

Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

December 2014



May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill, And may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.

Have a happy Christmas.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- SDA Women's World Day of Prayer

March 7

- Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

June 13

IN THIS GOING PLACES

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Hearts Overflowing

Once upon a time there was a couple who had travelled for days in order to get to their very important destination. They were poor and their transportation wasn't very comfortable. Every day they wondered how much longer it would take them to get where they were heading.

They had one donkey to ease their weary bones and probably took turns sitting on it during the trip. The man was very considerate of his wife's situation, you see, she was expecting her first child and this wasn't a good time to be travelling but they needed to get where they were going for a reason. So they had to continue though her time to deliver was getting nearer.

You see, there was this census that was happening in the country and you had to go to your place of origin in order to be counted correctly. So here they were, still a long way from their destination but determined to get there no matter what.

Usually when we travel we make certain we have a place to stay at our destination. We make reservations way ahead of time. In those days there were no telephones or other ways to make a call in order to make sure there was a place waiting to put them up. No such luck for our couple.

After days of tiring travel they get to their city of origin only to find that every single hotel and motel were completely full. What a disaster!

I've always wondered what my husband would have done if this was us and not Mary and Joseph, because of course that is who I am talking about. No place in the inn, none whatsoever! What to do? Mary is having her baby and there's no bed available to accommodate her. We know the rest of the story don't we? Jesus was born and the rest is history!

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so! Yes, He loves you and me. He loves us so much that He was willing to come as a baby, to be born in a dirty manger where animals were kept. I praise God for sending his son to live, to die and to rise again because He loves me. What a wonderful feeling it is to be loved in that manner.

Yes, we know Jesus wasn't born on December 25, but He WAS born and that's what we should celebrate over this Season.

May His love fill our hearts to

overflowing so that we we may become a blessing to others as we share His love every day, not just for Christmas but for as long as we are on this earth. Have a blessed Season is Jan's and my wish for each and every one of you.

I want to share with you a poem my mother wrote many years ago that really touched me while reading through some of her poems recently. It talks about God's invitation to us to come to Him. I've translated it loosely from Icelandic. I feel it fits really well with our Christmas message. We have been given the invitation to come to Him. Be blessed!

Erna

Come!

I know of a way to a friend's house
It provides everything for me
Eternal life in the end
As an inheritance He gives to me.

You know this friend is Jesus
His love is everlasting
He is so trustworthy and waits in Light
Waits today for me - and you.

Come! We'll kneel together
At the cross, in expectant faith
Knowing that our Great Master
Will never turn away from us.

News From Around the Division...

Recapping the Women's Prayer Breakfast

The team for Adventist Women of the WA Conference culminated a busy 2014 year with a Prayer Breakfast on October 19th. There were 31 ladies from different parts of Perth who came to enjoy a great time of spiritual and social fellowship. Our talented team member Julie Knopper beautifully decorated the place, giving it a delicate and feminine touch. We were blessed to have 2 non-church ladies who attended the breakfast, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and they are wanting to know when the next event is happening. Despite the rain and cold weather, we had a fantastic opportunity to eat a delicious cooked breakfast, carefully prepared by Maria Berenyi, a very talented lady in culinary skills with a passion for God and Health. One of our local women's leaders, Yvette, presented an inspirational message to all of us, challenging us to become what God created us to be. After much food and prayer time, Mayra Reyes, one of our team, took us on a journey of laughter through a fun game where the ladies had the chance to release all the stress and enjoy a good time. We finished our gathering with a relaxing hand massage and shoulder rub by the capable hands of another team member, Gez DePaz.

I would like to encourage all our women's leaders to initiate this kind of event in your local churches. It is a simple and highly effective approach in connecting with your community in a safe environment. We as women can utilise Friendship Evangelism to the max. It is a method to reaching out and re-claiming former members, community contacts, and neighbours. After this event, we realised that something special happens when we eat, pray and fellowship together.

If you would like to receive the WA Conference WM monthly e-newsletter e-newsletter, please contact jasminstankovic@adventist.org.au.

Jasmin Stankovic, Director, Western Australia



PAU Adventist Women's Retreat

The women of Pacific Adventist University were graced with the presence of Mrs. Erna Johnson, the Director for Women's Ministry of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from the 26th through to the 28th of September, 2014, as part of the two campus churches' annual women's ministry retreat. Under the theme 'Our best for God in the Last Days', the women were reminded and challenged of the greater role they must play in preparing the field for the harvest to usher in the second coming of Jesus.



There were more than ninety women who attended this three-day workshop, comprising of indoor students and married students wives, faculties and staffs and their spouses. Notable among the participants was the Director of the universities local radio program, Mr. Douglas Rini. Mr. Rini was very instrumental in the laying the foundation for the program apart from being a session presenter. Other session facilitators include Dr. Mary Bagita-Vangana, who presented on women's issues; Mr. Gibson Etete, who cautioned the single women about when is 'the right time to say I-love-you'; Mr. and Mrs. Asugeni demonstrated the basics on massage while Mrs Ita Kemba challenged the women to be ministry oriented.

