

## Calendar 2019-2020

- 1-3 November  
New Caledonia  
Women's Retreat
- 29 November-  
1 December  
Australia Young  
Adults Retreat
- 24-26 February  
Australia  
'HELD' Women  
In Ministry  
Conference
- 7 March  
Womens Day Of  
Prayer
- 13 June  
Womens Day Of  
Emphasis
- 22 August  
End It Now!  
Emphasis Day

## What Will You Do In Heaven?

by Danijela Schubert

Most amazing holidays ever! I could never have imagined how wonderful the three months of long service leave would be. We chose to see as much as possible in the time available. So that meant 19 countries, 60 places, over 18,500 km in road travel, and around 14,000 daily steps.

As we approached the end of our holidays, I told my husband that I knew exactly what I'd be doing when I get to heaven: exploring planets! What do you want to do when you get to heaven?

Since we're not there yet, there are things to be done here to help others discover Jesus.

## Welcome to the Team!

Many things have changed and I am catching up on all the emails, decisions and developments around the Division. One of the exciting developments here is that the Discipleship Ministries Team have a new departmental assistant: Shaylee Walsh, or Shay as she prefers to be called. Shay worked on the advisory team for Sydney Adventist Women for a couple of years and was the force behind several of their amazing events and social media.

Shay has a bachelor's degree in health science (sport and exercise science) from Western Sydney University. In her free time, she enjoys nature and travelling. She is also very active and likes going to the gym and playing soccer. Shay is passionate about volunteering with Women's Ministries. She will be an amazing asset to our Discipleship Ministries Team, especially in the area of women, families and church planting.



## Our Website!

We have done a lot of work on our website to make it more engaging and user-friendly. Although we are still working on it, we invite you to check it out: <https://women.adventistchurch.com/>

Let us know if you have found the picture on the left!

You will find a variety of resources that you can download and use. There are links to the Facebook pages of local women's ministries around our Division, and links to the General Conference's materials. All the important dates for Women's Ministries are there, together with materials needed to make them successful events. You will also find news about what's happening in Women's Ministry.



Tell us what other information or materials you would like to see there. We are here to help and to serve you so you can be better equipped and resourced to serve others in your community.

We also have a new email for all general enquiries regarding Women's Ministries, you may have received an email from it already. The email address is [spdwomen@adventist.org.au](mailto:spdwomen@adventist.org.au).

# Garbage Dump Ministry Combatting Illiteracy

by Danijela Schubert

I met Sydney man Dennis Perry, founder of Operation Food For Life, while serving in Papua New Guinea. I also took part in one of his ministry trips feeding destitute families living on a garbage dump in Port Moresby. He is helping to fulfil one of the needs Women's Ministry is passionate about: illiteracy. But the way he's going about is something else. Here's what he told me.

"We are totally focused on whatever we do for God. Everything is dedicated to God, and is a positive witness to the community, our church, and church leadership.

I am already planning the next school in PNG. It will be located opposite a garbage dump where families scrounge for food and anything of value.

I am determined to break the curse and the illiteracy of the children who live in the area, so they never have to be living in those tragic circumstances again. Breaking the knowledge of poverty in the name of Jesus is the only way forward.

The most incredible miracle Danijela, is I have been

ministering to the poor for over 20 years in the country.

Not one person is paid. We have no payroll. Even our accountant and independent auditor serve without charge.

Not once have we ever asked for help. Not once have we ever appealed for a donation. We have no corporate financial sponsorships nor income we can count on each day.

Yet we have two schools, an orphanage, prison and hospital ministry to support.

We have fed and clothed thousands of brothers and sisters who live below the poverty line. Giving each one we minister to, in the name of Jesus, dignity, hope and unconditional love without discrimination. After all, isn't that what Jesus would do?

Only God can do the impossible with the impossible. Nothing! Nothing! is impossible for those who love Him."

May what Dennis and his team do for these people be of inspiration to you too!



*"I raise up my voice – not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.  
We cannot succeed when half of us are held back."*

– Malala Yousafzai

Founder of Malala Fund and Activist.

## Sewing Machines for Women in WHM



The Western Highland Mission (WHM) Stewardship Director has personally repaired over 900 sewing machines for women in WHM so they can support their families financially.

Thank you! A practical way of empowering women in that community.

## Youngest Nobel Economics Prize Winner



Professor Esther Duflo is the Nobel economics prize winner for 2019. At 46, she is also the youngest recipient of the prize, man or woman.

"Showing that it is possible for a woman to succeed and be recognised for success I hope is going to inspire many, many other women to continue working and many other men to give them the respect that they deserve like every single human being," she said.



# Scholarshipping Our Sisters



Scholarshipping Our Sisters (SOS) is a General Conference initiative that funds tertiary education for women across the world. Some of you may recognise this fund as Joy Butler started the South Pacific Division spin-off in her time as Women's Ministries director. We are excited to announce that it is back up and running here! We have been working hard to get a donation page up and it is now linked to our website. As this has just happened in the last couple weeks we are currently trying to accrue funds and will announce when we have enough to start sponsoring our amazing women! Follow the links to find out more!

To donate: <https://scholarshipping-our-sisters.raisely.com/>

More information: <https://women.adventistchurch.com/scholarships/>

## A Girl's Journey to Women's Ministry

by Lynelle Laws



I was an early talker. My parents had a recording of me reciting a memory verse at 17 months. And then I got very sick. At age two asthma compromised my health and I ended up at death's door. A godly pastor and his congregation stayed on their knees until I was well again and I am grateful that God had a plan.

