



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN "WOMEN AT WORK"

DECEMBER, 1976.

Our greetings to you for Christmas come from some members of the Working Committee. You will find them if you read on. Our President, Dorothy Wacker, says to you - "All joy be yours".

From the minutes of the ASIA CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WORKING COMMITTEE.

Fellowship of the Least Coin. It was moved and seconded that the Executive Secretary should write to the sponsoring organizations of the F.L.C. projects requesting that a progress report be submitted within six months of receipt of the fund.

Mrs Solomon presented the F.L.C. Account from January 1st 1975 to October 3rd 1976. The income received during this period was \$85,729.09. Total receipts amounted to \$303,213.77, the balance brought forward on January 1st 1975 being \$217,484.68.

Letter from Australia Frances Bailey read the letter from the National Representative of Australia regarding the basis of application for F.L.C. grants, and the question of F.L.C. participation of affluent countries such as Australia. It was indicated by the Working Committee that there is no distinction as to who should apply for a grant. The guiding principles make it explicit that requests from all countries shall be considered. It was pointed out by Mrs Catchings, Director of Ministry of the United Methodist Church, U.S.A., who had been invited to serve as observer - consultant, that A.C.W.C. has a unique contribution to make in fostering understanding between and among countries. (Earlier, Mrs Catchings had noted that there is something special about F.L.C. which focuses on the sensitivity of the Third World on the missionizing end. This is an Asian idea, a non-western movement that has reached a wholeness.)

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Greetings from Vera Wilson, F.L.C. Convener - "Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God". (Vera sings with the University of W.A. Choral Society, which is currently producing The Messiah at the Perth Concert Hall.)

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F.L.C. Allocations for 1977. These came to us as part of the minutes of the A.C.W.C. Working Committee meeting.

- Singapore - Continuing Education for Ministry/Church Workers. This is a two year project, with \$6,000 allotted for the first year, and \$4,000 for the next year subject to the progress report.
- Sri Lanka - Baptist Women's League for unemployed girls - \$400.
- Australia - Aboriginal Women's Centre in Darwin. This request is being held over until more information is available regarding the project.
- U.S.A. - Swords to Ploughshares Peace - building Consultation - \$5,000.
- Asia - Asian Women's Institute - \$6,000.
- Philippines - Abiertas House of Friendship - \$5,000.
- Canada - Rad and Lisa Bartlett Translation Centre - \$2,000.
Transition House - \$1,000.
- South Africa - South African Women's Refuge Rehabilitation - \$5,000.
- Costa Rica - Seminario Biblico Latino Americano - \$2,000.
- Hong Kong - Message - \$6,000.
- Japan - Asian Rural Institute - \$6,000.

Total F.L.C. Allocations for 1977 - \$45,900.

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Janet Watts feels that this is a greeting for all time, not least for the Advent season - "Trust in the Lord...Depend upon the Lord...Commit your life to the Lord...Wait quietly for the Lord". * * *

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS - Miss Thelma Lang of Warracknabeal in Victoria wrote to Jean Vincent telling of her association with Jennifer Yeo - "Miss Yeo is a graduate of a Bible College in Singapore and has been on the staff of Scripture Union in Singapore, but felt the need to know more about the Bible before she could enter fully into the work of Scripture Union.

Campus Evangelical Fellowship is the national Christian Student movement involved with students in Taiwan. Since its inception about twenty years ago, it has been thoroughly run and organized by Chinese Christians....The staff workers are busily engaged in serving as sponsors to High School and University/College Christian Fellowship groups, and in speaking engagements during afternoons and evenings". (Jennifer Yeo will also be engaged in this work. She will be in regular fellowship with a Church, helping with the Young People's group).

"Because she has already graduated from a Bible College, her lecture programme will be a little different from the other new workers. Therefore much of her study will be done by herself. She will have a directed study programme to cover as much of the Bible as is possible in a twelve months' period. Possibly from time to time she will have tutorial lectures from another Overseas Missionary Fellowship member who will also be lecturing to the C.E.F. staff members. * * *

W.K.S. convener, Jean Vincent sends this greeting - "Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine".

And Treasurer Jean Banyard follows it with - "Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine, Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign".

N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL Renewal Day - 15th November.

The Day of Renewal arranged by the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council proved to be a most rewarding and successful occasion when Council members were joined by their friends to participate in a programme of an address, quiet time and panel discussion. The Revd Canon H.M. Arrowsmith spoke at a short Service in the morning and took as his basis chapter 14 in 'Hosea' where the theme of conversion and renewal are so beautifully developed. For the panel discussion, the theme of the day "Living the Gospel in today's World" was focussed by three speakers on the Home, the Church and the Community. Following this, discussion groups were formed and the time allotted proved all too short for the fruitful and worthwhile participation of all members of the groups. The warm welcome and generous cooperation on the part of the Revd Canon B.R. Horsley and Mrs Horsley with the ladies of the parish of Christ Church, Lavender Bay created a very happy atmosphere. The cup of tea at ten o'clock was hosted by the members of the Lane Cove-Longueville Women's Inter-Church Fellowship, and at lunch time by the Chatswood-Willoughby Women's Inter-Church Fellowship. Perhaps the Council meetings during the year are distinguished of necessity by formality and strict procedure when an Agenda has to be adhered to, and by contrast this day was one of relaxation and a quite radiant quality of responsive fellowship. As on all happy occasions, the time seemed too short and it is the hope of many that such a day will become an annual event. * * *

From Joy Holland comes this greeting "Love - Joy - Peace - May these be yours to share with others". * * *

Vice-President Isobel Macintyre of the Salvation Army Women's Services recently returned from journeyings around Australia. She writes:

One should not underestimate the true value of fellowship, particularly Christian fellowship as is seen at its best among Australian Church women. ...

