

women's ministries

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2020.18. September 28, 2020

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

WOMEN'S SABBATH IN GREIFSWALD, HANSE CONFERENCE, GERMANY



"DO NOT BE AFRAID!"

When in January 2020 we planned to hold a women's Sabbath in Greifswald in September, we had no idea that this might be almost impossible. Nobody thought about Corona and the consequences for almost all areas of life. Only in August a small team consisting of Karen, Susanne, Dörthe, Nancy and Ruth decided to organize the special Sabbath in detail.

Especially in this uncertain time with its many questions, such a day can be helpful for the participants. The topic "Attention, Fear! - Pay attention to your fears and keep them at a distance. How can you find God in this?" was meaningful for our time. In the morning sermon, Dörthe vividly demonstrated with the help of a travel bag packed with numerous worries, problems and fears, that we humans give all these packages to God in prayer. But then we often put these packages back one by one and start carrying the "care bag" again. Jesus says in John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Fears, worries and problems accompany us as humans. But Jesus offers a very personal solution. HE has overcome the world, in Him and with Him we can find peace, our inner being can be healed, fear no longer has a dominant place in our lives. These thoughts were deepened in the afternoon. In a casual round of talks, personal experiences and stories were shared based on Bible passages saying "Fear not". A delicious lunch and refreshments on the sunny terrace rounded off the pleasant atmosphere of the day. Singing and cheerful sharing of experiences almost made us forget that we still live in Corona times. It was a blessed day all in all. At the end of the day, the participating women agreed: We would like to do something like this again. And then maybe with even more participants. The future is in God's hands and nobody knows what the coming year will bring. If it is His will, there will be a women's Sabbath in Greifswald on September 11, 2021.

Reported by Ruth Bohnefeldt (Greifswald church) Photo: Karen Carmienke

WALDFRIEDE HOSPITAL THANKS CAFÉ CREATIV IN LÜBECK



STAR BEDS FOR STILLBORN CHILDREN

The Café Creativ of the Lübeck church in the Hanse Conference has supported Waldfriede Hospital over the last years with beautifully sewn star beds. Chaplain Gerhard Menn of Waldfriede Hospital has now expressed his sincere gratitude for the work of the group who sew little star beds (blankets) for stillborn children to be buried in.

Four years ago, Waldfriede Hospital had to work out a concept at very short notice as to how to deal with stillborn children. In Germany a hospital where a child is stillborn is responsible for these children who never had a chance to live. Every woman who has ever lost a child even in the early weeks of pregnancy knows how painful these moments are, when life seems to stop.

It is the most brutal thing that can happen to a mother. Pastoral care is very important in these sad moments. This offer is accepted by people of all religions and denominations. The hospital staff accompany the families when they want to say goodbye to their child and offer a space of mourning when funerals are conducted. Each child is placed in his or her own

little box and wrapped in a star bed made by the women of the Café Creativ. Each star bed has a little heart, which is made of the same fabric as the bed. At the end of the ceremony a midwife presents the mother with the heart, which is made of the same fabric as the bed in which the child is laid, and a non-lighted candle for the unlived life of the child to commemorate the moment. This is an incredibly meaningful symbol. Parents pick up these hearts and feel emotionally connected to their children.



The other great and blessed help from Café Creativ are bags that patients with an artificial bowel outlet can get and slip over a transparent so-called stoma bag. This covering helps them come to terms with their condition.

Gerhard Menn expressed heartfelt thanks to the team around Sandra Groß, saying that their work is meaningful mission service. Mission is to show people in the name of God that they are not left alone, so that they find special comfort and are motivated to live.

Photos: Café Creativ

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES ADVISORY FOR THE GERMAN UNIONS AND CONFERENCES VIA ZOOM FROM SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2020



REPORTS AND PLANS

At the Advisory meetings it was our pleasure to welcome Dagmar Dorn, EUD WM Director, in our midst. On Friday evening we took the time to report on what has taken place in our conferences in the past months. Due to Covid-19, some weekend retreats had to be cancelled, but nevertheless women have been meeting each other. They have become very creative and have met in smaller groups, either in a garden or via Zoom, to pray together, exchange ideas and develop creative ideas on how to reach women and families in the area.

