



Scholarshipping Our Sisters

Supporting higher education for Adventist women globally

Vol. 2, No. 1

First quarter 2005

Meeting our Sisters

The Uniform Challenge

The second of four children, Maria longs to complete her education, but this goal has taken her far from her family and it is expensive. Her family—



too poor to help—is proud she wants to be a teacher, but sad that they can't help financially.

Maria is well-loved by her peers and described as one who will make a great teacher. Now let me tell you about Maria's uniform!

Nightly Chore

Unable to afford more than one uniform, Maria must wash her uniform every evening so she can wear it the next day. Whatever meager income she earns from doing housework goes for tuition. "It is very hard for me to study when I'm working and thinking about finances," Maria expressed. "I am eager to finish my education; please, I need your help."

Supporting a Dream

Maria's teachers describe her as persevering, honest, and patient. Her plea for help touched the hearts of the Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee. No doubt her dream of becoming a teacher will be realized because of your commitment to the scholarship program. 🎓

This January's 103 Awards Top Past Years

More than US \$44,000 in scholarships was awarded this January by the General Conference Women's Ministries, more than in any previous year. The 103 women receiving awards are from 32 countries and 33 different colleges and universities.

Since 1991, Women's Ministries has awarded a total of US \$386,743, providing 966 scholarships. Each year the number of scholarships increases. However, as requests increase, the need to build up the Scholarship Fund becomes urgent.

In past years, the sale of the Women's Ministries devotional book have funded these scholarships. This year, because of the Scholarshipping Our Sisters project, the scholarship committee gave an extra \$1,500 to each Division thanks to our donors, who gave over \$26,000 toward scholarships in 2004.



Thanks from Taiwan

Women around the world send their thanks. Rachel, from Taiwan, writes, "My heart is filled with thanks to the sisters who support this Women's Ministries Scholarship. Although I do not know you, your support can let me experience God's work."

Several more scholarships will be awarded in May and presented to the Division Women's Ministries Directors during General Conference Session. 🎓

SOS Sets May Goal

Although May 1 in the northern hemisphere often means flowers and soft breezes, May Day has a serious history. In 1810 English workers pressed for a 10-hour work day. The world noticed. Eventually the United States voted the 8-hour work day as of May 1, 1886. Slowly other nations set the 8-hour work day. Now May 1 celebrates better working conditions.

Step Up to the Challenge

For SOS, it is May 15 that is special. The Scholarship Fund gets a matching

gift if we can raise \$5,000. Already \$3,500 is in. Our goal is in sight.

Double Your money

All gifts of \$50 or more will be matched dollar for dollar. And gifts of all sizes are welcome.

The Scholarship Fund empowers women around the world. It helps them improve lives in their own families and also in their communities. This May, we can enjoy soft breezes, but even more important, we'll know that our gifts helped GC Women's Ministries reach this \$5,000 goal. That's something worth celebrating.

SOS Spells Success—\$4,000 Worth

SOS spells Success! Yes, YOU have succeeded again! You've met the latest challenge, raising \$4,000 to get the additional \$4,000 Nursing Scholarship matching grant. The Scholarshipping Our Sisters team—which includes all of you who support GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Fund—worked together to meet this goal.

Because of you, when GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee met in January, they knew they could award 50% more in scholarships for each division than in past years.

It's time to celebrate this success. Together we have met this challenge. But that's not the end.

Building on Success

Now we are working to meet still another challenge grant. Let's celebrate our success and forge ahead with the new challenge. (See article on p. 1) Again all gifts of \$50 or more will be matched dollar for dollar. Where else can you double your money—and brighten the future for many women? Yes, SOS spells Success!



Appreciation from Henriette

Thank you, Women's Ministries. This scholarship has allowed me to enroll in Master's degree classes. Without this, I would not have had this opportunity. I still remember when I entered your office at the Division, and I was attended so warmly and kindly.

Here I Can Witness

I am a Master's degree student in Communication at São Paulo Methodist University, one of the best in the state of São Paulo. I see God's hands guiding me. Here where there are almost no Christians, I can witness.

I am also doing revision of the magazine *Dialogue*. I have always admired this magazine's missionary objective among Seventh-day Adventist university students. Now I can contribute to this. I am very grateful to God.

Meeting our Sisters

Charity, from Nigeria

Charity,* one of this year's WM scholarship recipients, was working as an active pioneer for her church, Jehovah's Witnesses, when she met an Adventist pastor and determined to convert him.



They had a series of Bible discussions that led to many new revelations which shocked her. But Charity was very set in her ways and determined not to accept these new ideas.

Thinking she would be able to convince the Adventist pastor to become a Jehovah's Witness, Charity accepted an invitation to his church.

Turning Point

That Sabbath was a turning point for her. She has now been a baptized Seventh-day Adventist for five years.

Charity has accepted God's call to educate women about health principles. She is studying nursing at

Babcock University in Nigeria. Her first year she worked full time to earn her tuition. Now, however, the university administration limits students' work hours to help them focus on their studies. Now Charity earns enough to cover less than half her fees. She says, "Your coming in as my sponsor will only be a long desired prayer that God has eventually made come true."

*Some names and photos are changed to protect privacy.

