

---

N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

---

*Nineteenth*  
*Annual Rally*

to be held at

SALVATION ARMY CONGRESS HALL,  
140 ELIZABETH STREET, SYDNEY

on

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1956  
at 2 p.m.

---

Afternoon Tea in the Social Hall

---

SUBURBAN HERALD PRINTERY, 390 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, CROWS NEST. JF5174

# ORDER OF SERVICE

---

Hymn.

Prayer.

Scripture Reading by Mrs. Millar.

Presentation of Official Bible by Mrs. Lowry to the  
President, Mrs. Lt.-Col. Garlick.

Induction Prayer by Mrs. McCallum.

Solos by Miss Nancy James.

Extracts from Annual Report:  
Read by Mrs. Pearson, Hon. Recording Secretary.

Congress Hall Women's Singing Company.

Address by Mrs. H. Wells, M.A.

Offertory.

Congress Hall Women's Singing Company.

Hymn.

Benediction.

G. A. Roseby, Hon. Secretary.

Nineteenth Annual Rally of  
Women's Inter Church Council

June 29<sup>th</sup> 1956.

The Bandle of the Lord was the title of Mrs H Wells's address. The legend The Sacred Flame was told: In the days of the Crusades, Ranniero de Ranniero a knight bold & strong set out from a church in Florence to visit Jerusalem and bring back to Florence the most precious thing he could find. When at last they reached Jerusalem they marched through the city barefoot each with an unlighted candle in his hand, to the church of the Holy Sepulchre. As a reward for his prowess Ranniero was given the privilege of first lighting his candle from the flame that burned before the Sacred tomb of Christ. As he lighted his candle he felt he was achieving the most precious thing in the world, and that this was the gift he was to take back to Florence. Amid jeers from his fellow knights he set out for Rome clad in armour, sword and battle axe. He mounted his horse and set out with the lighted candle. Soon he was set upon by robbers who stripped him of everything except his lighted candle and an old horse. His progress was slow, and one day a woman asked leave to light her fire from his candle. He at first refused, but the woman hinted out it would save her children's lives.

so he gave her a light and found his was brighter. After many adventures he arrived in Florence but so ragged he was not recognised as Raniero the Handsome Knight, but the flame still burned. He was soon followed by a jeering crowd who shouted "Put out the light. Put out the light. He held the candle high searching for someone to recognise him, when suddenly the candle was taken from his hand. He fell unconscious and when he recovered, saw his wife bending over him, who alone had recognised him. I took the light she said and I am guarding it. Together they took the candle to the church and presented it to the priest, telling him the story. The priest told the people, "This is the flame taken from the sacred tomb of our Lord in Jerusalem which Raniero hath carried all these miles from Jerusalem. The most sacred thing he found. How do we know they are?" Raniero came forward and took from the altar the light he had tendered so long. As he did so a wonderful thing happened. In his face came a radiant light until the people fell on their knees saying "It is the light. It is the light, we can see it in his face. God grant that we can keep the sacred flame burning in Florence. Mrs Wells continued:- Each of us carries through life a light just as precious as the light Raniero carried from the Holy City to Florence. Our lights burn brightly or dimly as we cherish and tend the flame. What is the light we all carry? No tangible flame but a flame that belongs to the realm of

the Spirit, as St John put it. "A light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world; and centuries before a wise Hebrew writer said "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord." Each of us has been given this light. With some the light burns so clearly + strong that all who come in contact are conscious of its warmth and radiance. The flame must be nourished and cared for, guarded and tendered else it will lose its effectiveness for ourselves and for others. What means are we to use to keep it burning bright? I shake time to be alone with God. 2 Time for Bible Study especially the Life of Jesus. Sharing our thoughts with Godly men + women, worshipping together, singing to-gether the grand hymns of the Church, praying to-gether; all these help to tend the flame that is ours. We must remember to give as well as get. to share with others our experiences in the Christian life. Hundreds of people can receive light to kindle their own candles from one small candle, the flame continuing to shine brightly the while. So it is with the candle of the Lord, the light which God has entrusted to each one of us. With whom are we to share? With Christians, yes, but Jesus also said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. We all cannot go, but we can pray and provide to finance. to support what is being

## Rally Continued

done by all churches. We can share our light also in our homes and in our community, by work in our Sunday Schools, choirs, young Peoples Fellowships, and in the lives of our own children. When Raniero returned to the church in Florence as he stood before the altar holding the precious flame a wonderful thing happened. Into his face came a radiant light reflecting and increasing the little light he held, till the chancel grew luminous and all the people cried "It is the light, It is the light, He carries it in his face. In the words of St Paul. For God who commendeth the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May our prayer be in the words of St Columba " O Lord, give us we beseech Thee, that love which can never cease that our lamps may receive unquenchable light from Thee, that will enlighten our darkness and lessen the darkness of the world.

Mr Stolzy moved a vote of thanks to the Speaker, Soloist, S. Army. Congress Singers and all who had helped to make the function a success.