



Scholarshipping Our Sisters

Supporting higher education for Adventist women globally

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Third & Fourth quarters 2005

Meeting our Sisters

Dreams from Serbia and Montenegro

In a country where civil war has torn communities and people's lives apart, opportunities to better one's self can be a daunting challenge. Daniella's



desire to become a pastor, professor, and counselor are very much dependent on funds she does not have.

But her strong desire to be involved in God's ministry has led her to participate in evangelistic seminars and colporteur-ing.

Work but no pay

Although Daniella's father has a job in a factory, he has not been paid in quite a while. He must keep on working because it is necessary to have a job to earn years toward retirement benefits. Her mother, who runs a food store, is in debt because profits are low and taxes are high.

"Daniella's love for God has prompted her to work for our local church, and she often preaches and sings," says her pastor. "She is a very positive person, a good Christian and devoted to God and Bible principles."

An excellent student, with nearly straight A grades, Daniella appreciates the help of everyone who has supported her as she strives to fulfill her educational goals.



Students Send Their Heartfelt Appreciation

"What an inspiration to read thank you letters from the women who received scholarships. It really touches my heart," comments a member of the GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee.

Here is an example, a wonderful letter from Suet-Ling [Emily] Wong at Hong Kong Adventist College.

A warm, caring feeling

"I appreciate the opportunity of applying for the scholarship and receiving a lot of support from you. I thank the women who donated their time and skills to establish this scholarship fund. It impressed me as a warm, caring feeling. They do show their love in Christ....I hope that when I finish my schooling, I would reach out to other young women in a similar situation and relieve them from their struggles."

Micronesia challenge

Another writes from Andrews University, "I am so grateful for the scholarship. I am graduating a semester later than planned because I spent five challenging yet rewarding months in Micronesia as a Student Missionary. After graduation, I plan to go as a missionary teacher wherever the Lord may send....God has promised to bless those who bless others, and I know He will keep His promise to you."



Emily Wong (r) receives award from Serene Chong, WM Director, Chinese Union Mission

Welcome, Raquel Arrais, New WM Associate

Raquel Arrais, who was elected as the Associate Director to the GC Women's Ministries department during General Conference Session 2005, is warmly welcomed to her new position. Raquel has over 20 years experience in education as teacher and administrator. In 1997 she received a Masters in

Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University. Her past positions include Children's Ministries Director and Associate Director of Women's Ministries at the South American Division.

"Sisters" Coordinator

The GC Women's Ministries team welcomes her talent and enthusiasm. One of her responsibilities will be as Coordinator for the Scholarshipping Our Sisters program.

"You can give without loving,
but you can't love without giving."

Meeting our Sisters

Diligent, prayerful, busy

With two years before her graduation, Amudah* is working to complete her Bachelor of Education degree at Solusi University. This widow is currently on a study leave from her work which means her salary, which supports her and her two school-aged children, is cut in half.

Prayer bands and AIDS Awareness

Known as a "diligent worker" and "prayerful person," when not occupied with family (her first love and responsibility) or her studies, Amudah is very active in church and community. She has organized a Pathfinder club at the nearby school and has initiated an AIDS Awareness Campaign in her community. In her church, she trains youth through progressive classes, is a prayer band coordinator and deaconess, and is active in evangelism. A gifted speaker with a great command of two languages, she considers this simply another means of serving the Lord.

A stronger voice

Amudah needs our help to complete her education and provide for her children. We can support our sister as she becomes an even stronger voice for Christ in her community.



Fishing for school supplies

Born and raised an Adventist, Jackie* says her love for Christ began at a young age. "I know Christ is the most important thing in my life."

A lady of many talents, Jackie has served with youth programs, the Sabbath school, and as president of the local math club. She also has a strong interest in drama, singing, and writing.

Hot cakes and fish

Her father, a fisherman, brings home a rather low income, so Jackie supplements this by making "hot cakes" to sell. In the summer, she catches fish too, selling them to buy her school supplies. Though her father is uneducated, he encourages Jackie in her goal of becoming a nurse.

Your support of Women Ministries' scholarships will help Jackie fulfill her dream of serving Christ as a nurse.

*Some names and photos are changed to protect privacy.

"FIRST on the FIRST"

Suppose you bought groceries in July and no more for a year. Bare cupboard? The SOS cupboard gets bare too. You can help with a regular monthly gift. Feeling unable to give a large gift? Why not a small one—perhaps \$30—each month? Within a year you've given \$360. That's a full semester's tuition in some places!

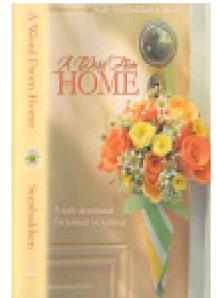
Small lifesavers

SOS can't succeed without your monthly pledge. Each gift is truly a lifesaver to your sisters. Let's remember to put our sisters "FIRST on the FIRST"—every month.

A Word from Home funds scholarships

A Word from Home is the fourteenth daily devotional for women by women. Proceeds from this 2006 book, by 229 authors from 29 countries, will assist Adventist women at our Seventh-day Adventist colleges around the world.

The devotional book project has by now raised nearly \$400,000 to help fund 1004 scholarships for women in 85 countries.



Authors from 9 to 101

Authors range in age from 9 to 101, and because of their labor of love and the Review and Herald's publication of the book, this project has succeeded. Ardis Stenbakken edited *A Word from Home* and will continue as series editor.

If interested in writing for the series see guidelines at wm.gc.adventist.org. Inquiries regarding scholarships may be sent to the local Union or Division WM director.

The Christmas Challenge

Can you help SOS reach a goal of \$2,500 by Christmas? If so a generous donor will double your gift, matching it dollar for dollar.

