

* * INFORMATION PAGE * *

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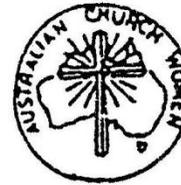
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*We wish you the blessings of a Joyous Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*



NEWSETTE

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

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.

President: Mrs Joan Tong (Tel: 718.8640, 264.1711)

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MESSAGE from THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Friends,

It is lovely to greet you again and to say 'God bless' and 'Thank you' for all your work and efforts for ACW during this year.

The most recent highlight has been the National Conference. I was greatly encouraged when at Council Meeting following it, many of our members gave testimony to the blessings and challenges of those days together. The spiritual impact was quite outstanding, and although a conference of this kind is really geared to business and procedures, it was of greater importance that the programme also included much for our spiritual uplift and growth in Christ.

For those who were not able to be with us there, I would like to share with you that I believe Australian Church Women, NSW Unit, will be a better Unit, united together in love to serve, as a result of the wonderful uplift to our spirits, as well as being enthused to do more together in Christ.

May the blessing of God be with you and your families, and let me say, 'HAPPY CHRISTMAS.'

Sincerely, Joan.

REPORT OF ACW NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Almost 80 women from ACW State Units across Australia came to Sydney in September for the bi-ennial National Conference. We were especially glad to host 3 New Zealand guests; also to have the company of two husbands who lived-in and joined in our times of recreation. We were all delighted with the Conference site at Collaroy; the accommodation and meals were every bit as good as the wonderful view of the beaches that we enjoyed every day.

Highlights of the Conference were ... the Opening Service, with invited special guests, a stirring message from Miss Jean Raddon and the musical contribution of the CWCI Choir; the inspiration of the Forest Bellringers; the entertaining 'home-grown' concert, when we discovered unexpected talents in some of our friends! The Reception given us by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, which even made the 7 pm News on ABC TV; the beautiful flower arrangements in the Chapel and business rooms; the times of sharing in groups of Unit office bearers; the times of devotions and the outstanding Bible Study sessions; the joyful noise we made to the Lord as we sang our theme chorus, especially written by Lucelle King (words and music) for the Conference; the pleasure of hanging our Branch Banners in the meeting-room; the solemnity of the Closing Service, when our NSW National Committee handed over to the new Committee, women from the Tasmanian Unit; and the great times of fellowship as we met new friends and caught up with old ones.

One of the best times for me was when we were introduced to our Prayer Partners for the next 2 years. Brigadier Mabel Ward had paired us all off, and it was with joy that we each greeted our new partner, and took the opportunity to find out all about them, so that our prayers may be informed ones.

Lest you think, dear reader, that it was all games and no work, let me hasten to tell you that we put in many hours of hard discussion and debate. The Conference business was long and important and the decisions made will stand for the next two years at least. A committee was appointed to look into all aspects of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and to do some hard work in the next few months, as they consider the future directions for the Scholarship.

NSW Unit members supported the National Committee in a number of ways - recording, typing and producing the minutes of

the sessions and the addresses of the guest speakers, also helping to man the Trading Table. All worked with a will and the success of the conference was due to the efforts of a great team.

Seminar Day, when a great crowd of NSW women came just for the day, was the outstanding success of the whole week. We were delighted with such a response from NSW ACW members, and everyone was given a feast of good things by the three excellent speakers, Deaconess Margaret Rodgers, Miss Frieda Whitlam and Sister Anita Brennan.

So, the Conference that we looked forward to has come and gone, and it will be 12 years before NSW is the host State again; but we are thankful for the opportunity of serving at this Conference and of being part of the excitement and inspiration of this important event in the life of ACW.

Edith Ridge (State Secretary)

CONSULTATION WITH SENATOR NEWMAN:

As neither the President nor Secretary was able to go, Mrs. Marjory Baker and I represented the NSW Unit at this meeting - one of a number arranged by Senator Jocelyn Newman, so that she could meet women from various organisations, a few at a time - not to talk, but to listen - to hear about their concerns and expectations in the area of women and family. Senator Bronwen Bishop joined us for some time.

