

House of Sarah

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

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Synod Special Update

Dear Friends and Colleagues: This is a special Newsletter to bring members and friends at Synod up to date with the activities of the House of Sarah so far this year. We have many blessing to be thankful for and in this season of resurrection we know the power of the empty tomb in our work and in our lives. During Synod please speak to the House of Sarah staff or Committee of Management if you have further questions about our work or call us on 3100665, email: houseofsarah@connect.com or visit our website www.houseofsarah.org

The House of Sarah...promoting equal and respectful relationships within our families, our churches, our schools and our communities

Australian Ambassador

For Women and Girls Visits the House of Sarah.

Natasha Stott-Despoja the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls visit the House of Sarah last week. Rev. Sereima shared the wider support that the House of Sarah receives from the Diocese and Bishop Halapua. Nai and Rev. Ann shared with her the work we do in counselling, our training of clergy and Sarah Carers and she heard directly from Lanieta Tuiwaiwai about her work as a Sarah Carer in St John's and the Wailoku Community. Rev. Tomu talked about our new work in partnership with men and Akanisi Tarabe spoke about the work of the Suva Christian Network (Talanoa), Break the Silence Sunday and the churches involvement in 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Rev. Jone Tuiwaiwai shared what St John's Wailoku had done to promote the 16 Days of Activism in 2014. The ambassador has special interest in violence prevention and in Australia she is the inaugural Chairperson of the Foundation for the Prevention of Violence against Women and their Children.



Above -House of Sarah and colleagues with Australian Ambassador For Women and Girls– Natasha Stott-Despoja second from the right
Right – Bishop Halapua chats with the Ambassador

House of Sarah Welcomes Revd. Tomu

The House of Sarah welcomes Revd. Tomu Asioli who is now located at the House of Sarah. Tomu recently graduated from Pacific Theological College with a BD (Hons). He is the Moana Ministry Educator responsible for teaching the Certificate for Lay Ministers and the Certificate in Ministry.

In addition, Tomu will work with the House of Sarah as a 'Partnership Enabler' assisting the House of Sarah's work in partnership with men in the effort to implement zero tolerance of violence in our families, our churches, our schools and our communities.



House of Sarah Farewells Revd. Ann (and Roger)

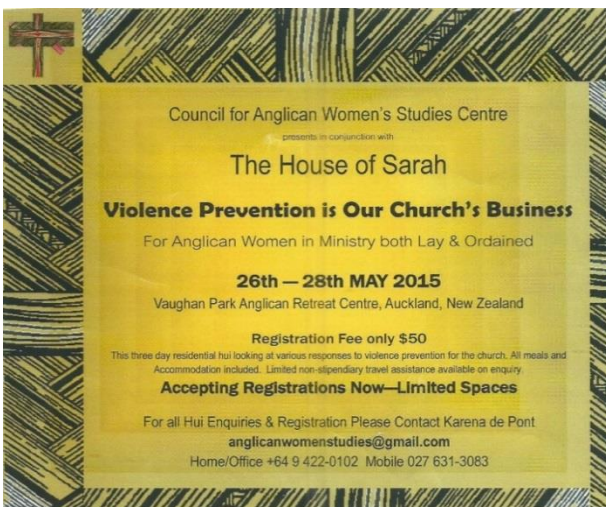
It's been 2 years since Rev. Ann has been with the House of Sarah, and in those 2 years the House of Sarah has benefited from the wider knowledge and skills she has brought with her. Rev. Ann and her husband Roger was very much part of our Anglican family and community at Des-Vouex Road and they will be very much missed by all the offices' of the House of Sarah, the Diocesan office, the Moana Training Ministry, the Moana Youth and Lotu



Ministry, the Theological College of St John the Baptist, and not forgetting the 'Network Talanoa Group' which was very much the fruit of her work at the HoS. We all thank you for your time with us and your great contribution, knowledge and skills that we had learnt so much from, and of course, your assistance in so many ways to all the activities of the House of Sarah. Moce Rev. Ann & Roger, you'll be very much missed by all of us.

The House of Sarah goes to New Zealand

The staff at the House of Sarah has been invited by the Council for Anglican Women's Studies to facilitate their upcoming Hui at Vaughan Park Conference centre. The theme of the Conference will be: **"Violence Prevention is Our Church's Business"**. The Hui gives the House of Sarah the opportunity to tell our story of the work we have been doing over the past few years and to learn about what has been happening in the church there and how we can move forward together.



House of Sarah Workshops in the West.

Clergy Workshop ‘Safe Church and Interface between Biblical and theological teaching and human rights, gender equality and gender based violence’



16 clergy from the Anglican, Methodist, Salvation Army, Assembly of God and Pentecostal Churches attend the House of Sarah Workshop at St Peter's Anglican Church in Lautoka in March 2015.

In discussing the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the UNESCO Declaration of Human Responsibilities he said that they did not clash with Biblical teaching as “God has blessed each and every child, boy, girl, man and woman with the right and responsibility to be human – or being human is everyone's birth-right” He also share the interpretation of Genesis 2:// which rather than saying God made women as a helper/companion that the correct Hebrew translation is that “God said I will make a power equal to Adam”.



In addition to Biblical insights Rev Sereima introduced the concept of ‘Safe Church’ and spoke about implications of Canon 1 Title D. This Code of Conduct applies to all clergy and church leaders. The Methodist present also learned about the new Code of Conduct being introduced into

A brief introduction to gender analysis and counselling was conducted by the Nadi Women's Crisis Centre and basic pastoral care and where they can refer was covered by Nai Cokanasiga from the House of Sarah. The workshop provided some new insights and some challenging information but the response enthusiastic and House of Sarah was invited to return later in the year.

Sarah Carers' Workshop



In March 18 women from parishes in Sigatoka, Nadi and Lautoka were trained to be 'Sarah Carers'. This included Bible study on the affirmation that God created women and men in God's image and gave them equal responsibility in stewardship of the earth. They also learned communication skills including active and non-judgmental listening skills and of the importance of self-care.

A doctor from the 'The Hub' women's health clinic shared the resources available for women's health needs. The police Sexual Assault Unit spoke about the law as it relates to family violence and rape. And the Nadi Women's Crisis Centre covered gender training, legal services and the family court procedures as well as the services they offer in counselling and support.

By the end of the workshop the women were equipped to offer support and referral options to women in their local parishes and communities who might be victim/survivors of family violence.



Sarah Carers' learning and sharing together.

You can contact the House of Sarah at 6 Des Vouex Rd. or phone 3100665 or email: houseofsarah@connect.com or check out our website www.houseofsarah.org