



# I Will Go Reach My World



"We have different gifts according to the grace given us..." —ROMANS 12:6, NIV

A MINISTRY FOR EVERY WOMAN



2020.20. October 28, 2020

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

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### EXPERIENING SUNRISE WITH GIRLS4CHRIST ON SABBATH MORNING



#### Creation Sabbath at the Beach

Experiencing Sunrise with Girls4Christ on Sabbath Morning

Creation Sabbath at the Beach

On October 24, 2020 a small but pleasant girls4christ group met at the beach in Scharbeutz. Together we experienced a cloudy but still very beautiful sunrise.

We then warmed up with kids punch and cocoa, which we enjoyed with cake and cookies.

When we were all nicely warmed up we listened to the sound of the sea and a devotional talk

by Kirsten Bittner. We were able to take with us the fact that each one of us has received a mission from God to share His love with others. Finally we took a walk to end the nice morning.

Reported by Anna Bittner, G4C Hanse Conference, Germany

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### MATERIAL FOR WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AVAILABLE



#### I WILL GO

As each year, the Women's Ministries Department has prepared a material packet to be used on the Women's International Day of Prayer on the first Sabbath in March. This year's sermon that women around the globe will be using to organize church services on this date, was written by Danijela Schubert of the South Pacific Division. She has completed two master's

degrees and a doctorate and published two books. At present, Schubert serves as Discipleship Team Member for Women in the South Pacific Division in Australia and has also served as Associate Division Secretary, and Assistant to the Division President. She served as Head of the Religion Department in Pakistan, Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Papua New Guinea. Schubert was born in the Mediterranean city of Pula, Croatia (formerly in the territory of Yugoslavia). With her husband Branimir, whom she met in a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school, she has lived in France, the Philippines, and Australia before her employment with the Church began. They have two adult sons.

The material packet includes a sermon on the topic "I will go" as well as a seminar on overcoming obstacles in life as well as another seminar on prayer.

We hope that the women in many churches will come together to pray and worship God on this special day of prayer.

The material will soon be translated into most languages of the Inter-European Division. To access the material in

English go to: <https://women.eud.adventist.org/en/resources/>

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## WOMEN IN FRANCE CONDUCT WEBSEMINAR ON COMMUNICATION



### LEARNING TO COMMUNICATE

Women are on the front lines of the global epidemic, through their roles in churches and workplaces. According to a recent study their stress levels have increased by 47%. The mental burden they shoulder in the family and in society due to school work, deterioration of their finances, loss of confidence in their professional future, is the cause of isolation for some women. Communication is part of our mission. More than ever, we are called upon to communicate intelligently and effectively, in order to soothe and connect with people who are

alone or in difficult situations.

The importance of this subject led the Women's Ministries director for the North France Conference, Enide CADASSE, to organize a virtual conference via Zoom, in order to reach a maximum of people with more than 140 active connections. The guest speaker of this meeting, Karine ELOIDIN, pastor and treasurer of the conference, said: "communication is essential for the fulfillment of the human being".

There is no theory of communication, but simply a communication strategy that must be adapted according to the interlocutor and the context. In this sense, Karine and Leslie, the psychologist, responded to the many questions asked during the time of exchanges devoted to this topic.

The Bible says: „Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be“ James 3:10 NIV. Do we hurt people or do we bring healing with our tongue?

God communicates with us using the best possible strategy. The Word, dreams, people, and for each of us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore let the Lord communicate with you in whatever way He sees fit for each one of you so that you in turn may learn to communicate in a healthy way in your families, your churches and our society.

May your lips always be full of grace

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## ADVENTIST CHURCH AND ADRA GEAR UP FOR SECOND PHASE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN



### EVERY CHILD. EVERYWHERE. IN SCHOOL

Adventist Development and Relief Agency starts second phase of Every Child. Everywhere. In School. initiative.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church and its global humanitarian arm, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), announced the second phase of the Every Child. Everywhere. In School. campaign during this year's global church leadership meetings on October 13, 2020.

The joint initiative will now mobilize government support in countries around the world through the Adventist Church's 22-million-plus membership — including individuals, church ministries, schools, and partners — to influence positive change so that every child can have access to education.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has created even greater challenges for the most vulnerable children,” Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, said. “Ninety-four percent of the world's student population has been impacted by this crisis. It is our responsibility as a global church to ensure that we care for children as God cares for us.

“The Adventist Church has one of the largest Christian educational systems in the world, and with more than 22 million church members globally, we have the moral and Christian obligation to ensure that every child, everywhere has access to a quality education, regardless of race, religion, or circumstance,” Wilson added.

The first phase of the grassroots advocacy effort kicked off in October 2019 with a petition drive aimed at collecting a million online signatures by 2020, to raise awareness and support for the millions of children, adolescents, and youth globally who lack education. According to the latest report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) data, one out of five children and youth are out of school, and the coronavirus pandemic is responsible for the largest disruption in history, affecting 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries, across every continent.

The Every Child. Everywhere. In School. campaign surpassed its one-million-petition goal in July 2020. ADRA and Adventist Church members in nearly 200 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the South Pacific pledged their support to call on world leaders, local governments, and decisionmakers to take action to improve children's education everywhere.

"We have laid the groundwork for the next phase of this campaign. Now we have a unique opportunity to focus on an issue that has affected nearly every child around the world during the pandemic, a problem that will only worsen unless we step up and speak out," Michael Kruger, president of ADRA, said.

