

Report of the 18th National Conference



# Australian Church Women

Adelaide, South Australia

24-28 September 2001

***WHERE'S WALLY?***

***JAN HARRISON  
JOAN TONG  
MARIE MAJOR  
MARIE MCCANN  
MARIE CRADDOCK  
HEATHER REID  
HEATHER BADGERY  
SHIRLEY WELLS  
NANCY McLAREN  
ISABEL HEWITT ?***





# WELCOME



AUSTRALIAN  
CHURCH  
WOMEN



ADELAIDE  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

18<sup>th</sup> National Conference

24<sup>th</sup> September – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2001



NSW participants: Shirley Wells, Joan Tong, Heather Reid, Heather Badgery, Isabel Hewitt, Jan Harrison, Marie Majoor, Nancy McLaren, Marie Craddock



Pre-conference Sunday activities centred on St Peter's Cathedral - choral Eucharist in the morning and choral Evensong with RSCM and visiting choirs in the evening. There were some who were incensed in the morning service, and they withdrew to clearer air.

While a warm coffee shop offered respite on a cold, wet, Adelaide Monday morning, 'Cathedral Fashions' was like a honey pot for queen of the op-shops and her workers. Jackets for some, and in the absence of surplus surplices, a remnant of purple cloth - old stock? This was torn into strips, hemmed, and became liturgical dress for Friday's NSW worship segment.

Most state and national contributions directed our thoughts within the theme of 'Hope'. While the NSW 'choir practice' would have challenged the faith of any conductor, the atmosphere set on the invocation 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord' was special.

Bible studies led by Sr Bernadette Kiley were an invitation to re-think some of our long held beliefs. From the Gospel of Mark came the stories of the women at the resurrection, and of the Syrophonecian woman whose daughter had a demon. From Matthew's Gospel there was the Flight into Egypt of Mary, Joseph and Jesus as refugees. We need to respond to the challenges Bernadette confronted us with - move out from our comfort zone.

Business sessions moved smoothly, for the most part, but there were disturbing aspects which were not addressed and should have been. The motion submitted by the Salvation Army on informal celebrations of special days was deemed by the 'reference committee' to be invalid and therefore not considered. Why was the motion included in the working papers? Should the reference committee have brought a recommendation to the conference so that the decision to accept/reject the motion was not simply the decision of three people? In view of the inclusion of the motion in the working papers, an apology from the Chair should have been forthcoming when not proceeding with it. Ironically, the connection between this motion and the future of ACW was totally lost. South Australia is promoting Australian Church Women at coffee mornings - is there a connection here?

Consideration of the future of Australian Church Women was somewhat frustrating. Groups composed of members from different states emphasised the differences in perception and therefore possible outcomes. Conference members - apart from Asian Church Women's Conference Executive - were almost entirely Anglo-Celtic with no representatives of Asian or Orthodox women. The Australian population as we know it is rather different, and inclusion of the range of diverse cultures should be one of our goals.



Uma David-India, Esther Byu-Myanmar, Nancy Lin-Taiwan, Diana Manson-Aotearoa New Zealand, Padma Ebenezer-Sri Lanka, Iluminada Domingo-Philippines, Barbara Lacy-Australia, Yasuko Nakayama-Japan



Back row: Diana Manson, Nancy Lin, Iluminada Domingo, Yasuko Nakayama, Barbara Lacy  
Front row: Uma David, Padma Ebenezer, Joan Tong, Dorothy Haensel, Barbara Grealy



National President, State Representatives and Asian Church Women's Conference Executive

The NSW Unit saw the need for promotion and publicity in an effort to achieve dynamic growth. Through personal contacts local branches can be established to celebrate special days. Closer links with State Ecumenical Council could be mutually helpful. The main barrier to change is holding back because it hasn't been done before. (Does this say something about the Salvation Army motion?)

Cameo spots which allowed Asian Church Women Conference Executive members to say a little about themselves and/or their experiences were important contributions to the conference. The strength of these women in adversity was a stark reminder of how we may find ourselves in situations which require us to dig deep into our faith resources.

- Nancy Lin from Taiwan spoke of the typhoons which strike and asked for prayers for the victims of natural disasters.
- Iluminada Domingo from the Philippines told of intense poverty and how it demoralises people.
- Esther Byu from Myanmar gave us an idea of how residents of some countries can be victimised when travelling, being asked for a visa simply to be in a transit lounge en route.
- Padma Ebenezer from Sri Lanka focused on the goodness of God as she faced family crises.
- Yasuko Nakayama from Japan confronted us with our 'Australian-ness', telling of her shock at loud laughter . . . .; as a child her physical deformity of a faulty kneecap led to her being sent to a Christian school. With the changing economic situation in Japan, suicide is an increasing trend.
- Uma David from India got us thinking about female infanticide, the dowry system, and 'saffronisation' in education which are problems confronting her country.
- Australian representatives to the ACWC Assembly to be held in Korea in 2002 included Lisa Jackson (who had been nominated by NSW). The others were Pat Walker (SA), and Jean Thomson (ACT).

Aquinas College as a venue was located in a very pleasant part of Adelaide. Those of us 'on the other side' (most NSW people) had large rooms, grotty carpets, a wide range of posters, and even a yabby in a tank. In the main buildings stairs may have been a problem for some - unavoidable with the meeting room on the first floor and no lift. Food was good - adequate, varied and well prepared. Conference Dinner was a fine food occasion enhanced by the superb singing of the daughter and son-in-law of Shirley Sampson. Such talent!



Queen Adelaide (1792-1849) (wife of King William IV of England) after whom the city was named



NSW members at Civic Reception



The Ecumenical Service was held in the lovely Christ Church North Adelaide. Banner procession, good singing, visitors, and an interesting address by the Rev Cathy Thompson, an Anglican minister at Payneham, made it a worthy inclusion in the conference program. A Civic Reception at Adelaide Town Hall had preceded the service, and the opportunity to explore some of Adelaide's history was appreciated. The excursion to Hahndorf via Mt Lofty showed us something of spring in the hills. The beautiful trees and flowers are memorable, as are the talk and laughter over coffee in the German cake shop.

Questions remain. Members who choose to attend conference at their own expense might have the appropriate comment in a situation: should they be precluded from speaking? Personal politics were unpleasant at times, childish at others - how should they be handled?

Overall the conference was a very positive experience, especially in offering the opportunity to meet and share with people from around the country. The members of Asian Church Women's Conference added depth and colour not only in their individual cameo spots, but in incidental conversation over meals. Personal contact with both the outgoing National Executive and also the incoming was valuable. That South Australia had worked hard to accommodate our needs for National Conference was evident in many little ways - biscuits, coathangers, being met but also offered any other assistance that might be needed - and we are very thankful for their efforts. The worship and Bible studies have provided us with thoughts to ponder, and it is to be hoped that we are enthused by the time of renewal and encouragement we enjoyed in Adelaide.