My plan was to be an English teacher. I loved language, writing, speaking and studying but those around me couldn't see some of my passions or how I, a quiet timid girl, could realise this dream. I couldn't see anything else and so I trained as a teacher. And perhaps, similar to Jonah, I ran to what I wanted, not what was good for me. At college, I loved the studies in literature, creative writing and even the challenge of practice teaching. It was the reality, however, of teaching day in and day out that caused me to struggle – the need to be fully organised and make plans for a sequential learning program for the students overwhelmed me. I found students who didn't like to learn and who were

bent on making it difficult for me to teach them (you know who you were haha!) and the discipline needed to maintain classroom control swamped me. I persevered and I tried harder and yet all of my religious training hadn't led me to understand how to fully rely on God.

I was a better mother than a teacher I think, and three beautiful girls later, I had another plan. This time I intentionally included God in my requests and I felt His presence and His leading. I re-trained as an early childhood teacher and fell in love with the many hugs from grateful preschoolers. I took on some admin tasks and used my creative side to engage with children – winning! And then I wasn't. I struggled again to keep on top of planning and procedures, and I struggled with bosses and colleagues who didn't see my passion and skills and only saw my failures. I needed encouragement and support, but wasn't humble enough to accept either. I didn't give up and neither did my God.

And then I remembered that before teaching I had the desire to study theology. At the time, I hadn't checked with God, but had let society's thoughts impact mine. "You won't get a job as a pastor, you are female – there's no point," they said. Back then, I wondered if it were true that God had a 'role' for women, different to that of a man. I didn't ponder long, but unconsciously let culture tell me that women who spoke out were

pushy, domineering and had no authority to do so.

And then God spoke His authority over my life. I saw the role of 'Women's Ministry and Partners in Ministry Coordinator' advertised in our Conference and I wondered whether it was for me. I asked a friend for her thoughts and she said, "I think your talents are wasted in early childhood." I didn't understand her words for some time, but as they kept coming back to me I thought about them. I knew many people who made excellent preschool teachers and yet who hate to study, to write, to speak to large crowds, and then I thought of my gifts and love in these areas and my struggles to keep my mind present on a child's needs, as I stood in the kindergarten playground and dreamed about ministry.

*Lynelle Laws works in NNZC and has a t-shirt that says, 'A woman's place is wherever God calls her.'*

God was always there and at each step He taught me invaluable skills to bring to the role I now have of ministering to women and ministry spouses. I have discovered that I am still a talker – give me a microphone and I astonish my listeners with the boldness and authority God has given a quiet girl. God always knew, and He also knows I am still a work in progress.

# Christmas Stocking Fillers

It's that time of year again where we all ask, 'What presents am I going to buy this year?'. If you want to keep it fresh and exciting, but still spiritual, we are here to help! The Discipleship Ministries department has pulled together to give us a few items that you could easily add to your shopping list this year.

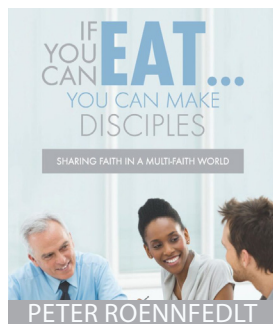
## 1. Books



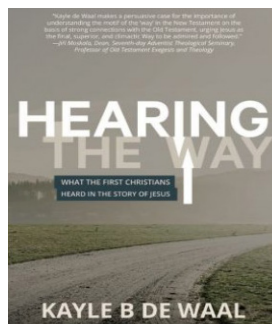
This book comes with a discussion guide and "explores abuse, self-punishment and pain in the context of the normal and healthy activities associated with being an adolescent... an excellent resource for parents, youth workers, school counsellors and teachers." –Paul Bogacs  
More information: <https://www.amandabewsbbooks.com/about-summer-fades>



This book comes with a discussion guide and "explores the decisions, choices and outcomes that Heaven makes as she negotiates her parents' unhappy marriage, deals with peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, sexual abuse and an unplanned pregnancy." –Paul O'Rourke  
More information: <https://www.amandabewsbbooks.com/about-heaven-sent>



What does it mean to be a Christian and share our faith in a multi-faith and no-faith world? In our complex post-Christian world, sharing our faith can seem equally complex. This book seeks to demystify evangelism, putting it within reach of every believer.  
More information: <https://adventistbookcentre.com.au/if-you-can-eat.html>



The Exodus was a dominant and defining story in the Jewish nation, life and faith. This story becomes a key for our understanding of Jesus, the early church and the New Testament, and for what it means for us to follow Jesus today.  
More information: <https://adventistbookcentre.com.au/hearing-the-way.html>

## 2. Programs



Women's Ministries is targeting teenage girls with this beautiful new material. It includes guides and other resources. Girls4Christ is a spin-off of this, run by the EUD. More information: <https://women.adventist.org/my-sister-my-friend>



A project for girls, teenagers and young women from the age of 12 upwards. They have so many questions and we should try to help them find good answers. More information: <https://www.girls4christ.org/home/>

## 3. Campaigns

**Give the gift of health and happiness**

Gift certificates now available at [www.eliaawellness.com/livemore](http://www.eliaawellness.com/livemore)

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We are here to help  
women reach their  
potential!



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™  
*South Pacific*