

UNIT NOTES

Monday 16th September
Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc.
Spiritual Enrichment Day
4th Floor The Salvation Army THQ
140 Elizabeth St., Sydney
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Winifred Kiek Convenor:

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Australian Church Women National Conference
7-11 October 2013
St John of God Retreat Centre, Shoalwater WA
Enquiries: Contact National Secretary,
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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC

FELLOWSHIP DAY SERVICE 2013

'LOVE NEVER FAILS'



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC

Australian Church Women was established in 1965 when women's inter-church councils from all states and territories came together to form Australian Church Women, fostering ecumenism and undertaking action on behalf of the church women.

Australian Church Women Inc forms a network of committed Christian women dedicated to encourage fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries and to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in the one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

The offerings presented at Fellowship Day Services throughout Australia go towards this scholarship to honour Winifred Kiek, the first woman to be ordained in Australia.

This scholarship is offered to Christian women of member countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference, multicultural Australia, and Pacific Island nations. The scholarship is used for supplementary training and further studies in theology or related fields.

The 2013 scholars are Verenaisi Toga of Fiji, a Deaconess doing Bachelor of Divinity Studies; Berebere Katauea, an ordained Minister of Kiribati, also doing studies for B.D.; Lou Momoru of Papua New Guinea, doing Discipleship Training in Port Moresby; Christina Taviti of Vanuata, studying for a Diploma of Theology.

Today's Order of Service was prepared by the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women and the theme for the present term is 'Our Choice is Love'. This Service has the sub-title 'Love Never Fails'.

Note: The Order of Service is copyright and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for additional prayers where relevant for the current situation, and the substitution of hymns that are considered to be more suitable and available locally. ©2013

Hymns have been chosen from *Together in Song* (TIS) and the *Australian Hymn Book* (AHB). The liturgy is specially prepared and may be freely reproduced as a whole for the purposes of Worship.

'LOVE NEVER FAILS'

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God is love **and those who live in God live in love.**

God is love **and Jesus lived the perfect life of love.**

God is love **and to know that love is to love God and one another.**

Let us worship the God of love in the name of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

HYMN OF PRAISE: 'To God be the glory' TiS 147 AHB 85

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION:

Dear Loving Lord, we honour you as the source of life, of love, salvation, and our daily living. In all aspects of our lives you are the centre and source, and this gives us a solid foundation on which to base our life and living.

For this we give you our thanks and praise.

But even as we acknowledge this great truth we are aware that as individuals, as members of a family, as people of a nation and as your servants within a faith community **we do not always live up to our own expectations, let alone yours.**

(We join in a time of silent prayer)

Hear the message of our hearts, loving Lord, and may we hear your great truth: God is more willing to forgive than we are to ask; God is full of mercy and does not hold our shortcomings against us; God the Father of our Lord Jesus gives us the Spirit to ensure we know this truth: We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN: 'Love Divine' TiS 217 AHB 148

BIBLE READINGS:

A reading from Psalm 103:8-15

A reading from Paul: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and v.13

A reading from the Gospel according to John: 15:9-17

SOLOIST/ITEM

SPEAKER: 'LOVE NEVER FAILS'

HYMN: 'Great is your faithfulness' TiS 154

REPORT ON WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS

OFFERING: An offering will be received for the work of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

DEDICATION AND PRAYER FOR OUR SCHOLARS AND TRUST MEMBERS:

Let us pray: accept these monetary gifts we ask, loving Lord, and may all that is given be used faithfully in the areas for which it is committed. For those who serve as members of the Trust we give thanks, and pray that their work may be to them a gift and a calling. We thank you for their dedication, and remember particularly before you past Scholars and those who have the privilege of receiving Scholarships this year. Bless them as they study and learn, as they grow in grace and understanding, and as they eventually move on from these student days to opportunities to serve in the situations given them, that they may fulfil their calling faithfully and with dedication.

**Dear Lord, hear these prayers and bless too those who give.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Great God, we pray for the world in which we live – that we may care for its creation and people. We hold before you those who live amidst plenty and scarcity, safety and danger, floods and droughts, peace and war, hatred and tension. Grant us peace we pray.

Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
(Psalm 85:7)

We pray for our country, Australia. We hold before you those who Govern; those who serve as doctors, nurses and other health-care workers, judges, teachers, pastoral workers, civil servants; those engaged in manufacture and retail business, mining and other industries; and in caring for others; the retired, and those who are unable to find work.

Let your face shine upon your servants; save us in your unfailing love.

[Psalm 31:16]

We pray for our communities – in the cities, suburbs and country towns, on farms and stations, wherever we live; in the work-place, and where volunteers serve. May we care for our children and youth, and also the aged, weak and ill.

May your unfailing love rest upon us O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

[Psalm 33.22]

We pray for Australian Church Women nationally, as the National Executive in particular plans for the National Conference in October, and for all those who join in this event in Western Australia. Bless and lead the State Units we pray, that all may plan wisely and continue to serve you within the work of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund, and the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Guide us in our decision-making that we may always act in accordance with your will.

These prayers and the prayers of our hearts we offer in the name of Jesus, and pray together the prayer he taught: **Our Father.....**

HYMN: 'Lord of earth and all creation' TiS 672

BLESSING:

Let nothing disturb you.

Nothing frighten you.

All things are passing.

God never changes!

Patient endurance attains to all things.

Who God possesses, in nothing is wanting.

Alone God is sufficient.

[St Teresa of Avila. Adapted]

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us all forever.

Amen.