

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



WOMEN AT WORK

SEEKS:

- 1) To unite Australian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;
- 2) To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life & mission of the Church.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 1979.

A BEGINNING AND AN ENDING.

In Perth, 1977, we accepted the responsibilities that go with being your Working Committee. So began what was to be the beginning of a busy, exciting and, in the end, a rewarding time.

Time has sped by and we now prepare for the ending - the National Committee Meeting in Sydney. I am reminded that The Preacher wrote in Ecclesiastes ch 3, "to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." Sometimes perhaps we have had our doubts about that verse.

During our term of office, we were asked to undertake extra responsibilities - all exciting: firstly, the Consultation for Theologically trained Women; then the first Executive Meeting of the Asian Church Women's Conference Executive held in Australia; and lastly, in this International Year of the Child, the Consultation with women from the U.S.A and New Zealand.

These have meant extra meetings so that the day-to-day work of A.C.W should not suffer. Efficiency, good intent and purposefulness, have all been there; but it was love and a speck of humour that helped us to cope.

Always we have been mindful of the fact that there is security in God's care but Jesus has made it plain in the parable of the talents

and of the vineyard that there is no encouragement to those who have no mind to work but rather, th^AT COMMITMENT to see things through to the conclusion because we have no other choice, brings the reward of God's love. Like the Lord of the Vineyard, God pays according to the spirit of the workers.

Euripides wrote, "a little done doth vanish to the mind which forward sees how much remains to do." And what a great deal still remains to be done among Australian Church Women! At National Committee Meetings, sharing ideas, news of achievements and dreams, all send us to our Units with encouragement to try again where we have failed and to be inspired by the vision of what can be, if in faith we "cast our bread upon the waters."

And so we have reached the end of our time and to pass on to Tasmania, the responsibilities.

Again, the Preacher in ch.7 v.8 tells us that "Finishing is better than starting -" to tackle every task that comes along and if you fear God, you can expect His blessing." Both are thine.

I know the members of the Working Committee would leave you all with the words of assurance spoken by St. Paul to the Christians at Philippi:

"I can do everything God asks me with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power."

May God inspire us and bless us all as we earnestly explore and develop the unlimited possibilities and potential when all Australian Church Women venture for Him in understanding and with love.

Win Dougherty - President.

* Today is the very life of life. *
* In its brief course lie all the activities *
* and realities of your existence; *
* The bliss of growth, *
* The splendour of beauty, *
* The glory of action. *
* Yesterday is but a dream! *
* Tomorrow is but a vision! *
* And today well-lived, will make *
* each yesterday a dream of happiness *
* and each tomorrow a vision of hope. *
* So look ye well therefore, to this day. *
* Such is the salutation of the dawn. *

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP.

Throughout Australia during July, we have just celebrated Fellowship Day, when the offering was for the maintenance of the Scholarship awarded by Australian Church Women in honour of the late Rev. Winifred Kiek, B.A., B.D.. When A.C.W came into being in 1963, its inspiration was to look beyond our national shores to the wider world of Asia and the Islands of the Pacific, thus servingⁱⁿ a tangible and beneficial way, Christian women there.

The Scholarship is an expression of this idealistic vision, and as it operates today, the names of candidates are received from three defined areas in rotation through Overseas Mission Boards of National Councils of Churches. In considering the system of selecting an applicant for the Scholarship, and the vast areas embraced, perception and insight are evident in those who judge the eligibility of those making submissions.

On receipt of the applications, the Convenor, with members of the Working Committee, after much prayer, discussion, careful deliberation and study of the statistics make the difficult decision of choice, and the scholarship is offered to the one they consider it will benefit most.

Surely, God's guidance is evidenced working through these procedures. Wonder at the calibre of the great variety of those who have come to study amongst us! How much we have gained from the experience of knowing each one and appreciating individual personalities. It is a biblical ideal to welcome the stranger, and St. Paul often stresses the obligation of offering hospitality "....for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Heb. 13.2 Travelling around, they have been wonderful ambassadors for A.C.W but the advantages have been mutual because we have been enriched in learning of their traditions and culture; and the worth of the Scholarship has been re-enforced by the evidence of the pressing need of this higher study to ensure their possession of qualifications enabling them to lead and serve their own people. All the scholars have justified the promise which the selectors divined in them and in their own individual way, achieved distinction, returning home capable and eager to enrich others by their expertise, leadership and example.