It was a worthwhile meeting, including discussion on such matters as: pornography and violence on TV; X-rated Videos; the content of some material in school "personal development" text-books, for example "oral sex is safe sex", "drinking semen is no different from kissing"; the cutting down of aid to developing and strife-torn countries.

As we went at very short notice, Marjory and I had nothing prepared, but contributed as we could verbally. The Senator regretted the limited time (1 hour), but had seen and still had to see numerous other groups representing many organisations; she emphasised that she would like to hear from anyone at any time regarding anything to do with these matters.

Beryl McLaughlin (Editor)

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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Those of us who had the pleasure of attending ACW National Conference at Collaroy in September were privileged to spend time 'getting to know' Rachel Sobana, our 1991 Scholar, who is a delightful young woman, helpful, considerate, respectful, competent and articulate, happy and confident in her chosen career of nursing.

I had the extra joy of hostessing Rachel on her last weekend in Sydney. This included taking her to meet with Central Coast ACW, arranged by Mavis Burtenshaw, at the Salvation Army Citadel at Erina, where Rachel (being a Salvationist) was able to share her life with those present. It was interesting that many of the Salvation Army personnel present had served in Southern India, and that Mavis' daughter, also present, was born at the Catherine Booth Salvation Army Hospital where Rachel worked as Tutor Sister and to which she will return as Superintendent of Nursing! We were taken on a tour of the new Salvation Army Retirement Village, where Rachel was very interested in the on-going type care - from unit, to hostel, to nursing home.

Rachel very much appreciated the programme which National WKS Convenor Lucelle King organised for her and knew she had gained much from her hospital experience in Australia, which she looked forward to implementing on her return to India. She has since been in Adelaide for 6 weeks, then for some time in Perth till early December, when she will fly home to Nagercoil, where her family are eagerly awaiting her. We commend her to God's care and will look forward to hearing from her.

The WKS Scholar for 1992 is to be Miss Ana ~~Maree~~^{Nicole} Tameopeau, from Tonga, who is working in the office of the Women's Dept. of Tonga Methodist Church, and hopes to do a Secretarial/Office Administration Course. This will be in Tasmania and the new WKS National Convenor, Betty Brown, will be making arrangements for her; we in NSW will look forward to the pleasure of meeting Ana Maree at some time in the future.

Mina Whybourne (WKS Convenor)

SPECIAL DAYS:

As many of us have recently shared our 1991 World Community Day Services, when the Special Project for the offertories was Nungalinya College in Darwin, you will be interested to

know that the Special Project for our offertories for 1992 World Community Day is to be to provide much-needed equipment for the School for Developmentally Disabled in Kuching, Sarawak, where our 1990 WKS Scholar, Doreen Tie is working.

Yvonne Davis (Special Days Convenor)

SPEAKING of DOREEN: At the forthcoming 18th November State Council Meeting, we are to have the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Sadie Simmons, who has just returned from several months in Sarawak, where she saw a great deal of Doreen and her family, and has so much to tell us of her and her work. She brought greetings from Doreen to all ACW members, and her parents sent most heartfelt gratitude and thanks for Doreen's having been given the scholarship and the time in Australia.

Beryl McLaughlin (Editor)

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

It was a privilege to meet the FLC Convenors from four other States at the National Conference at Collaroy. We were able to exchange ideas and to encourage one another. Mrs. Juanita Miller, our new National FLC Convenor, sends her greetings to all NSW Australian Church Women.

The National Treasurer's Report at the Conference showed that an amount of \$61,368 was given in Least Coins during the past two years from our Australian FLC members, and for that we can surely give praise to our Heavenly Father. But - let us not forget the many, many prayers that have been offered, as these coins have been "set aside." This fellowship of prayer brings all Christian women together, without any discrimination of race, nationality, colour, culture or denomination, and our individual prayers, joined by many around the world, are a strong force to bring about reconciliation and peace.

I have a supply of a very attractive Leaflet, which sets out the beginnings, aims and activities of the Fellowship of the Least Coin; some of you may have seen or received one of them at your recent World Community Day, as they were sent out with the Service Sheets. I will be happy to send any number to you that you would like to have. (Tel: 484.6144).

