



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



2022.07. March 30, 2022

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

New Bible Study Material



A REASON FOR COURAGE

A Reason for Courage is a new Bible study on the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-13. These seven lessons don't just inform you, they lead you into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Feed your heart on the love and courage found here. Suitable for everyone.

This is one of the most important sets of Bible lessons we have prepared. The message is for our time in history. We live in a time of uncertainty, fear, worry, hopelessness, discouragement, depression, increase in suicide, and loneliness. How are we coping each

day with what the world throws at us? How do we help others who are not coping well, and who do not know Jesus, to find in Him a Friend and Savior?

Today women need courage more than ever. These messages will lead us to a powerful relationship with Jesus, deeper than we have known in the past. They will give you the courage to believe, to choose, and to stand for the right.

In this packet you will find a sermon and prayer activity to launch your Bible study series, a booklet of lessons in color and also in black and white. Build your own PowerPoint presentation with nine slide backgrounds. Download the seven lessons in a Word document, if needed.

Download at:

<https://women.adventist.org/three-angels-messages-bible-study>

or

<https://eudwomen.org/en/resources/outreach/small-group-study-material/>

Women's History Month (7/7)



DRAMATIC DECLINE

During Women's History Month we want to remind you of the impact women have made on the development of the Seventh-Day Adventist church in seven short reflections.

Various factors contributed to the dramatic decline of women in leadership positions. In the 1920s, the annual council recommended that "in the future, Home Mission and Youth Department directors should be chosen who have experience in evangelism, preferably ordained pastors." Until then women had worked as department directors but the new policy led to women being practically eliminated because they were not ordained.

During the Great Depression in the United States, policies were introduced to protect the church from financial ruin. Some of these had a greater negative impact on women than on men, including wage cuts, Union mergers, and term limits for positions in Conferences. Ordained pastors were the last to lose their jobs. Since women were not ordained, they were more easily terminated. The women who still worked for the church did so in subordinate areas. Both single and married women could only be hired as teachers, nurses, and Bible workers. Women with leadership abilities were pushed aside as the number of professionally trained male pastors increased. And when the men returned at the end of World War II, American society again emphasized the importance of women as full-time housewives and mothers. And finally, the regained financial strength of the church gave men more power in leadership positions.

The death of Ellen White in 1915 as a factor should not be overlooked. Her voice was no longer there to advocate in favor of women. Men may have struggled with her views on the involvement of women. If everyone had agreed with Ellen White, she would have had no reason to write the admonition concerning fair pay and the importance of women's involvement in the work of the church.

In 1915, when the church was still small, a relatively large number of women held senior positions. By the end of World War II, women had lost all the ground they had gained in the first hundred years. They also completely disappeared from the leadership at the conference level. Today, many church members don't even know how important women were in the past. Education has always been an area for women. In 1920, women held leadership positions in 57 percent of the educational departments of the conferences. In 1930, the number had dropped to 23 percent and in 1940 to 5 percent, until in 1950 there were no more women in leadership positions in the education department of a union in North America. However, women were still involved in educational work as teachers.

In the period from 1920-1950, the church tried to convince the women serving in the church that it would be better for the church if they were replaced by ordained pastors. Women who felt God's call to the ministry at that time usually married a theology student and then contributed to the cause as pastoral spouses. From 1960 onwards, however, women again started studying theology themselves.

It is astonishing that just at the time when women in the western world generally gained more rights and became more visible in all areas of life, female members of the SDA Church had less access to leadership positions. While women received legal equality, education, and experienced financial and political progress, women in the SDA increasingly lost their leadership positions. Despite these setbacks, women have not given up hope. There are still stories about their courage and accomplishments. They preach, evangelize and serve as pastors in the whole world, though their work is not adequately valued or recognized. It seems that Seventh-day Adventists today have forgotten - or even do not know - what a rich and innovative history our church had when women were welcome as equal partners in church life, decision-making, and mission. Women were and are an indispensable and important part of the church!

