

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Report of the 1991 Dedication Service, held at Congress Hall, 140 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Monday, 20 May, 1991.

We were pleased to gather at the new Congress Hall for this service, for which the theme was "We, Being Many Are One In Christ". This was the theme we used for our Golden Jubilee Celebrations and we felt it was good to continue it for this service.

Earlier in the year the Council had produced ball-point pens as a money-raising and publicity exercise and the theme had been printed on the pens.

Members of the Executive for 1990 took part in the service, which was attended by ~~450~~ people. A copy of the order of service is attached to this report.

The speaker was Mrs Dorothy Haensel, of Adelaide, who was introduced as a past National President of A.C.W. Dorothy has also served Asian Church Women's Conference as its Assembly Secretary, as a member of the Executive of A.C.W.C., as a member of Fellowship of the Least Coin International Committee and is a Trustee of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust. Part of the reason for her being in Sydney at this time was to enable her to do some research in the A.C.W. Archives for W.K.S. history.

Dorothy spoke to the meeting about the things dear to her heart :-

Fellowship of the Least Coin, A.C.W.C., Partners With A.C.W.C., Winifred Kiek Scholarship and of course, Australian Church Women.

In addressing us on the Theme, she used the Bible readings she had chosen, Ephesians 4:1-6 and John 17:9-11, 15-23

We were reminded of the recent celebration of Pentecost, this 'birthday' of the Church. "We being many in Christ" means we celebrate our Oneness in Christ. In her quotation from the letter from the World Council of Churches Presidents for Pentecost 1991, we were told that 'the Oneness of the Church is the gift of God.'

On her first visit to Asia, Dorothy found that there was no difference in the meetings from those she was used to in Australia, they were no different from any other Church gatherings. This she attributed to the fact that all were one in Christ Jesus. On one occasion she was in a public place with a group of her friends from the conference. They were all from different backgrounds, talking, deciding what to do next. Dorothy noticed a woman looking at them, puzzled. She finally asked Dorothy 'Are you on tour together?' When Dorothy explained who they were, the woman was staggered that Dorothy was there and that she seemed to believe she 'belonged' there. They were all one family!

What does it mean to us to belong to this special family of the Church, of our 'oneness in Christ'? We have family characteristics, striving to be like him. The life experiences of our faith show in our faces.

In Ephesians 4, Paul gives us a standard to measure up to. We should be Humble, Gentle, Patient, Tolerant, preserving our unity by Love and Peace. Humility we often find to be difficult. Barclay calls it 'self-knowledge, faith in ourselves. We must be constantly aware that we depend on our Creator, not in our own strength can we achieve humility.

Gentleness is often equated with meekness and seen as weakness. In the account of the cleansing of the Temple, we are shown the middle path between being too angry and not being angry at all. The gentleness of Jesus was never weakness. He was always Under Control, i.e. under God's Control, and we have the same availability of this control. We should learn to be angry at insults and wrongs to others, never to ourselves.

Patience is the Peace of God with us. We must learn to show this patience to others.

The Love referred to by Paul in this passage is Agape -- a special relationship, only found in the family of God. This love breaks down

barriers. With this love we are able to want only what is best for those we love.

Peace leads to unity. This peace binds us together. Paul's basis of unity is in these words :- One Body, One Spirit, One Hope, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.

Christ is our Head, the Church is the Body. Unity is found in our coming together.

If there is no spirit, there is no Church.

One Hope. This is the great secret of the Christian Church. We are all travelling in one way, the goal of one as the goal of us all.

These words of Paul are really our first and earliest Creed.

We believe in One God, a god-filled world is our hope. The Unity that Jesus prayed for in John 17 was His Prayer for US. It is still relevant for us today. The most harm to the Gospel of Christ has come in the Church's separation into denominations. In the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer in our lives, we demonstrate our love for Christ and the world, by our unity.

In Australian Church Women we have an example of this unity. We should invite others to join with us. Perhaps the time is ripe for us to broaden A.C.W. by inviting men to join with us. (It was good to see some men present at this service & to know that this is becoming the norm at our Special Days.)

In quoting Barclay again, Dorothy said 'the rank and file of the Churches can do and must do what the leaders of the Church refuse officially to do.'

We are all travelling the same road, but we are still along way from home.

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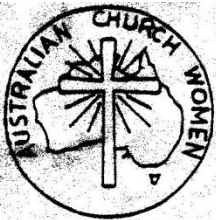
At the conclusion of the service, the new members of Executive were pinned with their badges and the retiring members were thanked. Gifts of flowers and stationery were presented to them and suitable tokens of our thanks were also given to the speaker, the organist, the pianist, the soloist and the retiring Auditor. We showed our appreciation of the way she has led us during the past year to our President, also.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Functions Centre of the Salvation Army Headquarters and a time of happy fellowship was experienced then. We are grateful to all who assisted in the success of the day and thank our God for His goodness shown to us during another year of service and fellowship in A.C.W.

