

women's ministries



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



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News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

2020 is the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife



Helping others brings Fulfillment

A Christian Health Clinic in Ethiopia with a maternity ward has received help in the form of an experienced midwife. You might recognize her on the photo! Yes, our Women's Ministries director for the Inter-European Division, Dagmar Dorn, sends us warm greetings from Ethiopia. Dagmar is currently using part of her vacation for a midwifery mission in Ethiopia. It is already the third time that she works as a midwife in a Health Center of a Swiss mission in a rural area. In addition to the general outpatient clinic, the Health Center also offers prenatal care and births. The number of births there per year is about 780. Since 2015, the country has stipulated that every woman must give birth in a health institution in order to reduce maternal and infant mortality. Currently, the infant mortality rate in Ethiopia is 48 per 1000 live births (Europe 4 per 1000) (source: indexmundi.com 2018)



As a midwife, Dagmar's intention is to help the women, to accompany them professionally and to offer them a safe birth. At the same time it is important to her to work together with the local staff, to support and train them.



"For me it is always an immersion in a completely different world and culture, absolutely not comparable to my own. But it helps me to come back to the base, to see what really matters. It enriches my personal life as well as my relationship with God. I become much more aware of my dependence on Him under such circumstances. Situations arise where in Switzerland I would have a doctor at my side, but here I have to decide independently and bear the responsibility. Recently I had a twin birth, and the birth was so far advanced that a transfer to a clinic was no longer possible. In such situations I am glad to have God at my side. I am grateful that everything went well and that mother and children are in good health.



Since Dagmar's last stay, a new project has been added to the Health Center. A Swiss midwife, who has been working there for almost 30 years, had a special burden on her heart, which has now been realized. Two years ago the Health Center launched a new emphasis, helping teenage girls who get pregnant to keep their babies instead of resorting to abortion. The midwife sees her work as being God's hands and heart for the people she is working with. In addition to her work in Women's Ministries, Dagmar loves to work hands on to help women at a time when they really depend on help from others. As is typical of all midwives, she wants to be there for women when they give birth. But she also wants to empower women and help them to use their resources and become independent. In her encounters with people she tries to see them as Jesus does, respecting and accepting them as they are.

As the world celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the Duchess of Cambridge expressed her appreciation so well for the work of nurses and midwives in an open letter to midwives in December 2019 that we want to quote her words: "Next year the world turns its attention to the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and recognising and celebrating the humbling work that you and your colleagues do day in, day out, to improve the lives of others. You are there for women at their most vulnerable; you witness strength, pain and unimaginable joy on a daily basis. Your work often goes on behind the scenes, and away from the spotlight. You don't ask for praise or for recognition but instead unwaveringly continue your amazing work bringing new life into our world. You continue to

demonstrate that despite your technical mastery and the advancement of modern medicine, it is the human to human relationships and simple acts of kindness that sometimes mean the most.”

Modern medicine may not have reached many parts of the world, but the help of midwives is appreciated wherever babies are born. We thank all nurses and midwives for their service. Photos: D. Dorn

Tabitha Day in Lahr, Germany



Women sew beanies, headbands and heart-shaped pillows

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, a Tabitha Day was organized in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Lahr, Germany. Women from different churches came together to sew beanies (reversible caps) for children who suffer from hair loss and baldness due to chemotherapy. In addition, headbands were sewn for the campaign Children help Children and heart cushions were produced, which are given to women in clinics who have undergone breast amputation.

It was especially nice that two young women who had never worked at a sewing machine before dared to take part. Not only were they able to enjoy free sewing lessons, but later they were also able to hold in their hands their first self-made, unique pieces, which they joyfully donated to ADRA. It is wonderful that no matter what gifts God has given us, we are allowed to put them at the service of our sisters and all people worldwide who need them. And if it is "only" the service at a sewing machine.

