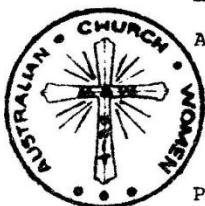


NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. STATE UNIT



A.C.W. seeks: To unite Australian women 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.

President: Mrs. Glad West

Phone: 419 8654

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The Gift of God's Grace"

ADVENT is upon us - that season before the nativity, when the history of the world was to change by the miraculous birth of the Christ Child. How shall we spend this time? Most of us will spend it in feverish preparation for family reunions and happy gatherings with old friends ... cooking, making and buying until almost exhausted we are halted on Christmas Eve.

Praise the Lord, a measure of peace and wonder descends over us again as we listen once more to the angel's message to the shepherds, 'Behold, I bring you good news of great joy - a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.' We remember that heaven and earth were full of praise to God on that first Christmas night, and feel compelled to join with that vast choir of angels singing: 'Glory to God in the Highest.'

How did Mary spend that final month before the birth of her babe? A tedious month, most mothers would agree, with household tasks continuing, a husband to be cared for, and preparations for the coming birth to be finalised. Constant on her mind would be that visit of Gabriel, and that strange salutation ... the promised Holy Spirit overshadowing her ... the visit to her cousin Elizabeth and her cousin's blessing. What strange connection was there between Elizabeth's son, now some months old, and her unborn child?

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2, EVENTS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

20. 8.81 P.W.M.U. Committee of Presbyterian Women's Association,
 90th Anniversary, St. James Church, Burwood: Secretary,
 Miss E. Blackwell.
18. 9.81 Annual Meeting of Anglican Deaconess Institution of
 Sydney, Bible House: Secretary, Treasurer, Miss E.
 Blackwell, Mrs. O. Lean.
- 23 9.81 Baptist Women's Fellowship Annual Rally, Central Baptist
 Church: President, Secretary, Deaconess M. Andrews.
- 8.10.81 Uniting Church Synod, St. Stephen's Church, Sydney:
 President, Mrs. D. Woodhouse.
- 23.10.81 Australian Board of Missions, Bible House: President,
 Secretary, Treasurer, Deaconess M. Andrews.

The annual Day of Reflection was held at Santa Sophia College, Sydney University, on Saturday, October 31 and was attended by several of our Council members. The theme was 'That They May Be One in Us', and the day was led by Father Geoffrey Dickinson.

Mrs. Yvonne Davis, representing the Presbyterian Women's Fellowship, was recently nominated as President-elect of the N.S.W. State Unit.

Please Note: November Council Meeting (16th) will hear reports from the Branches. There will also be a Gift Table to help the World Travel Fund.

President's Message (from page 1)

There was so much that Mary didn't understand, least of all that journey to Bethlehem so late in her pregnancy, she must have been exhausted. With no visible evidence to cling to, Mary trusted God to do this incredible thing which He had pledged Himself to do. Surely this is Christian faith.

With Mary, can we say: 'My soul doth magnify the Lord?' The Psalmist wrote: 'Bless the Lord with all that is within me, bless His holy Name.'

A joyous Christmas to all.

GLAD WEST

President

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

3.

Mrs. Margaret Slattery, President of Women's Action Alliance, was our guest speaker at this meeting. W.A.A. is a non-party, non-denominational movement seeking to end unjust discrimination against women engaged in any career or employment and particularly seeks an end to discrimination against women who choose the career of full-time homemaker. W.A.A. has a place on the National Women's Advisory Council to the Government. Mrs. Slattery pointed out that thousands of women who chose to remain at home caring for their children have no one to speak for them. They are often treated as parasites on society. W.A.A. is concerned for women of low income families who are forced to work. They have little support and no representation to the Government.

Many women's groups seeking 'rights' and 'freedoms' seek them at the expense of their families and other groups in society. W.A.A. seeks 'rights' and 'freedoms' for women conscious of their responsibilities towards their families, society and particularly the young, sick and the aged. All women who seek to make a reality of these objectives are urged to join W.A.A. to unite with like-minded women who are prepared to be active in seeking their implementation. Membership in this organisation costs \$5 p.a. (\$3 for pensioners). Members receive a magazine and newsletter. Further information may be obtained by writing to the Secretary, W.A.A., P.O. Box 1165, North Sydney, 2060.

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Reports on the 1981 National Committee Meetings for A.C.W. were the highlight of our September meeting. These meetings were held at the Jane Franklin University College in Hobart from August 25-28.

Firstly, Deaconess Mary Andrews told us of the Bible Study sessions and opening address, then Mrs. Marie McCann spoke in glowing terms of the way in which the meetings had been set up, the arrangements for accommodation and the wonderful way in which delegates had been welcomed and cared for. Miss Doris Mitchell, our Treasurer, outlined the business side of proceedings, and our Secretary, Brig. Mabel Ward told us of the public meeting. Mabel added this further word for 'Newsette':

'The theme 'THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME', was introduced during the opening service by Rev. Chris. Mostert, who quoted from Bishop John Taylor's book, 'The Go-Between God'. 'To think deeply about the Holy Spirit is a bewildering, tearing exercise, for whatever He touches, He turns it inside out.' (p.179).'

