



Scholarshipping Our Sisters

Supporting higher education for Adventist women globally

Vol. 1, No. 2

third quarter 2004

Meeting our Sisters

NINGNING from Philippines

Ningning* is studying for her BS in nursing, but her ministry passion is writing—especially writing and performing programs for church.

Ningning developed her concept of God from the ten volumes of the Bible story books her father brought home one summer. That concept was challenged when she studied mythology in high school, but soon the God of the Christians won out as a “wonderful, loving, faithful, and forgiving God,” unlike the gods and goddesses portrayed in mythology.

Short-changing God

Meeting Seventh-day Adventists and observing the “unusual” ways they honored God, Ningning realized she had been short-changing God by giving Him an hour instead of an entire day. After two years at an Adventist school, she joined the Adventist church.

Upon Ningning’s conversion to Adventism, her devout Catholic father left home, withdrawing his support. Ningning’s mother worked several jobs to educate the children, but Ningning’s costly program was beyond her ability.

Although Ningning and her sister located their father, and he promised financial help, they have received nothing. Ningning says, “By God’s grace we are able to eat three meals a day, have a home, and pay the bills. But our education for this year is becoming vague.” Getting the WM scholarship will help make her education a reality.

*Names and photos were changed to protect privacy.

It Takes a Match to Light a Candle

Yes, it takes a match to light a candle—and now a match has been offered the WM Scholarship Fund in the form of a matching grant. This match will light candles of hope for women around the world struggling to get an education.

Right now, each donation of \$50 or more to the Women’s Ministries Scholarship Fund will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. Now your gift is worth twice as much in scholarships.

The goal is to double the funds for scholarships this year. What better time to give than right now when your gift will be doubled!

Means twice as much

A contribution of \$300 instantly doubles to \$600, a semester’s tuition for Tatiana* at Zaosky Adventist University in Russia. Rather than living on campus, Tatiana and her

husband chose an area where it is hard to share the gospel. But as they make friends, they hope to plant a church. Tatiana is dedicated, but after tithe and tuition, funds don’t stretch to cover mundane needs such as soap and toothpaste.

For Shyamala* in India, your gift of \$65 means \$130, her books and tuition for a year of nursing classes.

Worth twice as much

Watch your gift grow through this generous challenge. Consider the largest gift possible—to light candles of hope for more women struggling to get an education.

Your check may be made payable to General Conference of SDA. Please indicate that it is for Women’s Ministries Scholarship Fund. Include your address so we can send a receipt. Mail to: GC Women’s Ministries, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Thank you!



Yes, I can do that...

- \$145 = 1 month tuition, River Plate Adventist University
- \$500 = 1 month tuition, Middle East University, Lebanon
- \$150 = 1 month tuition, Ukraine College, Arts & Sciences
- \$110 = 1 month tuition, Malawi Adventist College
- \$ 30 = 1 month tuition, Spicer Memorial College, India

Did you know...

- 93 scholarships were awarded in January 2004
- 50% of applicants were denied due to lack of funds

Meeting our Sisters

RAQUEL from Peru

Raquel* learned from her parents at a very early age that we are nothing if we separate ourselves from God, that we should dedicate ourselves to doing His will at all times and in all places. With that excellent foundation, she is pursuing studies in social and community psychology at Peru Union University with the goal of serving God and humanity.

As a child, Raquel suffered from asthmatic bronchitis, which doctors said was incurable. However, with prayer and a homemade remedy, in six months she was cured. Now she tells others of God's curing power. She holds seminars, workshops and programs on self-esteem, family communication, STD and HIV-AIDS.

Raquel says, "I love to organize workshops and events that promote mental health within the church. In this

manner people draw nearer to Jesus as they listen and hear that He is interested in them."

She also loves to work with children in the development of their social abilities. She works with a special ADRA program to help reestablish children in their families.

Raquel's parents have two children studying at university. This creates a financial hardship, and her parents can cover only part of her costs. Although she works as much as she can, that is limited because of practicums and classes. But Raquel is sure God will see her through her last year of studies so she can serve Him full-time doing what she enjoys most—helping those who need Him. She appreciates the support from the WM Scholarship which will help her reach this goal.



Honoring Loved Ones with an Endowed Scholarship

by Ardis Stenbakken

I didn't want to wait until my mother's funeral to honor her. I wanted to do something while she was alive and could enjoy it. So I decided to set up a scholarship in her name—an endowed scholarship. Then we decided to add my dad's name as well.

Because my parents, my husband and I, our children, and many of our other relatives all attended the same college, we established the scholarship there. This has been a thrilling development for my parents. They love to attend homecoming every year. The scholarship luncheon gives them the opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients and feel they are still making a real contribution to education.

It has given my parents such joy

Since we are not wealthy, how did we finance an endowment? We did give a sacrificial base amount for the scholarship, but then we invited friends and relatives to contribute in honor of my parents. They did. And the scholarship has given my parents such joy they have contributed sacrificially as well. The scholarship principle has grown, and now several scholarships are given each year.

Someone special to honor?

Do you have someone you'd like to honor? Perhaps you can create an endowed scholarship yourself, especially benefiting our sisters around the world through SOS. You may want to invite family and friends to contribute. With some thought and care you can make a real difference through SOS. I think you'll be glad you didn't wait for a funeral to honor someone special.

For more information about setting up an endowed scholarship through SOS, the Scholarshipping Our Sisters program, you may write us or contact Heather-Dawn Small at 301-680-6616.

Meeting our Sisters

ROSE from Uganda

Rose* is a pastor's wife who has been developing and using her decided leadership ability primarily from that role. Her husband and children are her joy and her priority, but after that she loves to serve the needy and lighten their burdens.

Rose is studying for a diploma in secretarial studies so that she can be a role model and resource person for other women in the church and community. But she also plans to assist her husband with his office work, thus lessening his burden.

Because her husband has recently completed his theological training and still owes for that, because her children



are in Christian school, and because of an extended family, Rose turned to the scholarship fund for help in making her dreams of enhanced service a reality.

Brought up in a Christian family, with a mother who encouraged her children to have a personal relationship with Christ, Rose values her family's devotional life. Outside the family, she does youth and family life counseling and organizes women for witnessing.

Rose says, "I like teaching women in my community the importance of being self-reliant to make up for the poor economy facing our country." And, given the fact that she speaks five languages, she has a broad area in which to use her leadership abilities for the glory of God and the building up of His church in Uganda.

*Names and photos were changed to protect privacy.



Editorial: The Greatest Investment You'll Ever Make

by Heather-Dawn Small

When we think of investments, we think about money. We think of investing money in stocks, bonds, company shares, etc. We think of taking a chance, hoping we will see good returns on our money. But there is another kind of investment. When I think of God's investment in humanity and the price He paid, I am left speechless. God looked at man and the mess we would make of our lives and this world, and saw that the best investment He could make was in our salvation.

Investment brokers today would call that a losing investment. But God knew that the best investment He could make was in human beings. He saw our potential and knew that with Him by our sides nothing would be impossible.

Scholarshipping our Sisters is about investment. It is about investing in a life today so that a woman can realize her potential and become a co-partner with God in the future. What better investment is there?

This SOS project to raise funds for WM Scholarships is one we take very seriously. Life is precious, too precious to waste. Our sisters around the world are striving to be all that God has gifted them to be. But without our help, their striving is often in vain. The obstacles are too great.

So what are you waiting for? Make the best investment you will ever make. Partner with God. Feel the joy that comes from knowing you have made a difference in someone's life and that your investment will pay huge dividends.



What is SOS?

SOS, the new "Scholarshipping Our Sisters" program, was born when several women saw how little money was available for WM scholarships and how great the need was. Deciding "We can do better than this," they started a fund-raising program.

The goal is to raise twice as much in 2004 as was available last year—and to raise even more in the future. This means raising at least \$40,000 this year to add to the nearly \$40,000 made each year by the sale of the Women's Ministries devotional books.

Since scholarship money is divided equally among all 13 world divisions, that has meant only \$3,000 for each division. In some places that is less than half a semester's tuition even if it

all goes to one person. We can do better than this!

We can offer more women the chance to obtain a higher education. As we do, we will help them to strengthen themselves, their families, their communities, and our church.

We Remember

We remember those who have touched our lives with strength, beauty and love.

Gifts in Memory of...

