

ANNUAL REPORT

— of the —

N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST, 1948.

This, the Eleventh Annual Report of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, is presented with a feeling of deep thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for Divine help and guidance in all the undertakings and deliberations of the Council throughout the past year.

During that period the Council has been strengthened by the addition to its numbers of representatives from the Lutheran Church. We are hopeful of much assistance and wise counsel from this source. Approaches to other denominations as yet not affiliated are contemplated.

During the year there have been ten regular meetings, two executive and one special, at all of which the President, Miss Rebecca Swann, has occupied the Chair.

ANNUAL RALLY.

The Tenth Annual Rally was held in Wesley Chapel, Sydney, on Friday, 26th September, 1947, at 2.15 p.m. The retiring President, Mrs. P. D. McCallum, who occupied the Chair, after welcoming visitors both from other states and from overseas, outlined the aims and work of the Council.

Extracts from the Annual Report were read—the report later being distributed.

The incoming President, Miss Rebecca Swann, was welcomed by the retiring President, who handed to her the Official Bible as a symbol of office. Miss Swann, who has had a previous term as President, suitably responded and assumed the Presidential duties.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Lieutenant Commissioner James of the Salvation Army. Her theme "Christian Women and International Relationships" held the close attention of the gathering. The speaker pointed out that International animosities are buried when Christ is in the heart. Praying people are the leaven to save the world, just as ten good men would have saved Sodom and Gomorrah. Women's World Day of Prayer illustrates internationalism when for twenty-four hours Christian women are linked by prayer around the world. An aggressive Christianity was advocated.

CONFERENCE.

A Conference convened by the Council on "Christianity and International Relationships" was held in the Methodist Hall, Castlereagh Street, on Friday, 11th June, 1948, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The speakers were the Right Rev. Bishop Pilcher and the Rev. B. T. Butcher, Aux. Secretary L.M.S. Most profitable and thought provoking addresses were delivered, and an interesting and stimulating "Question time" followed.

VISITORS.

Mrs. Steele, President of the Women's Inter-Church Council in Victoria was welcomed and an interchange of Annual Reports arranged.

The Council warmly welcomed Mrs. Jennings, first President in N.S.W. to its April meeting.

FEDERAL WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL.

Correspondence has been exchanged with Mrs. Keik of Adelaide, S.A., relative to the formation of a Federal W.I.C.C. and of a Women's section in the World Council of Churches. Our N.S.W. Council has decided to co-operate in every possible way.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

Owing to the growth of this movement the time was considered opportune to enlarge the Executive in N.S.W. and an invitation to consider the setting up of a Standing Committee for the organising of the Women's World Day of Prayer was accepted. The newly formed Committee is now functioning.

MISS HELEN KELLER.

A letter of greeting and appreciation was sent to Miss Helen Keller, from whom a gracious reply above her signature was received.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS.

The Council has retained its affiliation with the National Council of Women, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, United Nations Association, Prison Reform Council, and during the current year, with the Band of Hope Union.

Reports are presented to the Council by the elected representatives of the various activities of these organisations, and when necessary, action to assist them is taken.

Assistance was rendered to the National Council of Women in April when "Everywoman's Fair" was held, our Council co-operating with the Church Societies which were responsible for the Refreshment Room.

At the Women's Christian Temperance Union National Conference in April greetings from this Council were conveyed by the President.

An additional representative was appointed to the Prison Reform Council.

NEW AFFILIATION.

In response to an invitation from the Band of Hope Union a representative was duly elected to that organisation.

UNITED NATIONS APPEAL FOR STARVING CHILDREN.

A letter of appreciation and commendation was forwarded to the U.N.A.C. Committee. Several members of Council assisted with the Street collections throughout the City.

COMMENDATION.

A letter of appreciation and commendation was forwarded to the Australian Broadcasting Commission for the inclusion in its daily programme of a session entitled "From the Bible."

REPATRIATION OF MALAYANS.

An appeal was forwarded to the Prime Minister asking him to reconsider his decision to repatriate the fourteen Malaysians who have resided in this country for some years. This was based upon the argument that we believe that the claims of Christianity are above the laws of man, and that where the two conflict, the law should be altered. Also that it would be an unchristian act to disrupt established homes, and that the action of the Government will tend to engender feelings of bitterness in the hearts of our Asiatic neighbours, and thus sow the seeds of future wars.

PROTESTS.

1. A letter of protest was forwarded to the Chief Secretary re live hare coursing at dog racing meetings. (Parliamentary Labour Caucus on the 4th August, 1948, rejected a motion that live hare racing should be abolished.)

