

# Going Places

Adventist women in the South Pacific

October 2019  
Edition 19/10



## Calendar 2019

- 24/6-27/9  
Long Service  
Leave
- 1-3 November  
New Caledonia  
Women's Retreat

Discipleship Ministries  
Women

women.  
[adventistchurch.com](http://adventistchurch.com)

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## It's October Already!

by Danijela Schubert

It is incredible, but true, that it's October 2019 already.

I remember when I received my first driver's licence. It showed my picture, my name, the date it was issued and the year it expired — 10 years from being issued. It was expiring in 1992. I thought that year was so far away that it will never come. I thought that Jesus will come sooner than that. However, before that driver's licence expired, I was married, had two children, a master's degree and lived in three different countries! Who would have thought all this was possible as I looked at my new driver's licence in 1982!

In less than three years, it will be 30 years since my first driver's licence expired! But who's counting? This is just an illustration that time seems to fly by quickly, and the older you get, the faster it goes. So yes, it is October 2019 already.

October is a good time to look at the year behind and plan the year ahead, as we get ready for the year-end. Christmas is almost here!

I have just come back from a fantastic long service leave trip (thank you Australia for this amazing privilege!) and I'm still recovering from jetlag. Nevertheless, exciting times are ahead. I look forward to meeting women in New Caledonia, the leadership of the New Zealand-Pacific Union Conference, and youth of Greater Sydney Conference in the next few months. Please pray that these will be inspiring events for those who attend.



As my role also looks after women in ministry, I will be busy preparing for our conference on the Gold Coast in February 24-27, 2020. Please pray that God will work mightily in the lives of our women who serve in pastoral work, departmental leadership and chaplaincy. God has placed a big burden on their shoulders and they need all the support they can get.

## PNG Hold Women's Ministry Conference

Joy Koi, the Central Papua Conference Women's Ministry Director, organised a congress for women from September 24-29. Papua New Guinea has the most Adventists in the South Pacific Division, so it is not surprising that a conference there attracted many women.

Erna Johnson, the former Women's Ministry Director for the South Pacific Division, was one of the main guest speakers for the event. Terry Litchfield, currently working for the Victorian government, was another guest speaker. Before the event Terry said, "I have a passion for inspiring women to rise strong in the face of adversity, to overcome their shame and fears, and to empower them to realise their worth and potential as women in Christ. I am very much looking forward to meeting the beautiful women at congress."

Erna and Terry were joined by a host of helpers from the Port Moresby area to deliver an event that women who attended will remember for a long time.



# Ripples from TPUM Women's Congress

Pelenatete Siaki, Director of the Samoa Mission Women's Ministry, writes:

"Talofa Pastor Nasoni and Danijela, Praise God for His leading us as we travel from the beginning of this year until now, the middle of the year. Thank God for the many blessings that we have received during our Congress in Tonga. We were so blessed.

From then on women are still on fire. On the 10th – 13th May, we held the Samoa Mission Retreat. Praise God almost 400 ladies attended. We used most of our ladies who attended the Congress in Tonga.

The Lord really used them as an instrument during our retreat. Praise God for equipping us in Tonga so we could equip our sisters in our Samoa Mission.

Facilitators for our seminars were Pastor Kenneth, Pastor Sione and Pastor David. Opening ceremony was led by Linda Fuliese, morning and evening devotions by pastors' wives; they were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is amazing how God used them in very special ways.

Local churches in our Mission have their own prayer group in Zone (district). The ladies are leading their prayer

sessions, and everybody is involved and taking part.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all of you who worked together for this Congress in Tonga. We can't say much to explain how we felt. Only God knows our hearts. I can only say we were so blessed.

I pray that our good Lord will continue to pour out His Holy Spirit upon us, as we try to reach out and make disciples for Him. Not forgetting our Tongan sisters and brothers for their hospitality; they were so kind to us. Blessings!!!"



## Using the Mind

*Insights from the presentation by Dr Wendy Jackson*

Some have a love-hate relationship with knowledge and thinking, and some can even be called anti-intellectual – a person who is hostile or indifferent to culture and intellectual reasoning. In church some think that education will lead people away from God, that it limits the leading of the Spirit, delays and obstructs mission. They say that Jesus is coming soon so we don't have time for education. They think that disciples didn't need an education, and we need to be like children, as Jesus said, so we don't need an education.

The impact of that kind of thinking in the Church is ignorance, poor theology, inability to communicate well with other cultures, difficulty dealing with complex questions, a limited view of God, and immature spirituality, which also promotes criticism and fear.

The Bible encourages the reader to develop their mind. We should love the Lord our God with all our mind (Mark 12:30), and make every effort to add to our faith knowledge

(2 Peter 1:5-7). Ellen White supports that. She said, "those who do not love to study are ever in great danger of becoming dwarfs in spiritual and mental growth" (RH Apr 6, 1886). "Education and training are rightly regarded as an essential preparation for business life; and how much more essential is thorough preparation for the work of presenting the last message of mercy to the world. This training cannot be

gained by merely listening to preaching. In our schools our youth are to bear burdens for God. They are to receive a thorough training under experienced teachers. They should make the best possible use of their time in study, and put into practice the knowledge acquired. Hard study and hard work are required to make a successful minister or a successful worker in any branch of God's cause. Nothing less than constant cultivation will develop the value of the gifts that God has bestowed for wise improvement" (GW 70-71).

Developing a mature Christian mind involves learning to think carefully and critically, learning at the feet of Jesus, reading widely and deeply, reflection, using mentors and coaches, and acquiring a formal education.

God needs women who will use and develop their mind, then help others develop their mind to become "successful workers in any branch of God's cause."

