

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



2022.10. May 06, 2022

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

Muntenia Conference Convention for Women's Ministries Leaders



HAND IN HAND - BEYOND THE FOG

From 29 April to 1 May 2022, the Women's Ministries Department Convention "Hand in Hand with Him - Beyond the Fog" was held in Sinaia, organized by Gianina Floricel, Director of the Women's Ministries Department of the Muntenia Conference. Friday evening started with a get-to-know-you meeting, followed by a discussion on our attitude to suffering: How do we help those who suffer and how do we react when we suffer ourselves. What we would like to be told, how we would like to be treated, what experiences we have with people who have gone through loss or

illness that we didn't know how to deal with. We made ourselves vulnerable and shared our questions, pains, disappointments... We recommended the book recently published by Life and Health: Facing Grief, by Roberto Badenas.

Then followed the special service of Holy Communion. Through the biblical message presented by Pastor Lucian Floricel, we were encouraged that our Saviour values and trusts us and that the first mission ever entrusted to His followers was addressed to women, who carried it out well. We prayed for each other and embraced each other.

Saturday morning we met to sing. Mihaela Koos and Beatrice Cojocararu accompanied us on the piano. Then came the Sabbath School, presented by Sister Daniela Dorcea, also in the conference room of the retreat center. From 11:00 we went to the church sanctuary in Sinaia, where they were happy to have a full congregation. The message presented had the same theme as the whole convention: "Hand in hand with Him - Beyond the Fog". The hopeful and encouraging message of Gianina Floricel's sermon was, "Reaching the goal beyond the fog is only possible hand in hand with God." The musical highlights were performed with voice and piano by two little girls who came with their mothers: Thamida Strâmbeanu and Eliana Dorcea. In the afternoon, Liliana Radu presented projects from other Conferences, questions were asked, and answers were given, especially for those who attended for the first time and very soon would be Women's Ministries coordinators in their communities. Some sisters brought photos or even samples of the materials they used in the different projects.

In the evening the seminar: "Beyond the Comfort Zone" presented by Gianina Floricel had a great impact on the listeners, followed, of course, by discussion: on how to approach more courageously the role of Women's Ministry leaders and acquire new skills and abilities and what to do with the fear of becoming vulnerable or making mistakes. After the evening meal, Liliana Radu created an emotional moment in which she gave us gemstones (symbolizing victory) for each day of the week and a phosphorescent stone to light up our Sabbath day. On Sunday morning we had another session of experiences, questions, plans, methods, projects tried by other teams, with singing, and then a test to assess multiple intelligences (seminar conducted by Eliza Spătăreanu). Also in this framework the Bible Journal for Women was presented, as a project for Bible study groups, a journal aimed at teenagers, young women, and women of all ages. There were 28 representatives from Bucharest, Buzău, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Prahova and Tulcea. We thank God for this wonderful opportunity to meet! We parted reluctantly, embracing each other and assuring each other of our prayerful support. We look forward to our next meeting!

Gianina Floricel, Director of the Women's Mission Department, Conference Muntenia

Weekend Retreat in the Central Rhenish Conference in April 2022



ANXIETY, PRAYER, AND AMAZEMENT AT HOW GOD CAN LEAD

The preparations were in their final stages, everything had been bought, and the anticipation for our weekend retreat in Mühlenrahmede was rising day by day.

Then on Tuesday evening, four days before the start, I received the message that our speaker was unfortunately ill and could not come. Desperately I tried to call a list of known speakers the next day, and wrote countless e-mails asking if there was a possibility to spontaneously fill in. An impossible mission, I thought and had already resigned myself to having to write a cancellation e-mail to all participants that evening. Who would be so spontaneous to stand in as a speaker for a complete weekend and give at least four presentations in less than two days? Who would fit into our program?

On Wednesday evening there was an emergency meeting of the team via Zoom and there the suggestion to ask Jaimée Seis came up again. "I already did," I replied resignedly.

"Did you call her too?" they asked me. "No, I only wrote to her," I replied.

"You have to call them!" While the group was still praying, I spoke with Jaimée on the phone and she answered that she was ready to come. What an answer to prayer!

