



THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL

for

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

242 PITT STREET, SYDNEY

President
The Rev. C. Denis Ryan
Chairman of Executive
The Archbishop of Sydney

86 Oaklands Rd.
Glengowrie
S. A.

General Secretary
The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Mackay
Treasurer
Mr. Stewart Irwin

The Secretary
Australian Council
World Council of Churches
Sydney

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Please excuse this old note paper. I have none with a recent heading. At any rate it will serve as a reminder of the happy occasion when I was among those voting for your election.

My purpose in writing is two fold. Have you still in the office some copies of "We of the House"? I think I could dispose of another dozen. In the past they have been supplied to me at the wholesale rate. Please tell me if the price has been changed.

The second motive for writing is to express my surprise and distress at news that has just reached me. If it is true that a move is on foot to establish a Women's Auxiliary to the Australian Council, I hope you will explain to the promoters that such a move is quite at variance with the spirit and genius of the W.C.C. It would indeed be a retrograde step and Australia would appear to have let go the ideals of sex equality, so energetically and ably maintained by the Department in Geneva. I mean the Department on Co-operation of Men and Women in the Churches. By all means let us have an auxiliary but let it comprise both men and women. Don't you think our W.C.C. Fellowship exactly fills the role? If a women's auxiliary had been in line with the principles of the W.C.C, we should

have formed one long ago, when it was first mooted, but fortunately Rev. John Garrett and others saw that it would be out of harmony with W.C.C. ideals. A liaison officer was then appointed to spread information among the women of the churches, who were and still are well organized in inter-church groups.

As a former member of the World Commission on Co-operation of Men and Women in the Churches and also as convener of the Australian Commission, I do hope you will maintain the standard set and oppose any separate organization of women in the Council.

Yours sincerely
Winifred Trickett

S. HUST

WOMEN'S
WORK

February 28, 1963.

Mrs. Winifred Kiek,
86 Oaklands Road,
GEENGOWRIE.
South Australia.

Dear Mrs. Kiek,

Thank you for your letter of February 20. There are no stocks of "We of One House".

I think you have been misinformed about a "Womens Auxiliary to the Australian Council", for there is no proposition to form one. We are trying within the Division of Ecumenical Promotion to provide study material to make women's groups in their denominations more effective (they do not all have study material like the Congregationalists) and to provide the means for members of womens organizations in local areas to come together in a more abiding fellowship from that which is provided for at such occasions as the Women's World Day of Prayer and to meet at a deeper level than that which takes place in annual birthday gatherings. This is not a move inconsistent with the Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, indeed we are bringing Madeleine Barot to Australia this year. It is an attempt to be realistic in ecumenical promotion by realising that the Ecumenical Movement will make ground only in the local churches when it begins to penetrate the existing organizations of the local churches. If this is inconsistent with WCC ideals so are the women's meetings in local congregations and the work which the Congregational Womens' Fellowship does to make its work more effective.

The committee which is working on this comprises both men and women.

Yours sincerely,

(The Rev.) Harvey L. Perkins,
General Secretary.

HLP:TJS

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

June 14th. 1963

When you visited our Women's United Churches group last month, some of us were surprised, as you probably were, to discover what a lot of ecumenical activity goes on through our Church guilds.

In view of this we are considering a questionnaire to be sent to our member Church guilds. Work on this should stimulate interest in World Council affairs and must suggest inter-Church activities to the guilds themselves.

The results too should be valuable evidence and may reveal where there is need and where opportunity for your efforts at education and awakening. We realise your desire to use existing organisations ~~because~~ ^{and} we know that extra meetings - suburban or city - are well-nigh impossible.

If our suggestion would be useful for you in other States, you are welcome to it. After all the Dept. of Co-operation... ~~etc~~ began with the famous questionnaire of Kathleen Bliss and Sarah Chakko, didn't it?

We trust we can be of help to you by this method.

Hoping the good work will progress under your care and with greetings

Yours sincerely
Winifred Hick

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

June 14, 1963

Mrs. W. Kiek,
"Allambi",
GLENGOWRIE.

