

Ask a Woman!

by Danijela Schubert

"When I need something done, I ask a woman." –two significant leaders of our church said to me recently, independently of each other.

This was already voiced earlier this year by Glenn Townend, the president of the South Pacific Division who said "we need more women in leadership roles and in church employment."

I see the importance in what they said:

1. It was the men who shared it with me.
2. I heard it repeated in a short period of time.

There is a significance in having something repeated. If something is important in the Bible, it is repeated. Sometimes it is the same word ("Truly, truly..."), sometimes it is the same idea said in a different way (check the book of Proverbs).

Therefore I believe it is important to share this with you.

Male leaders of our church are voicing their appreciation of women. They see what a significant role women have and they want to see more women fully engaged, using their skills.

"I want every church to have women regularly rostered to preach in our churches." – one of them said.

"I want to have women leaders of the small groups in our community. They are already leading, but I want to officially make them leaders of those groups, because I want our groups to grow." – said the other.

Not only do the women make things happen, but they bring a workforce with them. A woman will bring other women and children to help accomplish the task.

Women's Ministry has developed tools to help women improve their leadership skills and tools to help meet community needs. Discipleship Ministry Team has a plethora of other tools that can be used in meeting a variety of needs.

I encourage you to assess the needs in your church and community, then contact us to see if we already have the tools you require to meet those needs. If we don't have it already, we are here to help develop it for you.



Calendar

2018

- 11-14 October
Solomon Islands
Teenage Girls
Program
- 19-22 October
South New Zealand
WM Conference
- 1-2 November
WM Advisory NZ
- Preaching
appointments in
Sydney

2019

- 5-14 April
New Caledonia
Youth Week of
Prayer
- 17-21 April
Tonga
TPUM Women's
Congress

Women's Ministries Focus

Women's Ministries is a broad umbrella of the church committed to encouraging, challenging, equipping, and nurturing Seventh-day Adventist women as they do their part in carrying the gospel message to the world. Its vision is to know Jesus passionately and to serve and disciple other women. It focuses on six challenge issues which are barriers that prevent women from reaching their full potential. [Click here for more detail.](#)

• **Abuse** - affects more than one third of all women globally

• **Poverty** - let compassion move you to assist

• **Education** - offer mentoring and leadership opportunities

• **Health** - poor health blights all aspects of women

• **Illiteracy** - everyone should have access to communicate effectively

• **Workloads** - challenges of heavy workloads

Ramoaina Literacy Graduation

by Dianne Pelap, WM Director

A total of 19 students graduated from the Duke Island literacy program. It was the first of its kind on the island and a major breakthrough for its people.

Initially commenced by Women's Ministries, it has broadened its scope.

It was the first local level government program in East New Britain Province to seriously launch this vital program as it was to benefit the remote population which also has

the highest level of illiteracy on the island.



We shared tears as the facilitator, Ms. Delilah Samuel graduated her very own 58 year old mum who eventually knew how to read and write. We also witnessed the life skills on men's button shirts they displayed after going through a one week sewing class.

A special thank you to ADRA PNG for their assistance, and the administration of the New Britain New Ireland Mission of Seventh-day Adventist Church for funding this project to benefit the people of East New Britain Province as a whole. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

Chosen Breathe - Sydney Adventist Women Convention

It was a beautiful sight to behold as five hundred attendees gathered for BREATHE. The rich display of colours, the beautiful outfits were stunning as the women arrived in their national costumes. The energy and excitement was palpable. Keynote speaker, Dr Trafford Fischer, reminded and challenged us in his 3 sessions that we are CHOSEN to live, to love and to serve. We worshipped wholeheartedly and sang joyfully in praise to our God. We were also blessed by the ministry of four choirs

- Korean, Samoan, Fijian and African - who raised their voices with beautiful harmony in worship and praise. In the three CHOSEN moments. Our faithful Prayer Support Team ministered throughout the day at the SHE PRAYS area - a dedicated prayer area where women could pray and be prayed for in three specific areas of their lives - praying for 'HIM', 'HOME' and 'HEALING'. The women responded to the an offering appeal in the morning by giving \$6 000 - in support of the continued work of

Sydney Adventist Women right here in Sydney. In the afternoon we witnessed an overwhelming expression of compassion giving in support of the Drought Relief Appeal. \$21 000 was raised after hearing our guest speakers - a farmer and his wife, from out west, who shared the reality of living on the land through the drought. We are still in awe of what God accomplished through the gathering of His CHOSEN girls. We give Him all the glory and praise.

[Click here for more.](#)



Try Something Different

by Danijela Schubert

If you are wondering why are these two same pictures of my shoes here, let me assure you, it is not a mistake. They are here for you to play spot the difference. And no, the answer is not that one is clear and the other blurred.

While you are trying to find out what the difference is between these two pictures of my shoes, let me tell you something about them. I bought them not long ago, and really like them. I liked them so much that I paid full price for them. That is very unusual for me. I buy when things are on sale.