In beautiful spring weather, we found ourselves at the popular resort Mühlenrahmede. Under new management, the place is worth a visit. The new Bergheim team lovingly pampered us and we immediately felt very much at home. At present, some refugee families from Ukraine are living there permanently, and they have already integrated well into everyday life in Mühlenrahmede. They are affectionately called "our friends".

Our speaker led us through the weekend with the theme "God's Beloved Daughters." Jaimée's experience with her aunt's pearl necklace, which once lay forgotten in the closet and revealed its true value through an appraisal at the jeweler's, ran like a thread through the weekend. In her eloquent and sensitive language, she described the importance we have for our heavenly Father and with which eyes He sees us. She took us through several Bible passages to illustrate that women were called by God in both the Old and New Testaments and encouraged us to put ourselves at God's service.

A beautiful weekend with great memories ended on Sunday after lunch, with the wish that we will meet again soon.

Our Heavenly Father especially answered our prayers - differently from what we thought it would be. We were blessed and delighted to meet Jaimée and her lovely books.

If you are curious and also want to experience an unforgettable weekend, then register for the Women's Ministries Congress for the German-speaking countries from September 22 to 25 in Schwäbisch Gmünd. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Reported by Daniela Piroski, Women's Ministries Director, Central Rhenish Conference, Germany

Combining New Ideas with the Tried and Tested



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES TEAM OF THE CENTRAL RHENISH CONFERENCE MAKES PLANS

As in almost all areas of our community life, many activities of the Women's Ministries department in the Central Rhenish Conference had to be put off, postponed, or even canceled. Now that meetings in presence were again possible, we were looking forward

to a retreat weekend in Bad Homburg.

We had worked out a retrospective, a stocktaking, and a vision for the future. With the plans for 2022/23 including many Impulse Sabbaths, weekend meetings, and some innovations, we hope to reposition the Women's Ministries Department and make it even better known.

As in other departments, our work also lives from the fact that it reaches the local churches and receives support from the members.

That is why we're always happy to promote our activities and events via digital media and receive positive feedback. We hope you will look up our digital sites and find interesting events that appeal to you. You will find us somewhere in your vicinity soon on one of our Impulse Days.

Reported by the Women's Ministries Team in the Central Rhenish Conference

Women's Conference in Luhačovice, Moravia



THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Luhačovice, a picturesque Moravian spa town in the valley of the Štiavnica River with several healing mineral springs, became our home for the weekend of April 22-24, 2022.

The 10th-anniversary women's conference, entitled "The Power of Gratitude," was hosted by Iveta Halešová, the Women's Ministries Director of the Czech-Slovakian Union. It was so nice to see each other again in person after these long two years. Daniel Dobeš, the President of the Moravian Conference, also addressed the participants in a greeting.

A special guest at our conference was Dagmar Dorn, the Women's Ministries Director at the EUD, who came from Switzerland. The conference theme was introduced on Friday evening, based on the text in Thess 5: 16. Be thankful in all things. Does this also apply in these times of war, unrest,

and crisis? Can we be thankful even now? Gratitude is mentioned very often in the Bible, especially in the Psalms. Gratitude must be taught, it is also a choice. The more we think about what we can be thankful for, the more reasons we find.

Dagmar illustrated this fact with the story of Helen Berhane from Eritrea. She was imprisoned and tortured for her faith for two and a half years. Despite her terrible situation, Helen still found reason to be grateful. "Thank you for the cold nights, the hot days, the hunger, the nausea, the bugs that infest my body. Thank you, God." Hard for us to imagine.

On Sabbath morning, we joyfully gathered to worship, singing beautiful songs prepared by the women's musical group, praising and thanking our Creator and Lord.

Katarína Kernová, a psychologist and pastor's wife led us through the first part of the service, addressing the topic "What am I and what do I want to be?" She shared from her own eventful life and spiced this with Bible texts, humor, and wise quotes.

Jerusalem has its Wailing Wall, but this weekend we built a Thanksgiving Wall, to which the participants attached their thanks written on colored slips of paper onto a string. On one wall of the conference hall, the participants attached their thanks, in the form of colored slips of paper onto a string.

In her sermon, Dagmar Dorn looked with us at the story of the ten lepers in Luke 17. Of the ten healed, only one came back to give thanks and that one was a foreigner. The take-home message of this story for us is:

1. faith obeys (even if we don't always understand)
2. God's heart grieves, when we don't appreciate the blessings he provides
3. as we praise God, we will be spiritually healed
4. gratitude brings joy to the heart of God.

