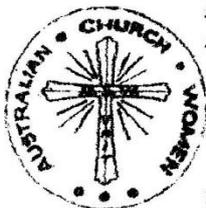


NEWSETTE



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - N.S.W. STATE UNIT

A.C.W. seeks: To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together.

President: Mrs. Glad West Phone: 419 8654

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"COPING WITH POWER FAILURE"

Power failures are taking us by surprise for we have come to expect our gadget-filled world to operate without fail. We are not very good at coping in the dark while a multitude of electrical utensils stand silently by. The supplementary candle light does little to brighten our mood and we tend to grind to a halt. There must be some lessons here for us

There is a reminder here for Christians - all these things may be working perfectly, but if the spiritual powerhouse runs down then we will know an even more frustrating power failure in our lives. We may be an absolute threshing machine of activity, but if the Holy Spirit is absent it will all count for nothing.

Didn't Jesus say, "Without Me you can do nothing?" Before leaving His friends, He said, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you...." This is the power that will help us through all emergencies and not fail us wherever we go. The Holy Spirit is the inheritance of every Christian and we need never be power-less because "He is faithful Who promised" (Hebrews 10:23).

Just as a fault in the electrical circuit causes chaos, so troubles arise for the Christian when the circuit to God is broken. Mercifully our Heavenly Father is always waiting to restore power to His loved ones if they will only acknowledge their need. See Ephesians 3:16.

With Christian greetings,

GLAD WEST
President

EVENTS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- 11.5.81 Presbyterian Women's Association Annual Meeting, Scots Church:
Brigadier R. Smith.
- 25.6.81 Christian Television Association Annual Service, Chatswood:
President.
- 10.7.81 Uniting Church, Home and Inland Support Group, Chatswood:
President.
- 29.7.81 National Council of Women, Luncheon, Wentworth Hotel: President.

N.S.W. STATE UNIT ANNUAL SERVICE - May 25, 1981

This year the Annual Service had special significance owing to the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The venue was the beautiful Wesley Chapel, Sydney, filled with Christian women who were one in purpose to give thanks for this remarkable fellowship of prayer. The organist, pianist and soloist for the occasion were all Council members.

The service was led by the President, Mrs. Glad West, assisted by the five members who had attended the special celebrations of F.L.C. in Manila, during November, 1980. The Winifred Kiek Scholar, Miss Malini Weerasinghe, commenced the series of readings tracing the history of F.L.C. She was followed by others representing the Philippines, China, Thailand, Japan, Syria, Lebanon, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Maline concluded this section by speaking for Sri Lanka.

When the special silver coin offering for F.L.C. was announced after the usual offering had been taken, the aisles of the chapel were filled with women converging towards the President as she held a beautifully decorated basket made to receive the gifts of love and prayer.

The dedication of the newly elected Executive of the N.S.W. Unit fitted into the atmosphere of prayer and service. Mrs. Doreen Moore rendered a beautiful solo which, together with the enthusiastic singing of the congregation, added to the beauty of this corporate worship.

At the conclusion of the service a light luncheon was served by members of the Council, following which Miss Alison Watson, a sufferer from arthritis and Miss Sue Newman, a blind young woman, drew our attention to the points of view of handicapped persons in the community.

A cassette recording of the service is available to any who wish to purchase same for \$2.00. Please contact Mrs. D. Woodhouse, F.L.C. Convener, for particulars (419 6772).

REPORT OF JUNE COUNCIL MEETING

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The special feature of the June Council Meeting was an informal talk given by Dr. Jean Benjamin on the 'Medical Hazards of Homosexuality'. Dr. Benjamin is President of the Medical Women's Association, Member of the Christian Medical Association and the Anglican Social Concerns Committee.

The Doctor prefaced her remarks by ably referring to Scriptural injunctions concerning this social problem. Homosexuals comprise only four per cent of the population, are immature, irrational people, generally harbouring a hatred for and fear of women. Dr. Benjamin quoted from her wide experience in dealing with these people.

Seventy per cent of patients treated at V.D. clinics are homosexual. They also have a high incidence of hepatitis and contribute greatly to the spread of these diseases. As these people are often willing blood donors, the presence of disease is not recognised when blood is given and thus another hazard is passed on to the community.

PROMOTING NEW BRANCHES

The Promotions sub-committee is interested in hearing from any church women's group that would like to hear about the activities of A.C.W. Members of the sub-committee are willing to go out in pairs to explain how branches function and how they help towards uniting women in Christ.

Please contact Marie McCann, Promotions Officer, on 406 4044 for further information.

VISIT NEW ZEALAND CHURCHES TOUR

During March of this year, 39 Australian Christians, under the leadership of Heather Stevens, shared in a delightful holiday while visiting N.Z. churches and getting to know the hosts who provided accommodation in their homes. The group was guided from the top of the North Island to the low down in the South. From the sunny waters of the Bay of Islands to the majestic grandeur of Milford Sound and the snowy peak of Mt. Cook.

