

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER



Thank You

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INTRODUCING KAREN HOLFORD

16

A woman with blonde hair, seen from behind, stands in a field of tall, golden wheat. She is wearing a sleeveless, knee-length dress with a small white floral pattern on a reddish-brown background. Her right arm is raised, holding a wide-brimmed straw hat with a colorful, patterned ribbon tied around the crown. The background is a soft, hazy sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A Time for Everything

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.

A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot.

A time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build.

A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.

A time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Clair Sanchez-Schutte



What can you say after 11 years as Children and Women's Ministries Director for the Trans-European Division? Well, as it happens, a lot. When I first came to the Division office my very first appointment was to Lithuania, where I held a KID training. I was so nervous as it was my first trip. But the people in Lithuania were wonderful to me and I made some friends for life. In those 11 years I think the thing I have loved the most is meeting people and seeing that you have made a difference by visiting them. I know during COVID we have stayed connected through zoom, and that really has been a gift, but meeting face to face is something different. You get energy from personal encounters, bouncing off one another and sharing ideas and encouragement.

My time at the TED has been especially exciting because of the people I met. I have made many friends, who I didn't even know 11 years ago, and they are friends for life now. I don't want to start naming people because you always forget someone and say later, I wish I had added them. But many I have written to, to thank them and invite them to visit me in the Netherlands. My life will be different now. But I am still going to be working for the Lord, albeit in a different way. Firstly, I can do what I want when I want and how I want. That's the great thing about being retired. You can pick and choose the things that excite you. I am already working on ideas of what I can do and have been praying about it a lot so that I do what God wants. That has always been my way of doing things. I have received many little nudges from God, and I am grateful for that. When you follow His lead, you do what is right and are blessed by it.

I just want to add a word of thanks for all those I had the privilege to work with. Who have made my life easier, by picking me up at the airport, taking me to the hotel, by inviting me into their homes, taking me out for a meal, for showing me the sights? All these little acts of kindness have made my work amazing. Also, I have seen over the years the endless hours of dedication of my Union, Conference, Mission and even local church, counterparts. Those who work diligently for the Lord without looking for glory but giving glory to God. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

May God richly bless you as you embark on the next 4 years with Karen Holford, who I know will do an amazing job and will inspire, connect, and bless each of you.

Thank you, my friends, blessings to you all.

Clair

thank you

Empowered
Women
Empower
Women



Colour my World Netherlands



WM Leadership training in Sweden



WM directors at Advisory together with Raquel Arrais, Assoc. WM GC

A Trip down
Memory Lane



WM outreach in Katerini, Greece

EMPOWERED
WOMEN

EMPOWER
WOMEN



WM training in Hungary



CM training in Croatia



Messy Church training in Hungary



Working together with Heather-Dawn Small
WM Dir. GC in Poland

*Clair's time as WM
Director*



CM training in Athens Greece



WM Leadership training Netherlands

IRELAND, SCOTLAND & WALES WOMEN'S RETREAT

Samantha Fessel

The Women's Ministries Department Leaders of the 3 Missions - Ireland, Scotland, Wales - in the BUC, ran the 1st ever Virtual Women's Retreat on the 11th-13th June incorporating the Women's Emphasis Day using the theme "Come See the Saviour of the World".

The First Speaker on Friday night was Cedrene Botha speaking from the Scottish Mission, reminding the Ladies of the special invitation that is extended to us all by our Loving Saviour.

Sabbath started with a Bible study on the "Captive Maid" which was done in small groups via the online platform. This evoked interesting discussions about the character, influence and witness of the Maid in 2 Kings 5:1-19. Following this Clair Sanches-Schutte, the TED Womens, & Childrens Ministries Director spoke to the ladies about the Samaritan Woman in John 4 continuing the admonition and encouragement of accepting the invitation and the impact of sharing that invitation with others. In the afternoon Clair gave the ladies a quiz & an object lesson sharing the benefits of flowers and plants to our physical and mental wellbeing as well as reminding us again of the love God has for us as His Daughters.

