

Calendar 2019

- 5 February Women in Ministry Advisory Committee
- 7-10 February Mission to the Cities Conference
- 10-13 February Church Planting Conference
- 6 March Biblical Research Committee
- 7-14 April New Caledonia Youth Week of Prayer
- 17-21 April Tonga, TPUM Women's Congress
- 24/6-27/9 Long Service Leave

This Year Didn't Start As Planned

by Danijela Schubert

In the last newsletter, I wrote that as you read it, I will be on holidays, rejuvenating. That didn't end up being true. Instead I was in Europe, supporting my mother-in-law as we buried her husband of 60 years, my father-in-law, Velimir Šubert. He was an amazing man, an innovator for the mission of the church in Croatia then whole of former Yugoslavia.

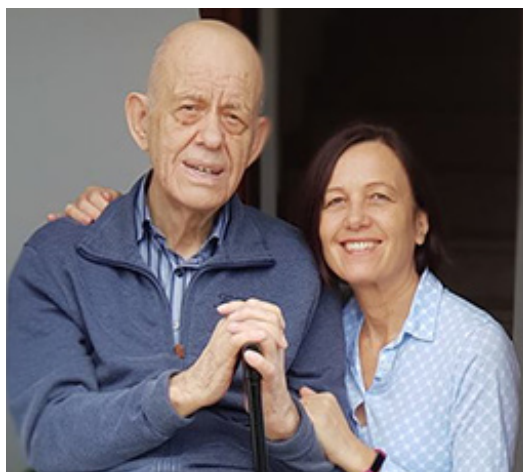
In his twenties, he was invited to church by an illiterate, kind, older woman. Little did she know what impact that invitation will have! Once he grasped the amazing love and mercy God had toward him, the amazement of it never left him. He boldly pursued the vision of bringing the same amazing news to other people in then communist country. This was often in spite of the church administration opposition due to fear of what such steps might do to the church, as many of these people spent time in prison because of their faith. Some thought it was impossible to achieve. But Velimir went ahead nevertheless. He started publishing Signs of the Times, Life and Health, launched correspondence Bible school, established ADRA in the country, to name a few. The spirit of innovation did not stop when he retired, and for 25 more years he was active in finding

new ways of spreading good news to others. The last one was establishing Society of Good People that brought support to needy people and children in the country.

His funeral was attended by over 200 people who came from all parts of Croatia and abroad, braving cold winter weather, and over 1000 saw it online. His story was shared on the national radio and his life was celebrated during the meeting of Society for Religious Liberty that he birthed in Croatia. He was well respected by all religious leaders in the country.

Although this year didn't start as planned, instead started with the funeral, it is far from being a discouragement. Quite the opposite. His example lives on to spur us to go boldly forward in pursuit of life dedicated to God, finding new ways of being a blessing to people around us.

Like that old, illiterate, kind woman that brought Jesus to Velimir Šubert and countless others through him, God can use you as you invite others to follow Jesus.



My Story, My Mission

Adventist Mission held a student film contest in 2018 titled "My Story, My Mission". Students around the world were invited to creatively express what mission means in their lives. Check the following website to find the winners. <https://am.adventistmission.org/filmcontest>. A student from our Division won third place, and another received one of the honourable mentions. Share these videos in your churches, with your children to encourage them in their walk with God and their mission in life.



Disrupted Morning Routine

by Danijela Schubert

The day started well. I got up, drank my two glasses of water, did some exercise, dressed up and left for work on time.

I said, the day started well. I can't say that it started very well. Keep reading to find out why.

Two main issues made it not start very well. First, when the alarm woke me, I stayed another 15 minutes in bed. That is not a good idea, for it shortened my preparation time and 15 minutes can be a significant amount of time in the early morning. Second, I did not read my Bible verse. That second issue brought bigger consequences.

