

# Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

May, 2011

## Touch a Heart, Tell the World!

### REMEMBER:

- *"Great people are those who can make others feel that they, too, can become great."*  
Mark Twain
- 27 August - Abuse Awareness Day (SDA)
- 4 September - Fathers Day
- 5-7 September - Week of Prayer



Put this date into your calendar! Details to come. Don't Miss Out!

Touch  
a  
Heart  
tell the  
World

South Pacific Division-wide  
Adventist Womens Conference  
August 16-18, 2012  
Brisbane

Guest Speakers include  
Dr Kendra Haloviak Valentine,  
Heather Dawn Small, Raquel Arrais and many more

Sponsored by Adventist Women Ministries, South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists • jbolst@adventist.org.au • +61 2 9847 3306

A division-wide Conference for women will be held August 16-18, 2012 (Thursday night to Saturday night) in a hotel down town Brisbane, Queensland! The main purpose of the conference is to empower women to a better relationship with God and to equip them to share their faith.

If you have ever desired a closer relationship with Jesus, this is your opportunity to see and learn what you need to do in order to make that a reality in your life.

Often I have encountered situations where I've wanted to share my faith, but didn't know where to start. If that's ever happened to you, this is also your opportunity! Come and

be inspired! Find the purpose for your life that you've been searching for over the years.

We have already booked fantastic speakers, one of whom is none other than Dr. Kendra Haloviak-Valentine! Kendra is well known in Australia as she has spoken at women's conferences and has taught at Avondale College as well. Other women well known to the South Pacific Division are Heather-Dawn Small, the Director of Adventist Women and Raquel Arrais, Associate Director of Adventist Women at the General Conference. There will be many more speakers and workshop presenters, both men and women who

are passionate about a relationship with God and how to share that with others.

This conference will be different from all other conferences that Women's Ministries has organized before and the reason why is that we have invited the following departments to join us in this venture: Family Ministries, Children's Ministries and Youth Ministries.

Start planning to be with us on August 16-18, 2012, put the date in your calendar and start saving up so you can attend, it will be well worth every cent. Hope to see you there! Erna

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# Women's Ministries Advisories - 2011

Every five years, new members are chosen for our advisory. The South Pacific Division WM Advisory as well as the Australian Union WM Advisory have already met. Other Unions will meet later this year. Below is the resolution taken at both aforementioned meetings:

**Voted to accept the following goals for 2011 – 2015:**

## **Empower/Reach Up**

1. To continue to convene retreats/conferences that will nurture and empower women
  - a. Emphasis on bible study and prayer
  - b. An emphasis on retention and reclaiming

## **Nurture/Reach Across**

1. To conduct at least one specific program for our young women per year in each Mission or Conference.
2. To encourage our older women to mentor younger women and girls "One Touch" (starting with Women's Emphasis Day in June 2011) in our local congregations across the Division.

## **Outreach/Reach Out**

1. Bible Studies - Encourage our women to study the Bible together in small groups. The following Bible study series are highly recommended and can be ordered from AdventSource

online; Resource Centre Australian Union Conference and in your ABC Bookstores:

- a. Journey of Joy
  - b. Bible Women and Me
2. Friendship evangelism – Encourage our women to share their faith with others.

**Voted to organize a division-wide conference with an emphasis on teaching how to experience a closer relationship with God and how to share our faith with others. This conference will be held at a hotel in down town Brisbane over the period of August 16 to 18, 2012.**



*AUC Womens Ministries Advisory Members*



*SPD Womens Ministries Advisory Members*

## Women and the Word

'Excavating truth' was the theme of the Women and the Word Annual Conference held in Sydney April 9-10, 2011. Men and women attended from all parts of the South Pacific wanting to dig deeper into God's word and excavate His treasures.

Special presenter Raquel Arrais, the Associate Director for Women's Ministries at the General Conference empowered her audience to reach their God given potential. She spoke with conviction, passion and great insight as she challenged her audience to understand the true meaning of discipleship and all it entails.

Other presenters included Dr Barry Gane, Avondale's newly appointed researcher, who focused

on "Digging Deeper" into God's Word and learn more about the people and their testimonies and how their lives affect others. Monique Long, a young woman who currently works for International Children's Care Australia, highlighted the importance of education and opportunities for disadvantaged children and instructed the audience how personally and collectively we can help make a difference in this area. She also brought a special guest called Vicki, who was a dynamic 15 year old young girl who fervently shared her story of God's faithfulness and protection to her and her

family in Burma. Vicki also expressed her gratefulness to a Christian couple who are currently sponsoring her education in Australia. "I want to become a teacher that is the best thing I can do for my country, I long to go back home and teach children about God's love" she told us.



*Dr Barry Gane*



*Raquel Arrais*



## Keep the Faith

Recently a friend of mine shared with me that her husband had lost his job. This news was devastating for her and for us their friends as well as the fact it happened at a very difficult time in their lives. When something unexpected like this happens, many people will quote you Bible verses and tell you to have faith that all things work out for good for those who believe. All of the above is true of course, but when is the right time to quote Bible texts or make statements of things getting better soon to those going through difficulties?

