



Dear Friends,

One of the Unions doing well when it comes to Women's Ministries is Hungary. We are so grateful for the team there who work tirelessly to make things happen. As you can see from this issue of the Newsletter there is a lot going on in Hungary.

I like to remind people that the last thing Jesus said before leaving to go back to His Father was "Go and make disciples". And I think Women's Ministries is one of the ways this can be done. So many ideas and creativity are seen every time we have a Newsletter.

God is blessing us in Europe and I am grateful every day for all those women who work in their local churches. Giving time and energy and investing in the lives of others.

May God bless you as you read this Newsletter and may you get many ideas which you could use in your own local churches.

Blessings to you all,

Clair





STARTING A HIKING CLUB

Nothing starts easily!

It is getting more and more difficult in today's rushing world to invite people to spend some free time for themselves and their health.

The story of starting our hiking club could be an usual one, but actually it is not.

Only a few persons accepted our invitation to our first hike, but this gave us a possibility to interact more and give more attention to each other. The weather was just beautiful.

While hiking one of the older ladies started to talk about her son. He needs special care, but she told us that he was sent away from the institution where he was before even though the mother paid significant amount of money during the previous years. Now she could not count on any service, or money back, or help!

We tried to help her by looking for institutions where she could place her son because she really needed help. So while walking we were thinking together and the ideas began to come...where she could turn for help, where she could submit an application... She listened to our advice and started to make steps in order to resolve the situation for her son.

To make the story short our sister got a significant amount of money back from the institution that sent her son away. This was such a great help in her situation both materially and spiritually as well. She was so happy and so were we!

I am sure that our first hike was not a coincidence. God gave us a possibility to turn to each other with a helping heart and support each other. Whenever we join our forces and to help others and we ask for God's help, He is there to give wisdom and show us the way. This was a huge experience for us!

We must use every opportunity to serve each other during our next hiking club as well!

-Edit Bihariné Lehelvári – member of the Union's WM's working group





ENDitNOW

On the 2nd of November 2016 four person (Zsóka Bodnár, Edit Bihariné Lehelvári, Renáta Csalami, Boglárka Ósz- Püspöki) from the Union's WM's working group visited and served in Gyula church situated on the territory of Tisza Conference.

The goal of our visit was to present the work and tasks of WM's Department and raise the awareness of the EnditNow programme that was initiated by the General Conference.

During the morning service Edit Bihariné Lehelvári presented in a few minutes on the actuality and the importance of the EnditNow initiative. Zsóka Bodnár- leader of WM's department held the sermon written especially for this occasion by the representative of the General Conference.

The local church members were invited to join us during the afternoon service for a discussion with an expert in domestic violence. Our moderator was Renáta Csalami. The expert Kornélia Hrabovszky had an expertise in clinical psychology specializing in interpersonal violence. With her help the questions raised were answered in the most professional way.

We have discussed questions like: How many people are affected by violence in Hungary? What are the symptoms of trauma? What kind of psychological or physical symptoms can be found in case of children when facing abuse?

At first the brothers and sisters hardly opened up, but slowly they gained courage and we had a more than two hour long discussion. The final conclusion of the local church members was that we should talk more often about this issue, and even young people should talk about it regularly. We prepared some tangible gifts for those present. The psychologist brought books that can help those who are interested in this topic. The WM's working group handed out leaflets, which contained all the contacts of the county's special service like Family Support etc.

In spite of the fact that this topic is not one that you just talk about so easily with anybody, we hope that we could help the local community in some way and at least we have shown possibilities how to help when we meet situations where victims are suffering from any kind of abuse. May God bless all those who have their eyes open to help others!

-Boglárka Ósz- Püspöki – member of the Union's WM's working group





GIFT FOR THE PASTOR'S WIVES

The desire of the Hungarian Women's Ministries Department is that in every church no matter its size Women's Ministries would be active.

On the 17th of January 2017 we had an opportunity to present the work and goals of the Department to 17 pastors.

The presentation involved the history of this work both on the Hungarian and the international level as well. We talked about the programmes we had in the past few years and also about our future plans and programmes, and raised awareness of the international WM's programmes, also presented was the training that is organized for all those sisters who want to be involved in this ministry.

We highlighted and presented for the pastors how women can organize clubs, programmes or workshops for other women in their communities. We also presented all the resources available for them to start or continue this ministry.

They are all new pastors within our Union so this Department is a totally new work field for them, so they had plenty of questions and were enthusiastic about WM's work.

With the help of the Church Manual we presented how they can organize WM's work in their local churches, and also emphasized what an important role pastor's wives could have in this ministry.

