



SCHOLARSHIPPING OUR SISTERS

Supporting higher education for Adventist women globally

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Scholarships Go to 4 New Countries



Heather-Dawn Small and Raquel Arrais with recipients from Nuzvid Nursing School in India

The January 2008 meeting of the GC Women's Scholarship Committee was overjoyed to have women in four new countries receive awards. Togo, Eritrea, Tanzania, and Republic of Congo join the 93 other countries where these scholarships help women attend college.

Scholarships totaling \$34,700 were awarded to 72 recipients, and at least 50 more women are expected to receive awards in July. These scholarships go to women who are truly outstanding. Over and over, reference letters use the phrase "great leadership potential" to describe them.

Active in her church

For example, Shanti is active in her church, helping with Sabbath School, choir, Adventist Youth, and social events. Her father, a coolie, has arthritis and cannot help her with tuition. Her WM scholarship will make all the difference.

Where are They Now?

The SOS newsletter often features stories of scholarship recipients. Readers may also enjoy knowing what some are doing now, such as the following two and an SOS co-founder.

For more than four years, SOS has supported the GC Women's Ministries scholarship program. But SOS began with more ideas than money.

"None of us had deep pockets," says Kathy Beagles, who helped found SOS in late 2003 while working at the General Conference. But what they lacked in capital, Beagles and others made up for in creativity and commitment to higher education for Adventist women around the world who might otherwise be unable to fulfill their God-given potential.



For Bethlyne Dick, a scholarship helped make a Theology degree from Fulton College possible. Now back home in Vanuatu, Dick serves as associate minister for two Adventist churches in Port Vila.

From Cameroon to Korea

Natacha Mooroven, a native Mauritian who now works in the Communication department for the world church, moved to South Korea as a missionary after graduating from the Adventist University of Cosendai in Cameroon. An SOS scholarship helped her attend a fledgling masters program at Sahmyook University in South Korea. "You don't have a lot of money as a missionary," says Mooroven.

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Meet our sisters

To bring healing and hope

Swetha Yadavalli grew up in a Hindu family that worshipped idols. However, one day they heard of the love of Jesus and His numerous miracles in people's lives. Swetha and her family are now faithful Seventh-day Adventist church members who love the Lord.

Knowing the Lord has not made things easy for Swetha's family. Their extended family stopped supporting their jobless father because of his new faith. Swetha's mom is now the breadwinner of the family, and life is a daily challenge for Swetha, as it is for her four siblings. Paying for school for five is impossible.



Nursing and Good News

Swetha wants to become a nurse to help the poor in her community. Having found the good news of the Gospel, Swetha cannot wait to share that news with less fortunate people and contribute with her nursing skills. She knows the Lord has performed miracles in the past, and that He is able to perform one in her life.

An SOS scholarship will help Swetha to fulfill her dream, to bring hope to the women who still worship idols and hope for a better tomorrow.

2007 Success

Awarded \$53,800
Recipients 135

2008 Goals

SOS \$50,000
Book royalties \$37,000



Discipleship Opportunities

by Kathy Beagles, SOS co-founder

This is the fifteenth year the Women's Ministries department of the world church has been assisting women in their growth as disciples of Jesus Christ through the educational scholarship program.

Each woman who chooses to answer Jesus' call to follow Him will be "sent somewhere." And although the "somewhere" that He is "sending" some of us right now does not require further formal education, for others it does.

But God never leads where His grace will not keep. So, He "sends" some of us to opportunities to provide funds for the others. Thus was born the Scholarshiping Our Sisters program. For some, our call to discipleship includes supporting further education for others. For those others, it may include following the Savior by faith into educational training so they can better assist in the discipleship of still others. Five insights about discipling others might be stated this way:



1. Christ's disciples don't choose Him; He calls them.
2. Jesus' call is inclusive, for all genders, races, and ages of sinners.
3. Discipleship means a radical reorientation existence, giving up everything to go where He sends.
4. We share in the ministry of Jesus to provide physically, spiritually, mentally, even monetarily for still others to follow Him and live in the light of His kingdom.
5. Above all, we express to others Christ's love, just as He does for us.*

*Based on James M. Houston. *The Mentored Life: From Individualism to Personhood* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1992).

Goals Then and Now

Last year was the most successful yet for the SOS team, with donations and projects totaling over \$35,000. This brought the team close to their goal of \$40,000, and also convinced them to set their sights even higher in 2008, with a goal of \$50,000.

"The best is yet to come," said team member Jemima Orillosa. "2008 will be a great year!"

Funds raised by SOS and profits from the women's devotional book are the only funding sources for GC women's scholarships. As SOS enters its fifth year, the team is adding major events so more women can be helped.

A Great 2008

SOS team plans for 2008 include a benefit concert, a Heart Walk, and an Honors Gala. These events will be local to the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. If you'd like to organize an event in your area, let us know; we'll be happy to share ideas.

Quick Notes

What is "Scholarshipping Our Sisters"?

SOS is a volunteer team supporting the GC Women's Ministries scholarship program for Adventist women attending college around the world.

What can my gift do?

- \$1,200 provides a scholarship in the US or Korea
- \$40/month = 1 semester in Fiji

Can I get the SOS newsletter by E-mail?

Yes. Just let us know your e-address.



This newsletter is published quarterly by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Women's Ministries Department to share news about the women's scholarship program.

You may contact the Editor by writing:
 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
 Department of Women's Ministries
 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904
 Phone: 301-680-6672 Fax: 301-680-6600
 E-mail: womensministries@gc.adventist.org
 Website: wm.gc.adventist.org

Editor: Raquel Arrais
 Assistant Editor: Carolyn Kujawa
 Contributors to this issue: Liz Lechleitner, Natacha Mooroooven, Melanie Strahle



"Where Are They Now?"

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While working at church headquarters, Mooroven met many of the women behind SOS scholarships. "As a student, you think there are unlimited funds and that [SOS] is just looking for people to sponsor, but now I see how hard [the SOS team] works, and I appreciate it so much more," says Mooroven, who plans to return to Korea to earn her Ph.D. in Theology.

Catching the Vision

Despite the many women who have benefited from SOS scholarships, Beagles and others believe SOS has yet to reach its full potential. "I really hope women's ministry leaders at local churches grasp the vision of SOS. There's so much that can be done. If this catches on at the local level, it can make such a big difference," says Kathy Beagles, who now teaches in the Religious Education department at Andrews University.



General Conference Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee

Gifts of Remembrance

In Memory of
Earl Coupland
Evlyn Lindberg
Judy Wittum

In Honor of
Joy Butler



"If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give of your heart" - Arab Proverb