

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE FLC

The FLC Prayer Movement is simple, yet significant and unique:

- 1 It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, color, culture or denomination. Christian women have solidarity through their common concern and love for humankind. Women of the world are bound together by both *giving* "least coins" and by women of every region *receiving* grants.
- 2 The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, urban or rural, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.
- 3 It is stewardship, both of the idea and of the Fund. When "least coins" are put together, along with the individual prayers offered by members throughout the world, they become a strong force in bringing about justice, reconciliation, and peace.

The "least coin" teaches us to be humble, to value the least, and to trust that nothing is impossible for God who can do great things from out of the least and the unexpected.

Least Coins may be sent at any time to:

The FLC Custodial Fund
Department of Finance
World Council of Churches
150-rue de Ferney; P. O. Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2; Switzerland

or to:

The FLC Custodial Fund
Church Women United
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1626
New York, NY 10115

Prayer of The Fellowship of the Least Coin

O LOVING CREATOR,
 WE PRESENT OURSELVES
 IN YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE
 TO THANK YOU
 FOR ALL THE BOUNTIFUL GIFTS OF LIFE.
 WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR
 THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN
 WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER IN LOVE
 AND FORGIVENESS AROUND THE GLOBE.
 FREE US FROM ALL DOUBTS
 AND PREJUDICES, WE PRAY.
 INSPIRE US TO LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH
 HUMANKIND THAT WE MAY KNOW
 THE JOY OF GIVING AND RECEIVING.
 DEAR GOD, ACCEPT THIS LEAST COIN
 'TOKEN OF LOVE.'
 MAKE US MINDFUL OF THE MIRACLES
 OF THESE COINS.
 LET US HONOUR YOUR CREATION
 WITH LOVE,
 AS SHOWN THROUGH THE LIFE
 AND RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON,
 JESUS THE CHRIST. AMEN.

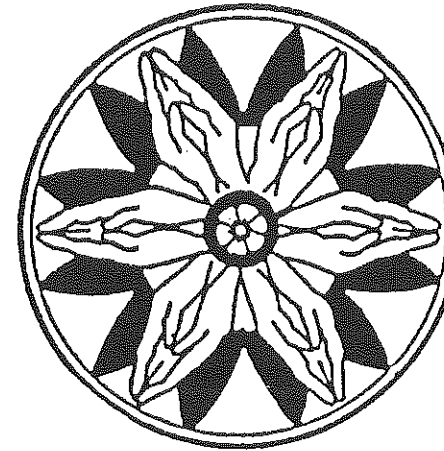
For more information, contact:

Corazon Tabing-Reyes
 Executive Secretary, ICFLC
 c/o Union Theological Seminary
 Dasmarinas, Cavite 4114
 PHILIPPINES
 Email: coratr@gmail.com

WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN?

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Through this movement, Christian women around the world seek fellowship with each other and are reminded to live a reconciling and forgiving life with others. Though "least coins" are given with each prayer, it is not a fund-raising project, but a movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Anyone who wishes to join this movement makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a strained relationship with another person, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence and injustice. Each time she prays for justice, peace and reconciliation, she sets aside one "least coin" of her currency as a tangible token toward her prayer being answered. These coins are sent regularly to her country's FLC collection point, where it is forwarded to the FLC Fund. The amount collected by each country is never publicized; only the total sum collected each year is announced. It is important that only the "least coin" of each currency be set aside so that even the poorest women of each country can be a part of this fellowship of love and care.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN



**A GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF PRAYER
FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND
RECONCILIATION**

THE FLC LOGO

The idea for the FLC logo—the praying hands forming a lotus flower—came from the late Mrs. Rayann Ma from Hong Kong. She was the first Chairperson of the first Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC). The actual design was the gift of her brother-in-law, James Ma, a commercial artist.

HOW AND WHEN IT BEGAN

The idea for the Fellowship of the Least Coin emerged as a vision from God to Mrs. Shanti Solomon of India. In September 1956, she was part of the Pacific Mission Team of seven women from different countries that traveled in Asian countries after World War II. It was organized by Dr. Margaret Shannon of the National Office of Presbyterian women in the U.S. When Shanti Solomon was refused a visa to Korea in the middle of the trip, she went to the Philippines to wait. While there, she reflected on the experiences of their travel in the war-torn countries of Asia and the national and economic barriers that kept women apart.

