

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER

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Women's Ministries Celebrates 25 Years!

5 key reasons why the church needs Women's ministry

1. For Unity: Gossip, envy and other insecurities that bring disunity have been over associated with woman. However, many women's ministries across the Church are coming together and living out a very different reputation. When we gather in godliness, beautiful unity is unleashed, we grow, the young are trained, the old are honored, the lost are reached, needs are met, justice is brought and God's kingdom comes. The whole Church benefits when woman unite together

2. For Men: We need to remember that men are not our girlfriends and they cannot replace the need we have for female relationships in our lives. The idea that men can be easier to get on with than with other girls is no reason to neglect sisterhood. We can be disappointed if they don't always respond the way we need. Some days, and some issues, just need a woman's touch. Titus 2 highlights the need for woman to teach younger women. Men were never meant to take all of the responsibility.

3. For Growth: As women we are amazingly different. There is no real stereotype to be confined to. It's been said that the single woman doesn't want to keep hearing about the married woman, the childless hears too much about the new mother, the homemaker has no time for the businesswoman and the young have little in common with the old. We are to be all things to all people. Why be divided when all situations, seasons and callings can mix up and share wisdom from each group together? Even though there is no gender in heaven, on earth we are designated with that common denominator of being women who are each seeking to be all God has intended us to be

4. For Femininity: God did not make us masculine. Some women may have beautiful broad shoulders or be the boss in the workplace, but they are still feminine. Try masculinity on for size and it won't suit. The terms 'girly girl' and 'tomboy' are often labelled to determine how masculine of feminine you are.

Whichever side you fall on, consider yourself feminine and nothing less. Why confuse the situation when the world is so confused already? You can delight in femininity and still rate football or shopping, eat burgers or afternoon tea. Femininity is not weak or frilly, it's armour from God. Women's ministry can be accused of too much pink and fluff.

Meetings are not always what we want them to be, but minor things like a colour scheme or décor should not alienate or dictate our participation. A bit of fluff doesn't hurt anybody, but criticism and division is another matter. After all, Jesus himself was a lamb and a bit of 'softness' was good enough for him.

5. For Others: The first time I experienced women's ministry it changed my life. Has every woman's meeting been this way? No! Meetings can be corny with cliché concepts, and at times we may be discouraged. But have grace and you'll quickly realise that if you don't take part with other women your kind of woman or ministry style may never be represented.

The enemy must not stop us from getting up, getting dressed and turning up regardless.

Our seasons, colours and callings may be different, but those are the details that make our women's ministry more interesting. Together we are mobilised to understand, reach and teach one another.

Ultimately we come together for God, to see his kingdom come. God uses women's gatherings to do some pretty significant things. But in our absence, we may miss the girl we were supposed to bring life to, or miss the pearl of wisdom we were supposed to receive. And there is a great need for woman's ministries in our churches as it prepares and makes room for lost girls to come home. Jesus always made room for them.

www.elim.org.co.uk, Article





25 years of Women's Ministries Sweden



Audrey Andersson
2007 – 2010

Highlight

Women's Ministries in Sweden as read by the Yearbook is a rather short history. It came to pass that the Swedish Union had its first female executive secretary, Audrey Andersson, who even took on the role as Sweden's first Women's Ministries Director in 2007. She held this office until she was elected secretary of the Trans European Division in 2010. Her successor as secretary for the Swedish Union, Daniel Hailemariam, dutifully took on all of Audrey's former responsibilities at the union office, even the role of Women's Ministries Director. Could it be that Daniel was the first male Women's Ministries Director of the world field? He was the one that got the leadership training started in Sweden and was very supportive of the first women's retreat held in 2014. In 2015 Daniel handed over the baton to Sonja Kalmbach who has been Women's Ministries Director until today.