Sunday saw the ladies take part in a virtual exercise class delivered by Lilian Cooper from the Irish Mission with a final challenging message presented by Melanie Mckenna about the need to have a life that reflects Christ, the need to step out of our comfort zones and share that "special" invitation with all those around us.

Throughout the weekend from across the 3 Missions, there were numerous testimonies, musical special items, prayers and even special messages to the Ladies from Heather Dawn Smalls the GC Womens Ministries Sponsor as well as Sharon Platt-McDonald the BUC Womens Ministries Director.

The feedback from the event has been positive and we give God thanks that although we have all had various challenges during this worldwide pandemic, and although we have all needed to adjust to a lot of changes over the last year, there has still been many positives and opportunities made available to us - this being one of them. It was a historic event for the ladies from Scotland, Wales & Ireland enabling them to worship together. God continues to bless us through His Word and God definitely delivered a Spirit -Filled weekend to all those in attendance.

THE 3 MISSIONS WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
PRESENT

A VIRTUAL WEEKEND RETREAT

**INCLUDING
WOMEN'S
EMPHASIS DAY**

THEME COME SEE THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

SPEAKERS

MELANIE MCKENNA **CEDRENE BOTHA** **CLAIR SANCHES-SCHUTTE**
Ted Women's Ministry Director

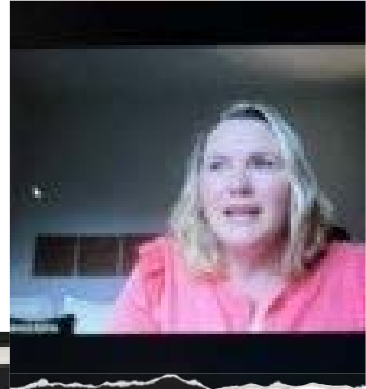
FRIDAY 11TH - SUNDAY 13TH JUNE
TWENTY TWENTY-ONE

TIME

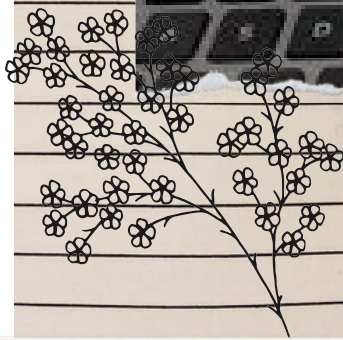
FRIDAY 11TH JUNE - 7PM-8:30PM
SABBATH 12TH JUNE - 10AM-4:30PM
SUNDAY 13TH JUNE - 10AM-12PM

HOSTS
THE 3 MISSIONS WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The ladies taking part in a virtual exercise class delivered by Lilian Cooper from the Irish Mission



Ireland, Scotland & Wales Women's Retreat



GREEK MISSION WOMEN'S TRAINING SEMINAR 2

Liana Gulyas

Our Greek Mission Women's Seminar Training 2, took place at the Riviera Hotel in Athens, Greece on 21st – 23rd of February. 25 Women attended from different parts of Greece. Our guest speaker was Clair Sanches-Schutte, the TED Women's ministry director, who shared a very interesting and relevant topic about the issues she faced as a women in leadership. The atmosphere was very uplifting and we felt the Spirit of God was present, so that our heart and mind could be focused on the useful skills that was being presented.

The highlights of the seminar were the Wheel of purpose and the group discussions. The Wheel of purpose showed us the simple but profound process for woman to become a follower of Christ. It starts with befriend, belong, become and believe, with emphasis on the befriend and belong before you believe.

In the group discussions we spoke about Women's ministries, the women in Bible, their living conditions, how to study the Bible (using psalm 23) and ending with an important issue the women's worth. The discussions were very constructive and helped us to think about how we view ourselves, God and those around us.

We received very positive feedback from all that attended, the women felt blessed and loved that the seminar encouraged them to be more confident about themselves and their calling.



UNSTOPPABLE
WOMEN

Proverbs 31:25

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.



