

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

"Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new"
2 Cor. 5:17.

Greetings to all my fellow travellers as we embark upon this new year, 1981. May it be a happy and fruitful journey for all.

Did your flagging optimism rise as the calendar turned over to January 1, giving you a sense of new beginnings and being sure that you will do better this time? Yes, you will be more loving, more helpful and more watchful for those opportunities to serve.

Very Good. Cheerful optimism is a great tonic. Let us hang on to it as time quickly becomes history and we begin to realise that it is limited indeed, and we can only use it once. The Lord has planned much for our lives, and we need to use the moments wisely as good stewards if we are to win His "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Paul did not tell his listeners that a turn of the calendar would mean old things had passed away, or that they would experience equality or liberation overnight. He is saying that, for those who find Christ, no matter the time or place, all things would really be new and the old could then be put behind them. The Lord would make them free, and they would be free indeed. We too have been freed. Pray that we may be good ambassadors for Christ this year, and that He will grant us fruit for our labours.

GLAD WEST - President

EVENTS ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT OR COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Nov. 3 Women's World Day of Prayer Meeting held at Bible House-
slides shown by Deaconess Andrews of travels and Ecumenical
Assembly in Los Angeles. Present - Secretary, Treasurer,
Brig. M. Ward, Mrs. Stanhope, Mrs. Lean, Mrs. McCann.
- Nov. 22 Day of Reflection and Prayer - Cranbrook School, Bellevue Hill-
Secretary, Treasurer, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Stevens, Deaconess Andrews.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NEW SOUTH WALES

During the last year, N.C.W. has been concerned about and has made appropriate recommendations on many social issues. A Discussion Day was held at Fairfield attended by groups representing a wide range of backgrounds to look at children's needs, with reference to discipline and school.

With a group of organisations, N.S.W. has been concerned about the proliferation of sex shops in Sydney, with a view to the law and possible amendments to rectify the undesirable situation.

Aid to prevent blindness was provided by the mile of cents programme. N.C.W. of U.S.A. supplied Silver Dollars minted with their founder's image embossed to be sold here as collector's items.

N.S.W. participated in two public National Conferences: one on Reform of the Law of Rape and other sexual offences, the other on Towards an Australian Family Policy. Worthwhile resolutions were formulated from both.

Speakers at the monthly Council Meetings have included: Sir Herman Black, Chancellor of Sydney University, Mr. Ian Wilson M.H.R. Sturt, S.A., Sir Bruce Williams, Vice Chancellor of Sydney University and Mr Des Renford, the Channel swimmer.

Marie McCann, A.C.W. Delegate to N.C.W.

WISE WORDS

Love can neither be bought nor sold; its only price is love.

Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it every day, and at last we cannot break it.

N.S.W. COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S FILMS & TELEVISION

The past year has been very difficult, due, to performance in some areas being a problem. The challenges are being met with a view to C.C.F.T. becoming a vital force as it is in other states.

Administration has posed problems, due to the resignation of the secretary. Finance is bleak due to the cessation of cash flow from the distribution of films. The possible increase of the library of fourteen films will hopefully adjust this situation. Distribution has been the biggest problem of the year, and the Australian Council has taken over this area of work for twelve months.

The Children's Film Club at Mosman has been a great success. It not only creates income for the council but desirable children's entertainment and sociability is achieved.

A Super Eight Workshop has been most successful and an excellent professionally prepared video has been made on this workshop. Another workshop is under way at present.

Brigadier Mabel Ward has given much time and service as Minute Secretary. During Children's Week in October C.C.F.T. is planning to show films to 1500 children from the inner city schools at Hallstrom Theatre at the Museum.

Marie McCann, A.C.W. Delegate to N.S.W. C.C.F.T.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mesdames Clifford, Ryan and Morgan from the Baptist Church,
Mrs. B. Das from the Y.W.C.A.

Mrs Commissioner H. Orsborn replaces Mrs. Commissioner L Ward as a Salvation Army representative, owing to a change of appointment of her husband as Territorial Commander of the Australian Eastern Territory.

Major Jean Venables has undergone surgery since the November meeting.

The W.C.T.U. held a three yearly World Convention in England in 1980. In October the monthly tonic paper issued by this organisation was entitled "Women in the Role of Peacemakers".

