

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



2021.09. March 25, 2021

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

EUD Women's Ministries Department Leaders Meeting

REGULAR ZOOM MEETINGS



On March 21, 2021 the EUD WM Directors team met virtually by zoom, facilitated by Dagmar Dorn, EUD WM Director. An advantage of the digital media is that meetings can be organized more often and the leaders can get to know each other better and thus a real leaders' network is built up where challenges can be shared. It is good to hear from each other, share ideas and possibilities about how women can actively minister in these challenging times. These exchanges are encouraging.

This time we had the privilege of welcoming Mario Brito, the EUD president, as a special guest. He expressed his appreciation and support, emphasizing how important the Women's Ministries Department is for the church and our mission. With his benediction he gave a special blessing that will strengthen our efforts.

Unfortunately, not all women were able to join in the meeting. Such networking meetings are planned on a regular basis about once each quarter.

Reported by Dagmar Dorn, EUD WM Director

The Art of Forgiveness



WOMEN'S ACADEMY ON YOUTUBE

On March 16, 2021, Spanish women were able to join in a program of continued education – Women's Academy – presented by the psychologist Sharloth Diaz on how to cope with emotional wounds in an online seminar called "The Art of Forgiveness." The participants of the zoom

meeting expressed their appreciation and called the presentation excellent. The program can be viewed through the link: www.youtube.com/watch

International Women's Day of Prayer



ADVENTIST WOMEN IN SPAIN ORGANIZE CHURCH SERVICES

Each year, on the International Women's Day of Prayer, Adventist women in Spain take up the opportunity to be seen in their churches as they present the program of this special Women's Ministries Day. Many churches usually participate. This year we have received news from Toledo and the Ephesus church in Madrid. Women are happy to be involved in church programs and invest a lot of time and energy in the preparation of the programs and the decorations. God is sure to hear all prayers. This year's topic was the motto "I will go – Reach my world,"

echoing the answer to God's call that Isaiah gave, "Lord send me". Many women of the Bible also answered God's call and were ready to go where He called them to go.

ADVENTIST WOMEN OF THE PAST (3)



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

EPPNER, LILLE (1890–1982)

By Jean-Michel Martin, and Eudritch Jean

Lille Eppner was one of the first female administrators at a conference level and also served the Adventist Church as a Bible worker, teacher, and accountant.

Early Years, Baptism, and Early Career

Lille Eppner was born July 24, 1890, in Cortaillod, Canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, to Marie-Elsa and Arthur-Henry Eppner. She did her primary and secondary education near Neuchâtel, in Cortaillod and Grandchamps, respectively. However, in May 1907, she dropped out of school and started working as a housekeeper. Seven years later, she embraced Seventh-day Adventism and was baptized at the age of 24. At that time, Eppner was working in Lausanne, Switzerland, as a secretary in the office of Mr. Meyer. Following her baptism, her employers granted her Sabbath privileges due to their deep satisfaction with her personal and professional involvement. She did not have children and remained single her whole life.

Ministry as Bible Worker, Administrator, and Teacher

Lille Eppner worked in Meyer's office until September 1917 and then was elected secretary-treasurer of the Adventist Mission in Paris, France. However, she was not allowed to travel from Lausanne to Paris until the end of World War I. While staying in Switzerland, she was introduced to accounting. In the meantime, she served in the Lemman Conference, where she worked until 1919 as a Bible worker and a secretary for H. H. Dexter, Vital Monnier, Oscar Meyer, and Ulysse Augsburg.

In 1919 Eppner moved to Paris and worked as a Bible worker and a secretary alongside Léon-Paul Tièche, then president of the Latin Union Conference. The following year she was elected treasurer of the Alsace and Lorraine Conference. At the same time, she was made secretary-treasurer and departmental director for Sabbath School of the French Conference. Eppner kept her position in the Latin Union Conference for two years and stayed on duty in the French Conference until 1922. Afterwards, she went to Collonges-sous-Salève, France, and started a teaching career at the Latin Union Training School (now Séminaire Adventiste du Salève).

Eppner worked at the Adventist seminary until 1946. During this period of 24 years, she taught courses related to commerce. In addition to teaching duties, she was the secretary of the seminary principal until 1930, and also served as registrar (1936-1945) and treasurer (1939-1945). At the end of her career at this educational institution, she moved to Berne, Switzerland, and worked for the Southern European Division, where she served as an assistant treasurer and accountant.

