

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

"HE IS RISEN!"

Luke 24:6. R.S.V.

We have celebrated Easter once again, and thought about all the sorrow, the agony and the joy associated with the Cross. That first Easter that changed the history of the world. Surely the events of the Cross shook the Eastern world to its very foundations, and the lives of Jesus' dear and closest friends were also changed so that they became different people. Jesus has been changing lives ever since.

As you meditated on the death of Christ, did you feel it was for you?

Did you feel again the sense of joy at the Resurrection story?

Did you see the message of Easter Day as hope renewed and lives fulfilled, knowing that He is the Resurrection and the Life?

Christ lives to-day in you and me, revealing Himself through His Spirit... What has been our response?

Isaac Watts wrote: Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Glad West.

President.

2.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- 9.3.81 Women's Christian Temperance Union - President's Reception at Bible House, Mrs. Woodhouse, Mrs. McCann, Brigadier Ward.
- 25.3.81 Anglican Australian Board of Missions at Bible House. Mrs. Olwen Lean.
- 27.3.81 Anglican Mother's Union Service, St. Andrews Cathedral: President.
- 10.4.81 The Salvation Army Women's Rally, Town Hall: President, Secretary, Mrs. Lt. Colonel Baker, Brigadier Ward.
- 11.4.81 Australian Council of Churches Annual Meeting: Mrs. J. Curtin
-

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1981-1982

PRESIDENT - Mrs. Glad West, 8 Stewart St., ARTARMON 2164 (419-8654)

PAST PRESIDENT - Mrs. M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place CASTLE HILL 2069 (406-4044)

HON. SECRETARY - Brigadier M. Ward, 10/3-79 Robertson Road, BASS HILL 2197 (644-9472)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Miss E. Blackwell, 14 Callicoma Road, SEAFORTH 2092. (94-4705)

HON. TREASURER - Miss D.M. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, WOOLLAHRA 2025 (328-7119)

CONVENORS

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN - Miss D. Woodhouse, 86 Fullers Road, CHATSWOOD 2067 (419-6772)

WINIFRED REIK SCHOLARSHIP - Deaconess M. Andrews, 18/250 Jersey Road, WOOLLAHRA 2025 (32-2023)

PROMOTION - Mrs. M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place, CASTLE COVE 2069 (406-4044)

PUBLICITY OFFICER - Mrs. M. Baker, 79 Wongala Crescent, BEECROFT. 2119 (84-3046)

REPORT ON WORK OF WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION
Given at the February Meeting by Mrs. Beth Oliver.

3.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was formed in Sydney on Monday, August 21, 1832, along similar lines to the union formed in America in 1874. Frances Willard was the founder of World Union in 1883.

W.C.T.U. is the sole remaining member of the National Council of Women in N.S.W. and a foundation member of the Travellers' Aid Society.

Votes for Women was an early day project which took fifteen years of hard work to give women the right to vote. The Breathalyser Test took twenty-one years and another ten years to have the amount of alcohol reduced from .08 to .05 before being introduced by law.

The Social Freedom Campaign was launched in 1957 to encourage hostesses to serve alcohol free drinks. The demonstration of fruit drinks has resulted in the sale of non-alcoholic drinks being sold in supermarkets.

The W.C.T.U. was the first organisation to train women to speak in public. Miss Jessie Ackerman, one of the first round the world missionaries of W.C.T.U. convened the first interstate Conference of Women in this country, held in Melbourne in 1889. The idea was to link W.C.T.U. members from all States into an Australian Union, and thus become part to the World Union. The W.C.T.U. in Australia was federated in 1891, ten years before the politicians achieved the Federation of the States.

Centenary celebrations are being planned to take place in Sydney in 1982. Mrs. Cocks of W.C.T.U. has set up a counselling service for women alcoholics. Contact can be made on Tuesdays between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on 264-5894.

A.C.W. ANNUAL SERVICE THIS YEAR WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION RALLY AT WESLEY CHAPEL on May 25, 1931 at 10.30 a.m. A fifty cent coin is suggested for the special offering in aid of the Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee. Following the service a light luncheon will be served in the Uniting Church Meeting Room, First Floor, 139 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Speakers will include Miss Alison Watson and Miss Sue Newman in connection with International Year of the Disabled.

R.S.V.P. Mrs. G. West - 419.8654

Mrs. D. Woodhouse - 419.6772

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Silver Jubilee Celebrations. At the recent celebrations held in Manila, Christian women leaders from every Continent and forty-four countries met to celebrate the most unique Ecumenical movement in the world today. The 160 delegates represented millions of Christian women, who have pledged themselves to give regularly their least coin and pray for peace and reconciliation. It is a special and continuing project of the Asian Church Women's Conference (A.C.W. are represented at the Conference).

