

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

No. 11 Registered for posting as a publication

Category 'A' Publication No. NAR 3566

May, 1982

'VICTORY OUT OF DISASTER'

The focus of our Easter meditations has once more been the cross and Christ crucified - the innocent paying the penalty for the sin of the world.

There were the thieves on each side of Jesus. Did you feel they may well represent all of us? In repentance one cried out: 'Jesus, remember me when You come' and immediately the response from Jesus: 'Today you shall be with Me in Paradise'. Forgiven! Accepted! Oh, the wonder of God's great love and plan for our lives. We cry, 'Lord, all this You did for me; what shall I do for You?'

His call: 'Follow Me' comes to us afresh every day, for we are a pilgrim people, always on the move. We should not rest on yesterday's achievements but daily consecrate ourselves and our talents to His service.

As we feel that great sense of belonging, first to Christ, then to each other, we realise His promises: 'Because I live, you shall live also.'

'Lord, forgive our limited understanding of You, and help us to remember that we too can triumph through the power of Your resurrection. Amen.'

GLAD WEST

Retiring President

2.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- 21.2.82 Reception for Dr. Thelma Adair, Northside Baptist Church:
President and Executive.
- 15.3.82 Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Bible House:
President and Mrs. Woodouse.
- 24.3.82 Anglican Australian Board of Missions, Bible House:
President and Secretary.
- 26.3.82 Anglican Mothers' Union Service, St. Andrew's Cathedral:
President.
- 30.4.82 Salvation Army Home League Rally, Sydney Town Hall:
President and Secretary.
-

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1982-1983

PRESIDENT Mrs. Yvonne Davis, 1003 Canterbury Road, Lakemba,
2195 (759 1364)

PAST PRESIDENT Mrs. Glad West, 8 Stewart Street, Artarmon, 2164
(419 8654)

HON. SECRETARY Brigadier M. Ward, 10/3-79 Robertson Road, Bass Hill,
2197 (644 9472)

MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY Miss E. Blackwell, 14 Callicoma Road, Seaforth,
2092 (94 4705)

HON. TREASURER Miss D.M. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra,
2025 (328 7119)

CONVENERS

FELLOWSHIP OF
LEAST COIN Mrs. D. Woodhouse, 86 Fullers Road, Chatswood, 2067
(419 6772)

WINIFRED KEIK
SCHOLARSHIP Deaconess M. Andrews, 18/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra,
2025 (32 2023)

PROMOTION Mrs. M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place, Castle Cove, 2069
(406 4044)

PUBLICITY Mrs. M. Baker, 79 Wongala Crescent, Beecroft, 2119
(84 3046)

MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

3.

The main feature of the March Council Meeting was the presentation of the report, Religion in Education in Government Schools by Rev. Bern Stevens, Rev. Carol Grew and Canon Alan Langdon who were among the representatives appointed by the Minister of Education to consider the place of religious education in public schools.

The Report was compiled by a Committee set up by the Minister for Education in 1975, consisting of sixteen members comprising representatives of the Department of Education, primary and secondary principals, the Teachers' Federation, the parents' organisations, universities, CAE's, a representative of the Jewish community and three representatives of the Inter-Church Consultative Commission on Religious Education in Schools.

The Committee met monthly for four years, weekly for the next six months and on three subsequent occasions in 1980. Sub-committees prepared draft documentation for consideration by the whole Committee and every member had opportunity in plenary sessions of the Committee to discuss alterations to every paragraph of the Report in the numerous drafts and also in the final edited form.

Rev. Carol Grew of the Roman Catholic Church gave a brief outline of the Report submitted to the Government. Canon Alan Langdon explained the historical perspective of the act which was introduced as early as 1836 by Governor Bourke, a system already functioning in Ireland. In 1880 the Religious Instruction in Government Schools Act was passed. At the present time although there were many criticisms of the current position identified in the submissions, 79% of parents desired Religious Education for their children.

Rev. Bern Stevens concluded by saying the report was being considered sympathetically, but understanding and support from the Churches was also needed.

Reported by Mabel Ward
Secretary.

KEEP THIS DATE FREE!

MAY 31 10.30 a.m. Our Annual Service and Installation of our incoming President, Mrs. Yvonne Davis to be held in the Presbyterian Church, Canterbury Road, Lakemba.

