



Methodist Women in Hongkong held an inaugural ceremony at their church in Wanchai yesterday to mark their affiliation with the world Federation of Methodist Women. Their Chairman is Mrs Y. O. Lee (fifth from right).—(Staff Photographer).

H.K. METHODIST WOMEN

Affiliation With World Federation Marked At Ceremony

FELLOWSHIP AND MUTUAL HELP

There was a large attendance of Chinese and European women at the inaugural ceremony yesterday to mark the joining of Hongkong Methodist women in the Federation of Methodist Women all over the world.

Under the leadership of their Chairman, Mrs Y. O. Lee, the congregation sang hymns in Chinese to European music, beautifully played by Miss Lam Kwai-fong.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. J. E. Sandbach and the Rev. Wong Chung-hoi, and passages from the Bible were read by Mrs Wong Taat-kwong and Miss E. Nagler.

Miss A. M. Dickinson, a Methodist missionary teacher and social worker specialising in youth work, announced the inauguration ceremony, at which the following affirmation was read by Mrs H. K. Wat, Mrs S. Moore and Mrs C. Yang:

"We, believing that Christ is Lord of all and that Methodists are one people, express our common faith and our unity by joining together. We dedicate ourselves to Christ; to show Him and to make Him known. We pledge ourselves in Christian unity, to seek to aid in establishing Christ's Kingdom among all peoples and in all areas of life; and to seek with women of all lands fellowship and mutual help in the building of a Christian world order."

Miss C. M. Newcombe, Secretary of the Hongkong Council of Social Service, whose experiences of welfare work includes some years with Methodist orphans, addressed the congregation, interpreted in Chinese by Miss Betsy Wong, a teacher at the Diocesan Girls' School.

Miss Newcombe took as her theme "To know Christ and to make Him known." This, she said, meant getting to know Christ as John Wesley did. Witness to Christ was perhaps hardest of all in the home, but it was there and in the shops, streets and workplaces that such witness should be made.

Knowledge of Christ through prayer enabled people to get to know God's will and to do it, which was the end of life. To try to change the pattern God had planned for us meant perhaps missing opportunities of helping someone in great need.

To illustrate this, Miss Newcombe quoted a story from the book "In the Shade of Nine Dragons," about a bamboo which gloried in its beauty. However, one day its master told the bamboo it must be cut down and the bamboo bowed to the will of the master.

After being stripped of its leaves, the bamboo was used to carry water through to the rice fields and thus achieved its highest use. To do this, it had to be bereft of all its trimmings.

It might be, said Miss Newcombe, that in the lives of people their desires and activities which prevented them from doing the will of God and serving Christ fully as witnesses must also be taken away, so that He might be made known wherever such people lived and