This was a great aid in promoting understanding between countries and for individuals to come first to understand and like each other. The women's committee of the N.Z. Council of Churches will be arranging a similar tour to visit Australia, possibly in August, 1982.

WINIFRED KIEK TRAVELLING SCHOLAR

Australian Church Women in Sydney were recently privileged to receive a distinguished visitor - Mrs. Rathie Selvaratnam - who is at present touring Australia to promote the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Rathie is now the wife of an Anglican minister serving in Marysville, Victoria. She is a trained teacher and was a lecturer in Music Education in Singapore, Sri Lanka and Western Samoa. Rathie was also the Chairman of the first meeting of the International Women's World Day of Prayer in Sweden, 1968; the third President of the Asian Women's Christian Conference 1966-1971 and Chairman of the Christian Conference of Asia.

While in Sydney, Mrs. Selvaratnam was interviewed for radio programmes. These will be aired later on the A.B.C. Programme 'Priorities', 9.45 a.m. Saturdays and by the Christian Broadcasting Association.

A Reception for Rathie was organised by the N.S.W. Unit of A.C.W. on July 14 at the Uniting Church meeting rooms in Castlereagh Street, Sydney. As well as Council members a number of other invited guests were present to welcome our distinguished visitor. These included guests from the Presbyterian Women's Assocn., National Council of Women, Australian Council of Churches, Australian Board of Missions (Anglican) and the N.S.W. Council for Children's Film and T.V.

Mrs. Glad West, President of the N.S.W. Unit, presided at the informal gathering and welcomed Rathie to Sydney. After an introduction by Deaconess Mary Andrews, Rathie spoke of her close relationship with Winifred Kiek and how she saw her shortly before her death. It was of special significance that the present holder of the scholarship is from Sri Lanka (Miss Maline Weerasinghe).

Rathie expressed the importance of prayer as a force of unity and power available to all women. She had been thrilled to meet with women from around the world at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of F.L.C. in Manila and said this was a wonderful example of the bond of prayer. One of her chief aims is to involve migrant and aboriginal groups of women in the special meetings of A.C.W. and she is anxious to meet them whenever she can.

Mrs. Selvaratnam spoke at other meetings while in our State: at two Fellowship Day services at Lambton (Newcastle) on July 15 - in the morning at the Anglican Church and after lunch at the Salvation Army Centre. On July 16 she brought a greeting to the Mission Support Group of the Uniting Church in Sydney and on July 17 spoke at the Fellowship Day service at All Saints' Church, North Parramatta.

We urge all women to continue to pray for this wonderful lady.
-Margery Baker, Publicity.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Souvenirs available. To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of F.L.C. bookmarks have been produced as a memento and are available for 20¢. The bookmarks depict the banner the Australian delegation took to the Philippines. The South Australian Unit of A.C.W. produced silver teaspoons bearing the F.L.C. emblem. A few are still available at \$2.50 each and may be purchased from the Convener. Profits will help F.L.C. funds.

A new leaflet has been produced and 'Circle of Prayer', the Silver Jubilee edition of the book of meditations on the theme - Prayer-Partnership-Peace - contributed by women around the world. This is available for 60¢. Please make all cheques payable to 'Australian Church Women N.S.W. Unit'.

The Convener for F.L.C. on a recent visit to country centres, showed the A.C.W. Audio-Visual to interested audiences at Narrandera and Coleambally. Contacts were also made with branches at Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra, Young, Bathurst and Leura where up-to-date leaflets were distributed. The Audio-visual was also shown at Wairoonga and much literature has been distributed. During this special year of celebration we trust this meaningful movement of prayer will expand amongst women of all countries.

- Dorothy Woodhouse, Convener.

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PROJECTS RECEIVING FLC GRANTS IN 1981

Canada	Nellies - shelter for abused women	\$2,000
Pakistan	Village education	6,000
Pakistan	Dar-ul-Khushnud - Day School for mentally retarded	3,000
Sri Lanka	Shanti Nivasa - Home for aged widows of clergy (*\$125 paid locally from FLC funds)	3,000*
Sri Lanka	Centre for Special Education - mentally handicapped children	3,000
Egypt	Home for the Aged (Synod of the Nile)	6,000
Africa	AACC - visit to French-speaking countries	6,000
Zambia	AACC - leadership training for women	5,800
Lebanon	Vocational Training - young women	1,000
New Zealand	Programme to combat racism	6,000
U.S.A.	International Communication Network - CWU	6,000
Hong Kong	Translation 'Circle of Prayer' into Chinese	1,500
Asia	Conference - women's higher education in Asia	6,000
Liberia	Ministries to women in crisis	6,000
Nigeria	St. John's Christian Home - orphans/elderly	3,000
Zimbabwe	Reconciliation and Reconstruction - YWCA	6,000

PRAYER PARTNERS

As a result of person to person prayer partnership at an Asian Church Women's Conference in the seventies, the National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women endorsed the idea of a country to country prayer partnership.

