

Some Thoughts on World Convention - My 11th Convention **by Betty Burr**

The choice of place for the Convention was superb. The Hotel very nice and convenient (except for the ghastly evening meals - UGH!)*

The Ballrooms were just right for the meetings. The procession of National Flags on the first night has always been a favourite of mine for 1995 Melbourne, 1998 Korea, and 2001 Birmingham, I had the honour of announcing the presentation of each national flag at these Conventions. It is lovely to see the colourful flags and the beautiful National costumes. There were 20 countries with flags and 2 without. It was especially great to see the new countries. Sarah Ward's address was very interesting.

We were fortunate to have so much beautiful music throughout the Convention. Firstly the Salvation Army Band but especially Su Geon Gwah (Korea) violinist and Susanne Curry (USA) pianist. The Worship Services were very special each morning. We were grateful for SA WCTU for the visit to the Cleland Park and Mt Lofty and for the gift afternoon tea on arrival at the Park.

Reports from the many countries were amazing and some are doing such wonderful work. To me the PNG report was very special as I visited there in 1991 and 1993 for WCTU – two very special visits which I treasure. The business sessions were very interesting and noontide is always special.

Our very own special Church Service conducted by our own people and held in a beautiful Church with a beautiful organ and superb organist was also special. All members taking part did so very beautifully. Saturday Night Talent Program was lots of fun and very enjoyable. Some of the items were spectacular.

The interviews with World Department Leaders by Sarah Ward was very interesting. The Great Australian Challenge was fun. I got separated from my team and missed out on some of the displays as some were closing when I got to them.

Pastor Daron Pratt and his balloons was also fun. Sadly, I had to leave my "DOG" behind.

The Youth and Children's programs were very enjoyable and Pastor Pratt's address very good.

The visit to Parliament House was especially interesting also seeing the modern trams in Adelaide. Anne Bergen's workshops are always very good as was Dr Kyun Il Park's.

The Closing Program was special with the Installation of World Officers, the address by Shane Varcoe, the Australian Benediction and the Friendship Circle with the singing of "God be with you till we meet again".

***Note:** Not all thought the evening meals ghastly - some considered them "beautiful."