

Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

December 2012

Another Busy Year



REMEMBER:

- **Christmas is a time to share the love of Jesus with others!**
- **World Day of Prayer, March 1**
SDA, March 2
International Women's Day March 8
- **Make a resolution to spend time with God every day, starting right now**

IN THIS GOING PLACES

- **Around the Division**

This year has been so busy that Jan and I have hardly been able to breathe! What a year! From January until August we were on full steam ahead in preparations for our Division-wide Conference in Brisbane, where over 600 women leaders from across the Division gathered to learn how to share their faith. What a wonderful time we had together praising God and learning more about how we can serve Him better.

The rest of the year I have had the opportunity to go and speak at retreats and leadership training. God is moving His women into a more concerted service for Him. It's such a wonderful thing to witness.

I pray that each woman within our South Pacific Division will find out what the purpose is for

her life, for that is why we are who we are. Come and visit our web site: <http://women.adventistconnect.org> to find out more about our resources which will help you in that endeavour.

I read in "Steps to Christ" a passage that has really impacted my life, it's found in the chapter on Prayer and says on page 99: "Let the soul be drawn out and upward, that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere. We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns

to the sun." May that be your experience in the days to come.

As the Christmas Season comes closer, may the Spirit of Christmas, the life-giving Saviour be close to you and yours. May you be willing to share what the "Good News" is all about during the only part of the year when people are thinking of the "Christ" in Christmas.



2013 Devotional for Women

Blessed is the title of the 2013 Women's Ministries devotional book for women and its publication marks the 20th year anniversary of publishing devotional books.

The God-inspired devotional book project began in 1992 as a one-time idea to raise funds for Women's Ministries scholarships, but that book was so well received, and so many blessings flowed from it, that the books just kept coming—and kept blessing. Not only are book readers blessed, but every writer and scholarship recipient is blessed. And blessings continue through the service these amazing women provide.

Three ladies from our Division will receive scholarships for 2013.

Available through your local Adventist Book Centre.



News From Around the Division...



Literacy Help

Adventist Women of the South Pacific are supporting a women's literacy ministry in PNGUM and TPUM with a big monetary donation towards this very important ministry for both women and men. Illiteracy is one of the six critical issues that impact women around the world and Adventist Women wants to help make sure we eradicate it in our Division as quickly as possible. Adventist Women has been very involved in teaching literacy in both Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands for many years and many people have been won to Christ through this ministry.



PNGUM literacy team leaders



Solomon Island literacy program.

Solomon Islands Miracle

I have just returned from my trip to Makira Region attending the Women's Federation. We had a lovely week together, I ran seminars on leadership, etc and took the evening worship and service on Sabbath, I was flat out, but I was blessed. Their theme was "Heart Sanctified for Service".

As we were returning to Kirakira to catch our flight home, we encountered very rough conditions in our boat; it was very rough, windy and the current was very strong. We were well loaded as well: I asked the driver whether we should make two trips, but he said it's alright. So we took off, and a short time later the swells were coming in the boat and the captain fell off and then we began to sink. Besides the adults, there were three babies in the boat. We all swam to shore and all our belongings were soaked, some were lost. All my things were ruined, laptop, camera, mobile phone and I feel sorry for my study Bible was soaked wet and ruined now. The boat was lost as well. It is a miracle that we all survived and we praise God all of us returned home safely!

Beverly Maega



Prior to its sinking, this is the boat that was used to transport us.

By Beholding We Become Changed

On the first weekend in October Women's Ministries Tasmania hold their annual women's retreat at the Spring Beach Youth Convention Centre. By Beholding Jesus We Become Changed was the theme for the retreat with Beryl Landers being the guest speaker. Beryl inspired every woman to be changed by experiencing Jesus and to be the change. On Sabbath women shared how God was leading in their ministry with stories about what was happening in their churches and community. An afternoon workshop 'Demystifying Women's Ministries' facilitated by Beryl helped women to prioritise goals and plan for 2013. Craft was facilitated by Maggie Ballew with women creating Encouragement Books that are given to people to help them through difficult times and to let them know that God cares for them. The Youth Bible project was the beneficiary of the offering, trade table and ADRA clothing sales. Highlights of the retreat were early morning outdoor worship, prayer groups, great food and lots of talk. Vicki Knight, WM Director, Tasmania



The Cook Islands

For the first time in the Cook Island history, the big school hall in Rarotonga was so full, there was no empty seat available! So says Sarah Aratai, the WM Director and pastor in Rarotonga. This was supposed to be a women's retreat, but the men begged to be included and included they were for the first time but probably not the last as they enjoyed it as much as the women.

A leadership training was held as well with a very good participation from women of all ages.



French Polynesia

A retreat for teenage girls was held on the island of Raiatea October 12-14. Over 40 teenage girls attended this retreat called "Real Beauty". Workshops and talks aimed at teaching and sharing what real beauty is, what the world calls beauty and what real beauty is in God's eyes. The girls had a fantastic time together. Wonderful older women were given the responsibility of being the girls' mentors for the weekend, helping to steer the conversations towards positive findings.



Papeete - Ministry to Young Women

The very first special program for women aged 18-35 was held in Papeete October 20th. Over 100 young women responded to the invitation of the Women's Ministries Team in French Polynesia and came ready to learn and to enjoy the time together. The theme for the day was "My Choice, My Destiny". A perfect choice of emphasis for these professional women. The final message was that there's a mansion being prepared for us "Beyond the Rainbow" and everyone was captivated by that as can be seen by the art created by the participants at the end of the day representing the different spiritual lessons learnt.





GIGI is a 100 page Christian magazine focusing on struggles that girls are facing today. It's aimed at young women aged 13+. GIGI is the magazine for every young woman that wants to grow spiritually whilst learning new things through the great articles. Published by 5 Sisters Ministry - www.5sistersministry.com.au

WA WM Director Retires

Christine White has been the Women's Ministries Director for Western Australia for 6 years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her very much for what she's done for Adventist Women on the west coast. She has always given her all and it has been very much appreciated. We will surely miss her.

Raewyn Jones, from Collie, will be taking over from Christine and we wish Raewyn all that God has to offer as she serves the ladies in WA.



Christine White



Raewyn Jones

Honour Awarded to Former WM Director

Vasthi Lillox, former Women's Ministries Director of French Polynesia (18 years) received "La Medaille de Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur" of France on May 23, 2012 in a ceremony in Papeete. This medal is given to a select few each year.

Vasthi had already received an award for her leadership in education from the French Government as well as a Certificate of Excellence in ministry to women in French Polynesia from the South Pacific Division of Adventist Women in October 2011 at her retirement from her leadership role in Women's Ministry.

Vasthi's dedication to the women of French Polynesia is unique and her ministry as the pioneer of Women's Ministries will long be remembered.



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We are here to help
women reach their
potential!