

women's ministries



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



2020.09. May 18, 2020

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

Be Courageous and Grateful

2020-05-16 Zoom meeting with Heather-Dawn Small



For almost two years we, Angelika Pfaller, director of the Women's Ministries department of the North German and South German Unions, and Gabi Waldschmidt, her assistant, had been planning and organising a weekend for women of all ages in Friedensau. Heather-Dawn Small, Director of the Women's Ministries at the General Conference, was invited as speaker. She very much wanted to visit the women in Germany and especially the women in the North German Union. Everything was prepared, the guest house was reserved to capacity, so that some participants had to look for more accommodation in the surrounding pensions and hotels. We expected 120 women. A blessed, successful weekend with Heather-Dawn awaited us. It was to be a weekend of encounter with God, as well as a weekend of meeting old and new friends.

Exactly today, May 16, we would have celebrated the Sabbath together in Friedensau. But how quickly such a tiny little virus can unhinge everything, and suddenly all plans are disrupted! We received many sad mails after the cancellation of the weekend. So it is all the more wonderful that, thanks to modern technology, we had the opportunity to spend time together today. Via Zoom, Heather-Dawn, Dagmar Dorn (Director of the Women's Ministries Department at EUD), Marion Graser (translator), Dany Canedo (director of the Women's Department in the Mid-Rhine Conference, this time responsible for technology) and Angelika Pfaller, sitting in their living or study rooms, met for a video conference. Women and also some men from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and even Norway joined in, so that we were a group of at least 60 people who met to listen to Heather-Dawn's presentation.

Her message – "Be Courageous and Grateful| Eucharisteo = Thank You" - hit exactly the mark in the current situation of the Covid 19 pandemic and our restricted life due to it. Heather-Dawn spoke, among other things, about the fact that we are special to God (Psalm 139:16), that we are not alone (Zephaniah 3:17), that the pain will pass away (1 Peter 5:10) and that what awaits us is worth every tear (Revelation 21:3.4) and that Jesus will return (Revelation 22:20). Her words of encouragement were received with gratitude and joy by those who listened to her. This was also expressed in retrospect in the feedback by mail and telephone as well as messages on Threema and WhatsApp. Many women would like to see such video meetings more often. It was nice to be so close despite the physical distance and to get involved in the love and goodness of God together. Thanks to all for being there. Angelika Pfaller

Women's Ministries Emphasis Day 2020



Christ's Amazing Love Moves Me

Women's Ministries Emphasis Day is on the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Calendar of Days and Events and falls on the second Sabbath each June, which this year falls on June 13. It is an opportunity for women to lead out in a worship service and a chance to educate the church regarding the purposes of Women's Ministries. As always there is a program packet for this day prepared by the Women's Ministries department. This material has been translated into many languages and you can use the material for church services on this special day. You will find the material in various languages on the EUD Women's Ministries homepage under women.eud.adventist.org/en/resources/



Due to restrictions issued in order to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus many churches will not have church services at this time and you are welcome to use the material for your personal devotions or small group gatherings. This year's Women's Ministries Emphasis Day sermon is written by Heather-Dawn Small, director of General Conference Women's Ministries and the sermon title is "Christ's Amazing Love Moves Me."

Under these circumstances Heather-Dawn Small has recorded the sermon from her home in Maryland and it is available online at youtu.be/PPScGRvaK94

Using the translations of the text in the resource packet we encourage that the text be added to the video in your language so that this encouraging sermon will be available to the women in your region in their own language. Please share this information to as many women as possible so that many people can be blessed through this special message.

Medical Professionals give Help to Refugees in France



AMALF is involved during this time of confinement

AMALF, Association Médicale Adventiste de Langue Française (French-speaking Adventist medical association), has been involved for thirty years in the care for the population in difficult situations. Several women, all health care professionals – medical doctor, midwife, nurse and psychologist - have initiated specific projects, always in a spirit of prayer and love for their neighbours:

1. In view of the distress of the refugees, a care centre was opened at Porte de la Chapelle in Paris. For the past year, volunteer nurses have been caring, encouraging and supporting persons in precarious conditions: the forgotten of the streets. The Covid-19 outbreak has not interrupted the consultations, on the contrary, they intervene more often than ever, 4 to 5 times a week. A nurse and a doctor joined them to reinforce the team, which is in great demand by the poor, insecure, sick and uninsured population, giving a testimony of extraordinary devotion and skills. The photo shows Adventist nurses caring for refugees in Paris.

2. Considering that confinement could lead to all kinds of difficulties in relationships such as stress and anxiety, psychologists have taken the initiative to create on-line counseling on ZOOM. Thus, three times a week, various themes of practical advice are addressed to break the isolation, encourage, soothe and accompany the listeners.

3. In the same spirit of support, Adventist psychologists have set up telephone counseling. Thus the CEP, a center for psychological counseling and prayer is open, like a well organized relay, every day, from morning to night, thanks to a team of 16 volunteer psychologists.

Reported by Geneviève Aurouze

Photo: Aurouze

A joyous Reunion per Zoom



Hansa Conference Women meet virtually

Many events have had to be canceled due to the Corona pandemic. Social distancing also means that the need for direct communication with others is not sufficiently stilled. Women in particular need the contact with other women – friends and family and sisters in the church. The leadership of the Hanse Conference Women's Ministries department organized a zoom meeting for the women who under normal circumstances would have come to the annual retreat. Other women were also invited to join the chat.

So instead of the canceled weekend retreat in Wittensee, the women in the Hansa Conference, Germany, spent a wonderful hour together on the past Sabbath afternoon, May 9, on zoom. It was a joyous reunion and, in this case, the possibilities of modern media have become a blessing for all. After the one hour program, most of the women just stayed to chat with each other...how could it be otherwise! It is worth repeating.

Infected by Hope



Women's Ministries Video Project in Italy

On April 27, 2020, Lina Ferrara, who among other things works as Women's Ministries Director for the Italian Union, launched a video project titled "Contagiate dalla Speranza" (Infected by Hope), a series of videos made with the collaboration of her husband Luigi Caratelli. With this series she wishes to give a message of encouragement and hope in this critical period due to the coronavirus Covid-19 that has hit Italy so hard.

The short messages are available online under:
ministerifemminili.uicca.it/giganti-e-cavallette/

Looking back to the experience of God's people in Old Testament times, the messages give guidance according the Bible, which is like an "instruction booklet" that helps us deal with problems. We need this guidance when difficulties arise and we are discouraged. We may have to fight against "giants", as Joshua and Caleb did during their time of crisis. Instead of feeling out of place we need to find our place on the team, and dare big things. The strength we need is available through Jesus Christ. This video series is something to be shared with friends and people who are affected by the pandemic in a special way. Infected by Hope is a project of Women's Ministries realized with the collaboration of Luigi Caratelli.

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Homepage Women's Ministries:
www.women.eud.adventist.org

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