Sth. Aust.

Dear Mrs. Kiek,

Thank you for your letter of June 4. I am very interested in the questionnaire and hope that it will provoke more ecumenical interest among Church groups in South Australia. We will keep the questionnaire in our files and make use of the idea when the occasion arises.

I ~~was~~ very grateful for the opportunity to meet the United Women's Church Association in Adelaide and I hope very much that they will come in wholeheartedly with Australian Church Women.

In Melbourne I met with the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council and had a good and helpful discussion with them. Miss Barker was there and we had a valuable talk together.

Our plans for the future include Community Day on September 27 this year. We will be printing a service of worship and a Bible study. I hope that you will be able to use it in Adelaide and in other localities where your questionnaire has stimulated interest. The study material which is being prepared by the group in Melbourne will be ready, we hope, in September for distribution to interested groups. I trust that through projects like this we will be able to interest more and more women in doing things together.

Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm. I will keep in touch with you and will you please keep in touch with me.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.) Convener.

July 15, 1963

Mrs. Winifred Kiek,
86 Oaklands Road,
GLENCOWRIE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Mrs. Kiek,

You will be glad to know that plans for the establishment of Australian Church Women are proceeding well. It is, of course, a slow and careful course as we consult with the women's federal organizations in the member churches, and also with the Women's Inter-Church Councils in the various states, and seek a way whereby both churches and state councils can be members of a national organization.

However the work is thoroughly worthwhile and I am sure that you will be looking forward to this organization taking up all the pioneering work you did on the status of women in the churches between 1946 and 1958. I certainly wish to assure you that this will be a very important part of the work of Australian Church Women.

During October this year we will have in Australia, Madeleine Barot, who, as you know, heads up the work on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society in Geneva. Madeleine Barot will visit Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney during her 11 day visit (October 8 - 19) and we are hoping that Adelaide will be able to arrange a full day consultation with her on Saturday, 12th. The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women is arranging this visit.

The Interim Committee is very aware of working in the shadow (or should I say the light) of the work you have done in years gone by, and hopes to establish a "Winifred Kiek Scholarship" for an Asian woman student as one of the undertakings of ACW.

And so we work on, having entered into your labours. Some things about this undertaking are new, such as the forming of a nation-wide organization, and the promotion of branches in local areas. This makes caution important as we try to lay right and firm foundations. We know that you will have patience with us, and want you to know how real is our appreciation of your labours of former years.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins, General Secretary.

15-26 July 1966 – Mrs Olga Badger represented Australia, Rev Winifred Kiek attended as an observer. Their two reports follow.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

The following letter has been received by Australian Church Women from Mrs. D.G. Badger, who is representing us at the 3rd Asian Church Women's Conference, being held at the International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan. The letter was written on 17th July. Dates of the Conference are July 15th - 26th; the theme, "Abide in Me ... bear rich fruit". Australian Church Women is represented by Mrs. D.G. Badger (delegate), the Rev. Winifred Kiek (observer).

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Just a few moments snatched from a very busy schedule; as it is Sunday, the organizers must have thought a little observation of the Day of Rest would be in order, so we have three hours break instead of two. As the day is so planned from 7a.m. till 9p.m., the siesta period - 1 to 3 - is filled with writing home, preparing next session, preparing Vespers or cultural session, fitting in little visits with other delegates - we all feel a little like a perpetual motion machine.

The feeling of fellowship and friendship is very warm and genuine. I am sharing a room with an Indonesian woman, a delightful person. My group for study is the Church and Society; we are 20 people from 12 nations, which makes it very interesting; mostly everyone is contributing something to the discussion.

The Treasurer told me that if we had seen the delighted smile on the face of Mrs. Suriyakham (chairman of the conference) when she received your letter saying Australia was being fully responsible for my fare, we would have known just how happy they were at our gesture; they need every contribution possible.

