

Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

September, 2011

REMEMBER:

- *“What we see depends mainly on what we look for.”*
John Lubbock
- 4 September - Fathers Day
- 5-7 September - Week of Prayer
- 7-13 September - National Child Protection Week
- 21 September - World Day of Peace
- 2 October - International Day of Non-Violence

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The Lord's Calling

August 16-18, 2012 will be an exciting time for the Adventist Women of the South Pacific Division. It's the date when women from across the Division will come together to learn how to have a personal relationship with our Saviour, and how to share our faith with others.

One of the founders of our Church, Ellen G. White believed that the women of the church had a very important role to play in evangelism. We believe God spoke to her directly and her message should be taken seriously. That is why we are organizing this very special conference. In the book "Evangelism" she says the following:

The Lord Calls Women to His Service In the various branches of

the work of God's cause, there is a wide field in which our sisters may do good service for the Master.... Among the noble women who have had the moral courage to decide in favour of the truth for this time are many who have tact, perception, and good ability, and who may make successful workers. The labours of such Christian women are needed.—Evangelism, 466. – {DG 15.1}

Our theme for next year is: **“Touch a heart, tell the World”** which means that in order to tell someone about Jesus, you have to touch their heart first. To touch a heart, you have to love them. Ellen White says: *“He who died to redeem man from death loves with a divine love; and He says to His follow-*

ers: “This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.” Christ showed His love for the fallen race by His actions.— {DG 15.2}



If it is your desire to “touch a heart and tell the world” contact your local conference Women's Ministries Director in order to attend our conference 2012. There is limited space per Union (200) so don't wait too long to contact us to receive further information. Erna Johnson

TPUM Advisory



Every 5 years our World Church chooses leaders to function for the coming 5 years. At the beginning of each term, our departments organize what we call Advisories. Women's Ministries advisories are made

up of our directors in each Union. I've had the privilege of attending 3 of our Union advisories this year and the 4th one will be held early next year.

Above you have the team from Trans Pacific Union

Mission – 6 directors, the president of the Union, the former WM Director of the Union and the secretary who takes care of the Women's Ministries affairs at the office.

ADRA Receives Best Practices Award for Women Empowerment

Effort helps women, communities in Bangladesh

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has been awarded the Best Practices and Innovations (BPI) award for Improving Livelihoods Through Women Empowerment by InterAction, the largest U.S.-based alliance of international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

During a recent ceremony in Washington, D.C., InterAction recognized ADRA as one of the

five leading humanitarian agencies for work in agriculture and rural livelihoods. InterAction's selection committee determined ADRA's Livelihood Through Women Empowerment Project (WEP) best met their criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, gender equity, sustainability, and ability for project replication.

"ADRA's successful winning of Inter-Action's Best Practice and Innovations award reflects a tremendous achievement by ADRA in a focus on livelihood and women,"

commented InterAction president and CEO, Sam Worthington. "It shows to the broader food security [community] that there are practices that can be measured and brought to scale, and ultimately and most importantly, can touch and change the lives of women."



An Adventist First: Mother and Daughter Pastors

Mother and Daughter graduate together from University

It's not often that a mother and daughter graduate together from university. More unique still, a mother and daughter being simultaneously employed as Adventist ministers. Indeed, the story of Nancy Chadwick and Christine Chadwick Wallington, who recently graduated together from La Sierra University, is a first. The two are employed by the Southeastern

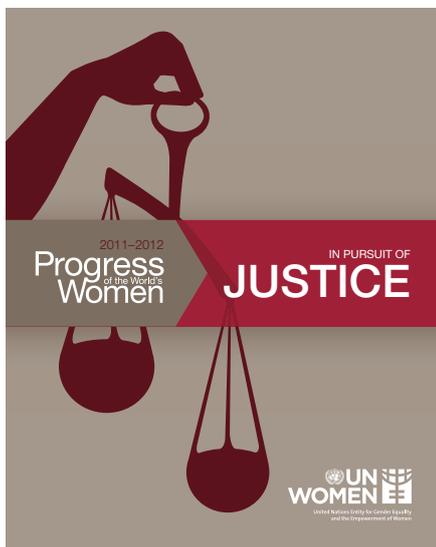
California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Nancy Chadwick serves as associate pastor at the Hemet Adventist Church, and her daughter Christine Wallington has just begun a master's degree at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