How and When it Started. An idea born in the heart of an Indian Christian, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, it has spread in ever widening circles of Christian concern by women all over the world. In 1956 an international team of women visited East Asian countries on a mission of good will. Mrs. Solomon was not permitted to enter Korea because India had no diplomatic relations with that country. While remaining in Manila and praying to find means of reconciliation, she conceived the idea of the Least Coin and Prayer.

How it Works. The F.L.C. is an international fund belonging to Christian women of participating countries. It is administered by an international committee with its base in Asia. Over the years millions of dollars have been collected in the Fund. The Chairperson of the International Committee is the Asian Church Women's Conference. The fund supports programmes which promote evangelical and ecumenical concerns, special preference being given to projects that will ensure women's development.

Manila Celebrations. At the Celebrations all six past Presidents of A.C.W.C. were present and Mrs. Gloria Santos, the present President, was hostess. Five delegates from A.S.W. were able to attend and a brief report from them appears on another page. The joy of sharing with women from other countries the message of Christ's love and peace, was a very real privilege.

A special edition of the Circle of Prayer, a devotional and prayer booklet, is available for use when observing the Fellowship of the Least Coin. New Leaflets about the Fellowship are also available.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR Miss Maline Weerasinghe from Sri Lanka is the Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1981 and has already commenced studies at Deaconess House, Sydney. Mrs. Stanhope extended hospitality upon her arrival. The Longueville-Lane Cove Branch of A.C.W. gave generously towards articles necessary for Maline's comfort.

5.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
AS PRESENTED BY FIVE DELEGATES TO THE CELEBRATION IN
MANILA, November 26 to December 3, 1980.

An interesting segment at our February meeting was the excellent report given by the five N.S.W. Members who were privileged to attend the celebrations. Mrs. Stanhope described the celebration dinner at the hotel where the Conference was held. On this occasion the history of the Asian Church Women's Conference and the F.L.C. was recognised and Chairpersons given awards. Although two hundred women were present, only twenty were Caucasians. Deaconess Andrews was responsible to bring before the meeting the theme of the Conference, Prayer-Partnership-Peace. The time spent in Bible Study by representatives for forty-four countries was thought provoking as well as sharing how peace can be brought to a troubled world. The topic on Workshops was ably dealt with by Mrs. McCann. These studies were concerned with the Social Concerns of women with practical suggestions for feed back to the countries creating awareness that peace cannot come about without justice. The Peace Workshop suggested F.L.C. should support peace projects, learn about each other and show more care, responsibility and action.

Delegates spent the week-end in villages where they were billeted by families, attended Church services, and mixed with the people. Mrs. H. Richardson shared her particular experience of this week-end spent with others in her group from Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Korea and the Phillipines. Mrs. H. Stevens spoke of the Worship Services, including the Closing Service. Intercession was made on behalf of unemployed people of as well as the problems of Aboriginal people of Australia. A feature of the Closing Service was a beautiful altar cloth with all names embroidered upon it. Two ordained women celebrated the closing Eucharist when each person holding a lighted candle, encircled the room whilst singing, "Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee." Shanti Solomon gave the Benediction.

Reported by Dorothy Woodhouse.

From Mrs. Gloria M. Santos, President of A.C.W.C. Manila, 1980.

"The Fellowship of the Least Coin is truly representative of the earnest longings of people for peace and reconciliation in our world. The theme of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, PRAYER-PARTNERSHIP-PEACE, is a commitment particularly of individual women. On behalf of Asian Church Women's Conference, and the International Committee of F.L.C., we extend our warmest wishes to all, as you join the celebrations. We believe that where people care and share, God is there. This may be a time to evaluate the directions and assess the potentialities of this recourse, to project our dreams and hopes, and most of all to raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise to God."

