

# WOMEN AT WORK" FOR AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



MAY 1980

- (1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. °
- (2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN HOPE BY WHICH YOU LIVE?

You say you have Hope - What do you mean by it?

These words taken from "One World" magazine October 1978 made me think deeply about the theme of A.C.W. for 1980. The article goes on to say, and I quote -

"Even mature Christians are surprised and caught off guard by this question. Your answer to it, moreover, won't necessarily be the same as that given by an unemployed person in a working class suburb; or a political prisoner; or a lonely widow. Yet hope in Jesus Christ is a central tenet of the Christian faith".

Well, I would argue a little with the writer: perhaps we would not know the feelings of a political prisoner, but some of us would most certainly fit into one or other of the remaining categories.

"If Jesus Christ be not risen from the dead, our Faith is null and void" (Cor. 15: 14-15)

But He is risen: He does live: just as He did 2000 years ago.

These are strong words. How do we know this to be true?

2.

Towards the end of John's Gospel we read:-

"You believe because you can see me  
Happy are those who have not seen  
And yet believe"

and in Matthew 28:20

"and know that I am with you always;  
yes, to the end of time"

These are two of the last discourses Jesus had with His apostles after His resurrection. Kind of farewell messages, if you like; with the promise of the coming Comforter, who would teach them all things. They were to go back to Jerusalem and wait and pray till they were filled with power (Luke 24:49).

Are we doing just this?

Waiting for our special Pentecost?

Do we really know Our Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Don't be scared if your honest answer to this is "No". Neither did one of His friends - she thought He was the gardener (John 20:15-18).

He didn't rebuke her or look disappointed in her. He simply said "Mary" - or Jane, Gwen, Carol Margaret, Joan, or any other name by which He has called you (Isaiah 43:1b).

Can we answer in all truth "Rabboni" - "Master" but not as a slave would say it.

If Christ is your Master - your Lord - your Friend - then we can truly go into 1980

"WITH HOPE IN OUR HEARTS".

(From the Editor's Chair)

My apologies for the quality of the printing in our last issue of "Women at Work". It was a series of incidents that occurred to test our patience. It was no one's fault and included the busy Easter Week and a machine that went "Bung"!

However, I will reprint the names of those going to Manila for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. I say, once again, Congratulations to you all.

MRS BARBARA GREALY	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MRS HEATHER STEVENS	NEW SOUTH WALES
MRS MARIE PRICE	TASMANIA
MRS MARJORIE STANHOPE	NEW SOUTH WALES
MRS MARIE McCANN	NEW SOUTH WALES
DEACONESS MARY ANDREWS	NEW SOUTH WALES
MRS FRANCES DOWNES	VICTORIA
MISS NAIDA BRUMFIELD	NEW SOUTH WALES

THANK YOU ALL  
FOR

THIS MONTH'S MAIL

May is a wonderful month - the month of Mary the mother of Jesus, and two Feasts: Ascension and Pentecost. This year on the 15th and 25th.

Don't forget! Mail closes 28th each month for

"WOMEN AT WORK"

The address is:-

3, Burgan Circle, CHIGWELL, GLENORCHY 7C10 TAS.

Loyce (G)

"SYNOD ASKS END TO SECRET ARMS SALES" (From the  
'Catholic Leader' March 1980)

LONDON (RC) - "Britain should end the secrecy over its arms sales abroad, according to the General Synod of the Church of England, which passed a resolution asking the Church's Board of Social Responsibility to ask the Government to make public information about its arms sales."

Most British arms sales are going to Third World countries at a time when the British overseas aid programme is being cut and while Third World countries are spending money on arms when the money is badly needed for Agriculture, Education and Medicine.

Canon Giles Clayton of Salisbury, supported the motion, while Bishop John Habgood, of Durham opposed it. His reason for opposition was that any progress in nuclear disarmament must involve an increase in conventional forces.

The vote was taken after a letter was read supporting the resolution from Cardinal Hume, Catholic Archbishop of Westminster. It was passed 197 votes to 23.

As women this has great meaning for us. When monies are not spent in the right manner by governments, it is the women and children in those countries that suffer.

Asia is our next door neighbour and the women our sisters in Christ.

What can we do? We can pray and voice our opinions loudly when the opportunity arises.

AN OPEN LETTER TO DIEN

Dear Dien,

I have been asked to write to you a few words of welcome; words which will be printed in our paper "Women at Work", a copy of which will be given to you. These are words that will welcome you and assure you of our warm goodwill as you begin your Australian experience; words that will serve as a souvenir for you, and information for your friends and loved ones - our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Do you know that you are the seventeenth woman from another country to hold the Winifred Kiek Scholarship? Do you know that it was made possible because a Christian woman had a dream? Mrs. Winifred Kiek dreamed that women graduates from Asia might have opportunity to study in Australia and to gain insights and skills away from their own cultural background. To that end she donated a sum of money which founded the Scholarship named in her honour. So her dream became a reality. Australian Church Women, an ecumenical body of women united in love and service to Jesus Christ undertook to maintain the Scholarship.

