

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.

APRIL, 1978

Greetings from Mrs. (Lt Col) E Baker President NSW Unit

Warmest christian greetings' The Easter season which has passed reminds us that Jesus reveals himself in different ways to his followers. The form in which he reveals himself is determined by the particular needs of mankind at the time of his appearing. He is Lord of all human need. Since our needs and circumstances are different from those who have travelled before us, he appears to us in a different form.

In Mark 16.12, "He appeared in another form unto two of them as they walked and went into the country." The two travellers on the way to Emmaus saw Jesus as no one else had seen him. So he may appear in one form to you and in another form to me, and yet be the same Jesus all the time. Following the resurrection, for the disciples, there were aspects of Christ they had never seen. So it is still, for as life advances for us, new needs emerge, but Christ is sufficient to meet those needs. In Hebrews 13.8 we read, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." This inspires us to meet change that 'will surely come'.

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The period between Easter and Whitsunday (forty days) have ^{not} passed in vain if they can help us to realise again how many are the ways in which the Lord of life still reveals himself to his followers today.

On the twelve parapets of a bridge in Austria are twelve images of Christ in which he is represented as being occupied in various vocations. There is Christ the carpenter, Christ the farmer, Christ the teacher, Christ the shepherd, and so on. Men coming into the city bow before the Christ who represents the particular trade or work in which they are interested. So he appeals to all. Christ is indeed the Saviour of the world. As George Macdonald put it: 'Christ comes down each man's secret stair.' I am content if, on my Emmaus road, I can see him and experience the burning heart, even though he came in another form. As Paul puts it: "There are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit; diversities of workings, but the same God who worketh in all things.

Edna Baker.

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICE IN CANBERRA.

The 10th Annual Service of Worship to mark the Opening of the 1978 Parliamentary year was held in St. Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka, A.C.T on Tuesday, 21st February.

For the last two years, a group of Members of Parliament known as the Federal Parliamentary Christian Fellowship have organised this Service of Worship on the first sitting day of each Parliamentary year, details and arrangements being managed by a group of Canberra clergymen, known as the Canberra Committee.

This year's service was attended by some 400 people, comprising Members of Parliament, representatives from various Departments, the Diplomatic Community and Canberra citizens.

His Excellency, the Governor-General read the Old Testament lesson, and the greeting was given by the President of the Federal Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, Senator Gordon S. Davidson (S.A). The sermon was preached by the Principal Grosvenor I. Inglis B.A., BD, of Adelaide.

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PROFILES OF OUR WORKING COMMITTEE.

Brigadier Gwen Cork, Treasurer.

Born of pioneer stock, I am the only daughter in a family of seven, my birthplace being in a small country town on the north coast of NSW. At the age of 22 I entered the Salvation Army Theological College in Melbourne, for training as a Salvation Army Officer. For well over thirty years my ministry included Pastoral Care Training of students for the ministry, book-keeping and Finance. I am now retired

Mrs. Gladys West, Vice-President.

Member of the NSW Council of Baptist Women's Fellowship where served 13 years as State Secretary, then three years as Vice President. Currently representing NSW on the Executive of the Baptist Women's Union of South West Pacific. Member of the Council of Australian Church Women (NSW State Unit).

WORTH READING.

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH: is a remarkable story of Demis Shakariam, founder of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellow International. It is an interdenominational, non-profit group of Christian laymen joined together to call people everywhere to faith in God through Jesus Christ. To reach the world for Christ they are expanding each of their outreaches. Through the leadership of dedicated men from almost every denominational background, miracles of God's goodness have been performed.

THE GREAT DIVORCE, C.S. Lewis. Mr. Lewis rouses curiosity about life after death only to sharpen awareness of this world. He expresses spiritual truth in fresh and striking imagery and with uncanny acumen. Where does the name "The Great Divorce" come from? Lewis says, "Blake wrote of the Marriage of Heaven and Hell . . . I have written of their divorce."

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COMMENTS FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF H/DEACONESS MARY ANDREWS.

As I look back on another year, I see one in which God has crowned with his goodness. During the year, it has been a joy and privilege to share experiences one had during the tour of S.E Asia at the beginning of the year. I am grateful to all the friends who, having seen or heard about the dark shadows of poverty, disease, fear and war faced by so many people in the areas visited, have responded with promises to pray and also with gifts.

There was the meeting with old friends and the making of new ones at the National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women in Perth in July, 1978. I came home with the added responsibility of being one of the Vice Presidents of the Working Committee of A.C.W., a position I held 15 years ago when A.C.W was first formed.

The National Committee Meeting of the Women's World Day of Prayer was held in Sydney in February. Sixteen representatives from all the States in the Commonwealth gathered for that important meeting. An honour I never for a moment anticipated has been my appointment as National Liaison Officer for the World Day of Prayer. I have always looked upon the W.W.D.P as the movement that God brought into being to bring Christian women from different races and denominations to help them realise their unity in the Lord Jesus Christ. In 170 countries throughout the world the W.W.D.P is celebrated each year. The same theme and service is translated into many different languages, and is used over radio in schools, Churches, Meeting Halls, homes and gaols throughout the world.

Once every four years, the International Committee meets to which National Liaison Officers are invited. This year the meetings are being held in Lusaka, Zambia from 22nd to 30th April. I would value your prayers as I plan to represent Australia at the meeting.

Leave Sydney, 14th April for Mauritius;
Fly to Lusaka 16th April
22nd-28th International World Day of Prayer Meetings
29-30th April meetings continue at Mindola
Institute, Kitwe

2nd May - leave for Nairobi, Zurich.
14th May - Fly to London.
30th May - return to Sydney.

