

women's ministries



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



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News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

International Children's Day



MANY BLESSINGS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN IN THE MUNTENIA CONFERENCE

June 1 is International Children's day. With the Bible verse "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9,3) on her mind Elena Popa took some gifts and packages and went to see children with disabilities on this special day. On her way, she was thinking about how much God loves her and she how thanks Him every day for the three gifts that He has given her: three sons, all healthy and with no problems.

In 2018, Elena came in contact for the first time with "ASCHF-R Association" from Ploiesti, which hosts about 230 children of different ages with special needs, children with disabilities, twice a week. Ever since that time she has never missed an opportunity to visit them on different special occasions.

This was one of those days. Together with some other women and the pastor, they shared God's message of love. The creative and social activities were a real blessing not only for the children, but for all!

Elena comes back there whenever she has the possibility to motivate them, to give them courage in spite of their problems, telling them that they are very much loved by God. These children are so sincere and warm-hearted and full of hope, love and many hugs. Theirs is a sincerity that is warmer than any picture could catch. May God abundantly bless these children with special needs!

Reported by Elena Popa, WM coordinator, Ploiesti Maranatha Church, Romania

Photo: WM Romania

Cooperation with the City Administration in Ploiesti, Romania



VOLUNTEERS BRING PRODUCTS OF NECESSITY TO THE NEEDY

A group of volunteers from the Ploiesti Maranatha church, Romania, responded to the call from the City Hall of Ploiesti, to support a relief action for people in need. They bought products of strict necessity for people who requested the service by phone. God guided their steps to lonely, sad persons, who were frightened that they could be cheated or left alone in their suffering.

As the first calls were responsibly taken care of by these volunteers, the city administration called them back in the next weeks, saying that they wanted to continue to work together with this group whom they could trust.

When delivering the goods the volunteers did not identify themselves as a group from a church but only as "the people from the City Hall". They told them to give them a call whenever they needed help.

During this time of working together, they discovered people at the outskirts who had a hard time, children without a stable future, people without identification papers, women without hope - people in situations they could not imagine. They would leave them with a promise from Psalm 33:24 „Stay stong!”

The volunteers hope to be able to invite these people to church as soon as churches reopen so that they can get to know each other better. Thus they want to answer the question they were often asked: „Why are you smiling and full of hope in a world full of troubles?“ May God bless all who need help and those who help.

Reported by Elena Popa, WM coordinator, Ploiesti Maranatha Church, Muntenia Conference, Romania

Photos: WM Romania

Encouragement from Leadership via Zoom



RAQUEL ARRAIS ADDRESSES WOMEN IN GERMANY ON JUNE 19, 2020

About 50 women and some men followed the invitation of the Women's Ministries Department, to meet in their homes to see each other on the screen via small images. But what was the reason for the invitation? At the end of a busy week with all its joyful experiences and challenges, we met with Raquel Arrais, Assistant Director of the Women's Ministries Department at the General Conference. In her enthusiastic way she spoke about women who are mentioned by name in the Gospels. In Luke 8:1-3 we read about Mary Magdalene, from whom Jesus cast out seven demons, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna. Many other women, who are not mentioned by name, also supported Jesus and the disciples with what they had. These women accompanied Jesus until he was sentenced to death and even up to the cross. After the resurrection they are also mentioned by name. All four gospels speak about these women. At that time, women were "invisible", but not to Jesus, they were appreciated by him. But now they experienced a time of "lockdown". The Holy Spirit did not differentiate between men and women, are or class. At the outpouring of the Holy Spirit ALL were filled with the Spirit. Thus they went from an old identity to a new identity. A new life, a new mission began.