"The biggest negative that I had to overcome was myself," Nancy says of the challenge of pastoring as a woman. "My culture caused me to see women pastors in a

very negative light." Paradoxically, she describes feeling a strong call to ministry for as long as she can remember, and often wondered why God would create her with an inner conflict between being female and wanting to minister. But she quickly adds that she has had a positive experience as a woman minister overall. Though only newly hired as a pastor, Christine calls her experience in ministry "blessed."

Justice Still Out Of Reach For Millions Of Women

A report from UN Women calls on governments to end the discrimination and injustice that women continue to face throughout the world



Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice is UN Women's first major report, following the agency's launch in early 2011. The report offers a comprehensive global review on women's rights around the world, on legal issues from gender-based violence to equal pay, from representation in government to post-conflict justice. It recognises the positive progress made – 139 countries and territories now guarantee equality in their constitutions – but also demonstrates that too often, women experience injustice, violence and inequality in their home, working and public lives.

Julie McKay, Executive Director of UN Women Australia says "It is timely

that this report has been released on the same day the Federal Government committed to ensuring a gender and regional focus in our Aid Program. Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice finds that women in the Asia-Pacific Region still face significant injustice – especially in relation to domestic violence, household decision making and land rights."

The Australian National Committee for UN Women today calls on the Federal Government to commit to increasing the proportion of its justice aid budget focused on gender, following a recent decline in the percentage dedicated to gender justice programs.

07-Jul-2011

Depend on God's Promises

This experience is written by Hamlyn Anisi. She lives on the island of Malaita (Solomon Islands). She has 5 biological children and 5 adopted children.

It started back in 2001 when Pr. Neil Watts and his wife Joy were here in the Solomon Islands. Joy was an influential woman of prayer, and she planted a seed, which grew and now bears fruit to glorify God by helping me develop a passion for prayer and for women. I signed a contract with my God and the journey began.

In 2005 while I was the leader for Women's Ministries in Burns Creek Church I was invited by Koga SDA Church to run a weekend prayer workshop. I accepted the privilege to go and experience God's promises for me because I was 'willing'. Two weeks before that weekend, I prayerfully prepared a sermon on PRAYER. I told the church that it will be a fasting and prayer Sabbath so don't bother to cook anything for Sabbath. They all agreed and the whole church fasted — it was a need to know how to pray effectively.

"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

God gave me a "thought" on fasting and prayer at the opening of Sabbath and we enjoyed worshipping God through sharing, singing, claiming of promises and praying through to midnight.

When it was time for the divine service, before I walked onto the pulpit, I pulled out my prayerfully prepared sermon notes and had a quick glance just to put my mind on the topic of "prayer." Alas! My sermon had been erased from my mind completely and I was left empty, dumb founded and helpless. The church elder asked me what hymns to sing, I tried my best to be confident and with much crying to God in my heart, I answered him with "choose any

hymn that emphasizes prayer." It was like having guests in my home and having nothing to feed them! That was when I experienced what real humility was, and that I had to depend totally on God's promises when He said that He will put words into my mouth. I silently cried out my heart in helplessness to God, surrendered my mind, heart, lips and self, and I walked to the pulpit oblivious of the audience except the face of Jesus. I came back to myself when I stood to pray before opening God's word to the audience. Then I experienced what God had promised, I made myself available, I was willing to be His hand-glove, instrument. I preached for 1 hour with no notes to guide me. My opening promise was 2 Chronicles 7:14. I noticed the young children, youth and adults faces, they did not at any moment take their eyes from me except when reading the

text that God impressed on me at that moment. They stayed focused with

intense interest until the sermon ended. Oh my soul was made humble. That was my foundation experience — to be ready to accept any call, given at any time, to share Jesus with others.

