



# I Will Go Reach My World



NURTURE



EMPOWER



OUTREACH

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

A MINISTRY FOR EVERY WOMAN



2021.16. June 30, 2021

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

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### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IN SWITZERLAND



#### LEVEL 3 IN ST. STEPHAN FROM JUNE 24-27, 2021

How exciting it was to finally be able to come together to a leadership seminar in person after 15 months of virtual life in beautiful Switzerland! Having lived a large part of my life in Switzerland, it was a great adventure for me personally to head back to the mountains after 22 years. Our anticipation was not dampened by the thunderstorms we encountered on our way. During the short round of introductions, we realized that our group was quite international, with 22 women from Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium. Our parentage and family ties made us even more international. This was also an excellent introduction to our first topic, which was: "Encountering other cultures".

On Friday, we dealt with a total of four topics: "Women in the New Testament", "E.G. White and Women", "My personality", "Recognizing and using spiritual gifts".

On Sabbath we were allowed to sing again, although with masks, it was simply beautiful to praise our heavenly Father together. We had more to discover. What is "Spiritual Mentoring"? How does it work? What is there to consider? We also dealt with women in the New Testament in a completely new way. It was simply exciting to get to know individual women of the Bible more closely in small groups using new methods. I learned new concepts. Or have you ever heard of parallel or chiasmic structure?

In the afternoon when we learned about presenting sermons and devotional talks, it went very deep and at the same time, the exchange in the workshops was fun. Sunday was reserved for our Enditnow topic, which is something we are passionate about.

The presentations of the different topics were very varied and authentic. Many thanks to our speakers. It was nice to see how they were fully committed to the cause.

Also, our physical well-being was well taken care of with a lot of variety and love. I always thought that these seminars are for younger women and I don't need them, but I found out that it is worthwhile for all ages and I benefited fully. Not only the topics but also the fellowship was a real enrichment. Thanks be to our heavenly Father that we were able to experience all of this.

I hope I have made you a little curious and that you will want to take part in the next leadership seminar. Reported by Dorothea Starek née Hausmann

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR FOR BOTH GERMAN UNIONS RETIRES



### ANGELIKA PFALLER MADE AN IMPACT ON WM IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Angelika Pfaller has reached her well-deserved retirement and will be stepping down from her position as Women's Ministries Director in the North and South German Unions as of June 30, 2021. Beginning in 2013 at the South German Union and a couple of years later in the North German Union as well, Angelika was responsible for the work of the Women's Ministries Department. She did this with great commitment and heart and soul. Her calm, thoughtful, mediating, and warm-hearted manner made her popular at home and abroad.

Angelika was instrumental in the cooperation of the D-A-CH team (cooperation of the German-speaking countries in Europe) and also developed it further. Likewise, the leadership certification seminars for women in the German-speaking countries were a great concern of hers, which she strongly promoted. Angelika recognized the possibilities of digital media for our time and led the department to an increased inclusion of social media - Instagram and Facebook – in the work of the department.

She proved her organizational talent at congresses on a national and international level. Strengthening, encouraging, and empowering women in their service to God was a matter close to her heart. Angelika was very much appreciated at the meetings of the Women's Ministries directors of the EUD and because of her experience she was a good mentor and contact person for younger colleagues.

One of her great concerns was the prevention of abuse and violence and education in this area. She is a member of the German advisory board for ending sexual violence.

We would like to thank Angelika for her impact on the lives of many women and the Women's Ministries Department in Germany. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish her and her family all the best, health, and above all God's strength and blessing in her new phase of life.

Dagmar Dorn, EUD Women's Ministries Director

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## PRAYER WALK IN LINZ, AUSTRIA



### AUSTRIAN WOMEN COME TOGETHER TO PRAY

During the Corona crisis, a weekly prayer walk was organized by the sisters of the Adventist church in Linz/Austria. At the time when church services could not be celebrated or later only under restrictions, it was not so easy to stay in touch with each other and some sisters felt isolated. Therefore, this offer of a prayer walk was joyfully and gladly accepted.

Christine K. organized an interesting walk every Monday for several months. Every week a different sister prepared a devotion. We simply formed a large circle with enough distance between us. Then we prayed together in God's beautiful nature.

