

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC)

On 1st November 2019 Church Women United Aotearoa New Zealand gathered for the annual ACWC service prepared by the church women of Thailand with the theme "My Life Abandoned for Your Abundant Life". Observing ACWC Day with a service using the same liturgy is a good opportunity for our members to be aware of Asian issues and to experience unity in Christ. As part of the service, we also incorporate the Fellowship of the Least Coin Ingathering Service. CWU ANZ are encouraged by the continuing nation-wide dedicated support for Fellowship of the Least Coin. Thank you so much! Executive member, Margaret Neate and I appreciated the opportunity to spend time with Dr Liza Lamis, Executive Secretary IFLC, while attending the Australian Church Women's Conference in Brisbane in September 2019. Liza gave a presentation at the ACW Conference which showed projects which had benefited from 2018 FLC grants. Lynette Green also reported on the ACWC Executive meeting and the transition which has been taking place.



As 'main-stream' church groups go into recess, we must continue to promote in our communities Shanti Solomon's vision of FLC as a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation and encourage and educate people that as we offer a prayer for justice, we give a 'least coin' in solidarity with sisters in need.



Guest speaker, Rev Anne Preston's reflection, using the John 10:10 Scripture, provided us with a challenging and thought-provoking message. "So the God of love, joy, peace and hope beckons us; lay down your life, abandon yourself to my abundant life. God invites us on a faith journey, a journey of trust and adventure." Are we also challenged by John Wesley's Covenant Prayer? *(see below)*

We continue to value and appreciate the support of groups throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and, in particular acknowledge those who gathered with us for the service and luncheon. Over the past 60 years many of these women have served CWU, FLC and ACWC both locally and internationally and their continued interest, institutional knowledge and valued prayer support is appreciated. Photograph shows Eva Finlay, former IFLC Treasurer (1982–1996) with the FLC ANZ banner crafted for the 25th anniversary (1980) of FLC. Eva took this banner to the conference in Manila, Philippines, her first conference representing FLC ANZ. Eva still regularly attends our gatherings.



New Zealand wide there continues to be strong support for the World Day of Prayer. In November 2019, in preparation for the 2020 Service "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk", written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Zimbabwe, printed orders of service and supporting material was packed and couriered to approximately 200 groups around New Zealand. A well supported training day was held in Christchurch late January. The WDP on 6th March 2020 was well supported. This was a time when we were encouraged to come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love standing in solidarity with our Zimbabwean sisters. The thought of thousands uniting around the world in prayer is always at the front of our minds as we prepare for and participate in these services.

A 'casualty' of COVID-19 was the ACWC GenCo meeting which was to have been held in Bangkok 4th to 7th May 2020. President, Supaporn Yarnasarn (Thailand) has reminded us of the new Executive structure. As ACWC President Supaporn has oversight and overall responsibility.

Four Vice Presidents are responsible as the Chair of sub – regional countries. VPs will contact and work closely with the sub-regional country members. They have been sharing responsibilities that used to be handled by the ACWC Executive Secretary, Rev. Moon-Sook Lee.

South Asia: VP Daisy Roy - Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Daisy Roy is responsible for Networking.

East Asia: VP Tserendavaa Otgonbayar (Tsegi) – Mongolia, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Tsegi is responsible for ACWC Website.

There is now a new website for ACWC. Tsegi has done a great job! The website is attractive, contains a lot of information and is easy to navigate. Please take time to check it out. [ACWC Website](#)

Reports from each country will be published on the website. These will replace the formerly published Quarterly magazine. Copies of the Quarterly magazine up to 2013 are accessible on the [ACWC Blogspot](#) however you will find most of the information on this site has been incorporated into the new website.

Southeast Asia: VP Dorothy Castro – Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia. Dorothy Castro is responsible for Administration.

Oceania & Southeast Asia: VP Repelita Tambunan (Ita) – Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Ita is responsible for Documents. ***Our Prayer Partner is Indonesia.***

Assembly Secretary: Lynette Green – Australia

Treasurer: Saroja Sundaram – Malaysia

Ex-officio Member: Liza Lamis (Executive Secretary – ICFLC) – Philippines

Please continue to remember with loving hearts and loving care our ACWC ExCo (Executive Committee) and Asian country members in your prayers.

It is important to remember in these challenging and uncertain times we have the assurance that everything can work together for good for those who love God. It does not mean we will avoid all difficulties, but it does mean we can trust our faithful God who took the risk of coming into our world as a vulnerable child and showing us the power of love.

We do not know what the future holds but we know **WHO** holds the future!

Lynne Scott

Church Women United Aotearoa New Zealand

