

Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

March, 2012



REMEMBER:

- **8 March** - International Women's Day
- **9 June** - Women's Ministries Emphasis Day
- **25 August** - Abuse Awareness Day (SDA)

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Greetings

Greetings to all women in the South Pacific from the Adventist Women's office at the Division in Wahroonga Australia!

Jan, my assistant and I count it a privilege to serve you in whatever way we can as you share your faith with others. May the Lord bless you wherever you are!

We have big plans for this year! In fact, it's the most encompassing plan this department has had in a very long time. Our dream is to see every woman use her potential, gifts and talents in God's service. That's the reason why we are organizing a conference August 16-18, 2012 in Brisbane. If you have a heart for sharing God's message with others, this conference is for you! There is limited space for each Mission/Conference and you must contact your Adventist Women's Ministries Director in

order to receive a registration form. Nobody can contact the Division office to register for the conference it HAS to go through your own Mission/Conference office.

The purpose of this conference is not to be a regular spiritual retreat, but to be much more! We want the women who attend to commit to sharing their faith with others once they return back home.

Your Adventist Women's leaders are enthusiastic and passionate about ministering to others and want to fill their quota with women who show by their past actions that their priority is sharing with others, be it their families, their communities or their churches what God has done and is doing for them. The return of Jesus is closer than we think and we, Adventist Women,

want to participate in spreading the Gospel.

The first person to share the message that Jesus had risen, was a woman! Mary was told by Jesus at his resurrection to go and tell Peter and the others that he was risen. Since that time, women have taken part in this wonderful ministry and in this day and age, Adventist Women want to play an active part in spreading the Good News.

What about you? Do you wish to commit yourself to sharing the Good News with others? If you do, contact your Adventist Women's Leader and ask if you can join her group attending the conference.

Let's all join in Touching Hearts, and Telling the World what God has done and is doing for us! Erna

AUC WM Advisory

At a beautiful place called Jumbunna Lodge, the Directors of the Adventist Women Departments from across Australia met to share what they've done during the past year and plan what they will do during the coming year. Much time was spent in prayer for our women across the Division as well as for each other.



Reaching Out To Our Young Women

Hephzibah means “You are my Delight”, and it’s God speaking to his “girl” – His people. This is the name chosen by the Youth Department in S.A. Conference for a yearly teenage girls’ retreat. This year WM partnered with the Youth Department and we talked to the girls about the masks people wear to hide from God and from each other.

Janette Kingston, WM Director for S.A., conducted some of the

sessions, which were of a very practical nature and talked to the girls about how to be happy with the person under the mask, and how to relate happily with family, friends and the opposite sex. Each girl was given a “Happiness Pack” at the end of the sessions to sum up the main points discussed.

There was a lot of practical involvement by the girls in workshop –type sessions and in making their

own “masks”. A prayer room was also set up for them, with relevant activities that matched what was discussed in the sessions.

The weekend finished with a banquet where the girls wore masks and were able to ask a “mystery boy” visitor to the banquet any question they liked. This ended up being very revealing for the girls and beneficial for their future relationships.

Janette Kingston, S A Conference



NZPUC Women’s Ministries Advisory

The New Zealand Pacific Union organized a joint advisory for the Women’s, Children’s, Youth and Family Ministries departments over the week of February 19th - 24th at Tui Ridge camp grounds. Each of the 5 Regions of the Union were present with their directors. Here are some photos showing them at work and play.



I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 1 Timothy 1:12

I have held many things in my hands and lost them all; but the things I have placed in God’s hands, those I always possess.

We Serve A God Of Abundance

We serve a God of abundance. (Ephesians 1) I woke to the sound of a very eager rooster. Why would it need to commence the day in the dark of 4am? There were no answers to his call but still he persisted. The sun had not yet coloured the eastern horizon, although the light was dispersing the intensity of the dark, when a kookaburra couldn't resist any longer. The laughter announced another new day. It wasn't long before there was an answering call from across the treetops. The rooster and the kookaburra were soon joined by an abundance of songs from many more birds - the warble of the magpie, the chatter of galahs in their pink and grey jackets, the bell-like call of the bellbirds, the crack of the whipbird's call, the short calls back and forth as peewees, eastern rosellas, king parrots, willy-wagtails, honeyeaters and white cockatoos joined in. Mists melted away as the brightness of the day arrived once again.

Why do these birds sing in the morning? That is what birds do! Whether they are there alone or I am there to listen they sing because they are made in their own special way. We are blessed with not just one bird song but with an abundance of their music each morning. They are spontaneous and whole-hearted as they announce each new morning with enthusiasm. My day is all the more enticing because of their music.

