



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW News

We seek: *to unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;*
to help Christian women to take more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church.

November/December, 1985

Eighth Assembly, Asian Church Women's Conference - 1986

It is with great sadness that we have had to tell you that it is not now possible to hold this Assembly in Adelaide next August.

The decision to change the venue has been a very difficult one for the ACWC Executive Officers and they pray forgiveness for the hurt they know the decision will cause.

The theme for the Assembly is "*I can do all things through Christ*". The Good News Bible translates this verse in Philippians 4: 13 "I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me". There is a Master plan and we all have a place in it. We each have our "special song to sing". We have our own will to make our own decisions, but when we become disciples we learn to pray with understanding "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done". William Barclay in his commentary on Matthew 6:10 says "To be in the Kingdom is to obey the will of God The Kingdom demands the submission of my will, my heart, my life". So through our lives we have our disappointments and our difficulties as well as our joys and pleasures. Through all we are given - it is a gift - the strength to cope and to learn acceptance.

So, we ask that you will continue to pray and work for the Eighth Assembly. Where possible we hope the gifts we have planned for Adelaide will still be given as an expression of our love for our sisters in Asia.

*May the Love and Peace of God,
the understanding of His Son
and the Knowledge of the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
Be with us all.*



. from our President

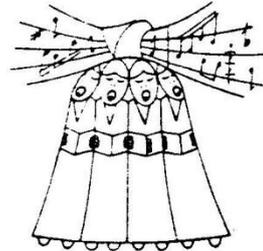
I would like to express my thanks to all the Units for your support of the National Executive over the past two months and your readiness to accept so willingly the decision we had to make with regard to the Eighth Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

To those Units I was able to visit - thank you for your wonderful welcomes and hospitality, and for arranging either special meetings or adjusting programmes already set to allow me time to speak to you. Although the reason behind the visits was a sad one, it was a great joy to meet you all and share with you in this way. I am looking forward to meeting with the Northern Territory Unit in early December, and hope it may be possible to visit the Western Australian Unit and the Queensland Unit in the future.

Olive Ackland and I leave for Taipei and Bangkok next Saturday (16/11) and there will be things to share with you when we return, though with the end of the year so close it will be next year before we will be able to do this.

The Advent Season will soon be with us. As you celebrate this wonderful time I know you will remember all our Sisters in Asia.

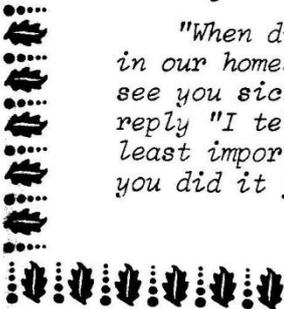
So we pray together that the true Peace that the Angels sang about will come - Peace with Justice for all and the true sharing that Christ showed us.

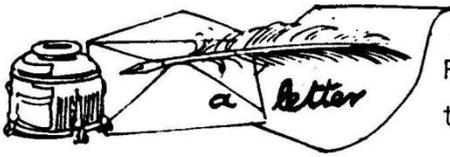


"When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?" The King will reply "I tell you whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers (and sisters) of mine, you did it for me".

Matt. 25:38-40.

Dorothy Haensel.





3.

From an Indian Winifred Kiek Scholar.....
to Mrs. Molly-Jean Hunt

Dear Mrs. Hunt,

..... I spent about six weeks in Singapore with my sister's family.....I had a very enjoyable and useful trip. Visiting different schools and one community centre for poorer sections of the society was a great opportunity to know other people and their ways. I also had an opportunity to attend a four days seminar organised for school Principals in Singapore by the Catholic Association. Father Starret from New York conducted this course.

Several friends of my sister showed concern about our Project for disadvantaged Homes in Satara. Some of them expressed their willingness to sponsor a child or send some donation to our Project. Now I will follow up this matter by writing to them.

The thought that ACW members are collecting funds for our Project gives me a feeling of great relief and I thank God for it.