Civic Reception - Adelaide Town Hall



Even out of the broken pieces of my defeats,  
He created a vessel of beauty and usefulness.

Through trials and errors, failures and successes  
my God has cared for me.  
From infancy to adulthood,  
He has never let me go.  
His love has led me---or carried me---  
through the valleys of sorrow  
and the highlands of joy,  
through times of want  
and years of abundance.  
He has bridged impassable rivers  
and moved impossible mountains.  
Sometimes through me,  
sometimes despite me,  
He seeks to accomplish His purpose in my life.

He has kept me through the stormy past:  
He will secure and guide me  
through the perilous future.  
I never need to be afraid,  
no matter how uncertain  
the months or years ahead of me.  
How great is my God,  
and how I love to sing His praises!

God before you.  
God behind you.  
God above you.  
God beneath you.  
God beside you.  
God within you.  
AMEN.

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2001.**

**DAILY REFLECTIONS  
HEBREWS 13:8**



*Jesus our Living Hope*

**JESUS OUR LIVING HOPE**

**DAY 1 YESTERDAY!**

**GENESIS 16:8**

Life is the greatest teacher. As we reflect on our journey to this point, we are able to discern God's presence, as we mastered difficult times; as we rejoiced in times of wonder, even as we stood still, not knowing what to do next. We have known a guiding Spirit. It is this knowledge which gives us the confidence to face the future with hope, because we know that, in God's strength, there is nothing that can ever defeat us.

The secret is to discover that in every experience of life God IS, and then to EXPERIENCE God in EVERY aspect of life. It is more than knowing ABOUT God. Rather, it is KNOWING God in the deepest recesses of one's soul. Such knowledge claims a peace which overlies all of life's vagaries and promotes confidence for living, - not UNDER the circumstances, but OVER the circumstances!

Sometime today take a few moments to simply BE with God. Maybe you would like to pray Psalm 136. The psalmist calls the people to REMEMBER how God has always been there with them.

Maybe you would like to think about the way God's fidelity has been evidenced through the pages of YOUR history.

Recall, celebrate, enjoy and be grateful for the way God has stood by you in all of life's moments. Ponder these moments:

The happy, joyous freeing events,  
The painful experiences of struggle.  
The "in-between" grey moments  
The energising, surprising discoveries.  
The ongoing search for inner truth  
The enduring friendships

And give thanks!!!

**JESUS OUR LIVING HOPE**

**DAY 2 TODAY!**

**LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23**

Today is a new day. The past is behind us, and the Present is NOW. Yesterday's journey gives us confidence for today. All our ordinary moments are means of entering into a more significant relationship with God. In the midst of the common happenings of today, recognize God's presence, and hear what God would have you understand. Listen to God's word of love. Be more fully aware of what you see, hear and taste. Be more conscious of what you touch and smell. Sharpen your perception of the everyday treasures around you.

Some time today, find a quiet place and reflect on the changes and happenings that have helped you to become more at peace with God and your true self. See yourself as a beautiful vessel into which God has poured God's abundant love. Ask yourself: "How am I experiencing that pouring out of God's love in this time and place?"

**You may like to take a Prayer Walk.**

Look around you. Soak in the beauty of God's creation. Look for the large and the small evidences of God's creativity. Breathe deeply and slowly. Clear your mind of all anxieties. Imagine the Lord is walking beside you. Feel the warmth of the sun, the gentle breeze and know God's spirit is with you. Listen to God's word for you today

**You may like to use this prayer as a starter for your prayer time:**

God of life, whose mercies are new every morning, grant me the courage to live life to the full. Help me to be strong in my confidence of your faithful love. May I delight in each day as an opportunity to experience You in new and exciting ways. Help me to celebrate, enjoy, delight in and joyfully embrace life in all its mystery and uncertainties, so that my faith may be strengthened and my knowledge of You increased. Amen.

## JESUS OUR LIVING HOPE

### DAY 3 FOREVER!

ISAIAH 40:31, JEREMIAH 29:11,  
1 PETER 1:3

The past is behind us; the present is with us and the future is before us rich in possibilities. Throughout the last two years, as members of A.C.W., we have been encouraged to focus on the way in which we, as women, can be bearers of hope in our world which seems to be struggling with so much pain and heartache.

The passages of scripture for reflection today are ones with a very strong and positive message. There are no "ifs" or "buts", if we are connected to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We can face whatever is before us with utmost confidence, knowing that ours is an energising hope which enables us to move confidently into the future strong in the assurance that whatever God calls us to, God will also provide all the resources necessary to honour the call.

Spend some time today reflecting on what that means for YOU as you go back to your normal time and place.

Who are the people to whom you need to be the bearer of HOPE? Are you willing to be moved out of your "comfort zone" so that you might be where God can best use you?

The future is uncertain, but the One who holds the future is a sure and steady rock, and calls us to move into that future with confidence.

Find a quiet place, breathe deeply and calmly, and, with eyes closed, image God, with hand outstretched, beckoning you on.

What is God saying to you? What is your response?

Where can YOU make a difference in this sad and disillusioned world?

## JESUS OUR LIVING HOPE

### DAY 4 AMEN!

#### PSALM 105

Today we go from the mountaintop into the "real" world: a world which will crowd in upon us with its demands and expectations. Take with you these words of the Psalmist as interpreted by Leslie Brandt (Psalms Now) and draw strength and encouragement from them as you continue your journey of faith as women who are bearers of God's hope to a broken and disempowered people.

How great is my God,  
and how I love to sing His praises!  
Whereas I am often frightened  
when I think of the future  
and confused and disturbed  
by the rapidly changing world around me,  
my heart is secured and made glad  
when I remember how God has cared for me  
throughout the past.

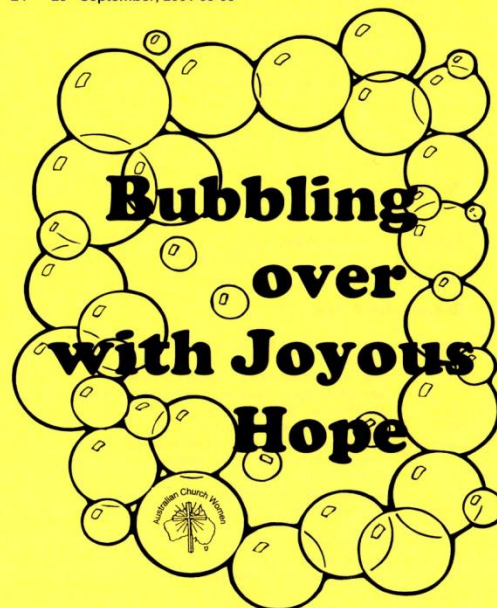
When I came from my mothers womb,  
God's hand was on me.  
Through parents and people who cared,  
He loved and sheltered me  
and set me on the course for my life.  
Through illness and accident,  
my God has sustained me.  
Around pitfalls and precipices  
He has safely led me.  
When I became rebellious  
and struck out on my own,  
He waited patiently for my return.  
When I fell on my face in weakness and failure. He gently set me on  
my feet again. He did not always prevent me from hurting myself,  
but He comforted me and healed my wounds.



