



# Scholarshipping Our Sisters

Supporting higher education for Adventist women globally

Vol. 1, No. 3

September 2004

## Meeting our Sisters

### **MILLIE, Refugee in Zambia**

The world I live in has no concept of what it means to be a refugee, but to Millie,\* being a refugee is very, very real and poses many challenges that I couldn't even begin to comprehend.

Having escaped targeted killings in Zambia, Millie and her family are now refugees facing many hardships. Education and employment are

"luxuries" refugees just dream about.

"I am without anybody to help me," Millie commented sadly. "But, please, God, answer my prayer."



### **Millie's dream**

Before she became a refugee, Millie was an accountant in a small business franchise. Now her dream is to earn a degree in accounting. And she knows that the Women's Ministries scholarship will help her to fulfill that dream.

### **Women are capable**

When asked about woman's role in God's church, she replied, "The women in the SDA Church are the majority, but are in a minority when it comes to holding a profession and in decision-making." She added that it's not that women are incapable, but so many factors contribute to this. "I want to help educate women," she continued, "and to acquire the qualifications to help advance God's work."

\*Names and photos were changed to protect privacy

## **SOS Challenged for Nursing Scholarships**

The GC Women's Ministries Scholarshipping Our Sisters [SOS] program has been challenged to raise US \$4,000. Success will bring a matching gift of \$4,000. These funds provide scholarships for nursing students around the world.

All gifts of US \$40 or more count toward the \$4,000 goal. Contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar, so your gift to the GC Women's Ministries

Scholarship Fund will be doubled.

What a difference your gift can make. It will go to train nurses in places where health services, especially for women, are woefully inadequate.

### **Honor someone with your gift**

A gift to the scholarship fund is a great way to honor a favorite nurse or other health-care professional. What better way to tell your wife, grandmother, son-in-law, or sister how much you value their service to humanity?

Your gift in their honor will say, "I value the service you have given. I



want to honor you by helping a nurse prepare for a life of service."

### **What about a group gift?**

"This is also a great opportunity for nursing faculty or nursing colleagues to give a group gift for this project," notes Ardis Stenbakken, GC WM director. If you work in a medical area, why not invite colleagues to join you, perhaps to honor a respected co-worker?

### **What about other health care workers?**

What if you want to honor other health care professionals? That's great! Your gift could honor the doctor who delivered your baby, your aunt who was a missionary dentist, a special anesthesiologist, cardiologist, EMT, lab tech, or even your favorite veterinarian.

Or you might give just to help nursing students reach *their* goals.

Checks may be payable to the General Conference of SDA. Please tell us whom you want to honor. Indicate the gift is for GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Fund. Include your address to receive receipt. Mail to: GC Women's Ministries, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904.



Receiving a new challenge grant!

## 35 More WM Scholarships Awarded in July

This July the General Conference Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee awarded another \$12,076 in scholarships to thirty-five women. Applicants were from sixteen countries, in seven different Divisions, at fourteen Adventist colleges and universities.

The committee meets twice a year, in January and July, to review candidates from various parts of the globe. In 2004 a total of \$41,156 in scholarships went to 127 women representing all thirteen regions of the Adventist world church.

### "We could do more"

"As part of the Scholarship Committee I am delighted to see so many young women eager to study and serve the

Lord," says Dr. Selma Chaij Mastrapa. "The only sad part is that the scholarship money is so limited. We could do so much more, and see so many more dedicated women preparing themselves for a higher calling when the Lord impresses the right persons to share their bounties for this purpose."

These scholarships rely on support of caring individuals. By August over \$10,000 has already been given for the 2005 awards to help women around the world. After receiving a scholarship at Northern Luzon Adventist College in the Philippines, Samylene Samiliano writes, "There are many hindrances, but God always is there to guide and help."



Meeting our Sisters

### PRISCILLA from Philippines

Believing that teachers play an important part in impacting young minds with God's messages, Priscilla, wants to "be a part of this special ministry."

