

# women's ministries



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



2019.09–May 14, 2019

## News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

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### He who sees the invisible



#### Women's Sabbath in Baden-Baden, Germany

"I did not realize how great the extent of this misery is even in Germany," said a churchgoer after a shattering speech on the occasion of the women's Sabbath on May 15, 2019, in Baden-Baden. In her sermon church leader Gisela Kappenberger had addressed taboo subjects such as child marriage, forced female genital mutilation, child labor and domestic violence. You do not have to travel to another continent, which is less economically strong and weaker in education to find such misery. We can often find customs such as female genital mutilation, child marriage etc. in our neighborhood. This often unrecognized, tabooed suffering of countless girls and women, is the result of families who stick to banned traditions of their country of origin, even though they have long since found a new home in Germany. No generation of girls and women in Germany could enjoy the same freedoms as we have today: the right to vote, the right to political and religious participation, the opportunity to choose and exercise a profession, access to education and health care, the free choice of spouse etc. But not all girls and women living in Germany benefit from these privileges. Sister Kappenberger called us to take action for them with our opportunities, whether with the #enditnow action of the Women's Ministries Department, through partnerships or mentoring. She encouraged us to model Jesus as the one who saw the invisible, the haemorrhaging woman, the crippled woman, the Samaritan woman, or the woman caught in adultery. She encouraged all present to act as Jesus did, who did not see people's gender, but only their hearts and their needs. He intervened for the ones who had no advocates and calls us to

serve as he did. Will you emulate him?

Reported by Jasmin Stanoschefskey Photos: Jasmin Stanoschefskey

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### Youth in Mission Congress in Offenburg, Germany



#### Girls4Christ booth attracts interest

At the Youth in Mission Congress from April 18 to 22, 2019, the Girls4Christ team in Baden-Württemberg was represented with an information stand. There we offered the new material "My Sister, My Friend", informed about the further education offers of the Women's Ministries Department women and about ENDitNOW. In addition, a workshop zone was integrated directly into the stand, in which the workshop titled "Hand-lettering for Jesus" was offered five times.



After a brief introduction to the art of brush-lettering (hand-lettering with a special brush pen), the girls present diligently practiced the art of writing beautifully. They immediately put into practice what they had learned. Numerous attractive and beautiful handmade cards with Bible verses and words of encouragement were created. These were handed out to passers-by on the Sabbath afternoon during an outreach street action. Many wonderful encounters with strangers were thus made possible!

We are delighted that our young, vibrant and creative girls are using their talents in art to bring other people into contact with the gospel.

Incidentally, even before the congress started, all workshops were fully booked and there were about 50 more girls (and even boys) on the waiting list. For the next Youth in Mission Congress, the organizers have offered to give us an art room for the whole time of the congress, in which wonderful pieces of art can be created for unique and wonderful people who do not yet know Jesus. What a blessing that we can serve God with all the gifts He has given us, be it "only" with a few pens, colors and some paper.

Reported by Jasmin Stanoschefsky Photos: Jasmin Stanoschefsky

## Women in Spain speak out about abuse



### Adventist Women organize church services and seminars

.Adventist women's groups in Spain are actively involved in Women's Ministries, organizing programs in their local churches. On April 14 the church in Alicante heard about teen gender violence.

On May 11, the women in the church in Teruel addressed emotional violence in a sermon and seminar called "Words that do not wound".

These are important topics and we are glad they are being addressed.

Photos: WM Spain



## Women's Ministries Retreat of the Hansa Conference, Germany



### The Lord's Prayer – A Challenge

On Friday, the 3rd of May 2019, three of us went set off right after lunch to be on our way to the retreat venue at Wittensee in Bünsdorf. At the beginning of the year we had already registered and were full of anticipation. When we saw from afar a part of the lake Wittensee and several canola fields with their incomparable yellow colour, we were overwhelmed by the beauty of nature God created.

We quickly moved into our rooms to be ready to welcome the newcomers.

Great was our pleasure as we reunited with acquaintances and the curiosity for new participants.

Already at dinner we came closer, which was then reinforced by the introductory round in the evening. It can only be stated again and again that we were one heart and soul already on Friday evening.

The theme of this weekend was "The Lord's Prayer - A Challenge". The speaker was Brigitte Grohrock. She is French, married to a German, has two children and is already a grandma.