I also still have a few copies of Circle of Prayer Volume 11.

Let us show our love and concern as we live, give and pray, for peace in the world, peace in the home and peace in the heart.

Shirley Wells (FLC Convenor)

PROMOTIONS:

Our most newsworthy item during recent weeks was the opening meeting of a new branch of ACW - the Bellinger River Branch. This is exciting news indeed, and we look forward to hearing their report of their first World Community Day; the theme for this was surely most apt, as they go "Forward Together In Faith!" Congratulations to all who were instrumental in getting things started in Bellingen.

From reports received, Fellowship Day in July was greatly enjoyed throughout our State. There were many congratulatory comments about the delightful theme, and the content of the Order of Service prepared by the NSW State Unit.

Following the challenge of the National Conference in September at Collaroy, and the inspiration and encouragement received by all of us who were privileged to attend, we know that to us is given a great responsibility to continue to present a united front in this our increasingly Christ-less society, to promote the cause of Christ as each of us seeks to be a true and faithful witness to the truths found in his word.

May the Spirit of Christmas - joy, love and peace - go with us all into 1992, that it may be a year of fulfilment and enrichment for us as we continue in service for our Master.

Peg Blake (Promotions Convenor)

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE:

ACW TEATOWELS: Good quality, 54% Linen 46% Cotton; Simple design of Australian Church Women and ACW Logo printed in blue on cream. Price: \$5.00

ACW LAPEL PINS: \$2.00 ACW SPOONS: \$3.00

(All above prices also cover postage)

Any quantity may be ordered for your local branch from: Joan Tong, 8 Metella Cresc, Belfield 2191.

(Send payment with order)

BRANCH AFFILIATION FEES - due 1st March 1992 are to increase from \$5.00 per year to \$10.00. Associate Member Subscriptions of \$10.00 will fall due on 1st June each year, and will include subscription to Newsette.

CONSULTATION WITH SOVIET WOMEN:

ACW was one of 50 non-government women's organisations represented at a round-table discussion with a delegation of 5 Soviet women at Parliament House, Canberra, when they visited Australia for a week last June. Their group comprised two members of the Soviet Parliament, and the President and a senior member of the Soviet Women's Council; the latter acted as their interpreter.

The Australian groups included women's service clubs, ex-service groups, professional women, hospital auxiliaries, community service groups, environmental organisations, CWA, trades union groups, health education groups, nursing mothers association, National Council of Women, War Widows' Guild, Aboriginal women; the only church organisations were Aust. Church Women, Anglican Church Women and the Catholic Women's League.

The women of the Soviet delegation were particularly interested to learn of the political and organisational skills that Australian women have developed through non-government organisations.

Each organisation's representative briefly described its aims, objects and activities, translated by the interpreter. They were being understood, as several times the leader of the Soviet group commented "It is the same in our country."

The Soviet group leader then spoke on "The position of women in society and family, and women's participation in social/economic life." Questions were invited and a number of very interesting points emerged. It appears that the Soviet Women's Council is striving hard for equality and recognition of Soviet women, and also encouraging morality and spiritual values, and freedom of conscience.

(From ACW National News)

DEACONESS ANDREWS VISIT TO CHINA:

It was good to hear that Mary's visit to China had not been cancelled, but only postponed. May we all follow her with our prayers as she leaves on November 10th, for the celebrations at the YWCA in Shanghai and Hangzhou - this being the region where she served as a missionary in the 1940's. Quite a number of ladies at the National Conference bought handkerchiefs with Aussie motifs, for her to take as gifts for folks she will meet.

8.

"A WOMAN'S WORK"

(From the magazine of Christian Blind Mission International)

Mother, craftswoman, farmer, wife ... the work of women in developing countries is vital to their families and their communities. How do these women cope when their eyesight is threatened or gone? Christian Blind Mission recognises the key role of women in developing countries, and is working to give physical and spiritual hope to disabled women in the world's poorest nations.