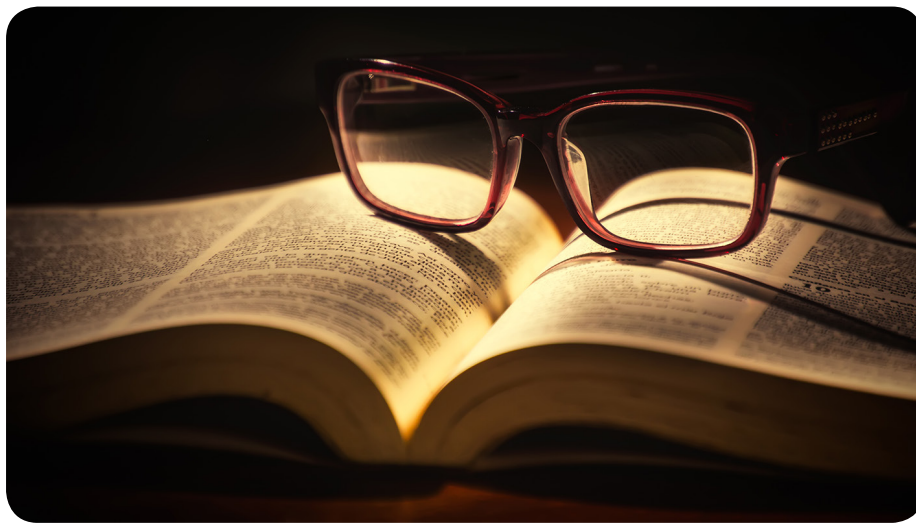
The traffic this time of the morning was excellent. In fact, I can't remember when was the last time that Pennant Hills Road was so empty. (Pennant Hills Road has an infamous label of being the worst road in Sydney.)

I was rather pleased with myself for coming to work early. This was due partly because I put my bag, ready to take to work, near the door of our apartment the night before. I had my breakfast ready the night before (Bircher muesli), I knew what I'd have for lunch, so the second bag with food for the day was ready near the door also ahead of my departure time.

As I entered my office I noticed how the weather was good. My office

looked nice and bright. I was ready to launch into work: answering emails, collecting data for presentation and to better represent women.

I have a little ritual when I come to my office. I put my bag on the chair. Take out my laptop and connect it to the office computer system. I take out my phone and usually set up the timer to ring every 30 minutes to remind me to stand up, stretch, do a little exercise. I take out my water bottle and have it ready to drink throughout the day.



And, in the last several years, I also take my glasses out.

But now, in my office, it didn't take long to realise that one essential item is missing. My glasses. I can't work without them.

I looked. Searched my bag. Searched some more.

There were no glasses in my bag!!!

There was nothing to be done, but do the whole journey again: drive home to get the glasses and back to work,

this time in much worse traffic conditions. That would take a minimum one hour!

I tried not to be mad at myself, but it was hard work. As I was driving back home, the words of a well-known song came to mind:

*Oh what peace we often forfeit,
Oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry,
Everything to God in prayer.*

See, if I had read my Bible verse first thing in the morning as I usually do, I would have needed glasses. I would have searched for my glasses and noticed that they were not in my bag. I would have made sure that they were in my bag.

But alas, I didn't do that.

I don't believe in God punishing me for not reading the

Bible in the morning. He is not in the business of punishing people but of helping them have the best life ever (John 10:10). Nevertheless, the consequences of my morning choices reminded me that reflecting on a Bible verse in the morning has additional benefits to spiritual feeding – it helps me not to forget my glasses!

May every day for you start with God, Bible reading and prayer and may you enjoy additional benefits when you start your day that way!

Dates for Women's Ministry 2019

2 March

International Women's Day of Prayer

8 June

Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

24 August

EndItNow Emphasis Day

We must decide that true equality is long overdue and will be achieved only when more women rise to the top of every government and every industry.

Sheryl Sandberg

The Middle East Needs You

by Glenn Townsend & Peter Roennfeldt

The mission challenge in the Middle East and North Africa Union (MENA) is pretty stunning: 545 million people across 20 countries, most of them do not have a picture of God's love or what Jesus has done for us. There are some major cities with at least 1 million population that have never been entered by a Seventh-day Adventist.

Here in SPD we have our share of mission challenges with secularism on the rise across the division, we are doing our best to plant churches and start ministries that disciple the gospel to different groups. The scale of the challenge is totally different in the Middle East, all of the countries have the same dominant religion of Islam, many have war or major security issues, and in some places Christianity is not welcome.

People are needed, new lights to shine across the large territory of the Middle East and North Africa. Most of these areas are safe and developing, and in many areas there are already people who are seeking a relationship with Je-

sus. So MENA is trying to put as many access points for God's love, His light and truth—as possible.

So if you want to use your professional skills to gain employment or to start



a business in a closed country of the Middle East . . . Or if you are willing to be a faithful witness on a secular campus University . . . or if you would join teams that paint wall murals in cities in order to form relationships with local young people, or to join an existing team as a volunteer as a teacher or health promoter. . . please contact info@AdventistMENA.org. In reality the possibilities for service are endless.

If you don't sense the call to go there, consider the following insights. The

best missionaries in foreign places are people indigenous to those places — having both the language and culture. Because our territories are so multi-cultural we have the mission field

next door — and therefore have much to offer to most parts of the world.

