

# Going Places

*Adventist women in the South Pacific*



## Season's Greetings

December 2019  
Edition 19/12

### Calendar 2020

- 27-29 January  
Madang  
'Following  
Apostles'  
Vision' Training
- 24-26 February  
Australia  
'HELD'  
Women in  
Ministry  
Conference
- 7 March  
International  
Women's Day  
of Prayer
- 13 June  
Women's  
Ministries  
Emphasis Day
- 22 August  
End It Now!  
Emphasis Day

## Dream Big for Next Year

It's December, last month of the year. A lot has happened in 2019! As you look back, may you find many moments of joy to celebrate. As you look forward, dream big.

Joy Koi from Central Papua Conference had a dream. In September it came true — 5000 women attended the congress in PNG that she organised.

Yes, you read that correctly. Five thousand women!!! Can you even imagine that many women in one place?

But that's not all — 1220 of them were young girls. The girls' program was a highlight of the congress. There were male pastors, district directors, departmental leaders, men and young boys also fully supporting this event.

Additionally, there were women and young girls as well as female pastors from other denominations also attending this congress.

What are your dreams for next year? As we start the new year, DREAM BIG! Dream with God and let's see how those dreams come true in 2020.

## Discipleship Christmas Ideas

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# She came from heaven!

The reply to my simple, "Thank you for coming!" warmed my heart.

"About 20 years ago my wife attended the Women's Ministry retreat for the first time," the man told me. He proudly clarified that he is a church elder. He was one of several men who attended the Women's Ministry spiritual retreat held in Poindimie on the north-east coast of New Caledonia on November 1-3. It was obvious that he was going to continue.

"When she came home she looked like she came from heaven," he said, smiling. "I realised this must be something good, and she has attended these meetings every year since." Then he added, "I join her, because I also benefit from these meetings. I am a staunch supporter of this work."

Around 180 participants came to the event, which was organised by two capable ladies who look after Women's Ministries in New Caledonia: Marie Saren-gat and Hani Huria. There was a large contingent of

women from Vanuatu, so the whole program was translated to English and French (depending on the speaker's language of choice). Every song was sung in French and English and sometimes in one of the local languages. They chose the theme "Woman, Commit yourself to Jesus!"

Adrielle Carrasco, Women's Ministry Liaison from the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, was one of the guest speakers, and I also presented.

There were songs, sermons, Discovery Bible readings, testimonies, nice food, more songs, fun evenings and commitments to Jesus renewed. For one woman it was a particularly special moment — it was her first time committing to Jesus. Other women surrounded and prayed for her, and upheld her in prayer.

Before I left New Caledonia a pastor told me, "If we didn't have women in the church, the church work would crumble." My heart was overflowing with joy.



# Outstanding Achievement Award

The first director of the Women's Ministries department for the South Pacific Division, Dr Carole Ferch-Johnson, was presented with the Woman of the Year Award for Outstanding Achievement by the US-based Association of Adventist Women in a special ceremony in Loma Linda, California, on November 16.



You can read more about this event on the following website: <https://bit.ly/2pMbjJo>

The Association of Adventist Women is the oldest, continuously operating organisation of Adventist women. Founded in 1982, the AAW was established to meet the unique needs of Adventist women in all areas of endeavour. They address these needs through annual conferences, training in leadership skills, advocacy for women in church leadership, including pastoral ministry, and recognition of the achievements of Adventist women around the globe.

Other women who received an award were:

1. Linda Mendez, who holds a MA in Theology from La Sierra University and is a U-Reach Director for Lima Lunda University Church. She is Director of LLUC café, which raises funds for the needy. She received a Woman of the Year Award for Youth Life.

2. Chris Oberg, who also holds a Masters degree, is the La Sierra University Church Lead Pastor. She is the first female lead pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist University Church. She received a Woman of the Year Award for Spiritual Leadership.

3. Corene Stennis, Nurse Anesthetist, is founder of a non-profit organisation for Christian women's conferences titled A Woman 4 All Seasons, author of the book From Silver to Gold, author of the deaconess handbook for Rialto Valley Fellowship SDA Church, and a fundraiser for Christian education. She received a Woman of the Year Award for Community Life.

Carole recently launched her book Telling Hands and Teaching Feet, her PhD dissertation revised and published as a book by Peter Lang.

Congratulations Carole! Well deserved and long-overdue recognition.

## Sad News



It is with a heavy heart that we share with you some sad news. Our dear friend and co-worker Jan Bolst passed away on Sabbath, November 16 to rest till resurrection morning. She is free at last, awaiting a better place where there will be no more suffering.

## Daily Devotional



The General Conference has released a new women's devotional for 2020 - 'I Am Loved'. The sale of the devotional funds the global 'Scholarshipping Our Sisters' campaign.

For more information: <https://women.adventist.org/womens-ministries-devotional-book>

# Making friends with your neighbours from South Asia

The Center for South Asian Religions provides resources to help you better understand your South Asian neighbours in order to develop long-lasting relationships.

There are certain concepts that anyone desiring to engage in a genuine, lasting friendship with a South Asian should be aware of.

## South Asians and the Home

In order to develop positive relationships with South Asians, it is important that you are willing to visit the South Asian family in their home, and that they are free to go to your home. It is common for a home visit to involve dining together, as it is customary for South Asians to offer food to anyone who comes to their house.

When entering the home of a South Asian, it is appropriate to remove your shoes at the door.

Be aware that some Asian food can be spicy. While you may not be used to this type of food, do your best to try what you can in order not to offend the host.

Many South Asians are strict vegetarians and will not eat any meat that is offered to them.

Many South Asians refrain from eating beef of any kind.

Most South Asians have certain values, which can be used as positive bridges to build friendships. Family is important to South Asians. You can ask about their family and learn about their children and parents. Don't be afraid to share about your own family as well. Hopefully, your family is with you when you visit. For those who are single the same applies.

## Gender Relations

In South Asian cultures, certain behaviours are expected in regards to gender interactions, which may be different in other cultures.

Keep the following in mind as you develop your friendship:

- Spending abnormal amounts of time with a member of the opposite gender should be avoided
- Males should not touch females in any way
- Avoid alone time between you and a member of the opposite gender
- Spend most of your time in conversation with members of the same gender without ignoring those from the opposite gender
- Modest dress is appropriate for both females and males

## Conversation

It is common for South Asians to enjoy spending time in relaxed conversation, discussing a wide variety of topics.

When conversing with a South Asian:

Attempt to learn how to pronounce the name of your friend accurately

Be willing to learn some of their language

Feel free to ask questions about their culture in the areas of dress, food, family and lifestyle

Listen carefully and be willing to answer their questions about your culture

Holidays and festivals may be possible discussion topics

<https://csar.globalmissioncenters.org/making-friends>



Discipleship

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We are here to help women reach their potential!



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South Pacific