She has a lovely French accent, which made her presentations special. We participants had secretly thought: "We already know the Lord's Prayer! Never mind. We'll enjoy the community. "Brigitte", who was of course pronounced French, took us through the requests of the Lord's prayer in several sessions, letting the participants



express what they meant for them. Then we heard from her what she had thought and researched. Our realization was that one should never say, "I know that already", when topics from the Bible are concerned. We all learned a lot from each other.

Also the common meals and walks brought us closer to each other. A highlight was the gala evening on Saturday night. Evening wear or other festive clothes were required. It was a pleasure to see how beautiful we women looked in our robes. One participant, whose husband was an Indian, had a beautiful sari, which was admired by all. Festively dressed we took place at nicely decorated tables. Small stories were read and we had a lot of fun practicing a baroque dance. The weekend was over too soon. A final round on Sunday after lunch revealed that everyone had taken a lot from the events. With a heavy heart, we said goodbye to each other and wished a good trip and "goodbye!" until next year.

Reported by Edeltraud Thäder

Photos: WM Hansa The author is the lady on the left in the third photo

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## Women's Breakfast Meeting in Annaberg, Germany



### „Flowers at the Side of the Path“

Every last Tuesday of the month around 50 women crowd the Seventh-Day Adventist church in Annaberg, Germany. They come in expectation of a delicious breakfast buffet, companionship and sharing with friends and an interesting topic for discussion. In April the speaker was Silke Keller-Blobel who began with a story. She told about a chipped water jug. It was being used to fetch water and the carrier had a jug on both sides. One was perfect and kept the water as expected. The chipped jug lost water on the way. Instead of being bothered about losing water the carrier was happy, because on the side of the path where he carried the chipped jug flowers were blooming.

This is a beautiful story that we can apply to our lives. In our lives there are times when we feel useless like the chipped jug. Silke used this story to illustrate the hard times in her life. A few years ago she was diagnosed with cancer and her world fell apart. As a mother of four children she had to deal with a situation where nothing was as usual. When she hit rock bottom she could only cling to God, who was right beside her. She felt like the chipped jug in this worst phase of her life. Had she not been able to see the flowers on the side of the path when her life was like a pile of shards she would not have been able to survive.

Now looking back Silke can talk about the flowers that grew, the blessings she experienced, the peace in her heart that surpasses all understanding. She knows what it is like when God picks you up and carries you. She met people she would normally never have met. She told about the many encounters she had in hospital.

Can God use a person who is broken to be a blessing? Yes, he can. And that is what Silke's life story showed us. I am grateful for this strong woman, who lives in close contact with God and was willing to tell her story. I am grateful for our women's breakfast meetings and the candor with which we interact. And I admire Silke, who considers her illness a blessing, seeing the flowers at the side of the path, and who encouraged us.

Reported by Margit Dressel

Photo: WM BMV

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## Women's Ministries Retreat April 5-7, 2019, in Waldpark, Germany



### Pleasure or Disappointment in Life

Women's weekend as usual in the retreat centre Waldpark. Except that some women had a cold and cough and felt a bit listless. The speaker for the weekend was in a worse shape and had to cancel practically at the last minute. The Women's Ministries team of the Mid-German Conference faced a real challenge to find another speaker. But God takes care of our problems. One of the guests, Verena Greim of Erfurt, arrived with a manuscript and lots of ideas on the above topic. It was a practical topic about our daily lives. And of course Gabi Stangl, the department leader, was on board with spiritual messages. We started with Verena speaking about the "What if....then what" situation. What an influence do these words have in our lives? Are we only happy if all our wishes and goals are fulfilled in our lives? We should not forget to be grateful and enjoy what we have achieved. Corrie ten Boon once said, "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength." What a wonderful truth that makes life so much easier. We can enjoy every moment of our lives.

And we did. Waldpark provided the best of terms. What a luxury to sit down to a meal without doing anything. We had time to laugh and talk, sing and pray. The workshops on Saturday night offered various possibilities for creativity or just enjoyment.

On Sunday morning Gabi Stangl spoke about "God and my Sandwich." She explained how God calls us to his table even when we only have little to give. His gifts and our gifts – his abundance and our naught. God's table is always set for us. Women's retreats are times for charging our batteries and letting God feed us. Do not miss any of these opportunities. According to a report by Angela Völker PHOTO:WM -BMV

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