The best place to reach people from these far off places is while they are our neighbours — students, doctors, business acquaintances—and then they can go home to share faith.

Perhaps if we share Jesus with Muslim Arabs, Persians, Indians — and the people of the other religions around us (Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, etc) — who live next door, we will have new disciples to send back to their home countries. That could be an exciting journey of disciple-making within our fields — which can then multiply to other shores.

Prayer for our friends in the Middle East is always needed and appreciated, they are working in a challenging environment.

SOS Recipient Graduates

Mrs Jowana Lamai Maiwalu received a SOS (Scholarshipping Our Sisters) scholarship of \$1500 to complete the Graduate Diploma in Lifestyle Medicine as a Distance student of Avondale College. She completed her studies entirely online. She is grateful to the SPD Women's Ministries Department and Fiji Mission Women's Ministries Director Mrs Atelini Dakua for their help. She was motivated by Mrs Dakua to apply for this scholarship and is appreciative to the church for their support of her studies.

She is photographed here with another Fiji Mission Master of Arts (Theological & Biblical Studies) graduate, Pr Aisake Tiko Kabu.

From its inception in 1991 to the end of 2018, the Women's Ministries

scholarship program has given 2,483 scholarships in 139 countries amounting to more than 1.2 million dollars.

The royalties of the women's daily devotional book series published since 1993 have helped support the scholarship program. Book royalties alone are not enough to fund the scholarships.

Donations and fundraising projects are vital to keeping this program alive. You can support other women's scholarships by donating funds at the following website - [click here for link. \(https://women.adventist.org/donate-now-to-our-scholarship-fund\)](https://women.adventist.org/donate-now-to-our-scholarship-fund)

While our division does not participate in the

scheme at present, the help that you give will assist other women in different parts of the world.

You are invited to write for the 2021 Women's Ministry Devotional Book. Please find more information on <https://women.adventist.org/women-ministries-devotional-book>.



RESOURCES

International Day of Prayer March 2, 2019



One of the three main events organised by Women's Ministry is International Women's Day of Prayer. This year we are delighted to be able to bring to you the 2019 International Women's Day of Prayer programme packet. This year's packet, entitled "Walking with Jesus", was written by Cordell Liebrandt, a pastor in the Cape Conference of South Africa. The packet contains resources for three coordinated activities:

- A SS programme, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray"
- A main service programme, "Walking with Jesus"
- An afternoon workshop programme, "Can We Trust God When He Says, 'Follow Me?'" written by Karen J. Pearson, a pastor in Idaho Conference United States of America. [Click here](http://women.adventistchurch.com/events/) (<http://women.adventistchurch.com/events/>) for access to the resources.

WM Emphasis Day June 6, 2019



We are delighted to be able to bring to you the 2019 Women's Ministries Emphasis Day programme packet. This year's packet, entitled "The Call to Arise and Shine", was written by Raquel Arrais, the associate director of women's ministries at the General Conference. It contains resources for both the morning church service and an afternoon seminar:

Main service: "The Call to Arise and Shine"

Seminar part one: "Shining Within"

Seminar part two: "Shining Out"

Seminar part three: "Shining Together"

[Click here](http://women.adventistchurch.com/events/) (<http://women.adventistchurch.com/events/>) to access the resources for the Women's Ministries Emphasis Day.



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We are here to help
women reach their
potential!



Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

South Pacific

Over 100 Years of International Women's Day

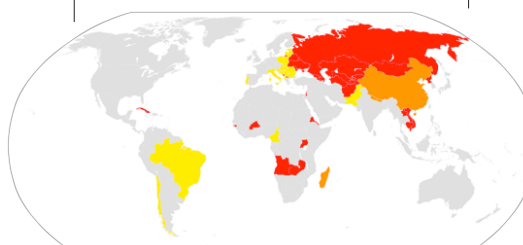
In my family International Women's Day, 8 March has been celebrated for years. There is a special reason for it.

Globally however, every year since 1911, International Women's Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women on 8 March. Some countries declare it a public holiday (see the chart). Berlin in Germany is the latest city to proclaim it a public holiday.

In 1977 United Nations adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions.

On the following website you can find a variety of videos promoting the 2018 theme Press for Progress <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Videos>. This year's motto is Balance for Better.



Official holiday Holiday for women Non-official holiday

By Artemka - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=25074774>

As a church we dedicate the first weekend of March and join people across the planet in praying for women and matters that concern women: families, peace, health, etc. You can find more information and material about that in this edition of Going Places.

In my family, 8 March, International Women's Day is celebrated each year. Can you guess what is that special reason?

How are you going to make International Women's Day this year special to women in your community?