In the afternoon, there was another special feature. Iveta and her team greeted us in art nouveau dresses and gave us a glimpse of the spa town at the turn of the century. The participants were then able to try on these models and be photographed. Then the psychologist Jeroným Klimeš led us through the topic of gratitude, admiration, and manipulation. A manipulator is incapable of feeling admiration and gratitude. He feels only envy and self-pity. We learned what is the cycle of manipulation and what are its indirect signs.

In the evening Katarína Kernová told us her life story with its ups and downs. Her honesty and authenticity impressed us. Using the story of Caleb in Joshua 14, she gave us an insight into how God repeatedly intervened in her life and how she and her husband mastered life with God as a third party. She has written this in a book titled "A Wonderful Shock," which each participant received as a gift.

On Sunday morning, Dagmar Dorn spoke about the role of women in the Bible and how we as women can get involved today. After that, various workshops were offered. Every day we were surprised with small gifts.

Everything has an end. This is also true for the women's conference. It was a wonderful weekend with great fellowship and wonderful and touching presentations in words and songs. We want to thank God for everything and look forward to coming together again next time!

Reported by Iveta Halešová, Women's Ministries Director of the Czech-Slovakian Union

Women in Switzerland Sew for Ukraine



HANDICRAFT GET-TOGETHER INCLUDES REFUGEES

For years, women of the Adventist congregation in Oertlimatt, Krattigen in Switzerland have been involved in a handicraft get-together called Creativ Treff. There they sew for orphans in less well-off countries, such as Moldavia. They make backpacks and toilet bags or even multi-purpose bags. These are packed into more than 100 Christmas packages for orphans, which are filled with many other things as well. The older women in the community also knit countless hats and matching

scarves for these packages, as well as socks and other useful items.

Since the beginning of the war that is raging in Ukraine, the work is being directed mainly toward this country. Four times a year there is a big market in Interlaken, where ADRA also has a stand. Cakes, bread, and handicrafts are sold there. The proceeds go to current projects, at the moment it is mainly the aid for Ukraine.

Since two families from Ukraine are housed in our community, this time these women and young girls also helped to make backpacks. Kateryna, a 21-year-old woman, had no experience in operating a sewing machine. She said it was like driving a car, just step on the gas and go! It was like a first driving lesson for her. We are already looking forward to the next driving lesson with her. There was a lot of laughter. During the conversation with the help of Google Translator sometimes funny sentences resulted which provided for a lot of fun.

We hope that the war will end soon so that all women and children can return to their homeland. We hope that many of them will find their homes intact when they return and that they will have the strength to help rebuild their destroyed country.

Reported by Denise Hochstrasser, Krattigen CH

Women of the Moldova Conference work with ADRA



HELP FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN ROMANIA

Women in the churches of the Moldova Conference have been actively involved since the early days of the war in Ukraine.

Women are actively involved with ADRA at the four border crossing points of Siret Customs, Rădăuți Prut Customs, Stâncă Costești Customs, and Albița Customs. Here the sisters spent days and nights braving frost, hunger, and fatigue to comfort the broken souls of those who have fled

bombs, shelling, looting, and death. The sisters provide a hot tea and a sandwich, a phonecard, diapers for young children, and much, much more.

Also coming to the aid of refugees from Ukraine were hundreds of other sisters who opened their homes to feed and house those who needed a hot meal and a clean bed after weeks of living among ruins and basements. Others also got involved in local churches, which hosted thousands of refugees, offering food, necessities, a kind word and encouragement, prayer support, and emotional support every day.

When blankets, clothes, shoes, food, and more were needed, the sisters mobilized by giving of their own goods, making packages, which were taken to Chernivtsi, Kyiv, Bucha, and beyond.

These efforts, made out of love and without being seen, will be rewarded only by God.

The Women's Ministries Department of the Moldova Conference is and will remain among women and sisters who need prayer, support, comfort, and service!

May God comfort the women, children, and refugees of Ukraine!

Reported by Alina Lupu, Director of Women's Ministries Department, Moldova Conference of Romania

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eudwomen.org

Dagmar Dorn
Hannele [Ottschofski](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