Raquel led our thoughts to the present time. We are currently experiencing a lockdown in our daily life, as in church life. We ourselves can decide what this lockdown will do to us. Are we ready for what is coming (Isaiah 43:18+19)? God wants something new for our life, do we accept it? Will we come out of this time as changed women, with a new heart, a new identity? Let us allow new thoughts and open our hearts. God says: I am doing something new, give me your heart! And Jesus promises, "I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20b)

Raquel Arrais' presentation can be seen and heard here in full length on this link:

<https://cloud.eud.adventist.org/index.php/s/RgiAZtir8xDwmoJ>

Reported by Angelika Pfaller, Women's Ministries Director, German Unions

How do we Share our Faith?



IMPULSE DAY IN ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Thanks to the recent loosening up that has taken place, we were able to have our Women's Impulse Day on Sunday, June 14, in Zurich at Wolfwinkel. We dealt with our dreams / goals. How do I, as a woman, share God's word among other women? After all, we all have the mission share the gospel. It was uplifting and encouraging to share and strengthen each other. We experienced what each one of us is doing and dealt with what God lays on our hearts, what he urges us to do. It was so enriching that we would like to invite all woman who actively share their faith to join us next time, because we want to strengthen each other and let God's rich blessings fill us.

Reported by Dagmar Latuski, Women's Ministries Director, Swiss-German Conference Photo: WM CH

Zoom Meeting on the International Day of Adventist Women on June 13, 2020



MOVED BY THE LOVE OF JESUS

As our teams have got used to the new technology of Zoom, or Skype, during the Corona time, Dagmar Latuski, Women's Ministries Director for the Swiss-German Conference, presented the topic of the Women's Ministries Emphasis Day as a zoom sermon. The topic "The love of Jesus moves me" was exactly right at this time. How do we pass on love and hope during this time? We were a small group of women who studied the Bible text "For Christ's love compels us" 2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV). Even at times such as these we can be aware of the fact that we can make a difference for Jesus. As nice as such zoom meetings are, many women are looking forward to a time when they can meet again in person soon.

Reported by Dagmar Latuski

Smart Prevention - Prevention in the Digital World



25TH GERMAN PREVENTION DAY ONLY IN DIGITAL FORM

In keeping with this year's main theme, the 25th German Prevention Day will be meeting digitally and, due to the corona crisis, is not holding any in person events. The German Prevention Day on September 28 and 29, 2020, will feature an exciting and interactive digital programme. For the first time in 25 years there will be no face-to-face events.

However, thanks to a cooperation with the Media Authority of Hesse, the annual congress will still be located in Kassel and Hesse. The main reason for this decision is the still ongoing Corona crisis. Due to this year's main topic "Smart Prevention - Prevention in the Digital World", a purely digital congress is very appropriate, however.

"Of course we would have liked to celebrate the 25th anniversary extensively with all participants, partners and guests. More important than the anniversary, however, is and remains the prevention work," according to Erich Marks, Managing Director of the German Prevention Day.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church has participated in this event for many years with an exhibit about their Enditnow Project an emphasis on prevention of abuse and violence toward women and children Photo: WM DE

Sewing Circle in Muehlheim/Main, Germany, gives away facial Masks



MASKS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

"We can also make masks" - Hanna Wagner announced on various occasions and, together with her team, gave away self-sewn fabric masks to Mühlheim citizens on the occasion of a market stall. Many recipients thanked her with a donation, which is used for the heart cushion work but also for fabrics for the numerous face masks.

The start was not so easy: finding a good pattern and thinking about what is better: folded masks or fitted masks, with or without a nose clip. The big question was also: how many masks are needed and how do we get them out to the people? The next problem was how to buy fabrics and elastics, which were sold out very quickly. In the meantime the press reported that we would sell the masks, which of course was fake news. Finally they had many requests that they could have worked day and night.

People with disabilities belong to the people groups who are especially endangered by Corona. They therefore need special protection, face masks were in short supply. Thus many facilities with sick, elderly and disabled people had major problems. Therefore, the sewing circle „Lebensfreude“ (Joy of Live) set itself the goal to produce many nose-mouth masks and to give them away to the appropriate institutions. The handicapped aid in Offenbach, the Hainbachtal workshops in Offenbach, various retirement homes and the refugees in Mühlheim have profited from this. Like the heart cushions, the facial masks are colourful and cheerful and bring a smile to the face.