"This is why, in partnership with the global Adventist church, we will be reaching out to government leaders, lawmakers, and citizens to advocate for more investments in education and better access for all children, so that they can play a strong role in building healthy and prosperous communities and nations."

Advocacy in Progress: The Next Phase of Every Child. Everywhere. In School.

The second phase of the Every Child. Everywhere. In School. campaign will engage Adventist church members globally to advocate to policymakers to take concrete steps to achieve education goals for children.

As part of this effort, the campaign has published "The Global Education Report Every Child. Everywhere. In School. What It's Going to Take," which will serve as a roadmap to help governments and advocates identify critical areas where policy changes are required to improve children's education in their own communities. Those areas include financing education, inclusion in education, quality and retention in education, and the impact of education in natural disaster and crisis.

"It is time to encourage world leaders and policymakers to value education and to make the necessary changes to meet the educational needs of children around the world. We must work together to enable children to succeed in school, and live free from exploitation and poverty," Kruger said.

Policy Priorities

The three key priorities of the second phase of the campaign will focus on (1) increasing education funding in developing countries; (2) increasing foreign aid among wealthy nations to support education in low-income countries; and (3) improving educational and social inclusion for marginalized students, especially girls and children with disabilities.

You can download additional resources from the ADRA site.

The original version of this release was posted by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

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## EFFECTIVELY CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### DOMESTIC ABUSE – BEING A PART OF THE SOLUTION



Effectively confronting the Challenge of Domestic Violence

Dr. David Williams, Honorary Associate of Health Ministries for the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists presented a challenging message to church leaders during the Annual Council session of October 12th. His presentation centered on the EndItNow – Effectively Confronting Domestic Violence initiative.

Watch the presentation: [youtu.be/nqAp5ybEnAA](https://youtu.be/nqAp5ybEnAA)

#### Alarming Statistics

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life". These acts can present themselves in physical, sexual, economic, or psychological ways. In 2018, the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime reported that, "the home is the single most dangerous place for women" because "a female runs a greater risk of assault, physical injury and murder in her home than in any other setting." Recent studies have shown that women make up 82% of the total homicides that occur by intimate partners or family members; that is equal to approximately 50,000 women a year that die at the hands of an intimate partner or family member, or six women killed every hour, by someone they know. Currently, Africa has the highest rate of violence against women, followed by the Americas.

#### The Case in the Church

Unfortunately, violence against women is also prominent and an issue in the Church. The Seventh-day Adventist Church may be, both especially prone to domestic violence cases and yet have a protective measure at the same time. This is explained by the fact that domestic violence is said to be more common in small, theologically conservative religious groups. At the same time, domestic violence is twice as likely in families where the spouses belong to different religions. Given the low rate of Adventists marrying outside of their faith, this is likely a protective barrier. However, a random sample study conducted in 2006 of 1,431 Seventh-day Adventists from 70 churches across a five state region, found that 46% of survey participants reported that they experienced common couple violence, 29% reported experiencing sexual

violence, while 10% reported severe physical violence. Though Dr. Williams shared several statistical figures, he emphatically declared, “the bottom line is [that] sexual harassment is common.”

### **The Church as Part of the Solution**

Although there have been several laws formulated over recent years to end violence against women and help protect them from violence, there has been no progress in protecting and saving the lives of female victims and the number of female deaths from intimate partners is steadily increasing. So, what can be done? Williams encouraged listeners that while the church may not realistically be able to find a solution to the problem, “there is much that can be done that is central to the role of the church in society.”

### **Be Aware, Engage, Support**

Dr. Williams presented a three-fold action plan for the church: Be Aware, Engage, and Support. Firstly he said, “the church must take a decided stand on the issue of abuse and regularly provide messages in sermons, in workshops, in seminars, in classes, in marriage enrichment activities and premarital counseling that domestic abuse is inappropriate, is un-Christlike and is wrong.”

In addition, he expressed the Church should work to educate and train its leaders, members, institutional workers, and pastors in regard to abuse. This will help eliminate the stigma and ignorance that is currently associated with domestic violence cases. Oftentimes, victims of domestic violence are afraid to speak to their church members, pastors, or leaders about what they are going through due to the shame and stigma associated with these cases. Additionally, part of being aware includes raising awareness through the use of posters, cards, leaflets and social media or their webpage. Most importantly, the Church needs to acknowledge the real pain that victims of sexual and/or physical abuse are subject to, as well as provide methods to help them heal, while also providing confrontation methods and assistance for abusers.

While increasing awareness, the Church should become engaged, which “involves the church becoming a safe place, with more considered actions being taken by the congregation and leadership [of the church].” Williams encouraged the use of online resources, books, and local experts to help church members and leaders understand the issue of domestic abuse.

Most importantly, churches need to support victims of domestic abuse in any way they can. Dr. Williams presented practical steps the Church can take to help combat domestic abuse, such as appointing a respected person(s) that can offer support or referral services, working with local organizations, and helping men acknowledge their problem and provide counseling to help them become true Christian men.

### **Exercising Love**

Dr. Williams ended his compelling presentation reminding church leaders that the church must act on this issue, as we have been commissioned to “...serve one another.” – Galatians 5:13 KJV

Reported by ANAIS ANDERSON, ANN

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#### 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 Ottschofski, 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)