

UNIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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For information about **Asian Church Women's Conference**
please contact the Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

NSW State Unit has formed the new **National Executive**
of Australian Church Women Inc. current from
October 2013 to September 2015.

National Office Bearers:
V/President 1: Mrs Denise Secomb
Secretary: Mrs Isabel Hewitt

President: Major Lyn Middleton
V/President 2: Mrs Joy Inglis
Treasurer: Mrs Jennifer Peffer



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 2013 SERVICE



LOVE IS FOR SHARING

Australian Church Women (ACW)

Dating from 1965, Australian Church Women encourages women to act together in fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC)

The least coins, symbols of prayers for justice, peace and reconciliation are dedicated at World Community Day services. The funds are channelled through State/Territory Treasurers to the National Treasurer. These funds are allocated internationally.

General Offering

Half of the general offering today supports the work of the **Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC)**.

The other half of the general offering is directed to the special project for 2013, which is **The Salvation Army's Samaritan Accommodation** in Sydney. This project provides services for victims of human trafficking, slavery and/or slavery-like practices who are ineligible for mainstream services, are not authorised to work, and have no income or very limited income. These services include accommodation, health care, access to legal assistance, and educational, recreational, spiritual and social activities. The service relies heavily on community partnerships and a volunteer programme.

Today's Order of Service was prepared by the Victorian Unit of Australian Church Women. The photo on the cover was taken by 12 year old Georgina Bonsor who recently won first prize in a competition sponsored by Steve Parish OAM for photography.

Abbreviations:

AHB – The Australian Hymn Book
CWB – Catholic Worship Book
TIS – Together in Song

Please Note:

This Order of Service is copyright and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for additional prayers where relevant for the current situation, and the substitution of hymns that are considered to be more suitable or available locally.

LOVE IS FOR SHARING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus the Christ loved the church and gave himself as Saviour for the church, and for the world. As disciples of Jesus we are called to feed the hungry, to minister the food of liberty to the oppressed, the bread of healing to the sick, the nurture of comfort to the lonely, and to spread a table of hope before the disheartened.

Let us who bear Christ's name, love one another as we are loved; demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit such that our fellowship reflects the fellowship of heaven. Let us lift our hearts and voices in unity together, in God's praise. Amen

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We come in faith.
We wait in hope.
We seek to receive and offer love.
Make us one in this time of worship.

HYMN: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

(607 TIS AHB II 1999 / 348 The Source / 793 CWB)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: We confess, O God, how inadequately we fulfil our commission to love the world as you love it, and our neighbours as ourselves.

All: **The world is starving for physical, emotional, and spiritual food. But too often we turn away from the raw need, doubting that we can make any worthwhile difference.**

Leader: We forget that you have not called us to what is impossible, for all things are possible through your Christ abiding in us.

All: **You are the One who takes, blesses, and multiplies our giving, accomplishing miracles.**

Leader: Yet, we clutch to ourselves that which we have as though it were of our creation, as though there were no more supply.

All: **Feed us with the bread of forgiveness, and realign us with your Spirit. Lord, hear our prayers and fill us with your love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING
Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)

HYMN: “Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You”
(256 Scripture in Song / 650 TIS AHB II 1999)

SCRIPTURE READINGS
1 Peter 4:7-11 (The Message)
Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)

HYMN: “The Power of Your Love”
(329 The Source / 685 TIS AHB II 1999)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Leader: Creator God, you sow, and the harvest is abundant; you plant, and the crop is plentiful.
In this great and wondrous world you have given all that is necessary for all to be satisfied.
Yet so many are hungry, so many have no home.
There is a growing chasm in our country between rich and poor.
We are to blame that the harvest is not enjoyed by all!

All: **O giver of all that is good, teach your children the wisdom of sharing. Break open the stubborn hearts of the selfish.**
Raise up leaders who want every person to enjoy the earth’s rich bounty.
May your spirit of generosity be seen everywhere.

Leader: O God, we are a people who understand hardship. We know the ravages of flood and the barrenness of drought. We know the pain of living with harsh conditions.
Sustain, we pray, those for whom life has become unbearable.
Here at home, or far away, we pray for those who have given up hope.
Wherever your people are trampled down by the powerful, bring justice.
Wherever people are used and abused, bring hope and strength.
Wherever people cry out from the pain of life, bring healing.
Wherever loss and grief crush the human spirit, bring grace to restore and make whole again.

All: **We remember before you the indigenous people of our own land, those whose way of life the majority of Australians do not understand. We pray for those who have lost the sense of their own identity – especially those who have turned to drugs and alcohol as a way of dealing with the pain of life. Help us to honour the indigenous culture of our country and build a united nation.**

Leader: We pray for those who have migrated to these shores yet have found no home. We think of those who are separated from family and friends. Help us to build bridges of friendship and understanding. Let those who have come fleeing terrors of the past find peace and new beginnings.

All: Thank you, O God, that you hear the prayers of your people. We look to see where we can share in their answer. In love we come to you. In faith we seek to share in your mission.

SCRIPTURE READING
John 6:1-13 (NIV)

ADDRESS
"LOVE IS FOR SHARING"

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN OFFERING

Leader: We praise God for his revelation to Shanti Solomon of the FLC movement. The prayers and coins offered over many years have brought God's love into many lives, bringing new hope and release from the burdens of life.

Many here today will have collected their least coins throughout the past year. You are invited to bring those offerings forward now!

HYMN: "When I Needed a Neighbour"
(558 AHB / 629 TIS AHB II 1999)

GENERAL OFFERING

Leader: Let us make our offering that will be a shared blessing between the Asian Church Women's Conference and our Special Project – **The Salvation Army's Samaritan Accommodation** in Sydney.

All: We make our offering to help share the gospel and God's love with others.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

"Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, my soul, my all."

Loving God, these gifts embody our love and thanksgiving for your amazing love. We offer them in dedication for your service. We pray for a blessing upon ourselves as we offer them, a blessing upon those who will benefit from them, and honour to you as you receive them. Amen

BLESSING

HYMN: "A New Commandment"
(571 AHB / 699 TIS AHB II 1999)

ALL: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen