

# NEWSETTE

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. 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. Yvonne Davis  
(759 1364)

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No. 17

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. NAR3566

November  
1983

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

The very well-known 3rd Chapter of Ecclesiastes sets out clearly God's planned timing for His people. Seasons come and go, the rain falls and the sun shines, night follows day, temperature and humidity rise and fall. All for the ultimate benefit of His creation, including mankind. His timing is perfect.

Throughout the Old Testament we read how at the precise time of need great leaders and Prophets were born, nurtured and were ready to be called to lead God's chosen out of slavery, into battle or to speak out boldly in warning of their waywardness. God's just punishment was only metered out to the foolish and unrepentant after He had given them time to mend their ways.

Then came the most perfect timing of all. Heralded by the Angelic Choir, Christ was born to be adored and worshipped by simple shepherds and wise men, hated by the jealous king and hunted by the soldiers. Yet He escaped and grew to become the Saviour of the World. He brought hope, love and forgiveness. At the right time, He gave His life for the sins of the world. His perfect example has motivated men and women down through the centuries to aim

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2.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Fellowship Day Services:

- July 6 Wellington - Secretary.  
10 Weeroona Village - President and Secretary.  
22 Willoughby - President & members of Executive.  
27 City Service - Secretary.  
28 Strathfield/Homebush - Treasurer.  
29 Sutherland Shire (Engadine) - President.
- 18 National Council of Women Monthly Luncheon -  
President and Secretary
- Aug. 16) Federal Conference in Melbourne - President.  
to 19) Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Convener as  
Delegates and Observers with Deaconess Andrews,  
Life Member, Win Dougherty, A.C.C., Major Venables,  
Salvation Army.
- 18 P.W.M.U. Rally - Mrs. Ridge and Mrs. King.
- Sept. 19 Aust. Commonwealth Council Mothers' Union  
Opening Session - President.
- 21 Baptist Women's Fellowship - Secretary.
- 21 Y.W.C.A. - Treasurer.

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President's Message (cont.)

high in Christian living. We who strive are promised that in God's good time Christ will return to claim His own.

Christmas is the time for Joy and Peace, the time for Giving and Receiving, the time for Thanksgiving and Praise to God. Let us all take time to attend the Christmas Services, take time to stop and pray, take time to read that wonderful story once more.

My greeting to you this Christmas is from Revelation: 'Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was and which is to come'.

Yvonne Davis, President.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN  
held in Melbourne - 16th to 19th August, 1983.

All State Units were fully represented by two Delegates and two Observers, plus invited representatives from various national committees of the denominations and interest groups. There were 56 women in residence at Whitley Baptist College which is a three floor circular structure with single heated rooms, comfortable dining area and meeting rooms. The Chapel, where the two main Services and Morning Devotions were held has a most quiet and serene atmosphere. From the Opening Service to the Closing, there was a meaningful Christian Fellowship and sincere goodwill among the residents. The Melbourne weather lived up to its reputation .. cold, wet and windy. We had one sunny day and the day we left to come home was also fine.

The Constitution is to be completely revised and we spent the last morning in open discussion on the proposals and amendments of the previous day. There is a move to update the aims and overall rules to a 1983 standard.

The 1984 Winifred Kiek. Scholar is an Indian Doctor, Mrs. Sushila Rao, who will be studying Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation at the Salvation Army Centre in Sydney.

We were delighted with our 1983 W.K. Scholar, Catherine Min of Korea who is studying at St. Barnabas College, Adelaide.

The N.S.W. Unit has requested the formation of a similar scholarship for an Aboriginal Christian girl who wishes to study as a Deaconess or similar profession, as the Government only supports financially secular studies, so many girls and women are thwarted in their desire to serve the Church in an official and well trained manner. This request is now being discussed by the other State Units prior to being put into the hands of the Federal Executive for investigation.

Great interest was shown in the N.S.W. Unit's Promotion Kit and new leaflets which are now being distributed to all denominations for their women's organisations. Many questions were asked as to the work and interest of our Branches and each State Unit requested a Kit. We were commended for the increase of attendances at our Special Day Services from 1,000 to 2,500 and branches from 25 to 36. Both these increases have occurred over the last 12 months and a great deal of thanks goes to Marie McCann and her enthusiastic Promotions Committee.

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4.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT (continued)

We now have an A.C.W. Badge which we hope you will purchase for \$2.00 and wear with pride; also a spoon with the badge on it for \$2.50. Both these items are available from the State Treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth Walker.

Thursday evening's devotions were conducted by our N.S.W. Delegates. The Conference theme was 'Life - Gift from God'. We chose 'What the Lord Requires'.

A day spent studying the methods being used in an area where women are at risk gave us an insight into how a group of dedicated people can become the lifeline for those in stress with nowhere to go.

A bus trip through the Dandenongs and an International Night were relaxing and most enjoyable.

At the closing service, Mrs. Lena Meadows of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland, was installed as National President. She has asked for our prayers as she copes with the many and various duties, problems and detailed planning which faces the new Executive over the next two years.

Yvonne Davis.

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The next Meeting of Council will be held on Monday, 21st November, 1983 at 10.30 a.m. in the Centennial Room, 2nd Floor, Salvation Army Headquarters, 140 Elizabeth Street (near Museum Station).

This will be our Christmas meeting, also Branches' Day, which this year will be a two-way segment to give Branch members an opportunity to ask questions of the Executive as well as presenting news of their own Branch. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall and all are requested to support this annual fund-raising effort towards the International Travel Fund. As we celebrate our 45th Birthday in November, Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse will give an update of our past five years' activities, with some very interesting photographs of the various functions.

