

Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

December 2013

Christmas Once Again



REMEMBER:

- **Christmas is a time to share the love of Jesus with other!**
- **International Day of Prayer (SDA) - March 1, 2014**
- **International Women's Day, March 8, 2014**
- **Make a resolution to spend time with God every day, starting right now**

IN THIS GOING PLACES

- **WM SPD Executive Report**
- **Congratulations Beverly**
- **Female Pastors in PNG**
- **Girls Night In**



I can't believe it! It's Christmas time once again! Where did the time go? I've had the most inspiring year of all years. I've had the opportunity to share with so many regions of our Division, spoken at many retreats and conferences and held leadership training in many places.

The most memorable of all was my visit to Yani for the congress of the WM of the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission where 20,000 women came together in the biggest women's gathering of our world-wide Church! To stand in front of that group was amazing! The first time I stood to speak I was nearly speechless as I looked at the huge number of women, most dressed in our colour of purple. What a

wonderful sight it was! Twenty thousand of God's women a photo of some of them you will see on page 3. I'd encourage you to read the report I presented at the Year-end meetings in November where you'll also learn of other very interesting happenings for our department.

As this exciting year draws to a close, I'd like to thank all of you who in one way or another have been active in Adventist Women's Ministries across the Division. It has been wonderful to see how God works through us and how He blesses the ministry we all are involved in to further His work and preparing people for His Second Coming. I can't wait to hear of all the Bible studies and baptisms which are the results

of women ministering to others!

At this time of the year, I'd like for us to remember why Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago as the world prepares to celebrate His birth, mostly without thinking of why they're celebrating. It is true that we don't know the exact date He was born, but I'm so thankful that He came, that he died and that He rose again! Praise the Lord!

Jan and I would like to wish you all a blessed New Year under His care.



2014 Devotional for Women

A good health habit is doing daily breathing exercises: fast, aerobic breaths and slow, deep-centered breaths. Another beneficial habit is daily reading of God's Word. We suggest reading today's devotional while doing deep breathing. This habit flushes out toxic mind chatter while infusing the heart with divine inspiration.

Breathe, the women's daily devotional for 2014, is now available at your local Adventist Book Center. Your purchase of the women's devotional directly funds scholarships to help Adventist women around the world obtain higher education.



Adventist Women's Ministries

REPORT

PURPOSE

Adventist Women's Ministries exists, "to elevate women as persons of inestimable worth because they have been created and redeemed." It seeks to lift up Jesus Christ that through His transforming grace women will be empowered for service."

HIGHLIGHTS

We believe that one of our core responsibilities is towards our teenage girls and women under 35. Because of that belief, special weekend programs for teenage girls uplifting them and empowering them to believe in themselves as they grow in Jesus have been held. Four series created for this age group are ready for use. Two of them have already been organized right across the Division: "Real Beauty" and "Real Friends."

Seminars for women under 35 are being held in most areas of our Division with great success as we reach out to them. Our dream is to see this age group active in the local church, using the gifts and talents God has given them.

GOALS

Over the last few years, Adventist Women's Ministries has put the emphasis on specific age groups. We believe that women can and do enhance the local church as it reaches out to the community as well as serving its members. We therefore encourage each woman to learn about her spiritual gifts and talents. To reach that goal, we offer a workshop on spiritual gifts in each region of the Division.

REACH UP – Reach our women with an emphasis on younger women, encouraging a personal relationship with Jesus and boost their self-esteem. Teach them about their spiritual gifts.

Our strategic plan is to reach our women under 35, including our teenage girls. Each Mission, Conference and Union Directors enthusiastically embraced this plan and has worked with the Division leadership to help make this age group's place in the local church relevant.

REACH ACROSS - Train more women in leadership and Mentor younger women.



20,000 ladies attended the Adventist Women's Congress, Yani, Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission

Three hundred and ninety five leadership weekends were held across the Division and 503 retreats. A program called "Touch One" a mentoring program was started 2 years ago and is working in most areas of the Division. We are also sponsoring 3 subscriptions to an Adventist Magazine "GIGI" (Gorgeous in God's Image) for each Mission and Conference.

REACH OUT - Have outreach "women to women" in local communities

Two hundred and sixty three evangelistic series were held by women throughout the Division with 778 baptisms. Women's Ministries Evangelism Manual has been distributed to all regions to help the leaders organize these events.

We make a concerted effort to reclaim former members and over the recent months, through the working of the Holy Spirit, we've brought back 1,476 former members (both men and women).

CHALLENGES

- Not all local congregations accept that women have a role to play in sharing the Gospel with others, or indeed in anything concerning the church. Our challenge is to create awareness that God created us equal and that He wants us to work together as His people to hasten His return
- We also recognize that we need to form more women leaders as more and more women understand that God wants them to serve in their church, but they lack the "know how"
- Domestic Violence is all around us and we need to be ready to teach prevention and awareness at all levels of our church

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our future directions continue to be to put an emphasis on teenage girls and younger women, without forgetting the older ones.