After a motivating sermon on Sabbath by Dagmar Dorn, we took up our agenda with concentration and motivation. We talked about new material, events and about the success of our two Instagram accounts (girls4christ.de and women4christ.de). It is worthwhile to subscribe to them as Instagram users. Reported by Gabi Waldschmidt
Photo: From left to right, upper row: Angelika Pfaller, North and South German Unions; Dany Canedo, Mid-Rhine Conference; Cornelia Warning, Lower Saxony/Bremen Conference; Dagmar Dorn, EUD; Mareen Krumreich-Mutamba, responsible for Instagram; Gabi Waldschmidt, North and South German Unions; Gabriele Stangl, Berlin-Mid-German Conference; Nancy Duske, Hanse Conference; Jasmin Stanoschefskey, Baden-Württemberg Conference; Olga Scharf, North-Rhine Westfalia Conference

SPANISH WOMEN MEET BY ZOOM WITH RAQUEL ARRAIS



ENCOURAGEMENT IN DIFFICULT TIMES

In the month of July the EUD Women's Ministries director facilitated a ZOOM meeting with Raquel Arrais, Assistant Director of GCWM. About 60 women attended the online meeting, at which Raquel reached our hearts with her joy and enthusiasm. Her inspired words touched a sensitive chord in our lives. The text he chose to share with us was Isaiah 43: 18,19NIV

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." It is interesting that the Lord says he is making a way in the wilderness. God is preparing something new, something better through the deserts of our lives. Moses found God in the desert, as did Elijah, Ezekiel, and John the Baptist. Just as these great heroes of faith found God in the desert, each one of us must allow God to restore and heal our life every day so that we can meet our God. Our feet may be tired from passing through the desert, but by the power of God, our soul can find rest. So don't remember the former things but concentrate on the new things God will do. He will make a way in the desert and create rivers in barren land.

Reported by Amalia Reta, WM Director, Spanish Union

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN SPAIN TRAIN GUIDANCE COUNSELORS



PLATFORM AGAINST ABUSE - ENDITNOW

Last June the Women's Ministries department organized a seminar presented by Sara Hernández (Senior counselor for gender equality) : "Love doesn't hurt", identifying abuse in family and couple relationships. She touched on identifying abusive treatment as well as the background. She helped to see how people get into such a situation as well as what can be done in prevention. The seminar was very positive and was attended by 150 women. At the end of 2019, the Women's Ministries Department in Spain scheduled visits in 2020 in all areas of Spain, at which pastors, Women's Ministries leaders and counselors together for a training course against gender violence. Due to COVID-19 these visits had to be canceled. Seeing that gender violence was accentuated by the confinement, a ZOOM seminar was organized together with the Ministerial Association. Two sessions of 4 hours each on Sabbath afternoons were held. The response of the pastors to this event was very encouraging. We continue to work with enthusiasm on our platform against abuse, wishing to be able to be a

light for thousands of women who find themselves in a situation of domestic violence.

Continuing with our project, on Wednesday July 15th Women's Ministries leaders and future Guidance Counselors met by ZOOM. These counselors are women with a special sensitivity who are appointed in each church to serve women who are experiencing gender-based violence. A group of more than 40 women who have the desire provide emotional support to abused women in a crisis situation enrolled to be trained so that they can inform victims about existing resources and guide and refer them to specialized help while being a support and guidance for the community. They were provided with all the information necessary to be able to create a RESOURCE GUIDE.

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 25TH ANNIVERSARY ARCHIVE

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

DID YOU KNOW?



This year Women's Ministries celebrates 25 years as a full department of the Seventh-Day Adventist World Church. In order to celebrate this anniversary we will be posting short information snippets under the title "Did you know?" in WM 25 on social media and our homepage from June 4 to September 6, 2020.

