

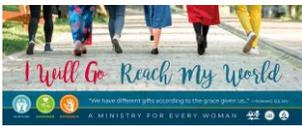
# women's ministries

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2020.16. August 4, 2020

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

### I WILL GO REACH MY WORLD



#### WORLD THEME OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FOR THE NEXT QUINQUENNium

The Department of Women's Ministries exists to uphold, encourage, and challenge Adventist women in their pilgrimage as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His world church.



This is a call to the women of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by Heather-Dawn Small, worldwide director of Women's Ministries. I Will Go is a rallying call to every member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be part of Total Member Involvement. It is a call to mobilize our resources efficiently and productively, to be flexible, and to answer God's call to put aside our own plans and move in whatever direction He calls us to go.

Women's Ministries embraces the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 2020-2025 world theme—I Will Go. We have added to it three words, "Reach My World," and it becomes I Will Go Reach My World.

Reaching your world is to touch the heart and lives of someone in your center of influence, whether it be your own family, friends, neighborhood, or workplace.

Reaching your world is to show and tell the world the good news of the Savior.

Our Women's Ministries mission statement emphasizes that we are called to NURTURE our sisters, to EMPOWER them for service, and then to focus all that we have learned on OUTREACH to others.

I Will Go points to the importance of

NURTURING women in the church and new believers so we can grow in the power of the Holy Spirit.

EMPOWERING our sisters through training so we are equipped to help those in need.

REACHING OUT to tell and show the love God has for all people wherever they are with no distinction for race, culture, language, or gender.

We are each called, first to accept the gift of salvation that God so freely has offered us, then to live each day allowing the love of Christ to flow through us, and finally to reach out and touch and make a difference in our world with that love.

I will go reach my world. What about you?

If we unite in purpose and reach our individual worlds, we will together reach the whole world.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"—Isaiah 6:8, NIV

See videos on:

<https://women.adventist.org/i-will-go-reach-my-world>

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## TRUTH LINK



### COMPLETE SET OF BIBLE STUDIES ONLINE

Have you been looking for a new approach to your Bible Study? Look up Truth Link, a series of Christ-centered Bible studies.

Truth is not merely a list of abstract ideas or a collection of factual data. Rather, truth is an embodied reality, the sum total of which is to be found in the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Do you want to hear God's voice speaking to you, in your heart, through the pages of the Bible? Truth Link is a series of 27 Bible Study guides written specifically to enable you to see and experience the love of God. Discover. Connect. Experience. His love... Truth Link.

<https://truthlink.org/>

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## THE SHADOW PANDEMIC



### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Described as a shadow pandemic, domestic violence is a silent killer. And it happens in the Church more than you think.

It is tempting to see domestic violence (DV) as something that happens outside of the protective walls of the church. But this is false. Our colleagues, friends, family members or even church members could be suffering, often in silence.

It is important to acknowledge that not all family violence is physical. Our understanding of what constitutes violence in a family has changed over time.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviour intended to control another person in the family or in an intimate adult relationship; including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, sexual and spiritual abuse (or a combination).

"We had all of these women coming forward [saying] 'I wish he would hit me because then somebody could see the bruises and then they could believe how awful and how terrible it is to live with him'," says Adventist relationship counsellor and Avondale University College lecturer Paul Bogacs. "So we had to rethink—DV doesn't necessarily mean being hit. We now talk about different forms of DV; we talk about financial abuse, physical abuse, sexual, spiritual—all as different forms of DV, with the key underlying issue being control."

That element of control is really at the centre of all violence.

"To feel some power, to feel that you have some kind of control over something—even if it's what my wife does or doesn't do. That is domestic violence," says Pastor Bogacs. "Now, we see it on a spectrum, because power and control are issues in all relationships. What I look at as a couple's therapist is how much fear is there?"

Increased pressure and proximity during the time of COVID-19 mean that DV reports and incidents are rising, in number and frequency.

"Having people in close proximity with each other for a greater period of time is going to increase the opportunities for control," shares Pastor Bogacs. Being at home all day, every day, instead of the break that might be gained from employment or the freedom to go out or do things with the kids is taken away as families stay in close proximity. Financial pressures and job losses at this time are also making it hard.

"Does it happen in the Church? You bet," says Pastor Bogacs.

The premier Adventist study on DV was conducted in the US with more than 1400 participants (2006). Results showed that respondents fell within the same range as those in the community around them.<sup>5</sup> A qualitative research group from the same study showed that more than 90 per cent of the abusers were church members themselves, with five pastors, six elders, six deacons and a number of others who held church leadership positions (out of 40 interviews).

