This morning at 6 am as I started the car to go to work, it really was cold! I had to let the car warm up a little before I could sit comfortably in it. It got me to thinking of how fortunate we are in this part of the world where most of us don’t worry about having to dig ourselves out of snow first thing in the morning! Of course that’s what happens in the Alps and Blue Mountains I suppose, but for most of us we’re really not inconvenienced by snow or frost during our winter months. We start wearing warmer clothes and scarves to keep warm.

This got me thinking of the text in Ephesians 6:10-18 where Paul says: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” What if anything have we “put on” in order to live the life God wants us to live daily?

The enemy of our souls fires flaming arrows at us, and usually it’s when we’re at our weakest. Without our ‘armour’ we cannot stand. God has given us 2 weapons: a shield and a sword. Paul talks about them. He says we have “weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left” (2 Corinthians 6:7). He tells us to “take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” Then he says to take “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:16-17)

If you are right handed, that means you have the shield of faith in your left hand and the sword of God’s Word in your right hand. One is a weapon of defence and the other a weapon of attack.

The enemy will throw flaming barbs in your direction, you can count on it! But if you have the shield of faith, you can fend off the attack, and those darts won’t reach your vital spiritual organs. In turn, you can attack with the Word of God – and your enemy is no match for God, praise the Lord!

So the next time you are in a spiritual battle, remember you have 2 powerful weapons – the shield of faith and the sword, the Word of God.

Paul gave many practical counsels for our daily lives as well as giving us confidence in God’s faithfulness, one of which is found in 2 Thessalonians 3:3 “The Lord is faithful and he will strengthen and protect me from the evil one.” Why not claim that promise today?

May the Lord continue to bless us as we cling to His protective armour.

Erna Johnson
Exciting Statistics
You’re probably asking yourself: stats are exciting? What’s wrong with Erm! But yes, these stats are exciting! Just take a look at what’s been happening within Adventist Women’s Ministries in the South Pacific Division in 2012 and judge it for yourselves!

We organized 895 Leadership training seminars, 263 Evangelistic series. We brought back 1,476 people (both men and women) who were taking a break from church and as a direct result of Adventist women we had 778 Baptisms.

I can guarantee that we were responsible for more baptisms than are in the reports we receive as in many cases they aren’t reported at all. This is just a little snap shot of what’s happening as only about 50% of churches send in their reports. Imagine what it would look like if everyone sent their report into their director!

Exciting? Absolutely! Join us as we minister around the Division, sharing God’s love and Jesus’ soon coming!

Single Girls Weekend
The program was set for the single girls only. A total of 350 girls attended the program. The theme for the Retreat was Divine Sexuality. Our seminar topics surrounded the needs of the girls at the time—dating/courtship; true love waits, human sexuality, violence against girls; and HIV/AIDS. We also included in the program skills development.

The morning and evening workshops were the highlight—girls love the message presented by our Communication Director—Pr. Cameron Ward on the story of the ‘Woman who was caught in the adultery’ act.’ John 8.

Over the weekend, other girls joined us – those who were unable to make it during the week because of school. On Sabbath about 1000 girls were at the campsite.

The girls expressed they were really blessed and requested next year’s conference be about ‘The girl who takes refuge in him.’

Comments like, ‘Can we come again next year?’ ‘What will next years conference be about?’, and ‘I had a good time’, make planning and organizing events like this very worth while. Praise the Lord!

Jeanette Egu
Director, Central Papua Conference

Shine Conference
Sunday, 5th May, saw 29 young women join together at Livingston Church Youth Room, Western Australia, to celebrate the Shine Conference, Pillars of Eden with Kylie Ward, Leadership Coach from SycamoreLaneCoaching.

During the programme Doctor Linda Wong presented a session on Our Physical Health. Many mature questions were asked, and answered with a God base.

Five young women attended from the LoveLinks church plant, 2 from Geraldton, 11 from Collie, 3 from Bunbury, and others from North Perth, and Livingston churches.

The conference gave the young women tools to make good decisions about their life story’s. Two mum’s came from the community to help, and enjoyed the content of the conference, meals and fellowship so much that they have volunteered to come and help again next year.