It was a big decision and I went out of my comfort zone to buy them.

These shoes are very comfortable, yet trendy. I've been wearing them for work every day.

Nevertheless, although I like them and they are comfortable, very soon I realised something is wrong with them.

In trying to spot the difference, did you notice that the shoelaces have little metal bits at the end, which adds to their beauty?

See, as you walk, the little metal bits at the end of the shoelaces flip around and get inside the shoe. Once there, they remain there. Stuck between my foot and the shoe, they become a painful nuisance. I have to stop walking and take the bits out.

Since my job requires quite a lot of sitting, this is not a major problem. I like the shoes, so I keep up with this annoyance.

How's the spotting-the-difference going? Found it?

After three months of putting up with nuisance and pain, I had a great revelation. A change of thought! I asked myself a question. Can I do anything to stop this from happening?

I always tied shoelaces in the same way in the last three months. I always tied shoelaces in the same way ever since I learned how to tie shoelaces when I was a child. I always tried to make the bow and the hanging bits the same length. That seemed to be the perfect manner of tying shoelaces. So it is not surprising that I would continue to do so. Until three months into wearing shoes I like very much that hurt me.

By now you should have spotted the difference. If not,

here comes a clue.

I wondered, what if I tie the shoelaces somewhat differently? What if I make the bows bigger and the end with metal bits shorter? What would that do? It would definitely spoil my idea of perfect shoelace tying, but would that stop these shoes from being a wonderful nuisance, to simply wonderful?

Ta-da!

I tried that amazingly new idea and it worked! I now enjoy my shoes without metal bits getting stuck between my foot and shoe. You can hardly notice that they are tied differently, so if you did not spot the difference, you are OK. However, to me that was a BIG difference.

Why did I wait three months to try this? Good question! In hindsight, it seems the logical and smart thing to do. However, it did not occur to me that this might be an option. I thought that it is maybe a manufacturing fault. I didn't question it.

Being stuck for three months – bearing the pain and nuisance of the shoes I like just because I always tied shoelaces the same way – made me ask some other questions. What other ways of doing things or thought patterns or relationships am I stuck in that make my life painful and do not allow me to enjoy life to the fullest?

How about you?

I suggest, asking more questions is a good start. Jesus is a great example in asking questions. He asked about 300 questions which are recorded in the Bible.¹

Go on, ask yourself some questions.

- Why am I doing this?
- Can this be done in another way?
- What other way can I think about this?
- Can I do something different to make my relationship with this person better?
- Why not?

The pictures of my shoes are a great reminder to try something different. May they open door to changes of improvement in any area of your life where it's hurting.

¹ Martin B. Copenhaver, *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He answered*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014).





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We are here to help
women reach their
potential!



Resources



Institute of Managers and Leaders (Australia & NZ) has good resources and networks. It provides a free 4-month mentoring service for new members. [Click here for more Information.](#)

Mums @ the Table

[Click & Check out the Magazine & TV Program](#)

All the mums out there! Do you need some "cheering on"?

Join the community of mums who every month feel cheered on through the TV shows, magazines and online conversations.

I take the magazine to my hairdresser and leave it there for other mums to read.

You too can help another mum on the motherhood journey, invite her to join the community of Mums @ the Table.



Moore College in Sydney has a resource centre where you can find helpful materials.

We do not endorse every view presented in those materials.

[Click Here for the Link](#)

Online Christian Counselling for Women

Suzanne is an experienced Christian Counsellor who loves to see breakthroughs in her client's lives. Whether it's your career, your relationships, or anything else that's important to you, Suzanne will help you develop the habits and skills to be an overcomer. High quality counselling that comes to you in the comfort of your home, office or anywhere you have internet access. The best is yet to come. Live Your Best Life! [More](#)



International Women's Day of Prayer

Although it is early October, the materials for next year's International Day of Prayer are ready. Click on the logo to go to the website. The material titled "Walking with Jesus" has been prepared by Cordell Liebrandt and includes a seminar by Karen J. Pearson "Can We Trust God When He Says, "Follow Me"? Also available is a seminar on Journaling by Heather-Dawn Small "Discovering the Love of Your Life" and additional material on various prayer methods. This special day in the church calendar is on the first Sabbath of March, concentrating on prayer and a personal relationship with Christ. Every church should, if possible, schedule it in their plans for the new year.

We will have French translation also. If you need materials in other languages, let us know, and we will endeavour to obtain it for you. [More](#)

Sycamore Lane

Kylie Cullinan is the Director of Sycamore Lane, a boutique coaching organisation that supports Women Leaders and specialises in coaching Female Clergy. For more information on Sycamore Lane - kylie@sycamorelane.com.au.



It is my conviction that male and female were designed by God to co-steward his resources, in order to achieve his purposes in every task of human endeavour. When either is missing from the leadership task so is a distinct aspect of the nature of God.

Kate Coleman