The
Mildred & Lois Mellert

SCHOLARSHIP

Mildred and Lois were the youngest of the five daughters of John and Winifred Mellert, farmers in central Illinois. John, Winifred, and their oldest daughter, Gladys, were charter members of the Maples Mill Church of the Nazarene, the oldest Nazarene Church east of the Rocky Mountains. The family traveled two miles to church by horse and carriage, in rain or snow, twice on Sundays and to prayer meeting each week. All the girls were musically talented and involved with singing or playing the piano or organ for church services. The girls’ first eight years of school were in a one-room school house.

Mildred, born May 26, 1903, began nurses’ training in Peoria, Ill. after graduation from Canton High School, but smallpox halted her training after only one year. Mildred married G. Harry Caldwell and moved to Chicago, where she finished her nursing course, later earning her master’s degree in nursing at Washington University in Seattle. Mildred served in the Veteran’s Administration, working at hospitals in Colorado (where her husband died), St. Louis, and Atlanta. She became chief nurse in the V.A. and worked at the central office in Washington, D.C. Preferring hospital nursing to office work, she transferred to Marion, Indiana, working there until her retirement in 1969 when she moved to Tucson to share a home with Lois. In 1978 Mildred married Harry Jungert and moved back to Illinois, where they worshipped at and supported the Maples Mill Nazarene Church. Mildred died in June 2002.

Lois, born February 26, 1907, attended Canton High School for one year, and then completed high school at Olivet Nazarene College where she met and married Sanford R. Smith in 1925. They moved back to her “home place” where they reared three children: Barbara, John, and Jack. Lois was a homemaker until Sam’s health forced them to move to Tucson, Arizona where they owned and operated an apartment complex. Sam died in 1967. Lois and Mildred traveled together throughout the U.S. and to many foreign countries, including a five-week trip to Africa to visit and see the work of their missionary cousin Bessie Grose Esselstyn and her husband, William. In 1985 Lois married Oral Wilcoxen; they live in Lewiston, Ill. For many years Lois, Oral, and Mildred conducted services for Maples Mill Church of the Nazarene in nursing homes where they were older than most of the residents.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion.
2. Recipients are to be students with a definite call to full-time Christian ministry as a senior pastor or missionary in the Church of the Nazarene.
3. This scholarship is to be awarded to eligible students primarily on the basis of significant financial need. If in a particular year there is no eligible student with significant financial need, the scholarship may be held for award in a future year.
4. Nominations for this award are to be made through the School of Theology and Christian Ministries and the Office of Financial Aid.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived. Gifts to NNU’s Endowed Scholarship Program become a “helping hand” to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others. For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement, NNU, 625 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.