- Bankstown-Greenacre. Held at St. Paul's, Bankstown. The Rector's message was most appropriate (23 present).
- Bathurst. Held at Baptist Church. The atmosphere was one of unity in Christ. The speaker's message was rewarding and challenging to all (50-60 present).
- Bermagui-Cobargo-Tilba. Held at Bermagui Uniting Church. Mrs. Moxey gave a very interesting talk on the disabled and the way prayer and Christian help to all is so needed (23 pres.).
- Bourke. Held at the Anglican Church with 33 present. No details.
- City of Sydney. Held at St. Stephen's Church. Mrs. Jean Parsons and her Dorcas Committee were most helpful in making the day a happy one. The theme of the day was discussed by five groups, making the occasion fruitful both spiritually and socially (35 present).
- Chatswood-Willoughby. Held at Chatswood Central Uniting Church. The service was successful and acceptable, the speaker, Mrs. A. Chambers, being well received. Numbers were down a little but most local churches were represented. It was pleasing to have the President of A.C.W. present (41 present).
- Cooma Service held but no details received.
- Cootamundra. Held at R.C. Church. Guest speaker, Sister Helen, from Catholic High School was very good. Topic was Creative for Christ. A bitterly cold day but not noticed as the speaker was so good (47 present).
- Dee Why. Service held but no details received.
- Epping. Held at Epping Church of Christ. A beautiful theme for this service, carried through in solo and address (49 present).
- Holbrook. Held at R.C. Church. The Order of Service was not only appreciated but thoroughly enjoyed. The Catholic ladies prepared a large mural for us to add trees, birds, flowers, etc. The time spent together afterwards was most enjoyable and a wonderful fellowship continues to grow (46 present).
- Killara-Lindfield-Roseville. Held at R.C. Church, Lindfield. Although very cold day, we had a beautiful service. The choir from the host church created a lovely atmosphere. The speaker gave a challenging message. Father Meecham expressed his appreciation and welcomed us warmly (95 present).

Lambton. Held at 'Anglican Church.' Our guest speaker was Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam and her talk was very much enjoyed (40 present).

Lane Cove-Longueville. Held at Anglican Church, Lane Cove. Mrs. Glad West was speaker and gave a very sincere appraisal of what faith in God means in our daily lives and how we are all creative in an individual way. (Over 60 present).

Narooma. Held at Anglican Church. A most enjoyable day. Our speaker, Mrs. V. Romney of Mittagong, was excellent (36 present).

Northbridge-Castlecrag. Held at Northbridge Uniting Church. A very delightful service with many attending, saying how much they enjoyed the service (40 present).

North Ryde. Held at North Ryde Uniting Church. The speaker, Mrs. Aurie Young, gave a thoughtful address. The affirmation of faith and the intercessory prayers were appreciated (44 present).

Parramatta. Held at All Saints' Anglican. No details (70 present).

Seven Hills-Toongabbie. Held at Grantham Heights Uniting Church. This is a new branch, commenced in 1980. Miss Doris Mitchell was our speaker which was a very happy occasion (60 present).

Strathfield-Homebush. Held at R.C. Church, Enfield. Speaker was Miss Alison Watson, Branch co-ordinator for Arthritis and Rheumatism Council. The theme was very suitable for the speaker. Many commented on the fellowship enjoyed with ladies from other neighbouring churches (90-100 present).

Sutherland. Held at Salvation Army, Miranda. Brig. Mabel Ward of Bass Hill was speaker. Mrs. Glad Bent led the service. Representatives from all churches took part. 'Enthusiasm' was the keynote. There is keen anticipation of further ecumenical involvement (97 present).

Turramurra-Wahroonga. Held at St. Paul's Anglican, Wahroonga. Our speaker was Mrs. Marie Carpenter whose very meaningful talk was appreciated by many. A very friendly and happy atmosphere prevailed, commented on by many (60 present).

Upper Blue Mountains. Held at Katoomba Salvation Army Citadel. We are greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm expressed by all who attended the service. The fellowship experienced was wonderful. Mrs. Margaret Gentle, the speaker, was very warmly received and greatly appreciated (46 present).

Yass. Held at C.W.A. Hall, organised by Baptist ladies. Very bad weather kept many away (flooded creeks, etc) but otherwise it was a good service (25 present).

6.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Silver Jubilee of the F.L.C. in N.S.W. has resulted in profits from the 2000 bookmarks produced and the 70 teaspoons we handled from the S.A. Unit. About 250 bookmarks at 20 cents and 3 spoons at \$2.50 are still available. 'Circle of Prayer' devotional book, which is available for 60¢ and the World Community Day Service highlight the Theme. It is a movement of PRAYER which brings into PARTNERSHIP Christian women throughout the world, concerned for reconciliation and PEACE.

