Going Places Adventist women in the South Pacific

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Out & About

by Danijela Schubert

If you are not involved in Women's Ministry events, you are missing out big time! I attended four different events organised by Women's Ministries in three different unions lately. Yes, it has been a busy month in travelling, packing and unpacking, and I have been blessed.

Trans-Pacific Union Mission

Solomon Island Mission organised two events on one weekend: equipping for single young professional women and training for teenage girls. Continue reading to find more about that.

Australian Union Conference

Greater Sydney Conference organises mid-week women's worship. A little more about that further on.

New Zealand Pacific Union Conference

South New Zealand Conference organised a weekend getaway for their women. Check out what are the highlights of that event later on in the newsletter.

Let me share a few snippets, both in pictures and in words with you. I hope to hear, "Hmm, we could do something like that in our area!"

SURVEY

PLEASE TAKE THIS SURVEY

We are keen to hear your ideas on how we can serve the needs of women in your church and community. This very short anonymous survey will assist us in meeting those needs. Please share with others. Thank you in advance for participating. Click Here

Ministry Idea

When in NZ I received a signed thank you card from the participants. I appreciated their thoughts very much and was interested to read what each had said. This is what a teenager wrote: Danijela, Thank you for coming and restoring peace, love and faith back into the heart of us women! By Tesa!

Write a card/SMS/email/tweet/Facebook message/Instagram... of appreciation to women or men that God impresses on your heart.

Now you go and bless someone else!



Greater Sydney Conference

Every Wednesday morning during the school term Parramatta church opens its doors from 9:30 -11:30 to women who come to be refreshed. The event is organised by Women's Ministry leader Beryl Landers and her assistant Nerise Fehlberg. They offer some refreshments, then have a time of worship in song, followed by a message from the Word and prayer time. I was the speaker for the meeting held on 17 October 2018. When the last date for the meetings for this year was announced, there was moaning. These meetings are needed!

Calendar

2018

- 1-2 November WM Advisory NZ
- Preaching appointments ir Sydney

2019

- 5-14 April
 New Caledonia
 Youth Week of
 Prayer
- 17-21 April
 Tonga
 TPUM Women's
 Congress



The Very First in the South Pacific

A Single Ladies' Event - October 12-13, 2018



The previous Women's Ministry Director for South Pacific Division, Erna Johnson, was the leading presenter for this event. It was my job to learn from her, however I also cared for two topics.

The meetings started Friday night and concluded on Saturday night. We had about 80 young women on Friday night and over 100 on Sabbath which included two non-Adventist women. The first meeting's topic was One is a Whole Number, which set the pace for the Sabbath meetings.

Other workshops which would uplift

them, nurture and empower them were chosen from a plethora of available workshops ready to use for Women's Ministry events:

- I am unique a self-esteem workshop, an interactive workshop which makes a huge difference in the participants lives;
- Spiritual Gifts workshop from the leadership levels where women discover what their spiritual gifts are; this in turn fuels their passion for service according to their giftedness.
- Back to basics personal growth seminar for a closer walk with God
- The Best You Can Be Lesson 2

and 4 in the Bible studies series.

As is commonly done in the Pacific Islands, some of the ladies delivered thank-you speeches after the program ended stating how blessed they were, hoping there will be more meetings like that organised in the future. One of these was a prominent woman from the Anglican Church. She was impressed at what Adventists are doing for the women in the Solomons. Beverly Maega, Women's Ministry leader for Solomon Island Mission is already collaborating with her on the issue of domestic violence.







Women's Leadership Conference

Sycamore Lane is organising Women's Leadership Conference in 2019. It will be held 3-5 August 2019 in Manly Beach, New South Wales. Super early bird registration will open on December 1, 2018. Keep an eye on more details in the future. Save the Date!

For more information on Sycamore Lane - kylie@sycamorelane.com.au.