"Domestic violence certainly happens in the Christian church," agrees Dr Danijela Schubert from the South Pacific Division (SPD) Discipleship Ministries team. "If it's happening out there, it's happening in the Church. But if we are less willing to talk about

Dr Schubert sees the Church as more willing to talk about DV these days, championing awareness campaigns like EndItNow.

Church leaders in the SPD (South Pacific Division) have worked hard, both theologically and socially, making statements against DV and working to educate pastors and leaders. However, there is a gap between theory and practice at a

grassroots level, where culture and literalistic interpretations<sup>6</sup> of Scripture lead to propping up the secret stronghold of abuse.

Christians stay longer in abusive homes and spiritual abuse is always a component and damages the abused person's perception of God.<sup>5</sup>

"Many people have experienced answers [from the Church] that put victims off. It is a really important thing that the first time they come forward, victims are believed. If that doesn't happen, it is so much more difficult," says Dr Schubert.

This is an excerpt from an article by Jarrod Stackelroth in the Record - July 31, 2020. Read the whole article:

[https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/07/31/the-shadow-](https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/07/31/the-shadow-pandemic/?fbclid=IwAR3pXTV8QFrA47qMHeK0pNm4L8pFo3waKPZyHE2drX4Y2aJJTFRZTp4rRH8)

[pandemic/?fbclid=IwAR3pXTV8QFrA47qMHeK0pNm4L8pFo3waKPZyHE2drX4Y2aJJTFRZTp4rRH8](https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/07/31/the-shadow-pandemic/?fbclid=IwAR3pXTV8QFrA47qMHeK0pNm4L8pFo3waKPZyHE2drX4Y2aJJTFRZTp4rRH8)

August 22 is Enditnow Emphasis Day in Seventh-Day Adventist Churches.

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## NEW RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON MENTAL HEALTH

### PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS NEED HELP

DEPRESSION

There are wounds that carve scars on the body that are deeper and more painful than anything else could." -Laurie R. King



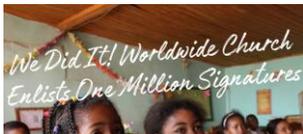
Just as Princes William and Harry have admitted, that they had to seek help for their problems with mental health, more people are admitting that they need help, too. It is not something to be ashamed of. The problem is that many people are afraid to seek professional help. Maybe this new resource for late teens/young adults from the North American Division Youth Department can be a first step in the right direction. Recently a psychiatrist, writer and a pastor got together to write a series on mental health. Topics include: Depression, Anxiety, Suicide/harm, Getting Help, Recovery Tools, Brain Training, and Staying Healthy. We believe this to be a much need resource for our young people. Please feel free to share this resource with your youth. Best of all, this resource is free!

Here is the link to the resources: <https://adventistyouthministries.org/resources/mental-health/mental-health-articles>

Mental Health for Young People: [women.eud.adventist.org/en/resources/](https://women.eud.adventist.org/en/resources/)

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## MORE THAN ONE MILLION SUPPORTERS FOR EVERY CHILD. EVERYWHERE. IN SCHOOL



### FIRST STEP TO IMPROVE EDUCATION POSSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN TAKEN

SILVER SPRING, MD (July 29, 2020) – The reality that all children around the world can have access to education is one step closer after the petition for Every Child. Everywhere. In School., spearheaded by the Adventist Church and its global humanitarian arm, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), surpassed one million online signatures in July. "It's indeed a blessing to see our global church family and ADRA standing up together in support of millions of children who don't have access to education around the world. Our brothers and sisters have shown that we can be a powerful voice for change when we work together. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach one million signatures and for your strong commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of so many children worldwide. But our work doesn't end here. We must now become agents of change in our communities and use our voices to ensure that every child, everywhere, has access to education and can reach God's potential for their lives as they prepare themselves and others through the power of the Holy Spirit for Jesus' soon coming," says Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

"Adventists around the world have spoken loudly and clearly that we care deeply about assuring access to education to millions of vulnerable children so that they can learn and thrive. The commitments of our church family and ADRA united to bring awareness to this global issue speak volumes. Thank you for standing up for the rights of all children everywhere. Let us continue to increase our efforts and magnify our voices on behalf of the children who have no voice," says Dr. Ella Simmons, ADRA board vice-chair and general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

#### Getting It Done

Grassroots efforts for the education campaign kicked-off in October 2019 with the Adventist Church and ADRA urging support for the nearly 300 million children, adolescents and youth globally—or one in every five—who are out of school,

according to a UNESCO report. This is a staggering number of children worldwide who need quality education, and live free from exploitation and intergenerational poverty. As a result, ADRA and Adventist church members in nearly 200 countries pledged their support to this issue, and momentum to get online signatures spread, including countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the South Pacific.

