

REMEMBER:

- Christmas is a time to share the love of Jesus with other!
- International Day of Prayer, March 5, 2011
- Make a resolution to spend time with God every day, starting right now

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He is a God of Hope and Peace!

By Erna Johnson

Another year is nearly over and a new one will begin with its joys, sorrows and challenges.

I don't know how you feel at this time each year, but I feel both happy and sad. As women we can feel many emotions at the same time! I feel happy because of all the wonderful things that have happened in my life. I feel sad because of the loss of one of my sisters as well as a few of my friends through cancer.

I have seen God's hand in my life throughout this year as He guided me day by day. I'm so

thankful for the knowledge that He is there beside me no matter what. God is good!

I don't know what this year brought you, but I suppose that as for me, it has been a mixture of both happiness and sadness. That's what life is like while we're on this earth. But we have a bright future! A future where there will be no tears, no sadness! Praise God for that!

"May the God of hope and peace fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy

Spirit." (Romans 15:13) is my prayer for you and yours for the coming year. Thank you so much for your continued prayers as I minister to you.



Indigenous Women Challenge "Arise and Shine" for Jesus

By Lynelda Tippo

Over 40 women were recently challenged to "arise and shine" for Jesus at the Moree Indigenous Women's retreat. They came from near and far, to enjoy the meetings, fellowship, and beautiful meals prepared by Rongo Richards. Lyiata Ballangarry and Phyllis Corey were our main organisers for this wonderful weekend and they did a fantastic job of keeping the women focused on the retreat's theme.

The little country town of Moree was the setting for our first-ever regional Indigenous Women's Retreat for women from the South Queensland &

Northern New South Wales conferences. Women came from a radius of Brisbane, Lismore, Kempsey, Armidale, Sydney, and Moree to celebrate and fellowship with each other. The retreat's theme "Arise and Shine" was brought out in the

messages of the speakers, Erna Johnson, Women's Ministries Director (SPD), and Lynelda Tippo (Wheelbarrow Ministry Founder/Director).

I'm sure that there will be more to come.



Out of the Ordinary



Kay Humble

Give God your greatest gift—the gift of your ordinary life!

By Kay Humble

It was just an ordinary night. The stars twinkled overhead in the Bethlehem sky as a group of ordinary shepherds went about their ordinary work. Suddenly they were confronted by an extraordinary sight – angels singing and praising God, and an angel proclamation...

Just hours before, an ordinary couple lay down to rest in an ordinary stable, surrounded by the smell of animals and fresh hay, and during the night the woman gave birth to a baby –but this was no ordinary baby...

"Into our ordinary world we are given this hidden God, one who comes to us as a baby born amid hay and barnyard smells to a nondescript couple

It is interesting to note that Christ's birth was not announced to kings or priests, but to ordinary shepherds, and to them was given the awesome task of announcing the birth of the Saviour of the world. During his life on earth Jesus grew up in an ordinary family. His father was an ordinary carpenter. When he began his ministry Jesus chose twelve ordinary men, fishermen and tax collectors, not Jewish Rabbi's or people with power or position to be his disciples. To these ordinary people He gave the awesome privilege of taking the gospel message to the world and as Christians, disciples of Christ today, the same awesome privilege is ours.

Throughout the Gospels we see how Jesus, during his life on earth, spent most of his time interacting with ordinary people as they went about their ordinary everyday life. He used parables, stories about everyday objects and events, to help people understand that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16 NIV.

However, Jesus came not only to bring salvation and hope for the future, but to bring a message of justice and peace, hope and love in the present. He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the

poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" Luke 4:18, 19 (NIV).

Just as God sent Christ into the world so, as Christ's followers today God sends us into the world as his representatives. Just as Jesus met people where they were, we as his disciples are called to do the same. Every day as you go about your ordinary life, whether it's at home, at work, at university, at the gym, wherever you are, whatever you are doing you are interacting on a regular basis with people who desperately need to hear the true message of Christmas on a daily basis – a message of hope and love, of justice and peace, not the secularized, commercialized version of Christmas that we are confronted with each October to December.

As you prepare to celebrate God's greatest gift to mankind this Christmas, won't you give to God your greatest gift – the gift of your ordinary life? Offer the routine events of your ordinary daily life to God and allow Him, through the power of his Holy Spirit, to transform your ordinary life into a life of extraordinary possibilities. If you will, I can promise you, your life will never be the same.

By Kay Humble,
HR Director, Pacific
Adventist University, PNG.



Jesus came to bring a message of justice and peace, hope and love in the present

on an ordinary night. Into the ordinary, came the extraordinary. The birth of a Saviour. And our lives will never be the same." (Debra Klingsorn 1996).