This is an extract from the Book Tired of Waiting – Women in Church and Society by Hannele Ottschofski, available on amzn.to/3HSyP3e

International Women's Day of Prayer)



NEWS FROM THE MUNTENIA CONFERENCE, ROMANIA

The International Women's Day of Prayer was also celebrated in the Balta-Albă Church in Bucharest. On Friday evening, the presentation entitled "His Will Be Done!" was given by Elena Petrescu. On Saturday morning, the devotional was presented by Elena Minkov, first-year student in Pastoral Theology, the sermon from 11.00 to 12.00 was presented by Eliza Spătărelu, and the afternoon seminar was given by Laura Fierbințeanu. All divine services were accompanied by psalms, experiences, special moments of prayer for different situations and persons, solo music. A little girl of only 6 years old made an impression with a beautiful song. The sisters were actively involved in all the stages of this special day. Each divine service was attended by between 6 and 16 guests, who were given different materials with a biblical message.

Reported by Elena Petrescu, coordinator of the Women's Ministries Department, Balta-Albă Church, Bucharest

Bible Journal in Romanian



AN ATTRACTIVE AND USEFUL GIFT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

One of the great joys of this spring was the fact that the Women's Mission Department in collaboration with the Viata si Sanatate Publishing House, and Mrs Gianina Floricel, as editor, prepared an attractive and useful gift for women and girls in Romania: the Biblical Diary. It is aimed at women of all ages, captivating by its shape, colour and design and by the challenges it launches with each page turned.

Based on God's promises in the Bible, the journal is divided into three progressive, easy-to-access sections and contains pages of calligraphy exercises, with Bible verses in fonts that you have to colour as you go through and study the material. The journal pages also feature boxes with titles such as "What I've Learned About Myself," "I Pray For," "What I've Learned For Today" . And, if we want to learn more about a particular topic presented, it is the biblical connections that help us delve deeper into the subject. And the planner pages help us plan and organise our daily activities with ease.

The Bible study journal can help us grow closer to God and get to know Him individually, but also in study groups of women, girls or teenagers, gaining lifelong friendships. This is the link where you can order it:

[https://viatasisanatate.ro/cadouri/produs/2241-jurnal-biblic-la-pas-cu-dumnezeu\](https://viatasisanatate.ro/cadouri/produs/2241-jurnal-biblic-la-pas-cu-dumnezeu)

We hope with all our hearts that this new study tool will bring joy through all it offers, but especially through rediscovering God's precious promises.

Reported by Liliana Radu, WM director, Romanian Union

Good News from the Muntenia Conference, Romania



PAMPERING THE LADIES

On March 6, 2022, the Women's Ministries Department of the Balta Albă church in Bucharest, organized a program called "Pampering the ladies." 83 women attended the diverse program, including 18 interested friends. A part of the church choir presented a special program dedicated to ladies and the new pastor gave a devotional and said a prayer of blessing for all present. Our dear visitors received women's devotionals and also Bibles were offered to those who wanted one. All the ladies present received flowers and a picture card with a poem dedicated to women. A very rich and carefully prepared fellowship meal followed. Afterward, young families then went to the homes of church members who had not been able to come and brought them the gifts they had received from the church. It was an event blessed with God's presence.

During this event, money was collected with which articles of hygiene and blankets were bought for the ADRA refugee centers.

Reported by Elena Petrescu, coordinator of the Women's Ministries Department, Balta-Albă Church, Bucharest

Women's History Month (6/7)



WOMEN PIONEERS

During Women's History Month we want to remind you of the impact women have made on the development of the Seventh-Day Adventist church in seven short reflections.

Martha Byington Amadon founded the first Dorcas group in 1874 with a group of women in Battle Creek. They sewed and mended clothing, collected food, and organized help for widows, orphans,

and the sick

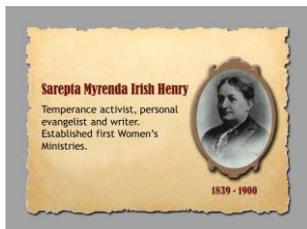
The Sabbath school was important to the church because it was religious education. Many women were active as Sabbath school department leaders. Another field for women was the administration of finances in the Treasury department. Although women were not accepted as medical students for a long time, many Adventist women fought to be trained in medicine and became pioneers in the field of medical science. Dr. Phoebe Lamson was one of the first two doctors at the Battle Creek Sanatorium. Katherine (Kate) Lindsey worked in her long career in sanatoriums in Battle Creek, Michigan; Cape Town, South Africa, and Boulder, Colorado. Lottie Blake was the first Adventist African-American doctor, founder, and missionary. Nursing schools were organized and many women were trained as dedicated nurses.

The educational work was another field to which women were committed. Many teachers could be mentioned here. Anna Knight was one of the most influential figures in the history of African-American Adventists and has become legendary far beyond. Eva Dykes was the first Adventist woman in the US with a doctoral degree.