A.C.W. Victorian Unit

Australian Church Women  
**National Conference**  
Theme: "Jesus, our Living Hope"

24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2001-09-05



Morning Worship - 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2001

### Call to Worship

Come, everyone who loves God, celebrate with me, join me in a shout of joy!  
Joybells are like bells ringing from your heart.  
Let the joybells tinkle from your voice, and twinkle from your eyes.  
Open up the day like an envelope, and let the joy fly out.

**Song:** *Pentecost Prayer*

### Prayer

**Poem:** *Faith, Hope, Love*  
*Australian Psalms – Bruce Prewar*

### Responsive Prayer:

**Leader** God of life, you have pitched your tent among us and love us just as we are.  
Help us to show your presence to everyone, and especially to those who are alone and lonely.  
God hear our prayer,  
**All** **And in your love, answer.**  
**Leader** You draw all the world together, to be one family.  
Teach us to be open to welcome and include everyone.  
God hear our prayer,  
**All** **And in your love, answer**  
**Leader** You give us great gifts – time, resources, talents, and insights.  
Help us use these gifts to tend and care for all you love.  
God hear our prayer,  
**All** **And in your love, answer**

**Leader** You sent your Child, Jesus, to be with us as a teacher, companion, and leader.  
Help us remember his ways of being open and unafraid. God hear our prayer,

**All** **And in your love, answer**  
**Leader** You did not allow death to be the end of Jesus' life. But you raised him up from death, to be a sign to all the world.  
Of the life giving hope you offer everyone.  
Help us offer life and hope to everyone we meet.  
God hear our prayer.  
**All** **And in your love, answer.** **Amen**

**Bible Reading:** *Colossians 1-3-6, 27 PSALM 5*

### Meditation:

**Song:** *Joy is the Flag Flown High.*

### Benediction:

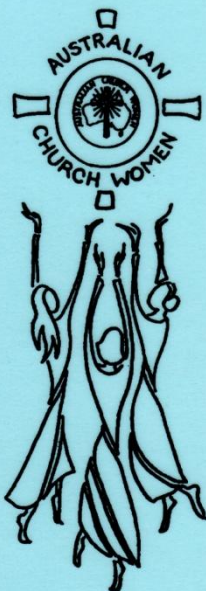
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may be bubbling over with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 15: 13 AMP. BIBLE.

**Song:** *Joy is the Flag Flown High.*



GREETINGS FROM



VICTORIAN UNIT  
**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
13 JUNE 2001

### Mission Statement

*We, Australian Church  
Women - Victorian Unit,  
seek to unite Christian  
women across  
denominational boundaries  
that we may all be one in  
our love and commitment  
to Jesus Christ as Lord  
and Saviour.*

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2001

DEVOTIONS — S.A. UNIT

Wednesday, 26th September, 9 am

**JESUS, OUR LIVING HOPE**



Let me have ..... Pleasure  
Let me be ..... Optimistic  
Let me have ..... Education  
Give me ..... **HOPE**

RESPONSIVE READING:

GOD'S IN HIS HEAVEN, ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE  
WORLD.

**Response:** 'And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even  
death on a cross! God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name, that  
at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven  
and earth'.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SETTLE ONE'S ETERNAL  
DESTINY.

**Response:** 'For God so loved the world that he gave his  
one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not  
perish but have eternal life'

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

**Response:** Through Jesus you believe in God, who raised  
him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith  
and hope are in God.

AND FOR AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN WE PRAY.

**Response:** We continually remember before our God and  
Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted  
by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

AND FOR EACH OTHER WE PRAY.

**Response:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and  
peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with  
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

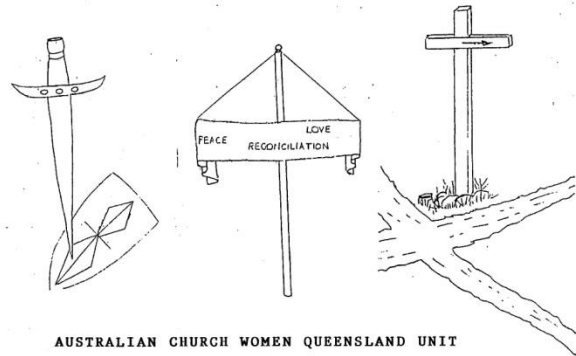
# PRAYER:

God, help us to believe that through the cross of Jesus Christ and our action we are able to make a difference in your world, may we work to bring about tolerance, faith, unity, inclusiveness and peace. May the light of Christ shine here and in all places. We pray this through your Son's name. Christ Jesus the hope of the world.

## HYMN: In the Cross of Christ I glory.

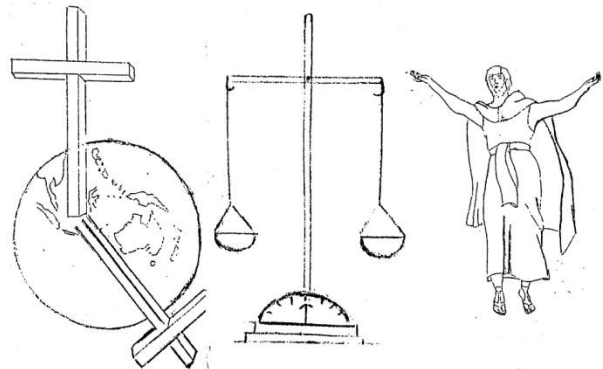
1. In the Cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of Time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'er take me,  
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the Cross forsake me;  
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my ways,  
From the Cross the radiance streaming  
Add more lustre to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the Cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.
5. In the Cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of Time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

John Bowring, 1792-1872



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN QUEENSLAND UNIT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2001



## HYMN: In the Cross of Christ I Glory.

### Meditation on "The Cross"

In our increasingly complicated world, there is a need for simple symbols, which everyone can understand. Road signs are now universal, industry uses simple trademarks, political parties use colours, and every new movement adopts a sign. Australian Church Women - ACW, The Red Cross, Telstra, The Olympic Flag with its rings, Qld Rail, etc. are all examples of signs that tell us in shorthand what they mean.

The simplest sign of all is the Christian Cross. It is the first shape a baby draws, it is used when an old person can no longer sign a name, but like all the best symbols it has depths of meaning behind its simplicity.

Let us look with fresh eyes at the Christian symbol and see that behind the simplicity there is much to learn.

#### What does it look like?

# It looks like a signpost. It offers us two ways on the path of life. The path of self and the Path of God. We have to choose there is no middle way. It challenges us to decide.