A.C.W. PROMOTION REPORT FOR 1980.

A growing interest and enthusiasm is apparent in the branches of the A.C.W. following the annual World Community Day for 1980. Community Day was held for the first time in six new areas: Penrith, Leura, Seven Hills-Toongabbie, Sutherland, Lambton and North Sydney. Following the gathering at Toongabbie, a lady from Foster asked if material could be sent into that area as she felt it would be wonderful to have such a united gathering from time to time.

Following the gathering at Armidale where some ninety-five ladies had gathered they not only agreed to pray together, but also to work together. At a continuous luncheon following the service, when all ladies worked, an amount of \$600 was raised for Austcare. We sincerely congratulate our Armidale sisters upon this most ingenious and original idea of not only uniting in worship but also in service to their fellow man.

At Bourke two services were held, one at 10a.m. and the other at 7.30 p.m. and a member from each participating church gave a fifty word testimony-including the United Aborigines Mission.

I was impressed with the number of younger women attending the Toongabbie-Seven Hills gathering, and with the testimony of the young mother, likewise at Parramatta. I discovered that a creche had been arranged for the care of the little ones while their mothers could enjoy the service. This idea is worth considering as I do feel that young mothers should have the opportunity to share in the inspiration of such gatherings.

Although there are still reports to come from some branches, both city and country, the offerings given exceed a thousand dollars for the usual offering, and also in excess of one thousand dollars for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, but an estimate of the prayer force behind such gifts will never be known. Our thanks to our Heavenly Father and to Jesus our Saviour Who prayed that "they might be one."

Edna Baker,

Promotion Convenor

WHEN I DID WELL, I HEARD IT NEVER. WHEN I DID ILL, I HEARD IT EVER.

THERE NEVER WAS A GOOD WAR OR A BAD PEACE. (Benjamin Franklin)

NEWS ITEMS

Our Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1981, Miss Malini Weerasinghe, will arrive in Sydney from Sri Lanka at the end of February and, a few days later, will take up residence at Deaconess House, to undertake a course of training. Her particular interests are in the field of Christian Education in State Schools and Sunday Schools.

Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee. The five members of the N.S.W. Unit of A.C.W. who attended the Silver Jubilee Celebrations in the Philippines in November-December will report back to the General Meeting on Monday, February 16. Friends will be very welcome to join us that morning at 10.30 a.m. in the Meeting Room (1st floor), Uniting Church Offices, 139 Castlereagh Street, City.

Visit to N.Z. Churches. There are still a few vacancies in the party which will be making an ecumenical visit to churches in New Zealand next month. The group will leave Sydney on Saturday, March 14, for Auckland, and follow a most interesting itinerary in both the North and South Islands travelling as far as Dunedin. The cost is \$862, which covers transport and accommodation costs, etc. Those interested should contact Mrs. Heather Stevens (Tel. 267-7399).

The Middle East Council of Churches, which receives half of the offering from the World Community Day Services, founded in 1974, exercises its ministry in one of the most difficult areas of the world. This is because the Christian Gospel must be worked out as a minority grouping within a vast Muslim majority. The Christian Education Programme has an important project for Audio-Visual media Centres in Beirut and Cairo, designed to assist in training teachers, also a programme for family life and population.

International Disaster Emergencies Committee, African Relief Appeal to help 8 million people of East Africa where starvation places their lives "at risk". The Australian Council of Churches invites donations for this worthy cause.

ICYE stands for International Christian Youth Exchange. Young people from Iceland and Germany have benefited by living in Australian homes, and vice versa. Australians have been billeted similarly in other countries.

STATE OF WORLD'S WOMEN REPORT

A review of the current situation of the world's women indicates:-
Women work twice as hard as men! ! !

Figures released show that:-

1. Women are half the world's population;
2. Do two-thirds of the world's work hours;
3. Receive one tenth of the world's income;
4. Make up two thirds of the world's illiterates;
5. Own less than 1/100th of the world's property.

