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WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Our 1998 Scholar, Milise Taipeleti from Tonga, gave a very moving testimony when she met and spoke to the Victoria Unit Council Meeting, and below is a condensed version. Copies went to all NSW branches to be read out at Fellowship Day Services in July, and following is a shortened version. We hope to have Milise visit NSW later in the year.

"It is a great pleasure for me to say a testimony about myself and the study I am undertaking. My name is Milise and I was born in 1973, to a poor family in Tonga. I attended the church primary school in the local village, then Tonga High School. In 1990 while at the High School the Lord touched my life and I was born again. I promised God that if he made me pass my University Entrance Examination I will go to the Theological College and work for the church in the rest of my life. In 1991 I was Vice President of the High School Scripture Union, also the secretary of Inter-School Christian Fellowship in Tonga. In that year I passed my University Entrance Exzm.

In 1992 I asked my parents for a permission to go to Theological College but they did not accept - they told me to look for a job in the government to earn money because no one has a job in the family and they couldn't get more money for my study. I did obey my parents but I was very very sad. I stayed at home, looking for a job but for all of 1992 I did not find any job. In the same year I started preaching in church while I was 19 years old. Then something touches my father's heart and he told me to go to the Theological College.

In 1993 I enter the College and was there for 4 years. For all these 4 years my grandmother in Sydney who is now 97 years old paid for all my school fees. In my final year I was taking responsibilities for guidance of fellow students and working closely with staff members. In 1997 God opened another door for me to come here (to Melbourne) for further study. I know for sure this is his will but I found it hard to leave my parents, friends and relatives and also my sister does not have enough money for my study. Then God gave me Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged." This really encouraged my life, so I felt strong enough to come.

last year I heard of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and I did

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FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

As I write this report, my thoughts are still very much with the wonderful five days we had at the National Conference in Canberra. Our prayers are with the new National Executive (Queensland) and it was great to meet most of these ladies, especially Mrs Mollie Jean Hunt, our new National FLC Convener.

The retiring National Convener, Major Eileen Holley, presented an interesting and informative report on FLC happenings Australia-wide over the last two years - some of the highlights of this report were as follows:

"FLC has gained momentum within our country, due to the fresh vision and motivation that have come as a result of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations - much creativity was shown, with drama, visual aids, special songs, special edition of Circle of Prayer, literature, morning teas and luncheons. We have all benefited from the opportunity to tell the story - to tell the story once again, and as a result of all this increased activity, our giving has been better than ever before.

Four applications for grants have been given to Australia in the past four years: in 1995, The Girls' Brigade NSW received a grant of \$US 2000 for Leadership Training, and the Towarda Aboriginal Corporation of W.A. received \$US 3000 to develop a jewellery and artifact business. In 1996, a grant of \$US 4000 was given for the development of a School Chaplaincy at Launceston College, and another grant of \$US 2000 was given to WEC Missionary College in Tasmania to develop resources for women training for ministry.

This year, grants have been applied for from three different projects in NSW. These are: Life After Prison Ministries, the Somali Refugee Women's Sewing Group, and the Young Aboriginal Women Self-Esteem Program being developed by Crossroads Aboriginal Anglican Ministries in Redfern."

Please pray for the International Committee as they meet to consider and decide on the applications that have been submitted from many world countries this year. I am sure you join me in thanking Eileen, who having been transferred from Canberra, is now part of our NSW Unit, for her leadership and guidance over the past two years - she has kept us in touch with FLC happenings, written many letters on our behalf and helped us in many ways.

By the time you read this Report, World Community Day will

have come and gone. May I thank you all again for your support - both for your prayers and your giving - and may I wish you all a very blessed and holy Christmas.

Shirley Wells, FLC Convener.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

At the recent National Conference in Canberra, it was a particular pleasure to have our 1997 Scholars present with us - Joanne Harries from Tasmania for the full time and Rachel McManus visting for a day, accompanied by two of her friends from Redfern. It was a great opportunity for the interstate people to meet these two for whom they have prayed, to get to know them and to hear their reports of the benefits they are receiving from their scholarships. It was lovely to see photos of Joanne's adorable twins, Aidan and Morgan, born early this year.

We were delighted recently to hear from 1990 Scholar Doreen Tie Tan, of the birth of a baby daughter, who has been named Heather - congratulations and good wishes have been sent to Doreen and her husband Philip. You will remember that Doreen worked in the school for intellectually-disabled children and we helped her to establish a Toy Library, which she hoped would bring greater contact with parents.

At National Conference, it was announced that our 1998 WKS Scholar is to Milise T'Aipaleti from Tonga. Milise is 24 years old and is already at Melbourne College of Divinity where she has obtained her Bachelor of Theology and is continuing for her Master's degree, which the scholarship will make it possible for her to complete. On her return to Tonga, she will work in the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga at the Wesleyan College. We hope to have an opportunity to meet Milise at some future time.

Our prayers and great concern have been surrounding Beth Finlay, our WKS Convener, in her serious illness, surgery, and continuing treatment. Some members have been able to visit her; her contact address for letters or enquiries is C/- Mrs M Alford, 57 Epping Drive Frenchs Forest 2086. Phone (02) 9451.1769.

We are grateful to Lucelle King, previous WKS Convener, for undertaking this convenership in an acting capacity for the time being.

Beryl McLaughlin, Editor.

SPECIAL DAYS REPORT:

Reports received of Fellowship Day in July indicated that the Service, written by Queensland State Unit on the theme "Jesus Christ - The Way Ahead" was well-received in the 33 centres where it was held. Speakers and hearers were encouraged and blessed by participating in this lovely Service. Attendances totalling 1356 and offerings of \$4,811.70 were both down on other years, probably because of much reported illness during the winter.

World Community Day Services in October followed the theme "One People - Embracing and Encircled by God's Love." The new A.C.W. Branch at Alice Springs wrote the challenging Service. We are now waiting for the reports from the 38 centres where World Community Day was to be held.

I have been particularly taken by the beautiful and appropriate art-work on the covers of both Services this year. I hope that members and friends have enjoyed the blessings of the fellowship of worshipping together in these lovely Services during 1997.

Edith Ridge, Special Days Convener.

NSW UNIT STATE CONFERENCE:

Planning is well-advanced for our State Conference to be held May 13-15 in very pleasant surroundings at the Salvation Army Leadership Training Centre in Stanmore. The Theme is "Walking Together - Towards 2000."

The studies on Thursday May 14 will be led by Kath Donovan and Ruth Myers, Bible teachers and counsellors well-known to many of us.

On Friday May 15 in line with our desire to have aboriginal input, our guests will be Rev Rick & Kaleen Manton, who minister to the Aboriginal congregation at Mt Druitt, seeking to reach out to the aboriginal folk living in that area. Rick and Kaleen trained at Bimbadeen College (which is to receive support from this year's World Community Day Offer-tories) and then at the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne.

Leaflets advertising the Conference will be distributed at November Council meeting (at Lakemba following the Asian Church Women's Conference Service) and Registration Forms with full details of costs etc. will be available in February. Make it a date for your 1998 diary!

Margaret Collier, Functions Convener.