# Look at it again and it looks like a letter *t* - *t* for truth. Only here can the truth be found about God, about man, about death, about suffering, about propose.

# Look again and it is an *I* crossed out - we are naturally selfish and we have to learn to live with one another and to serve one another. '*I*' is no longer the centre of my life - the cross is.

# Look again and it looks like a man with open arms. This is what Christianity is. It is not a set of rules, it is not an ideology - it is an invitation "Come to me", says Jesus "and I will give you my love, my protection and my care". No one need ever feel lonely if they look at the cross.

# Look at it again and it looks like a banner. Held high it gives us a cause to follow, a set of principles to fight for, a crusade to take part in, a challenge to the young, and a banner raised against evil, injustice, false values and uselessness of life. It leads us into war with the enemy around us and within us.

# Look again and it looks like a sword. A weapon with which to fight. St. Paul says, "Our fight is not against human foes but against cosmic powers, against the authorities and rulers of this dark world, against the superhuman forces of evil".

# Look once more and it is made up of a vertical and horizontal line. The vertical is firmly embedded in this world, for Christianity is not some airy-fairy vision, but rooted and grounded in human experience - it is incarnate. But the vertical line leads us up to heavenly places and guides our mind up to God. The horizontal line reaches out to the world - for Christianity is not just a personal faith, it is a corporate one reaching out to others. And notice that the vertical supports the horizontal. A *man* may have strong social conscience and say "I do not go to Church but I serve others". But without the vertical dimension of worship, the horizontal falls to the ground and is weakened.

# These two lines remind us of our Lord's two great principles of life. Reverence God and respect others.

# Perhaps you can see other meanings as you look at it. A pair of balances giving us a balanced view of life, a sign of baptism that we carry everywhere and always invisibly on our foreheads. A sign of the Trinity - but finally let us look at one more thing.

# It is empty. No figure of Christ hangs on it. We do not worship a dead figure of history but a living Lord. Jesus experienced the Cross and overcame it. We too have our crosses to bear, our weak human bodies, our faults of character, our worries, responsibilities, failures - but in the end, the cross is empty, for Christ is alive and offers us eternal life if we follow him past the cross to the other side.

# A simple sign with endless depths of meaning. Christianity is very simple, a child can understand it, but it has depths that no one can fully understand or master. May we see the Holy Cross as a symbol, in our homes, round our necks, at our prayers look at it with fresh eyes to see some of its meanings. Here are twelve meanings - I wonder how many you will remember.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 2001

TASMANIAN STATE UNIT



**CLOSING PRAYER** God has raised from death our Lord Jesus, who is the Great Shepherd of the sheep as the result of His sacrificial death by which the eternal covenant is sealed. May the God of Peace provide you with every good thing <sup>you</sup> need in order to do His will and may He, through Jesus Christ do in us what pleases Him. And to Christ be the glory for ever and ever!  
Amen. (Hebrews 13 : 20 -21)

**MORNING WORSHIP**

Thursday September 27 2001

**OPENING PRAYER** Father, You are our hope and our strength  
Without you we falter.  
Help us to follow Christ  
And to live according to your will.

**SING** We'er Gathered Here  
(Songs of the Kingdom 442)

**READINGS** Luke 24: 1 - 9  
Luke 24: 13 - 23  
Peter 1 : 3 - 9

**SING** Holy Spirit Thou Art Welcome in this Place  
(Songs of the Kingdom 359)

**READING** II Peter 1: 17 - 21

**INTERCESSIONS** Lord we pray for those countries in turmoil. For the care and protection of innocent children and for mothers whose heartbreak is so great as they struggle to feed and clothe their children.  
Lord hear us.

**RESPONSE** Lord hear our prayer in Jesus name

Thank you Father for the Association of Australian Church Women and the opportunity to promote our love for you in Australia. We pray that you will help us fulfil our aim to unite Christian women in their allegiance to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Lord hear us.

*Response*

Lord, we pray for gatherings of Christians from various traditions, that when they come together they may do so in a spirit of acceptance and search for true unity. Lord hear us.

*Response*

Lord, we pray for our Asian Christian sisters and for those present at conference and their families, please grant them a safe return to their homes. Lord hear us.

*Response*

**SING** Living Lord  
(A.H.B. No 451)



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
24TH - 28TH SEPTEMBER 2001**

**THURSDAY 27TH**

**"WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US  
ARE TINY MATTERS COMPARED TO WHAT LIES  
WITHIN US."  
(RALPH WALDO EMERSON)**

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
DEVOTIONS:**

**Thursday night 27th September 2001**

**PRAYERS:**

Let your blessing, O Lord,  
rest upon our work this day.  
Teach us to seek after truth,  
and enable us to attain it;  
but grant that as we increase  
in the knowledge of earthly things,  
we may grow in the knowledge of you,  
whom to know is life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dr. Thomas Arnold (1795-1842)  
Headmaster of Rugby

**FINAL PRAYER:**

Stir us up to offer you, O Lord,  
our bodies, our souls, our spirits,  
in all we love and all we learn,  
in all we plan and all we do,  
to offer our labours, our pleasures,  
our sorrows to you;  
to work through them for your kingdom  
to live as those who are not their own,  
but bought with your blood,  
fed with your body;  
yours from our birth-hour, yours now,  
and yours forever and ever. Amen.

Charles Kingsley (1819-75)  
Canon of Westminster, novelist.

SONG: "We are one in the bond of Love"

**GREETINGS FROM**



*Jesus, our Living Hope*

**18<sup>th</sup> National Conference of  
Australian Church Women  
Adelaide 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September  
2001**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
PRAYER 2001**

**Jesus, our Living Hope**

Acknowledging JESUS as our  
Living Hope,  
we pray for tolerance, patience  
and courage.

We trust that we will support,  
rather than judge,  
those in need,  
and that we will always be  
ready to promote the rights and  
responsibilities of all women in  
our Churches and in our  
communities.

**AMEN**

**A SCRIPTURAL DECLARATION OF FAITH  
(From various portions of God's Word)**

**Reader:** God is spirit, and they who worship Him must  
worship Him in spirit and truth.  
**All:** Glory be to God on high.

**Reader:** *God is Light.* If we walk in the light as He is in  
the light, we have fellowship with one another.  
**All:** Glory be to God on high.

**Reader:** God is Love. those who live in love live in  
union with God and God lives in union with them.. This is  
what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that He  
loved us and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins  
are forgiven.  
**All:** Glory be to God on high.

**Reader:** God was making all human beings His friends  
through Christ. He did not keep account of their sins.  
**All:** Glory be to God on high.

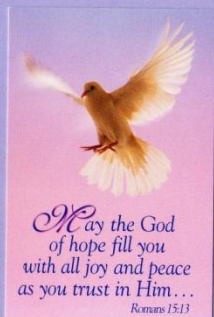
**Reader:** God loved the world so much that He gave His  
only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not die, but have  
eternal life.  
**All:** Glory be to God on high.