I would value your prayers for the ability to assess the findings of the Conference and report back to the people concerned.

Mary Andrews.

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 * How soiled are our hands? The Christian *
 * Gospel is a much more powerful weapon *
 * for the renewal of society than our *
 * Marxist view of the world, and yet it is *
 * we Communists who will conquer you in *
 * the end. *
 *
 * We communists do not play with words. We *
 * are realists; and because we are deter- *
 * mined to reach our object, we know how *
 * to provide the means. *
 *
 * You Christians, however, give only a *
 * little time and hardly any money for the *
 * spreading of your Gospel. *
 *
 * How can anyone believe the all-surpassing *
 * value of the Gospel, if you scarcely *
 * practise it, if you do not work to spread *
 * it, if you sacrifice only a little of your *
 * time and money and effort for that *
 * purpose? *
 *
 * Believe me, it is we Communists who will *
 * win in the end, willing to sacrifice *
 * everything, even our lives, so that social *
 * justice may triumph. *
 *
 * BUT YOU, YOU CHRISTIANS, ARE AFRAID OF *
 * SOILING YOUR HANDS. *
 *
 * From the Communist Paper Peace *
 * and Liberty. *
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W.C.C aids South Australian Aboriginal Medical Team.

The World Council of Churches has made a grant US\$25,000. to the Port Augusta Aboriginal Medical Service. This grant from the W.C.C Christian Medical Commission was made in response to a request from the Medical Service through the Federal Council of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The Port Augusta Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) was established in August, 1976 by members of the Aboriginal communities of Port Augusta and Davenport reserve. According to Mr. Lance Coulthard, the Chairman of AMS, "the existing health services failed to deal adequately with the health problems of these communities."

During the first nine months of operation, the Service discovered a high incidence of chronic malnutrition, alcoholism, chronic infections, diabetes and hypertension. The alarmingly high prevalence of diabetes and hypertension exemplify according to an AMS report, "the serious nature of the population's present health status, and the urgency of medical treatment and prevention programmes."

To date, the Port Augusta AMS had to rely on donations from the Sydney AMS, and receipts from Medi-bank to finance operations. Requests for assistance to the Federal and State Governments have brought no response.

The World Council grant will assist in paying salaries and administration expenses as well as assist in purchasing much needed equipment.

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EYE TEAM FOR SAMOA.

Six Australian optometrists have left for Western Samoa. This team will identify specific areas and population groups which may be at risk of eye complaints. Research into the life style of the Western Samoans and its effect on their eye conditions will also be carried out.

Western Samoans will be trained by the team and some students may be sponsored to study optometry in Australia.

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UNDP EXPECTS RECORD FOR 1978

United Nations Development programme expects to raise a record \$US569 million for 1978 for technical assistance to developing countries, 9% more than last year's total of \$US524 million.

UNDP Administrator, Bradford Morse announced the anticipated contributions after a day-long Pledging Conference attended by delegates from 122 countries and held at the United Nations Headquarters. Development efforts in poor countries were showing more encouraging results than many people realised, he said. He cited increased life expectancy, improved nutrition, rising primary school enrolments and adult literacy grants in the 36 poorest countries since the 1960's.

FOOD AID TO BANGLADESH.

Australia will give 50,000 tonnes of wheat valued at \$A5 million under a food-aid programme. Wheat committed for the current year arrived in February and March.

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*   The Jews were passing through the Red
*
*   Sea with Pharaoh's men in hot pursuit.
*
*   The man walking beside Moses was grumb-
*
*   ling and peevish. "Yes," said Moses,
*
*   "I KNOW it is damp underfoot. But I
*
*   find that an extremely petty complaint
*
*   to be making at a time like this."
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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK. MORE A.C.W.C NEWS.

The Theological Consultation, arranged by Mrs. Frances Bailey, Vice-President of the Asian Church Women's Conference, will be held at Parkin-Wesley Theological College, Adelaide, 19-21 April, 1978. The programme will include addresses, workshops, Bible Study sessions and corporate worship. Topics will be introduced by several of the participants,- "Feminist Theology in an Australian/Asian Setting", by Coralie Ling: "Theology and Women in the Catholic Church", by Sister Carol Hogan: "Reflections on my Theological Training"; by Robyn Schaeffer: "Issues raised in day-to-day ministry" by Margaret Polkinghorne. At an evening session, Dr. Barbara Thiering will deliver a public address. We look forward eagerly to receiving a report of this memorable conference.

Members of the ACWC Executive will meet in Adelaide 13-17 May, at the invitation of the Working Committee of Australian Church Women,- the first ever ACWC meeting held in our country. Those attending will be :-

Mrs. Agnes Loyall, President (India)
Mrs. Frances Bailey, Vice-Pres. (Australia)
Miss Gloria Santos, Hon. Sec. (Philippines)
Mrs. Yoshiko Isshiki Hon. Treas. (Japan)
Mrs. Julie Ang Kim Kiat (Singapore)
Mrs. Grace Kee Tsai (Taiwan)
Mrs. Chan Wong Po-Yiu (Hong Kong)
Mrs. Shanti Solomon, Exec. Sec. (India).

Arrangements are in hand for visits by one or more of our visitors to Perth, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra, Brisbane, Darwin and Alice Springs. The ACWC members will meet the Working Committee of A.C.W in Sydney during the week-end of May 20-22.

We extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests and hope that their stay in Australia will be enjoyable and rewarding: we ourselves shall be enriched, we know, by our meeting with them.

Doris Mitchell
Hon. Secretary.

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