



REFLECTION

Five Unlikely Women Who Changed Eternity.

Five women in the lineage of Jesus Christ: *Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary*. When you have a moment search through your Bible and rediscover the stories of these five amazing women:

Tamar – a victim of abuse and deceit, but a woman of determination, courage and hope (Genesis 38)

Rahab – the prostitute; a woman of faith who had a son named Boaz who married Ruth (Joshua 2 & 6)

Ruth – a woman of love, and the great-grandmother of King David. (Book of Ruth)

Bathsheba – a woman who received unlimited grace. She married King David, became the proud mother of Solomon, who succeeded his father David, on the throne (2 Samuel 11 & 12; 1 Chronicles 3; 1 Kings 1; Song of Songs 3)

Mary – a woman of obedience who became the mother of CHRIST (Luke 1 & 2; Matthew 2; John 19; Acts 1)

Francine Rivers in her novel, *A Lineage of Grace* explains in the foreword that “These were Eastern women who lived in ancient times and yet their stories apply to our lives and the difficult issues we face in our world today. They were on the edge. They had courage. They took risks. They did the unexpected. They lived daring lives and sometimes they made mistakes ... big mistakes. These women were not perfect, and yet God in His infinite mercy used them in His perfect plan to bring forth the Christ, the Saviour of the world.”

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

Blessings, **Heather Tate**

Special Project 2007-2008

The APW/MWF Special Project, “**Opening Doors**” will support overseas, the Christian World Service partner, *The House of Passage in Brazil*, and in New Zealand, *the Churches’ Education Commission’s programme for chaplaincy in state schools*.

The House of Passage opened in the city of Recife in the Northeast of Brazil in 1989 to attempt to meet the needs of young girls living on the streets or in the slums. The House successfully continues to provide basic needs, such as good meals, as well as training in life skills and vocational skills for these girls who live in extreme poverty, violence and abuse. Its programmes have now been extended to provide for boys as well.

The Churches’ Education Commission, in its Christian Education programme in primary schools and its Chaplaincy programme in primary and secondary schools aims to enable students to make good life choices. The Special Project will provide funding for the ongoing training and support of these voluntary chaplains.

APW Missions Committee

Please note the change of address for Friends of Jagadhri:

Doreen Riddell, 50/4 Admiral Crescent,
Flagstaff, Hamilton. 3210

Regional News:

St Andrew’s & St Philip’s, Birkenhead report a very active and loyal group of twenty members.. “The year has been very interesting and fruitful with speakers from CWS and Stroke victims and SPCA. We meet every two months. Fund-raising is a distinctive feature. The trading table, a mini fair, catering for a Scrabble Tournament, assisting our local College Music Group plus shipment costs for

articles sent to Operation Cover-up have raised over \$1,500. We have been involved in Operation Cover-up for many years, knitting blankets, scarves and hats for orphanages in the Ukraine and Romania. This year we have been able to send 30 blankets, 30 scarves, 22 hats and other desperately needed items like sewing materials, soaps, stationery and games – a total of 200 items.

Earlier in the year we had a wonderful P-Party. We have a new minister whose surname starts with P. We all dressed up in something with a P: Pussycat, penguin, pig, Pope, etc. The meal provided also started with a P; pork sausages, peas, potatoes, pavlova, pears, peaches and pink punch. The evening was a great success. Maybe an idea for one of your meetings.”

Thea Hillebrand

Vintage Volunteering....

Betty Scarlet has recently returned from volunteer work in Chiang Mai, Thailand where she assisted Kathryn McDaniel. Betty writes: I was there in June and July. At that time there were over twenty foreign men in the male prison, two women in their separate prison and five young folk in the Police Cells. The rules were different at each institution, but the men's prison work was most time consuming. Tuesdays and Fridays were their visiting days from 10.30 -11.30 a.m. We had to have a copy of our Passports for each visit with a list of those we wished to see. Quite early in my stay, Kathryn needed to be in Bangkok on a 'Prison Day'. I would have to find my way there and do it almost alone (another volunteer would be there for some of the time. He rode a motor-bike). The notes I made began with. "First, find the place that the yellow buses depart from." I was totally confused at that stage as to how we reached that spot.

Traffic was overwhelming, especially the small motor cycles that wove in and out and gave way to no-one. Streets run at all sorts of angles with shop fronts that appear very similar. Maps of that part of the city lack detail and are no help. Kathryn invariably made a stop or two on the way to the bus to do the banking or some other errand, often ducking in one entrance and out another. She realized my problem and ordered a tuk-tuk to pick me up from her house and take me all the way to the prison. I loved riding in a tuk-tuk. Basically they are a motor-bike with seats for two passengers behind the driver. A roof offers protection but the sides are open and cool. With average day-time temperatures around 35 degrees, this was bliss...

(to be continued next month.)

Wellington-Hutt Valley: On a recent Saturday fifty women gathered for a "Dorcas Day" organised by the Otaki-Waikanae women. In Acts 9:1-2 we are told Dorcas was always doing good and helping the poor. That was the inspiration for a Craft Day, where we shared ideas, patterns and made items to give away later. There was much chatter and many smiling faces as we made boxes, cards, scrap-books, knitted for prem-babies, crocheted and made attractive felt brooches. At the end of the day it was surprising what had been achieved. A 'take away' assortment of extra craft supplies also proved very popular. Thank you Otaki-Waikanae.

Shirley Fraser

A follow-on at the local meeting of Waikanae APW gathered the fruits of the Dorcas Day and complimented them with locally-made and bought gifts to pack fifty-two Christmas Boxes for the Samaritan Purse Organisation to send to Pacific Island children. The local congregation shared in the blessing of the boxes in morning worship and contributed to the costs of postage. This amounted to \$340.

Please continue to send along your news. Greetings to all,
Nan Burgess, Editor



Star-Giving

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star...

Brilliance in a package,
Something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans, or in the pocket of your being.

Something to take out in times of darkness. Something that would never snuff out or tarnish.

Something you could hold in your hand. Something for wonderment.

Something for pondering. Something that would remind you of what Christmas has always meant:

God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this world.

But Stars are only God's for giving, and I must be content to give you words and wishes and Packages without stars. But I can wish you Life as radiant as the Star that announced the Christ Child's coming.

And as filled with awe as the Shepherds who stood beneath its Light.

And I can pass on to you the Love that has been given to me, ignited countless times by others

Who have knelt in Bethlehem's Light.

Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

**Ann Weems,
Reaching for Rainbows.**

Campaign for Action on Family Violence

This campaign aims to change the way that New Zealanders think and act about family violence. The Families Commission and the Ministry of Social Development are leading the four year programme. The area of focus that the APW United Nations Committee sees most relevant and effective for APW to be involved is in 'Changing Attitudes and Behaviour' A tool kit is being developed for groups to use and this gives excellent ideas and initiatives of ways people can work within their communities to increase understanding and awareness.

The mass media advertising was launched on September 4, and the first TV advertisements went on air on September 9.

A dedicated website www.areyouok.org.nz will go live this month. Brochures and other resources will be distributed in response to requests on Ph. 0800 456 450. The email address is violencefree@familyservices.gvt.nz
APW UN Committee

Looking for Christmas Resources?

Have you considered the numerous forms the Star of Bethlehem has taken over the years? There is a wide range of material on the internet – astrological research, biblical text and interpretations, herbal plant used for healing scarring, botanical knowledge, etc. Enter Star of Bethlehem and be prepared for a long, informative search.