A very representative group of about 50 women gathered at Northside Baptist Church on Sunday afternoon, February 21, to hear this gifted speaker. Dr. Adair is President of Church Women United, U.S.A. and she was visiting Australia at the invitation of the Uniting Church.

The President, Mrs. Glad West, warmly welcomed Dr. Adair to the meeting. Two lovely musical items brought by ~~Brisg~~ Ruth Smith and ~~Brag~~ Flo Whittaker added a feeling of joy and friendship. Later those present were able to meet our special guest informally during afternoon tea, as well as enjoy fellowship with each other.

Dr. Adair spoke of the need for ecumenical groups to speak up for the rights of women. At the fortieth anniversary gatherings of Church Women United, U.S.A., concern was expressed regarding the effects of inflation on families and particularly women. Single parent families are especially disadvantaged. Women have more responsibility on less income.

There is an increasing concern for a renewed sense of values. Everywhere women are seeking more participation in church affairs and are keen to gather in groups for Bible study. Women are seeking to play a bigger role, e.g. 52% of theology classes are women. Women are living longer and the golden years of 50-65 are often wasted. Many women reach their peak of potential at 65!

The plight of women in prison was expressed. More women are becoming offenders and serving sentences and 47% of these women have young children. Research has shown that women will visit men in prison but not the reverse. There are no facilities for children as visitors. In every prison for men there is a chapel, but in women's prisons there are no chapels or chaplains. Yet outside the majority of churches are supported by women.

We were honoured and privileged to have Dr. Adair spend time out of her busy schedule and we pray God's blessing on her as she seeks to spread the cause of Christ and humanity wherever she goes.

Reported by Margery Baker

Following her five weeks tour of Australia, visiting Alice Springs, Perth and country areas of N.S.W., Dr. Thelma Adair arrived back in Sydney for receptions and speaking engagements.

(continued on page 5)

FELLOWSHIP DAY - JULY, 1982

To date we have the following list of services planned by Branches.

City of Sydney	Scots Church, Margaret Street	July 21
Epping	Baptist Church, Ray Road	July 30
Killara/Lindfield/Roseville	Uniting Church, Lindfield	July 30
Lane Cove/Longueville	St. Columba's Uniting Church	July 30
North Ryde	Uniting Church, Cox's Road	July 23
Nepean District	R.C. Church, Penrith	July 27
Seven Hills/Tcongabbie	St. Mary's Anglican	July 9
Northbridge/Castlecrag	Anglican Church	July 29
Strathfield/Homebush	Baptist Church, Strathfield (no date yet)	
Turrumurra/Wahroonga	Holy Name Priory, Wahroonga (" " ")	

The following country centres will hold services:

Bermagui/Cobargo	Uniting Church, Tilba	(" " ")
Holbrook	St. Paul's Anglican	July 23
Lambton	Salvation Army	(no date yet)
Narooma	Uniting Church	(" " ")
Yass	Sister of Mercy Chapel	(" " ")
Cooma	St. Paul's Anglican	(" " ")
Cootamundra	Christ Church Anglican	(" " ")

Please let others know of these days and encourage them to attend. Also if any group at any other centre would like to hold the day please ask me for copies of the Order of Service 'Co-workers in Christ for Renewal'.

14 Daymar Place,
Castle Cove, 2069. Ph. 406 4044

Marie McCann
Convener

The weekend conference at Naamaroo, Chatswood, organised by the Uniting Church, proved very successful for the 120 who attended. At Stanwell Tops Dr. Adair's address on the subject, 'Participants, not Spectators' was well received by over 500 people.

Mrs. M. Burtenshaw, Lambton Council Member, writes:
'Dr. Adair's visit to the Hunter Presbytery Fellowship Rally at Rathmines on March 30 was a huge success. Between 360 and 400 people heard her speak on four occasions and her main address brought a standing ovation. In the lunch hour she moved around meeting people and has endeared herself to many.'

6.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR

Our 1980 scholar, Dien Sumiyatiningsih, has been awarded a World Vision scholarship which will enable her to continue her theological studies at Ridley College, Melbourne, for 1982. We congratulate her and assure her of our continued love and interest in her activities.

Dien will be residing this year at the home of Doreen and Jim Strack, 66 Tennyson Street, Moonee Ponds, 3039.

