



Visit to Malawi - the warm heart of Africa

I went to Malawi in my role as President of the World Christian Women's Fellowship mainly to encourage, support and teach the women. My time was spent mostly with women's groups, including four days at their annual Women's Conference. This is just a tiny flavour of what I experienced.

I was overwhelmed by the warmth of their welcome and their joy in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their skill in creating songs about the gospel message and living a Christian life was su-

perb, and the accompaniment of rhythmic dancing made my feet itch to join in. In fact we often all joined in parts of the songs.

The women were keen to understand the differences between our cultures and to share their problems, children's behaviour, school attendance, coping with orphans and family health; all of which were covered at the Conference which included a practical demonstration on making compost.

Malawi is a poor country, but it has not

suffered from drought in the same way as other African countries because of its lakes. I saw excellent vegetables on sale, but transporting those vegetables to the cities seemed to me a very hit and miss affair; waiting at the side of the main (tarmac) road, with the vegetables, for an international truck travelling along that way and then negotiating a lift with a driver.

Through loans from the World Bank the government has been able to provide most communities with a

(Continued on Page 2)

WORLD CWF RETREAT

Make plans now to attend the Women's Retreat prior to World Convention. This year we will integrate the World CWF Executive Committee meeting with the Retreat, to help keep costs within a reasonable range. Both events will be held at the *Grand Ocean Hotel*, Saltdean, England, which is just four miles from Brighton, the World Convention site.

The meetings will begin mid-afternoon on Sunday, July 25 and end mid-morning Wednesday, July 28 in time to register at the World Convention and join in afternoon pre-convention tours of Brighton, if desired. Non-Executive Committee members may choose to arrive for Retreat activities Sunday afternoon and enjoy free time Monday morning, or arrive for the main Retreat program by 3:30 on Monday, July 26. The Retreat will use the World Convention theme, *Founded in Christ—Building for Tomorrow*, and will focus on equipping women and sharing the gospel with children. We hope to have a full representation from as many different countries as possible, and the Retreat is open to all women.

Costs will be finalized soon, but will be no more than US \$180 (UK£75) for three nights or US \$125 (UK£75) for two nights. Further information will be available after January 15th from Adonna Bowman, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986, USA or Muriel Garrow, 40 Fairstone Hill, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5RH, England, UK. At that time you will be able to register for the Retreat at www.discipleswomen.org or email Muriel at mgarrow@fish.co.uk

MALAWI *(Continued from page 1)*

borehole, assuring safe water. Education is provided free but is not compulsory and not seen as a priority by many. But the need for educated and skilled workers is urgent in a country where many exist basically by subsistence farming.

I became very aware of the ever-present shadow of AIDS. Wherever you went, a funeral affected some of those due to attend. At the Conference, a sketch about preventing the spread of AIDS mentioned the dangers of a common cup at communion, making me question how I would act at Communion the following day. It was a great relief to discover that as the preacher for the day I was served the wine first – from a common cup! The church is faced, as is the whole country and other African countries, with the problem of growing numbers of orphans mainly due to AIDS.

Traditionally, families care for their orphans through grandparents, aunts and/or sisters, but the burden is becoming too great, especially on older women with too many orphans and too few adults left in the family.

As one way of showing practical support at the Conference, the women brought practical

"I went to help bring to them a sense of belonging to a world-wide sisterhood and I came home feeling I had hundreds of new sisters."

gifts such as sugar, maize, soap, peanuts and tea and distributed these to local orphans.

I went to help bring to them a sense of belonging to a world-wide sisterhood and I came home feeling I had hundreds of new sisters. Sisters keen to learn about other Christian



women and to make contact with them. We are hoping that it will be possible to sponsor some of them and sisters from other developing parts of the world so that they will be able to attend next year's World Convention in Brighton.

Muriel Garrow
World CWF President

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

The Australian National Gathering for Women was held during September at a lovely bush setting south of Perth.

Susan Morisey and her team worked tirelessly to ensure a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement for women from all over Australia. Pre and post Gathering tours took visitors to the north and south of our state, visiting Churches of Christ Indigenous Ministries work at Port Hedland and Carnarvon.

The keynote speaker was Monique Crabtree, who ad-

ressed the issues of the theme: "God's Woman for Today. Where do we Grow from Here?" She challenged us to answer the question: What does God want you to do next in your life?

Inspirational singing provided a keen awareness of God's presence and direction. Led by Shirley Burton, Bible studies on John 15 encouraged us to know God, grow in God and show fruit in our lives.

Each afternoon a programme of electives was held, which included trips around Perth, Fre-

mantle and Pinjarra, a variety of informative seminars and several crafts. A video clip of each day's activities, eliciting much enjoyment and laughter, was compiled by Peter Burton.