Real Me a Hit



"Pacific time!" It is the comment given when a program doesn't start on time. I expected to hear it on Sunday. But I was pleasantly surprised to see many young ladies who came before the 8 am start for the Real Me program on Sunday October 14, 2018.

One hundred young ladies ages 13 to 19 were eager to participate in this one-day program designed specifically for them. They were grouped according to their ages. Each group had an older woman facilitator.

There are 5 sessions in the Real Me event that include presentations, group activities, personal evaluation and reflection, prayers, discussions, skits. Other parts of the series are Real Beauty, Real Love, and Real Friends.

Loud laughter, giggles, high pitched happy sounds from young girls

were the obvious signs that the best presentation was the one that Beverley, Solomon Island Mission Women's Ministry director delivered. Although they understand English, they get the important points much better when they are spoken in the language the young ladies use.

The facilitators/counsellors are extremely important for the success of this program. They not only guide, help and encourage during the event, but they are in contact with their group throughout the year, to continue encouraging young women.

There is a plan to conduct the Real series in four boarding high schools throughout the Solomon Islands as well as in other places around Honiara next year. Dr Silent Tovosia, Solomon Islands Mission president, as well as the other administrators are urging Women's Ministry to continue this excellent work.

"The Real series has been such a blessing to our teenage girls and I would encourage all Women's Ministries leaders around the world to use this resource because of the difference it makes in their lives." – encourages Erna Johnson, previous Women's Ministry Director who launched this program in the South Pacific Division.

The plea from administration is to organise similar events for same age young men.

This program would be even more fun and beneficial if it was organised over the weekend that includes sleepover. Can you hear the happy noises from girls spending time together?

We need more women to take on the passion of organising such events for teenagers across the Division, conducted in languages of the areas.



The facilitators/counsellors for Real Me.



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We are here to help women reach their potential!

Mirror Him

Women's Ministry Retreat For South New Zealand Women 19-21 October 2018

By Lindita Vani, Women's Ministry and Communication, SNZ Conference



About 40 ladies from the South New Zealand Conference, attended and contributed to the successful running of the retreat with their talent and energy. Adrielle Carrasco, Director of Adventist Health & Union Liaison for Women's Ministries presented two interactive workshops, one on 'Choice – How well do you exercise the power of your will?' and the other one on 'Mindful eating – think before you chew!' Adrielle's contagious energy got everyone in motion even at siesta time.

Danijela shared openly from her heart and inspired us to Mirror Christ beginning with our thinking. How to replace negative thoughts with positive ones, being aware of our own self-perceptions and setting healthy boundaries in all areas of our life were some of the key aspects presented. On Sabbath Danijela got us to study Scripture using the five steps from the Following Jesus bookmark.

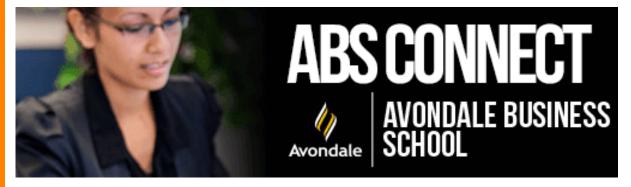
The first passage we reflected on was 2 Kings 8: 1-6 and in our small groups, we went through the five points:

- 1. What is new?
- 2. What surprises you?
- 3. What don't you understand?
- 4. What will you obey (apply)?
- 5. What will you share with another this week?

I was certainly surprised at how new this story sounded to me and I was challenged to dig deeper. Perhaps you would like to go through this simple exercise at home yourself.

The stage was set so elegantly, the food was fine dining quality, worship was vibrant, each day started with prayer at Jesus' feet, there were a number of opportunities for all to get creative and/or enjoy walks in the nearby forest, river, rhododendron garden and green grassy fields.

This was the first time SNZ Women's Retreat was held at Mt Hutt. Many of us rose for the sunrise! We have been challenged to get involved in ministry to God through ministering to people in our community.



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