**Reader:** God the Father raised Him from the dead, and  
He who raised up Jesus will raise us up also by Jesus.  
**All:** Glory be to God on high.

**Reader:** We are sure that we live in union with God and  
that he lives in union with us because He has given us His  
spirit.  
**All:** Thanks be to God

**Reader:** If we confess our sins He will keep His promise  
and do what is right. He will forgive us our sins and purify  
us from all our wrongdoing.  
**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Reader:** God has given us eternal life, and this life has  
its source in His Son.  
**All:** Let us thank God for His priceless gift.



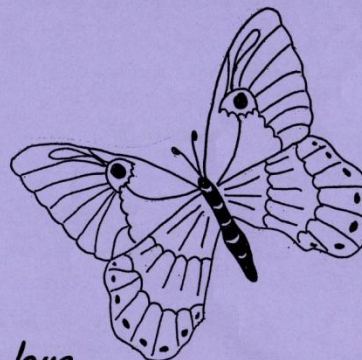
Acknowledgment is made for the use of quotes from *Books to Encourage Hope is . . .*, Michael Perry, Creative Publishing, Northwood, England, 1979



## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

New South Wales Unit

Friday 28 September 2001



*Faith, love*

*and a sure*

*and certain hope*

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

*Psalm 31:24*



Greetings from New South Wales.

Let us come before our Lord in prayer, word and song.

### Our singers

"Be still, for the Presence of the Lord  
The Holy One is here"

### Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Together let us sing

As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship you.

*Chorus:*  
You alone are my strength and shield  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold and silver,  
Only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-bringer,  
And the apple of my eye.

You're my friend, and you are my brother,  
Even though you are a King.  
I love you more than any other,  
So much more than anything.

[12, Martin Nystrom (Copyright 1983 Restoration Music) CCLI Licence No.77104.]

### Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Song In Christ we are one

We, being many, are one in the Lord  
Each one is different  
But we're trusting in His Word;  
For we are part of God's family,  
Through Jesus Christ, His Son  
Though we are many, yet in Christ we are One.  
We, being many, in Christ we are One.

*Lucelle King*

### A Sure and Certain Hope - some thoughts and readings:

Our hope is sure . . . 1 Timothy 4: 9,10

Our hope is special . . . 1 Peter 1:3-5

Our hope is in a powerful God . . . 2 Corinthians 4:14

Our hope is always fresh . . . Zephaniah 3:16, 17  
2 Corinthians 4:16

Renewing our hope . . . Ephesians 1:18

Encouraged in our hope . . . Romans 15:4  
Psalm 42: 11

Our mighty Lord and Saviour,  
the hope of all mankind:  
we trust you,  
we trust your promises,  
we trust your mercy and your love;  
we trust you because we know you in Jesus  
and we know that you are faithful.  
Be the Lord of our lives,  
the joy of our hearts  
and the hope of all our days. Amen

*(Michael Perry)*

## A Sure and Certain Hope

### Thoughts and Scripture Readings

#### Our hope is sure . . .

The hope we have as Christians is secure, not because of how we feel, but because it springs from the promises of God who is utterly reliable. Our feelings change - sometimes we feel more hopeful than at other times. But God never changes. Our hope is not based on feelings, but on God.

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance . . . that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and especially of those who believe. *1 Timothy 4: 9,10*

#### Our hope is special . . .

The great Christian hope becomes ours when we allow ourselves to become God's children; when we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour, Friend and Brother. He is alive from the dead - so our hope is a 'living hope'.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

#### Our hope is in a powerful God . . .

Paul wanted everyone to know the great hope that all Christians share. The world outside might be despondent and despairing but we have a powerful God who is able to do for us what he did for Jesus.

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and will bring us with you in his presence. *2 Corinthians 4:14*

#### Our hope is always fresh . . .

We are warned against getting depressed and looking in upon ourselves. God knows and understands us. Even though we may be ill, and the years are passing by, yet wonderful new spiritual things are happening to us all the time. Our hope in God is always fresh.

Do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing. *Zephaniah 3:16, 17*

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. *2 Corinthians 4:16*

#### Renewing our hope . . .

When things get really bad we may even wonder if our hope is really true. Could we be left out of God's plans? Could we fail God at the last? What of our Christian hope then? We need to read and read again promises like this.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. *Ephesians 1:18*

#### Encouraged in our hope . . .

##### We can all have this sure and certain hope

St Paul in Romans 15:4 explains how we can get this Hope - it is by reading and applying the scriptures as it says:

The scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us Hope.

Psalm 42: 11: 'I will put my hope in God, and once again I will praise him my saviour and my God.'

#### Let's pray

Our mighty Lord and Saviour,  
the hope of all mankind:  
we trust you,  
we trust your promises,  
we trust your mercy and your love;  
we trust you because we know you in Jesus  
and we know that you are faithful.  
Be the Lord of our lives,  
the joy of our hearts  
and the hope of all our days. Amen  
(Michael Perry)

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**SEPTEMBER 24th-28th 2001**

**INSTALLATION OF INCOMING EXECUTIVE**

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28th 2001**



**PRESIDENTS REMARKS**

Marj Dredge

**INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING EXECUTIVE**

**ACT of COMMITMENT**

As we look to the future of Australian Church Women, we give thanks to God for these women who have accepted the role of National Executive. We recognise the gift they have given to the women of Australian churches as they have offered their time and talents to take on this task. We acknowledge that the task will require energy and enthusiasm and we gratefully accept their willingness to give of themselves in this way for the sake of God's church.

God has gifted us all differently and has chosen to use us to bring about the fulfillment of God's kingdom here on earth, and to lift up the name of God in our churches and in our communities.

**READING** Ephesians 4:1-16

**LEADER** TO INCOMING EXECUTIVE

Recognizing the gifts you have to offer, members of Australian Church Women have appointed you to be the National Executive for the next two years. Your term of office will culminate in a gathering together in Western Australia in the Spring of 2003.

Will you accept this responsibility, understanding that you have the practical and prayerful support of members of Australian Church Women across Australia, and strong in the knowledge that when God calls God's people to a task, God also equips those people to honour that task?

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS** I will, God being my helper.

**LEADER** Will you commit yourselves to serve this body with sensitivity and love, as together, we seek to be an effective witness for Christ in the communities in which we minister?

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS** I will, with the grace of God.

**LEADER** The task is not for the National Executive alone. As Christian women it is our responsibility to use our gifts in what ever way possible to awaken those around us to the enduring love of God.

**TO MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN**

**LEADER** As members of State/Territory Units and affiliated groups, will you commit yourselves to prayerfully support the National Executive, and to uphold the aims and objectives of Australian Church Women?