Sharon Joiner Harris
Beatrice Eckson
Lois Elizabeth Harris Luce
Lisa Monique Johnson

Scholarship Winners Say 'Thank You'

Excerpts from their letters

"I felt so happy when I got this scholarship. Remember when I was applying [for] this fund, I found it hard to success. Nevertheless, I remember God's love. He said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee..." In that time, many people encouraged me. When I remember this wonderful time, I feel so sweet in my heart. I thank you very much." WC, Hong Kong

"I really thought I need to give up my study. Thank God's love and peace accompanying me to walk through this and also give financial support. I am not good at telling things, but my heart is filled up by thanks. Thanks to the sisters who support this women's ministry scholarship." RT, Taiwan

"When I complete my studies I will do my best to help others who are in need of my help. I will be praying for women's ministries so it can extend larger in meeting the needs of many more people. Thank you so much for your kind help." MP, India

"God has instilled in me a burning desire to help those afflicted with many preventable diseases. My goal is to obtain my Family Nurse Practitioner, with plans for a family-centered health retreat. God continues to 'open doors' and lead the way. Thank you for listening to God's voice. Because of your dedication, many people's lives will be changed through my career and the careers of many other women that have received the General Conference Women's Ministries Scholarships." MB, U.S.

Where are Scholarship Winners Now?

Debbie Eisele: a profile in quiet courage

Courage could be the middle name of Worship Pastor Debbie Eisele, who received a Women's Ministries Scholarship in 1994. Asked what her colleagues on the pastoral staff of Sligo Church (Takoma Park, Maryland) might cite as her most valuable accomplishment, she says she doesn't feel she's accomplished anything sensational—although her most memorable experience is a 12,000-foot free fall and the “peaceful feeling” of skydiving with snow-capped mountains encircling her.

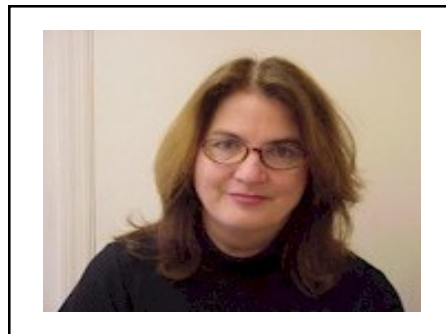
Debbie exhibited courage in leaving her homeland (USA) to attend college on another continent (Europe). She married Herbert Eisele, a classmate at Bogenhofen Seminary (Austria), and courageously joined him as a missionary in Papua New Guinea, where their two children traded fruit grown in the backyard for bows and arrows belonging to the neighbor children. After

seven years she had the courage to settle on another continent (Australia) to work as a lay youth pastor. This may have been her most rewarding experience because she “enjoys the enthusiasm, spontaneity and unpretentiousness of youth.” Some might argue that more courage was needed to begin graduate study when her children were teenagers. And later Debbie and Herbert served three years in the Fiji Islands.

Grandpa's Influence

What prepared Debbie to serve God with courage around the world? Maybe it was the influence of one of her biggest heroes, her grandfather Eric B Hare, missionary to Burma—with his mentoring, his morning and evening worships, his delight in the Sabbath, and his complete dependence on God.

Perhaps Grandpa Hare's greatest legacy to Debbie was an interest in




human behavior. Debbie's undergraduate degree is in psychology. She remembers that “he had a knack for human relations. He knew exactly how to bring out the best in people.” Debbie models this same spiritual gift in her congregation as she quietly moves among the Sligo church members, encouraging, affirming, and welcoming. She nurtures 80 church elders who in turn nurture 80 parishes.

Debbie received a Women's Ministries Scholarship when she began her graduate work in youth ministry in Australia. She feels she could not have finished her master's degree in Religion at La Sierra University (Riverside, California) without the initial help of the scholarship.

Believing in Her

Debbie thanks those who believed in the scholarship program, a program that showed her church believed in her.

Debbie encourages women who receive scholarships to remember all their loved ones who want them to succeed, who pray for them, and who support them in every way possible. Paraphrasing scripture, she reminds us to draw courage from God and His earthly helpers, “If they be for us, who can be against us?” 

Ways you can help...

- Plant an extra row of vegetables in your garden and dedicate the proceeds to the SOS scholarship fund.
- Weight Loss Team: Each woman donates a certain amount for every pound she loses (even if it's the same pound over and over).
- Hold a sale of unneeded items. Invite neighbors to donate items. Proceeds go to WM Scholarship Fund. During the sale, have people write a note to a sister in Christ in another country.
- Write for the Women's Ministries devotional book

Or...create your own ideas for increasing awareness and raising funds to support our sisters around the world. Let us hear about your projects.



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