Gifts of Remembrance

In Memory of

David L. Glenn, Jr., MD,

by Paul & Marthanne Glenn

Donald H. Vollmer, MD, &

Sue Miklos, RN, by Ted & Nancy Wilson

Lois & Ranny Luce, & Eldon

Griffin, by Carolyn Kujawa

Joey Pharo, by GC Communication Department

In Honor of

Gary DeVore, RN; Rae Lee

Cooper, RN; Daina Spears, RN,

by Becki & Daniel Timon

Don & Mary Jo Vollmer, by

Pastor Donald & Mary Vollmer

Union College Nursing Faculty,

by Rick & Valeree Krueger

Daughter, **Cathy Kolin,** RN, BS,

by Clarice Woodward

Nancy Glenn,

by Paul & Marthanne Glenn

Carolyn Kujawa,

by Ted & Nancy Wilson

Jason Welch, future PA,

by Betty Welch

Mother, **Mrs. Ercel Bennett,**

by Marilyn Justesen

Wayne E. Olson,

by Ronnalee Netteburg

Editorial:

Voices from South America

Evelyn Nagel, Women's Ministries Director
South American Division

Every day we meet dozens of people. With some we have the opportunity to exchange a few words, learn a little about their life, their burdens and their need for words of comfort, for financial assistance, or simply a caring embrace.

In *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 56, we read: "Those who cultivate benevolence are not only doing a good work for others, and blessing those who receive the good action, but they are benefiting themselves by opening their hearts to the benign influence of true benevolence. Every ray of light shed upon others will be reflected upon our own hearts."

Looking in a mirror

On a mirror in a hotel in Nebraska, USA, years ago this wise advice was written: "Life is a mirror, smile at it and it will smile back at you."

And Jesus says to us, "*Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*" Matt.25:40.

What blessings we receive as we assist needy young ladies preparing for God's work who are helped by the Women's Ministries scholarships. The South American Division, with support of its publishing houses, is translating the Women's Devotional into Portuguese and Spanish. The profits will help fund scholarships.

Sharing the Joy

I would like to share with you the joy we feel here in the South American Division through letters from Seventh-day Adventist young ladies studying in our universities in Brazil as well as in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia. Letters from Henrienne, Eliete, and Magali are shared on these pages. Together with these young ladies, I want to thank all who contribute to this project, which has helped many young women around the world. May God richly bless you.



Many thanks from Eliete

I am very grateful from the bottom of my heart for the benefits granted me during the time of my greatest need.

This scholarship arrived at Brazil Adventist University as a real miracle sent by God. These funds have opened doors for me



to finish my long-dreamed of degree in Education.

Beautiful Project

To all who participated in this opportunity and privilege given to me, that of studying and being able to finish this degree, I offer my gratitude. I am going to continue asking God to bless you always with wisdom in this beautiful project of offering assistance to one's fellow human being.

Twice Blessed

I finish by saying I was blessed twice by your kindness: in 2002 and in 2004, and for this reason I am touched once again. To God and to all of you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Words of Gratitude

Thank you from Magali

I am going to tell you about my experience that will encourage others who may want to give up.

In June I decided to be a literature evangelist., hoping to earn enough for my expenses for the semester. I went to Araguaína, Brasília, and Belém hoping to earn the stipend, but no; I had only debts.

I was very sad, especially since this was now my last semester. I wanted to earn enough to pay for the entire



semester and dedicate myself to my studies, but I did not sell even one book. I called the college to suspend my enrollment, but I did not even have money to pay the fee for placing my enrollment on hold. I sat down on a curb and cried because I was not able to support such hardship. This vacation period makes a total of 10 years I've been a literature evangelist, and I had never experienced such affliction, to end the summer with a debt.

The Phone Call

Then I had a phone call from the scholarship counselor at Northeast Brazil University telling me to return because I had received assistance from Women's Ministries.

I end by saying that if it had not been for Women's Ministries, I could not have returned to school. I will tell this experience so that many people may contribute to this ministry.

Testing a Truly Superior Savings Plan

You may have heard the slogan “Choose to save,” developed by an ad agency to encourage those who are not saving for retirement. Their message goes on to remind us that simply saving the change in our pocket at the end of each day makes a meaningful contribution to a savings plan.

Let’s apply these thoughts to our potential savings in God’s kingdom. Are we only familiar with the injunction “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal” (Matt. 6:20), and not so familiar with the idea of systematically “saving” in heaven’s bank?

Better Than Compounding

The interest on the savings in God’s kingdom is immeasurable. It is a much more dynamic principle than compound interest! God uses

your funds to save souls, who in turn give of themselves to save others and so on. This type of savings is best done consistently, over time, just as we put savings in our banks on earth.

Not Just Wishing

It is the same with the GC Women’s Ministries Scholarship Fund. Each of us can support it best by regular, modest donations given consistently every month or paycheck. You may be impressed by the potential of the women applying for these scholarships, thinking, “How I wish I could give \$500, but I can’t right now.” Instead, consider a pledge of \$20 each payday. In a year you will have given more than \$500, more than the \$430 needed for a young lady to attend seminary in Malawi for a semester.

Or perhaps you have no children in school and you’d like to invest \$50 or \$100 each month. Just look at the



interest. For every \$700 you invest, an Argentinian or Ukrainian woman can attend an Adventist college. For every \$2,000, a young Brazilian or Russian woman can do the same.

And that is just the interest! None of your “capital” is touched, according to Matthew 6. So, what’s stopping you? Choose to save—riches in heaven and friends to go there with you.

[Just say on the response card how often you’ll make your “deposit.” Send in your card, and be sure to keep a note for yourself.]

Ways you can support SOS...

- Pledge a certain amount each payday or each month.
- Spread the word in your church. Offer to make a short presentation about SOS and the scholarship fund. Give SOS newsletters to your friends.
- Be sure your local Women’s Ministries leader knows about this program.
- Form a team to work on a project for the scholarship fund, such as a chili cook-off, a community yard sale, or a walk-a-thon.
- 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

Want to share information about the Scholarship Our Sisters program? We have materials you can use, including information folders, 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 for you to get these materials.

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



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

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