Comments like, ‘Can we come again next year?’, ‘What will next years conference be about?’, and ‘I had a good time’, make planning and organizing events like this very worth while. Praise the Lord!

Raewyn Jones
Director, Western Australia Conference

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the ‘woman’ who takes refuge in him.”
Psalm 34:8

Encourage One Another
Adventist Women Tasmania held their annual Seaside Escape at the Bayview Centre Bridport on April 19-21. The theme for the weekend was ‘Encourage One Another’ with great encouragement and motivation presented by three speakers. Friday evening Charmaine Cooke spoke about the Power of Encouragement, inspiring women to be encouraged by God’s word and His promises.

On Sabbath morning Vicki Knight encouraged women to experience the ‘Power Of God’. Sabbath afternoon Nanise Brown facilitated a seminar on the ‘Power of Prayer’. Prayer walks were a time where women united in prayer and praise to God.

The retreat concluded on Sunday morning with ‘moving with power’ exercise and laughter session.

Vicki Knight
Director, Tasmania Conference

BREATHE—6-8 September Adventist Women Conference

The theme—THIS is Our Time!

The Guest speaker—Raquel Arrais is an engaging and dynamic speaker. Passionate about preaching God’s word and challenging women to service.

The Venue—Collaroy Centre is a well equipped venue and offers luxury accommodation and ocean views, a perfect setting for renewal, regeneration and refreshment.

For more information and registration forms visit our website: gscadventist.org.au/web/ministries/women's-ministries.

Long Awaited Program
Around 100 women came together to share a spiritual weekend at the camp ground in Dumbea, New Caledonia. Our theme was ‘Touch a heart, Tell the World’ During this weekend we were inspired by the big conference held in Brisbane in August 2012 and shared with those who hadn’t been able to be with us there. Many of the workshops were those given in Brisbane, one of those was the one on Spiritual Gifts. This workshop was an eye opener for the women as they discovered their gifts and talents. All sorts of possibilities and handouts were given to each woman in order to encourage her to be creative as she ‘touched a heart’. The crowning event of the weekend was the baptism of young Erica who had given her heart to Jesus through Bible Lessons Correspondence course and also because of the work of a group of women from the north of NC who met together there where is neither a pastor nor a church.

Arielle Allet
Director, New Caledonia

Visiting the SPD
Raquel Arrais, Associate Director of Adventist Women at the General Conference will be in our Division in September. Raquel is a wonderful speaker and you do not want to miss her meetings. Call on your Conference/Mission Director to find out where exactly she will be during her visit in your area:

September 6-8—Greater Sydney Conference — ‘Breathe’
September 10-12—Auckland New Zealand
September 13-16—French Polynesia
Moving On

Arielle Allet, the director of Adventist Women in New Caledonia is leaving her post there as she follows her husband to their new place of ministry, Mauritius. But Arielle isn’t leaving WM completely as she’ll be taking up the same post in the Mauritian Conference. We thank her for her service to the ladies in NC and wish her God’s blessings as she moves to her home island.

Emphasis Day

Adventist Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day is on the Church’s Calendar of Days and Events and falls on the second Sabbath each June. It is an opportunity for women to lead out in a worship service and a chance to educate the church regarding the purposes of Women’s Ministries. It is an ideal time to introduce your leaders and committee to the church family and to invite women who have not been involved to join.

This is a possible opportunity to plan a full day of activities including Sabbath School, the worship service, a fellowship dinner, and perhaps an afternoon program. The leader may also want to use this time to honor women in the congregation who have done something unusual or outstanding. Resources for this purpose are available through your Mission/Conference Adventist Women’s Ministries director. You can download the program online at http://women.adventistconnect.org/special-days.

We are delighted to be able to bring to you the 2013 WM Emphasis Day program packet entitled “Revive Your Work In Me” A Prayer of Habakkuk, prepared by Cecelia M. Iglesias, WM Director for the Inter-American Division (IAD) and edited by John M. Fowler and Carolyn Kujawa.

Exciting Possibilities

Are you interested in starting an Adventist Women’s Ministry in your local church, then here is a starter kit for you. If you would like a copy, contact your local conference/mission Adventist Women’s Ministries Director.