The fifth of six children, Priscilla has a dream that is very simple—she just wants to finish her studies and serve God. But her father, a carpenter by trade, died in 2001, leaving her

mother to care for herself and her six children. Barely making enough for their basic needs, this 61-year-old woman also has health problems. Priscilla knows that it is important to equip herself with an education in order to make a better life for her and her family. Home to majority Roman Catholics, Philippines still remains a mission field for spreading the Adventist message.

This explains Priscilla's vision that goes beyond that of just her immediate family. She envisions a role where women can actively "progress the work of the church. Their work is of the highest caliber in upholding Christian virtues," she remarked.

***"What you do for yourself  
is fleeting and dies with you.  
What you do for others  
has unending benefit  
and is eternal."***



### SOS Goes to ASI Luncheon

At the yearly ASI (Adventist-Laymen Services and Industries) Convention, the Ladies' Luncheon is becoming a much-anticipated event, a time for socializing and sharing, for fun and inspiration. What better time to introduce the Scholar-shiping Our Sisters [SOS] program?

And that is what Heather-Dawn Small, associate director of GC Women's Ministries, and Carolyn Kujawa, SOS Task Force chair, did early in August. Armed with borrowed hats (since many ladies enjoy wearing hats to the luncheon), Heather-Dawn and Carolyn set off on their mission.

With the atmosphere set by candles and flowers (and hats!), 100 ladies learned about the goals of SOS—to help women around the world reach their educational goals and thereby strengthen their families, churches and communities.

Heather-Dawn and Carolyn presented the history of the Women's Ministry Scholarship Fund, the requests which are denied, and the SOS goal of doubling funding by the end of 2004. They also shared moving stories of recent scholarship recipients, their thanks, and the impact their education has made in their lives.

The 100 ladies were given SOS newsletters and the opportunity to support their sisters around the world.

Perhaps one day, in heaven, recipients and donors alike can have a special ladies' luncheon for socializing and sharing, for fun and inspiration, each wearing our new, golden "hats."

\*Names and photos were changed to protect privacy.

## Editorial:

### Why I Support SOS

[The SOS newsletter staff asked one of our donors why she supports this program. Here is her response.]

I support Scholarshipping Our Sisters because women around the world are so frequently treated poorly. We often don't realize or find it hard to comprehend that in many countries women are treated as second class citizens at best. Women are frequently discouraged from or are never given the opportunity of getting an education because they are considered to have so little worth in the society that an education would be considered "wasted" on them.

With an education, these women can be given an opportunity to realize they can have a viable place in their society. With an education, these women can take more responsible positions within their communities. With an education, these women will be able to address critical matters which are pertinent to women that would normally be ignored.

As women become educated and are able to take more responsible positions, they will also be lifting women's status and awareness in their corners of the world.

With an education, women will be able to gain more rights for themselves and their children.

I support Scholarshipping Our Sisters because I want to see women around the world gaining the freedoms and rights that we so easily enjoy, making their own lives and other's lives better.



## What is SOS?

SOS, the Scholarshipping Our Sisters program, is a new endeavor to support higher education for Adventist women around the world through the General Conference Women's Ministries Scholarship Fund.

SOS recognizes that when women receive higher education, it strengthens their families, their communities, and our church. However, at present nearly half the women who apply for a GC Women's Ministries Scholarship must be turned down due to lack of funds. Knowing this, many talented women do not even apply. The initial goal of the Scholarshipping Our Sisters project is to double the funds available for GC Women's Ministries Scholarships by the end of this year.

## We Remember

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

### Gifts in Memory of...

Wayne Calbi  
Betty Holbrook

### Gifts in Honor of

Jean Duncombe

## Books Benefit Students

SOS members held a used book sale during Annual Council at the General Conference headquarters. Over \$600 was raised for the GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to all in the GC complex and community who donated books.

## Beautiful in God's Eyes

*Beautiful in God's Eyes*—a wonderful title for next year's women's devotional



book. And did you know that every copy you buy supports the GC Women's Ministries Scholarships?

