

June 2014

Empower, Nurture, Outreach

REMEMBER:

- **National
Aboriginy and
Islanders Day
Committee,
July 6-13**
- **EndItNow
Emphasis Day,
August 23**

IN THIS GOING PLACES

- **Around the
Division 2-4**

Because of unforeseen circumstances, this is our first newsletter for the year. Both Jan and I were off for a while, Jan because of illness and I because I fractured my shoulder while en route to Samoa in February. We're both well on our way to full recovery Praise the Lord!

In this issue you will have news from many of our Missions and Conferences, sharing with us what they're doing, mostly ministering to our teenage girls and young women. I am thrilled to see what's happening right across our Division as we are putting a big emphasis on this specific ministry. Nurture is one of our 3 main points (Empower, Nurture, Outreach) and that's what we are doing everywhere!

At the beginning of May, I had the privilege to attend the "enditnow Summit" at the General Conference. Over 150 church leaders were present, learning how to respond to abuse in our homes, churches and communities.

The Summit was organized by 'Adventist Women' from the General Conference and North American Division. There were 16 professional speakers and it was one of the best conferences I've attended on the topic.

The presentations were all very informative and practical. And what was the most helpful was that the statistics were taken from over 1,400 SDA members in North America, in 49 local churches, so we were able to see the overall picture of the Church. There were also interviews with 40 Adventist women, survivors of abuse.

What was frightening though was that their study showed that the abuse is higher within our church than it is for the general public of the United States. I was quite convinced of that before reading it, because of what I've seen on my travels, but now we know for sure how bad it is.

The survey showed that 95% of victims of abuse within the Seventh-day Adventist Church are women. That statistic of course is directly relevant to us as a department,

taking care of the Adventist women across the South Pacific Division.

One of the saddest statistics was the fact that many of the abusers were men in leadership roles within the local church. They were elders, pastors, deacons, Pathfinder leaders, Sabbath School leaders etc.

We need to educate our members that abuse is not acceptable in ANY form amongst God's people. Please join the cause to "Break the Silence About Abuse" wherever you are my sisters. We need your voice, God needs your voice and the Church needs your voice. Let's break the silence!



enditnow
Breaking the Silence About Abuse

Recently, Janette Kingston, Adventist Womens director in South Australia, retired from her ministry after service in both the Solomon Islands and South Australia. We thank her for her leadership and wish her all the best as she follows her passion in teaching literacy. Bec Rachou, a young woman has taken over the responsibilities for Adventist Women in the South Australian Conference and we are delighted to have her onboard. Welcome Bec!

News From Around the Division...

South NSW 2014 Retreat

Seventy ladies gathered at the Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne for the annual South New South Wales Women's Retreat 23-25 May 2014. *Living Waters* was the theme chosen for the weekend and Yvonne Hypolite very ably shared insights about forgiveness through this lens. Forgiveness brings refreshing, invigoration and new life just as water brings it to us physically. A highlight of the weekend was a special service of anointing and prayer for those who requested a special blessing by God's Spirit.

The ladies from our Goulburn and Bowral churches treated us all to a special time of renewal through their attention to so many details. Worship music, special items, fellowship with new and established friends, jig-saw puzzles, great food, shopping at the Adventist Book Centre, laughter and fun especially on Saturday night, crisp fresh air, nature walks, kangaroos, crows A special time together. We plan to do special things again the last weekend of May 2015.

Wendy Hergenhan, South NSW Conference



Goulburn & Bowral organising team

Created for Greatness

We have certainly commenced a 'great' year with a new WA Adventist Women's Ministry team directed by Jasmin Stankovic. First time for many of us to be involved with the advisory committee, and what a pleasure it has been to have met a wonderful team of beautiful women to work with in harmony for one purpose, to serve God and the lovely women of WA.

During set up, I was shocked when I saw the size of our WM venue. Coming from the East I had been used to a biggest site, and asked... "where are we going to fit all the women?!" I was imagining a big tent to fit at least 100 people!

Next, it was time to request the number of chairs we would need. We were advised attendance is small (10 average), hence the size of the venue. However, the spirit impressed me, "Why not have a little faith and take 50 this year?" We were blessed to have wonderful presenters and as the days went by the venue just got smaller and smaller, finishing on a high 51 in attendance on Monday morning alone! All up, we had a record number of 185 attendees through out the weekend for seminars alone. The atmosphere was energising. Praise God!

On Sabbath afternoon we organised afternoon High Tea for the current Adventist Women leaders of our churches, 35 in attendance. We were blessed with the words shared by Erna Johnson.

