



Women's Ministries

News from the South-East European Union

Marija Trajkovska, Women's Ministries director

Fulfilling its mission in the year 2018, the SEEUC Women's Ministry used different ways to nurture, empower and reach the women in the Church and in the local communities.

NURTURE

The regular and healthful nurture of the women in the church was done through the preparation of the GC WM materials for the WM special days. They were prepared and translated into languages spoken at the territory of the SEEUC and sent to the local WM leaders well in advance.

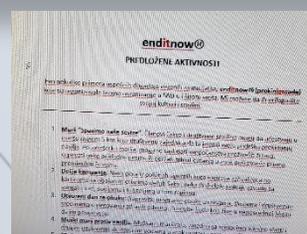
1. The sermon material „God understands“ together with the seminar materials „Who Am I?“ and „A Spiritual Woman“ for the International Women's Day of Prayer realized on Sabbath, March 3, 2018.



2. The sermon material „Blessed to Be a Blessing“ together with the seminar materials „Eight Blessings to Share“, „Jar of Fragrance“ and „Sing to the Lord a New Song“ for the Women's Ministry Emphasis Day, realized on Sabbath, June 9, 2018.



3. The sermon material „Words That Wound“ together with the seminar material „Emotional Abuse“ and „Enditnow Suggested Activities“ for the Women's Ministry Abuse Prevention Day realized on Sabbath, August 25, 2018.



4. The complete material for the new programme of the Bible and Health studies for teenage and young girls „Girls for Christ“ was translated and made ready to publish.

With the help of the middle age and older women, serving as their mentors, it is going to be presented on a regular monthly basis for the girls in and outside the church in the local churches of the SEEUC.

The training done last year, with TED WM Director, Clair Sanches will help in its proper realization.



EMPOWERMENT

WM retreat in Heilderberg, Germany

Besides numerous retreats, meetings and training seminars organized at the territory of the SEEUC to empower women for better service in the Church and outside it, especially impressive was the WM retreat organized in Youth resort of Heilderberg, Germany for the women from the SDA diaspora churches of Yugoslavian origin in the Offenbach district.

Daniela Piroški, WM leader from the Offenbach SDA church and her team organized an unforgettable weekend event on March 16 – 18, 2018, under the common title “A Woman After God’s Heart”.

In her six presentations on women from the Old and New Testament time, the guest speaker Marija Trajkovska, SEEUC WM Director, shared the characteristics of less known Bible characters such as Naaman’s maid servant (2 Kings 5:1-4), Sheerah (1 Cron. 7:24), Shiphrah and Puah (Exodus 1:15-21), Rhoda (Acts 12:12-17), Euodia and Syntyche (Philip. 4:2-3) and Ahlai (1 Chron. 2: 31-41), inspiring women to really become women after God’s heart in their homes, churches and local communities.



OUTREACH

Integrative evangelism

Decisive to take part in the integrative evangelism of the SEEUC, during the year 2018, Women's Ministry department continued its cooperation with the Health, Family, Youth and Children Ministries departments, organizing women's health seminars, marriage and family relationship seminars, health expos, cooking schools and hospital, social service, orphanage and nursing home visits.

The main outreach activity was the work of the creative workshops and we will mention only several successful examples of it:



1. In the last three years, in the Serbian district Pomoravlje, comprising the towns of Ćuprija, Paraćin and Jagodina a special programme called „Creative Whatnot“ for reaching women and all other interests in the local community has been successfully implemented.

It consists of creative crafts workshops, health training and humanitarian actions.

Jelena Trajković, local WM leader and her team put efforts in to share true life values with the women in their surroundings, through the proper diet workshops, mental and emotional health workshops.

But also through the work of the creative craft workshops such as decoupage and other workshops.

The products made by them are then used as gifts donated in the humanitarian actions such as „Giving Heart“, „Christmas Surprises“, „New Year Gifts“, „Women's Day Surprises“ done in the hospitals, children's and old people's homes, kindergartens, elementary and high schools and local prisons.

Their involvement in the regional manifestation „Come into My Jar“ of which the main aim is revival of the old and healthy domestic recipes for the food preservation was also remarkable.

At the recent third anniversary, which was a unique combination of classical music concert, Bible study, agape dinner and creative workshop an action of the humanitarian hair cutting has started to raise funds for the community project „Christmas Gifts“.



Similar creative workshops are organized in the other cities and towns of the SEEUC such as Pirot, Knjaževac, Gradiška, Prijedor, Banjaluka and Sarajevo.

2. Two years ago, the WM department of SDA church in Vršac, at the North-West of Serbia, started organizing creative workshops for about 30 non-Adventist women in the Town's Cultural Centre but gradually the group increased so much that it needed to be divided into two and transfer to the SDA church facilities. The interest for the health and spiritual aspects of life among men and women involved in the work of the creative workshops is so high that they are now getting involved in the health and Bible study clubs at the local church.



3. The WM department of Skopje, Macedonia, has developed a long lasting practice that has now grown into a nice tradition and serves as an example and inspiration to many other WM departments of the SEEUC – congratulating the beginning of the New Year to the Emergency Ward, Police and Fire Brigade officers on duty with the parcels of homemade cookies and a book of a spiritual content. This tradition proved to bring joy to the gift givers but also to their thankful recipients.





4. The WM department Novi Sad, northern Serbia, has tried a new approach in reaching the local community by organizing classes of fitness and cardio exercising under the common title "Become and Stay Fit".

The classes organized in the church facility raised enormous interest among the city women but due to the space limitation only 50 non-Adventist women could start the course.

The others had to be put on the waiting list. An Adventist fitness instructor Vesna Cicmil was eager to motivate women to regular and healthful exercising but also shared useful advise about the proper body posture and spine health problems.

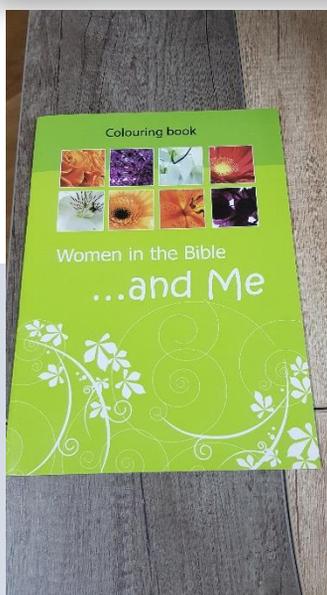
SEEUC WM PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2019

In the coming 2019 year, SEEUC WM department will focus on the two main areas of work:

1. Creative Bible and Spirit of Prophecy studies for building up women`s personal spiritual life and their relationship with God and
2. Girls for Christ, Bible and Health Studies for the teenage and young girls to meet their social, emotional and spiritual needs.

The work will be enriched by the use of the special WM colouring book „Women in the Bible and Me“ and the manual „Girls for Christ“ that soon will be made available to the WM leaders in the local churches across the SEEUC.

Marija Trajkovska
 Women`s Ministry Director
 SEEUC



TED News

EMPHASIS DAY 8 June 2019**The Call to Arise and Shine**

Resource packet sermon written by Raquel Arrais, associate director
General Conference Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries Emphasis Day is on the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Calendar of Days and Events and falls on the second Sabbath each June. It is an opportunity for women to lead out in a worship service and



a chance to educate the church regarding the purposes of Women's Ministries. It is an ideal time to introduce your leaders and committee to the church family and to invite women who have not been involved to join.

The packets are available on the General Conference Women's Ministries website at <https://women.adventist.org>