Daniel Hailemariam
2010 – 2015



Sonja Kalmbach
2015 - Current

25 years of Women's Ministries Adriatic Union Conference



Marina Zeko
2016 - April 2018

Highlight:

After a few years break Women's Ministry in the Adriatic Union Conference was restarted in 2016. Under the leadership of Marina Zeko Women's ministries was purposeful in bringing the women in Adventist Croatian churches together. In the local churches of Croatia, they are traditional with set gender roles. Thus, the Women's Ministry department was mainly in charge of taking care of joint lunches and the organisation and much less oriented towards a mission for women in the local community. Efforts were made to raise awareness of the multiple roles of women in the church, to point out the needs of women outside the church, who are in a high percentage interested in various contents and are much more open to spirituality than men. The best tool in this regard proved to be personal visits to local churches and holding workshops and lectures to those interested. The workshops and lectures included biblical methods of work in preaching the gospel and their application in a contemporary context. In addition to listening to biblical sermons, participants were able to learn how to create a mission project in all its phases and what content can be offered to a certain female population.

Clair from TED also introduced us to various methods of working through the Women's Ministry, where women could learn about "unconventional" ways of working with other women through tactile and creative workshops.

We hope that these efforts will bear fruit in the future and give this service an advantage in creating the mission.



Svjetlana Veble
April 2018 - Current



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

ADRIATIC UNION CONFERENCE

FAITHFUL IN SERVICE SEMINAR

Women's Ministry of the Adriatic Union Conference gathered on 8th March 2020. About 80 women attended the Seminar entitled "Faithful in Service" from the churches of Croatia and Slovenia. Women from the Albanian Mission who also belong to the Adriatic Union were not in attendance due to the distance, but we were in prayers with them.

Our guest speaker was Raquel Arrais from Women's Ministries at the General Conference, who encouraged and inspired us to serve in the church. We were filled with a great and peculiar Sabbath sermon in which she called the Church to answer to the call (Heb. 4.15-16). To approach the throne of grace with confidence, that it was the Lord who would listen and encourage us for the Work that He intended for us. We went on to learn that ANY WOMAN can bring Christ "lost" from his environment because when the Lord calls us...

- 1.) He blesses us
- 2.) Equips us with the necessary knowledge and ability
- 3.) He goes with us
- 4.) It changes us

We decided to use our gifts (and everyone got their gift) NOW. That is why we urge all sisters and brothers to support us and join us, our efforts are also supported by the GC, Trans-European Division and the AUC, On behalf of our president, Pastor Drago Mojzeš spoke, recalling that according to statistics in the Christian Adventist Church in Croatia, about 60% of the faith is made up of women and the main responsibility for dissemination. Good news for us!

We were grateful to have had this seminar as a few days after Croatia closed its borders due to the COVID 19 virus and all schools, colleges and all cities were quarantined or isolated. Our guest Raquel Arrais barely came home with the help of God. The city of Zagreb, which has a population of one million, hit on Sunday 22.03. a strong earthquake with great consequences.

The seminar Raquel left us with really helped our sisters in hardships to remain in fellowship and with a great desire to help in church and the community because with God's gifts women can do it! For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. "Heb. 4.15-16

Svjetlana Veble, AUC Women's Ministry Department.





WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LATVIA

A TESTIMONY BOOK "WHO MAKES APPLE TREES BLOOM?"

This year the Women's Ministry team Latvia asked for a special project, a testimony book. Thirty three women got involved and wrote their testimony stories, creating a book called **"Who makes apple trees bloom?"** The title of the book is taken from the longest testimony. There are various testimonies in the book about how God has responded, How to overcome depression, receive healing, rebuild relationships, experience miraculous protection and how to find your way. On September 13th we invited the women from our congregations to the opening ceremony of the book where we shared testimonies, music and a chance to buy the book. At present, the book has become a mission book that has been requested and read on Latvian Christian Radio and purchased by women of many other denominations, as well as gifts to friends and acquaintances.





She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future.

Proverbs 31:25



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