In the process, I, as a resident of Linz, also got to know some beautiful areas of my hometown that had been unknown to me. A longer excursion along the alpine pastures in the beautiful Salzkammergut rounded off this time before the summer break.

According to a report by Irene Poimer

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## LWF elects Estonian Anne Burghardt as new General Secretary



### **ELECTION MARKS FIRST WOMAN AND FIRST CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN PASTOR TO HEAD GLOBAL COMMUNION OF CHURCHES**

(LWI) - The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council has elected Estonian theologian Rev. Anne Burghardt as the next General Secretary of the global communion of Lutheran churches. The 45-year-old Burghardt is currently serving

as Head of Development for the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church's (EELC) Institute of Theology and advisor to the church for international and ecumenical relations.

Burghardt will take over as LWF's new General Secretary at the beginning of November, succeeding Rev. Dr Martin Junge who has led the communion of 148 member churches for the past eleven years. She will be the first woman and the first Central Eastern European to hold this leadership position.

Following the announcement, Burghardt said:

"I am humbled by this great honor and deeply grateful for the confidence that the Council members have shown in me. In accepting this very special responsibility in the communion, I pray for the guidance of God's Spirit. I rejoice in having the possibility to work with the Council, with member churches, and with different partners, as the LWF continues to participate in God's holistic mission. May God bless our communion so that it may be a blessing to the wider church and to the world."

Congratulating Burghardt on her election, LWF President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa said:

"I congratulate Rev. Burghardt on the election. She will be taking up a vital role in the leadership of our global communion of churches, helping to shape its ongoing journey and witness to the gospel, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. Rev. Burghardt brings her valuable experience and gifts into the position, and I look forward to work with her."

At the EELC Institute of Theology she has worked on strengthening Lutheran theological education as an integral part of the sustainability of the church. She brings deep experience on ecumenical relations, having also served as Study Secretary for Ecumenical Relations at the LWF's Geneva Communion Office from 2013-2018. Rev. Burghardt was content coordinator for the LWF Twelfth Assembly, held in Windhoek, Namibia in 2017, and for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. She also serves as a governing board member of the Conference of European Churches.

Rev. Burghardt studied theology at the University of Tartu in Estonia, at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany, and at the Humboldt University in Berlin. She has a Master of Theology and is currently finishing PhD studies in the field of Orthodox liturgics. She is married to Rev. Arnd Matthias Burghardt, also an ordained pastor of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church and they have two children.

Rev. Burghardt and Zimbabwean pastor Rev. Dr Kenneth Mtata were shortlisted for the position earlier this month by a search committee appointed by the LWF Council, which elected her on 19 June.

Rev. Anne Burghardt received 28 votes (58%), Rev. Dr Kenneth Mtata received 20 votes (42%). A total of 48 votes were cast. There were no abstentions.

© <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/lwf-elects-estonian-anne-burghardt-new-general-secretary>  
Geneva, 19/6/2021 Photo: Erik Peinar

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## Women's Online Conference in the Czech Republic



### COURAGE FOR HAPPINESS

Iveta Halesova, Women's Ministries Director for the Czech – Slovakian Union and her team had invited the women in her region to attend an online women's



conference addressing the theme: Courage For Happiness on June 11 and 12, 2021. All of the participants who registered and paid the fee received a packet by the time the conference began on the Friday evening.

In her introduction, Iveta quoted from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*, and spoke about the desert we all sometimes live in. "I have always loved the desert. You sit down on a sand dune. You see nothing. You hear nothing. And yet something shines, something sings in that silence..." "What makes the desert beautiful," said the little prince, "is that somewhere it hides a well..." There is a well somewhere in the desert that will transform our worries, anxieties, sorrows, and exhaustion into joy and enthusiasm.

Martin Žůrek, director of the Family Ministries department presented the greetings of the church administration, and then Lucie Chládková presented her reflections on the Bible taking up Leah – the unloved wife of Jacob, who dared to seek happiness although she was only the „second-best“.

Adriana, a young mother of two small children, who suffered a ruptured appendix and almost died of sepsis was interviewed by Iveta. Her recovery could only be explained by the power of prayer, and so her experience became a testimony of God's healing power for many.