2. A communication was forwarded to the Director of Education congratulating the Department upon the success of the Centenary of Education celebrations, but expressing regret that they should have been marred by the conducting of a raffle, the proceeds of which were to aid the Home Science School in the District.

3. The following Resolution was addressed to both the Federal and State Governments at the invitation of the W.C.T.U.:

"That the Government be asked to restrict the use of food stuffs in the brewing of intoxicating drink in view of the desperate need in many countries for all kinds of cereals. The saving of barley, sugar, etc., would enable more of these essentials to be sent to Britain and Europe."

HON. TREASURER.

The thanks of the Council are due to Mrs. I. M. Bond for the capable manner in which she attends to its finances. The financial statement duly audited is attached, revealing a small credit balance.

THANKS.

We desire once more to express our gratitude to the British and Foreign Bible Society for the use of its Board Room for Council meetings during the year, and to all Artists who have so willingly assisted at our various functions.

RETIRING PRESIDENT.

The thanks of the Council are extended to Miss Rebecca Swann for presiding so faithfully and courteously at its meetings throughout the year.

(Mrs.) FLORENCE M. LOCK,
Hon. Secretary,
802 Pacific Highway,
Chatswood.
JA 3525.

27th August, 1948.

Condensed Statement of Treasurer, August 22nd, 1947 to August 27th, 1948.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand	£3 10 9
Dues received from Churches—Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Society of Friends, Baptists, Lutheran	7 7 0
Donation	1 1 0
Collections at Public meetings	5 1 0
Special collection from members of Council for starving Children (United Nations) Appeal ..	8 0 0
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	£24 19 9

EXPENDITURE.

Caretaker—Wesley Chapel	5 0
Our annual dues to National Council of Women, United Nations Association, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Prison Reform Council and Band of Hope Union	3 14 6
To Bible Society—donation	1 1 0
Printing	9 2 5
To Secretary—postage, telephone, etc.	1 5 7
To Starving Children's Appeal	8 0 0
Balance—Cash on hand	1 11 3
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	£24 19 9

27th August, 1948.

(Mrs.) I. M. BOND, Treasurer.

"WYBALENA" HOSTEL COMMITTEE REPORT

for year

SEPTEMBER 1947—AUGUST 1948.

The following persons were elected by the General Committee of Council at the Annual meeting held August 1947:—

President: Mrs. P. D. McCallum.

Organising Secretary: Mrs. M. L. Bowie, B.A.

Correspondence Secretary and Treasurer: Miss G. A. Roseby, B.A.

Minute Secretary: Mrs. M. M. Chapman.

Representative of Grippe Service Association: Miss te Kloot (Mrs. Cox's name withdrawn).

Members: Mesdames Bond, Lock, Ryan, Brasnett, Deane, Misses Swann, McDiarmid.

The Annual Report of the Hostel Committee, as drawn up by the Minute Secretary, was incorporated in the Annual Report of the Women's Inter-Church Council for the year 1946-47.

HOSTEL FUNDS.

Early in 1948 circular letters were forwarded to Guilds of the various affiliated religious bodies, seeking their aid in the raising of funds for the proposed Hostel building needs. The response to this invitation has been very encouraging, numerous functions having been arranged, which, with the Stamp Book Fund, have helped swell the Banking Account. This now stands at approximately £1,900.

The Organising Secretary has been untiring in her effort to publicise the Hostel project. Many meetings have been addressed, from each of which contributions of money have been collected, and promises made to maintain future interest.

HOSTEL BUILDING.

During the year several properties were brought before the notice of the Committee, but none so far, has proved suitable.

THANKS.

The Hostel Committee would wish the delegates of the Inter-Church Council to convey their thanks and appreciation to the various Church organisations for assistance during the year, and would solicit their continued generosity. The Committee feel confident that an upward surge of enthusiasm will manifest itself immediately a building is secured.

The Committee's thanks are extended to Miss Roseby, who has been responsible for much correspondence throughout the year, to Mr. J. Dey for legal advice when required and to Mr. J. Stone for supervision of the finances.

ROSE DAY.

The Committee has been allotted a stall in Martin Place for the Rose Day United Charities Collection Day. It is hoped that a fully stocked stall will further add to the Hostel project.

In conclusion the thanks of the Committee are extended to Mrs. P. D. McCallum as President and to Miss Swann as Deputy-Chairman for their gracious leadership throughout the year.