From June 4 to September 6 2020 we have been posting small information snippets on social media and the EUD WM homepage. If you want to look something up you will find the posts in our Event archive on:

<https://women.eud.adventist.org/index.php?id=319>

We hope you enjoyed getting to know more about Women's Ministries in general and particularly about Women's Ministries in the Inter-European Division

CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



#SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 26 DID YOU KNOW?

Women's Ministries began in 1996 under the leadership of Pavla Sustkova, who continued in this position until her retirement in 2014. With Renata Chlebkova the leadership passed into younger hands from 2014 to 2017. During this time Women's Ministries launched a new website in 2016: <http://sluzbazenam.cz/>

The current director is Iveta Halešová. Women's Ministries organizes weekend meetings and congresses for women in the various conferences of this Union which is made up of Czechia and Slovakia; comprising the Bohemian, Moravia-Silesian, and Slovakian Conferences.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN THE FRANCO-BELGIAN UNION



#SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 25 DID YOU KNOW?

As in so many other regions Women's Ministries in the Franco-Belgian Union started in 1996 when Josiane Beaugard was appointed to start a ministry for women. She continued in this position until 2013 when Alicia Denteneer took over the leadership in the Union, which consists of the North France, South France and Belgium-Luxembourg Conferences. The current

WM director Corina Timofté was appointed in 2019. Women's Ministries in this region has organized several conferences for women and is also engaged in promoting the enditnow initiative.

ITALIAN UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



#SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 24 DID YOU KNOW?

Women's Ministries began in 1996-97 in the Italian Union. Franca Zucca was the first and only director until her retirement when Lina Ferrara Caratelli was appointed as the national coordinator. The first few years were focused on the spiritual nourishment of our sisters. Spiritual retreats and congresses were organized at national and district levels. Later they

focused on training and promoted the Leadership Certification courses. About 35 women completed the certification. These programs were made possible through the collaboration of international and national guests and experts. Another important topic was the Enditnow campaign. Information material on violence against women was prepared and shared with our church members, etc. The department is fortunate to have three consecrated women

who have been active in leading Women's Ministries for years in the fields to which they belong: Abigaela, Santa and Katia (northern, southern Italy and Sicily).

The department has faced many challenges at the beginning and the challenges still continue but we count on the help of our Lord.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN THE BULGARIAN UNION



#SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 – 23 DID YOU KNOW?

The Women's Ministries Department in Bulgaria started in 2000 with Jordanka Dimitrova as its first director. Other leaders were Dobromira Vasileva (2001 – 2005), Emilia Stoykova (2005 – 2015), Yana Bumbalova (2015 – 2018), and currently Gabriela Kudinova from 2018 to the present. WM organize an annual Women's Forum with guest speakers which is also broadcast on HopeTV. Sometimes the Forum is held in some interesting foreign city, combining sightseeing with inspirational meetings. In 2016 WM organized a convention for Roma women which was attended by 350 women. Their work for the prevention of abuse is much appreciated in schools. There is also a Ladies Club that meets every six weeks featuring professionals in psychology or medicine as well as a devotional topic. On social media encouraging Bible verses are posted every morning and evening. Helping people with financial challenges by giving aid packages is an ongoing project. During the Corona crisis WM has made and donated 600 face coverings. May God continue to bless the Women's Ministries work in Bulgaria.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN PORTUGAL



#SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 22 DID YOU KNOW?

Women's Ministries in Portugal started in the same year as the General Conference Women's Ministries Department. Portugal has had six Women's Ministries leaders, all with a great passion and vision for our women, centered in three points:

1. Spiritual growth,
2. Multiple needs and problems of women in general,

3. Missionary projects.

It's amazing how this ministry has a kind of mirror effect for women in leadership and has proved to be a benefit to the church in Portugal. The leaders in Portugal were: Eunice Dias, Maria Rosa Nunes, Guida Esteves, Hortelinda Gal, Milú Cordeiro, and currently Paula Amorim.

How good that we can celebrate this important progress together. Happy 25th anniversary to WM!

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<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

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