



1ST QUARTER 2024 | VOL 21

FROM GALINA'S DESK

A CHILD OF GOD

Once, in Trinidad, a girl was born with meaningful names: Heather—an evergreen plant with white, pink, or purple flowers; Kamille—a priest's helper; Ernie—vigor, intent; and Dawn—the appearance of light at sunrise. It was Heather-Dawn Small. And she brought all these characteristics to the people she served for.

Multi-talented and joyful, she was also trusting in God. From the hospital, with stage 4 cancer, she texted: "My Father is always good and trustworthy." "I am trusting Him whatever the outcome may be." "In my life or death," she said, "I want Him to receive all the glory."

She sent us notes with sunrise pictures taken from a hospital window: "What a way to start the day!" "Find joy in every day not because life is always good, but because God is."

Her favorite status was a child of God. God sent her to this world, and He, who knew her name, called her back home. But we are here to continue her legacy.



KEEP THE JOY *alive!*

THINK YOU'RE BUSY?

Monika cares for her husband and four children, works two jobs, and still maintains a 4.0 gpa at Hungarian Adventist Theological College. Teachers commend her excellent leadership skills and active participation at church. Thanks to loyal donors, this January it was a joy to give—and for her to receive—\$1,000 toward tuition. Monika is an excellent example of the high caliber of students you are helping.



MONIKA

JOY FOR 18

This January the WM Scholarship Committee voted tuition assistance for 18 women, attending college or university in 10 countries. This will bring joy to our sisters, letting them know they aren't alone. But a drop in funding means that many other talented, dedicated women still struggle alone. They too need us! Imagine the blessing each one will be to their families, churches and communities if we give them a boost toward graduation.



BELIVIA

OUR SISTERS

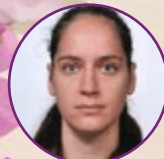
As a member of the committee emphasized, "These are our sisters—Belivia in Kenya, Davinia in India, Alina in Serbia. As they struggle to get an education, to prepare to serve, our help will bring joy and encouragement."



DAVINIA

CAN WE...?

The need is great! Can we become helpers? Can we...pledge \$15 each month? Tell our friends about this program? Organize a yard sale? Form an SOS team? Give a gift of remembrance?



ALINA

Meet more scholarship recipients on page 3 of each online newsletter: women.adventist.org/sos-newsletter

Our sisters need each of us. Let's be helpers. Let's create joy!

[NEWS BITES]



YOUR GIFT OF \$565 WILL HELP GIVE BURUNDI A PUBLIC HEALTH WORKER

"Responsible, dedicated, active at church, with exceptional leadership skills."

Said of Sibiokinia in Madagascar



SCHOOLS RECEIVED AWARDS IN JANUARY



NURSING STUDENTS WERE HELPED THIS JANUARY

WHAT CAN YOU DO THIS YEAR?

- PICK A PARTNER
- PICK A COUNTRY
- MAKE A PLEDGE

Heather Dawn SMALL

September 29, 1957—January 2, 2024



SHE SHARED JOY

We are sad to announce the passing of Heather-Dawn Small, GC Women's Ministries Director. She was a strong supporter of Scholarshiping Our Sisters, the WM program supporting higher education for Adventist women.

Heather-Dawn was born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in various capacities: as Children's Ministries director and then Women's Ministries director of the Caribbean Union Conference; as associate director for the Women's Ministries department at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and then its director since 2005.

Heather-Dawn enjoyed ministry to women. The Women's Ministries mission statement emphasizes three areas—to nurture women, empower them, and involve them in outreach. These were her focus in her presentations and resource development. She also chaired the Church's initiative for its abuse awareness program, **enditnow** Adventists Say No to Violence, which became globally recognized.

HER DREAM: WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Heather-Dawn strongly supported education for women and fostered leadership development through the WM Leadership Certification curriculum. She also enthusiastically supported the annual women's devotional books, with the royalties providing the original seed money for college and university scholarships to women in need. And she dreamed of seeing more women educated and trained for ministry to others, especially women of other cultures and religions.