These startling statistics were revealed at the Copenhagen Conference of July last year. We are already half way through the Decade for Women, so much still has to be achieved.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Main features of the last Council Meeting for 1980 included a prayer session on behalf of various countries of the world. An informative talk on the history and up to date activities of the Y.W.C.A. was given by Mrs. M. Vickery. Miss D. Mitchell shared with us some interesting highlights of the European Conference of the Women's World Day of Prayer. The Passion Play enacted at Oberammergau last year became a reality when presented so ably by Mrs. O. Lean who was privileged to attend this moving drama. A Christmas Devotional by Mrs. Oates not only dealt with the Advent of Christ, it was a reminder of His Coming again. A colourful banner, prepared for the Australian delegation to the Fellowship of the Least Coin Celebrations depicted Australian birds and animals as well as the theme of the Conference.

Force 10 is the joint A.C.C. Australian Catholic Relief Agency which encourages people to make development a year round commitment. More than aid, Force 10 fights the causes of suffering.

ECUMENICAL ENCOUNTERS

While travelling in Scotland last September, I had the opportunity of visiting the Conference of the European Committee of the World Day of Prayer, which was being held at Garberry Towers, a splendid Conference centre at Musselburgh, a few miles outside Edinburgh. It was a great pleasure to meet again Miss Dorothy Wagner, who had visited us in 1979 with members of Church Women United on their "Pacific Causeway".

No less than twenty-three European countries were represented at the Conference, delegates coming from North and South, East and West, to spend a week in study and discussion of their programmes and problems, sharing their hopes and plans for the future. For a visitor from faraway Australia, it was very interesting to learn of the diversity of their activities, in their common purpose of bringing together the women of their churches to share a common faith and to develop, as one speaker put it, "an ecumenical consciousness". We were reminded that the World Day of Prayer is a "Movement" and we must move in ever widening circles, to share the things we value so much. Surely this must be our goal, too, in Australian Church Women.

Some of our members were able to participate in the DAY OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER, sponsored by the N.S.W. Committee of the Australian Council of Churches, at Cranbrook School, Bellevue Hill, Sydney in November. The day's programme was arranged by the Ecumenical Affairs Committee of the Anglican Church, Diocese of Sydney, and the leader was the Rev. Clive Harcourt Norton, Associate Chaplain of the School. Following a service of morning prayer in the Chapel, we adjourned to the Library where, during the morning and afternoon sessions, time was given to reading and discussion of "Living in Hope," a statement formulated at a conference of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches held in Bangalore, India, in 1978. As we looked at the sections on "Our Hope in God", "The Church: A Communion of Hope", "Hope as the Invitation to Risk", we found much to think and talk about. During the afternoon session, Rev. John Thorne, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Cremorne, spoke about death in relation to the Christian hope. His carefully prepared and thoughtful address provided a most helpful conclusion to a very interesting and happy day.

Doris M. Mitchell.

A WORD IN SEASON- from the Hon. Treasurer

Just a reminder that our financial year will close on February 28. Any money in hand as contributions for our funds, outstanding affiliation fees, or subscriptions to "Newsette" or "The Asian Church Woman" for 1981 should be forwarded to me as soon as possible please. Will all concerned please note that all cheques should be made payable to Australian Church Women, and not to specific funds, e.g. Fellowship of the Least Coin, Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund, etc. or to individual office-bearers or convenors, by name. Your co-operation in this matter will be appreciated.

33/250 Jersey Road,
Woollahra. N.S.W. 2025.

Doris M. Mitchell,
Hon. Treasurer.

A paper presented to the Uniting Church of N.S.W. Synod in October by the Synod Youth Council points out that although 1% of the population are Aborigines, they suffer 10% of infant deaths; 40% unemployment, suffer from poor living conditions and disease at over ten times greater than white Australians, and are imprisoned at a rate seventeen times greater than whites.

Already plans are under way for the Australian community to celebrate 200 years of European settlement on this continent. 1988 will be a year of commemoration, thanksgiving and hope. We will remember our past and draw on it for our future- the first settlers, the explorers, industry, the growth of our nation, the Anzacs, our sport and culture, our freedom. And yet we have much to achieve before 1988 in order to make our celebration acceptable to all Australians, but more importantly to God. This leaflet, "So that we may all celebrate," gives us food for thought. What do other readers think?

Let us know your thoughts, please.

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