

Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

March, 2011

REMEMBER:

- **Make a resolution to spend time with God every day, starting right now**
- **11 June - Women's Ministries Emphasis Day (SDA)**
- **27 August - Abuse Awareness Day (SDA)**

IN THIS GOING PLACES:

- News 2
- Self esteem 3
- More news 4

Our Father

This is our first Going Places for 2011 and what a beginning this year has already had. Disasters have happened across the South Pacific and also around the world. It is such a comfort for us to know that we have a loving father who is there for us no matter what. Sometimes we don't think he's there because of all the troubles we are having, but he is right beside us, holding our hand and helping us live through it all. He helps us grow each and every day, no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in. All we have to do is call upon him. We can count on him in all things.

I was very touched when I heard the story of a mother in Queensland whose baby was snatched out of her hands in the floods. She had hung onto the baby for as long as she could as she was thrown

about in the flood, but at one point the current tore her out of her arms. My heart ached with both the mother and the father as they were telling their story to the journalist from the 60 Minutes program. The journalist was crying and so I believe was everyone who watched it.

That story made me think of my relationship with God, the ups and downs all throughout my life. I thought of the times when I've walked away from Him. How hurt God must have been when I've let Him down. As my heavenly Father He has watched over me and has had to let me make decisions that at times were not according to His will. He gave all of us brains to make decisions and if we rely on Him, He'll help us make the right decisions for our lives. His love for us is unconditional,

He's there no matter what.

Here below you'll see advertising for "Women and the Word" Conference to be held at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. This is a yearly event and is organized by South Pacific Division Women's Ministries and Avondale College. I would like to invite you to come and experience how to "Excavate God's Truth".



WOMEN AND THE WORD

EXCAVATING GOD'S TRUTH

April 8 - 9, Sydney Adventist Hospital, level 2 Conference Room, 185 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, NSW
\$35 per person, \$20 students. Bookings and Enquiries: janbolst@adventist.org.au. Ph 02 9847 3306
Please register before March 25

New World Leader Announced For The Salvation Army



Commissioner
Linda Bond

The Salvation Army has announced its new world leader and the 19th General will be Canadian-born Commissioner Linda Bond.

Commissioner Bond becomes the third woman and the fourth Canadian to hold the post of General of The Salvation Army since the international church and charity organisation was founded 146 years ago.

The commissioner, who currently heads up the church and registered charity's work in the Australian Eastern Territory, was elected by The High Council of The Salvation Army made up of senior leaders from around the world who met this week in Sunbury-on-Thames near London.

Commissioner Linda Bond (64) will have the title General-elect until

she succeeds the current world leader General Shaw Clifton, who retires at the beginning of April.

Once in post as General of The Salvation Army, the commissioner will become the head of more than one million Salvationists in 123 countries. The Salvation Army also has more than 100,000 employees who between them communicate in 175 different languages.

Yarra Women's Ministries Retreat



Ladies having fun at the progressive tea

One hundred and ten women attended the women's retreat at Yarra and the spirit was really wonderful. Saturday night was one highlight where we had a progressive tea with a difference. Everyone mixed and went from table to table in a group and did a different activity, it was lots of fun.

The spiritual activities were very involving, and meaningful. There was

one (of Several) non SDA who came, and really made a commitment to God there, just a few days later we learnt that she was killed in a small plane accident (travelled as the Nursing sister on a mercy flight and was returning home). How beautiful to know that she had made her commitment to God then.

Val Ferris - NNSW
Women's Ministries Team

World Day of Prayer



The Parramatta Adventist Church hosted the World Day of Prayer for their city on Friday, March 4th. This was the first time the SDA Church had the opportunity to host the community for this day of prayer. The attendance was around 100, the biggest in many years according to a Salvation Army representative who is on the Organizing Committee for the city of Parramatta. She publicly thanked the Women's Ministries coordinator, Beryl Landers and her

team for a beautiful service.

Each year, the Women's World Day of Prayer asks a country to prepare the program, this year it was done by Chile. Four Chilean Adventist women shared history about their country during the service. They were dressed in decorative costumes. The theme for this year was: "How many loaves have you?" The pastor did an excellent sermon showing us how important it is to share with others what God has given us.

Erna Johnson

Self Esteem, Identity & the Believer



by Gilda Dholah-Roddy
WM Director, Greater
Sydney Conference

As we grow we acquire different experiences in our life that shape our beliefs, values, personality, behaviours and self image, some of those experiences are positive, some negative and some are even traumatic. As a child, I must say my experiences outside of my home were pretty traumatic.

I was born with a cleft lip, and although the many surgeries I underwent were very successful, it did not stop my peers at school and even some of the people I considered close friends and family to make fun and comment that I was not pretty.

The experiences that I had growing up made a huge impact in my self image and how I looked at other people, but most important of all, how I looked at myself. There were many days when I felt down or felt that I was

not worth much. It was in those moments when life seemed to go wrong and when I felt down that my mother would talk to me about how to increase my self confidence, believe in myself to resist problems and move forward.