Now you, our seventeenth Scholar, have arrived in this country. You will give us so much by introducing us to your culture, and establishing a bridge of personal relationships between our two nations.

God bless you Dien as you begin this new phases of your life. You will be surrounded by warmth, friendliness and affection wherever you go. In the midst of your studies and the busyness of other activities, remember that we shall all be constantly upholding you in prayer.

On behalf of your friends in Australian Church Women,

Warmly and sincerely,  
RACHEL H. COCKS.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Mrs Mabel Renfrey,  
Publicity Officer for S.A. Unit

A very interesting and informative Forum was held on Friday 11th April, the subject being "Decade for Women".

The morning session commenced with morning tea and a time to chat, after which the Chairman, Mrs. Pauline Crosby welcomed all present and led us in devotions. Her theme was "Love, one another" and she enlarged on it by saying everyone thinks differently on any subject according to their perspective, and we should try to see other people's point of view.

After a short business meeting, Mrs. Crosby introduced the two Guest Speakers, Mrs. Judith Roberts and Mrs. Gene Wenham.

Mrs. Roberts told of the formation of the National Womens Advisory Council in 1978 for the purpose of presenting the diverse views of women to the Government and recommending action so that policies and legislation take due account of women's needs and priorities.

Mrs. Gene Wenham, who was actively concerned with International Women's Year in 1975, was the next speaker. She said the voice of women is important in the community, a woman who spends her time in the home knows the needs of the community and therefore should have greater representation with more women in Government.

Equality, development and peace are three of the concerns of the National Womens Advisory Council worked out through health, employment and education. Human relationships are the core of family life. We have the responsibility of the children we bring into the world. If there is no peace there will be no rights and everyone has the right to loving care in a family situation. We should be very concerned at the high incidence of marriage breakdown which affects not only the two people in the marriage but others as well.

At the close of the meeting Mrs. D. Haensel proposed a vote of thanks and made a presentation to the speakers.

NEWS FROM HEAD DEACONESS MARY M. ANDREWS

Women for the Family and Society Conference was organised by a committee of women drawn from a wide cross section of Christian organisations. It was the direct result of the deep concern felt regarding the Draft Australian Plan for Action for Women relating to the U.N. Decade for women 1975 - 85.

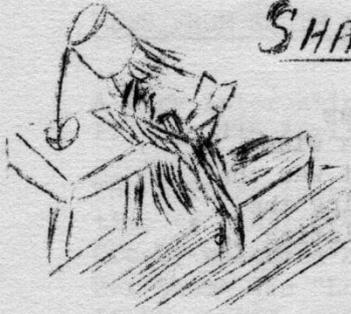
The Conference was held at Macquarie University, Sydney 8 - 9 March, 1980. The Conference was opened by Senator Shirley Walters of Tasmania, who spoke warmly of the Conference's aims and also on the subject of Women and Decision Making. 250 delegates attended and they represented different states and organisations. The Conference passed 22 resolutions dealing with the Family and Society. Over 200,000 women are supporting the resolutions and petition which is being sent to the Prime Minister.

The Conference highlighted the fact that a growing number of women are deeply concerned about the family, its faith and its future.

Head Deaconess M. Andrews was pleased to hear in a letter from Mrs. Commissioner K. Ward, news of 1978 Winifred Kiek Scholar Mrs. Eite BOIVA.

The Commissioner wrote, "I have just been reading some reports from Papua New Guinea of services held on Women's World Day of Prayer and was happy to find that Mrs. Captain BOIVA of KAINANTU had organised it very well. Church women had united and last year's numbers were more than doubled. This, I feel sure is in some measure due to the training and experience Mrs. Boiva was able to have last year under Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

'Responsible Freedom' was a relevant theme for her nation and her ability to apply this theme to her own country women has been enhanced by her experience under W.K.S., brief though it unfortunately was."



## SHARE WITH OTHERS

## YOUR PRECIOUS MOMENTS!!

We all have them; whether it be in reading, gardening, knitting, sewing, cooking etc.

We have decided to leave this page open each month, so that you, our readers, can share with others those times when the Lord seems very close and speaks in your hearts. It is in sharing that we grow in the body of Christ.

We will not publish your name if this be your wish, but you are requested to sign your letters.

If sending a book review, please include title, author, publisher and approximate price for reprinting here.

We look forward to printing "Your Precious Moments"!

POST THEM TO:-

"Women at Work"  
Mrs. L. Goldsmith  
3 Burgan Circle  
CHIGWELL, GLENORCHY  
TASMANIA 7010