

NEWSLETTE

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. Edith Ridge
(Tel. 76-6093)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We were walking through Rundle Mall in Adelaide when suddenly my husband and I realised that our friends were not with us. Then they caught us up, triumphantly carrying a small bunch of brown boronia! They had been stopped by the sharp and lovely perfume of this flower and had just had to stop to buy some. This memory was revived the other week when I was browsing in a Sydney nursery displaying hundreds of pots of boronia and with that memory came another — I used to buy brown boronia for my mother every spring time. What memories do perfumes bring to you? To one of my daughters, the smell of lilac says 'Katoomba' for it was in the garden there that she first knew this flower. Violets always remind me of the love of two friends who used to make a bunch of these flowers my birthday gift. Poppies say 'winter-time' to me; lily-of-the-valley takes me back over thirty years to a poignant memory and June roses' perfume reminds me of my wedding day.

Other perfumes remind us of different things. Soon it will be time to begin Christmas preparations and the smell of

President's Message (Cont.)

puddings and fruit cakes cooking will fill our kitchens and will remind us of Christmases past. The perfume that always says "Christmas" to me, however, is the heavy and beautiful perfume of the gardenia, for as a teen-ager, I always wore a gardenia from my mother's garden to the Church Christmas party. Perhaps it is fitting that a lovely, perfumed white flower should remind us of the coming of our Lord into the world to be our Saviour and friend. An old hymn called Him 'The Lily of-the-Valley' and in 2 Corinthians, chapter 2, verse 14, we read of the 'fragrance of the presence (or knowledge) of Christ'.

The presence of Christ in our lives is surely fragrant to us. How He sweetens everything for us as we love Him and work for His Kingdom. What fragrances we find in the friendships of the people we meet in His service. This Christmas, when we remember other Christmases as we smell the pudding cooking or as we fill our homes with the sharp perfume of the Christmas trees, let us remember not only the wonderful gift given to us by our God in the Lord Jesus, but the words in this passage in Corinthians that 'God, through us, spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ'. For we are the aroma of Christ, a fragrance from life to life.' It is our responsibility and privilege to spread this fragrance to those we meet.

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love.

Edith Ridge
President.

During September we were pleased to be able to host Valeri Palang, Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1985. Valeri, whose home is New Britain, Papua New Guinea, is studying at Alcorn College in Brisbane where she is doing part of a course in Leadership. At the meeting of the N.S.W. Council on September 23rd, she told us how the subjects that she has chosen will help her in her work as the Co-ordinator of Women's Fellowships for her district of the United Church of P.N.G. This young woman is very serious about her work, which often involves her in much travel to far-away villages to teach and help the women there and we know she will acquit herself well in the end of year exams. She has been chosen to represent the women of her country as a delegate to the meetings of the World Federation of Methodist Women at Nairobi, Kenya next year.

It was a pleasure to take her to various places during her short stay in Sydney. We visited Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta, Pier One, where Valeri was entranced by a group of Sri Lankan dancers, walked through Hyde Park on a very wet afternoon, drove through Sydney streets and fulfilled her desire to see the Harbour Bridge and the El Alamein Fountain at Kings Cross. A visit to a Japan Week display in the Sydney Town Hall was also of great interest to our guest, with the added bonus of handling a young koala bear! After the Council meeting, we took in the view from the top of Centrepoint Tower and walked around the Opera House.

We are grateful to Executive member, Lucille King for inviting the Executive to meet Valeri at an evening at Lucille's home on the first night of her visit. It was a very happy and relaxed evening which enabled us to get to know this charming young woman. On the Sunday morning she took part in a Women's Fellowship Service at Chatswood Central Uniting Church and afterwards was the guest of Rev. Samson and Mrs. Jessie Lova, compatriots of Valeri's and friends and teachers of other days. The Strathfield Uniting Church was also privileged to have Valeri as a speaker at its evening service on that day.

We were very sad to put Valeri on the bus to Canberra but sent her with the knowledge that in Canberra as in all the other States she was to visit she would be happily received and lovingly farewelled.

Edith Ridge.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS.

To meet and hear MISS VALERI PALANG, the 1985 Winifred Kiek Scholar was to assure A.C.W. members that to support the Scholarship is a very rewarding experience.

Valeri shared something of her life, work and studies at the N.S.W. State Unit on 23rd September - she is a most joyous Christian young woman. (See page 3 for details of Valeri's visit to Sydney.). We wish Valeri God's richest and choicest blessings in all her service for Him.

It was good to receive an informative letter from DR. SHUSHILA RAO, the 1984 Winifred Kiek Scholar, in which she said: "Thank you for your letter and all the lovely books. I am really sorry I took so long to reply but I'm so busy and feel very tired. My work occupies my whole day. I have to get up by 5 a.m. and start cooking to get things ready by 8 a.m. as I have to leave for the Institute where I work at 8.30 a.m. I return at 6 p.m., cook the dinner, get the children's needs attended to, see to my mother and often friends come dropping in. Sometimes they stay for dinner, which is extra work for me. Here in India, people call on each other and stay for a meal without prior invitation - it's quite common.

After all this, I have to prepare lectures for the next day as I am now teaching Laboratory technicians at the Institute.

I am glad to inform you that I have opened a Casualty Clinic for women who suffer with alcoholism in the house. This I am doing as a voluntary affair and if anybody is interested in helping me monetarily, it would be most welcome as I have to pay for printing materials, room charges, and miscellaneous items like stationery, etc. I do hope this project will catch on as the need of women in my country is great as it is very much a man's world.

Please keep in touch with me and once again thank you for everything." (N.S.W. A.C.W. Unit is sending \$200.00 to assist Dr. Rao.

Pray for the next scholarship holder from BURMA that she may obtain the necessary documentation to come to Australia.

MRS. EUNICE KIM the former W.K.S. Travelling Fellow, the director of Asian Church Women's Conference, has recently attended the International Fellowship of the Least Coin Meeting in Hong Kong. She is busy planning for the A.C.W.C. Conference to be held next year.

Pray for the letters of invitation being taken to leaders in China Christian Churches to attend the Conference. It would be wonderful if bridges could be built between Christian women in Asian areas.

Pray for the visit to China from 24th October to 16th November of Deaconess Mary Andrews and Mrs. Rhonda Felsh and for all contacts with Chinese Christians that in all things God may be glorified.

Mary Andrews,
W.K.S. Convener.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS - BRISBANE.
AUGUST, 1985.

The bi-ennial meetings of our National Committee were held at the Santa Maria Conference Centre Coorparoo, Brisbane. In these beautiful surroundings we were able to deal with the business of the conference, while renewing or making new friendships with delegates from all around Australia. It was regretted that there were no delegates this time from the Northern Territory Unit.

Important matters dealt with were the accepting of a new Constitution, the setting up of a Trust to administer the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and news of the A.C.W.C. meetings to be held next August. It was good to meet the National Executive and to put 'faces to names'. This committee was congratulated on two year's work as our national executive and on the wonderful time given to us in Brisbane. As always at these national meetings, we were encouraged by the daily devotional services and inspired by the visiting speakers.

The new Executive will be based for two years in Adelaide and we were excited to meet many of the members of this Committee in Brisbane. New Office-bearers are: President: Mrs. Dorothy Haensel, Vice-Pres.: Mrs. Pauline Crosby, Mrs. Barbara Grealy. Secretary: Miss Margaret Pittman, Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Wright, F.L.C. Convener: Mrs. Jean Middleton. Special Days Convener: Miss Irene Jeffreys. The Winifred Kiek Convener is Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase, who is a daughter of Rev. Winifred Kiek.

Edith Ridge.

6.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.

Greetings to all our friends, who, during the month of October came together for fellowship through 'Community Day Services'. They enjoyed dedicating their gifts for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and I will happily renew old friendships and meet many new folk through the ensuing mail.