Blind women face a cruel fate; in many countries even women without disabilities are of little value, until they "earn" dignity and respect through a husband and children. Women are responsible for maintaining home and village; their lives are caught up in the lives of their children and their neighbours, their elderly parents and younger siblings. If blindness strikes a wife and mother, the whole family is profoundly and immediately affected; somebody still has to care for the children, to cook and clean.

Such women need a great deal of courage and determination if they are to tackle the day-to-day activities of the average village woman; life can be a treacherous prospect for a blind woman who has to heat water for a baby's bath over an open fire, or who has to feel for the blade as she slices vegetables. So, sight restoration is a blessing not only for the woman herself, but for her husband and children as well.

Several major causes of blindness can be traced to poor hygiene, imbalanced or insufficient diet, polluted water; and who is responsible for hygiene, diet, water supply? All these tasks fall to the women. Only by teaching the mother can we reach the family; only by reaching the women, can we affect the villages. Because women in most Third World countries are expected to play such a multiplicity of roles, rehabilitating them is a multi-faceted challenge. Women are often the key to instituting community health programmes and these programmes are absolutely necessary if we hope to achieve anything more than temporary relief from hunger, sickness and eye disease.

For only \$20 a woman's sight can be restored by a cataract operation; for \$35 a blind woman in India can be trained in mobility and orientation as well as daily-living skills; a monthly gift of \$175 can support a national co-worker in Ethiopia as she teaches community health.

(Address of Christian Blind Mission is P O Box 5, KEW, VIC 3101)

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9.

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NEWSLETTE SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL for 1992.

(Newsletter of Australian Church Women - NSW State Unit)

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(I have put these verses in as you have to remove this page, with your Newsette Subscription Renewal on the back - but didn't want to just waste the space. Editor)

THEY NEED YOU, THEY NEED ME, THEY NEED CHRIST.

There are people hurting in the world out there.
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.
There are children crying and no one to care.
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.
And they'll go on hurting in the world out there,
And they'll go on dying, drowning in despair,
And they'll go on crying, that's unless we care!
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.

There are people living who would rather die.
And their Christian neighbours simply pass them by!
There are people sitting by a silent phone,
People cold and hungry, people left alone,
Suicides for reasons that remain unknown.
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.

There's the prostitute, and there's the prisoner too.
There's the skid-row fella who won't look at you.
The compulsive gambler dreaming of his yacht,
And the lad who's stealing just to get his 'shot',
And the girl who's pregnant and pretends she's not.
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.

There are runaways who want a place to go.
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.
There are alcoholics who don't seem to know ...
They need you, they need me, they need Christ.
There are godless people who have lost their way,
And they need God's love but they're afraid to say.
If we close our eyes perhaps they'll go away,
Without you, without me, without Christ.

DO IT TODAY.

If you've a tender message or a loving word to say,
Don't wait till you forget it, but whisper it today.
We live but in the present, the future is unknown -
Tomorrow is a mystery, today is all our own.

.... As we begin a New Year in the Church's calendar

A D V E N T !

When the Lord in glory comes,
not the trumpets, not the drums,
not the anthem, not the psalm,
not the thunder, not the calm,
not the shout the heavens raise,
not the chorus, not the praise,
not the silences sublime,
not the sounds of space and time,
but His voice when he appears
shall be music to my ears;
*but His voice, when he appears
shall be music to my ears.*

When the Lord to human eyes
shall bestride our narrow skies,
not the child of humble birth,
not the carpenter of earth,
not the man by men denied,
not the victim crucified,
but the God who died to save,
but the victor o'er the grave,
He it is, to whom I fall,
Jesus Christ, my all in all;
*He it is to whom I fall,
Jesus Christ, my all in all!*

C H R I S T M A S ...

... And so we pause this time of year to think
(Some for the only time), of him who lay
Within a lowly manger, far from home,
And cradled only by the humble hay.
We sing our songs of praise, some build a crib
And dare to carve a figure that is his;
A touching thing, a child - all will agree,
And Jesus was a child, so Jesus is.

And so a King is locked in babyhood,
To stay forever quaint, diminutive,
As in a myth men tell from time to time ...

O living, risen, reigning Christ, *forgive!*