

# women's ministries

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2019.09–June 17, 2019

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

### Former Women's Ministries leader of the Swiss-German Conference (DSV) passes to her rest.



#### We mourn the passing of our dear friend Christa Hang- Lüdtke 17.04.1945 - 11.06.2019

Christa was a pioneer, motivator and mentor.

In 1995, when Women's Ministries was initiated in the DSV, Christa Hang was there. She helped to build up Women's Ministries in Switzerland. At that time women's breakfast or evening meetings were still unknown. Thus such events and meetings were planned and introduced in different churches. From 1999 - 2001 Christa was the second Women's Ministries leader in the DSV and continued to shape the work. Christa also began Women's Ministries in her local church Lucerne. I remember how she wanted to put together a team for the women's breakfast meetings. She asked many women and got many rebuffs. Finally, she found three women who embarked on the adventure. These three are still active since 1997 in the women's team in Lucerne. Christa had a good eye for sustainability. Each women's breakfast was carefully planned under her guidance with appropriate Bible texts, decoration and food. The topics Christa creatively developed were biblical, true to life and refined with a pinch of humor. After a while, everyone from the whole team was prepared to work out and hold the topics themselves. She did not leave us alone with this task, no, she accompanied, supported and motivated us. She was a wonderful mentor to us. That came to bear when Dieter and Christa went abroad for a few years. As a team, we were able to continue the women's work in Lucerne without disruption.

This work has evolved and expanded over the years. One thing has remained during all this time. From the start, we always had guests among the participants at each event. It was Christa's great concern that these meetings should be mission oriented. Through this work, people should be able to find answers to their questions about life and God. I am looking forward to a time when we will see the results of this work together with Christa.

We wish Dieter and his family much strength in the time of mourning and farewell.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

## Arise and Shine



### Women's Ministries Emphasis Day in Spain

Women's groups in Adventist churches in Spain took up the challenge to organize church services on the Women's Ministries Emphasis Day which is scheduled for the second Sabbath in June each year. This year the material prepared by Raquel Arrais of the General Conference Women's Ministries Department called women to arise and shine. The message is clear: God wants us to shine and be a light to the world. But what does it mean for us to be God's light in the world? How does the light of Jesus shine through us? The LIGHT of Jesus shines through our recognition that all human beings are created in God's image. The LIGHT of Jesus shines through our acts of love and grace.



The light of Jesus shines through us when we produce the fruits of the Spirit. Those fruits are: love in a world of hate; joy in times of sorrow; peace in times of conflict; patience in the face of irritation; kindness when life is so rough; goodness that overcomes evil; faithfulness that dispels dishonesty; gentleness in a terrain of roughness; and self-control in a world of selfishness.

When the light of God dispels the darkness of our hearts, it brings about a total transformation of life. True light appears in service. Adventist women serve to help other women who face challenges.

The six challenge issues of Adventist women in ministry:

"Touch a heart, reach my world" is the motto of Adventist women's ministry. Our vision is to help those in need. We seek to accomplish this by addressing six major challenge issues that afflict women globally: abuse, illiteracy, workload, poverty, health, and education.

**Abuse and violence:** Global statistics show that one in three women experiences physical and sexual violence in her lifetime. Of the 1.2 million children trafficked every year, 80 percent are girls. As a result of the global outcry on this issue, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and the Department of Women's Ministries launched the enditnow® advocacy campaign in October 2009 to stop violence against women and girls.

Since that time, seven departments of the world church formed a coalition for ensuring that enditnow® remains an active and vital initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These departments include Children's Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Ministerial Association, Women's Ministries, and Youth Ministries. Today our challenge is enditnow®.

**Poverty.** Of the 1.2 billion people around the world living in poverty, 70 percent are women. Poverty seems to have put on a feminine face. To remove that scar is our challenge today.

**Threats to health.** Hazards to women's health include emotional, social, and physical threats brought about by social, political, and economic factors. The quality of a woman's health directly impacts her life and her family's wellbeing. Poor health undermines a woman's ability to be a fully productive participant in God's work. About one in five women develop depression at some point in life. According to the World Health Organization, depression is projected to become the second leading contributor to the global burden of disease by 2020. To remove that unacceptable burden is our challenge today.

**Workload.** Women around the world, in all cultures, face the problem of work overload. Women are faced with the challenge of doing two thirds of the world's work, resulting in long workdays, low wages, high hours of housework and childcare, leaving little time for personal devotion, rest and recreation, and social and spiritual growth. To balance work and leisure, to equalize home and workplace, to offer time for growth of the mind and solace of the Holy Spirit is our challenge today.

**Education.** Education for all is a basic human right. For women to achieve better health, nutrition, and quality of life for themselves and their families, they need equal access to education. To see that girls have access to education at all levels is our challenge today.

**Illiteracy.** Of 163 million illiterate young people in the world, 63 percent are women. Even in affluent countries, girls receive less education and training than boys. Illiteracy is powerfully linked to low social status, poverty, and poor health. Lack of literacy skills traps women in the cycle of poverty, with limited options for economic improvement, sentencing them and their children to chronic poverty. More importantly, literacy skills provide women the gift of reading the Bible. To provide each woman the key to the world of literacy and self-development is our challenge today.

To confront these challenges, to arise and shine in the midst of this darkness that afflicts women, to open wide the vista of a new world in Jesus, to free our homes, church, workplace, and community of abuse—this is the task and responsibility of every Adventist today.

