

To learn that they shall reap what they plant; if they plant gossip they will harvest intrigues, if they plant love they will harvest happiness.

To learn that true happiness is not to achieve their goals but to learn to be satisfied with what they already achieved.

To learn that happiness is a decision. They decide to be happy with what they are and have, or die from envy and jealousy of what they lack.

To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see something totally different.

To learn that those who are honest with themselves without considering the consequences go far in life.

To learn that even though they may think they have nothing to give, when a friend cries with them, they find the strength to appease the pain.

To learn that by trying to hold on to love ones, they very quickly push them away; and by letting go of those they love, they will be side by side forever.

To learn that even though the word "love" has many different meanings, it loses value when it is overstated.

To learn that they can never do something extraordinary for Me to love them; I simply do.

To learn that the shortest distance they could be from Me is the distance of a prayer."



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMAN **ACW NEWS**

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

PO Box 10239 Adelaide Business Centre S.A. 5000
(All Newsletter correspondence to this address please)
November 1999-January 2000

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Mrs. Marj. Dredge.

May peace and harmony be your experience in the year 2000. If you are reading this, the New Year has come and we are all still here!!

The old will have become new, and the year stretches before us like an unmarked canvas, rich in its possibilities. It is ours to paint with confident anticipation of God's guidance and love.

For the next two years, we, as Australian Church Women, are united under the theme:

"Jesus Our Living Hope"

Christmas 1999 has passed, and once more we celebrated the birth of the Baby - the symbol of hope. Now the Baby Jesus becomes the Christ of the Cross, and continues to be to us the ultimate symbol of hope. Whatever this year brings, we have the absolute assurance that nothing in all creation will ever separate us from the love of God which is ours in Christ Jesus. We are more than conquerors through Christ who strengthens us.

So in this confidence, carry on the work of A.C.W. in your unit so that together we might show the world that Jesus is indeed the Living Hope and we are His ambassadors in this confused and difficult world.

May you be encouraged by God's many blessings in 2000.

With Love, Marj.

News from our ACWC Representative

Greetings from sunny Queensland where I have been attending the 17th biennial national conference as your ACWC representative.

International guests included Dr. Esther Byn, Executive Secretary to the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and Mrs. Diana Manson, Church Women United, Aoteara / New Zealand. Guest Speakers and participants enjoyed the fellowship, prayer and great food at Grace College, University of Queensland.

It was pleasing to report to the Conference that ACWC members from Taiwan, President Nancy Lin, and Rev. Shu-chen (Susan) Chuang, former Treasurer, were safe after the devastating earthquake in that country.

A letter of greeting from our Prayer Partner, Pakistan, was received. Mrs. Shunila Ruth, Co-ordinator of Women's Synodical, Church of Pakistan writes:-

"The women in Pakistan uphold you in their Prayer Meetings. We pray that the Lord blesses you abundantly, especially at the time of your National Conference.

We would like you to remember us in your prayers - women who are still struggling for their identity, who are oppressed in home,

Church and Society, who are victims of violence - who need to be recognised as equal partners in the life and work of the Church."

Business pertaining to ACWC included the Conferences agreement that the Executive Committee of ACWC be invited to hold their executive committee meeting in Adelaide in 2001 at the same time as the Australian Church Women's National Conference.

Mrs. Glynthea Finger spoke of her work in Asia for CCA and WCC. Her graphic description of the atrocities suffered by women and their families confirms the need of our love, practical and prayer support for our sisters in Christ.

May we continue Christ's mission, and find peace and harmony together in His world.

Barbara Lacy
ACWC Representative

CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Among the inaugural Senior Australian Achievers of 1999 was Mrs. Barbara Grealy OAM, from Lockleys in South Australia. We congratulate Barbara on receiving this award for community service.

PRAYER CONCERNS:-

The following is an E-mail received last October. I'm sure the subjects mentioned will be added to your Prayer Lists.

TO: all the members of the General Committee
National Representative
Executive Committee
Members-at-large

Dear Sisters,

Greetings of PEACE!

Through the information of some concerned sisters and from the daily papers may I invite each one of you to uphold in our hearts our brothers and sisters who are in the midst of pain and suffering caused by calamities both human and natural.

1. Uprising of the ethnic war in Sri Lanka
2. Thai-Burma troops clash
3. Coup d'etat in Pakistan
4. War in East Timor
5. War in Afghanistan
6. Uranium leak in Japan
7. Earthquake victims in Taiwan

Let us remember that in the midst of war the government is waging upon women. In Afghanistan, East Timor women had been terrified because of the brutality and gang rape.

Let us pray for the countries who considered bombs and not bread like South Asia, Japan, Iraq and Korea. May the government leaders seek wisdom for PEACE and not for war.

Also I just got a new email address from Shunila Ruth from Pakistan and Padma Ebenezer from Sri Lanka. Kindly change them to:-

Padma Ebenezer
c/o jennifer.fox@sida.se

Shunila Ruth
shunila@nexlinx.net.pk

May the Light of the very One Source be our Guide in our solidarity to the people of God who are in the darkest hour.

From Iluminada.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

I am delighted to report that Mai Zin Zin Wah has arrived safely at Trinity Theological College in Singapore. She wrote shortly after her arrival on 10th September - 2 months late! Mai will commence her 12 months Master of Ministry course on 1st January 2000. The college are being very supportive and assisting her with some English language studies as well. Please pray for Mai as she commences this important and challenging part of her life.

The year 2000 Winifred Kiek Scholar is Miss Suzanna Nitrai from Hughes, ACT. Sue was nominated by the ACW (ACT) Unit and has excellent references. The Unit assures me that she should be a very worthy scholar. She is presently Christian Education Co-ordinator at the Church of St. Andrew in Canberra which is a large parish and her duties cover a wide range of tasks. Sue will undertake her 4th year Bachelor of Theology at St. Mark's National Theological Centre. Further information will appear in the leaflet which will be available early next year.

The 2001 Scholar applications will be drawn from the South Pacific area and I am always pleased to receive further names to be added to the list.

I do hope that I can successfully juggle the 2 hats - WKS Trustee, and National Convenor - if nothing else it should cut down on the phone calls and letters!

DOROTHY FERRIER

AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

"Come in," God said to me, "so, you would like to interview Me?"
"If you have the time," I said. He smiled through His beard and said: "My time is called eternity and is enough to do everything; what questions do you have in mind to ask me?" "None that are new to you. What's the one thing that surprises you most about mankind?" He answered: "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future.

That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they never had never lived..."

His hands took mine and we were silent. After a long period, I said, "May I ask you another question?" "Yes" He replied with a smile.

"As a Father, what would you ask your children to do for the new year?"

"To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved.

To learn that it takes years to build trust, and a few seconds to destroy it.

To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives.

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. There will be others better or worse than they are.

To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.

To learn that they should control their attitudes, otherwise their attitudes will control them.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them.

To learn to forgive by practising forgiveness.

To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to show their feelings.

To learn that money can buy everything but happiness.

To learn that while at times they may be entitled to be upset, that does not give them the right to upset those around them.

To learn that great dreams do not require great wings, but a landing gear to achieve.

To learn that true friends are scarce, he/she who has found one has found a true treasure.

To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they forgive themselves.

To learn that they are masters of what they keep to themselves and slaves of what they say.