

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW Unit 1999/2000

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN **ACW NEWS**

“We aim:- to unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PO Box 113 Arana Hills QLD 4054

August - September 1999

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

This being the final Newsletter of the present National Executive, I should like to make my contribution a 'Thank You' letter.

All have the ability to work well with one another despite our various differences because of our common desire to truly represent the women of the churches in Australia and enhance the bond we have in serving God through A.C.W.. However, there is one thing that has the potential to separate us - 'the tyranny of distance, That can make us feel isolated one from the other at times.

That is why it has meant so much to me to have been able to meet so many members of A.C.W. in all States and Territories of this vast country of ours.

I have been humbled by the way you have received us (Allan and me) in our travels. I mention that because there are many 'A.C.W. husbands' who make a very large contribution to A.C.W. through the support they give to their member wives.

Thank you for the encouragement and thoughtfulness you have shown in many ways. You have invited us into your homes spent a great deal of time showing us your lovely cities and countryside. As evidenced by the delicious meals we have shared together A.C.W. must have some of the best cooks in Australia among its membership.

To just say 'thank you' seems inadequate, but it is meant sincerely.

Some of us face a future separated from loved ones; others face many health problems. My prayer is that God will give His comfort and strength whatever the future holds.

As we have developed the theme 'Faith Works' over the last two years, I hope that you have received a blessing from the thoughts expressed.

May God bless you all.



Aileen

***A.C.W.C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEET IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES.***

The Executive Secretary, Rev Iluminada Domingo and members of the Executive Committee, led by the President, Ms Nancy Lin, met at the UCCP Shalom Centre, Malate, Manila, from 1-5 June, 1999. Dr. Esther Byu, Executive Secretary of ICFLC and ex-officio member, was unable to join the meeting, and was upheld in prayer as she tackled a very busy schedule.

A pleasant dinner (pre-conference) was organised by CWUP. It was gratifying to renew contact with friends following the 11th Assembly.

Rev.I. Domingo led Bible Studies - Luke 4:18 and 1 Peter 2:1-10. This spiritual food was of great value and no doubt helped with the work ahead.

ACWC 1999-2000 Scholarship Awardee is Sara Halder of Bangladesh. Sara will receive US\$500.per year for two years.

For future Assemblies, every country should bring one delegate under 35 Years of age.

In her report the Executive Secretary included her gratitude to the ACWC family for their prayer support during her husband's illness and death.

ACWC Newsletter: It was decided that, due to lack of articles submitted only two magazine issues would be published and the other two editions would take the form of a typical newsletter with short/brief news and no cover.

The first meeting of new Executive Committee followed the tradition of committees past. Its members proved to be likeminded women prepared to work hard for all God's people of its seventeen member countries. Barbara Lacy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Barbara Lacy (National A.C.W.C.Rep.) as she welcomes her first grandchild, a little girl.

Norah Thompson (Y.W.C.A.Rep. with Queensland) and Elizabeth Appleby (former co-ordinator A.C.W.Darwin) both of whom were included in recent Order of Aust. Awards.

Reverend Anne-Marie Priestly was recently the first woman priest to be ordained in the Northern Territory.

Six years as an honorary deacon at Alice Springs, many years teaching Aboriginal students in colleges and communities and wide experience in the Northern Territory have equipped her well for her ministry as part-time priest-in-charge of Tennant Creek.

SNIPPETS.

South Australia Unit realised a profit of \$525:10 at their recent Film Morning.

A.C.T. - Congratulations to Major Annette Wilson who also welcomes her first grandchild - a little girl. The Unit has also welcomed three new members which is great.

When in ***Melbourne*** visit the Aboriginal Heritage Walk at the Royal Botanic Gardens. For more information call (03) 9252 2300. (thanks Lyn)

An open letter to Women's Lib

You tell me "Liberation's" the word that's in today,
But your definition of it only fills me with dismay!
I'm. "about as liberated as a foot that's stuck in glue",
Listen sister - I have something I should like to say to you!

I'm. a liberated woman! Jesus Christ has set me free
From the bondage of my selfishness - from sin's captivity;
I don't need to fight and struggle to assert my precious "right",
For my pathway in His company is filled with joy & light.

Don't tell me I'm. bound and fettered - don't tell me I'm. under
stress,
For there's no more galling bondage than that of selfishness!
I serve my husband gladly, and among my greatest joys
Is the smile upon the muddy faces of my little boys.

You say I shouldn't think this way - frustration threatens me,
And that one day I'll be stifled by "mere housewifery";
My "identity is threatened" since I took my husband's name
And for all this, "religion" is most of all to blame.

I don't know about "religion", but this is one thing I know,
That going with Jesus is the only way to grow!
Creativity's not stifled by the humbling of the will;
In fact, my powers are all enhanced since He said, "Peace be still".

My heart sings "Hallelujah" as the bells of freedom ring,
But a slave can't offer freedom to the daughter of the King!
And a spurious, specious freedom is the kind you have to sell;
In this life it leads to bitterness, and in the next, to hell.

My dear frustrated sisters, you don't offer liberty!
The thing that you call "freedom" is the greatest slavery,
Come, give your lives to Jesus - it's here you'll find release,
For all his ways are pleasantness, and all His paths are peace.
Brenda Anderson, Tasmania.

W.K.SCHOLARSHIP

News from Rachel McManus (1997) - She is attending TAFE at Port Macquarie to complete her course. Rachel also works for a Christian Printer part time and will marry her 'godly man' Adam Paul McArthur on 2nd October, 1999. We sent Congratulations to Rachel and Adam.

Letter from Mai Zin Zin Wah, 1999 Scholar, intimates that she hopes to arrive in Singapore to commence her Theology Course at Trinity College on 7th July, '99.

Mai thanks members of ACW for their prayers as well as the Scholarship.
WKS Convener Ailsa Skippen

PILGRIMAGE FROM CANBERRA TO ULURU.

A group will travel to Uluru in stages by bus meeting Aboriginal people at each stage, sharing with local Christians, living together as a community on the move.

On the day of Pentecost, somewhere near Uluru, the pilgrimage group will pray together and invite church members across Australia to enter into the following twelve months as a period of personal, congregational and ecumenical pilgrimage to the heart of the meaning of life in Jesus Christ.

For further information contact
Rev. Hamish Christie-Johnson,
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306 Collins St. Melbourne.

Phone (03)9650 4511 or email -vcc@doncaster.starway.net.au

The Editor

This will be my last ACW NEWS. and I would like to thank all who have contributed over the past two years. Those who have forwarded articles and newsletters etc. to those who have given permission for their verses to be used as well as those involved in setting up the material and producing the 'News' - Ken Pratt and members of the Trudgian family.

Many thanks to you all. *Miriam Pratt (Publication Officer)*

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