A brighter Christmas in Congo

What a wonderful gift of hope to give a woman in Indonesia or India, Cameroon or Congo, Thailand or Trinidad! Make your own Christmas brighter by sharing with Huai, Rosa and Wai Lan.

Each gift of \$50 or more received in the GC WM office by December 26 counts toward this challenge. Can Olga, Jin-Sil, Priya, and Nancy count on you for a brighter Christmas?

Editorial:

Building strong levees

by Kathy Beagles

We can always see drastic needs somewhere around us. Sometimes these needs press “extra-urgently” against our hearts and consciousnesses, as they should. Scenes of the recent devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita add themselves to the scenes of the tsunami disaster just months before, and we are overwhelmed.

What can we do—just one person or two—against the growing tide of calamities? We can easily slip into either feeling as if what little we have to share is useless, or in feeling calloused to the whole issue of need in our world. Either feeling is misguided, inspired by the enemy of souls.

Another misguided feeling is that, if our hearts are reached at all, it is primarily the “extra-urgent” that warrants our reaching out from our own personal needs that press against us daily. But it is wise to remember the difference between the urgent and the important. This principle holds true in all aspects of life. Responding only to crisis leaves the foundation of good to crumble—like the levees around New Orleans.

Education for our sisters around the world may not seem to be the most “extra-urgent” need in the face of monumental catastrophes. And yet, to let slip the work of providing funds for the educational support of our sisters is akin to stopping building the levees that shore up our society from evil. Educated women are essential to shoring up the family, the church, and society at large.

What about the “extra-urgent” needs that will press us more and more as time draws to a close? Jesus had the answer for something else that might apply to this as well. He reminded us, “These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone” (Luke 11:42).

In memory of a special lady

We are sorry to report the passing of a very special lady, one who valued and strongly supported higher education for Adventist women. Arline Dick, the mother of Ardis Dick Stenbakken, passed away on August 25, 2005.

Gifts of Remembrance

In Memory of

Arline Dick
Irma Berner Lidner (mother)
Darinka Satelmajer

In Honor of

Dorothie R Dick
Rose Otis
Ardis Stenbakken
Heather-Dawn Small

Ardis, who served as Director of Women's Ministries at the General Conference for eight years, reflected her mother's strong belief in helping students obtain an Adventist education.

Memorial Gifts

This support is reflected in the fact that Ardis and the family requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be given to the GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Fund. To date over \$2,000 has been received to honor the memory of Arline Dick.

Words of Gratitude

Thank you letters

“My dear and beloved sisters in Jesus Christ, thank you for your letter which carried the good news of my scholarship. Because of Sabbath problems, I had to leave my former college. Since it is more expensive here, I will try to stay outside and attend as a day student. I believe the Lord who has started helping me through you will open more doors from time to time.”

K Z, Ethiopia

“Thank you for establishing the Women's Ministries Scholarship for our Adventist sisters. It is an honor to be named a recipient....I am the only Adventist in my family. I am also the first generation to have a



college education. My biological parents were not able to help me; however, my foster mother, who is an earnest Adventist, has sacrificed for my education. Prayerfully she made sure I could be a self-made person because she believes education is the key to success. Someday I hope I will be able to help other young people with their education.”

*R L, U.S.**

“Dear Sisters, I would like to thank you for your kindness. I was waiting for this answer from God, and I got it through you, exactly on time.”

Y T, South Africa

*Some names and photos are changed to protect privacy.

You Are Not Alone!

by Raquel Arrais

No one undertakes a journey alone. We depend upon others constantly—in tangible and intangible ways—to move us toward our destination. We cannot succeed without the help of others. Somehow this phrase expresses exactly what the GC Women's Ministries Scholarships and the SOS program have represented to the academic journey of many women for over a decade now. During this time over 1,000 scholarships were awarded, helping the educational dreams of over 951 women in 91 countries come true.

I am one of the 951

I am particularly happy and thankful to God for having been one of the 951 women to benefit from this project, and for being able to make a contribution now to see it move forward—giving scholarships to women committed to serving the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world.

We have many reasons to celebrate

what we have accomplished thus far. However, we still face challenges. These require a personal commitment from all of us, for together we can make a difference.

Making dreams come true

In GC Women's Ministries we want to help as many as possible; however, we face a hard reality—a good percentage of the applications received are turned down because we lack funds. Together we can change this. With integrated efforts, creativity, and well-defined plans we will be able to provide for many more women the fulfillment of their dreams.

Together we can succeed. We have the promise that we're never alone. The same God who placed those dreams in our hearts will empower us to accomplish them.

As Ellen White reminds us, "There is a great work to be done in our world, and as we approach the close of earth's history, it does not lessen in the least degree; but when the perfect love of God is in the heart, wonderful things will be done" (*Welfare Ministry*, p. 219).



Raquel Arrais, GC WM Associate Director

Book sale succeeds

The seventh SOS Used Book Sale, held during Annual Council at the General Conference as a service to delegates, brought in over \$1600 for Women's Ministries Scholarships. 🎓

Special GC Issue of SOS newsletter to share

Want to share information about the Scholarshipping Our Sisters program? Copies of the special General Conference Session edition of the SOS newsletter are available. Let us know how many you'd like. Other available materials include SOS information folders, response cards, envelopes, and a list of ways to promote SOS. Your phone call, letter or e-mail will get these materials on their way to you.

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

Ways you can support SOS...

- Pledge a certain amount each month. Put SOS "First on the First."
- Spread the word in your church. Offer to make a short presentation about SOS and the needs of our sisters.
- Share SOS newsletters with 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 used book sale or a craft sale.
- Encourage friends to buy the women's devotional book—as wonderful Christmas gifts



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