The Community Day Services, with the theme 'Strangers no Longer' will be behind us by the time this edition goes to press and we hope you found much enrichment and inspiration from this very different Order of Service. We would like to hear your reactions to the play-reading and the overall message from the Service.

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5.

As from the beginning of 1984, a list of available speakers will be sent to the organisers of the A.C.W. Special Services with a view to using our own members, who will bring greetings and news of our organisations. The list will also indicate those willing to go to the country to speak. These speakers are also available to address meetings of branches, at luncheons or similar functions. Please use our members to explain and introduce the Fellowship of the Lease Coin and the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

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It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new Editor to you. Mrs. Mina Whybourne is an Anglican Representative to the A.C.W. Council, President of the Sutherland Shire A.C.W. Branch and has recently been elected to the Executive of the Mothers' Union. She is married with two children, Colin, recently married, and Anne, a medical student in Hobart. We assure Mina of our prayers and our support in this new position of responsibility which she is undertaking.

We give our sincere thanks to our retiring Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Ridley, for the dedicated service given to Newsette and the A.C.W. in general. Her talent in music has always been very much appreciated. We wish you well, Evelyn, in your work for our Lord and Master. Our love and prayers will be with you as you leave for overseas service with the Christian Literature Crusade. May God be with you.

Yvonne Davis.

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The SEPTEMBER MEETING commenced with the 25th Anniversary Service of the Asian Church Women's Conference, the delegates and observers to our recent Federal Conference taking part.

A PRESIDENT'S DAY is being planned for early 1984 where all members will be invited to enjoy an informal day together. Burma our National prayer partner - will be the theme. (Details in our next issue).

The Meeting concluded with a report on the National Conference by four members of our N.S.W. Unit delegation.

6.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Many thanks to Brigadier Ward who, despite the rail strike, drove to Wellington for their Fellowship Day Services. Whilst there, she aroused considerable interest in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, following which a parcel of literature has been forwarded and we look forward to closer ties in the future.

Interest also has been rekindled in Cootamundra, and more literature was sent there.

I look forward to many more contacts through our Community Day Services where F.L.C. gifts will be presented and dedicated.

Glad West,  
Convener.

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BIBLE SOCIETY LUNCHEON - DR. MAE REGGY

On Monday, August 8th, the members of the Lane Cove-Longueville Inter-Church Fellowship acted as hostesses for a Bible Society Luncheon at which the speaker was Dr. Mae Reggy. It was attended by over 100 people and was a very wonderful opportunity to hear this talented lady speak and sing.

She is an American Negress, brought up in New Jersey and now married to a Kenyan and has been living in Africa for seven years.

Her work involves teaching Africans to read, using new readers which are portions of the New Testament translated into one of the African languages. Her work is slow and arduous as there are so many tongues abounding in Africa. Cassettes are provided for the preachers by the Bible Society; these are hand turned or powered by solar plates. A really astounding number of Africans are accepting Christ as their Saviour through this wonderful work.

Our ladies were thrilled that a collection taken at the door raised the sum of \$450 for this worthwhile work.

Peg Cameron.

ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES

The Women's World Day of Prayer Committee held a morning tea on Monday August 22nd when Deaconess Mary Andrews showed slides of people and places connected with the World Day of Prayer overseas. Opportunity was also given for general discussion for those who organize the services on the first Friday in March each year, in over 400 centres in N.S.W.

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On 27th July, many attended the Launching of the YWCA's Building Fund. The new building is situated at 5-11 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney and although not yet complete, it is a very fine building and already in use.

The activities of the 'Y' over a century of caring, continues and the public is invited to contribute financially to the project. Dame Monica Gallagher chaired the Launching Function and Mrs. Mary Pulsford, the President also spoke. Other guests on the dais included Mrs. Wran, Lord Mayor Sutherland, Archbishop Robinson, other Church representatives and Patron-in-Chief, Lady Rowland. Best wishes go to the Young Women's Christian Association in this venture!

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The Annual Day of Reflection and Prayer was held on 10th September and this year it was The Salvation Army's turn to organize the programme, the Citadel at Chatswood being the venue. 'All one in union with Christ Jesus' was the theme and a beneficial time was experienced by those who attended.

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A special service took place at Pitt Street Uniting Church on the evening of 16th September. In this splendid Church, celebrating 150 years of witness formerly as a Congregational Church, a unique historic event in the life of Australian Christians took place in an Ecumenical Celebration of the Eucharist. The Minister, Rev. Dorothy McMahon, introduced the Anglican Primate, Archbishop Sir John Grindrod, who was the celebrant, and they were assisted during the service by representatives of Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches in 'The Feast of Life', a liturgy used at the recent Vancouver Assembly of the World Council of Churches. The Rev. David Gill, General Secretary Uniting Church in Australia gave the address. This was a moving experience for the many people who filled the Church. Bishop Gibran chaired the preliminary meeting when reports were given of the Assembly.

Dorothy Woodhouse.

8.

"NEWSETTE" and "THE ASIAN CHURCH WOMAN"  
Renewal of Subscriptions. \$2.00 each per year.

Subscriptions for both publications for 1984 are due on January 1, 1984.

Please use the enclosed form to renew your subscription/s and send, together with \$2.00 or \$4.00 (as the case may be) to our Hon. Treasurer - Mrs. E. Walker,

19 Ontario Avenue,  
Roseville, 2069.

(Tel. 46 2176)

by the end of the year.

(All cheques should be made out to 'Australian Church Women'.)

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Contributions to 'Newsette' are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Mina Whybourne,  
99 President Avenue,  
Caringbah, 2229.

(Tel. 525 4339)

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 of February, May, August and November.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00