



# HOUSE OF SARAH

*"Transforming the lives of those who come seeking help"*



Pinktober Lunch drive at the House of Sarah

***Bula Vinaka,  
Talofa lava, Malo  
e lelei, Namaste,  
Kiora***

Welcome to the second issue of the House of Sarah (HoS) newsletter for 2018. A lot of events have taken place over the last 5 months and we would like to share some of them with you in this 2nd copy of our newsletter for 2018. Vinaka.

## House of Sarah brings together faith leaders to prevent violence against women and girls



House of Sarah has coordinated leaders from across nine faith and cultural groups to produce an inspirational media campaign advocating for an end to violence against women and girls.

The campaign for this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, from 25 November to 10 December, is called: Fijian Faith Leaders are taking a Stand against Rape and Violence Against Women and Children.

The multi-media campaign features television and cinema advertising, complemented by campaign posters and calendars, featuring leaders from nine faith groups each proclaiming "My faith says no to rape and violence against women and children." The House of Sarah campaign has been developed with support from UN Women, via the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) programme funded by the European Union and the Australian Government with cost-sharing from UN Women. "Engaging faith communities in the prevention of gender-based violence is necessary especially if we are looking into societal change in behaviour, perceptions, attitudes. This is a major step. ....having faith leaders making a stand publicly, " said Reverend Sereima Lomaloma, House of Sarah.

**16 Days of Activism**  
November 25 - December 10

## FAREWELL ARCHBISHOP WINSTON & REV SUE HALAPUA

Towards the end of August 2018, the Diocese of Polynesia farewelled Archbishop Winston and Rev. Susan Halapua at a service at the Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday 15th July after eight years of service.

Archbishop Winston and Sue have moved to the United Kingdom where they are based at Westcott House, an Anglican College with the Cambridge Theological Federation.

We also thank Rev Sue who has been a member of the House of Sarah Management Committee for many years.



Farewell service at the MAST Chapel

## ANGLICAN COMMUNION SAFE CHURCH COMMISSION (ACSCC)

From 2-6 November Sereima, representing Oceania region (Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea, Church in Melanesia and Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia) attended the last meeting of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Sereima said , “The ACSCC was set up last year to develop guidelines to enhance the safety of all persons especially children, young people and vulnerable adults and the five commitments of the Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion. “ she added , “ This was a direct response to the many revelations of abuse that’s been happening in churches, church institutions for many years.” .



Photo caption : Members of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission at Vistana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Photo Credit : Garth Blake

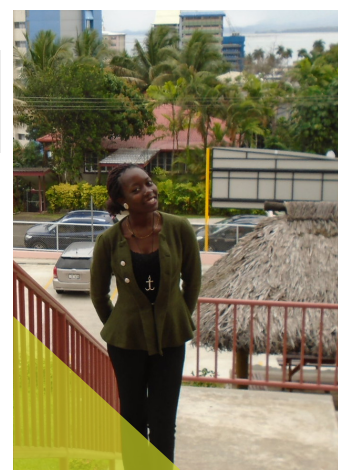
## Safe Home, Safe Church, Safe Community

**Community Activist: Saiasi Tukana**  
**My Story**

I am 45 years old and married with 3 children. I am one of the Church stewards at St. Marks Parish, Newtown where I live. . Newtown is one of the densely populated areas in Nasinu and is also known as the “Red Zone as this is where a lot of violence occur. Considering the importance of preventing violence from happening, I volunteered to help and am privileged to be chosen as one of the Community Activists in my church community.

After attending the trainings and workshops conducted in my community about SASA! FAITH, I have gained more knowledge and I am in a good position to work with men in my community and share with them the effects of violence on women, families, the church, and the community as a whole. Through all these trainings, I have learned to understand the four types of power.

Now I am able to share and put into practice what I have learnt. We all have power within us, and it is vital to use it in a positive way.



**WELCOME RUTENDO MAHACHI FROM ZIMBABWE**

Hi! I am a Global Mission Fellow from the beautiful land of Zimbabwe serving as a Gender Justice Advocate (Volunteer) at the House of Sarah in Suva, Fiji Islands. My name is Rutendo Felistas Mahachi and I am the first born in a family of two. I’m in Fiji as a young missionary under the Global Mission Fellows Program of the United Methodist Church.

## TRAINING: SARAH CARERS

### Biblical Text Workshop- "It's all in the Bible"

From 15th-17th of October, Sarah Carers gathered at the MAST for a workshop on gender theology. Rev Ann Drummond was the facilitator. The participants delved deeper into the interpretation of Genesis 1, 2 and Ephesians 5 that are usually used to suppress women.

Listening is often the only thing needed to help someone. Many times people hear and they tend not to listen. Listening is hearing and understanding. Sarah Carers provide a listening ear, warm heart and helping hand. From 10-14 September 2018 the Sarah Carers underwent a Counseling training that was facilitated by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. It was aimed at equipping the women with some basic counseling skills. As service providers this was a very important training. A session on the Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol was facilitated by Rejeli Mawa from the Ministry of Women.