As an encouragement we prepared to each pastor's wife a gift package and asked their husbands to take it home for them. This was a surprise for both the pastors and wives since they have never taken home gifts for their wives from a ministerial training.



Our goal is that each pastor's wife would be engaged in WM's work on a local level, to taste the joy and blessing this can bring to them.

The pastor's wives were really thankful for the gift they received. At the end of the training each pastor received a bottle of water with the following inscription: "Are you thirsty for the living water?" They were surprised by this gift.

He hope and trust that these pastors will enthusiastically support Women's Ministries work in their local churches.

-Zsóka Bodnár - Leader of the Hungarian Union Women's Ministry Department



GOD PAINTED THE COLOURS BEAUTIFULLY

We are surrounded by colours in our everyday life. Colours attract our eyes. We cannot wait for spring to arrive, since we like to enjoy a variety of budding trees and flowers, the lush and beauty of nature. Enjoying colours gives us a good spirit.

There are stories in the Bible which can bring colour in our lives. One of these is found in Proverbs, The Virtuous Woman.

The Hungarian Women's Ministries Department is happy to use all the colours given by God during the events.

For many years now the Hungarian Union is organizing its annual Mission Conference during summer period. Church members, youth and children, but also non-Adventist friends are invited to attend from all the territories of the country. The Department of WM's is also present at this Conference.

The members of the WM's working group are preparing enthusiastically for this event, where they can present the ways through which a woman can share her blessings from God in order to benefit others. Thus we had the possibility this past summer to encourage the ladies who attended the Mission Conference in Balatonlelle with the example of the "Virtuous Woman".

The main topics discussed were the following: "Give the best you can give!", "Take care of yourself and not just your family and keep your good health!", "Be always joyous and have positive thinking."

The enthusiastic audience welcomed the handmade gifts and different ideas they could take home to use in their ministry. A few of these were: engraved wooden spoons with the characteristics of the virtuous woman, Bible cards with lace and ribbons, bookmarks, lavender, water bottle with label containing text from Proverbs 31. etc..

We tried to bring colour and encouragement for those present so they remember that they are precious creatures of God redeemed by salvation. "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, shall be praised." (Proverbs 31:30).

We repeated several times the thoughts written on the bookmarks:

The Virtuous woman BELIEVES IN GOD.

The Virtuous woman LOOK TO CHRIST.

The Virtuous woman is CLEAN AND TIDY.

YOU are also a precious jewel of God, because He created You.

God painted the colours beautifully since He created women with colourful personalities, creativity and nurture to encourage one another.

-Maria Tokics, member of the Hungarian Women's Ministry Department



WOMEN'S CIRCLE IN NAGYKANIZSA, HUNGARY, 2017

We started our social meetings a year ago, which was due to the idea of one of our members who retired. As she told us later on, her intention was a little selfish, since she wanted to reduce the time spent alone. However, this initiative has become quite beneficial and influential to all of us.

Though it is not very easy to get together from time to time; we sometimes need to struggle to make it happen. There are times when there are only 4 of us and sometimes there are 12. Nevertheless, each time we are thankful to God for the blessings we experience right away and afterwards, as well.

First, we started with listening to each other to the testimonies how the Lord had found us. In other words, how we became converted. It was fantastic to learn the different miracles that happened to each of us. Thus, we got to know each other even better. Then we studied the Bible through the Woman's Bible version. We explored different topics like: Being a Christian Mother in a Changing World, Making a Difference in Today's Society, Virtues in the Bible, Some Interesting Facts, or the Outlook. Then we had two sections for prayer: one for the person, who gave her testimony, so that Jesus may continue His work in her life, helping in her struggles; the other part was for the church as a whole. For unity in the first place, showing respect and Christian love to one another and we were pleading to God for providing us opportunities to minister as a community, apart from our individual lives. It was a great challenge for us, since our town is strongly Catholic, hardly accepting any other denominations.

God is so good. He answers prayers in so many ways. We are so happy to be able to minister in social work, to hold evangelistic meetings in the library, and we also began to adopt the Life development programme to our community, which works really well. What is more, new little pathfinders are coming to our church. This is a good way to reach families.

We are going on with our women's circle, which is about our present testimonies about experiences with the Lord, challenges, and prayer requests. I find it a very good way to experience fellowship. We haven't stop praying for our church, of course.

The Woman's Bible is something very helpful to explore some specific topics which are relevant, but we haven't thought of it as a discussion topic or a way of discovering the Bible. It seems to me that we are fascinated enough to carry on, but we still need prayers.