**ALL** I will, with God's grace.

**PRESENTATION OF BADGES**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service;  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. AMEN



The Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women acknowledges the members of our Unit who are unable to be with us today.....

Vera Wilson                      Life Member of Australian Church Women  
Marjorie Scurlock              Life Member of the Western Australian Unit  
Flora Hunt  
Carmen Savundra  
Joan Joyce  
May Eddy  
Mollie Smith  
Merle Manea

.....and we thank them for their prayers, support and encouragement at this time.

#### National Executive 2001 – 2003

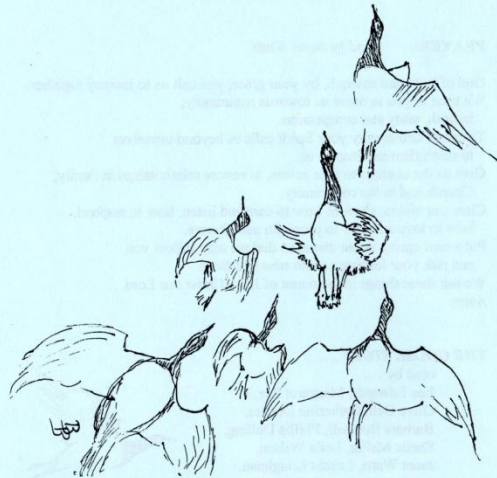
President:	Rev'd Lee Edwards
Vice Presidents:	Lady Wilson (Leila) Barbara Bourhill
Secretary:	Leoala Loughnan
Minute Secretary:	Margaret Ker
Treasurer:	Sheila Mellar
FLC Convenor:	Major Olive Dell
WKS Convenor:	Janet Watts
Special Days Convenor:	Catherine Derries
Social Justice Issues Convenor:	Major Laurel Pearce
Publications Convenor:	Phillis Dolling
Publicity Convenor:	Phillis Dolling

#### AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

##### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIT

DEVOTIONS - FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2001

#### "TOWARDS COMMUNITY"



*People who share a common direction and sense of community  
can get where they are going more quickly and easily  
because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.*

**GREETING:**                      *Lead by Laurel Pearce,  
President, Western Australian Unit*

We are joined in community,  
we are treasured and fed,  
May we discover our gifts to each other,  
And be willing to lead and to be led.

**HYMN:**                      *COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY*

**PRAYER:**                      *Read by Janet Watts*

God of light and strength, by your grace, you call us to journey together.  
We trust in you to move us towards community,  
in faith, unity and compassion.  
To create community your Spirit calls us beyond ourselves  
to strengthen and inspire us.  
Give us the courage to take action, to restore relationships in family,  
Church and in the community.  
Clear our vision, show us how to care and listen, how to respond,  
how to love and how to proclaim and liberate.  
Put a new spring in our steps; so that we may follow you,  
and risk your leading us into new situations.  
We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

#### THE GOOSE STORY.....

read by.....  
Lee Edwards, Margaret Ker,  
Olive Dell, Catherine Derries,  
Barbara Bourhill, Phillis Dolling,  
Sheila Mellar, Leila Wilson,  
Janet Watts, Leoala Loughnan.



**HYMN:**                      *THERE'S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR..... verses 1 and 2*

**READING:**                      *Read by Barbara Bourhill                      A reading from 1 Peter 3:8-9*

*Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a  
tender heart, and a humble mind. .... It is for this that you were  
called - that you might inherit a blessing.  
The Lord be with you.*

All:                      *And also with you.*

**HYMN:**                      *THERE'S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR..... verses 6 and 7*

**PRAYER:**                      *Please read together.....*

Lord,  
help me realise the many ways in which I can transmute your love  
within the daily chemistry of my life.  
Help me to show I care, by word, by touch,  
by the warmth of shared thought.  
By simple service, anticipating need.  
Samaritan compassion on the road.  
A hand reached out to stem another's hurt.  
A cup of water on the way to crucifixion.

And that reminds me Lord, that what I do  
for any traveller of the road, I do for you.  
That any love I share, I share with you, and you with me.  
Please help me keep that in the forefront of my mind, today.  
*(From Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew)*

**HYMN:**                      *GOD GIVES US A FUTURE*

**BENEDICTION:**

*The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*Australian Church Women  
Western Australian Unit*



*People who share a  
common  
direction and sense of  
community  
can get where they are  
going more  
quickly and easily because  
they  
are travelling on the  
thrust of one  
another.*

*We welcome you to Perth  
in October 2003*



## THE GOOSE STORY



Next Autumn, when you see Geese heading South for the winter flying along in V formation you might consider what we have discovered as to Why they fly that Way.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following.

By flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range, than if each bird flew on its own.

**PEOPLE WHO SHARE A COMMON DIRECTION  
AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY  
CAN GET WHERE THEY ARE GOING MORE QUICKLY AND EASILY  
BECAUSE  
THEY ARE TRAVELLING ON THE THRUST OF ONE ANOTHER.**

When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

**IF WE HAVE AS MUCH SENSE AS A GOOSE  
WE WILL STAY IN FORMATION WITH THOSE  
WHO ARE HEADED THE SAME WAY AS WE ARE.**

When the head goose gets tired it rotates back in the wings and another goose flies point.

**IT IS SENSIBLE TO TAKE TURNS DOING DEMANDING JOBS  
WITH PEOPLE OR WITH GEESE FLYING SOUTH.**

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

**WHAT DO WE SAY WHEN WE HONK FROM BEHIND?**

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other Geese fall out with that Goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen Goose until it is able to fly or until it dies and only then do they launch out on their own or with formation to catch up with their group.

**IF WE HAVE THE SENSE OF A GOOSE  
WE WILL STAND BY EACH OTHER LIKE THAT.**

## **MARK 16:1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## **MARK 7:24-30**

**From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.**

**<sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."**

**<sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."**

**<sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter."**

**<sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.**

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO M A T T H E W

<sup>1</sup> An account of the genealogy<sup>a</sup> of Jesus the Messiah,<sup>b</sup> the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the

father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah<sup>a</sup> took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took

<sup>a</sup> Or both <sup>b</sup> Or Jesus Christ <sup>c</sup> Other ancient authorities read Amon <sup>d</sup> Other ancient authorities read Amon <sup>e</sup> Or the Christ

[Genealogy and Birth of Jesus the Messiah]

A generation later than Mark - influence story

## M A T T H E W 1.23

place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men<sup>a</sup> from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>b</sup> was to be born. <sup>4</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men<sup>c</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then,

opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph<sup>d</sup> got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,<sup>e</sup> he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph<sup>f</sup> got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken

<sup>g</sup> Other ancient authorities read her firstborn son <sup>h</sup> Or in the East <sup>i</sup> Or the Christ <sup>j</sup> Or rule <sup>k</sup> Gk saw the star <sup>l</sup> Gk he

through the prophets might be fulfilled. "He will be called a Nazorean."