The Rev. Winifred Kiek is staying out here after all, as the Stewart's home is at least 1½ hours journey away, and she couldn't possibly have travelled in every day. However, it is very comfortable; she has a nice room to herself and is one floor below me. She seems to be very happy and enjoying everything; the other delegates are all amazed at her stamina.

We are using for our Vesper Service, the Order of Service prepared for Fellowship Day, altering it slightly to fit in with hymns in the E.A.C. Hymnal, and omitting a few paragraphs. It is to be held the day after Fellowship Day. The New Zealanders were delighted to use it, and said they would enjoy feeling that they were also sharing this day with Australian women.

For Bible Study we are led by Rev. Masaichi Takemori, of Japan. Dr. Hans Mergull, of West Germany, is lecturing in "Basic Beliefs", and Professor Tong Shik Ryu, of Korea, is lecturing in "The position of the Church in a community of other Faiths". Rev. Margaret Lie, of Indonesia, is leading the daily devotionals and is such a wonderful person. Her group of women all think she is a wonderful woman.

Australia's greeting was read out, among others, on Friday evening at dinner.

It is all so colourful and exciting. It is our turn to do the cultural evening tonight, but our time has been cut to 15 mins., as they need more time for Fellowship of the Least Coin project.

(Signed) OLGA BADGER

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Australian Church Women,
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY.

THIRD ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN TOKYO 1966
SOME IMPRESSIONS WRITTEN BY THE REV. WINIFRED KIEK
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Copy to Mr. Hinton
6.11.66; also to
Mrs. Willie & Mrs. Badger
H.C.

This conference was not only a source of excitement and interest; one gets these emotions at any international and inter-racial gathering, but here there was a very real stimulus to one's mental and spiritual life. Although held under the aegis of the East Asia Christian Conference, it included a wide membership; indeed all five continents were represented, if we could Prof. H. Margull of West Germany, our able and learned lecturer on "Basic Beliefs". It seems significant to me that America and Africa should have joined Australia in cultivating fellowship with Asia in this way. It all helped to produce a wideness of vision and a depth of patient understanding which were good for all of us and contributed much to the success of the conference. The African delegates were a great joy to us. Maude Solarin of Nigeria was in some ways a contrast to Betty Kubay of South Africa. Maude (we found Christian names readily acceptable and much easier to manage) was big, black and buxom, with a rollicking sense of humour. She always wore her national dress, including a huge turban and usually seemed to be laughing in the midst of a happy group. Betty, on the other hand, was brown, lean and agile. She wore western dress and her close-cropped curly head was uncovered. She was serious and energetic, full of song, a fine leader and a wise companion. These two were evidently friends and were in a way typical of the spirit of the conference. Laughter and music are appreciated in any language and we had plenty of both. To join in singing the round, "Hi-Yah", led by Betty while she sang her own song above it all, was to experience a happy fellowship, a real sense of belonging together. No wonder it was often asked for!

If I were to express in one word what was the general tone of the conference, I would say it was sheer naturalness. There was such a pleasing absence of any thing approaching a desire to shine or to 'show off'. The cultural hour each evening was the occasion for a group to demonstrate national customs and traditional festivals. It always seemed to reveal a delightfully unselfconscious enjoyment, whether by song, dance or dialogue. The same natural attitude was apparent in the study-group and workshop sessions and in little everyday courtesies. Of these latter I was often the recipient, being the oldest. The climate was difficult and we all suffered from it, comrades in endurance, (what with pebbles, puddles and dripping trees in the humid heat), but no one complained, as we walked two or three times a day from dormitory to auditorium.

Bible studies and lectures were on a high level, a tribute to the intelligence of the audience, most of whom were leaders in their own country. Studies were not quite so demanding, but when I recall how careful we are in preparing studies for our Australian Churchwomen not to be too advanced lest we scare off some of the shy ones, I think the programme was probably well-chosen.