Countries involved with F.L.C.:

AFRICA
AUSTRALIA AUSTRIA
BRAZIL BANGLADESH BURMA
CAMEROON CANADA COLUMBIA CHILE
CARRIBEAN EGYPT ENGLAND FRANCE GHANA
GERMANY GUYANA GUATEMALA HOLLAND HONG KONG
INDIA INDONESIA IRAN ITALY IRELAND JAPAN KENYA
KOREA LATIN AMERICA LEBANON LIBERIA MALAYSIA
MEXICO NEW ZEALAND NIGERIA NEW GUINEA NORWAY
PACIFIC PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES PORTUGAL ROMANIA
RUSSIA SABAH SPAIN SCOTLAND SIERRA LEONE
SWEDEN SWITZERLAND SYRIA SRI LANKA
SINGAPORE TAIWAN THAILAND U.S.A.
TRINIDAD URUGUAY VIETNAM
YUGOSLAVIA ZAMBIA
VENEZUELA WALES
ZAIRE

PROJECTS RECEIVING FLC GRANTS IN 1981 (continued from August)

U.S.A. Interaction/Communication (International)	\$3000
Korea Church Women United (Administration)	3000
Korea Atom Bomb Victim Project	6000
Philippines 'Balai' Magazine	6000
Philippines Theolog. Trained Women's Programme	700
Africa All Africa Conf. of Churches (Women)	25000
Pacific Pacific Conf. of Churches (Women)	25000
U.S.A. Institute of Women today - Prisons, Women	5000
Translations - 'Circle of Prayer' : Spanish	2000
French/Portugese	1000

- Dorothy Woodhouse - Convener

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF YOUNG BLIND WORKER

Miss Sue Newman, who spoke at the luncheon following our Annual Service in May this year, died suddenly on July 14 as the result of an epileptic fit. During her short life (26 years) she waged a private struggle with life and achieved so much. She was brave, courageous and tried to live without dependence on others. Born blind, she went to a special school for the blind in London. She became a girl guide, a sea ranger, bushwalker, fully qualified VAD nurse, a trained telephonist and audio typist. She risked her life to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award in 1978 and went on to achieve the Duke's Gold Award for Community Service, the first blind person in Australia to receive this honour. She completed a two-year youth leaders' diploma course at the Baptist College in Sydney as a preparation for Christian service, hopefully amongst disturbed children. At the time of her death she was serving the Festival of Light as organiser for the I.Y.D.P.

A WORD FROM THE HON. TREASURER:

My thanks to those readers who have forwarded their renewal of subscription as required in the last issue. As there are still a large number of subs. outstanding, we are printing the little coupon again in this issue. Please send it to me with your subscription (\$2.00) as soon as possible or hand it to me at the November meeting of the N.S.W. Unit.

Subscriptions to 'The Asian Church Woman' for 1982 are also due (\$2.00) and those who wish to receive it during next year are asked to send their subscription to me as soon as convenient.

Please note that if subscriptions remain unpaid at the end of November, it will be assumed that you do not wish to receive these publications next year and no further copies will be sent to you.

Doris M. Mitchell
33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahara, 2025.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM

NAME (Please print)

ADDRESS Postcode.

Subscription \$2.00 enclosed for + 'Newsette'
+ 'The Asian Church Woman'

+ Cross out words not applicable.

Mrs. Peg. Cameron, a member of this Council representing Churches of Christ women, was recently appointed President of the Christian Women's Fellowship of that denomination.

Mrs. Marie McCann attended the Catholic Women's League National Meeting in Hobart in late September.

The World Federation of Methodist Women (with whom the Uniting Church in Australia is affiliated) held their Silver Jubilee Assembly in Honolulu from July 15-21, having as their theme 'New Dimensions in Christian Living'. Four of our Council members were in attendance. Congratulations are due to Mrs. Betty Davis, elected to the World Executive as South Pacific Area Vice President, and to Mrs. Heather Stevens as Australian Correspondent.

On the Ecumenical night Dr. Thelma Adair spoke as President of Church Women United, U.S.A. Dorothy Wagner (also of U.S.A.) from the International Committees of the World Day of Prayer which, she said, had its roots in the West, and the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which had its roots in the East, were two great movements of prayer initiated by women and carried out by them. Women around the world were asked to pray for peace each day and thus create a continuous chain of prayer.

MARK YOUR DIARY! Please keep the afternoon of Sunday, February 21, 1982, free. On this day our Council will be entertaining Dr. Thelma Adair, President of Church Women United (U.S.A.) who will be visiting Australia at the invitation of the Uniting Church.

Contributions to 'Newsette' are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Ridley, 23 Hannah Street, Beecroft, 2119, before the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

'NEWSETTE' is the official journal of the N.S.W. State Unit of A.C.W. Published four times yearly during the months: February, May, August, and November. Subscription \$2.00 per annum.

(See page 7 for details of subscription renewal)