On the Sabbath morning, the women were privileged to hear a lecture by special guest Anna Hogenová, a philosopher and educator from the university in Prague where she was a professor for philosophy, ethics, and pedagogy. Her topic was Courage for Happiness. She expounded that the definition for happiness can be found in all Czech fables.

Pastor Soňa Sílová then preached about the women in the genealogy of Jesus. All of the women mentioned in the genealogy had one thing in common: their life was in danger!

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary all fought for their lives and saved their families.

After a lunch break, there was an interview with Anna Hogenova on her work, life, and school.

During the following "Coffee time" Iveta spoke about the meaning of coming together for a cup. It is a ritual in which women have a few moments of peace for themselves. That is why the conference packet included a portion of coffee in a cup and a special Czech cookie baked by one of our sisters. The next lecture on "Life Movement" by Ana Hogenová brought the participants back to the topic of having the courage to be happy.

In the evening there were five workshops to choose from:

Demonstration of exercises to prevent incontinence with Eva Sobotkova

Making delicious desserts and cakes with Veronika Raszková

Facial cosmetics with Adriana Klodová

Artistic crafts with Jitka Michalcová

Interview with Pavla Žůrková, a hospital chaplain

All of the program elements were recorded in advance on three Sundays – a total of 40 hours – and were then cut and edited by volunteers in the evening and night hours. Preparing and planning such an event involves a lot of work. The Women's Ministries leaders dared to do something new and learned a lot in the process. Iveta would like to thank all the volunteers involved. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. It was a blessed conference and worth all the effort!

A few statistics to close with: 378 persons attended on Friday night, more than 300 on Sabbath morning, 298 in the afternoon, and about 60-90 watched the workshops.

Reported by Iveta Halesova Photos: WM CZ

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## National Women's Ministries Program in Spain



### INSPIRED BY HIS LOVE

The Lord announces the word, and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng. Psalm 68:11 NIV

"Inspired by His love" was the title of the national program organized by the

Women's Ministries Department of the Spanish Union to celebrate Women's Ministries Emphasis Day on June 12. The objective of the program was to highlight the extraordinary ways in which God develops the gifts of women who give themselves into His hands with the desire to serve Him, and how He blesses and directs their ministries, transforming them into powerful instruments to share the gospel.

This included an interesting interview with the Women's Ministries Director of the Inter-European Division, Dagmar Dorn, and also interviews with writer and speaker Monica Diaz from Miami, singer-songwriter Esther Quiles and Dr. Ester Malaxetxebarria, all women from different professional and personal backgrounds who shared their experience with the desire to serve as an inspiration for other women.

In addition, there were inspiring musical performances and reports of activities carried out by different churches during the last year under conditions imposed by the situation generated by the pandemic.

On the other hand, the new team in charge of the Women's Ministries Department, recently approved by the Executive Committee of the Spanish Adventist Union, which will be in office until the next general assembly, was presented. It is composed of four volunteers: Maya Mercier from Madrid, with a Diploma in Social Services and a Degree in Anthropology, Sary Hernandez from Elche, Technician in Gender Equality and Social Integration and a Vocational Training Teacher, Clara Nicolae from Valencia, a Graduate in Psychology with a Master's degree in Gender Equality and Amalia Reta from Madrid who will continue to collaborate with the new team and support the Department from the administrative side.

The new team Women's Ministries Team commented on how the department will be organized and how they plan to face this new challenge with objectives that are focused on promoting closeness with women of all ages, ethnicities, cultures and situations, promoting their empowerment and integration. On the other hand, the work of the Platform against Gender Violence and for the promotion of the principle of equal rights and opportunities between men and women will be continued, as a channel of help, support and evangelism for women.

The change in the leadership of the Women's Ministries Department was motivated by the recent retirement of Amalia Reta, after a period of service of forty years of labor and tireless work in different areas of the Union, to whom we expressed our gratitude and our wishes that God will continue to bless her in this new stage of her life.

The program was broadcasted on the Youtube channel of the Adventist Church in Spain and also on the Facebook page of the Spanish Union, reaching all corners of the country and allowing many people to be active viewers, by participating in the chat where they expressed their satisfaction with the fellowship and the reports received.