This is the achievement of that one offering, made at one Service, once every year!

An up-to-date list of Scholars from 1965 appears on the back of the 1978 pamphlet, and was compiled by Mrs. Betty Davis before she was forced by circumstances to relinquish her role as Convenor. We are indebted to ^{her} for contacting each scholar listed, thus enabling us to strengthen ties already existing, or re-establishing them where they

had lapsed because of change of circumstance and/or address.

- 1965 - Miss Connie Tan, Indonesia - now Mrs. Widyatama.
Details pending re special work among children and present address.
- 1966 - Sabita Swarup, Fiji - Secretarial. Mrs. Auran Kumar.
Three children; works as Secretary, Western Division, Stinson, Pearce. Letter received Christmas.
- 1968) - Jackie Kini, Papua. Girls' Brigade & Teaching. Now
1969) Mrs. Vele of Boroka. In Teaching Education, as Professional Assistant to Superintendent Operations; involved with Sunday School, Girl Guides and other Youth Activities.
- 1970 - Veronica Kafka, Solomons: Teaching. Now Mrs. Alan Loe. At co-ed school: 227 scholars: 7 on staff: girls learning practical lessons to fit them for village situation (sewing, weaving, cooking and mother-craft.)
- 1971 - Violet Sampa, Zambia - Ministry. Mrs. Mrs. Bredt. In Germany with husband. Violet is learning German enabling her to continue her theological studies: she is doing a little preaching, attending women's groups in local church. Son born May, 1978.
- 1972 - Terani Aisake - Fiji: Deaconess. Now married to Rev, Lalomila Lima, 2 small sons. Husband minister at Enoggera, Brisbane, Queensland.
- 1973 - Kalpana Airan, India - Teaching at her school Satara. Undertook special training course Sydney University. Methods integrate stratas of society, breaking down barriers by dual education of mothers and children.
- 1974 - Mrs. Mary Weme, Kenya - Welfare. Arts and Crafts. Special observation of women's work. Active in social work among women in Kenya.
- 1976 - Sarrah Ah You, Samoa - Community Development. Teaching English at Maluafou High School and particularly active in village life.
- 1977 - Jennifer Yeo Suan Phoon, Taiwan - Evangelism. Letters sent to two addresses, both returned unclaimed.

- 1978 - Tapati Das, Bangla Desh - Handicrafts, Y.W.C.A Dacca. Using skills and knowledge gained during study tour.
- 1978 - Sister Barkat Kishan Dass, Pakistan - Nursing, Theology. Working at Holy Family Hospital. Family living in newly built house of 2-rooms, after loosing all in recent floods.
- 1979 - Mrs (Captain) Eite Boiva, Papua-New Guinea. Nurses' Aide. Women's Leadership course: being trained to work among alcoholics: the handicapped: the aged. Also Theology Course.
- 1980 - Rev. Dien Sumiyatiningsih, of Salatiga, Indonesia - Leadership training. Has been ^{en-}gaged in Christian Education and hospital chaplaincy work.
- Rev. Mary Au, Anglican. Being offered a limited scholarship. Seeks training in pastoral care. Olga Badger.

"Some men see things as they are and say Why?"

"I dream things that never were, and say -
"Why Nct?"

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NARMADA EDUCATION ACADEMY.

When you consider Area 2 comprising India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangla Desh, think of a young girl, Kalpana, devotedly running a small school in an isolated village in Northern India. Nurturing a dream which seemed impossible of realisation, she longed to see the integration of Indian society and the eradication by education of class distinction.