2 called a Nazorean.

**LEADER:** God of hope, come! Enter into every human heart that cries out for a glimpse of your love, for a sign of your welcoming presence, for a taste of your happiness. Be the one who calms the restless and gentles the ache of the human journey.

**ALL:** God of hope, come! With the grace of joy and laughter! Fill faces with smiles of delight and voices with sounds of pleasure. Let this gift come from deep within. Replenish all with the joyful blessings that only you can give.

**LEADER:** God of hope, come! Be the Morning Star in our midst, the Light that can never go out, the Beacon of Hope guiding our way to you. Come into our midst and make our lives a home, where your everlasting goodness resonates with assuring love and vigorous hope.

**AMEN**

(Taken from *Out of the Ordinary*, copyright 2000 by Joyce Rupp. Used by permission of Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.)

**SONG OF HOPE** Mrs Julie Simpson.

**REFRAIN** *Stand together for what you believe,  
Work for what must be done;  
Love each other in all that you do,  
Till all My people are one.*

(c1967 Ray Repp Used with permission CCL133540)

**BLESSING** Archdeacon John Collas.

Please stand for the recession of the Banners

*A.C.W. would express grateful appreciation to Archdeacon John Collas, the organist, and others who have helped to make this service a significant time of worship this evening.*

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 24th-28<sup>th</sup> 2001**

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> 2001**

**CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN CHURCH  
NORTH ADELAIDE**



**SPEAKER REV CATHY THOMPSON**

**JESUS OUR LIVING HOPE**

Please stand for the Banner procession

**WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP** Mrs. Marj. Dredge

**CONFERENCE HYMN** Jesus is hope  
Jesus is hope! Our age long wars  
Bring slaughter, bitter tears and pain.  
Your justice is a stronger force,  
Give peace, dear Lord, give peace again.  
*May love show forth your sovereign will  
And all the earth hear "Peace be still!" (repeat)*

Jesus is hope! The children cry  
In lands beyond the careless sea.  
We live in comfort as they die.  
Lord of all life, let this not be.  
*You call us to do more than give  
To bring them hope and let them live. (repeat)*

Jesus is hope! The homeless creep  
In fear across earth's ruined face,  
Their dear ones dead, no place to sleep.  
Stir up in us the gift of grace,  
*To welcome those who dare to come.  
You are their hope! You are their home. (repeat)*

Jesus is hope! A world grown blind  
Has lost its vision and its faith.  
Yet still in you your church can find  
A resurrection from its death.  
*Hope is our strength, our guiding star  
Lord Jesus, living hope you are. (repeat)*  
Margaret Knauerhase (Feb. 2001)

**PRAYER**

**THE POWER OF HOPE** Mrs Maureen Clark

**THE REALITY OF HOPE** Mrs Marj. Dredge

**OFFERING**

**HYMN** 339 Be Thou My Vision (New English Hymnal)

**BIBLE READING:** John 1: 1 – 18. Mrs. Barbara Grealy

**SONG OF HOPE** Mrs Julie Simpson

**MESSAGE OF HOPE** Rev Cathy Thompson

**RESPONSIVE READING** The Gift of Hope

**LEADER:** God of all those who yearn for a glimmer of assurance on the long journey, come! Come with a vast storehouse of renewed dreams, hopes and peacefulness.

**ALL:** God of hope, come! Enter into my memory and remind me often of the yearning of the people of history. Stir up stories of how the ancestors hung on to your promises, how they stole hope from tiny glimmers about you, passed on from age to age. Help me to hear the loud, crying voices of the prophets who proclaimed that a new age would dawn.

**LEADER:** God of hope, come! Enter into this heart of mine which often loses itself in self, missing the message of your encouragement because I am so entangled in the web of my own whirl of life. Enable me to not lose sight of the power of your presence or the truth of your consolation.

**ALL:** God of hope, come! Enter into the lives of those I hold dear, the ones whose lives are marked with pain, struggle and deep anxiety, those whose lives bear ongoing heartache, those whose difficulties threaten to overwhelm them with helplessness and despair. Come and gift them with a deep belief about you and your never-ending faithfulness and companionship.

## ***THE MESSIAH***

By Handel

Most people will at least have heard of this great oratorio, but have you ever been to a live performance of it? One such performance was being given in Cleckheaton Town Hall many years ago, and old Cuthbert Briggs from Liversedge, thought he might like to go. He tried to persuade his wife to go with him, but she wasn't too keen.

'Nay, Cuthbert lad, tha knows it's nowt in my line. Gi' me a bit o' comedy, or a singsong on t'end o' Blackpool Pier, no; tha go thisen, and tell me abaht it when tha comes home'.

So Cuthbert went on his own. He had no idea what to expect. In fact, he had never heard of 'The Messiah', it was just that he fancied doing something a bit different from his usual Saturday night visit to the Sun Inn.

When he got back home, Cuthbert's wife was all ears. 'Come on then, tell me all abaht it'.

'Ee, well' said Cuthbert, 'it were all reyt, but not quite what I expected. There won't a lot o' movement on t'stage. In fact, there won't a lot o' room on t'stage. It were full o' singers. Ah'd bin sat there a bit, when in comes a load o' fellas, carrying fiddles. Then they brought in t'biggest fiddle ah've ever sin. It were that big, they 'ad to wheel it in on castors, an' a little chap rubbed it's belly wi' a stick, an' you should 'ave 'eard it groan. It sounded like a cow wi' t'croup. Well, all t'fiddles joined in an' made such a racket. Then they settled dahn an' it all went quiet. After abaht a minute, in comes t'Messiah; well, ah think it were 'im, because everybody clapped, an' all t'fiddlers stood up to welcome 'im. He were a dapper of a bloke, all dolled up in a white westkit wi' a red carnation in 'is button'ole. Yes, ah'm sure 'e must 'a bin t'Messiah. Then 'e picked up a little stick an' started wavin' it at everyone on t'stage. They were all starin' at 'im, wondering wot were up. Then they started to sing.

"They'd not bin going long before they were fratchin' like cats. They wanted to know who were the King of Glory. First one side said HE is

t'king o' glory and then t'other side said HE's t'king o' glory, and then they went at it 'ammer and tongs, but it fizzled out in t'end. Then there were a right ter do abhat some sheep as 'ad gone astray. Some o' t'singers must a' bin partial to a bit 'o mutton, because they kept singin' 'O we like sheep'. Personally, I likes a bit of well-done steak, but ne'er mind. Well, ah think as them lost sheep must a' belonged to one o' t'singers, because 'e stood up an' sed ev'ry mountain and 'ill should be laid low. 'Good', ah thought ter missen, 'if they flatten all t'mountains, they'll be sure ter find t'sheep 'as 'av gone astray.' Then t'organist started up an' t'band joined in, and by gum, they seemed to be gettin' mad o'er summat. T'way they were sawin' at them fiddles, ah were expectin' 'em to fall apart."