Last Years

Eppner worked for the division until 1957 and then retired in Gland, Switzerland. Upon her retirement she dedicated herself in the first years to writing an autobiography and caring for her mother, who had moved in with her. However, she became sick in 1976 and moved to La Lignière (Lake Geneva Sanitarium). She stayed at the medical center until her death on January 8, 1982. She was then 92 years old.

Contribution

Lille Eppner served the Adventist Church as Bible worker, administrator, teacher, and accountant for about four decades. She can be considered a model of dedication and versatility. Throughout her teaching career, she contributed to the personal development of hundreds of young people. However, her main legacy lies in the leadership positions she occupied at the conference level. She was one of the first female administrators in European Adventism.

Adventist Encyclopedia

Photo: archivesadventistes.org Eppner is third from left on the front row.

ADVENTIST WOMEN OF THE PAST (4)



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Galladzheva-Löbsack (Lebsak), Amalia (1891–1942)

By Daniel Heinz, and Dmitry O. Yunak

Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack was an Adventist lay pastor in the Soviet Union. She and her husband, Aleksei Galladzhiev, were pioneer workers in Georgia and Armenia. Both husband and wife were imprisoned during the times of massive religious repression in the Soviet Union. Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack was executed on February 4, 1942. Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack represents many women from the Soviet Union who served the Church in trying times and whose names we do not know.

Early Life

Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack was born May 5, 1891, to Heinrich Johannes and Maria Katharina Löbsack, in the village of Fran in the region of Saratov in southwestern Russia. Her father H. J. Löbsack was a leading Adventist minister and missionary in Russia and the former Soviet regions. Amalia was the oldest of five siblings. She and her brother, Georg Samuel, studied at the Friedensau Adventist Mission Seminary in Germany. After graduating as a nurse, Amalia worked in Leipzig and in Pforzheim, Germany, as a medical home missionary.

Ministry and Marriage

In 1920, at the request of her father, president of the All-Union Council of Seventh-day Adventists, Amalia returned to Russia to serve as a secretary and Bible worker, taking the place of her sister Rahel (Rachel) who had died of typhoid that year in Kiev at the age of 20.

In 1928 Amalia married Aleksei Georgievich Galladzhev, an Adventist pastor of Armenian background, ordained the same year to the gospel ministry. Until then he had served as a Bible worker and secretary at the office of the Moscow Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1930 Galladzhev was sent to serve as a pastor in the city of Tbilisi, Georgia, and was president of the Transcaucasian Mission Field. Childless, the Galladzhevs adopted in 1935, five-year-old Rosanna, a girl from a German colonist family, Pabst.

Later Years

In 1939 the arrest of Aleksei Galladzhev on charges of “religious propaganda” left Amalia alone with Rosanna. Along with being a caring single mother, Amalia continued to support her arrested husband for almost two years by taking him food. Amalia’s mother moved to be with her daughter. Amalia’s father, Heinrich J. Löbsack, who had served as president of the Adventist Church in the Soviet Union, was no longer alive, having become a victim of religious persecution. Both mother and daughter now cared for the spiritual welfare of the small Tbilisi Adventist congregation that Aleksei Galladzhev had formerly served. This was typical for that part of the world. During Stalin’s persecution in the 1930s, when most of pastors were arrested, women took care of churches. They did not perceive themselves as pastors; they just continued to do what should be done to keep a church alive.

In 1941 Amalia got a letter from the German Consulate in Tbilisi regarding her brother’s (Georg Samuel, a successful and wealthy journalist in Germany who died in 1936) inheritance. She refused to be a recipient of her brother’s inheritance. However, the news about the letter and her visit to the German Consulate got reported to the NKVD (i.e. KGB) by her neighbors or by the post office. Since the country was at war with Germany, this visit was considered a crime. Amalia was followed and arrested the same day and sentenced by a military tribunal as a “spy” or “secret German intelligence,” to a long term of imprisonment in a forced labor camp. Little Rosanna and her grandmother were left behind with little or nothing to live on.

Soon after, as the German troops rapidly advanced on the Soviet regions, the Soviet government ordered banishment of all people of German origin from the western part of the USSR. Maria Katharina Löbsack, together with Rosanna and others, was deported to Soviet Central Asia near the city of Tashkent. Maria’s younger daughter, Martha, and her daughter, Ruth, were deported in the other direction, one thousand kilometers away from Maria and Rosanna.

After several years of imprisonment, Aleksei Galladzhev was released while the fate of Amalia, at first, remained unknown. He took Rosanna in while Maria Katharina Löbsack moved to the city of Alma-Ata to live with her youngest daughter Martha. In 1946 Aleksei Galladzhev, who began serving as a pastor in Moscow, requested information about his wife from the KGB headquarters on Lubyanka. He was orally informed that his wife Amalia was executed by shooting near the city of Tbilisi on February 4, 1942. Ten years later, in 1956, while living in Ukraine, he made another request. This time he was given Amalia’s death certificate with the same date. It was stated in the certificate that she died. Her family was convinced that she was seen as a “German spy” and was executed shortly after her arrest.