The three days retreat ended with a farewell dinner and fellowship staged for Erna Johnson. The ladies who attended the program said it was the most delightful and spirit-filled program and have made a commitment to start their own little ministry on campus.

By Miriam Etete, Pacific Adventist University





I Married a Possibility

In August, I ran a program called "I Married a Possibility" for women whose husbands are unchurched.

About 450 ladies attended the program. I worked with 6 ladies (facilitators) for the program. I used the notes prepared by Carole Ferch Johnson, Rose Otis and Ardis Sternbakken plus extras that I compiled into a small booklet.

The programs we had were simple – I Married a Possibility, Conflicts in Marriage, SUBMISSION – word for the wife and LOVE - the word for the husband. We had 5 sessions throughout the week on Prayer for the husbands, and sessions on Testimonies from women who have gone through the experience and now have their spouses worshipping with them in church.

Pr Lynae Baea (female) a Church Pastor for CPC (BA Theology – PAU) took our evening worships.

The women can't stop expressing the blessings they have received by attending the program and the changes they experienced at the camp. Everyone shed tears throughout the week for the pain and heartache they experienced in their marriages. Many promised to surrender all their bad attitudes/habits to Jesus – they felt they had also contributed to their husbands not attending church.

I praise our Almighty God who leads and directs us as we make plans to reach His women.

Jeanette Egu, Director, Central Papua Conference



To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
Have a blessed and joyous
Christmas 2014

White Ribbon Day November 25

The statistics are shocking: one woman is killed every week in Australia by a current or former partner; one in three women report experiencing physical or sexual violence in their life; police are called to more than 400 homes in NSW every day to deal with domestic violence issues. And the issue is present in the other nations of the South Pacific as well. Two thirds of Fijian, Papua New Guinean and Solomon Islands women are estimated to suffer from domestic violence*.

Today, almost 100 staff from the headquarters of the Adventist Church in the South Pacific (SPD), Adventist Media Network, ACA Health and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia took a stand to declare their commitment to end violence against women, by wearing white ribbons. "We have chosen to support White Ribbon Day because we believe that justice and respect is a right of all people," said Dr Trafford Fischer, event co-organiser and SPD Family Ministries director. "We join all Australians in declaring that any form of abuse, against any person, is wrong. We especially wish to declare our commitment to do all we can to bring an end to any form of violence against women."

White Ribbon Day (November 25) is Australia's only national, male-led campaign to stop violence against women and children. "One of the great things about the White Ribbon movement is that it has been instigated by men," says Rita Karraz, Director of National Programs at ADRA Australia. "Our experience, both in Australia and overseas, is that any work done to eliminate these issues has to be done together."

ADRA Australia is working to support and eradicate domestic violence throughout the Pacific. In the past 12 months, ADRA Australia provided safety and support to 138 women and children experiencing domestic violence in Australia through four women's refuges. The agency also provided more than 300 families and individuals experiencing crisis with free counselling. Overseas, ADRA has numerous projects specifically address gender violence, including those in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.



SPD Staff support White Ribbon Day

Study Bible for Women



The Seventh-day Adventist Church's Women's Ministries department has released the Woman's Bible, the first study Bible specifically designed for women by the Adventist Church.

The Woman's Bible, published by Safeliz Publishing House, is a New King James Version of the Bible that offers more than 100 commentaries, study materials and profiles on major and lesser-known female biblical characters written by Adventist women.

We're so glad we could offer this resource to encourage our sisters globally in their walk with God to motivate women who may not read the Bible or read much of it to do so. We want to give women tools at their fingertips that can be used in personal Bible study and when giving Bible studies to others.

The Bibles will be available at your local Adventist Book store.

2015 Women's Devotional

In this intimate devotional many daughters of God share their praises, their prayers, their victories, and even their heartaches. But mostly they are opening up about what the altogether lovely Jesus means to them.

You'll resonate with Tamyra Horst when she shares "a future and a hope—even in tough times," or Ginny Allen as she confesses being "caught by the law." Dixil Rodríguez describes "the wilted garden," and Vonda Beerman writes that "God opens prison doors." There is enough inspiration in one of these short readings to change your whole day.

Curl up in a favorite chair and relax with Hyveth Williams, Céleste Perrino-Walker, Rose Otis, Arlene Taylor, Penny Estes Wheeler, Shelley Quinn, Karen Holford, and many more. Open these pages and get to know the altogether lovely Jesus as you have never known Him before.

Your purchase of the women's devotional directly funds scholarships to help Adventist women around the world obtain higher education.

Altogether Lovely, the women's daily devotional for 2015, will be available through your local Adventist Book store.



Adventist Women
South Pacific Division
148 Fox Valley Road
Wahroonga NSW 2076
Australia

Postal Address
Locked Bag 2014
Wahroonga NSW 2076
Australia

Director
Erna Johnson
Departmental Assistant
Jan Bolst
jbolst@adventist.org.au

We are here to help
women reach their
potential!



May you be
surrounded by love,
joy & peace this
Christmas.