"Then after that, all t'women stood up to sing. Believe me some on 'em were a bit past it, by looking on 'em; they must a' bin 70 if they were a day, an' they sang 'Unto us a child is born', an' all t'fellas shouted 'wonderful'. Ah thowt, 'It's a bloomin' miracle!' Then they all composed thesens a bit, and sang abaht a woman called Joyce Greatly. Ah'd never 'eard of 'er, but apparently she's a daughter of Zion, whoever 'e is. Ah were gettin' a bit fed up b'now. Ah'd bin sat for nearly two hours, when all of a sudden, ah gate cramp in me leg. Ah jumped aht o' me seat, an' d'yer know? Everybody else jumped up at t'same time. They must 'av 'ad cramp, sem as me. Then t'choir shouted 'Hallelujah, it's goin' ter rain for ever and ever'. Well, ah'd never thowt ter bring me brolly, so ah thowt ah'd best get off 'ome afore it started. So, seein' as 'ow ah were on me feet, ah reckon ad 'ad me money's worth. Anyroadup, it were a good do, but ah do 'ope they find them lost sheep.



## Memo from God

To: You  
Date: Today  
From: The Boss  
Subject: Yourself  
Reference: Life

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved, but in my time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Should you decide to send this to a friend; Thank you, you may have touched their life in ways you will never know!



# ASIAN CHURCH WOMAN BULLETIN

Quarterly News Bulletin

July-September 2001

• *gathering of human leaders*



*The 18th National Conference participants.*

## Australian Church Women hold 18th National Conference

by Iluminada A. Domingo

September 24-28, 2001, eighty-four (84) church women leaders from seven units of Australia attended the 18th National Conference of the Australian Church Women (ACW). It was held in Aquinas College, Adelaide, South Australia where the 1999-2001 National Executive from South Australia was the host.

The Conference theme, **Jesus our living hope**, was relevantly discussed in the ecumenical service, devotions, opening worship and Bible study. Sr. Bernadette Kelly, a Roman Catholic nun, inspired the participants to reflect on various images of Jesus as our living hope. One of the most impressive images of Jesus was shown in the painting of the Lord's supper where Jesus was sitting with women, children, elderly, and the non-Jewish.

The presence of guests from Aoteroa, New Zealand and the seven members of the Executive Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference marked the biennial conference very significant. The Asian church women brought their life stories whose hope is anchored in Jesus Christ.

Nancy Lin, from Taiwan, is a living witness to a community whose faith is rooted in Confucius. Uma David, from India, has the courage to break the tradition of "dowry" in her daughter's wedding. Yasuko Nakayama, from Japan, was moved to see the miracle of prayer when her father, a non-Christian, joined the family.

Life has been a treasure for Padma Ebenezer, from Sri Lanka, when her daughter was at the crossroad of life and death due to a vehicular accident. Esther Byu always finds an angel who stand beside her in the harassment she experienced as a Burmese woman traveler. Iluminada Domingo, associated herself to a bamboo that is "strong and resilient" against all odds of life as a woman.

The Australian Church Women is the affiliated women's organization to Asian Church Women's Conference in Australia.

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## AUSTRALIA CHURCH . . .

As a gesture of the ACW commitment to Asian Church Women's Conference, it was resolved that:

The ACW National Executive ascertain what actions the member-countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference are taking in their respective countries towards the relief of women, men and children working in substandard conditions and for very low wages in the textile and footwear industries.

That upon receipt of the resultant information, discern appropriate ways so we can support members of the Asian Church Women's Conference in their endeavors.

To make the conference more educational, a visit to Hahndorf village was made. In 1893, Germans from East Germany and many Prussians were emigrants in the village. Through their hard work, they made a significant contribution to the progress of South Australia. On the other hand, a courtesy visit was made to the office of the Municipal Mayor in Adelaide.

The closing worship was led by the incoming national executive from Western Australia where the next Biennial Conference will take place. The new executive has chosen to reflect on the story of the geese in relation to the theme **Towards Community**. They are associated to people who share a common direction and sense of community who can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

As I reflect on the ACW Conference, I am deeply impressed by the commitment and sincerity of the church women in helping member-countries of ACWC pursue socio-economic efforts to uplift the condition of women and children. The thrust is aptly expressed in the ACW statement above.

We come from diverse culture and background and socio-economic status – and this we feel even when we are together



*Nancy Lin shares her life story*

in conferences, meetings and worship. It is indeed a blessing that this is so in ACWC so we can share, enrich and find meaning in each other's situation. In Australia today, we note the growing concern of churches, institutions and government in reaching out to those in the Third World.

There is so much to share and learn from each other. In the Philippine situation for instance, the typical rural family would feel richly blessed when the family sits down to a dinner of rice, fish sauce, vegetables and perhaps a slice of meat once a day. Three or four sets of clothes is a rejoicing for God's bounty particularly when the children can go to school.

God indeed, is with us, rich and poor alike and we must be aware always of developing our own life and simple resources. If we miss a good pair of shoes we are still more blessed than someone whose legs were blown away by land mine or wasted by a dreadful disease. Or if we do not have a leg anymore, we are still lucky for being alive.

In our growth, all of us grow; in our simple blessings, all of us are joyful. It is not enough that we share our problems and sorrows – what is important is that there is a someone with whom we can commune about our dreams and inspirations – life itself.





*Members of the Executive Committee. Seated from L-R: Illuminada Domingo, Executive Secretary; Uma David, Vice President; Adma Ebenezer, Executive Member; Esther Byu, ICFLC Executive Secretary. Standing from L-R: Barbara Lacy, Executive Member; Yasuko Nakayama, Treasurer; Diana Manson, Secretary; and Nancy Lin, President.*

## ACWC Executive Committee annual meeting in South Australia

After seventeen years, the Asian Church Women's Conference Executive Committee, has renewed commitment to her constituents in Australia. Prior to the meeting, visitation to Australian Church Women in New South Wales Unit was made possible by Uma David, ACWC Vice President.

In September 22-26, 2001 the ACWC Executive Committee held their annual meeting at Aquinas College in Adelaide, South Australia.

Atty. Alan Wong graced the meeting to help the committee members in the legal interpretation of the constitution in preparation for the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Atty. Wong ably assisted in the Conference by explaining legal meanings and implications to safeguard the interests of ACWC.

Two major concerns were discussed — requesting every member of the organization to pray for the selection of the new Executive Secretary and the 12<sup>th</sup> ACWC Assembly. Rev. Illuminada A. Domingo will be finishing her term in November 2002 and the new Executive Secretary will assume the post. Rev. Domingo's term has been described as a time to renew and re-examine directions since it coincides with the new millennium.



*Barbara Lacy, ACWC Australia National Representative welcomes the Executive committee members*