

House of Sarah

.....transforming the lives of those who come seeking help.....

June 2014 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Our last Newsletter talked about what we had achieved to date, now it is time to talk about our plans for the future.

The empty tomb discovered by the women on Easter Sunday is God's sign that the violence of death on the cross will not have the last word. By transforming the violence of the cross to new life God is calling humanity to continue the transformation of the present day violence in our families, our communities and our world into a new life of peace, justice and reconciliation

The House of Sarah, together with the Diocese, is working towards promoting peaceful families and the building of equal and respectful relationships within our families our churches, our schools and our communities.



**The House of Sarah...
building equal and
respectful relationships
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Roberta Clarke (far right) Head of UN Women for the Asia Pacific Region at the House of Sarah to discuss the workshops we did in our local parishes in the last two years

The head of UN Women for the Asia Pacific Region Ms Roberta Clarke visited the House of Sarah in May. Our talanoa included the extension of the work of the House of Sarah in establishing care, referral and support services for women who had experienced violence in the home; last year's work of raising awareness with women in the 18 parishes in Fiji and involvement of the House of Sarah in the Suva Christian Network (Talanoa) which is encouraging the participation of churches in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign. Ms Clarke who is from the Caribbean understood the importance of working with and through churches and faith based organisations in this area. Also attending was Elzira Sagynbaeva –Representative UN Women, Fiji Multi-Country Office (second Right) and UN Women regional staff – Melissa Avarado, Tupou Vere and Saleszni Chaudhary. Revs. Sereima, Ann and Jone Tuiwaiwai and Nai Cokanasiga presented the history, the current work and future challenges the House of Sarah.

House of Sarah:- Workshops Planned

Sarah Care Workshop - Through the generosity of the New Zealand – ‘Golden Oldies’ we will be providing the first of four workshops for women who were chosen following the GBV Awareness raising workshops as the ‘referral’ women within their parishes. They will receive training in the Biblical foundations of care support and referral responsibilities as well as learning what resources are available for women in need of assistance. These women will be the ‘Sarah Care’ groups within their parishes allowing the resources developed by the House of Sarah to be shared by local parishes and communities.

Church Leaders Workshops:-

These workshops will analyse the Genesis creation stories as the bases for re-envisioning gender relations and demonstrate a new understanding of the Household Codes in the New Testament epistles. They will also identify the principles of ‘Safe Church’ and explain the importance of Title D to the standards of behaviour of church leaders. The first will be conducted in Suva but similar workshops will be held in the North and West at a later date.

In conjunction with this workshop the House of Sarah have also developed a baseline survey on the attitudes of clergy and church leaders on women, culture and Biblical interpretation.

You can contact the House of Sarah on 3100665 or email aawhos@yahoo.com or visit us at 6 Desvouex Road, Suva



Some members of the Golden Oldies when they visited House of Sarah last year.



Ann visited the Rakiraki Women's Crisis Centre recently and shared with the staff the work of the House of Sarah. They also explained the work of the Crisis Centre in the Rakiraki area. Picture above: Ann with Coordinator Selina Momoyalewa and staff member Meri Adilagi.

House of Sarah Management Committee members and staff are both learning and sharing their knowledge:-

Nai Cokanasiga attended an Australian High Commission workshop on Child Protection Policy; **Tania Ah Kee** continues her studies in Pastoral Counselling at Pacific Theological College and **Ann** gave a presentation on the foundations of Safe Church at the PTC Pastoral Counselling training held last month.