

women's ministries

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2019.08–May 7, 2019

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

Remember Mother's Day



All Women can be "Mothers in Israel"

In many countries around the world Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. Other countries celebrate on the last Sunday in March or the first Sunday in May. Whatever day you celebrate, it is a special day for families to show their appreciation for their mothers. The day has evolved into an occasion for kids to honor and give presents to their hardworking mums. The day has no religious connotation, but it is a good occasion to do what the fifth commandment says: "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). Thus Seventh-Day-Adventist Women's Ministries would like to honor all the women who are taking care of their families and all women who show love to those in their vicinity, even if they have never given birth to a child. Women can be "Mothers in Israel" to all those who need love. By being a mentor to a younger person you are doing just that. Thank you for being a role model and supporter.

In my family we used to bring Mum breakfast in bed on Mother's Day. We would pick flowers in the fields and put them on a tray with burned toast and a glass of milk. Whatever traditions you have in your family, I hope Mother's Day will be a happy day for you and all women.

By Hannele Ottschofski

Photo: Shutterstock

Women's Sabbath in the Muntenia Conference, Romania



Encouragement, Inspiration and Sharing

On May 4, 2019, 270 women from the Muntenia Conference gathered for a Women's Sabbath in Cernica, at the campus of the Adventist University in the vicinity of Bucharest. 30 guests (non-SDA women) were also in attendance. The motto of the day was "Women at the Crossroads."

The speaker used the story of Abigail as an example. According to her course of action the participants received five helpful points to follow in difficult situations:

1. Act (promptly)
2. React (wisely)
3. Transform (the bad into good, the curse into a blessing)
4. Speak wisely! (Choose to use words as a powerful instrument given by God)
5. Wait patiently for the victory!

The second part of the church service looked at the story of Elizabeth and Mary. God called both women to extraordinary tasks, but both had completely different circumstances. Both accepted God's call. How do we react when God calls? Are we ready to follow?

The afternoon was filled with many diverse reports of what Women's Ministries groups are doing in their local churches. It was so interesting to hear the reports and to see how creative the women are. Some activities have already been reported

in our WM News.

The whole day was very encouraging, inspiring and motivating. The desire was expressed to organize an annual meeting of the women in the conference in order to strengthen and encourage each other as well as to share experiences. The meetings were enhanced by various musical performances, and they had even composed a special motto song for the day.

Reported by Dagmar Dorn, EUD Women's Ministries Director.

Photos: EUDWDM

Muntenia Conference Team leaders: Luminita Ionescu and Elida Oncea with Dagmar Dorn

Women's Musical Breakfast Meeting in Frankenthal, Germany



Praising God across cultural barriers

On Sunday, March 31, 2019 the girls, women and friends of the Adventist church in Frankenthal, Germany, met for their first Women's Breakfast meeting of the year. The quarterly event began as usual with a delicious breakfast buffet and chatting, within a framework of praise and prayer, but it was going to be a very special experience.

When the young African Teboho Tsotetsi arrived the meeting took an exotic turn. Teboho is a passionate musician and founder and conductor of the choir "Sound of Joy" and he took us on an expedition to African rhythms and movement in praise. Music is an essential part of

everyday life and an important part of the religious culture of South Africa.

The 26-year-old young man presented this attitude to life when he started playing on his djembe (a west African drum) and it was as contagious as a smile. In the next hours he led us closer to African music, characterized by free singing and movement. The pronunciation of the texts in Zulu and Sesotho was quite a challenge. The synchronization of singing and movement was an impressive experience for the group who became a spontaneous choir.

It cost quite an effort to make music of a different kind but finally overcoming our perceived barriers was a double blessing. Experiencing the sound of "Thula" (be still) and "Mahlo" (eyes)" with all our human imperfections we stepped into a scene where God lived amongst us. "Here I am Lord...I am here."

According to a report by Miriam Hitzsche

UN Summit on Religious Liberty



Connecting with participating women

Attending the second Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security organized by the AIDRL (International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty) at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva from April 29 to May 1, 2019, was a mind-opening experience. The topic was "Building bridges, fostering inclusivity and countering hate speech to enhance the

protection of religious minorities, refugees and migrants."



The AIDRL was founded in 1946 by Dr. Jean Nussbaum and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt who was deeply engaged in promoting and defending human rights. Their common goal was that of protecting, defending and promoting liberty of thought, conscience, conviction and religion for everyone, everywhere. Since then Adventists have been champions of religious freedom for all.

Among the male dominated participants, a few women were also in attendance and meeting them was very interesting. I was impressed by Sana Mustafa, a young active and enthusiastic woman who is a refugee herself with a tough personal story. She is a founding member of the Network for Refugee Voices, a coalition led by refugees working to increase refugees engagement with International community to pursue inclusive, sustainable, and effective refugee and immigration policy. Mustafa is also a Member of Syria's First Syrian Women's Political Movement, whose aim is to unite women from across professional fields and ethnics

to ensure vision for women's inclusion in a future Syria.

Reported by Dagmar Dorn, EUD Women's Ministries Director

Sewing Circle of Hearts



Women's group in Kisdorf, Germany, goes online

When Stefanie Hansen started sewing heart-shaped cushions with some women from her church in 2014, it was her desire to help women in a difficult time that provided the impulse. Since then the project has evolved so that now they even have their own website: www.naehkreisderherzen.com From time to time we have brought reports of their activities on this news site. The website invites people to the bimonthly sewing bees and shows what the group is doing. There is also information about how people can donate to support this ministry, as the cushions are given free of cost to hospitals. The website also shows an overview of the various products that they make in addition to the heart cushions. Maybe when you see the articles you will be inspired to do something similar. May God bless all who dedicate their time and energy to making projects like this a consolation for women in need of a heartfelt token of love.

Photos: <https://www.naehkreisderherzen.com/>

People 7.0



Interministries Summit in Italy, September 18-22, 2019

The interministries summit in September is coming closer and it is high time to register.

Early bird registration has been prolonged until May 31, 2019.

You will find information on the congress on the website people7.net as well as on facebook under People7.0.

The EUD Congress 2019 is a joint venture with the Children's, Family and Women's Ministries departments. This congress under the Motto "People 7.0 – Forward together" will inspire, equip and empower you to reach in and out.

The location is in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, approximately one hour's drive from Venice Airport.

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<https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries/>

Further Links:

Events: Calendar Women's Ministries EUD

<http://women.euroafrica.org/calendar>

Homepage Women's Ministries:

www.women.eud.adventist.org

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