**“Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself!”**

My mother passed away in 2000 during the General Conference Session in Toronto, Canada. I had just heard the news and went in search of my friends and family. One of the persons I shared the sad news with said to me: “Don’t cry! She was old and it was time for her to die. You’ll see her again if both of you have been faithful!” At the time this response instead of being of help to

me, angered me and I learnt right there and then, that there are certain phrases not to say in circumstances like that.

Eleanor Roosevelt had many beautiful phrases that she left us with, one of which I just love: “Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself!” After that remark about the death of my mother, I took the decision not to make remarks that might cause hurt. Sometimes the best thing to do is just give the person a hug instead of saying something that won’t be of any help, especially if we are not sure of what will be helpful.

I own a tiny book called “A little book on faith”. I want to share with you what it says

about “Faith: fact or fiction?” The author is Solly Ozrovech (came from a Jewish heritage but grew up in a Christian orphanage in South Africa. He’s a minister who has written numerous books). The text is based on Luke 17:6 – « ...If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” (NKJV)



“An endless amount has been written and said about the necessity of having faith. However, when confronted with a serious problem, many people have a major problem in exercising their faith. The main cause for this is the fact that human nature is fallible. When our faith is tested, we are inclined to fall back on what we know, rather than to trust God to carry us through the unknown into the safety of his flock.

“Trust God steadfastly, find your strength through the Holy Spirit. Trust God to carry you through your problems and you will be rewarded when his perfect will is eventually revealed to you.”

This text reminds me that God doesn’t change. He’s here no matter what is happening in my life. When we have difficulties in our lives, we usually “fall back on what we know, rather than trust God to carry us through.” My friend is trusting God to carry her and her family through this difficult time in their lives. Their faith is strong and steadfast. They know that God is there beside them and that He is in charge of their lives.

God is love and He wants what’s best for us. There is an enemy out there who is doing his best to discourage us, to have us doubt God’s love for us. Let’s not give him the victory! Let’s keep the faith in Christ and spend time with Him each and every day in order for us to grow and our faith to get stronger and stronger.

Keep the faith!

## Conference - 2011

Dr Wendy Jackson a theologian and Lecturer at Avondale demonstrated how to use various theological tools that enables the Bible to ‘come alive’ in personal Bible study. And Danijela Schubert, newly appointed Special Assistant to the President of the South Pacific

Division presented a theological word study on ‘Judgement’ and led her audience to discover the true meaning found in the Old and New Testament of the Bible.

Organisers of the Conference Erna Johnson South Pacific Division Women’s Ministries Director, Pr Gilda

Dholah-Roddy Greater Sydney Conference Women’s Ministries Director and Dr Drene Somasundram Lecturer and Chaplain at Avondale College were delighted with the excavation of God’s truth, the treasure of new friendships formed and the personal challenge to grow in our Christian lives.



Dr Wendy Jackson



Danijela Schubert

## Lake Keepit Women's Retreat



Church, again wrote a poem for the retreat. Barbara has written a poem each year on the theme of the retreat since the first one was held in 2003 and these have always been very much appreciated by all the women who have attended.

Each year an offering is collected and this year \$1,500 is going to the Western Highlands Province in PNG to buy much needed supplies for volunteer Ministers.

A special part of the weekend was the inclusion of

A total of 65 ladies (and two men) from 16 churches of the NNSW Conference from Coffs Harbour to Wyee and out to Singleton and Dubbo and Moree, made their way to the beautiful mid-western area of NSW to the Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre in March to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, spiritual refreshment and fun, and they were not disappointed.

Deanna Pitchford and husband joined the ladies and led them in a weekend of discovering a "Pathway to God" and practical ways to make Prayer a part of our everyday lives in a more meaningful way. There was opportunity for women to pray together and write prayers in the prayer book that has been part of the Lake Keepit Retreat experience for the last 9 years. Looking back many were able to see how God had led and answered prayers that had been written down and prayed over through the years.

Barbara Watson from the Coonabarabran

separate programs for the younger ladies who attended - thanks to Kerryn who led them in Taking a Journey of Joy with Christ. It was wonderful to see the younger girls being a part of a retreat where there were ages from 14 years to 80 years of age and all joining together as one in Christ. Some comments from the younger girls were "please make more retreats - I love it here", "can we make the camp longer - maybe a week - it was too short", "can we have two a year".

A highlight of the retreat was gathering the 7 younger women together and all gathering around and laying hands on them whilst Deanna prayed a dedicatory prayer over them to dedicate them to the Lord and His leading in their lives.

Barbara Parkins,  
Retreat Convenor, NNSW Conference



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We are here to help  
women reach their  
potential!

## SOS -Scholarshipping Our Sisters - 1991-2011



Celebration cake

At the recent WM Advisory in Silver Springs, the Women's Scholarship committee celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Women's Scholarship program. Begun in 1991 with one scholarship, the program has grown, giving 99 scholarships this January! The recent awards totalled \$54,800 to women in 39 countries. Since the program began in 1991, it has provided nearly \$767,700 to help 1,748 women attend college many of whom are within our South Pacific Division.