Jasmin Stankovic, Western Australia Conference



High tea for the current Adventist Women leaders of our churches



Fundraising with slushies



United Night

The Adventist Women's United Night was an exciting night with about 400 beautiful women arriving and filling the Parramatta Church Hall. Women from all ages, with the youngest being 6 and the oldest being 89 years old. A red carpet was rolled out to welcome the women and were greeted and served by 12 cheerful volunteers. There was lots of happy chatter and laughter as everyone mingled over glasses of bubbly and cupcakes on arrival. We WORSHIPPED through vibrant singing and praising. The women gave generously to enable the ministry to continue to make a difference in the lives of women in community and in the church. Pr Moe Stiles, a young energetic preacher, challenged us with the Word of God to make a commitment to service because "This is our Time". We were honoured to have former Greater Sydney Conference Adventist Women's Leaders Joy Butler and Erna Johnson as participants in our program. It was a beautiful way to start the Adventist Women - Greater Sydney ministry year. From the enthusiasm and excitement we look forward to an exciting year of ministering together.

Beryl Landers, Greater Sydney Conference



Young attendees and GSC Adventist Women Director

Real Beauty

This year is special because I was thinking it would be nice to involve youth girls to become mentors in the Real Beauty program. We have 80 teenage girls attending from 12yrs – 20yrs. There were three presenters; myself, Naelyn John and Walo Gilbert. We also have a good grooming and personal hygiene presentation given by our nurse, the pastor's wife, Nancy Vagha. The teenagers, the new youth mentors and the old mentors, gave a closing speech on how this program will impact their lives. The teenagers said we are so happy for this follow up program it really helps us to look at ourselves as someone special in God's eye's.

One of the youth mentors shared this on their table talk discussion—"you girls are lucky now you heard about this, when I was your age I didn't hear about this, I hang out with my boy friend and my parent don't want me to marry the guy, but I didn't listen and then I was pregnant, so I have to move in and stay with him, I didn't have the privilege to go through proper marriage arrangements that will make everyone happy because I didn't see any value is my life to God." They are all looking forward for next year program "Real Love".

We had some of the boys commenting to us, asking, "why is the program just for girls? And us boys don't we deserve a program similar to you girls?" I just laugh and make fun of them, but Erna this is a serious question boys are questioning, maybe we should start thinking how we should help the boys, or what do you think?, or maybe we can talk with family life or youth to come up with the curriculum like this one for the girls. Something to think about.

Beverly Maega, Solomon Islands Mission



Can guys really just be friends? "Yes" team



Brenda Walsh, General Manager of the 3ABN Kids Network is a vivacious, loving Christian with a heart for ministry and a burning desire to share the love and joy of Jesus. Her amazing miracle stories have been an inspiration to thousands who have heard her dynamic presentations or read her attention-grabbing books. Her message is one of encouragement and hope to those who truly want to be used by God. For more information contact <https://events.adventist.org.au/Registration/Event/371>.

News From Around the Division...



Just for You Bags

Our aim is to help children who have special needs, usually having suffered some kind of trauma – for example they may not be in the family home for some reason (eg neglect or abuse) and are often without any of their personal possessions.

We gave away our first bags in February 2007 and now give 100 or so each year. We have found that the Children's Hospital at Westmead is very happy to receive them to pass on to particular children who fit our criteria. We are willing to give bags to others if we get a request from another source but this has not often happened. Including the bags given last Friday, we have given more than away 620 bags in 7 years.

Each bag contains toys (2 for each child), an exercise book, an activity book & pencils, a story book if we have them, toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, face washer, shampoo, comb, hairbrush and hair items for girls, etc) and last but not least, a cuddly blanket and a soft toy for each and every child.

Ladies from the Blacktown Church, Greater Sydney Conference



PNG Real Beauty

In November 2013, forty six young women and twelve volunteers gathered in the American Corner of the National Library in Waigani, Port Moresby, which had been completely pinked out, to participate in a seminar for young women called "Real Beauty".

This two-day seminar was developed to teach young women to recognize that real beauty is more than skin deep. That GOD created us beautifully in a way that cannot be characterized through what we read in the magazines, see on television or hear on the radio. The take-home message was "You are fearfully and wonderfully made".

One of the Facilitators, Alice Dihm talked about how cultural norms play a dominate role in how women, especially young women, see themselves. Mrs Dihm encouraged all young women to know and feel that the church is a safe place for them to feel comfortable about bringing their concerns when they feel burdened.

The seminar culminated with a sleep-over, where the young women were treated to a night of pampering and positive messaged movies. Many of the participants left with a sense of encouragement, newfound strength and confidence of who they were in Christ and that GOD created them uniquely as fearfully and wonderfully made women of God.

Jeanette Egu, Central Papua Conference



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We are here to help
women reach their
potential!



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