

women's ministries

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2019.03–February 24, 2019

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

Women's Motivation Workshop



Hansa Women's Ministries training session

Once again it was an excellent event, when women gathered to be motivated and empowered on February 17, 2019 in Hamburg.

Steffi Hansen prepared and presented her lecture and workshop "I have a dream - How to start a project" in such a professional way that it seems incredible that not long ago she would be scared to say a word in public.

Jan Kosak presented an Icor tool about values, using Friedemann Schulz von Thun's value and development square and conflict case studies to present the topic of how we deal with conflicts personally.

The participants' feedback was very positive. They all want to come to the next Motivation Workshop in September.

According to a report by Nancy Duske, WM director, Hansa Conference

Girls4Christ Day in Tübingen, Germany



Unique and talented

On Sunday, February 17, 2019, the Girls4Christ Day centered around the topic "Unique and talented". More than 20 girls and young women started looking for their talents and gifts as well as their spiritual gifts. After a short and interesting lecture they tackled several questionnaires intended to help them discover their strengths and spiritual gifts. Then the girls had several workshops to choose from: Bible Art Journaling, Hand-lettering, Karaoke, an escape room and others. Before closing with a meal the evaluated questionnaires were handed out by the assistants and the girls were able to discuss the results with them. Many girls were surprised at what they discovered. God has given all of us so many gifts we can use for our own benefit but also for the people around us and to the honor of God.

It was a blessed day in Tübingen and we hope that the girls were encouraged as they returned to their everyday lives concentrating on their talents instead of their faults and weaknesses. May they make the world a better place with their God-given talents.

According to a report by Jasmin Stanoschefsky, Baden-Württemberg Conference Photos: Jasmin Stanoschefsky



Women's Ministries Advisory in Paris



Meeting of French Women's Ministries Team

On Sunday, February 17, 2019, the director of the Women's Ministries Department of the Franco-Belgian Union Corina Timofté met with the WM directors of the two French Conferences for a first exchange of information. Dagmar Dorn of the Inter-European Division was also present. Marie-Pierre Péchoux from Marseille, who is responsible for the south of France, and Enide Cadasse from Paris for the north of France informed about Women's Ministries in their respective regions and about planned events. Corina can bank on her team and is looking forward to working together with them.

Reported by Dagmar Dorn

Roses for Migrant Women in Tübingen, Germany



A token of love for Valentine's Day

About 150 refugee women with their children live in an accommodation for migrant women. Close living quarters for women with trauma do not produce peaceful relations. The food they are served is not what they are used to. This accommodation is situated close to the SDA church and as it happens a young woman from the church is working there as a caregiver. Thus she came up with the idea that she and the pastor's wife could invite 12 women to come over to the church and cook lunch together once a week. The church is not far away, they can prepare food that they like and afterwards enjoy helpful conversations.



The project had barely started when the idea came up to give each woman in the accommodation a rose for Valentine's day in order to show them that they are valuable and beloved, even though they have experienced hardship. The Women's Ministries group helped to prepare the roses, removing thorns and surplus leaves, and packed them individually.

Personal cards with the Bible verse from [Isaiah 43:4](#) "You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you" were added and the roses were distributed in the rooms. The women were happy to receive a token of appreciation and many were astonished that there is

such a verse in the Bible. We hope that this kind gesture will help them understand God's love.

PULSE.meet2019



Girls4Christ Workshop at Youth Leadership Training Convention

The third PULSE.meet of the EUD was scheduled for February 6 to 9, 2019 in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany. It is a Youth Leadership Training convention for youth leaders, young pastors and all who are interested in Christian youth work.

The Women's Ministries Department was represented by a workshop and a booth for Girls4Christ. In the breakout session Dagmar showed the importance of the Girls4Christ initiative, its origin, conception and implementation. Olga and Raisa, who are in charge of the g4c work in the Mid-Rhenish Conference told about their practical experience and gave input on how to start the project. This was all well received. The booth was also a good opportunity to get into conversations with the participants. It was good to see how much interest was generated and how many people said that there was a need for this approach in their regions. We hope and trust that some will be ready to start this initiative in their home countries.

Reported by Dagmar Dorn, Women's Ministries Director, EUD Photos: WM EUD

Enditnow-Day for the Hanse Conference in Lübeck, Germany



Sexual abuse and violence in Adventist churches addressed

On January 26, 2019, the Consulting Committee for Cases of Sexual Abuse was invited to address the topic of abuse in Adventist churches. There were presentations for adults and a special program for children and teenagers. For quite a few people the information that was presented was a shocking picture of church reality. Oliver Gall explained what is considered sexual abuse and that it occurs in our churches. He also showed what can be done to prevent it. "It is time we grow up and see the reality of the church. Just because somebody is an Adventist it does not mean that he is automatically a good person." He encouraged the listeners to stand up for people who experience violence and to protect them. It is necessary to show boundaries and not look away. The topic of forgiveness often becomes a difficult problem in churches when victims are expected to forgive perpetrators with the declaration that God will not be able to forgive them unless they forgive. This piles on the pressure on the victims and can cause a faith crisis. A victim does not have to forgive. Jesus said on the cross: God, forgive them.

In another presentation Martin Wurster explained how victims of abuse function. They often split their trauma so that they do not remember it. Then some day the past experience surfaces and has to be dealt with. As a church we must give them time and sympathy to deal with it.

For the children age-specific topics were addressed. The 8-12 year-old kids all except one had a cell phone. After viewing a movie made by a high-school class they discussed cyber-bullying and what can be done to prevent it as well as how to react when you are the victim. What should you do when somebody is being bullied was the next step discussed. The teenies created a photo story about civil courage that they photographed and presented at the end of the day. It is good that many people stayed for the complete program and were confronted by the issue. It can only be recommended for all.

According to a report by Iris Kruck Photo: WMHanse

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