From 'Women at Work'

REPORT FROM OUR TRAVELLING SCHOLAR

'My journey of discovery, fellowship and enrichment throughout Australia is an affirmation of the unity we share as a people of God.

There were discussions and fellowship and sharing the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship and other A.C.W. branches as well as with the Greek Orthodox women in other states...we realised that the deepest and most abundant source of power in the world today is the celebration power of God through prayer and we claim this as we come together for celebration days on World Day of Prayer, Fellowship Day and World Community Day.'

Rathie Selvaratnam
'Women at Work'

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The National Committee Meetings of Women's World Day of Prayer met in Sydney from February 26-28 last. After four years as national Liaison Officer for W.W.D.P. I handed over the responsibility of the office to Mrs. D. Armstrong of Queensland. It has been encouraging to see the way in which the State Committees have supported the International Committee as well as the Bible Society.

It was good to receive a letter from Miss Dorothy Wagner, Administrative Secretary, New York, in which she said, 'I almost sang the 'Hallelujah Chorus' when I opened your letter and found that magnificent contribution from women of Australia for the International Committee for World Day of Prayer.' The contribution will assist some of the third world country W.W.D.P. leaders to attend the International Committee of the W.D.P. Meetings to be held in Tutzing, Germany from May 26 to June 3.

Mary Andrews

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Twenty-four copies of the book entitled, 'Our Silver Jubilee - the Fellowship of the Least Coin' have been sold in recent weeks in N.S.W. It is a comprehensive book covering the past history of this world-wide movement, as well as extracts from the Celebrations in Manila, Philippines, in November-December, 1980.

There is the song, 'So Small a Coin', words written by Margaret Knauerhase (daughter of Winifred Kiek) with music by Joan McKercher of Australia, as well as other countries' Jubilee Song contributions.

Deaconess Andrews and Barbara Grealy of Australia and a photo of our banner from Australia is printed with those of other countries. Lists of grants to projects all over the world are given covering the years 1957-1980. This souvenir book costs \$2.00. More could be ordered if required.

Dorothy Woodhouse,
Convener.

The WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION in Australia has produced for 1982 a Centenary Diary which includes many interesting facts and photos of the past. Arrangements for the Centenary Celebrations in Sydney include Poster and Essay Competitions for Youth.

The programme between Thursday, August 19 and Sunday August 22 includes a seminar on the theme: "Woman's Role in the World Today" and an official and civic luncheon. The leader will be National President, Mrs. G.E. Reynolds with Miss M.K. Harry, M.B.E., as the speaker. Miss Harry, who comes from Tasmania, holds B.A. and B.D. degrees and is currently World President of W.C.T.U'

A world speech contest will be judged and on Sunday, August 22, a Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral at 3 p.m. conducted by the very Rev. Lance R. Shilton with Rev. Gordon Moyes as speaker.

Further details may be obtained from the State President, Mrs. Joan Cocks, at the W.C.T.U. office, 363 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Contributed by Dorothy Woodhouse

Personal Pars

We note the passing of a former President of the State Unit, Mrs. Grace Cowled, who served in that office during 1967-68.

Our sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Burke of Strathfield, on the loss of her daughter in January.

Marie McCann wishes to thank all who have given support in prayer. Her husband, John, is now home and slowly improving.

Deaconess Mary Andrews was recently appointed Australian representative for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. She is already in Canada taking part in the international meetings of this Fellowship following which she expects to visit churches and groups in and around Toronto. She will then travel to Tutzing, Germany, to take part in the international meetings of the Women's World Day of Prayer from May 24th to June 3rd. She will be joined there by Mrs. Dorothy Armstrong of Brisbane who is the National Liaison Officer for Australia, W.D.P. Deaconess Mary hopes to go on tour to Yugoslavia and will return home via Manila, arriving about June 20.

Mrs. Betty Davis, Uniting Church representative to Council, is attending the World Federation of Methodist Women's Executive Meetings in New York, held early in May. Betty is Area Vice President of the south Pacific area of W.F.M.W.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed this year from May 23 to May 30.

Contributions to 'Newsette' are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Ridley, 23 Hannah Street, Beecroft, 2119, before the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

'NEWSETTE' is the official journal of the N.S.W. State Unit of A.C.W. It is published four times yearly during the months: February, May, August and November. Subscription \$2.00 per annum. (See page 7 for subscription form)

All subscription monies should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss D. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra, 2025.