Contact: Women's Helpline 1560 & Child Helpline 1325

Sarah Carer: Esita Vuki

**"Through a WARM HEART we provide a LISTENING EAR & HELPING HAND"**

Our inner self plays an important part in our mission. A heart that is able to listen and help, will definitely provide an ear ready to listen and a hand ready to help, and that is what Sarah Carer is all about. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, mind and strength (inner self) and love your neighbor as you love yourself".

As a Sarah Carer, I am proud to say that the training have given me a deeper commitment to end violence in all its forms. Learning the Bible says that Women and Men are created equal is very important because often we hear only one interpretation.

My mission has been strengthened and at the same time challenged, especially with our cultural understandings and teachings. But God's mission is very powerful when we are groomed and trained for this mission.



## ANGLICAN WOMEN STUDIES HUI, TANOVA NADI



**Miliana Fong**

We thank Mili for her years of serving as secretariat of the Christian Talanoa Network.

The Anglican Women Studies Hui was held from the 19th - 21st October 2018 at the Tanoa International Hotel Nadi, Fiji. Over 80 women across the 3-Tikanga church (38 from Polynesia) gathered in Nadi. This was the first AWSC Hui to be hosted and held in Tikanga Pasefika. The theme was valuing tradition, religion and art. Two keynote speakers were Professor Unaisi Baba focusing on Indigenous Pasifika knowledge, spirituality and responses to mission and Dr Cliff Bird focused on spirituality & our faith responses as women.

## KNOCKING ON THE PURPLE GLASS CEILING OF EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP



Revd Amy , Revd Sereima and Gaulofa.



Revd Dr. Eseta Mateiviti - Tulavu

At the Electoral College of the Diocese of Polynesia held in October to nominate a person to be the next bishop of Polynesia, two women were amongst the nine candidates: Dr Eseta Mateiviti-Tulavu and Sereima Lomaloma.

In moving Sereima's name the Revd C Amy Chambers said, " Matthew 20:28 says : The Son of Man came, not to be served, but to serve....That's where the Rev Sereima has applied herself practically, over the last four decades. ...Sereima's vision for the Diocese is simple and achievable. It is anchored in 1 Corinthians 12: Unity in diversity. Firstly, that God's word is preached and taught uncompromisingly; secondly, that we need to explore again the need to be a praying church and a worshipping community; lastly, recognising our diversity and working together in unity. ....Sereima is a passionate advocate for women's issues in partnership with men. Today we celebrate the fact that our Synod has a lot more women. Have you ever wondered what happened? Way back in 2011, together with Archbishop Winston Halapua, Sereima worked to ensure that more lay and ordained women were allowed to attend synod. I believe that God's calling me to be the voice of women across the church, that it's time for a woman to become the Bishop of Polynesia. One who can speak confidently on Diocesan, Provincial and wider church matters, as well as network globally on current social issues, yet remain firmly grounded in the calling to serve and not be served. "

The seconder, Gaulofa P Matalavea highlighted that Sereima's work has been strategically based on proven guidance and contextualized to suit our circumstances in the Pacific. ". The socio-economic realities of our world ladies and gentlemen, calls for exceptional people who can motivate large contributions and negotiate financial assistance to support our many wish lists.....and that is what Reverend Sereima, has been offering and will continue to offer."

We asked Reverend Sereima for her comment: "It's important that women come forward as candidates. Have you heard of the glass ceiling? It is a metaphor, an invisible barrier that exists in organisations that women rising up the leadership level find very hard to penetrate. Well in this case it was the purple glass ceiling, purple being the colour for bishops. Eseta and I were knocking on the purple glass ceiling of episcopal leadership." said Sereima. " That glass ceiling that acts as a barrier to women rising to the upper echelons of leadership....one day it will be shattered.....it's coming, mark my words! "

## VISITORS TO THE HOUSE OF SARAH



### Golden Oldies Mission Tour 2018

This is the 7th year the Golden Oldies Mission Team from New Zealand have been on mission to Fiji. The GOM aims to awaken seniors from New Zealand mobilizing them to share God's love to Fiji people. These people bring their life experiences to transfer this knowledge to people, schools, hospital, churches and villages. It is in partnership with the Anglican Church of Polynesia through St Johns Theological College. Each year the GOM Team visit the House of Sarah to listen to their stories on projects to do with prevention of gender based violence against women and children in Fiji's faith settings.



About 25 members of the UN Women National Committee representing various countries visited the House of Sarah on 2 November. The Committee is responsible for fundraising for UNW. .



Mother's Union from Christ the King Parish, Solomon Islands Nov 2018

### Australian Ambassador for Women & Girls - Dr. Sharman Stone

Dr. Sharman Stone visited House of Sarah at MAST to meet with members of the Christian Talanoa Network and some women of other faiths. The talanoa was on their common experiences on advocating for gender equality.

"We also shared with Dr Sharman that this year we - women of diverse faiths - would like to combine our efforts and speak against violence. We intend to do this during the 16 Days of Activism again gender -based violence from 25 November to 10 December " said Sereima.

House of Sarah

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