

House of Sarah

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

March 2014 Newsletter

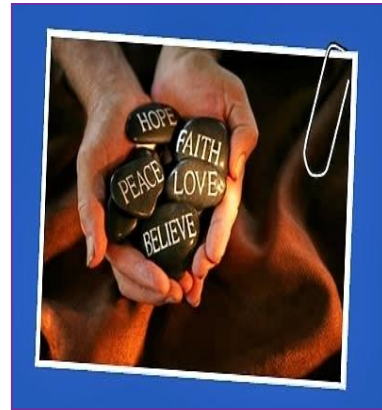
DEAR FRIENDS

Lent is a time of reflection on both our past life and work and on our hope for the future and we at the House of Sarah are taking this time to do just that.

In this newsletter we will look back on the recently completed UNWomen /AusAid funded project and what we learned from it. We will also reflect on the Church's participation in the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence and Malinda will report on her participation in the Christian Caregiving training.

We will look at the future by setting aside a day the House of Sarah Committee of Management will reflect on what we have learned from the workshops conducted over the last two years and develop a workplan the second stage of our awareness raising and support of local parishes as we seek to ensure zero tolerance of violence in our families, our churches, our schools and our communities.

The House of Sarah is a place of welcome and hospitality so we invite you



"In this Lenten edition we reflect on our past work as we prepare for the year ahead."



What did the House of Sarah learn from the UNWomen /AusAid funded Gender Based Violence awareness raising workshops?

In conducting workshops in the 18 parishes in Fiji we learned about the many issues confronting women as they strive to live free of violence in their homes. This is what some women shared:

"the workshop empowered me to seek legal advice"

"I now know that violence is a crime and not only is against the law it is against the teaching of the church"

"I learn of the effect that violence was having on my children"

"We were created equal and we have equal human rights – we should exercise these rights"

"There is a need of our men and young boys to have training like this"

Thanks to all the women for sharing -the House of Sarah will keep listening as we plan our work for the coming year

Breaking the Silence

25 November to 10 December is set aside as 16 Days

of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Throughout the world women and men advocate and promote a safer world for women and children. Last year (2013) the church also took part in this campaign. It was marked by a special 'Break the Silence' Sunday on November 24th and also an ecumenical 'Break the Silence' seminar and worship service held at Holy Trinity Cathedral on 6 December.



to attend a 2 weeks Christian Caregiving

Rev. Dr Cliff Bird from Pacific Theological College, led an interactive Bible study 'Can love be Violent?' He brought to us a new understanding of the meaning of 'turn the other cheek' and 'walk the second mile' as well as challenging us to rethink the violence of the cross as part of the plan of a loving God. This was followed by a dramatic worship service using traditional instruments to 'Break the Silence' and a drama to highlight how Scripture can be used to both bind and liberate women. Over 100 people attended the seminar and worship. Bible readings and prayers written by women from many denominations were also prepared for each of the 16 Days and printed for use of Women's Fellowships across Suva.

Christian Caregiving Training by Malinda Railala

From 17-28 February Jaimala and I together with Alena from Wainaloka, Kathy from St Matthew's, Rev. Evelini from Tonga and Archdeacon Tai from Samoa were given the opportunity to attend this workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Revd Martin Levine, Principal of Alan Walker College of Evangelism, Sydney. We were a group of 25 that included clergy from across the Diocese and John Simmons from Simeon Ministry. The course covered many topics including the Biblical basis of caregiving; how to be a good counsellor; do's and don'ts of counselling; active listening - hearing is what we can do naturally but listening is a skill; the importance of thinking rationally; our belief system and perceptions so much more. We were also taught techniques to allow clients to solve their own problems rather than tell them what to do.



We came away very empowered and so filled with knowledge from all the learnings for the past two weeks - we learned science, psychology and theology and Jewish culture - our thanks to Martin for giving us the opportunity to witness his ministry.

