corpus Christi Church Bellerive for the Service led by Mrs. Carmel Mulcahy. Speakers were Mrs. J. Van Der Hoek, Mrs. Sue Vanderwal with the address given by Mrs. Marion Ramsey. During afternoon tea many women expressed the hope that Fellowship Day would be held on the Eastern Shore again next year.

Northern FLC Convenor Mrs. Joan Davis has given many talks to womens groups including a trip with State President Mrs. Dawn Hibbs to Scottsdale where enquiries are being made concerning opening a branch of ACW there. State FLC Convenor, Mrs. Marie Price has journeyed way down south of the Island to talk to a group of Cygnet ladies about FLC.

At the July meeting of the State Executive \$50 was forwarded to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Bursary Fund in memory of Mrs. Mary Wood who was the foundation President of ACW in Tasmania.

ELLGEE

PERSONALITIES:

Mrs. Mary Seavington Wood, who died recently, had a lifelong involvement in the ministry of the church at all levels.

At the time of union her husband, the Rev. F.A. Wood, was Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church.

"But she was very much a leader in women's activities in her own right," said a friend.

She had been active in the life of Australian Church Women since that organisation's establishment, and had a key role in the establishment of the UCF in the Barwon presbytery.

When her husband was minister at Scots, Hobart, her skills as a social worker were called into service to help the relief of families during the Tasmanian bushfires. She is remembered and loved for the tremendous work and energy she put into that operation.

In recent times she was keenly interested in the work of Trading Partners - the organisation enabling disadvantaged third world people to have a market for their product in Australia.

She was always a great supporter of missionary work.

Mrs. Wood was noted for her keen analytical mind and her sence of humor.

REPORT FROM JANET WATTS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I want to tell you about our little local Church. It is in a predominately State Housing Area and mostly pensioners, single mothers, deserted wives and very low income folk live there in flats and SHC houses. We have built a very large Jennings House - had the walls of the family, lounge and dining area knocked out so as to make a large room and had it extended 12ft. One bedroom has been made suitable for a Food co-op and is being set up with shelves, fridges, etc. The local Roman Catholic were combining with us (we're Baiting) in this Food co-op. Food will be sold cheaply to pension ticket holders. Our official opening is on Sunday 27th June. We're expecting the community to make use of our Centre in all sorts of ways, but foremost is building the spiritual lives of folk around.

EXTRACTS FROM A REPORT FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT: -

This year money raised from "Community Concern" luncheons goes to the "Kersbrook Riding School for Disabled Children". The riding is great therapy for the children who are taken by bus to the Riding School in the Adelaide Hills each week and they are very disappointed if wet weather prevents them going. The money from the luncheons will go toward the cost of an indoor riding area, so that riding can continue even when the weather is inclement.

Mrs. Mabel Penfrey

The two following reports were given by the President of A.C.W. - Deaconess E.A. Alfred:

CONSULTATION WITH W.C.C. TEAM

There were six in the team from Sth India, Thailand, Tanzania, England, Austria and Canada.

They came to share with the Australian Church, plans for the Vancouver Assembly and to listen to what Australian Christians feel are their concerns. They divided into three pairs - two went to Western Australia and South Australia, two to Victoria and Tasmania and two to Queensland and New South Wales.

The major area of concern which came through to the team was the feeling of isolation which Australians have - both geographical and cultural. They felt that the average Australian Christian is ignorant of and not terribly interested in the work of the W.C.C. The knowledge they have is usually gleaned from the mass media and is therefore, in the main the sensational topics, such as aid to militant groups in Africa, the visit to Australia of the W.C.C. team in 1981 and so on. They know very little of the work of the W.C.C. in the fields of education, steps towards unity through the Faith and Order Commission, and such as grants to Tonga after the last cyclone and so on.

On the positive side the team discovered a growing sensitivity to issues of social justice, with people feeling that the Church must have something to say about injustice, in the name of Christ. The team members spoke of the warmth shown to them in acceptance and hospitality wherever they went.

31ST GENERAL MEETING OF A.C.C. IN BRISBANE - 2ND - 6TH JULY, 1982.

I felt it was a tremendous privilege to be able to represent A.C.W. at the A.C.C. General Meeting and I am glad to be able to give you some information about all that happened.