Edith Ridge.

Hon. Secretary.

20.5.91



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION
11.00 a.m. MONDAY MAY 20 1991
WE BEING MANY ARE ONE IN CHRIST

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcomes and introduction to service Mrs Major Joan Tong, President

Call to worship. Ephesians 4:1-6 Mrs Peg Blake
Convenor, Special Days

Song 220 Holy, Holy, Holy.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise Brigadier Mabel Ward
Membership Secretary (Retiring)

Prayer of Intercession & Invocation Miss Shirley Wells
Convenor, Fellowship of the Least Coin

Scripture Reading. John 17:9-11, 15-23. Miss Phyll McKinnirey
President Elect

Soloist Mrs Jean Archer

X Introduction to Dorothy Haensel

Mrs Edith Ridge,
The Secretary

MRS DOROTHY HAENSEL

Prayer for Fellowship of the Least Coin Mrs Patricia Burke
Convenor, Fellowship of the Least Coin (Retiring)

Prayer for Winifred Kiek Scholarship

& Asian Church Women's Conference Mrs Mina Whybourne
Convenor, Winifred Kiek Scholarship

OFFERING

Offertory prayer &

Prayer for Australian Church Women

Miss Jeanne Sutherland
Publicity Secretary

MRS DOROTHY HAENSEL

DEDICATION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Prayer

Song 160 Jesus Shall Reign

Soloist Mrs Jean Archer

Courtesies

Mrs Dorothy Lumb
The Treasurer

X Song 171 Thine is the Kingdom

Mrs Edith Ridge

BENEDICTION

Organist: Major Merv. Rowland.

Pianist: Brigadier Ruth Smith.

To be followed by change over of executive members, welcomes & farewells.

Love to you

DEDICATION OF STATE COUNCIL

LEADER: MRS DOROTHY WOODHOUSE - LIFE MEMBER

LEADER: Invite congregation to stand.

COUNCIL MEMBERS READ TOGETHER:

In an act of commitment, we affirm the aims of Australian Church Women, New South Wales State Unit.

To unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;

To promote co-operation and understanding between men and women in church, family and society;

To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the church;

To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together;

To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries;

May the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts and may His power working in us enable us to perform infinitely more than we ask or imagine.

GLORY BE TO GOD FOREVER!

AMEN!

LEADER:

Consecrate to your service, O Lord, all members of this State Unit, with their offerings of personality, character, talent and ability, that the live so dedicated may be channels through which the Unit will be used to bring blessing to Christian women throughout the State.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Support us we pray from day to day, that we may all work together in harmonious co-operation to the end that we may glorify our Maker and Redeemer. How ever your glory may best be served, O Lord, grant to us, your servants, in that way to serve.

CONGREGATION:

Pour out your Spirit in full measure on each one, O God, that wisdom, strength and direction may be theirs as they need.

AMEN!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Mrs Dorothy Woodhouse.

Over 150 people gathered at the City Congress Hall, Sydney, on Monday, 20 May for the Annual Dedication Service.

We were honoured to have as our speaker, Mrs Dorothy Haensel, Past President of A.C.W.

Dorothy had been invited to share with us her experiences with Asian Church Women's Conference, Fellowship of the Least Coin International Committee and the Winfred Kiek Scholarship.

This she was able to do in a very interesting segment of the service.

As the theme of the day was "We Being Many Are One In Christ", the readings chosen were from Ephesians 4 and John 17. It was from these verses that Dorothy spoke to us.

In the Ephesians passage we learn of Paul's standard for the Christian to measure up to. Belonging to the special family of God, we should show in our lives the attributes of Humility, Gentleness, Patience, Love and Peace.

It was in the Prayer for Unity found in John 17 that we were challenged to really become 'One in Christ Jesus'.

In A.C.W. we have an example of this unity. If it is important to us, we should be inviting others to share it with us. We are all travelling the same road, and if at times it seems we are still a long way from home, we can rejoice in the promises of God that He is with us. Our hope of unity is the great secret of the Christian Church. It is a secret we should share.

Before lunch we took time to farewell some members of the state Executive and to welcome those who are stepping into their well-used shoes. During the service the Executive members had been dedicated to their new year's work and the Council members also joined in a time of commitment to God through A.C.W.

Those we especially thanked were Brigadier Mabel Ward, retiring from the Executive after many years of service in a variety of positions, Patricia Burke, whose work as F.L.C. Convenor was the crown to many years of service on the 'floor' of the meeting and in her Branch, and the Hon. Auditor, Mrs Dorothy Horsley.

We were pleased to announce that we are introducing a new (for N.S.W.) scheme of Associate Membership. Already we have had people nominated for membership by their friends and there is a list of others whom we will invite to consider becoming Associates.

A happy time of fellowship was shared over lunch in the beautiful new Functions Centre of the Salvation Army's new building. (the food was great, too!)

So ended another great day of Dedication. We look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm and faith.

Edith Ridge.

Hon. Secretary.