-Márta Mayor- Pastor's wife in Nagykanizsa and Women's Ministry local coordinator





STARTING THE MINISTRY IN MISKOLC

We started Women's Ministry in our local church in Miskolc in March 2016. Previously we did not know much about the essence of this ministry. On the 25th of March on a Sabbath afternoon I invited the sisters from our church to listen to the goals and possibilities of this Ministry, and I announced the time for our first women's circle. We were 7 of us who listened to God's calling on that first occasion. After playing an ice breaker game we studied the life of Deborah, had a Bible quiz and the winner had the honour to say the closing prayer.

In April 2016 I had the possibility to attend the Leadership Certificate Training held by Clair Sanches-Schutte. This was a great empowerment for me to continue this ministry and opened my eyes to recognize my spiritual gifts and use them better. I went home with new goals and plans to develop the work of women's ministry and serve for those living in my town.

I asked the local church members each Sabbath to pray for this ministry and we continued to gather more and more of our sisters to the women's circle. Each time a new lady was assigned with the task to lead the discussion in the given Bible topic.

We were happy to experience that our monthly cheerful gatherings had more and more participants. We got to know each other better and also celebrated birthdays in our group. Some of the men from our church started to be interested so we invited them to attend our meetings once in a while.

With the arrival of the nice weather we decided to organize a trip to Bükkszentkereszt, a locality situated not far from Miskolc. We were really happy that even the youth from our church joined us and some of our previous members whom we lost from our church.

Our next trip was to Vizsoly and we asked the whole church to invite non-Adventist friends to come. Praise be to God that on this trip we had so many non-Adventist friends who attended.

We would like to continue to strengthen our church community with this ministry, because thanks to it we experienced that we got closer to each other as sisters. We are open to each other during the week as well, not just on Sabbaths since we share our sorrows and joys and we feel that our group has increased. Among many other goals in the future we would like to help the older sisters who have one by one individual needs thus giving a good example for our youth and we also want to organize such unique programmes by which we could reach people who are really longing to know God.

-Tímea Jurácsik – Women's Ministries local coordinator in Miskolc "A" church





WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN NYÍRTURA

In our local church the sisters are engaged in ministry both jointly and personally as well. We try to develop our relationships with those around us personally and whenever we ask for a favour from someone we are giving books as a gift and talk about God's love and mercy.

We also have a joint mission with the ladies. We visit regularly the Child Host Institution in Nyírszölő- a place situated not far from our church. Our hands are never empty when we go to see them, but filled with homemade cakes and cookies, healthy fruits and clothes they can wear. We always go with a longing eager heart since these children are never visited by their parents. Only foster parents come once in a while to take them out.

We talk to them about God's love, because they have to know that even though their parents left them God never abandons them and they can turn to Him. He gives them comfort and listens to their prayer. Many times they are crying on our shoulders since their mother or father promised to take them home previously, but never came. Every day we pray for them and tried to go and visit them on a weekly basis.

One of the ladies was able to take home two little boys, thus becoming their foster parent, but she is trying to connect with the real parents and is helping the family financially and spiritually as well.

We are always looking for outreach possibilities and are asking God to give us wisdom to be able to praise him in everything we do.

-Hilda Décsi - WM's coordinator in Nyírtura local church

"YOUR KINGDOM SHALL COME!"

"Lord, will You at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?"

Adam and Eve already asked the question: When can we go back to the Garden of Eden?

During the past centuries how many times has been said by so many people: "How long must we wait?" "When will the promise of a better world become real?"

The question of the disciples according to Acts 1:6-7 was expressing the desire for an earthly well-being. Many times during Jesus' ministry on this earth they were bothered by the fact that Jesus intentionally fails to use the 'big' possibilities to take over the earthly kingdom. They hoped and waited for a better life on this earth.

During the past two thousand years people were and are still waiting for a better world to come. Some are hoping for earthly restoration, others are waiting for the heavenly restoration.

We know that there will be a final, an everlasting restoration. The question is when will this happen?

The answer is: soon! We need to look at the signs, to see the state of the humanity, watch nature, read God's word and pray anxiously for that kingdom to come. We should put aside all the earthly wishes and work devotedly for those in our environment. If our days are filled with the service we do for our Lord, than we won't even notice the time that is passing.

We should never forget to mention in our every day prayer what Jesus is teaching us in the Lord's Prayer. What should we ask first? "Your Kingdom come!" We should wait patiently and "collect oil in our lamps!"

Hope should fill our hearts if we can spend our days working for our Lord. Time will go by faster and God will bring His coming closer to us, but the time of His coming is "in the power of the Father God."

-Zsóka Bodnár - Leader of the Hungarian Union Women's Ministry Department