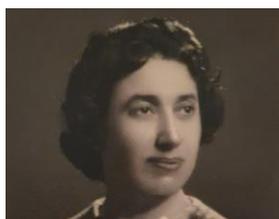
Contribution

Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack was one of the Seventh-day Adventist female workers in the Soviet Union. She and her husband were pioneer workers in Georgia and Armenia. She became a martyr whose unyielding faith and dedication served as an example for church members during the times of massive religious repression in the Soviet Union.

Adventist Encyclopedia

Photo courtesy of Nina and Pavel Kulakov. Amalia and her brother Georg Samuel Lebsak.

ADVENTIST WOMEN OF THE PAST (5)



WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Farah, Aida Ghazal (1924–2012)

By Raja D. Farah

Aida Ghazal Farah was an educator, Bible worker, college dean of women, church musician, and youth leader in Lebanon.

Aida Ghazal Farah was born May 8, 1924, in Mousaitbeh, Beirut, Lebanon. Her parents, Melki and Maryam Ghazal, were converted from another Protestant denomination to the Seventh-day Adventist faith shortly after World War I. They were

among the first national pioneers of the Adventist Church in Lebanon. Aida was their eldest child. Her three younger brothers, Mousa, Boutros, and George, served the Church in Lebanon and abroad in various ministries.¹

In 1929, at the age of five, Aida was one of the first seven students to attend the newly-established Adventist School in Mousaitbeh, Beirut (École Adventiste). Before completing her secondary education at the age of 17, she was asked by Church leadership to attend the Evangelical School for Girls (known as the British School), to study the art of teaching. That same year she began her teaching ministry for the Church as an elementary teacher in the Adventist school. In 1951, Aida taught for one school year in the Adventist School in Aramoun, Mount Lebanon.

That year she also received a certificate in piano performance from the Lebanese National Music Conservatory. In 1952, Aida was called to serve as a Bible instructor. She went from house to house, visiting people and giving Bible studies. One of her more interesting contacts was a retired army officer in Sidon, South Lebanon. She labored in this challenging ministry for eight years. During this time she worked on and completed her secondary education in 1956 from the secondary division of Middle East College. In 1960 she received a call to serve as dean of women at the college. It was then when she was able to begin her tertiary education.

Aida dedicated her working years to serving Jesus Christ, His church, and its institutions. She taught subjects such as Arabic, English, and French, as well as Bible, arithmetic, music, physical education, and all the Missionary Volunteer Society classes. She also conducted choirs, including the college's Arabic language choir. Aida was one of the first women in the church in Lebanon to receive a Master Guide in the MV Society. She preached the word of God to many people and led several to Jesus Christ and biblical truth, including baptism and church membership. She also served the local churches where she was a member (Mousaitbeh, Ashrafieh, Boushrieh, and College Park) in several ministries, but especially in music ministry, playing the piano and the organ during worship services and organizing the music for church and school events. She was often invited by other Christian denominations and youth organizations to lead out in music performance and to teach national songs and anthems. During her time as dean of women at Middle East College, Aida was engaged and then married on March 5, 1961, to Deeb S. Farah, a new convert to the Seventh-day Adventist faith to whom she had given Bible studies for a number of years. Shortly after, Aida took a sabbatical for eight years to serve as housewife and mother of three children: Raja, Salim, and Mary. All three are currently serving the church in Lebanon or abroad. Aida preferred to homeschool her three children during the first stages of their kindergarten and elementary education. However, in 1968 she accepted a call to return to the teaching ministry at the Mousaitbeh Adventist Secondary School. In 1976, due to the war in Lebanon, she transferred to the Boushrieh Adventist Secondary School where she taught various academic subjects, including Bible, and served as the principal's secretary. Aida Ghazal Farah served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lebanon for 39 years, until her retirement in 1988. She was a witness to and a part of the development and growth of the local church and its institutions in Lebanon from an early age and for more than half a century. In the summer of 2006, she gradually began to slip into dementia, and on January 16, 2012, she fell asleep in the hope of the resurrection. Her life, words, and actions testify that she was a faithful wife, mother, educator, and disciple of Jesus Christ; for she knew in Whom she believed.

Adventist Encyclopedia

Photo courtesy of Raja Farah.

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