REMEMBER:

- September - Week of Prayer
- September 1 - Father’s Day - Aust/NZ
- November 19 - International Men’s Day
- November 19 - World Day of Prevention of Child Abuse
- November 25 - White Ribbon Day

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Remember — Memories

In July I had the opportunity to go to my country of birth, Iceland for 2 weeks. Out of 7 siblings, there are only 5 left, so I was thrilled that all of us were going to be together for a wedding, not a funeral. Usually, family makes an effort to come for a funeral of a close relative, parent, sibling etc., but this time, it was happy times!

It took me 34 hours to travel from Sydney to Iceland. I was exhausted, but oh so happy to arrive at my destination and to be with my beloved family. A few days after the beautiful wedding of my niece, we travelled together as a group of 24 to our place of birth, Vestmannaeeyjar, an island off the south coast of Iceland. We drove for 2 hours to get to the ferry and left the cars there as we had organized a bus to take us around our special places – our home that dad built for us, our school and church, the place out of town where as a church we had many picnics and fun times and many other places that brought back so many great memories. We also talked about mum and dad, and how they shaped our lives through love and discipline. Our 3 brothers shared with us some of the scrapes they got themselves into!

As we drove around old, familiar places and reminisced about what happened when and where, I couldn’t help but think about the 4th commandment where God tells us “Remember…” and many more texts that ask us to remember how God leads us.

Memories are important, and the older one gets, the more one tends to look back at our earlier lives and remember the wonderful things that happened to us. In most cases we forget the bad or sad things, which is as it should be.

While in Iceland, I was contacted by a magazine journalist who had been told a little about my life and became really interested in interviewing me for an article. It’s really my little sister who started the whole procedure after listening to me share with my siblings what I did in my ministry. She’s the one who called a friend whose daughter is a journalist for the longest running magazine in Iceland! After chatting with me, the editor decided that the article would be a front cover article.

It was during the interview which took many hours of both talking and a photo session I started to reminisce about my past. My life isn’t ordinary!

I had always thought it was ordinary, but when I sat down with Gurri, the associate editor, I realized that I was totally wrong. From a small island off the coast of Iceland to the islands in the South Pacific with many countries in between, how many can say that? I am blessed as I remember the past.

We can also look to the future and the promises of eternal life – “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away…” (Revelation 21:1) What a promise! As we look to the past and remember the good times, let’s not forget to look to the future and rejoice! Remember!

Erna Johnson
A Visit To Mataiva & Haapiti

Sunday May 5, after the women’s conference Orette Collen and Babeth Thery travelled to the beautiful island of Mataiva. The evening programs had the theme “Touch a heart, tell the world” and during the day devotionals by Orette and sewing classes with Babeth as well as visits to the elderly of the island. Two ladies from Tikehau, Marie-Louise and Amelia and 2 from the island of Rangiroa, Merline and Micheline Natua came to join us and loved the activities offered by Adventist Women FP. A huge thank you to Georgie Natua, in charge of the church in Mataiva, to Peni and Mathilde Teura for our accommodation as well as a big thank you to all the members and friends for their participation.

Back on Tahiti, Orette and Babeth, together with Sylvie Falchetto went to the island of Moorea and had the privilege to watch the sunset facing the most beautiful mountain of the island. They spent the Sabbath in the church of Haapiti where all the churches of Moorea came together. During the worship hours, we were encouraged to request the ministry of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. In the afternoon a message on the importance of spending time reading God’s Word was shared. We had the pleasure of listening to the Adventurers sing for us as we ended a wonderful day.

Sunday, more than 30 women came together to honour Orette before she went back home. She shared a last meditation with us and gave us a taste of heaven and Jesus’ soon return. We shared brunch with happiness in our hearts. Orette thanks everyone for their wonderful welcome and a special thanks goes to Hina and Cliff Doom for the accommodation.

WA WM Visit the Churches

The 27th July saw 54 people gather at Gosnells Church hall to hear NNSW WM Director, Lynelda Tippo share ‘The Oil, The Garment & The Garland’. Finishing her talk, Lynelda made a ‘call’ for those who felt ‘called’, to be anointed for service in God’s Kingdom. Over 25 people responded and were anointed with pure oil and prayed over by both Pastors Keith Godfrey & Darren Garlett. Among those anointed was Wheelbarrow Ministries leader, Maureen Merritt. She said that this would be a day to remember, and looks forward to being of service to the Indigenous ladies and girls of the W.A. Conference.

On Sabbath morning, 3rd August, Raewyn shared what she learnt from the Life Renewal workshops with Pastor Glen Townend about ‘Spiritual Warfare’ with the congregation at Esperance SDA church. The women met in the afternoon and enjoyed fellowship together, sharing, affirming each other, and praying together around the topic of ‘Unity’. Twenty five hand prints were made on a canvas which was framed and presented to the pastor & congregation. ‘Esperance women will stand united in Christ’ was the commitment they each made.

On Sunday a ‘Prayer Breakfast’ was served by the ladies of Esperance church. Following the physical food came the spiritual food. Entree was a prayer of thanks to God for His Goodness by Pastor Manu, followed by the ‘main’ course - a small groups discussion on Romans 15:1-7 about ‘Acceptance’ and what this physically looks like. The ‘Sweets’ were had in the form of a commitment prayer to be united in accepting all peoples in Jesus, and each other as brothers & sisters in Christ by Brad Thomas, local church pastor. Raewyn Jones, Western Australia Conference
And the Bride Wore White

Fifty-four young women and sixteen volunteers recently gathered in the conference room of the Greater Sydney Conference office, which had been transformed into a wedding reception hall, with all the frills, to participate in the exciting program, “And the Bride wore White.” This is a program on purity, designed to equip young women with tools and skills to survive in the popular culture, where anything goes. The take-home message of the day was “purity is possible!”

Facilitator, Graciella Rosales, did an excellent job to keep this fast moving, interactive program on track, and holding the participant’s attention. The day comprised of illustrative games and group activities. Participants engaged in meaningful worship with songs of praise and prayers of commitment.

Two young women shared their personal, compelling stories on the issue of purity and all the challenges associated with that.

The day culminated with a special high tea, where each participant was presented with a special porcelain cup and saucer, a symbol to remind them that they are not disposable items to be used and discarded but rather valuation creations. The young women were entranced by the setting and felt valued and special.

From the gasps of surprise and wonder, the comments and words of appreciation and the level of participation, we can safely deduce that the desired outcomes of the program had been met.

Beryl Landers, Greater Sydney Conference

Buk Save Comes Of Age

Three Solomon Islands women have now been given total responsibility for overseeing the Buk Save Adult Literacy program in their country. They were the teachers of the most recent program to run in Auki, Solomon Islands, under the direction of the founder of the program, in 2008, Janette Kingston. Beverly Maega, Adventist Women’s Director for the Solomon Islands Mission, who succeeded Janette as director, will now oversee the work of the teachers, Wendy Wale, Constance Galo and Martha Rade, who have worked with Buk Save since almost the beginning of the program.

This program teaches adults to read Pidgin English in an intensive school lasting seven teaching days. Usually 40 students are taught to read Pidgin and four or more already literate group leaders are trained how to teach this course at the same time, by watching the teacher and being involved in mentoring the 10 students in the group under their care.

In early August, 2013, in Auki, Malaita Province, 38 students learned to read and 20 pastors and other interested people learned how to teach Buk Save. At their graduation on the last day, each student and trainer received a certificate and a Pidgin Bible. The students will now go into follow-up classes twice a week, for one to two hours, to consolidate their new skill and to use the Bible as their text book as they do this.

We wish God’s blessing on these now professional local women as they move forward to meet the many calls coming to them for the Buk Save program from all over the Solomon Islands.

Jeanette Kingston, South Australia Conference
A New Bible Especially for Women

Recently I had a meeting with the director of our SDA publishing house in Spain, Mario Martenelli, writes Heather-Dawn Small, GC WM Director. Mario is in the process of putting together a women’s Bible for SDA women to use. The Bible will be printed in English, Spanish and French and will be available in 2014.

The Bible will be a study Bible. It will contain short articles by women who are known to be Bible scholars such as Dr. Carla Gober, Dr. Hyveth Williams, Dr. Joan Davidson, Elizabeth Talbot and others. But there will also be short articles about women of the Bible and things we can learn from them. These will be written by women from around the world.

The Bible will be attractive to women in design and spiritually nurturing in content. Best of all it will also have a series of doctrinal Bible lessons at the back of the Bible that women can use in small groups or one to one encounters.

It will truly be a Bible that our sisters can use to grow with spiritually and also help other women to connect to Jesus also.

Moments

There are moments in life when you miss someone so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real!

When the door of happiness closes, another opens; But often times we look so long at the closed door that we don’t see the one which has been opened for us.

Don’t go for looks; they can deceive. Don’t go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile, because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be, because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don’t necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Don’t count the years - count the memories.

New from GIGI

From the creators of GIGI Magazine comes Forever Woman

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