Upon the return of the team, she suggested that prayer could transcend every national boundary. She challenged the Christian women of Asia and of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S. to launch a project of Christian prayer and positive action in which every woman could participate, no matter her economic position. Every time a woman prayed she was to set aside a "least coin" of her currency. It was an encouragement to the women of the team to demonstrate their unity in Christian faith, regardless of their country or economic circumstances. They all accepted it as a way to express their solidarity with suffering humanity and with women of every nation.

The East Asia Christian Conference (EACC), now the Christian Conference of Asia (CAA), administered the FLC fund from 1958—1970. In 1958, the first Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) held in Hong Kong agreed to administer the

Fellowship of the Least Coin. At the second Assembly in Thailand in 1962, ACWC voted to make the promotion of FLC their basic outreach programme. In 1970 Mrs. Shanti Solomon, the founder, was named the Executive Secretary of the FLC and ACWC. She was followed by Mrs. Shirin Samuel of Pakistan (1987—1997). Since that time the Executive Secretary has been an Asian woman, active in the ACWC.

FLC GROWTH

The idea of the FLC quickly gained acceptance, not only among the women of Asia to whom it was first presented, but also among women of all the continents in the world. In 1966, when the FLC celebrated its tenth anniversary, women from 24 countries participated in the movement. By 1980, at the time of its Silver Jubilee, women from 75 countries had already joined the FLC. In 1996, women from more than 80 countries around the world celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the FLC.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Feeling the need to reaffirm prayer as the vital element of the FLC, the ACWC asked the women of Hong Kong to prepare a booklet of prayers to be used as the "least coin" is set aside. Since then, the *Circle of Prayer* booklet has become an important part of the FLC. Twenty-four meditations and prayers are written by women around the world and published by the International Committee for the FLC every two years.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FLC

Because the FLC prayer movement became truly world-wide and the grants were made to programmes and projects all over the world, an International Committee for the FLC (ICFLC) was formed in 1979 to administer the promotion, the interpretation of the movement and the allocation of the FLC grants. The International Committee comprises representatives of world-wide ecumenical women's organizations and of regional ecumenical Conferences of the Churches. Year after year the ICFLC learns to trust God more and more and to work in faith. The Committee meets every year to share the miraculous works of the FLC around the world and to decide on FLC grants for the following year. Application forms for project grants are received four months prior to the meeting. The members of the Committee study the application forms, pray about them, discuss and decide on each project without knowing how much FLC funding will be available for the grants they wish to allocate for each year. The "least coins" from around the world come in with prayers, quietly and gradually, to meet the needs for each year. Our gentle, loving and compassionate God never fails us. God does great works through the humble, the least, the marginalised and the poor. That's the strength, the promise, the beauty, and the surprise upholding the FLC prayer movement.

Every year ICFLC is invited by different regions to hold its meeting in their country. An exposure and a visitation programme is added to the regular business meeting in order for the representatives to know more about the region and to be aware of the issues and the concerns of the people there. ICFLC meetings have been held recently in: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (1995); Christchurch,

New Zealand (1996); Helsinki, Finland (1997); and Chiang Mai, Thailand (1998). Every four years the committee meets immediately following the ACWC Assembly.

FLC GRANTS

Each year about 35 to 50 projects are given grants. Each Regional Women's Desk of Ecumenical Conferences, the Women's Desk of the World Council of Churches and the World Day of Prayer International Committee are given block grants to enhance their work and to strengthen ecumenical solidarity. Emergency grants for disaster relief and rehabilitation are also given.

In allocating grants, the ICFLC keeps in mind the following categories:

- Opportunities for awareness-raising and/or educating women on gender issues
- Programmes of literacy, health, social concerns and leadership development recommended by recognized Christian groups
- Programmes enhancing justice, peace and reconciliation for women and families, communities, countries and the world
- Opportunities for women to meet ecumenically in regional, national and world-wide gatherings

The following are guiding principles for grants to any project:

- Normally not to exceed U.S. \$6,000
- Usually non-recurring
- Not given for constructing buildings