AUSTRALIA'S PRAYER PARTNER IS BURMA

Will you remember the women of Burma in your prayers? To make a more meaningful approach to our praying, the National Working Committee is slotting each A.C.W. Unit with a particular month on which to focus our Burmese friends.

N.S.W. has been given the month of AUGUST. Perhaps during this month you could:-

- * Organise a few small prayer groups in the homes of Branch members to especially pray for the women of Burma;
- * Write a letter to: Mrs. Esther Galstin,
176 Keighly Street,
Rangoon, Burma.
assuring her of your prayers, asking her to pass on to the women of Burma your thoughts and prayers for them and telling her of any prayer concerns in your area. This is a partnership of prayer and they will be praying for us.
- * Find out all you can about Burmese customs, food, clothing, climate, culture so that you may better understand the women for whom you are praying. Better still, if you can find someone who has lived there or been in Burma to come and share something of their experiences with you.

W.C.C. TEAM VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

This visit took place between June 15 and July 3 to acquaint themselves with the Aboriginal situation. They received a considerable amount of publicity through the press and radio.

The purpose of the visit was to observe and assess the situation of Aboriginal people; to guide and consult with the churches of Australia; to express solidarity with the Aboriginal people; and to draw international attention to their concerns, including land rights.

The team came at the invitation of the Australian Council of Churches and comprised delegates from Germany, Pakistan, Costa Rica, South Korea, Zaire, U.K., U.S.A., and were accompanied on the tour by A.C.C. members.

TO FRIENDS OF THE CEREBRAL PALSIED

BLESSED are you who take time to listen to cerebral palsied speech - for you help us to know that if we persevere, we can be understood.

BLESSED are you that walk with us in public places, and ignore the stares of strangers - for in your companionship we find havens of relaxation.

BLESSED are you who never bid us 'hurry up' - and more blessed you that do not snatch our tasks from our hands and do them for us - for often we need time, rather than help.

BLESSED are you who stand beside us as we enter new and untried ventures - for our failures will be outweighed by the times we surprise ourselves, and you.

BLESSED are you who ask for our help - for our greatest need is to be needed.

BLESSED are you, when by all these things you assure us that what makes us individuals is not our peculiar muscles, nor our wounded nervous system, but the God-given self which no infirmity can confine.

REJOICE, and be exceeding glad, and know that you give us reassurance that cannot be spoken in words - for you deal with us, as the Lord dealt with the slow and the lame.

RENEWAL NOTICE

Renewal of subscriptions to 'Newsette' are due NOW
Please send \$2.00 to our Treasurer, Miss D. Mitchell,
33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra, 2025, before October 31

The form below may be cut out and forwarded with payment.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "NEWSETTE"

NAME.....
(please print)

ADDRESS.....

.....Post Code.....Phone No.....

"NEWSLETTE" JOTTINGS

Mrs. Marie McCann recently attended the National meeting of the Council for Children's Films and T.V. held in Melbourne. She is our representative to the N.S.W. Council and its President.

National Committee Meeting. Delegates to the N.C.M. to be held in Hobart from August 23 to 28 are Mrs. Glad West and Brigadier M. Ward. Observers are Mrs. M. McCann and Miss D. Mitchell. Deaconess Andrews as a life member is eligible to attend.

August Council Meeting. The guest speaker for this meeting will be Mrs. Margaret Slattery, President of Women's Action Alliance, N.S.W., who will speak on the aims and functions of that organisation.

Personal Pars. After several months' absence owing to a severe attack of shingles, we have been pleased to have our Treasurer, Miss D. Mitchell, attending meetings again.

Four members of the Council: Mesdames Betty Davis, Heather Stevens, Joy Udy and Dorothy Woodhouse were delegates to the World Federation of Methodist Women and the World Methodist Council to be held in Honolulu during July. They are members of the Uniting Church which is affiliated with World Methodism.

Word is to hand of the sudden passing of Miss Sue Newman who was one of the speakers in connection with the International Year of Disabled Persons at the luncheon on May 25, following the A.C.W. Annual Service in Wesley Chapel. The August issue of Newslette will give details of the outstanding achievements of Sue who was blind from birth.

Contributions to "Newslette" are requested and should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Evelyn Ridley, 23 Hannah Street, Beecroft, 2119, before the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

"NEWSLETTE" is the official journal of the N.S.W. State Unit of A.C.W.

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(See page 7 for details of subscription renewal)