The Conference was a wonderful experience - we were a large group of people who acknowledged Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and whose great longing was for the fulfilment of our Lord's prayer - "that they all may be one".

This desire for oneness for unity was the oasis of all that was debated and discussed. The Rev. Dr. J.D. McCaughey stressed that the unity of the Church is fundamental - basic to Salvation and redemption. He also said that it is a fellowship of the Holy Spirit - a much greater thing than "mateship" in the Australian culture. Archbishop Grindrod also spoke of the unity of the Church - "we have to take a bigger step than just being the church united - we must struggle in depth and sincerity for unity".

CHINA

We were told of the visit of the A.C.C. team to China and a report of this is available - "To see with one's own eyes", edited by Jean Skuse - price \$3.50. This gives an excellent picture of the Church in China today. The team said that the Church in China does not want individual denominations to become involved in the life of the Church in that country - it wants all approaches to be made at an ecumenical level through the A.C.C. An invitation is being sent to China for a team to visit Australia.

FAITH & ORDER COMMISSION

As a result of the work of the Task Force on Christian Unity and the acceptance by member churches of six of the Covenanting Proposals, it was decided that a "Faith and Order Commission" be set up; part of the task of this commission will be to help the churches in their response to the Lima text on "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry."

ABORIGINALS & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

Members of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee attended the meeting on Monday 5th July, and spoke of the plans for a peaceful protest at the Commonwealth Games in support of their claims for land rights and self-management. After considerable debate and discussion the A.C.C. decided that arrangement for action should be left in the hands of the Queensland Churches.

There were many other matters discussed at this General Meeting - the Australian Student Christian Movement is showing signs of new growth; the need for strong support of the Christmas Bowl Appeal this year; more members of Christian One are needed, and so on. I recommend to you the report of the A.C.C. General Meeting 1982, when it is published.

We farewelled Thelma Skiller on our last night. She is taking up a position with the W.C.C. in Geneva shortly, and expressions of appreciation for the work she has done for A.C.C. and good wishes for her future work, were made.

Bishop Gihran's chairmanship of the meeting was an inspiration to us all, and the worship services each morning set the tone for our day's work.

At the Ecumenical Service at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday night, Archbishop Grindrod was the preacher. We had some liturgical movement and dance and an aboriginal choir sang an anthem - quite a fascinating evening.

It was a great experience to be part of such a gathering, as the A.C.C. General Meeting and I am glad to be able to share at least this much of it with you.

ELIZABETH ALFRED

National President

AUSTRALIA/BURMA PRAYER PARTNERSHIP

From the A.C.T. Unit Yvonne Sullivan writes:

"As a Unit A.C.T. offers prayers for our Christian friends in Burma. We do this at Unit meetings of our affiliated organisations.

Members who undertook to correspond with those whose addresses were given report that they are enjoying this communication with the ladies in Burma.

From Tasmania Unit, Lynette Green reports:-

BURNIE: CWL had special time of prayer.

DEVONPORT: Had a morning tea and prayers for Burma.

LAUNCESTON: A Bible Study Group prayed each Wednesday in July for Burma. Launceston Home League had a time for Burma prayers also.

STATE UNIT: Held a special meeting after the Executive meeting. Ladies from all over the State met in Launceston for a service of prayer.

HOBART: Arranged time in Fellowship Day Service for explanation of the partnership and prayer. Howrah Fellowship members brought along any bits and pieces about Burma customs, etc. - sang "On the Road to Mandalay". Each member prayed. Home League also had full meeting on Burma. Former National Working Committee members gathered for a morning tea and had prayers for Burma. Nine postcards were sent to 6 different ladies in Burma.

LINDISFARNE Catholic Women's League had time for prayer in their July meeting.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER:

The Bible Society issues a Prayer Booklet and on Oct. 10th-16th there is request for prayer and Bible needs in Sgaw Karen and Kachin languages. Prayer that New Testaments in major languages which have been out of stock for over a decade may again be made available; that the plan to print the common language Shan New Testament and the common language Burmese New Testament may be realised; that the important project to revise the Sgaw Karen Bible may be successfully launched.

ISABEL MACINTYRE.