All proceeds from sales of the women's devotional books go for scholarships for Adventist women, as they have for the past ten years.

These scholarships fund higher education for our sisters around the globe. And the spiritual messages in the devotional book are by 179 women, from 21 different countries.

## Scholarship Winners Say 'Thank You'

### Excerpts from their letters

"I am writing to acknowledge the great assistance you have provided for me. I sincerely thank you and the many women who have donated their time and skills in contributing to the women's devotional books so that some of us who are less fortunate might benefit. Thank you also for the invitation to write for the devotional books. I am excited with the idea and have started collecting materials so I can send it to you." EI, Fiji

"There come times in life when God blesses so much one is completely overwhelmed by His generosity. This is one of those times for me. Ever since I began my studies at SahnYook University, God has been overwhelming me with blessings. But this must be the cherry-on-the-top! How can I thank you?... I am so grateful you have played a part in God's leading in my life. I will strive to live up to the confidence God has shown in me by leading you to help me." YHK, Korea

# Time to Celebrate a Victory—and Then Start in Again!

It was time to celebrate! The SOS team met its first matching grant. At the end of August, a donor's gift pushed SOS over the \$5,000 goal for this challenge. Since this was a one-to-one match, it means a total of \$10,000 for the GC WM Scholarship Fund.

And the thanks goes to all who helped meet this challenge. You made excellent investments in aspiring women, their families, and their communities by supporting the GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Fund in this way. You all deserve a big



“THANK YOU” for your part in helping SOS reach this first challenge.

And not only was there *celebration* at reaching this goal, there is also great *anticipation*—because a new challenge grant started that day!

## A New Challenge!

The terms of this new challenge are the same as for the first one. It is a one-to-one match, which means all gifts of \$50 or more will be doubled. This second challenge promises to be even more exciting than the first as it moves the scholarship fund ever closer to the full SOS goal for 2004—to raise at least \$40,000 by the end of the year.

## Enthusiasm Unlimited

The SOS team started toward their first challenge goal with enthusiasm



and never wavered. Using presentations, word-of-mouth, and notes and newsletters to friends, the team kept the campaign moving forward. Thinking of the women who would reach their goals because of these scholarships was a great motivation for both donors and team members. This match truly had one goal, to light candles of hope for Adventist women around the world by helping them get an education. 🎓

## Ways you can support SOS...

- Spread the word in your church. Offer to make a short presentation about SOS and the scholarship fund. Distribute SOS newsletters.
- Be sure your local Women's Ministries leader knows about this program.
- Share SOS newsletters with friends. Mail some with a short personal note.
- Form a team to work on a project for the scholarship fund, such as holding a benefit concert, saving loose change, or making a quilt to auction.
- Publicize special challenge drives or goals of SOS.
- Encourage folks to buy the women's devotional book—for themselves and as gifts

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

## SOS Materials for You

If you'd like to share information about the Scholarshiping Our Sisters program, we have materials you can use. Available are copies of the SOS newsletter, response cards, and envelopes. There is also a list of ways to promote SOS. A phone call, e-mail, or letter is all it takes to get the materials.

To be removed from the SOS mailing list, let us know at [womensministries@gc.adventist.org](mailto:womensministries@gc.adventist.org) or call 301-680-6608.



You may contact the Editor by writing:

**General Conference Department of Women's Ministries**  
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600  
Ph: 301-680-6616 Fax: 301-680-6600  
[womensministries@gc.adventist.org](mailto:womensministries@gc.adventist.org)  
Website: [wm.gc.adventist.org](http://wm.gc.adventist.org)

*Scholarshipping Our Sisters* is published monthly by the General Conference Women's Ministries Scholarship Task Force to communicate news about their scholarship program.

Editor: Ardis Stenbakken  
Managing Editor: Heidi Boggs  
Advisor: Heather-Dawn Small

Contributors to this issue: Kathy Beagles, Viola Hughes, Carolyn Kujawa, Marilyn Riley, Heather-Dawn Small, Ardis Stenbakken, Melanie Strahle, Becki Timon