To share sight-seeing is a splendid way to develop friendship. The day we spent on tour round Tokyo was such an opportunity. We visited the famous Meiji shrine and felt the vagueness of Japanese religion, but reflected that multitudes of Australian Christians are probably very vague in their Christian beliefs. The revolving floor of a large modern hotel with its changing views over the city, and the refreshing physical exercises to music, practised at intervals in a radio factory by the work girls, to relieve the monotony of mechanical labour, were signs of life in modern Japan, as were also the wide streets with their busy, rushing traffic, and the yellow flags provided for

pedestrians who wanted to cross the road, but narrow alleys and tiny shops on pavements reminded us of earlier days. We were glad to see the joy and pride of our hostess city in the continuing delight in old customs. The dressing of the bride, the wearing of the kimono and the obi, and the custom of the tea ceremony are so typical of ancient tradition that we should be sorry to see them abandoned. A fine exhibition of the history of the Y.W.C.A. in Japan gave us the opportunity to meet several women with mutual interests. Many were members of the W.C.T.U., others were members of Parliament or of the League of Women Voters. Thus did our day's tour seem to fit us as a conference into the life of the region around us, as also happened on our Sunday visit to local Churches and the homes of the very friendly people. We resumed our studies and devotions on our return to the campus feeling that we were welcome, and knowing one another better through sharing wider experiences, for this is how fellowship can be strengthened.

We Australians were sometimes conscious that our country's so called "White Australia" policy made us uncomfortable. When we sought to distribute pictures, papers and pamphlets from our Tourist Bureau we found many of them related to immigration and the welfare of migrants. However, the quiet, natural courtesy of our fellow delegates accepted us as a friendly people. All the same we do feel that the image of Australia among Asian peoples is so important for international goodwill that it is time some public declaration of willingness to appreciate all cultures and be friendly towards all peoples should be made. It might have been a good thing if we had sent an aborigine to the conference, or if we had had a Papuan observer, though these would have had to be extra members, not being actually representative of our culture. The question of representation is always a difficult one; a tribute should be paid to Mrs. Don Badger, who was at all times charming and conscientious; no wonder she was elected to the working committee! Let us hope that Australian Church women will always remember that we belong to the Asian group of Churches and all are one in Christ Jesus.

(Signed) Winifred Kiek

Sydney,
28th September, 1971

The Hon. Secretary,
Australian Church Women.

Dear Mrs. Connell,

Our Promotion Committee met yesterday and Mrs. Carpenter handed out copies of the new brochure on the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

We hate to be critical when we are grateful for the grand job the Working Committee is doing, but we feel that the paragraph on Origin does a grave disservice to a woman that A.C.W. has sought to honour.

The Scholarship did not become known as the Winifred Kiek Scholarship because Mrs. Kiek gave us £100. The facts, which can be verified from your files are quite the opposite.

I do not have all the records here, but some papers that I do have have confirmed my remembrances of the order of events.

There is evidence that in April 1963, the Interim Committee was talking of the possibility of scholarships for women from overseas to come to Australia. The first mention I have of Winifred Kiek Scholarship is in the Interim Committee minutes of 10th June 1964. It was probably just before this date, that the Interim Committee, when choosing a woman to honour in this way, singled out the Rev. Winifred Kiek for the reasons set out in the brochure and in the attached notes. The Interim Committee wrote seeking Mrs. Kiek's permission and she was so touched and delighted that her work would be recognised in such a way, that she subsequently sent £100 to set up a fund.

We are most concerned that an official publication of A.C.W. has gone out with this wrong information. (We would also prefer that the word "student" be deleted from lines 2 and 12 of the brochure in case they give the wrong impression, i.e. as against the correctly stated AIM "a Christian woman who has already received her basic training").

In all other respects, we say Congratulations.
Greetings and good wishes to all Committee Members. yours sincerely,

for Audrey Bell, Hon. Sec

CITATION PRESENTED BY MRS. JOAN BACHE IN LOVING THE LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF
MRS. WINIFRED KIEK

Rev. Winifred Kiek grew up in the Quaker tradition and was an active member of the Society of Friends through her childhood, University and teaching days. Probably her ecumenical outlook had its beginning in the sharing of Bible Study and Prayers among all boys and girls of all denominations at the school she attended for 8 years as a child.