Our English Medium School, as usual, has topped the list in Satara in Public Examination. The result is 97.43%. The various Project activities have started in full swing. There are 49 children in Pre-Primary, 20 ladies in Tailoring Class, 16 ladies are taking advantage of Cottage Industry training and 63 children studying in Primary Schools are sponsored by our Project. Besides this the extra coaching classes and the free library routines are getting on well.

Please convey my regards to ACW members.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Signed. Kalpana Airan,

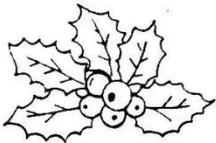
Director

Family Education Centre,

Narmada Education Academy's Project for

Disadvantaged Children and Mothers,

Satara. India.





from here & there

F.L.C. AUDIO - VISUAL The Victorian ACW Unit have updated their FLC Audio-visual and it is available for hire. If other States are interested copies could be made at a cost of approx. \$65. About 70 Slides are included and the cassette tape lasts for about ½ hour. Requests should be directed to Mrs. Jean Smith, 199 Rathmines Road, Auburn Vic. 3123.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE held at Flinders Street Baptist Church, Adelaide was well attended and the guest speaker was Mrs. Janet Wood. Supper and fellowship followed during which our National President, Mrs. Dorothy Haensel gave us the sad news about the Assembly of Asian Church Women's Conference. The SA Unit is responding to the call for prayer for ACWC each Friday.

St. Michael & All Angels Anglican Church hosted the World Community Day Service in the western region and approximately 75 people attended.

THE CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA held in Melbourne recently proposed to ask all Bishops in each diocese to employ more youth workers. Many parishes all over Australia are already committed in this way and their results promoted the implementation of this resolution.

TRAGIC DEATH Marion Dodds, Secretary of ACW Victorian Unit, has advised us that Mrs. Lieut. Miriam Gahare of Papua New Guinea died under tragic circumstances on 19th September 1985. Mrs. Gahare had undertaken a typing course in Port Moresby in 1982 as a Winifred Kiek Scholar.

All members of ACW would offer loving sympathy to Mrs. Gahare's family and assure them of our continued support and prayer.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS BRANCH of the SA Unit tell us that their FLC offerings have taken on a new meaning since learning more about the significance of the 'fellowship' and the least coin. After learning more of how each country collect their coins in various receptacles, they now have a fine Australian emblem in which to put theirs - a kangaroo made by one of their members. It has a good pouch too!

CHINA RE-VISITED!

Deaconess Mary Andrews and her friend, Mrs. Rhonda Felsh left for their visit to China on 24 October. Mary says, "How greatly I am looking forward to having fellowship with friends in China again. A recent report said there were more Christians in Zhekiang Province today than there were in the whole of China in 1951. It is very exciting to hear of the way the church is growing in which women are playing an important part - more than half of the 182 Theological students in Manjing College are women".

Praise God for the wonderful news coming from China of the renewal of the Church and remember Deaconess Mary and Rhonda Felsh in your prayers.

ORTHODOX AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN

"The Ministry of Women in the Church" was the theme of the fourth annual dialogue between the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Uniting Church in Australia.

Meeting in Sydney, the participants found a large measure of agreement regarding the priestly vocation of all believers. Views differed on the ordination of women. Behind that disagreement lay different understandings of the relation between scripture, tradition and the life of the church. These will be explored further next Sept. (from Church & Nation, Oct. 85)

5.



ACW National Executive recently sent Greetings to the Women's World Day of Prayer Quadrennial Meeting held in Kew, Victoria from 15th to 17th October. We congratulate Mrs. Yvonne Harrison from Launceston Tasmania on her election as National Liaison Officer.

She will represent Australia at the Seventh International Conference of Women's World Day of Prayer to be held in New York in May 1986 with Mrs. Dorothy Armstrong the past National Liaison Officer as alternate.

We were pleased to hear that most States reported growth in numbers attending services as well as financially over the past four years.

We look forward to sharing in the service written by Australia next year as well as the centenary celebration with the theme "Come and Rejoice" in 1987.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Following a talk by SA Unit's FLC Convener, Eileen Norton at Broadview Baptist Women's Fellowship, four new groups will become part of the FLC in the new year.