We thank all the people who made this program possible, the Women's Ministries groups of the churches of Tenerife, Tallers and Sagunto for sharing their work, the women interviewed for their valuable testimonies, the members of the Women's Ministry of Elche and Seville for the initiative, Hopemedia for the support, the public address department of the Church of Elche for the work of video editing and above all, our loving God for giving us the opportunity to be part of this valuable ministry.

We wish that the Lord will bless and direct the members of the new team, and that His grace will abound on all the women who work every day through Women's Ministries to share God's love with their fellow humans.

Reported by Sary Hernandez

At the same time we from the Women's Ministries Department at the EUD want to thank Amalia Reta for

the great work she has done and all the energy she has invested in promoting Women's Ministries in the Spanish Union. We are so glad that she will not be retiring from her volunteer work in the WM department and that she will continue to support and help the new leadership team. May God bless all involved.  
Screenshot: WM Spain

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## Slovakian Women's Activities



### WE WALK TOGETHER

On the second Sunday in June we had an opportunity to make our first women's trip. The best part of it was to be able to meet again face to face for the very first time since the beginning of "Covid time." Slovakian girls and women were invited to spend a day out in the stunning nature of The Slovak Paradise towards the east of Slovakia.



Thirteen women hiked peacefully about 5 km along a walk called Smižianska maša and were impressed by so many gorgeous views. During our few stops, we talked, shared what we have lived through during the last months, shared our joys or troubles, and enjoyed giving thanks to our Lord for all He has blessed us with. As

we were walking along the Hornád river, we decided to take advantage of a quiet place and listened to our sister Darinka Lindtner, who enriched us with beautiful thoughts from God's word associated with the topic "We Walk Together."

We also had some activity time before we reached the end of our walk. We played a few outdoor games and I am sure it was more fun than we expected! And before we said goodbye there were also surprises prepared for us - glory-socks with beautiful Bible thoughts and a personal love letter to each of us from our loving Heavenly Father.

On behalf of all participants, I want to give thanks to our God for this blessed time spent in His beautiful nature. I am sure we are looking forward to the next little trip sometime in July.

God bless you all with His love and peace.

Greetings from Slovakia, Gabika, Ivana, Daniela & Lucia Photos: WM Slovakia

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## Women's Emphasis Day 2021 - not as usual



### HANSE CONFERENCE WOMEN'S NETWORK

The traditional Women's Ministries Emphasis Day meeting of the Hanse women on the second Sabbath of June was canceled this year. Yes, you know why – because of the Corona pandemic. But they are looking forward to meeting again

in person next year, as shown in last year's photo.

But this doesn't mean that the women have been left out without support. Ines Skiera felt inspired to create a women's network through e-mail and Whatsapp to motivate and encourage other women. She records her devotional thoughts and sends them together with a script to the women on her mailing list. Even though the ladies will miss the special meeting, thanks to Ines they were not left empty-handed, because Ines sent them a devotional on the topic of „Time.“

„Time, where have you gone, I think when I lie down on the couch in the evening after the children have finally fallen asleep and I can rest. Then I think about the day and often realize that it has again passed so quickly...“ If you want to read how she develops the topic, look for our Morning Manna on eudwomen.org on July 11! Photo: WM Hansa

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES ON INSTAGRAM



### women4christ.de

About two years ago Women's Ministries in Germany decided to go on Instagram. The girls4christ account already has over 14.000 subscribers, and this week the women4christ account welcomed its 1000th subscriber.

On both channels we reach not only lots of women and girls each day, but about 20% of our followers are males. We promote our events and share spiritual impulses. We are also able to share faith topics and answer questions. In cooperation with the German publishing house Adventverlag we have produced and sold contents like cards. From time to time interesting articles like the Woman's Bible are offered in a draw to subscribers who recommend the site to their friends.

We are convinced that we are on the right path to reaching people through social media.

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## DEVOTIONAL TEXTS ON OUR HOMEPAGE: eudwomen.org



### MORNING MANNA

We invite you to look up our new feature "Morning Manna" on our new EUD WM homepage regularly. [eudwomen.org/en/home/morning-manna](https://eudwomen.org/en/home/morning-manna)

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## Save the Date: October 29-30, 2021



### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES WORLD CONFERENCE

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