On her marriage to Rev. E. S. Kiek, a Congregational Minister, Mrs. Kiek made her spiritual home in the Congregational Church, and when her husband was appointed Principal of Parkin Theological College in 1920, the family came to live in Adelaide. Mrs. Kiek studied for the Degree of Bachelor of Divinity with the Melbourne College of Divinity, the first woman in Australia to do so. She now holds the degrees of B.A. (Adelaide) and B.D. (Melbourne).

Mrs. Kiek's interest then turned to organisations which were working for equality of rights and responsibilities for men and women, such as the League of Women Voters and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and she was also active in work among Congregational women, the Women's World Day of Prayer, the Student Christian Movement and the National Council of Women. Between the two World Wars, Mrs. Kiek was involved in peace work with the International Peace Campaign, and held office in a number of the above organisations and in the Inter-Church Council of Women in S.A.

In 1926, Mrs. Kiek was ordained to the pastorate of the Colonel Light Gardens Congregational Church - the first woman to be ordained in Australia. After 8 years in that pastorate, Mrs. Kiek ministered to the Knoxville Congregational Church for 8 years. She was elected Vice-Chairman of the Congregational Union of S.A. for the term 1944-45, and, when the Chairman left S.A. for an interstate pastorate, acted in that office for the remainder of the term - again the first woman in Australia to occupy such an office, even in an acting capacity.

Mrs. Kiek became involved in the work of the World Council of Churches in 1946, when a questionnaire on Women's Work in the Churches was sent from Geneva to churches in 40 countries in preparation for the Amsterdam meeting of the World Council. Mrs. Kiek collated answers from Australia, which were eventually used by Kathleen Bliss when writing her book "The Service and Status of Women in the Church."

Recognising that there should not be a separate organisation for women within its organisation, the World Council of Churches appointed Mrs. Kiek Liaison Officer for work amongst women in Australia, and she made links by correspondence with women in the various federal denominational organisations and with the State Women's Inter-church Councils, to which she received a good response. Information and study material both from within Australia and from Geneva and overseas sources was shared in this way. Mrs. Kiek reported annually to the Australian Council of Churches; however, her suggestion that a federation of Women's Inter-church Councils be formed was not acted upon.

Having been a member of the World Council Commission since 1950, Mrs. Kiek's interest and work was recognised in 1953 when she was appointed Convenor of the World Council Commission on Co-operation of Men and Women in Society, and she held that office for 4 years.

After having represented organisations of which she was an active member at overseas conferences in a number of areas, and being particularly concerned that scholarships available in Asia often went to non-Christian women, Mrs. Kiek appealed, in her report to the Australian Council of Churches, for the establishment of a scholarship to help Christian women to study in Australia. However, no action was taken until 1965, when Australian Church Women, formed a few years earlier, established such a scholarship and named it in honour of one who had worked so consistently in the interests of the World Council of Churches and the Australian Council of Churches.

Now 90 years of age, Rev. Winifred Kiek delights in meeting "her" scholar each year and is very interested in them and the work of Australian Church Women.

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THE REV. WINIFRED KIEK, B.A., B.D.

The Rev. Winifred Kiek, B.A, B.D, was the wife of Dr. E. S. Kiek, who was Principal of Parkin Theological College, Adelaide for 37 years.

Mrs. Kiek was born in England and prior to her marriage to a Congregational Minister, was a Quaker. After coming to Australia in 1920 and when her family had grown up, she studied for the ministry and was ordained as a Congregational Minister in 1927, the first woman ordained to church ministry in Australia. Her earliest association with the Australian Council of Churches was in 1946 when she was asked to undertake a questionnaire in Australia (also being conducted in 50 other countries) on Women in the Church, in preparation for the World Council of Churches Assembly in Amsterdam in 1948. In 1950 she was appointed a member of the World Commission on Life & Work of Women in the Churches. In 1953, Mrs. Kiek was appointed convenor of the Australian Commission on Co-Operation between Men and Women in the Churches.