Recently I have had contact with groups as far away as Narrabri and Armidale seeking information. I find this very encouraging and look forward to further contact with them both.

Remember your new 'Circle of Prayer' is available at 70 cents or \$1 mailed and as well you will receive a copy of the 1985 Grants.

May you all have a happy experience over this holy Christmas season.

Christian love.

Glad West.
Convener.

A special Council meeting of the N.S.W. State Unit was held in October in order to meet the National President, Mrs. Dorothy Haensel who was visiting N.S.W. Mrs. Haensel spoke about the Asian Church Women's Assembly to be held next year at a date and place to be notified.

Members will be pleased to know that Evelyn & Ken Ridley of the Christian Literature Crusade are well and have recently moved to a new apartment nearer to their office in Singapore. They had a working holiday in Japan in August where they were able to meet old friends in the missionary field. They send greetings to all. (Evelyn was "Newsette" editor for some years.)

Activities of the President or her representatives
from August 1985.

- August 5-9 Five of our Council members, Deaconess Mary Andrews, Brig.Mabel Ward, Mrs. June Graham, Mrs. Marjorie Baker and the President attended the National Committee Meetings in Brisbane.
- " 14 President took part in a 10-minute interview session on Burwood Community Radio, the subject being A.C.W.
- " 15 Secretary attended Presbyterian Womens Missionary Union Annual Rally at Roseville Presbyterian Church
- " " President attended Memorial Service for Mr.J.Whybourne.
- Sept. 10 President attended report meeting of Nairobi End of the Decade of Women meetings arranged by N.C.W.
- " 12 President attended morning tea to meet President of N.C.W.A.
- " 18 Secretary attended A.G.M. of Sydney Y.W.C.A.
- " 20-23 Visit of Winifred Kiek Scholar, Valeri Palang.
- " 25 President attended Baptist W.Fellowship Annual Ladies Day.
- " 30 } Members helped pack services for 1986 Womens World
- Oct. 1) Day of Prayer.
- " 10 President attended World Community Day Service, Strathfield.
- " 11 President, speaker at W.Community Day Service, Grantham Heights.
- " 21 Special Council meeting with National President, Mrs. Dorothy Haensel.
- " 23 President attended City Service, W.C. Day.
- " 25 President, speaker at W.C.Day service, Roseville.
- " 30 President, speaker at W.C.Day service, Parramatta.

 * There will be a TRADING PARTNERS display at the November 18th *
 * meeting - unique handcrafts from the developing countries - *
 * suitable for Christmas giving!!! *
 *
 * Our usual November Trading table will be held at the FEBRUARY *
 * meeting - so will members please BRING and BUY a gift then. *
 *
 * N.B. Will Secretaries of Branches please bring their Annual *
 * Reports to the November meeting. *
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8.

Since the last issue of Newsette our members were shocked and saddened to hear of the death by accident of Mr. Jack Wybourne, husband of our Newsette Editor, Mina Whybourne. Mina also suffered the loss of a loved brother in the same accident. The loving thoughts and expressions of sympathy of the whole Council have been passed on to Mina and her family. We know we can assure her of the continued support of our prayers.

Readers of the Asian Churchwomen's Bulletin are asked to renew their subscriptions promptly for 1986. This Bulletin is a very worthwhile magazine and new subscriptions are welcome. The annual cost (4 Bulletins) is only \$3.00 to be in the hands of the Treasurer by 15th December, 1985.

Subscriptions for Newsette for 1986 are due by 31st December - \$2.00.

To assist those dealing with the subscription list, would you kindly co-operate by completing the enclosed form and attending to this matter promptly. If you do not wish to receive the publication, would you please indicate this to us to save expense.

All subscriptions to our Treasurer,
Mrs. E. Walker,
19 Ontario Avenue,
Roseville, 2069. (Tel.46.2176).

Cheques should be made payable to "Australian Church Women".

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.

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