TALKS GIVEN DURING MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

Concluding a series on affiliated organisations, an informative talk was given by Mrs. Lillian Warren, Commissioner of the Girls' Brigade. With the aid of charts, she described the training given to girls in youth work, etc. On the international basis, a conference is held every five years. The programme is spiritual, physical, educational and social. The motto is: "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ." In N.S.W. there are 123 companies, over five thousand girls, 500 chaplains and commission officers and auxiliary workers. Each brigade is closely related to a local church which gives support by prayer and oversight. Projects have centred on Aborigines, and, this year, disadvantaged children. An audio-visual is available for showing to groups. "My Ecumenical Journey" was the title of Sister Lenore Sharry's talk. Sister Lenore is a member of a Roman Catholic Order of Sisters of our Lady of Sion whose world membership numbers 1200. The Order is of Jewish origin and has international links which meet every five years. After Vatican II many changes took place in the 1960's and encouragement of religious orders to study their origins and Biblical basis for their existence in the Church and to meet the pressing needs of the world. This particular Order worked for a better understanding between Christians and Jews. Sister Lenore's work is mainly amongst Christians. She has been appointed liaison officer for the Catholic Commission for Ecumenism. Sister Lenore feels this is the Lord's work; we must all work in our own tradition and collaborate with each other wherever possible, having as our motto "never do alone what we can do together." Mrs. Marie McCann reported on the sub-committee which has been set up to keep pace with social issues. This committee was given the task of writing to various denominations and groups. Information was given in replies and a list of issues prepared from the material. T.V. Stations' telephone numbers were listed for people to ring re complaints, etc. Contact Mrs. McCann for further information.

Reported by Dorothy Woodhouse.

VISITING WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR

The National Working Committee announces the appointment of Mrs. Rathie Selvarathnam as the Winifred Kiek Visiting Scholar. This appointment has not been implemented in the five years since it was originated. The idea is for a distinguished overseas Christian woman to tour Australia to promote Australian Church Women and the Scholarship. Rathie comes from Sri Lanka, is the wife of an Anglican clergyman serving in Australia. A special function will be arranged during July in Sydney for members to hear and meet her.

EXCERPTS from a letter from Mrs. Dorothy Hulme Moir after the death in late December of her son, Ian, a missionary doctor in Tanzania.

"To-day Ian is being laid to rest in Moshi, Tanzania, East Africa and I am reminded of many things, but perhaps most of all, of a conversation we had when he came home in February for those brief, short weeks. He was contemplating a third term of service if God allowed him to go back after the expiration of the present term; and weighing it all up in the light of family needs and claims, he said to me, speaking of the sense of God's Call to serve in the mission field, "I waited eighteen years to get there, five years of service does not seem sufficient. I am accepted now, there is so much more I can do!" I had to remind him that our God waited thirty years for just three years' service, but who is to say the "waiting years" are not years of service? I am reminded that the Word of God says that true service is the service of a "perfect heart". (1 Chron. 28:9) and Milton wrote "They also serve who only stand and wait." We may never know what Ian has accomplished for His God and fellow-men in those five years in Africa and those forty-two years of time.

The last words Ian spoke to me on the 20th November last are ringing in my thoughts - ".....the dawn has broken."

The following lines were written by HOWARD RIDLEY, youngest son of Evelyn Ridley, about a week before his death from cancer on January 20 (aged 22 years)

Lord,
 You are my friend,
 You are my all.
 How can I say thank you?
 How can I ever enough praise?
 You are so great;
 I am so small.
 When You have given all
 And I have given little (nothing),
 What can I say?
 I cannot comprehend
 The love ...
 Died as a thief,
 Now raised in glory,
 And You've made a home

Just for me -
 A step through death.
 Jesus, You made me whole,
 So here is my body,
 Here is my spirit,
 With all my fears
 And tears,
 Struggles and doubts,
 Misunderstanding,
 Loves,
 Desires ...
 May Your Name be raised
 To glory forever
 On earth
 And in Heaven.

PERSONAL PARS

Not so Well. Miss D. Mitchell, our efficient Treasurer, has been laid aside with an attack of shingles. Our prayers continue to support her.

Welcome. The birth of a son, Stephen, to Mrs. Captain Pam Byles, gives cause for rejoicing.

TO HIGHER SERVICE

We record with regret the passing of Mrs. E. Manefield, a past President. Mrs. A. Hall, a life member, passed away at the age of 95. A tribute to her life has been recorded in the Minutes.

LIFE MEMBER

Two members who have given outstanding service for a number of years, Deaconess Mary Andrews and Mrs. Marjorie Stanhope, have had life membership conferred upon them.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

National Council of Churches in New Zealand Women's Committee will be holding a Triennial Conference in Christchurch, 12-13th June, 1981. The theme - "A Focus on Asia." Contact Mrs. N.J. Petrie, c/- N.C.C. Office, P.O. Box 297, CHRISTCHURCH. N.Z.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed from May 28 to June 7. Leaflets and Orders of Service are available from the Committee at A.C.C. Box C199 Clarence Street, Sydney, 2000.

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14 Daymar Place,
CASTLE COVE. 2069

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Editor: Mrs. Evelyn Ridley

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