



PAGES *Women's Ministries*

Dear Friends,

The News Pages are filled with stories of Women's Ministries in the Netherlands. Women's Ministries is very strong there and what I love is that all the activities always include women from outside our church. Women's Ministries is a wonderful opportunity to reach our neighbours and friends with the gospel and bring them to meetings which might be a little less daunting.

One thing the world does is put great emphasis on outward appearance, especially when it comes to women. It is a billion-dollar industry. However, God is actually more interested in the inner person. In Proverbs 16:31 it says "Grey hair is a crown of splendour; it is attained by a righteous life."

In 1 Peter 3:3,4 we read: "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as

braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

What I get out of these verses is that inner beauty is pleasing to God and this is our character. It is an attitude of service to Him.

Blessings to you all as you work for God and work on your character to be all that God wants us to be.

Clair

Clair Sanches-Schutte
Women's and Children's
Ministries director
Trans-European Division



News from the Netherland Union of churches Conference

Madelon Comvalius, Women's and Children's Ministries director

Women's Day

Five years ago, the idea was born to organize a women's programme on the international women's day of the Seventh-day Adventist church. This time we wanted to mix things up. We didn't want to gather all women in one place but spread them over five to seven different locations.



From each location a woman, who has great organization skills, was selected. Together with Heidi Moorman and Madelon Comvalius, we formed a women's council. In our meetings we came up with a programme in connection with our theme. In this programme we had moments with beautiful encouragement, lovely music, a special journey of prayer, nice workshops and elements of surprise, and of course... delicious food!

By having the exact same programme at seven different locations, you will create an intimate setting, but still feel connected with the other ladies at other locations.

Our first women's day in 2012 was a big success! About 370 enthusiastic women came. After this big success, we decided to offer this concept annually. In the following annual women's day our Dutch-speaking Belgian sisters also joined us. The past few years we have had around 450 to 500 women in total participating in the women's day. They love to bring their friends from outside the church, which is a beautiful thing. About 15 percent of the participants are non-Adventists. In the pictures below, you can see the group pictures from 5 different locations.



The themes that we had between the years 2012 to 2016 were:

- Me time? Yes, you can!
- Women got talent!
- Live, laugh, love
- Dream, dare, do



Last November we celebrated our 5th anniversary. And of course, we wanted to do something special. This time we had a huge women's day celebration together in one venue. The theme was: Let your light shine!



shine



It was an amazing experience praising God with such a huge group of women. All our Dutch women pastors empowered the attendants with a 5 minute 'let your light shine' sermon. We had a wonderful praise band and specials. After sharing a meal together, the women could enjoy a 'let your light shine' market. A market with lots of different things to do and experience. For example, working on a comfort blanket together, having a massage or photoshoot, feeling blessed at the prayer stations, being creative with paint or Bible journaling or just have a wonderful talk together.



Training

Once every few years, we organize a day of inspiration or an inspiration weekend for local women's ministry leaders. We inspire the local WM leaders with ideas for creative Bible studies, how to make programmes, how to partake in outreach in a fun way, etc. We don't only provide ideas, but also materials.



Women's weekend

When you say: 'women's weekend' in our churches in the Netherlands, there will be many enthusiastic reactions!



Our national women's weekends are a big success! Every weekend is based on a theme. There are approximately 40 to 60 women present each weekend. Because of the great interest in these programmes, we organize two or three weekends for every theme. Every time there are many women present who are not part of the Adventist church.



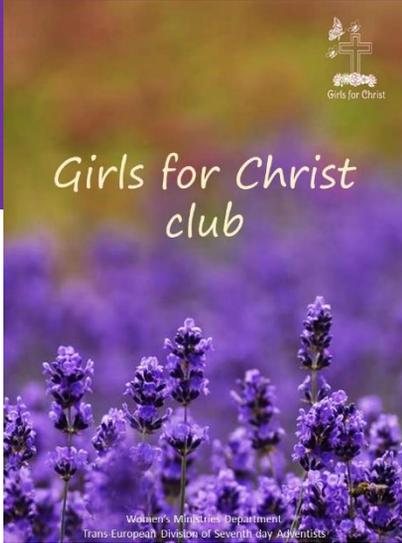
Our volunteers are worth gold. They are an enthusiastic team that helps with cooking, giving workshops, singing and pastoral care and are very involved in our programmes.

During our 'Chocolate Boutique'-theme, the women were able to taste and see that God is good. The 'Seaside Escape' was a tropical party, and at 'Garden Getaway', the women walked with God.



A weekend where we dwell in God's word, we smile, we cry, we find ourselves and make new friends is important.





GIRLS FOR CHRIST MANUAL 2

After launching the Girls for Christ programme in 2017, we are now busy working on the material for the second year.

As you know, the Girls for Christ Club is going to be a three-year programme for teenage girls. We have material completed for the first year and we are working on the resource for the second year. It contains Bible study lessons, Bible study handouts, health lessons, health handouts, giveaway cards (the girls will paste them into their journal - which can be purchased from our department), and craft ideas. We will announce the finished programme for the second year soon.

COLOURING CARDS

We are also working on a pack of colouring cards. The idea is to have cards that you colour as you like and write your own message on them. It can be a lovely 'Get well soon' card, a Birthday card or you just say 'Hi' to someone who you haven't met a long time. There are no words on the cards so it is your choice what to write on them. They will be printed out before Summer.



MAY

Start a new journaling book today. Try these texts out for a month and see how spending time with God will make a difference in your life. Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Just reading is not enough. Let the text really speak to you. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

Anxiety / Fear

- Day 1 - Isaiah 41:10-10
- Day 2 - Matthew 11:25-27
- Day 3 - Matthew 11:28-30
- Day 4 - Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 5 - 1 Peter 5:6-7
- Day 6 - John 16:32-33
- Day 7 - 1 John 4:16-18
- Day 8 - Hebrews 13:5-6
- Day 9 - Romans 8:14-17
- Day 10 - Romans 8:18-19
- Day 11 - Psalm 62:1-4
- Day 12 - Psalm 62:5-8
- Day 13 - Psalm 55:3-4
- Day 14 - Psalm 94:18-19

- Day 15 - Psalm 118:5-7
- Day 16 - Jeremiah 29:11-14
- Day 17 - Deuteronomy 31:6
- Day 18 - Psalm 56:1-4
- Day 19 - John 14:26-27
- Day 20 - Psalm 23:1-6
- Day 21 - Joshua 1:9-9
- Day 22 - Luke 12:22-26
- Day 23 - Luke 12:27-31
- Day 24 - Luke 12:32-34
- Day 25 - Psalm 55:22-23
- Day 26 - Psalm 66:1-3
- Day 27 - Mark 4:39-40
- Day 28 - Zephaniah 3:16-17
- Day 29 - Psalm 91:1-6
- Day 30 - Psalm 91:7-12
- Day 31 - Psalm 91:13-16

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSES ON THE TED WEBSITE

Start a new journaling book today. Try these texts out for a month and see how spending time with God will make a difference in your life. Each of the scriptures takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Just reading is not enough. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Visit the TED website to download the Bible verses:

<https://ted.adventist.org/women-s-ministries>

Enjoy your time with God!