

# Going Places

with Adventist Women in the South Pacific

June 2015

## Life Changing Ministry

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**June 13**  
Women's Ministries Emphasis Day (SDA)

**July 7-14**  
NAIDOC Week — to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

**August 22**  
EndItNow Emphasis Day (SDA)

### IN THIS GOING PLACES

- **Around the Division** 2-4



Adventist Women's Ministries in the South Pacific Division has been changing the lives of

hundreds of teenage girls within its territory. How do I know that? Well, just read the rest of this newsletter and you'll see for yourself!

We have a mandate to minister to women. Someone might ask me, Erna, these girls are teenage girls, not 'women' and they should be taken care of by the Youth Ministry Department. But who decides when a girl is deemed a woman? A good question isn't it? I, personally believe that even though the Youth department is doing a wonderful job with our youth, the girls were missing out on a feminine perspective of life. Most youth directors are male within this Division, and would have difficulty understanding where we are coming from and how we actually function. That is quite understandable don't you think?

This is why at the beginning of this quinquennium it was unanimously decided by the WM Advisory that a specific ministry to teenage girls and women under 35 was urgently needed.

Since 2011 we've put a huge percentage of our budget and woman power into this ministry.

We are now reaping the results right across the Division. I praise God for the dedicated leaders who have embraced this vision whole-heartedly and we haven't looked back since then.

As you can see from the main story, Papua New Guinea is a power to reckon with. Mona Giheno, a young woman in Port Moresby attended my first "Real Beauty" seminar held at PAU just to see how it was done. Since then she has given this ministry her full attention. Not only does she organize regular seminars for the teenage girls, but she has also started a television ministry on Hope Channel for the PNG girls living outside Port Moresby! Mona is a lawyer by trade, but a 'minister' by passion. What a woman! I wish we had many Monas all over SPD. Oh, what we could then do for our girls! There are many Monas out there just waiting for an opportunity to serve. We need to be on the look-out for them and encourage them to join us in service to our girls.

My heart aches for our girls as I hear of rape and other terrible abuse happening to them. Our ministry is helping them understand that what has happened to them is NOT their fault. That God loves them with an unconditional love and does not condone abuse in any form. We teach

them about Godly self-esteem and what real love is, among many other things. They learn how to understand themselves, why they react in a certain manner when others react differently to the same situation. They also learn how God sees them and that that's the way they must see themselves as well.

Our ministry to our teenage girls is changing lives! My challenge to all women reading this newsletter is to stand up and be counted, to "rise and shine for the light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us." (Isaiah 60:1) This is the time for us to shine for the Lord as we minister within the gifts and talents He has given each one of us. May He abundantly bless each one of you is my prayer.

Erna



*Teen Girls & Women, Solomon Islands*



*Teen Girls, Victoria*

# News From Around the Division...

## Learning to be Real - PNG

Dear SPD Women's Ministry Leader

On behalf of the 120 participants in the Real Series, we would like to say thank you for your support in making our program such a wonderful success.

This was the first time we opened our doors to the entire female congregation between the ages of 6 – 30 years old. The response we received was unprecedented. We had little girls as young as 3 years old in tears because they wanted to participate in our Princess Tea event. We also had mothers enquiring if we could hold similar sessions for the older women in the church.

We were amazed with the support we received from the older girls wanting to mentor the younger girls. It has created a wonderful fellowship of sisterhood amongst the girls of the church. We conducted our Real series during the first term holidays when most of the girls were on vacation. Some of the older girls who were enrolled in the local colleges and University took the day off to attend our Real Love session.. We had one of our participants email us to say, "I'm really depressed that I couldn't be a part of the Thursday Real Love Seminar. I feel in my heart that I really need this, but I cannot make it ... due to work commitments... Is there gonna be other sessions??"

The program ran for 4 days from the 13– 16 April. On Monday 13th April, we held our Princess Tea for girls aged 6-8 years old. On Tuesday 14th April, we conducted our Real Friends Seminar for girls aged 9-12 years old. On Wednesday 15th April we had Real Beauty for those between the ages of 13 -16 and on Thursday 16th April we conducted Real Love for those 17 and above. We concluded our Real series on Sabbath 18 April 2015, with a pot-luck lunch and a special program. Our program included testimonies and a skit to share with the rest of the Church what the girls learnt that week.

It has been a tremendous blessing to witness the changes this program has made in the lives of our young women. We are hopeful the Lord will bring a new wave of women who are committed to the Word and its teachings to raise up a generation of women who know their purpose in God.

Thank you once again for your support!

Blessings always with love,

The Girls of Korobosea Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Mona Giheno, Port Morseby



*Princesses*



*Real Beauty*



*Real Friends*



*Real Love*



## Testimony

Testimony from a teenage girl in French Polynesia.

I've attended 3 seminars with Erna Johnson and Sylvie Falchetto in the past few years. These seminars, which I've really loved, have had a big impact on my life. The topics have been on self-esteem, how to make positive friendships as well as on how to choose a future partner. These seminars have helped me question myself about my character and my daily life. They have also made it possible for me to meet girls my own age and share with them where I am at personally. We learnt that our weak points and our strong points make us who we are and to learn how to make a positive change in our lives as well as helping us to get closer to one another. These weekends have been fantastic and I've met fantastic people! I'd like to encourage all the teenage girls to come and attend because it's not just a place to learn, but it's also a place to make beautiful new friends.

Matahotu, 15 years old, Auae Church, French Polynesia  
*Sylvie Falchetto, Director, French Polynesia*



*Marie Louise Matahotu with her mentor*

## Train the Trainer

"What's really been wonderful about this weekend is that today I can walk out with confidence and know that as a woman I can bring other women to Christ and we can all be in the Kingdom of heaven, not one can be missed or left out...all has been to the glory of God!" This is how Keryn Hicky, Women's Ministries leader for Lakeside church, felt about the Women's Ministries Leadership Training at Avondale. She and other women spoke about their training under H. Naomi Andersen, a past Women's Ministries Director and adult educator.

Avondale hosted the Women's Ministries Leadership "Train the Trainer" weekend for 22 church leaders from 12 churches. Women came from as far north as Casino, from Tamworth in the west, and the Central Coast in the south for this very intensive training.

Each leader was challenged to teach as they learned. Involving them in the teaching is a new concept for Women's Ministries Leadership Training. According to Women's Ministries leader, Jill Richards from Wyee church she says about the training; "it was uplifting and encouraging, and also challenging...really good for our personal development and personal growth and it's been wonderful to have the tools that we have to give us confidence to go out and run programs in our churches and to impact our women locally...pooling our resources, drawing together women from our church communities and our communities at large so Christ's name can be glorified."

Since the training, other Women's Ministries leaders are planning to put their training into practice. Women's Ministries leader, Nancy Odhiambo, from Hamilton church feels the Holy Spirit is guiding her to teach the Impacting Teens unit because of the many young people she feels are not cared for in and outside of the church.

Great things are happening for our women in the North NSW Conference and Women's Ministries Department is so excited about the outcome that another Train the Trainer weekend is scheduled for early August. If you did not or could not attend this one, then plan to be at our August training. You will not be disappointed, for God is moving by His Spirit.

Lynelda Tippto, Women's Ministries Director, NNSW



## NEW—Little Miss GIGI

*little miss*  
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We are here to help  
women reach their  
potential!