Being awarded the Scholarship, Kalpana came to Sydney University to study under Mr. Lex Grey, in order to acquire the skills and knowledge to implement her dream. Returning home, she lost no time in initiating the first stage and from a modest beginning, she undeviatingly pursued her goal in spite of limited resources and accommodation until the Narmada Education Academy became a reality. Today her work and methods are making an impact throughout India and the government and

many universities send observers to study her methods and return to incorporate them in their own systems of integration through education. Narmada Education Academy was the special project associated with World Community Day, October, 1978 and on receipt of the proceeds, Kalpana wrote to thank A.C.W most sincerely and saying the funds came in her hour of great need.

She continues .."This year has been a busy one because of IYC. We conducted two free vaccination camps for the children in Satara. Our Academy students come from middle class homes, so we appealed to the parents to remember poor children and to give them a present of new clothes. We collected the clothes and then invited the children from a nearby hutment area. This area consists of the families who are below poverty point. They were received, given a bath and helped to dress up in new clothes. This was done by our students and staff. Though this was planned by me, I was not very sure about the reaction of our students to it, because these children are absolutely filthy. But I was overjoyed to see that our students and the staff cleaned up these children so lovingly. It was a realisation of our dream of natural integration of rich and poor children by having the Project for disadvantaged children in the school premises.

Our school students of Std.VIII and IX conduct literacy classes in our Project as a part of their Social Service course. It's a pleasure to see that our Project and school children are growing together without any sense of disparity. Now there are 429 students in the Academy and 30 children and their mothers in the Project. 68 Students who have done 1-year course in the Project are studying free of cost from the Project in various schools in Satara. Some of them are excellent in their studies, securing 80% marks. So our Family Education centre is busy from 9 a.m when children come to have their breakfast before going to school, till 5 p.m when the second batch of children and women go home."

Sincerely, Kalpana.

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But in considering the rejoicing and celebration of those who gained the Scholarship over past years, spare a thought for those not chosen. I cannot but think of Acts 1.21f when Peter gathers the eleven to choose a successor to Judas. "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until He was taken up from us ...one of these men must become with us a witness of His Resurrection. And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was

But there was a time when we caught a glimpse of the attitude of such a one. When the Working Committee was in Queensland in 1973, Mrs. Joyce Pope, W.K. Convenor, received a letter from the Bishop of Madras, enclosing a letter which was written by a candidate who had applied unsuccessfully, and it was written from hospital where she was recovering from a fractured leg. " I am grateful to God for all the encouragement He gives me through many friends and relatives. I am able to be cheerful even after 14 weeks in bed because of your and others' prayers, love and concern.

I have received a letter from Australia, and they have given the Scholarship to a candidate from North India (Miss Kalpana Aijān). I am happy to know that an Indian girl is given the opportunity. I have been praying about this. I have taken the answer from Mrs. Pope as God's will.

This fracture has taught me that nothing happens as one wishes and everything is in His hands and will happen in His own time. I am longing to get back to work

What a beautiful spirit of faith and courage this reveals!

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK.

This is the last issue of "Women At Work" for which the present Working Committee of Australian Church Women is responsible and it will appear at the time when our National Committee is meeting in September. At the moment we are all very busy with preparations for that great event! We expect to welcome some sixty representatives of State Units, denominational organisations and associated bodies along with our overseas visitors from United States and New Zealand, who will share our N.C.M. and Consultation with us, as part of their Pacific Region Causeway. It will, I am sure, be an exciting and enriching experience, at the conclusion of what has been a most interesting, and very busy, two year period of office.

I want to take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to all those, in State Units and member organisation of A.C.W. who have shared our task, and whose help and co-operation have made it such a pleasant experience. In particular, I myself have appreciated the opportunity of meeting A.C.W. office-bearers and members in other States when I have been visiting their cities, and I thank them for their many kindnesses, and hospitality so generously offered. The most recent occasion was during my visit to Canberra in July, to take part in Fellowship Day Services. Here one witnessed not only the results of many years of devoted service on the part of those who established and nurtured "Canberra Church Women" but the spread of that enthusiasm to "new" areas, where young people, seeking some sense of "community", are finding it in inter-Church activity. Thank you, one and all.

Sincerely yours,

Doris M. Mitchell.
Hon. Secretary.