SHARING JOY

Despite life's many challenges, everywhere she went Heather-Dawn shared the joy God had given her. Her favorite word was "JOY," and her favorite saying was "Don't let anyone steal your joy."

After a short illness, Heather-Dawn learned she had terminal cancer. In response to her prayer, God gave her peace "which transcends all understanding" (Phil. 4:7). This peace during the last few weeks helped her continue ministering to her family, colleagues, and friends. She looked forward to the joy of the resurrection morning.



The Heather-Dawn Small Memorial Fund has been established as part of the Women's Scholarship Program of the GC Women's Ministries Dept.

You may give online at women.adventist.org/give
Or make your check payable to General Conference of SDA, with the memo: WM SOS.
and mail it to:

Department of Women's Ministries
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904, USA

GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

IN HONOR

Brenda Garza
Ardis Stenbakken
Mary Ellen White

IN MEMORY

Heather-Dawn Small
Cyril & Gwen Tennant
Rose Otis
May-Ellen Colon



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.

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Please make checks payable to **General Conference of SDA**, write in the memo line: **WM Scholarship Fund.**

Mail to:
Women's Ministries Department
General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Donate online at
women.adventist.org/give
[Give-Scholarship fund]

Or call to charge to credit card:
301-680-6608

Yes, I want to support the WM Scholarship program with . . .

My pledge of _____ per (year/month) My gift of _____ (Please print all information)

Name _____

Address _____

Charge to my MasterCard VISA Card number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____ / ____

a monthly gift of \$ _____ on the 10th of each month beginning (month/year) ____ / ____

a one time gift of \$ _____ Signature _____

(Optional) This gift is in honor/memory of _____

WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN DO

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| \$30/month: room & board, 1 semester THAILAND | \$25/month: 1 semester tuition BANGLADESH | \$1,050: scholarship - JAMAICA | \$1,000: 1 semester tuition RUSSIA |
| \$160: 1 month tuition ARGENTINA | | | |



JUST \$15

Nuam, a student at Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary, hopes to begin her last semester of studies. But she does not have the \$300 tuition. Her father, a farmer, and her mother, a teacher, earn just enough for living expenses and cannot help her. Teaching piano and tutoring enabled her to save just \$15. Let's help her graduate.

Let's learn a little about Nuam. Raised in an Adventist family, she turned down a scholarship to a government school even though some relatives called this foolish. She would not attend classes on Sabbath. Later, at youth camp, she says she learned there was more than merely being a church member and attending services. Searching the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, she grew in faith and says, "Today I am a happy Christian in every situation God allows to happen to me."

SHE SERVES

In church **Nuam serves** as Sabbath school teacher and Assistant Youth Leader, plays piano and at times preaches. Often she and other students visit small churches nearby, conducting worship services and children's Sabbath school.

Active in her community, Nuam shares food and clothes with the needy, especially women who are alone, and while schools were closed during Covid she tutored children free.

SHE'S OUTSTANDING

An outstanding student, Nuam received awards for her poetry, writing, and academic excellence. Teachers commend her as a "leader in the community," one who is "eager to learn, to improve herself, and to spread the Adventist message."

Described as "disciplined, an excellent organizer who communicates well," she is also "patient, always positive and one who listens to other people's ideas."

JUST \$15?

Can we help Nuam, and many other outstanding women like her, with just \$15 a month – or maybe a bit more?



THE TEACHER BECOMES A STUDENT

After teaching for 15 years, and being recognized as a model teacher, Tatu headed back to college. At the same time she became Women's Ministries director for the West Ethiopia Union Mission.

Her purpose in obtaining a second college degree, says Tatu, is to increase her knowledge of the Bible so she can better share the Gospel as she serves women, especially young women, in her country.

She is recognized as academically brilliant and also highly dedicated to serving the church. Tatu leads the fundraising for the church building and also contributes greatly by counseling, nurturing, and organizing activities.

Caring for her husband and four children, while leading the WM department, being involved at church, and maintaining excellent grades, Tatu is truly a noble woman of God.

Your gift of just \$50 a month will help Tatu, and other dedicated women, receive the training they long for.