Reported by Hanna Wagner Photo: Hanna Wagner

Homes of Hope



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN TENERIFE, SPAIN, PRODUCE ENCOURAGING VIDEO

Even though women have not been able to meet in person in Spain due to the Covid-19 virus, they have found a way to encourage others through contact on the internet. They have been studying the Bible and praying with the aid of social media. Most recently they have produced an encouraging video

showing that women can be like a flower, sharing love, joy and hope.

The video illustrates a beautiful song and shows what Women's Ministries can do. Women can praise God and pray, make requests and thank God. Women's Ministries is God's provision to counteract anxiety, guilt and stress, taking Jesus as our example, when we have good thoughts. The wish is expressed that our homes should be a haven of hope for all who are in need. May God bless our homes as we hear what He says: „I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you“ Psalm 32:8 NIV



„Home Care for the Needy“ Social Project going strong after 15 years



WOMEN OF THE SOUTH TRANSYLVANIA CONFERENCE FEED THE NEEDY

From the beginning, God created woman with special emotional abilities, with strength and resilience in order to be able to support others in need, both physical and moral. A woman who knows God and His will, enriches, brings hope, uplifts those who come in contact with, opens her heart for those who are lonely and poor!

With thoughts of this kind and lots of prayer sister Judith Bende, the Women's Ministries department coordinator of Targu Mures A, set off fifteen years ago.

She wanted to organize a social project - a kitchen for poor and old people not only from her local church but also for people from other churches. February 9, 2005, the first day or trial run for the project named "Home Care for the Needy", began with lots of emotions. Her leading thought was: "Women can!" From that time on, three times per week, a team prepares fresh food for approximately 30 people. The food is distributed in homes, in every corner of Targu Mures City, and great care is taken in the handling of addresses and details.



It is a very big challenge! Organizing and administering this project is not that easy. No one is paid for this activity. Everything is organized from voluntary contributions and there have never been problems with that. God has always provided the money for the food. The project is supported only by sponsorships from the church members, people from non-adventist churches, even more, an orthodox priest comes every month with a sum of money to support this work. The church has not been able to help them financially, but it helped them with access to the church kitchen including the electricity and gas consumption.

Unfortunately, as the time of the corona virus pandemic came unexpectedly, it seemed that that the world stopped. But... what a surprise! This activity doesn't stop at all! The organizers decided that there is even more need at this special time, and even more people now are helped. Since March about 1000 food packages in all have been distributed to about 90 families each week. Young people from the church helped with the distribution and so many families were blessed. Many women have discovered the spiritual beauty and the joy of these noble activities. The helpers experience spiritual enrichment when they visit older people and at the same time they become a blessing for other people. We think that the best way to show Christ is to show them His love, by caring about their problems and giving them a helping hand. Everyone has the possibility to spread hope, showing to those in need a portion of God's love, compassion and kindness! Let's make the name of God known, and proclaim the riches of His grace, opening our hearts in mission.

The women involved in this work have the wish to share their faith but also to care for the sick people, to feed those who hunger and to offer emotional support to those around them. We as women, must consider it a privilege to be involved in missionary work and to sustain the projects that the church offers, proving this way that "Women Can!" Reported by Anna Nădășan, WM Director, South Transylvania Conference Photos. WM Romania

Women's Ministries Department in all World Divisions of the SDA church



DID YOU KNOW? #SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 5

The world divisions of the church appointed Women's Ministries Directors in the years following the establishment of the department at the General Conference. The Euro-Africa Division (now Intereuropean Division) appointed its first director in 1996, with Noelle Vitry heading the department. From 2005 to 2010 Christiane Vertallier served as the director, with a special emphasis on the work for women in Muslim countries, since the Euro-Africa division at

the time was still in charge of the North-African regions

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