

women's ministries



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



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News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

New Women's Ministries Director for the French and Italian speaking Region of Switzerland



Bernadette Fogliani appointed to lead Women's Ministries

Bernadette Fogliani, who grew up in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, has been living for forty years in the part of Switzerland where Italian is spoken. She is married, has three adult children and three grandchildren. A massage therapist by profession, she had her own practice until 2018.

Originally a catholic, she came in contact with the Seventh-Day Adventist church in 1981 through a book evangelist and was baptized together with her husband in 1983. From the beginning she was active in the congregation, in the children's Sabbath school, Sabbath school Bible study groups, as a deaconess, preaching, and was one of the first women of the

Conference to be ordained as a church elder.

At the first EUD Women's Ministries Congress in Schwäbisch Gmünd in 2014, Bernadette was blessed with a great enthusiasm for women's ministries. The experience of this congress was phantastic and overwhelming at the same time! She really felt how God was calling her into the work of this department. This enthusiasm was transferred to other women in Ticino as she started Women's Ministries with them, assisted by the local pastor, and set up the women's ministries department there.

Since January 2016 she has been the leader of the Women's Ministries Department in the church district in Lugano, and she was also the initiator of the first Women's Ministries Congress in Ticino in 2017.

Bernadette says, "I love the Adventist Church, the message and God's work! I am so grateful to God, for all that He has done in and with my life, that I feel bound to fully dedicate myself to Him and His work! HE will guide and protect me! I am in his hands!" Her favoute verse is 1 Chronicles 28:20 "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished."

Her hobbies are: Nordic walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, knitting, drawing, spending time with her grandchildren, reading and studying the Bible and good books, having fellowship with women, getting involved with them in order to enrich and support each other.

We welcome Bernadette as Women's Ministries Director for the FRST (French- and Italian speaking Conference of Switzerland) and wish her all the best for the future, much joy, enthusiasm and the blessing of God for this work

Weekend of Training in the South France Conference from November 15-17, 2019



Training, learning and sharing: Jesus' model

The leaders of the Women's Ministry teams (MIFEM) of the South France Coinference (FFS) of Seventh-day Adventists, coming from the different churches of the region, gathered for a weekend of training at the facilities of the Moulin de l'Ayrolle, (Saint-Félix-de-Pallières) near Anduze.

Training, learning and sharing: Jesus' model

The participants discovered the art of calligraphy with the participant from Angoulême, Mrs. Magali Filoni. Some were able to develop the art of manual work, others enjoyed practicing this often forgotten art.

There can be no training without taking the time to study the example par excellence in the person of Jesus Christ. The different facets of Jesus' character were the subject of the weekend's Bible studies. Jesus is the model of authority, benevolence, forbearance, kindness and courage. These are all facets that allow us to know how to interact with others in our daily lives.

Teamwork, listening, and the ability to organize oneself

Under the direction of Mrs Lorédane Péchoux, from Marseille l'Escale, the workshops on teamwork, listening, and the ability to organize oneself in a group to respond to an instruction, are all elements that allowed participants to leave with tools for better organization of work and team cohesion.

"A big thank you to our various speakers for their input and their precious advice and also to Marie Pierre Péchoux, (Women's Ministries Director of the Conference), without whom this weekend could not have taken place. And thank you to the men behind the scenes who took care of the practicalities," said one of the participants.

"But most of all, we thank our Savior who unites us across the miles both in his love and in his willingness to remind the woman that she is precious and valuable to him," she concluded.

The Women's Ministries of the South of France looks forward to the next Mifem Spiritual Retreat in March. Photo: MIFEM FFS

News from Romania



Mission Convention in the Muntenia Conference

On November 23, 2019, a Mission Convention for the Prahova District took place in Ploiesti, Sion Church, Muntenia Conference. The convention was called "The Women who Bring Good News" and the motto was "And her lamp does not go out..."

Seventy women, coordinators and volunteers from Women's Ministries Department participated in the event. Two women who attended had come into contact with the church through the projects developed by the Women's Ministries Department, and are now involved in these projects.

On this occasion, the women were motivated and encouraged to be involved in the field both in the church and society. The meeting started with a devotional on "The Samaritan Woman," presented by Liliana Radu and the emphasis was that when a man or woman meets Jesus, his/her life changes totally, and the personal testimony makes a strong impression on the hearts of people, the love of Christ manifested in people being the greatest witness.

Sister Elida Oncea presented a seminar called "The Woman Ambassador (between good news and gossip)" in a dynamic manner, using quotations from the book "Evangelism". She helped the audience to understand the supreme sacrifice of Jesus, the solemnity of the time we live in and the ways that we can work, as presented in this book.

The second seminar was presented by sister Eliza Spatarelu and the title was "Which is my place in service?" Presented in an academic way, but easy to understand, the seminar was very useful for the women because they identified the areas where they can work, helping them to find their role in the field of work.

After a meal that we took together, we had an afternoon presentation in which were presented ideas for work, new ideas for projects, and ongoing projects. At the end of this meeting, the sisters left inspired and decided to be more involved in living and sharing the Gospel. May God bless them all!

Reported by Liliana Radu, WM Department Director, Romanian Union Photo: WM Romania

A Joyful Meeting



Women in the Banat Conference of Romania meet in Arad

On November 23, 2019, the Seventh Day Adventist Church "Salem" from Arad City, had the pleasure to open its gates for the program organized by the Women's Ministries Department of the Banat Conference in collaboration with the Women's Ministries Department of the local church.



At this event, the local women enjoyed the presence of other women involved in the activities of the Women's Ministries Department in their churches and also they met with the ones who participated at Inter-European Division Congress People 7.0, that took place in Italy, from September 18-21. Encouraged by the message of this congress to be "lights in this dark world", they decided to start their activity working for the church and especially for the family. Being aware of the importance of family, and also of maintaining a christian frame in their families, the programme was focused on fighting against violence in the family. The motto of the programme was EnditNow, and they presented the necessity of stopping the violence in families, using illustrations concerning the gravity of violent acts over the women and children, and also the implications and the consequences of the traumas that result from these acts.



The special guest, the resident doctor Dr. of Psychiatry, Claudia Homorogan, showed to the audience the differences between a psychologist and a psychiatrist and the differences between a depression, anxiety and normal fear. The women found the answers to several questions such as „How can you find forgiveness in your heart?" or „Why do you choose to forgive?" The answers to these questions showed us that we can have scars in our hearts even from events that happened a long time ago if they are not treated in due time, and the true healing comes from God, who is the greatest Doctor.

A very nice bell choir, "Bells of Hope", let the souls lift up in praise to God through their songs. After the communal meal, in the second part of the programme, the women met to discuss the missionary strategy planification of Banat Conference for 2020.

May God bless the missionary efforts of our sisters and help them to be lights in this dark world.

Reported by Denisa Tautan, WM Department, Salem Church, Arad, Romania Photos: WM Romania

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Dagmar Dorn
Hannele Ottschofski, Editor

Women's Ministries
General Conference SDA
Inter-European Division (EUD)
Schosshaldenstr. 17
CH - 3006 Bern
Mail: dagmar.dorn@eud.adventist.org