Aiming for the Skies

Women have made a long journey from insignificance to recognition. Economically, for millennia we could not own land; politically, we had no voting rights; socially and professionally, we were considered inferior to men. However now, in an age of female astronauts, the sky is literally the limit. Centuries ago, Jesus elevated us to our true position; now education opens doors for us.

An educated woman is a free woman! Once shackled by poverty because they lack education, educated women enjoy financial security and a better life.

An educated woman is a safe woman! Domestic violence threatens many women. While we urge victims to get to safety, many endure the pain and danger, having no way to support themselves and their children. Education changes this.

An Educated Woman is a More Effective Witness. Women can minister to women through common interests. Educated women can witness to varied social groups.

Scholarshipping Our Sisters is dedicated to helping Adventist women attain the potential God envisioned for them. We can aim high!

By Gloria Lindsey Trotman, former WM Director, IAD
From the 2007 SOS newsletter, Issue 4, no. 1

In January the GCWM Scholarship Committee made the world a little better by giving financial awards to 22 women. The awards, totaling $12,115, will help women from 11 countries, from Croatia to Zambia, who attend 9 different schools, including Lowery Adventist College of Nursing in India and Zurcher University in Madagascar.

Because many of these women are in their final year of college, this money will allow them to graduate soon and go forth to serve.

“Outstanding” is the word for these women,” said Premila Pedapudi, committee secretary. “They are outstanding academically and show leadership potential. Indeed they will make the world better.”

Can we do more?
Can you, can I give $10, $20, or $30 each month to change—not just ONE life but MANY? With your gift, you are making our world better?
Yes, you, all who support our sisters with your gifts in honor of Raquel Arrais, met and surpassed the goal of $15,000. Thank you for your generous support. For more information on the scholarship program and the women who have received assistance, visit women.adventist.org. Your gifts will help many women achieve their dreams.

Marina, studying design at Ukrainian Institute of Arts and Sciences, is a winner. A talented designer and artist (She says, “I don’t go a day without drawing.”), Marina’s design for modernizing the church building was selected. She is a bright leader. From the start she was active in student programs and was a Student Council member for three years. But more important is her participation in church projects—youth ministry, mission study group, asking many deep questions and showing a lot of interest.

Most revealing is what her teachers say about her. “At freshman orientation week. She is memorable from the first, and though she was not Adventist then, she attended the Sabbath study group, asking many questions and showing deep interest. She makes friends easily and is a bright leader. From the start she was active in student programs and was a Student Council member for three years.

FYI: Marina received only USD$375 because of the number of women in her Division being helped. If you’d like to add to or double the funds given to Marina, you may indicate that if you donate by mail.

Yes, you, all who support our sisters with your gifts in honor of Raquel Arrais, met and surpassed the goal of $15,000. Thank you for your generous support! We will miss Raquel and her energetic work for women’s scholarships but her new post in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division will be a blessing to women around the world as they strive to get their education. In your generosity you have given us the resources to spread the good news to all. And knowing that your prayers are with us makes us feel even more blessed. Thank you to all who have contributed to this gift.

We invite you to join us in praying for the people of Ukraine and especially for the safety of our sisters who received SOS awards this January: Alina, Hanna, Kristina, Marina, Olya, Olga, Polina and Xenya.

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APPRECIATION FROM LYDIE

“I humbly want to thank you sincerely for helping us financially to allow us to pursue our education goals. Words are not enough to express the joy I feel. With all my heart I say thank you.”

Lydie is studying agriculture in the Central African Republic. Her father cut off all support when she became an Adventist.

BECAUSE GOD IS
faithful

By Shaina Strimbu

Eight years ago I stepped into the Jordan (symbolically). An intense summer lay behind me. My “Jordan” consisted of fears and practical needs. I lacked money for my education. God had encouraged me to attend Bogenhofen/Austria to study theology. Because I firmly believed He wanted to care for me, I enrolled.

DOUBLE BLESSINGS
God doubled His blessings. At the end of the first year I could pay the second year in advance. I received financial support from several people and worked at the school. Twice I received scholarships, from Bogenhofen and from Women’s Ministries. During these years God’s faithfulness has strengthened me. Completing my studies, I began my internship. I learned details of church work and gained experience. God blessed the efforts even though small. Then I was a Bible worker in Carinthia region. At this time I personally reached my limits. But God took care of my emotional needs as He had my financial needs earlier.

A NEW CHAPTER
Recently I was appointed Youth Director of the Austrian Union. This is a new and unknown chapter, sometimes seeming over my head. But I cling to God because He is faithful. Along this way I have learned, “What I know from God will remain. And what I have not experienced will still be so. God remains the same.”

Shaina received her award in 2014. Her teachers said: “With her social and outgoing personality, she is well-suited to become a youth leader.” She has done Sabbath school and Hope Channel recordings, and participated in New York City Evangelism. “A team player, she is a natural leader.”

7 WAYS TO HELP SOS

1. Give ONE day’s pay each year.
2. Pray for our sisters in TWO schools.
3. Invite THREE friends to give to SOS.
4. Save FOUR dollars a week for your annual gift to SOS.
5. With FIVE or more friends plan a tea party as an SOS fundraiser.
6. Sell SIX items on ebay and donate the proceeds to SOS.
7. Send us names and addresses of SEVEN friends who would enjoy the SOS newsletter.