One evening the Bunbury Aboriginal Fellowship led in song and testimony and Dawn Gilchrist spoke on "Health Issues in the Indigenous Community." Melba Wallam presented Frances Graham with an album of memories recognizing her 40 years of faithful missionary service. *(Continued on page 3)*

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Does the name **World Christian Women's Fellowship** sound old fashioned to you? Does it discourage younger women from being part of your ministry? Does it project the image we are looking for?

At the World Convention in Brisbane, Australia in 2000, during the Women's Ministry Track, we had a discussion about the World Christian Women's Fellowship. Women in our churches in many countries are diversifying in the ministries they offer and there was a general feeling that the name World CWF no longer served to convey the intended purposes of the members. We would like women's groups in our churches throughout the world to consider this questionnaire, prepared by women in Australia, so that we can gain an impression of where we are heading in terms of ministry. We would be grateful if you could answer the questions in as much detail as possible and reply by the end of March 2004. The general trends and any recommendations for our future structure can then be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and brought to the WCWF meeting after the Luncheon at World Convention in 2004. Please pray for those evaluating our position and proposing any changes. Mail your responses to: Mrs. Muriel Garrow, 40 Fairstone Hill, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5RH, England UK and/or email her your questions to mgarrow@fish.co.uk

Questionnaire

1. What are the aims and visions of women's work in the churches in your country?
2. Please outline the structure of the various ministries amongst women.
3. List any recent initiatives you have developed and comment on their effectiveness.
4. What is the title of your women's work? (e.g., CWF, Women's Ministries, etc) Does this reflect your aims, structures and programmes?
5. Do you feel that the title World Christian Women's Fellowship is suitable and relevant? Please comment. If you said no, give your recommendation for an alternative title.
6. Do you have any suggestions that would enable the World CWF President and/or Executive Committee to be more effective in their ministry to you?
7. Please feel free to make any further comments.

Thank you for helping us in this way.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA *(Continued from page 2)*

State delegates were able to share what God has been doing through Women's Ministries in Australia. The National Executive (Shirley Burton Coordinator, Heather Spencer Secretary, Lorraine Wylie Treasurer) from WA handed over the reins to Victoria for 2003 - 2006. The

next National Gathering will be held in Victoria in 2006.

A moving Communion Service encouraged us all to leave our rags at the cross in surrender to our Lord.

The offering of \$975 was given to support Khayelihle Children's Village, the World CWF Service

Project.

Many shared how God had touched their lives over the four days and we returned home feeling blessed, challenged and renewed.

Shirley Burton



.WORLD CWF FINANCIAL REPORT
January 1—December 31, 2002

PRESIDENT Muriel Garrow
 VICE PRESIDENT Lourdes R. Ersando
 SECRETARY/TREASURER Adonna Bowman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ARGENTINA Ana Ferrigno de Sargenti
 AUSTRALIA Shirley Burton
 CANADA Vacancy
 GREAT BRITAIN Gillian Yates
 JAMAICA Yvonne Davidson
 MEXICO Adalia Martinez
 NEW ZEALAND Helen Scott
 PARAGUAY Nelly de Sanchez
 PUERTO RICO Noemi Pagan
 UNITED STATES Brenda Etheridge
 VANUATU Margaret Sarki
 SWAZILAND Sarah Dlamini
 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
 THE CONGO Nkulo Mpetsi Bambuli

ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVES

JAPAN Tokiko Hagiwara
 PHILIPPINES Charita Gomez
 THAILAND Wantana Thianhormi

Income

World CWF Dues \$ 6,581.99
 Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) 18,687.03
 Interest Income 301.07

Total Income \$ 25,570.09

Expenses

Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) 17,925.25
 Newsletters 3,217.50
 President & VP to attend Quadrennial 2,555.15
 Office Supplies and Postage 793.31

Total Expenses \$ 24,491.21

(Expenses Over Income) \$ 1,078.88

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2002 16,016.60

Ending Balance, December 31, 2002 \$ 17,095.48

World CWF Service Project

Designated as the World CWF service project in 1997, the Khayelihle Children's Village in Zimbabwe, Africa, has become a part of the hearts of women throughout the world. The Village has a wonderful web site at <http://kcvkids.org> where you can see the faces of the children for whom your generosity has meant so much.

At the Women's Retreat in 2004 we will be determining our service project for the next four years. If you have a recommendation, do some homework and come to the retreat prepared to make a presentation about what the project is currently doing, their vision, hopes and dreams, pictures, and contact information. To be considered, the project must already have a network in place for communication.

If you have questions, please contact Muriel Garrow at mgarrow@fish.co.uk

Through the generosity of the women of World CWF, \$74,513.26 has been sent to the Kahayelihle Children's Village in Zimbabwe since 1997.

Editor: Adonna Bowman
Office of Disciples Women
Disciples Home Missions
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
In the U.S. and Canada
130 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3645
317-635-3100
FAX 317-635-4426
abowman@dhm.disciples.org