She would say "you don't have to live a prisoner of those problems, you can overcome your problems, and they should make you stronger." I looked around and there were plenty of people that had everything against them, no money, no love, no parents, no health and they still fight for their place in the world, because they had one thing self esteem, self confidence and the desire to help other people.

My whole life changed when I heard God calling me to ministry one evening. I didn't know what following his calling would do to my life. Allowing God to lead my life proved to be the best boost of self confidence I could have asked for. God had placed me in an environment that allowed me to find myself. I had the opportunity to start fresh, I could leave the past behind and start a new life.

I spent too long struggling to understand myself, what motivated and inspired me. I felt unsatisfied with my lot in

life which lead to feelings of despair, frustration, and contributed to a real lack of self value and self worth.

During my first year in college I was asked to write a personal story. By doing this assignment I was given the opportunity to gain clarity into areas of my life that I struggled with. With this understanding, I was better able to identify those things that motivated and inspired me. As I learned throughout the semester we are all unique and here in this world for a reason and that we do deserve to feel loved, respected, understood, valued and worthy. I was surprised by the depth and richness of my story as it offered me a mirror into my life and how I would like it to be.

I cannot say when I started noticing the change in my life, but I do know the people God sent to affirm me as a person, and most of all as a beautiful daughter of God. It was not until I allowed God to have complete control of my life that I was able to let people in. So many times we allow others to dictate how we ought to feel and think about ourselves. It was time for me to listen to God and the God fearing people He had sent to

speak positive thoughts into my life.

Today, I can honestly say that I am a totally different person. I believe God created me the way I am for a reason. I am able to share my experiences with other women who struggle with self esteem and testify that God can make us all victorious. Personally, I have a very handsome husband who not only reassures me of his love for me, but is my greatest supporter and together we have two beautiful daughters. Socially, I am confident in my own skin, I realize that people will see me how I want them to see me. Professionally, I am in a great place. By allowing God to lead me, He has placed me just where I need to be. I serve as the director of women's ministries for the Greater Sydney conference and as Associate Pastor of the Wahroonga Seventh-day Adventist Church. I have the best of both worlds. Last, but definitely not least, Spiritually, I am blessed to be called a daughter of the almighty King and I praise Him for giving me the strength and boldness to speak for Him. May we all listen as He speaks to us. May we walk with our heads held high knowing the One who created us.

Prayer Ministries

produces a newsletter once a quarter. If you are interested in being on the email list, contact Jan, details on the back page

Beyond the Rainbow



Wauchope Women's Ministry team chose 'Beyond the Rainbow' for the title and theme for their recent weekend retreat at 'Woodridge Park', just out of Wauchope, for the ladies in the area. At the end of their planning meeting, it was as if God had stamped His approval on the theme by sending a rainbow! The rainbow theme was carried right through the special weekend, from hand painted rainbows, to music, right down to table decorations and napkins.

The team chose 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' as their theme song, and Coral Potts, music director at Wauchope, re wrote Christian lyrics for the song, which was a huge thrill.

Erna Johnson, Women's Ministries Director & Prayer Ministries Coordinator for the SPD, was the special guest for most of the programs, and she was also supported by Tania Worroll from Camden Haven church, and Sonia McNamara from Foster church.

Twenty five or so women, including a couple of unchurched ladies, enjoyed all or part of the weekend, and while the weekend started off wet, spirits were high and the ladies were abundantly blessed.

On Sabbath morning, the offering that was taken up was to empower the young women of our church, and \$280 was collected. Last year, 3 young ladies were assisted to attend AYC in Melbourne, with what was given then.

They also experienced an answer to prayer, when another couple staying at the retreat learnt that the ladies were Christians, asked for prayer for the rain to hold off at 11 am the next day for their son's wedding. Right at 11 am the rain stopped and held off all afternoon. Praise the Lord!

A Pampered Evening

by Colleen

Just imagine being surrounded by beautiful chocolate desserts on candle lit tables put there for you to enjoy. Add to this caring ladies giving you hand and foot massages. Would you be in heaven? No, just the latest Women's Ministry pamper evening at Wyee church hall. The evening got better as women enjoyed fellowship with friends and new acquaintances together with an uplifting devotional taken by Julie Ruotsalainen and a prayer time lead by Bev Christian. This took place on Saturday night 8th May when a group of 40 ladies attended a Prayer, Pamper & Chocolate Night. Each lady was presented with a welcome card with a chocolate attached to it. Special prayer requests were collected in a prayer bucket and prayed over and burnt. The Wyee pastor Helene Butov was affirmed with prayer for her work and family.

Many thanks to Enid Nelson for decorating the hall and making the cards. Jillan made

small chocolate cupcakes and Bronwyn iced and decorated them and assembled them on tied cake platters for us to enjoy.



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We are here to help
women reach their
potential!