

# Fourteenth Triennial Conference

Perth, Western Australia  
8th to 18th, October, 1974



The Associated  
Country Women  
of the World  
Conference Theme  
A World to Share

Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, Leader, FWIO Delegation

## Opening Day Cont'd.

Today the greatest challenge to development is in the rural areas and here through our world organization we have the entree into villages and homes in a way no others have. Surely the best incentive to world development is to stimulate the interest and understanding of women in the home, for all social progress has been through the involvement of women. They constitute one-half of the population of the world. Working together for better citizenship, happier homes and good neighborliness has always been our aim and we must extend the work already done by our societies to implement the objectives in the present World Population Year by more intensive efforts in 1975, I.W.Y. with its theme of Equality, Development and Peace.

## A Visit to See "Trotting"

On Saturday night we had a real change of "pace" when we were guests of the West Australia Trotting Association. The more adventuresome among us did some betting on the races and I think some even won a few dollars. Losing or winning there was lots of fun and excitement.

## The Interfaith Service

To my mind, this service in the Concert Hall was one of the most outstanding and memorable events of the Conference with members from so many different faiths, and creeds all gathered to worship together!

The Master of Ceremonies from the West Australia Council of Churches led the service. Mrs. Farquharson read the bible lesson from St. Luke. A minister of the Hindu faith, one of the Buddhist faith, a lady representing the Baha'i faith, a Moslem and a Jewish Rabbi each read from their own scriptures.

The minister was the Rev. John Hazelwood, Anglican Dean of Perth, who in essence in his sermon said: "This great act of corporate celebration is a bright spot in the dull winter of man's confusion, frustration and hopelessness. It is a break-through of sunshine as we are trying to proclaim the essential unity of mankind in God. Our songs, reading and prayers have all overflowed with their messages of peace, harmony, unity, truth and purity. Overflowed because all these things belong to God and have been shown to men as the Way in which they could walk if they *know* the Way.

We had shared in a moving, touching service and left feeling perhaps in the words of the Song of Joy that, "that day *will* dawn when for all men there will be love and understanding."

## STUDY SESSIONS

These were arranged in groups so that everyone had the opportunity of attending them all.

## HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Mrs. Campbell-Smith spoke on happiness and began by asking, "What is happiness?" To know what it is we must seek it among human beings who are living richly and fully. Most people want happiness, want to be loved, to lead a full life and to be needed. Happiness is many things to many people, but today we find very few who appear to know what happiness is. We do not recognize unhappiness and much of it is due to discouragement and most discouragement is due to ignorance.

There have been in recent times remarkable evolutionary changes in ways of living. Never before has man been more in control of his environment, but he still has problems — problems of his own making, by-products of his own progress.

Many of his problems are psychological due to a loss of identity and depersonalization. Man functions best in small groups, chief of these is the family. The family is still a place of security and provides the "building blocks" of society — the children. Ideally it provides a place for love, for emotional and social security and a pattern of how to grow to maturity and cope with life's experience. But in reality parents see less of their children than ever before. The trend is increasing as the nursery school and creche system take over. Ties between husband and wife and parents are strained as a result of increasing employment of women. Transient sexual experiences and homosexual experiences in adolescence can destroy the ability to achieve the ideal. Many young people confuse sexual attraction with total love and are sadly disillusioned and unable to achieve a mature marriage. Many people are marrying young before they can assume adult responsibility. It is believed that pressures for which young people are unprepared are causing great unhappiness; premature involvement in sex can create problems later on.

Happiness directly affects health. There are so many health problems today — emotional and mental disorders, suicides, drug taking, cardio-vascular disease, smoking, alcoholism, V.D., cancer and obesity. Add to this an increasing number of desertions, separations and emotionally disturbed children and we have a sorry picture of unhappiness and lowered health.

Mrs. Campbell-Smith called on both parents and teachers to re-think their roles as educators and approach their task with deeper insight in educating for life in a changed society.

Mrs. Howard of U.S. spoke on the drug problem and how U.S. was coping with it through clinics, trained personnel and classes to help parents. →