Eden Conference–Wellington, NZ

By Siu Palu

On the 21st August 2010, a group of girls consisting of Alia, Olivia.T, Lose, Nuka, Vaiolingi, Brittany, Mele, Alisi and myself went to the 'Eden conference' for women and we had a BLAST!

I speak for all girls when I say that the 'Eden Conference' was one of the best experiences if not one of the many highlights of the year. There were inspirational speakers, a lot of encouragement, bonding and a whole lot of fun. I really enjoyed the conference and would definitely go again.

I recommend that

ALL girls attend this conference. It is not only educational, spiritual and social but it helps you grow as a person and strengthens us as young women.

I learned a very important lesson that day and that was to "WRITE MY OWN STORY". When you read books, do you like them to be full of action, romance or horror? Do you like it exciting or boring?

Our life is like a book. We are the main

characters. We all know how it begins and that we have an end. But what happens in between that time is up to us.

So ASDAH, how do you want your book? You have the power to decide how your story goes so "WRITE YOUR OWN STORY".



Love Out Loud

2011 Women's Ministries Devotional Book



LOVE OUT LOUD - it's a love that is heard, is seen, and is felt. The women who write within these covers are showing love out loud. They write of trials and triumphs, of insights and injuries, of family and friends. They write from dozens of countries and cultures, reflecting how God has led in their unique challenges. Daily they continue to hold on to the God they love. They have

a relationship with God, and they are showing it by their lives - lives that are heard, are seen, are felt; lives that are making a difference.

Listen as these women share the love they have heard from Jesus. One of the exciting things about these books is that the royalties fund scholarships for women around the world. Listen as young women improve their lives and the lives of those around them as they move out into the world to love out loud.

Love Out Loud editor Ardis Dick Stenbakken has had a zeal for women and Women's Ministries for many years, but she now finds that her greatest passion is the next generation,

especially her four little grandchildren; she also treasures the time she can spend with her husband, Dick. Ardis loves to encourage women to use their God-given gifts and to study the women of the Bible, learning how God led in their lives and what that says to women now.

Help us help our women get an education, by buying our devotional book. It's ideal as a Christmas present!



Memories & Precious Moments in PNG

by **Barbara Parkins**

I was asked to go to Mt Hagan with the It is Written Team to help with the Mission

with me whenever I ventured out; preaching in the dark by mobile phone light to see my notes, because the electricity goes out when it rains; walking the town of Mt Hagan and being the only white person amongst thousands of black faces; seeing birds of paradise in

down the mountain-side to bathe in the cold mountain stream at 6.30 in the morning? Any one of these made my memories and time very blessed and special.

It was wonderful to see dozens of men and women come forward and sign the End It Now petition.

the early morning; meeting boys I hadn't seen for years who went to school here with my family and meeting their

There are many needs, especially for the volunteer ministers who live in the remotest of areas - people who have had no contact with any civilisation, and are devil and idol worshipers. The God Pods will be a real blessing to these remote areas, they are in desperate need of Spirit of Prophecy books, and especially picture rolls, so if your church has picture rolls hidden away please let me know and I will arrange to deliver them. These missionaries build a church and live amongst the villages, and teach them healthier and better ways to live, and introduce them to Jesus.

They have asked me to come back again next year. I am looking forward to going to more remote places and spending time with these beautiful people. If you can help please feel free to email me on barbiep@tsn.cc

and also to take programs with the women. I then had 2 weeks alone to run programs with the women and churches and do basically whatever the Mission asked as long as we could get it organised

So what was the most exciting - was it speaking to 7,000 people at the Mission; speaking to up to 5,000 at their camp meeting, sitting for hours on the ground on pieces of wood; having two babies named after me (see photos); taking the church service where they sat on the floor as it was so full, and standing at the door shaking hands with the 1,000 people who attended; or was it having my two "body-guards"

families and spending the day in their village; speaking to volunteer missionaries who have to walk for a week from the end of the road to get to the village where they are so isolated they do not even speak Pidgin, and have never seen a vehicle or white man; taking a full day of programs for a village church where a guard of honour of 50 women salutes you as you walk into the church and 200 people then follow so excited that an overseas speaker would come to their village; or was it spending a day and night with 102 ladies at a retreat where there were no facilities apart from the pit toilet and having to climb



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We are here to help women reach their potential!



What Jesus Did for Women #4

Jesus demonstrated that He was willing to challenge cultural norms and religious traditions in order to preserve women's rights and remain true to the higher vision of equality that should be the norm in the kingdom of God. Taken from "Women of Spirit."