CONFERENCE

During the first week of October this year, over 600 Delegates and Observers from all Australian States and Territories attended the 32nd Biennial National Conference of Catholic Women's League, Australia, in Dallas Brooks Hall, Melbourne. The WUCWO Vice-President for Asia and the Pacific, Mrs. Sro Soedito of Indonesia, and Mrs. Martha Mugambi of Nairobi (who was a member of the Vatican Delegation to the recent End of Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi) attended and spoke at the Conference - a number of Observers also attended from New Zealand.

Biennial Reports were presented by the National President, Ellen Wilkinson of Melbourne, by the Australian WUCWO Board Member, Joyce Balnaves of Canberra, and the Australian International Secretary to WUCWO, Barbara Grealy of Adelaide. As Barbara will complete her six-year term in this position next March, an election for her successor resulted in Maureen Gilmartin of Queensland being appointed.



The theme of the Conference was "Thy Kingdom Come" and from the nature of some of the talks presented and resolutions passed - in this U.N. Year of Youth - it was evidenced that there is a realisation that we must have a deep concern for our young people from the unborn to the unemployed and must be ready to support them as God's Kingdom of the now and the future.

Speakers included: Bishop Eric D'Arcy on the Conference Theme; Bishop G. Robinson on "Renewal"; Mrs. Mary Scarfe on "Family - Renewal"; Dr. Ron and Mrs. Mavis Pirola on "The Family"; Dr. Joe Santamaria on "I.V.F. and its Implications"; Dr. J. Moon on "Medical Implications of Alcoholism"; Brother Alex McDonald, S.J. on the plight of our unwanted children on the streets; Mrs. Katherine West on "Social Issues"; Sr. Jennifer Fahey on "Self Esteem and Affirmation" and Mr. Greg Sheridan on "Current Affairs". An excellent summing-up of the Conference was given by Sister Noni Mitchell I.B.V.M.

The Conference unanimously supported Senator Brian Harradine's Human Embryo Experimentation Bill - approved a feasibility study to investigate the setting up of a C.W.L.A. National Secretariat - called on Federal Government to make available more funds to agencies to

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provide more pre-marriage and marriage counselling in an endeavour to prevent marriage breakdowns - called on Federal Government to recognise the intact, one-income family as essential to the future of Australia when it prepares its economic policies - recommended the appointment of a full-time, trained youth worker in every Catholic Diocese in Australia, etc.

During the meetings of the Australian Council of CWLA, held during the Conference, arrangements were continued for the Regional Conference of the WUCWO Asia/ Pacific Region which is to be held in Sydney during August, 1986, in preparation for the WUCWO Quadrennial Assembly in London, in 1987.

It was also announced that the present CWLA National Executive had accepted an invitation from the Australian Bishops Committee for the Laity to become consultants to that Committee as from November this year.

When the present body conclude their two-year term in March next year, the National body will move to Queensland and Mrs. Dulcie McDonald of Brisbane will become the National President of CWLA.

Members of Australian Church Women congratulate the Catholic women of Victoria on their stewardship of their National organisation during the past two years and offer all good wishes to the women of Queensland as they begin their two-year term on April 1, 1986.



Barbara Grealy
National International Sec., C.W.L.A.

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GREETINGS Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase, current National WKS Convener has just returned from a visit to Texas with her husband and has brought Greetings to ACW members from Mrs. Bernice Parker, President of the Austin, Texas branch of Church Women United.

FOOD FOR AFRICA BEFORE CHRISTMAS *The Australian Council of Churches, in partnership with other agencies, will send four shipments of food aid to Africa before Christmas.*

MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF The ACC has contributed \$20,000 for relief of victims of the Mexican Earthquake - this is in addition to monies raised from the current public appeal being conducted by the International Disaster Emergencies Committee of which ACC is a member.



D I R E C T O R Y

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PUBLICITY OFFICER

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Please note - all meetings of the South Australian Unit are held
at Pilgrim Centre, 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
from 10 am to 12.30 pm on the 2nd Friday of alternate
months -

March, May, July, September, November (AGM)

All visitors will be very welcome!