The National Council of Women, League of Women Voters, Women's Christian Temperance Union, were some of the organisations Mrs. Kiek gave her time and energy to - as well as being very involved in her own denominational affairs.

In 1966 at the age of 82, Mrs. Kiek went as an observer to the 3rd Asian Christian Women's Conference in Tokyo; she quickly endeared herself to all present, and was affectionately named "Grandma" by the delegates.

The Winifred Kiek Scholarship was founded in 1964, the fulfilment of a dream she had had on a visit to Ceylon in 1953.

Now an Asian Christian woman, every year, would have the opportunity to study overseas, and take back to her own country new skills and insights.

On May 23rd. 1975, at the age of 91, Winifred Kiek, much loved by all who knew her, passed swiftly and quietly into the Life Beyond.

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5 Wycombe Road,
ALDGATE. S.A. 5154

26th May, 1975

Mrs. M. Knauerhase,
29 Marina Ave.,
CULBERTLAND PARK. S.A. 5041

Dear Mrs. Knauerhase,

We were very sad to learn to-day of the sudden death of your Mother and on behalf of the Working Committee and Australian Church Women, I would assure you and your family of our thoughts and prayers at this time.

I would like to pass on to you the prayer which Mrs. Joy Smith used in the opening devotions at our meeting to-day.

"We thank You, Father, for the life of our beloved Winifred Kiek who has loved and served You so faithfully all the long years of her life: for the inspiration she has given to men and women, both here in Australia, and overseas as a member of the World Council of Churches: for her vision and courageous leadership of women to accept their responsibilities in the total life and mission of Your Church: and her dedication in her witnessing of her faith in her daily living. Please be with her loved ones at this time and support them in their sadness at her parting. May they rejoice in the goodness of the life she has lived and the example she has set for so many."

Several years ago a Memorial Bursary Fund was established "to honour women who have made a notable contribution as Australian church women." This fund enables Memorial donations to be made at any time, by any individual or group. At present a bursary to the value of \$50 is given to each Winifred Kiek Scholar for the purchase of books and/or equipment. Members of the Working Committee are contributing to this fund in memory of Mrs. Kiek and are inviting women around Australia to remember her in this way also.

May the God whom she so faithfully served be your strength in the coming days.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



Sincere Thanks

*Thank you so much for enclosing
the prayer used in your
devotions. It is a comfort to
feel the "cloud of witnesses")*
Margaret K.

WINIFRED KIEK
1884 - 1975

Sleep on now, dear one, for a little while.
Rest from your weariness of age, and
life's long climb,
Until you wake and wonder with a smile
That we should still be prisoners of
time,
While you, still loving and beloved, are
free,
With all your dear ones who have gone
before,
To serve again, beside another sea,
The King whose realm stretches from
shore to shore.

*Margaret & Oscar Knauerhase
and Family
thank you for your
kind expressions of sympathy
in the loss of their loved
one.*

*First Prize in annual hymn competition 1994
may be sung to "Eisennach" (75 in A H B) on any other
8888 tune.*

IN OUR TIME

Lord of these teeming, troubled years,
Of reckless growth and feverish change,
Of treacherous tides of power and wealth,
You stand secure when all is strange.

We thank you for the minds that search
To find the answer to each need,
To right the evil we have done -
Forgive our foolishness and greed!

Lord, calm the violence that spreads
When hate erupts in pointless strife,
All mindless noise, all heedless waste,
And lead us to the springs of life,

Those inward springs, which are your own,
Of wisdom and tranquillity,
Of selfless sacrifice and love,
And life as you would have it be.

We walk the deserts of the moon,
Converse along the aisles of space.
Now let us dare to seek and plumb
Your heights of love, your depths of grace.

*Margaret Kraemerhase
1994*

Deborah