It was a joy to make contact and share in fellowship with representatives of A.C.W. in each State during my recent tour around Australia.

The Salvation Army Conference for Directors of Women's Services attended by representatives of each State in the Southern Territory of Australia proved most stimulating and helpful, giving to each Director a broader vision of every avenue of service to women.

Whilst the Conference was the primary purpose in visiting Melbourne, there were many side benefits which accrued as we took the opportunity of continuing on through the other States of Australia. One of the real benefits was the contacts made with A.C.W. representatives.

In Melbourne contact was made with the Secretary of Interchurch Council of Victoria, Mrs Olive Ackland, and also Mrs Brigadier R. Callander, and in Sydney contact was made with the President, N.S.W. Branch A.C.W., Mrs Colonel Baker. Each of these folk send greetings.

Just out of Brisbane away high in the ranges overlooking Maroochydore and Nambour on the Sunshine Coast in the picturesque small village of Montville, we came into contact with Mrs Colonel Carpenter a former President of N.S.W. Branch and still keenly interested in our work.

Standing on the back verandah of their lovely home (still in the process of being built) viewing right out to Maroochydore and Nambour, the scenery was magnificent with the mountains, tall trees and many ferns - a picture for any artist to paint and we know that Colonel Carpenter may some day have this opportunity as he himself is an artist.

Journeying later to the heart of the Sunshine Coast, the Nambour Basin - a lush sub-tropical area whose valleys are carpeted with sugar cane and whose surrounding foothills are covered with pineapples and a profusion of other tropical fruits, nuts and spices that thrive in the Sunshine State. Towering over the sunshine plantation and the national highway itself stands the "Big Pineapple" a spectacular 16 metre high replica of the "King of the Fruits". Now a national landmark, it is visited by over 1,000 visitors a day who have come to regard it as a symbolic feature of the Sunshine Coast.

The flowering trees at Townsville and Cairns were indescribable - the lovely bouganvillia, Poincianas, Frangipanni (in five different colours), Coral, Golden hanging acacia and the cascara trees, were in full bloom - the coconut palms swayed in the breeze.

The beauty of the barrier reef and the majesty of the Atherton Table lands was thrilling.

At Darwin we had the pleasure of attending a United Church Gathering - the Christmas Bowl Appeal programme at the United Church and it was a joy to meet Mrs Maisie McKenzie and her husband, the Revd Mr McKenzie, who are the Ministers of that fine Church. Mrs McKenzie took part in the programme. I was introduced to Sopit Chockchai, the lass from the Church of Christ in Chungmai, Thailand, who represented her country at the A.C.W. Meetings, Bangkok in 1974 - brought to Darwin to help develop skills needed to further her Christian work in her own country. For 3 months it has been arranged for her to do Bible Studies. A very capable and charming personality. She displayed something of her skill in doing a Thailand dance.

Mention was made in a recent copy of Women at Work of the new Anglican Cathedral, also the new Salvation Army Hostel and Community Centre being built at Darwin. It was good to see the progress in each of the buildings.

Across the Kimberleys to Kununurra and the Ord River Scheme was mind boggling in its potential, the 48 by 18 mile man-made lake, Lake Argyle, and the Experimental Farming must be seen to be believed.

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Back home in our own Territory we called at Hedland in time for the Salvation Army Home League final meeting for the year. Whilst Marble Bar may claim to be among the hottest towns in Australia (this I could believe) the actual marble bar from which the town derives its name is breathtaking in its multi-coloured seams of granite and of jasper. Because of its excessive heat of the day the main street was almost deserted, but for three small groups of Aborigines chatting together. Taking the opportunity to make contact, we chatted with them for a time.

In retrospect one could not be wonder at the amazing handiwork of God in this our land and the richness and refreshment that comes to our lives in contact with other people. May every joy and blessing be yours at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

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Head Deaconess Mary Andrews sends us her newsletter from N.S.W. enclosing her itinerary for her journey to S.E. Asia. We would like to print it all, but we seem to be short of space in this issue. Deaconess Andrews leaves Sydney on 21st December for Manila, where she will give four addresses at the Baguio Conference on Evangelism; then to Khatmandu; New Delhi to attend National Council of Women Regional Conference - also she hopes to see Mrs Shanti Solomon; Bombay, and from there to visit Kalpana Airan at Satara; Bangalore where earlier the Sisters of the Church of South India will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the founding of their order; then Madras; Colombo to visit deaconesses in Sri Lanka; back to Sydney via Singapore, arriving Sydney Wednesday, 2nd February.

Deaconess Andrews writes that she is looking forward to spending Christmas with a former student, Kathy Yo, in Manilla.

Our good wishes and prayers go with you, Deaconess Andrews.

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Our Secretary, Vera Dean, has this greeting for us - "May your Christmas day be bright, May your heart be light, In knowing that God cares for you, not only at Christmas but all the year through".

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You will remember the 'Forum' which the Working Committee arranged in August. Another evening on similar lines was held in November, with 'Nibbles and Natter', buffet dinner, then a time of listening and 'encounter' with each other. The Working Committee is finding this contact with a variety of people valuable, in that pertinent questions are raised, different points of view expressed and interesting suggestions made concerning the functions of A.C.W. We plan another evening with a difference for March 1977.

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Immanuel - God with us.

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