Reported by Jasmin Stanoschefsky, Baden-Württemberg Conference Photos: WM BW

Mentoring Young Women



Adventist Learning Community Course

If you are engaged in working with young women or looking for something to help you prepare for mentoring young women, you might be interested in a course offered by the Adventist

Learning Community called “Mentoring Young Women”

The purpose of this course is to equip those working with youth to better understand the challenges and needs of young women in order to provide effective ministry through mentorship. By the end of this course you will gain insights into the needs of teenage girls, be better equipped to mentor them during a transitional time in their life, and have tools to create a safe atmosphere in your church for youth.

After watching the videos, completing course learning materials, completing the learning activities, and taking short multiple choice quizzes, you'll earn 0.1 continuing education units (CEU) and a training certificate.

The instructor for this course is Erica Jones, who currently serves as the Assistant Director of Women’s Ministries for the North American Division. Her primary ministry is mentoring teen girls and developing resources to help them make wise choices and live fulfilling lives. She also dedicates time to abuse prevention and education. One of Erica’s greatest desires is to empower young women to have the tools to make wise choices in their relationships, recognizing that the choices they make now will impact them for their entire lives.

You will find the course online:

www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/mentoring-young-women

Photo: ALC

#EveryChildInSchool



Sign the petition: Every Child. Everywhere. In School

On Thursday, January 23rd at 3pm (EST) people were invited to join the Facebook Live event with Seventh-day Adventist Church in order to learn more about the joint campaign “Every Child. Everywhere. In School” of ADRA and all church departments – Women’s Ministries, Children’s Ministries, Family Ministries, Youth Ministries, Education, Publishing. The

participants in the program talked about their common education projects and why they need 1 million signatures.

The signatures will be presented to governments, companies, to show that Adventists care about education and that they are calling for greater investments in education globally and increased access to quality education for all children. Nothing

makes more difference in the world than education, as it changes lives for the better.

262 million children around the world cannot go to school and that has devastating results especially for girls. There are 131 million girls worldwide out of school. Girls are 1.5 times more likely than boys to be excluded from primary school. That means that 15 million girls of primary school age will never have the opportunity to learn to read and write in primary school, compared to about 10 million boys.

Women's Ministries are devoted to supporting girls so that they can get an education that will enable them to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

Girls who become pregnant at an early age often find themselves unable to attend school, even when they want to after childbirth. One third of girls in the developing world are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15.

In developing countries, rural girls are twice as unlikely to attend school as urban girls 19. This is because in remote or rural areas, there is often a greater prevalence of social and cultural barriers, labour requirements and the distance that keep girls out of school.

Poverty forces many families to choose which of their children to send to school. Girls often miss out due to belief that there is less value in educating a girl than a boy. Instead, they are sent to work or made to stay at home to do domestic chores, or are married off.

Many girls do not turn up to school during their menstrual cycle, or drop out of school altogether once they start menstruating. Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa miss 20% of their school year once they start menstruating due to lack of appropriate menstrual hygiene education or toilet facilities.

Ten years ago the "End It Now" campaign to end violence against women and girls was spearheaded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Department of Women's Ministries and supported by ADRA. This new campaign is a further call to action for all supporters to stand up with this Adventist-led movement and put into practice the principles we hold true.

Conflict, natural disasters, and other emergencies severely disrupt children's education. Children in fragile, conflict-affected countries are more than twice as likely to be out of school than children in non-conflict affected countries.

Refugee children are five times more likely to be out of school than non-refugee children.

Between 93 million and 150 million children are estimated to live with disabilities. Children with disabilities are one of the most marginalized and excluded groups of children, and are often 'invisible' due to high levels of stigma, poverty and vulnerability. Disability has a greater impact on access to education than gender, household economic status, or rural/urban divide.

Help us get to 1 million signatures! Sign the petition here: inschool.adra.org/petition

"I want world leaders to commit to ensuring that all children, adolescents and youth have access to free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education." Photo: ADRA

Join us on [facebook eudwomensministries](https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries).
<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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