As the impact of the coronavirus grows, the importance for advocating for out-of-school children has significantly increased. Today, more families have become vulnerable due to joblessness, illness and other issues, which has affected their ability to pay for education leading to more children being out of school. In fact, there are 75 million school-aged children living in 35 crisis-affected countries who cannot get an education due to increased vulnerability, school closures and other issues as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a 2020 UNESCO report.

"We are facing a growing education gap, especially among vulnerable children. While one million signatures is a phenomenal milestone worth celebrating, we are only at the beginning. We are developing new global alliances with key organizations to amplify our voices. We need your ongoing support and commitment to ensure that we continue to make progress on this important issue. This is why we will be providing resources so that individuals, groups and churches, can speak up on this issue of access to education. We will also share essential details to give you a clear roadmap of what we need to advocate for. Let's join forces and take this initiative much further," says Michael Kruger, president for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

#### What Comes Next?

With the achievement of one million signatures and widespread support, the next step of the global campaign is for the Adventist Church and ADRA to come together to localize this effort in individual countries. The decisions about how education is delivered and funded are not made by global leaders, but by national and state leaders.

To localize this effort, the campaign will focus on the following:

Watch the video announcement : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXCs1KUUQvU>

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## ENDITNOW EMPHASIS DAY SERMON FOR AUGUST 22



### **A WOMAN IS HEALED BY JESUS ON A SABBATH**

This sermon by Pastor Anthony Kent is an original resource for the enditnow: Adventists Say No to Violence initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, written and presented for August 22, 2020, Enditnow Emphasis Day. Pastor Kent demonstrates from the story of the bent-over woman whom Jesus healed on a Sabbath at a synagogue (Luke 13:10-17) that the woman suffered spiritual abuse from the synagogue ruler and his supporters. More information: [women.adventist.org/enditnow-day](http://women.adventist.org/enditnow-day). Usually the Women's Ministries Department asks women to prepare material for the special Women's Ministries days. This year Anthony Kent was asked to prepare the sermon for the ENDITNOW Emphasis Day, which he did with much sensitivity and understanding for women.

Anthony Kent is associate ministerial secretary at the General Conference. He was elected to the General Conference in 2005. Anthony's ministry experience includes pastoring local churches, church planting, public evangelism as a union and division evangelist, as well as Ministerial Secretary for the South Pacific Division. He has also developed a Ministerial Internship Development and Training syllabus. Anthony's specialty is offering continuing education and professional growth opportunities for pastors. He hosts MINISTRYinMOTION a practical professional TV program for clergy and local church ministers. Currently he is pursuing a PhD through the University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia) in the New Testament, specifically Luke-Acts. Anthony is happily married to Debora and they have two daughters Chelsea and Georgia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TJS-5rAKPI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0qzZNQkljhBWyzSailG6pvUMzvl39yl8rMewdRUuyr7tBQtwSOw-RmeE>

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## THE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



### #SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 16 DID YOU KNOW?

The Women's Ministries Scholarship Program is established to give scholarships to women who are committed to serving the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who would otherwise be unable to afford a Christian education. Scholarship awards are based on academic achievement, financial need, and community outreach. Specific amounts of scholarship awards vary from year to year and are dependent on the amount of funds available. Any woman who is planning to attend a Seventh-day Adventist college in the division in which she lives is eligible. Primary consideration will be given to those in the last two years of college-level study. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need, ability, and the recipient's determination to improve herself. She must be committed to serve the Lord in whatever way He directs and committed to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In our division several former scholarship recipients are now working as pastors, chaplains, social workers, teachers, psychologists and in youth ministries. Donations can be given through the church treasurers.

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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](http://www.women.eud.adventist.org)

Dagmar Dorn  
Hannele [Ottshofski](#), Editor

Women's Ministries  
General Conference SDA  
Inter-European Division (EUD)  
Schosshaldenstr. 17  
CH - 3006 Bern

Mail: [dagmar.dorn@eud.adventist.org](mailto:dagmar.dorn@eud.adventist.org)