Even single women insisted on working as foreign missionaries like Hattie André, who came to Pitcairn in 1893. Ana and Ferdinand Stahl worked as pioneers in South America. Ellen White had faithful assistants who helped her in many ways. Women also worked in evangelism and ministry, such as Lulu Wightman. She received her ministerial license in 1898. Six years later, her husband was also accorded his ministerial license. Between 1896 and 1905, Lulu founded twelve churches in the state of New York. Together, the couple founded another five churches. Lulu Wightman is considered one of the most successful evangelists in the SDA church.

This is an extract from the Book Tired of Waiting – Women in Church and Society by Hannele Ottshofski, available on amzn.to/3HSP3e

Women's History Month (5/7)



S.M.I HENRY AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

During Women's History Month we want to remind you of the impact women have made on the development of the Seventh-Day Adventist church in seven short reflections.

Mrs. Sarepta Myrenda Irish Henry was a powerful evangelist and had the gift of administration. As an evangelist for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, she often spoke to large crowds that were moved and many became believers. Her strenuous work came at the expense of her health, so she came to Battle Creek for treatment, where she accepted the Adventist faith. After her baptism, she spoke to 2,500 people in the Battle Creek Tabernacle. Oliver Willard, editor of the Chicago Post, said after an appearance at Northwestern University that her speech was "one of the most beautiful word paintings" he had ever heard. Mrs. Henry was also worried about the condition of the women in the Adventist community. She realized that they needed instruction and encouragement. Many lived in poor conditions and had many children. Encouraged by her correspondence with Ellen White, Mrs. Henry initiated a ministry for women at the General Conference, and in 1898 she was issued a ministerial license. She wrote many articles for the Review and Herald, in which she had a special weekly column.

In a letter to Sister Henry, Ellen White, who lived in Australia at the time, wrote: "I would be very much pleased could I be seated by your side and converse with you in regard to the incidents of our experience. I have an earnest desire to meet you. ... Across the broad waters of the Pacific, we can clasp hands in faith and sweet fellowship. I rejoice with you in every opportunity you have of reaching the people." (Letter 9, 1898, p. 1. To Mrs. S. M. I. Henry, January 2, 1898)

Ellen White encouraged Sister Henry to continue her work for the good of women inside and outside the church and not to part with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union just because she had become an Adventist. Ellen White never had a chance to meet Sister Henry in person, but they were joined in mutual affection and understanding of their respective roles. The correspondence between the two persisted until the death of Sister Henry in January 1900. What she did in the short time before her sudden death is astonishing.

This is an extract from the Book Tired of Waiting – Women in Church and Society by Hannele Ottshofski, available on amzn.to/3HSyP3e

March 8. Online meeting of Women's Ministries in Italy



I WANT TO THANK...

"I want to thank a friend of mine because...", "I am grateful to my mother who has been special...", "I thank my mother-in-law for introducing me to Jesus." Thus began some of the testimonies told by women at the Women's Ministries (WM) meeting on the evening of March 8. "I thank you for..."

was indeed the theme, because we all have a woman to be grateful to for a word, a gesture or for welcoming us.

The meeting took place online, via Zoom, and was also streamed live on the Church's website, Facebook and You Tube.

The program began with a brief presentation by Lina Ferrara on the origins and meaning of March 8, International Women's Day. She also recalled the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the call to prayer for the people and peace.

In her biblical reflection, Santa Abiusi spoke of the Apostle Paul giving thanks to Timothy's mother and grandmother for raising him with faith in God. And she stressed the importance of the family in raising children.

The program culminated with testimonies of thanksgiving. Franca Zucca led this time. In sharing their personal experiences, the women especially emphasized God's intervention. Dagmar Dorn, WM Director at the Inter-European Division of the church, participated with a video subtitled in Italian, in which she expressed gratitude to some of the women who have been important in her life, for her growth in the church and career choice.

Katia Montalbano led the final slot, dedicated to prayer. After a brief introduction of the moment and the reading of a quote from Ellen G. White, prayer groups were formed in the Zoom breakout rooms.

Women's Ministries would like to thank each and every person who attended the evening (130 connections in total) and for the many expressions of appreciation received.

A recording of the program is on the Women's Ministries website:

ministerifemminili.avventista.it/risorsa/incontro-8-marzo-2022/

Reported by Lina Ferrara, WM National Coordinator for Italy

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