

## **SOLOMON ISLANDS MISSION 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 2020**

The Department of Women's Ministries in the Solomon Islands Mission started casually in the late eighties until it was voted to be a full time department of the Eastern Solomon Islands Mission, and our Mission President's wife Mrs Janette Kingston was the first Women's Ministries Director in 2006. From that time until to date the Women's Ministries Department is fourteen years old. In 2011, I was the first local to be elected as the Director for Women's Ministries department in Solomon Islands Mission of the Seventh day Adventist Church.

The last fourteen years had been very challenging to us, especially the introduction of the Ministry. All of a sudden, it was seen as a new concept, thus was not readily accepted by women and churches. In the world where Dorcas society was very well established and has been seen as the only avenue women can, involved in doing all women's work, any new idea which will override the old ways of doing things or change the statuesque will go unchallenged. However, slowly by the grace of God the message touched to few women and they started prayer groups and eventually the churches accepted the concept and the ministry started to flourish.

Initially, we had three missions, hence, a woman was in placed in the Eastern Mission as a part time for the women's ministries department, thus, awareness and advocacy was done and the work gradually spread to churches in Honiara the capital of Solomon Islands. Our women went to Australia for training and that helped spread the ministry out to the Provinces.

In 2006, when the women's ministries was a full time department and had its own office the work went all over the country and a lot of women and the churches were involved and accepted the work. Women & Men have expressed appreciation for the work of WM who have touched changed their lives, even their families, their prayer lives have been a great blessing to them. The work have grown in the last fourteen years. Places that have not reached have been reached and opened to the love of Christ have been reached. Women are now different and have the confident preach in Churches, in public, and communities, and to their minister in families. They now hold church offices in the church. Because of our cultural norms, women are not allowed to preaching in church, pulpit, making decisions and speak in public, but now these barriers are broken and women can participate in sharing God's love like never before.

This year we have planned for a nation-wide Adventist Women & Communities Service congress in August with a target participant of seven thousand women and men. We have invited speakers, planning committee have given out plans, women and men were preparing for the event, until the COVID-19 came ruined all our plans. Hence, the congress is now postponed to 2021. It would have been a best 25<sup>th</sup> years celebration for women's ministry.

For the last fourteen years we have been celebrating these activities that women's ministries department have organised. Some of the activities are as follows and shown in photos:

1. **ADVENTIST WOMEN CONGRESS** – a nation-wide congress hosted at one of our township called Munda, in the Western Province. Two thousand plus women and men were attending the congress and a march through the street on saying NO to violence (ENDITNOW)
2. **LITERACY PROGRAM** – Literacy program was organised with a curriculum on pidgin version called BUK SAVE; there are trainers that were trained to teach the classes, it's a blessing and joy to see women & men who can now read and write.
3. Prayer retreats have been organised for the spiritual empowerment of women and girls.
4. **TEENAGER SEMINARS** - for Teenage girls have been organised for four phase of seminar called Real beauty, Real friends, Real Love and Real Me. There are thousand plus girls that got through this seminar and that really helped them to see themselves as special created in God's image.
5. **ENDITNOW** – March & truck float have been organised through our city Honiara, and with the outboard motor. Women advocating Adventists say no to violence.

- 6. **TRAINING WOMEN LEADERS** – Women have gone through Leadership trainings to be effective leaders in varies areas they will be involved in. More than two thousand women have been trained.
- 7. **OUTCOME OF THE WOMEN’S MINISTRIES IS WOMEN & GIRLS GIVING THEIR HEARTS TO JESUS IN WATER OF BAPTISM.**

**ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED IN PHOTOS:**



The Nation-wide Congress at Munda, our guests, the PM & wife and oversea guest speaker. Women parading for welcome ceremony.



Literacy graduation class pidgin Bible given as their token of appreciation, and student’s learning to write and read.



Teenage girls seminar with their mentors.



ENDITNOW MARCH & TRACK FLOAT THROUGH TOWN.

**Training women in Leadership**



**Women & Girls made decision to be baptised.**



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Thank you for visiting Solomon Islands Mission the General conference Women's Ministries Director Mrs Heather Dawn Small and her friend.



**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

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