



Women of the Way 2017 Retreat

Report of the August 2017 Annual Retreat

The theme for the 2017 retreat was “Live Alive” with the scripture from Galatians 4:7 and Ezekiel 34:27 “No long a slave for fear, I am a child of God”

It was attended by 130 woman and 2 men. Our resident priest was Father Chima from the Petrie parish and for the first time our guest speakers were a husband and wife tea. Natalie and David Tensen live on the Sunshine Coast with their three young children. David is a much sought after speaker, both here and overseas. Natalie keeps the home fires burning but has managed to find time to co-author a book “More precious than pearl” Their ministry over the weekend was powerful and life-changing.

Fr Chima lead the opening prayer, thanking the elders for looking after our country and a litany was said invoking the saints to pray for us on our journey.

Both of these prayers were written by team member Sandra Stadhams. Sandra joined the team in 2017 to assist her sister Julie Smith. Both women resigned in late 2017 and we thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

David Tensen explained the spiral nature of our spirit, God first, ourselves, others and then the environment. He spoke about the capacity of our heart to give (Proverbs 4:23) and the death to self that is needed for new life (John 12:24). Natalie introduced us to bitter root teaching. She was very honest about how judgements and inner vows had affected her behaviour, until they were discovered and repented of. We were shown through examples how we reap back what we sow.

Their teachings were followed by group workshops in which the women could give voice to their discoveries. There were many tears as breakthrough were made. Another beautiful teaching was on blessings, design and destiny. The sample prayers in the front of the workshop booklet are ones the women will treasure and use for many years.

The retreat concluded with much rejoicing and celebration during our final liturgy and the women left to re-enter their families, renewed, revitalised and reconnected to God’s love.