We had the whole afternoon workshop on prayer until 6pm, when our fast ended. Testimonies were shared about the strength they had experienced on the promise that "man shall not live by bread alone." Since then Koga church began a prayer walk with Jesus in all their church and family activities. I praised God because He had given them something to learn, and I had found total trust in God and confidence to depend on Him at any given time or circumstance to do His bidding.

I have had many miraculous experiences, but I would only share what God wants me to share. It was the evening of June 3 2006 — I went to bed with a heavy heart, prayed to Jesus 'please give me peace'. It was about 4am when I dreamed that a picture frame was descending from the sky. I was holding a string that was tangled, I tried to undo the tangle but it was too hard for me. Suddenly I looked up and saw, as a video clip from a distance stopped right in front of me. The most beautiful face of my beloved Jesus was smiling at me and suddenly all my darkness, heaviness and confusion departed, gladness, joy and peace filled my heart. After a few seconds it ascended again until it disappeared out of my sight into the sky. I woke up and prayed, praising God that He knew that I needed His assurance and love, and that He had accepted me just as I was. It was like Jacob's ladder dream to me. The happiness I felt then will never be forgotten.

Currently I am very much involved in mentoring and empowering young people to experience God at heart. With the name *Back to Basics*, and the motto: *Simple But Powerful* —to make a difference through the power of the Holy Spirit—I'm doing God's work with much prayer and Bible study, going places to experience more of God's promises of His power and saving souls for eternity.

May God be glorified forever!



Giving Seventh-day Adventist women the opportunity of higher education when it otherwise might not be available is the fruit of a unique volunteer effort that recently marked its twentieth anniversary.

Since its beginning, the General Conference Department of Women's Ministries Scholarship Program has provided funds for 1,748 women to attend college—and the number is constantly growing. As of the first quarter of 2011, a total of approximately \$767,700 has been raised in the program's 20-year existence.

In June 2011 a team of volunteers, called Scholarshipping Our Sisters, or SOS, raised an additional \$10,000 to meet a matching grant presented to the scholarship program. With this achievement and earlier fund-raisers SOS has earned more than half of its yearly goal of \$40,000.

The grant was the largest challenge SOS has ever received. If the remainder of the goal is reached, this will be a \$6,000 increase over what was earned in 2010.

SOS was born in 2003, when members of the General Conference Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee felt distraught over the number of applicants that were being turned down. "There had to be a way to raise more funds," Carolyn Kujawa, a now-retired General Conference employee who volunteers with SOS, said. "These were our sisters."

Now SOS raises as much money each year as is made off the royalties from an annual

Women's Ministries devotional book, which also is published and sold to raise funds for the scholarships.

Raquel Arrais, associate director for Women's Ministries and chairperson of the scholarship committee, says, "SOS is about education: the key to changing lives. Education gives these dedicated women a future and a hope. . . . Prayers are answered, lives are blessed forever, families are strengthened, communities are reached, churches are blessed, and, above all, women are empowered."



Committee Work: Members of the Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists meet to consider applications for educational assistance. In 20 years the all-volunteer "Scholarshipping Our Sisters" effort has raised approximately \$767,000 to assist Seventh-day Adventist women attain higher educations... (Photo: GC Women's Ministry)



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We are here to help women reach their potential!

Women's Ministries Retreat in Victoria

Over 500 women attended the Victoria Conference Women's Ministries retreat in 2011.

We had an amazing time with a lot of healing taking place. Our prayer team worked actively during the weekend, so the place was covered with God's presence the whole time. We had a special prayer over our pastors' wives and all

Women's Ministries Leaders (taken by our Victoria Conference president). This year we had more than 80% of women under the age of 40, many of whom were teenagers. We praise God for the work He's doing in our women.

Danijela Trajkov

