Erica Aranda is a recipient of a Women’s Ministries Scholarship at Columbia Union College [CUC] in Takoma Park, MD. From Oregon, she chose CUC, close to the nation’s capital, hoping for a career in politics. However, she says she has now found her true calling in teaching. “To prepare, I observe American Government classes at Takoma Academy. These particularly interest me since my major is Political Studies. The students are great. I’d like to teach in an Adventist academy. Students that age face big decisions. If I help a few, I’ll feel I’ve made a difference.”

So far away
To her traditional Hispanic family, leaving home before getting married, especially going so far, was not highly accepted. “But now,” says Erica, “I think they’re proud of me.”

The key word: “growing”
Erica, president of the CUC Latino Student Union, spoke at Hispanic Chapel of her spiritual growth. “The key word is ‘growing.’ As I grow with God, He has helped my transition to CUC after two years in community college. He helps me excel, giving me energy, patience, and dedication to contribute to CUC. They’re giving me an education which is priceless.”

Of her Women’s Ministries Scholarship, Erica says, “A Christian education is expensive, but a good investment. The scholarship and recognition help me. And support from my church helps more than just financially.” Erica encourages other women: “We face barriers. Yet ‘Nothing is impossible with God.’ As women we may face obstacles. But our Heavenly Father is with us every step of the way.”

*Interview by Selma Chaij Mastrapa, member of CUC faculty and of GC WM Scholarship Committee

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**Where are They Now?**

**Now a Teacher and Witness**

"As my ninth semester neared, I didn’t have money to register at Peru Union University. I was sad because I wanted to graduate with my friends. Seeing my sadness, a staff member told me about the Women’s Ministries scholarships and encouraged me to apply.

**Something told me**

After I applied, my family and I prayed, but several weeks passed with no answer. Still something told me to try to register. Praise God! They accepted partial payment. Then as more weeks passed, I lost hope, fearing I would have to quit.

"At this most difficult time, I got the great news that I received a Women’s Ministries scholarship. I had no words to express my gratitude to God, and I asked forgiveness for doubting Him. Through Women’s Ministries, God fulfilled my dream to graduate in 2003.

**Happy to serve**

"Now I am teaching first grade in the Ucayali Adventist School. I am happy to serve God as a Christian teacher. Whenever possible I witness of the wonderful miracle God performed for me."

Margot Millones Liza

*Some names and photos are changed to protect privacy.*
In Mongolia the church is growing rapidly, adding many professionals younger than 30. This is the first generation of Adventists in Mongolia since Adventist missionaries had to leave during World War I. After World War II, little was heard from Mongolia until a brave new wave of missionaries from AFM ignited the flame once more in the late nineties.

The WM director in NSD and her counterpart in Mongolia, Mrs. Cleidi Kuhn, created a plan to develop translators for resources so much needed to nurture these young Christians, most of whom are women. Their plan was approved to support 12 church members to study English in Ulaanbaatar for 18 months. Mongolians have a knack for learning English quickly. By March 2008, we will have 12 translators to help produce materials.

In addition, the Korean Adventist Women’s Assoc. sponsors two Mongolians per year to build up national leadership. Two young people, a woman, Ulzimma, and a man, Odd, are studying theology at Sahmyook University in Korea. Ulzimma has translated volume 1 of Our Bible Friends. She will continue and hopes to see all 10 volumes available to many parents and children in Mongolia.

This gift of scholarshipping people is a incredible investment. As the Holy Spirit touches the recipients, our investment is multiplied many fold. Who can see the future? But I’m certain the Lord will bless our efforts and turn them into something far beyond what we can hope or imagine. What a God!

**Quick Notes**

**What is "Scholarshipping Our Sisters"?**
It is a volunteer team supporting GC WM scholarships for Seventh-day Adventist women in college around the world.

**Can I get the SOS newsletter by E-mail?**
Yes. Just send us your information and let us know that is your preference.

**What can my gift of $450 do?** It can fund scholarships for 2 women in Ethiopia.

**You Can Do It!**
- June 9 is designated Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day, but if your church has not celebrated it yet, why not offer to give a 2- or 3-minute talk about SOS, Women’s Ministries scholarships, and their impact on women around the globe?
- Take SOS on vacation. Now is a great time to ask us for extra SOS materials to share with friends as you travel.
- Offer a challenge. You can challenge SOS donors to raise the amount you specify in order to "earn" your matching gift.

**Gifts of Remembrance**

In Memory of
Orpah Wood
Edna Snyder
Irene Walker

**Words of Gratitude**

**I am wordless**

"I wish to thank you all who had given me a special opportunity to gain scholarship. Really, I was unworthy of this special privilege. But I believed God would help me if it were His will. I am wordless to express my thankfulness to you and to Loving God. He thinks about me, cares for me and loves me unconditionally. From childhood I prayed that I would be the servant of God. He heard my prayer and now I am working for God as an evangelist."

PH, BASC, Bangladesh

**I praise God**

"I’m so thankful of this opportunity that God has given me to send my warmest greeting and thanks to you. I appreciate your program and praise God for it. I’m quite busy in my study because of my internship. But I’m thankful for your big support to me. I’m always praying for you and your program. I’m doing my best to finish my study so that I can serve God fully."

GC, MVC, Philippines

**I was thrilled**

"Thank you very much for the letter about my scholarship. I was thrilled to receive it. Although it is small amount for you, it helps me a lot. I also thank the women who write the devotional books to assist us in our schooling. We are grateful to them. I’ll try my level best to prepare for a life of service. If I find time, I will work out to write for the devotional book."

AMN, MUAS, Myanmar