



# 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



2022.02. February 15, 2022

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

---

### Enditnow Sabbath in Luebeck, Germany



#### TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE

Once again, on January 29, 2022, the church service in Luebeck, Germany concentrated on the topic of ending violence – enditnow.® There was a lot of informative material for people to take away on the topic of violence prevention

In his sermon based on Genesis 39:1-6 Jan Kozak explained how Joseph took responsibility for his life. Often people make excuses and say that their upbringing and circumstances leave them no choice. They always blame someone else for their situation.

Victor Frankl, who survived the concentration camps, realized how he gained inner freedom through the power of thought and imagination and learned that it is one's own decision how circumstances affect one's life. Joseph was a living example of this truth. His experience was threefold:

1. Even as a slave he did his best when circumstances were bad. God blessed his actions, but Joseph had to take the initiative. It is up to us to determine how much we allow a negative situation to affect us.
2. Joseph chose his words wisely and gained an ever-increasing sphere of influence. He had a positive attitude and dared to suggest a way out of the coming catastrophe. If we have a positive attitude, we, too, can learn many things.
3. Joseph actively shaped his environment in Potifar's household and prison, becoming an overseer. People who do not take responsibility for their lives consider themselves victims of circumstances. People who take responsibility tackle issues where they have influence (family, community, career, neighborhood) and use their positive influence. We should consider where we can change a situation and shape our environment.

Conclusion: Success and failure do not depend on external circumstances but our attitude and actions. Joseph took responsibility for his life and so should we. If we cannot change our situation, we can change our attitude. Sometimes it is also necessary to step back and let things go. Only I am responsible for my life and no one can take that away from me. How good that God is always with us on our way and gives us strength to discern and tackle things, to let go where necessary and to find peace in Him.

In addition to an inspiring sermon, there was music and praise, a wonderful children's story, and a report about the work done by the sewing circle Café Kreativ.

---

---

## Girls4Christ



### GIRLS' DAYS IN BAVARIA IN NEUGABLONZ AND WIGGENSBACH, GERMANY

As a small group in Neugablonz we enjoyed our time together. There was a devotional talk about Esther, who saved the Jewish people from death through her deep, abiding faith as well as her strength and courage. We sewed a purse or a leather basket without needle and thread and also had time for a game or two. We would have loved to have more time to chat, play, laugh and also sing. Hopefully next time. The 'popcorn prayer' with the help of bible verses will remain in our memories for a long time.

In January we spent a whole weekend in Monika's hut in Wiggensbach. Among other things, there was a donkey to walk or ride, a photo safari and lots of time for creative calendar making. And as you would expect from a successful weekend, Italian food and wellness were not to be missed. This time we learned how to do up our fingernails unobtrusively.

The theme of beauty also accompanied us in the devotions. And with all the activities, the wonderful time unfortunately passed much too quickly.

---

## Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation



### THERE IS HOPE

In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated February 6th as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, to amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of this practice.

### Ending Female Genital Mutilation by 2030

We often do not understand how deeply ingrained female genital mutilation is in the cultures that practice it. We have to learn to understand why just passing laws that forbid FGM will not change the practice. Apart from the physical mutilation, the "cutting" of a girl has conflicting psychological implications that influence her life as well. The procedure is part of the transformation of a girl into a woman. Without FGM a girl will never reach the status of a woman, somebody who is worth being married, and will be shunned even by women. Men who married "uncut" women are also subjected to discrimination. The pain and discomfort resulting from FGM make sexual relations difficult and also lead to psychological stress in marriage relationships, particularly in the form of feelings of guilt in the mind of the woman if the relationship fails.

FGM is a vicious circle. The cultural tradition demands it and it leads to pain and suffering, both physically as well as mentally. Refusing FGM also leads the shunning by traditional communities which can cause psychological problems. Girls subjected to FGM are in an ambivalent situation: on the one hand, they have suffered and continue to suffer physically; on the other hand, they are proud of being traditional "cut" women, who have a higher status than girls.

The rituals can not just be forbidden, they must be changed. The transition from girls to women needs alternative rituals that are recognized by the local traditional culture to be valid. And that is often the problem. Traditions resist change. That is why education is so vital. We need men and women to advocate for an end to FGM and to show the negative impact of the traditional views. In many countries, FGM has already been banned, but as long as the mindset does not change, girls will still be forced to undergo this barbarian practice. See Youtube video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_TMgAPNIGQ&t=15s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_TMgAPNIGQ&t=15s)

### There is Hope

In the book *FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION - Medizinische Beratung und Therapie Genitalverstümmelter Mädchen und Frauen* by Uwe von Fritschen, Cornelia Strunz, Roland Scherer we are introduced to the possibilities of reconstructive surgery for genitally mutilated women. The **Desert Flower Center** at Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin, Germany, has treated many women. They are not only healed physically, but they also receive psychological counseling and group therapy.

The decision to seek help through reconstructive surgery is not easy. In the book, women tell about their struggles in facing the traditions of their closely-knit communities even in the European countries where they now live. Even here attitudes have to change. A new generation has to be born that is not subjected to this abusive practice and preserve the worth of a girl-child irrespective of traditional expectations. If we want to end FGM by 2030, things have to start changing NOW.

### More Information from UN WOMEN

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and integrity of girls and women. Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, infections, and difficulty in passing urine, as well as long-term consequences for their sexual and reproductive health and mental health.

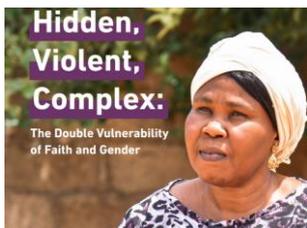
Although primarily concentrated in 30 countries in Africa and the Middle East, female genital mutilation is a universal problem and is also practiced in some countries in Asia and Latin America. Female genital mutilation continues to persist amongst immigrant populations living in Western Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand.

To promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities and focus on human rights, gender equality, sexual education, and attention to the needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/female-genital-mutilation-day>

Photo: credit\_ unicef\_ ethiopia-hero

---

## Open Doors World Watch List 2022



### PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN

Every year, Open Doors research teams create the World Watch List: a list of the countries where Christians face the most severe persecution, ranked from the most extreme. It's a unique, in-depth record of the places where Christians are following Jesus no matter the cost.

The persecution of Christians has reached the highest levels since the World Watch List began nearly 30 years ago. Across 76 countries, more than 360 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith – an increase of 20 million since last year. In the World Watch List top 50 alone, 312 million Christians face very high or extreme levels of persecution worldwide. Globally, one in every seven Christians live under at least 'high' levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.

For more information see: [bit.ly/34cPn8c](https://bit.ly/34cPn8c)

The Persecution of Christian Women

Religious persecution is not gender-blind. Open Doors analysis shows that women and girls are particularly vulnerable because of their faith. Gender Specific Religious Persecution (GSRP) and discrimination occurs when religious vulnerability compounds existing gender vulnerability. This increases both the risk and impact of a violation of the right to religious freedom. Sadly, Covid-19 has exacerbated discrimination for Christian women.

For more information see: [bit.ly/3s6wJXy](https://bit.ly/3s6wJXy)

Photo: Open Doors UK

---

Join us on [facebook eudwomensministries](https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries).  
<https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries/>

Homepage Women's Ministries:  
[eudwomen.org](https://eudwomen.org)

Dagmar Dorn  
Hannele [Ottschowski](https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries/), 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)