As I sit here on the verandah there is a box of pears inside. They were picked from the pear tree in the orchard down the hill. A long time ago a gardener, who loved the feel of dirt, planted that tree. One seed was all it took to become our generous tree. It blossoms each spring with a mass of perfectly-shaped petals. Swarms of bees buzz around the tree, busily bouncing from bloom to bloom. Spring turns to summer, the fruit forms, expands and then ripens. We benefit from

the abundance of fruit on the tree - fresh pears, stewed pears, dried pears, bottled pears and shared pears. Such a tremendous harvest and all from one small seed. More than that, each one of those pears has at least four seeds within that have the potential of repeating the story all over again. Such power, such promise.

Why do pear trees produce more pears? Because that is what they are made to do! They are not there to consume and not give. They are blessed abundantly and in turn they share for generations. Year after year they give, over and over again. They don't require that I be worthy of their gift. They don't require that I use them wisely. They give because a pear grows to produce more pears. God made them that way.

The singing of the birds and the sweet, juicy pears are reminders to me of our great and generous God. Because of His abundant love He gives us varying gifts - discernment, hospitality, helping, teaching, wisdom, leadership, healing, preaching, creativity ... We are unique individuals. He has handmade us. He just asks us in turn to share generously. (See Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4)

Through His Spirit we can be equipped to share this love. The

beauty of the wilderness tabernacle was created by craftsmen who were gifted by the Holy Spirit. Solomon's Temple was, likewise, crafted by artists blessed by God. The Good News of God's work for humanity in and through Jesus was spread to multiple language groups by the gifting of the Holy Spirit. This amazingly generous God still gifts people like you and me through His Spirit. He just asks us to be willing to share His love right where we are. He will empower us.

The Women's Ministries Department of the South Pacific Division is providing an opportunity to assist women know and share God's abundant love. If you would like to be inspired, encouraged and equipped further for serving others we have you in mind as we plan the Women's Conference in Brisbane, 16-18 August 2012. Please check how you can be involved by contacting your local conference Women's Ministries Director.

There are abundant bird songs. There are vast numbers of pears. We are many. No two are exactly the same. We serve a God of abundance! He has equipped us through His Spirit. Let's share the Good News right where we are.

Wendy Hergenhan
SNSW Adventist Women's Director



20 Years of Prayer Bears Fruit

Maria Gauma and her husband had a burden for the home village of Mr Gauma, Saroakeina, in the district of Kwikila in Papua New Guinea. Since 1992, they had been praying for this village. There had been an Adventist church there, but because there hadn't been any minister nor had there been any visitations to the area the members left the church. This village is dominated by the United Church with no Adventist presence for many years.

After nearly 20 years of praying for this village, they decided to go there for a holiday and see what ministry they could do for these people. The answer came on their first Sabbath there. A man who had once upon a time been an Adventist sent his wife to see them and asked if they could come and hold a worship service for them.

Since that Sabbath morning there have been worships organized for the village. Most of the backsliders are back and many new ones have been baptised. Many from the United Church and 5 from Bahai church have been baptised. The total baptisms so far is now 49 and they have another 20 who have made their decisions for baptism.



group and they all came, about fifty of them. We made friends with them. Their chairlady whose name is Kila was befriended by the Conference WM Director who went to her home and prayed with her and her husband. Kila says she is going to join our church. The women were influenced by the friendship and kindness shown to them during the meetings and many of them decided to join the Adventist church.

After the week's meeting, these women went back to their village and told their United Church Pastor (Reverend) that they were going to join the Adventist church because he has not been preaching the right message! He's been keeping them in the dark! The truth has not been told! The pastor went and told the village Councillor to see the women. The councillor had a talk with the women and they told him the same thing and this is what the Councillor said, "That's OK, this village needs some changes. Go ahead, I will not stop you women". Some of them now are worshiping on the Sabbath.

The Women's Ministries group will be going there again in May 2012. This time they will run a two weeks evangelism campaign.



In early September the Women's Ministries Team went to run meetings there for a week on the Second Coming of Jesus, it really shook the village. We invited the United church Women's

Statistics From The UN Women's Department

New York, 2nd February — At a press conference in New York today, UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet called for galvanizing greater commitment and action for women and gender equality, as political and economic upheaval threaten progress on women's rights. She called the press conference to report on the first year of operations of UN Women. With austerity measures, budget cuts and political changes impacting women's lives, worldwide, Ms. Bachelet outlined the action agenda of the organization in her first press conference of 2012.

"My top priority for 2012 will be to make a renewed push for women's economic empowerment and political participation. This is in response to women's demands and also to recent events, to the transformations taking place in the political, social and economic spheres," said Ms. Bachelet. "With rising demand for justice, upcoming elections in many countries and political transition, we can open doors wider for women."

Source: www.unwomen.org



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We are here to help
women reach their
potential!