Each one of us individually reflects the glory of God. We are challenged to leave our comfort zones and illuminate the world—as we stand for justice, grace and truth in the public square, at work, in our homes, in churches. Your time has come, Arise and Shine! Photos: WM ESP

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## Women's Ministries in Portugal



### Small Group study about Women of the Bible

When women feel called to serve God it is not important how small or big their church is. They will just start whatever God inspires them to do. The women of the small church of Entroncamento/ Portugal have a monthly Bible study group. Once a month they meet, study the Bible together and have a fellowship dinner. Guests are very welcome and participate happily. This time in June 2019 they met outside in nature and studied what Hebrews 11:11 says about Sarah, the wife of Abraham. Photos: WM Portugal

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## Together



### EUD Female Pastors' Meeting

The lovely green campus of Friedensau Adventist University near Berlin, Germany, provided a convenient environment for the first European Female Pastors Convention from June 2-6, 2019. After years of considering an event like this the vision finally became reality. Female Adventist Pastors from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Switzerland came together. We missed representatives from Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Spain.

The Convention was prepared by EUD Ministerial Association and Family Ministries Director Rainer Wanitschek and his wife Elvira, Shepherdess Director, administratively and friendly assisted by Rebecca Dierolf. Support coming from the Women's Ministries Department was demonstrated by Dagmar Dorn ( EUD) and Angelika Pfaller (Germany). We highly appreciated the affirming presence of Division President Mario Brito, Johannes Naether, President of the North German Union and Daniel Vicente, Ministerial Director of the Portuguese Union who accompanied the female Pastors from Portugal. The German Publishing House Advent-Verlag was represented by its Director Jessica Schultka.

For nearly a week we as female pastors were part of quite an ambitious and high quality program, presented by gifted professional women like Esther Knott, Director of the InMinistry Center and Associate Director, NAD Ministerial, from the U.S., who shared her personal experiences as a female pastor in an expressive, touching and encouraging manner. Piroska Vranjakne-Feith from Perth, Australia, who is a native Hungarian, presented an enthralling lecture on the subject of Spiritual Discipline for Leaders, vividly and humourously illustrating how males and females differ in the way they shape leadership positions.

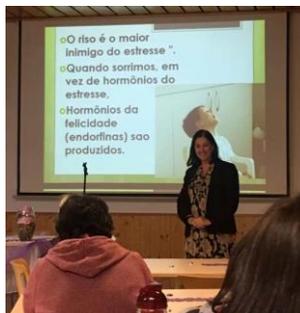
An excursion took us to the famous Pergamon museum in Berlin where we admired Nebukadnezar's Ishtar gate and also to the sites of Martin Luther in the town of Wittenberg. We enjoyed an instructive but very hot day (the air conditioning in the bus was out of order).

Simone Emmert, attorney, who teaches Law at Friedensau, gave a lecture on dignity and equality of women, sexual abuse, women's rights and discrimination. Claudia Sokolis-Bochmann, wife of an Adventist pastor and a Baptist pastor herself, shares with us from her life as a woman who received the call to become a pastor and had to overcome many obstacles and detours to finally being allowed to do pastoral work. Her story conformed to the experience of the majority of the female pastors present. We all are convinced of our call to the ministry. And this divine mission has been suppressed and doubted by people in our church. The pain and suffering due to this kind of discrimination was felt vividly, even with some bursting out in tears.

"I am not alone" was the most shared conviction when we as female pastors parted as friends who love each other and are loved by God, thankful for these days of encouragement and exchange in a wonderful warm atmosphere. We will keep in touch and are looking forward to the next female pastors meeting. And one day we shall overcome!  
Heidmarie Klingeberg, Pastor, Munich, Germany

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## Women's Ministries Events in Swiss-Romande Conference



### Two events to choose from

The women of the French and Italian speaking conference in Switzerland had two events to choose from between June 7 and 10, 2019.

The first was a weekend retreat in Les Diablerets with Telma Witzig, organized by Ildiko Jennah, Women's Ministries Director for the FSRT, for women speaking French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. Telma Witzig is a psychologist and psychotherapist. The topic was "The time of change is coming".



The other alternative was a meeting with Franca Zucca in Cadempino, Ticino. Franca Zucca recently retired as Women's Ministries Director for the Italian Union. Her topic was "How to manage loneliness according to the Lord." Both events were blessed and greatly appreciated.

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## Creativity for Women and Girls in Freiburg, Germany



### Tabitha - Using your special gifts for God

Women and girls of varying ages gathered for a “Tabitha Creative Meeting” in the Adventist church in Freiburg, Germany, on June 1. Tabitha is what the person known as Dorcas is called in the German Bibles. The meeting began with an inspiring devotional with the title “Tabitha – God will use even your most absurd talents,” encouraging the participants to devote their special, personal talents for God and fellow human beings. Then it was time for creativity according to the Tabitha motto: all participants started producing greeting cards and other small gifts for friends. A whole lot of wonderful works of art were produced with Bible quotes and encouraging words on cards, cups, canvas etc. The delicious strawberry cake that was served was not the only highlight of the day. The wonderful in-depth conversations, the joy of creativity, the time to develop talents and the new idea of starting a regular Creativity Day in the Freiburg church with varying possibilities were my special highlights.



According to a report by Jasmin Stanoschefskey, Women’s Ministries Leader, Baden-Württemberg Conference

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