We want to continue to encourage our women to share their faith with others through the gifts that God has given them.



35 ladies were baptized at the Congress



85 girls attended Real Friends in Tahiti

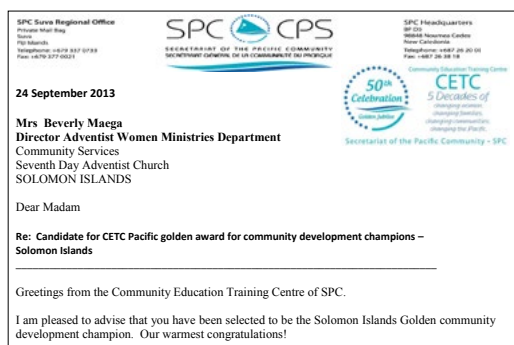


210 girls attended Real Beauty - Central Papua Conference

Congratulations

Here is an extract from an email I received from Beverly Maega, Solomon Island. . . I am pleased to forward to you the surprised email I've received from the School I attended in 2002 on Community Development Certificate Course, at the Community Education Training Centre, Secretariat of Pacific Communities, Suva, Fiji. As part of the school's 50th anniversary, the school has called on all Pacific Islands Countries who have CETC graduates for the last 50 years to nominate an outstanding graduate for the CETC Pacific Award for Community Development Champions. The selection criteria covers areas like Women Community Development programs conducted, Life Skills Training, Elimination of Violence Against Women, Girls and Children, Family and Marriage Enrichment, Leadership in Community Assistance to the Needy and Disaster Relief Management, etc. I was nominated by the Solomon Island Government through the Ministry for Women Youth Children and Family Affairs.

Thank you for your support and prayers, and I encourage all of us to be faithful and committed in our work, which will make a difference in our lives and those whom we serve.



Female Pastors in Ministry in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) and Pacific Adventist University (PAU) hosted the first Women in Pastoral Ministry Conference in Papua New Guinea, from 13-16 September. PNG has the largest number of women in pastoral ministry at any time in its history. The Conference provided an opportunity for the female pastors and female dormitory deans from various secondary schools and tertiary institutions throughout the country, to share and explore the joys and frustrations of pastoral ministry, and to design a network system to provide ongoing support.

PNGUM invited a few speakers to share their insights and wisdom. **Pastor Rebecca Liu** shared her life story as she struggled from a communist and evolutionist background to how she became a full time Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, southwestern China, since 1989.

Robyn Stanley, currently working as an assistant pastor at Lilydale Seventh-day Adventist Church in Melbourne, Australia, shared insights on the call to ministry and how to reclaim inactive church members.

Pr Peter and Ruth Oli, a pastoral team, shared insights from an administrative point of view, and how

the church family can enhance the role of women in pastoral ministry.

Dr Leigh and Barbara Rice, another pastoral team, shared the keys to effective ministry and how to connect and share with people.

Nancy Enopa, a minister in PNG, shared the transition from being a single pastor to a married pastor and how to be effective in each role.

Dr Leeroy Elisha, currently a lecturer at PAU, provided the keys to growing a personal spirituality.

Dr David Thiele, Dean of the School of Theology at PAU, provided an academic discourse on the ordination of women from a theological and biblical perspective. Dr Thiele was excited to meet with the female pastors as he taught most of them at either Sonoma Adventist College or Pacific Adventist University. His wife, Dr Jillian Thiele, regarded as 'Mums' rejoiced in the success of her former students. "The church is in good hands with these incredibly gifted pastors" Jillian said.

The theme, 'to be a spirit-filled church, always growing, and leading and excelling in all areas of our ministry' was certainly fulfilled at the conference.

Dr Jillian Thiele, PAU



Parramatta's Girls' Night In

Oh What A Night!!

Each year the Parramatta Women's Ministries hosts a Girls' Night In - a fun fundraiser for ADRA. This year the theme was a Caribbean Cruise. Girls' Night In 2013 was packed with food, fun, laughter, colour, bargains and good will. Together the women raised \$2000.

An entry fee is charged to cover food and entertainment and then women donate what they would spend on a "night out" to the "night in".

The women donated generously to ADRA and then eagerly participated in the CHICK CHARITY AUCTION!! Everyone was asked to bring 5 items to be auctioned. Each item had a starting price of \$5, unless someone else also wanted it - then the auctioned would begin. Lots of bargains to be had - bicycle, guitar, brand new shoes, CUE dresses and jackets with price tags, Italian leather bags, crockery and much, much more. Auctioneer 'Sarah Sparkles' did a fabulous job auctioning the items.

The **menu** included -
Caribbean Chickpea Satay
Sweet & Sour Tofu
Sweet Potato
Bean and Coconut curry
Tropical Cole slaw.

Mocktails on sale -
Virgin Pina Colada,
Lychee Mint citrus crush and Raspberry delight. Yummm!

A fun way to raise funds and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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We are here to help
women reach their
potential!