Women's Ministries is going through a big change. Not only do we have a new leader for the Trans-European Division (see article about Karen Holford) but of the 13 Division's we have 9 new leaders coming in. Even the General Conference is not exempt. Raquel Arrais, associate director of Women's Ministries, is also leaving and will take up a new position in Korea at the Northern Asia Pacific Division. There she will be director of children, women, family and Shepherdess International. She will be greatly missed at our head office. Caroline, Marli, Danijela, Raisa, Lisa, Dinorah and Premila are either retiring or have not been re-elected.

As Trans-European Division we know the tireless work these leaders have done in their territories and personally I will miss many of them as we have worked together for a number of years. It is God's work and we trust and pray that women everywhere will be inspired to do their best for God. We wish all the new incoming leaders inspiration and blessings from above.

Farewell



TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION WOMEN'S DAY!

Joy Magnified

SABBATH 19TH JUNE 2021

GUEST SPEAKERS

Clair Sanches-Schutte, TED WM Director

Joy Magnified was our last Women's day under the leadership of WM Director Clair Sanches-Schutte, who will be retiring from her position this year. We thank Clair for her dedication, creativity, enthusiasm, vibrancy, empowerment and spirituality that she brought to the departments for 11 years.

What a successful day we had, we were joined via zoom by over 100 women from 9 different countries, Netherlands, Greece, Poland, UK, Cyprus, Serbia, Hungary, Croatia and Finland.

Guest speaker Heather-Dawn Small spoke on the title Hope Anchors the Soul, she reminded us of the hope we have in Jesus our saviour who is the foundation that keeps us striving. Jeremiah 29:11 talks about the plans that God has for us, plans to help us grow and prosper.

Psalms 42:11 encourages us to put our hope in God, David was coming from depression and sadness to hope and begins to praise God, because he knew God was his only refuge.

Heather spoke on the hope in our Wilderness experiences and that without God we will not be able to survive it. Isaiah 43 says, But now this is what the Lord says he who created you Jacob, he who formed you Israel "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by my name, you are mine."

She spoke about the different bible characters that went through wilderness experiences, but the story of Hagar many of us can relate to. God met Hagar twice in the wilderness Gen 19 & 21. She had no relationship with him at this time, but so desperately needed his comfort and counsel. She called him EL ROI (the God who sees me) in a difficult time in her life and in our lives God sees us and understands the trials we face in life. He wants for us to build a relationship with him so that our soul can be truly anchored in him.

She shared three lessons the wilderness experience gives us. 1. The wilderness being a time of separation, away from other influences. 2. Its uncertainties create a need and a dependency upon God and 3. A time to do without, so we can get to know him as our provider, so we understand he is the only sure foundation.



We were thankful for Heather's words of encouragement we know that in our wilderness experiences God reveals himself to us, he prepares us, humbles us, tests us, builds us and strengthens us. Because in our weakness his strength is magnified. With Jesus we are renewed throughout our trials and wilderness experiences.

In part 2 of the program Clair spoke on the title Gratitude. Psalm 9:1 says I will give thanks to you Lord with all my heart. Sharing the many benefits of Gratitude in our life, improves our physical health, helps us to make friends, improves our psychological health, enhances empathy, reduces aggression, sleep and even self-esteem.

Clair showed us some of the ways we can express through journaling, a gratitude jar, a thankful tree, gratitude prompts, gratitude amble, gratitude pictures.

In the ministry of healing P.253, E.G. White says, "Forgetting our own difficulties and troubles, let us praise God for an opportunity to live for the glory of his name. Let the fresh blessings of each new day awaken praise in our hearts for these tokens of his loving care. When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that he has kept you through the night. Thank him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascent to Heaven."

We thank both Heather and Clair for their words of wisdom, knowledge and counsel. We are encouraged that God is our true and only anchor, that in life we will all face wilderness experiences but like David through our sadness may we still sing praises to God and in the good times may we express openly our gratitude of the many blessings God bestows upon us every single day.

We look forward to more programs like this and thank God for media like zoom, that helps us to connect in this capacity. Follow through to see more highlights from the program.



Heather-Dawn Small, GC Women's Director

HIGHLIGHTS

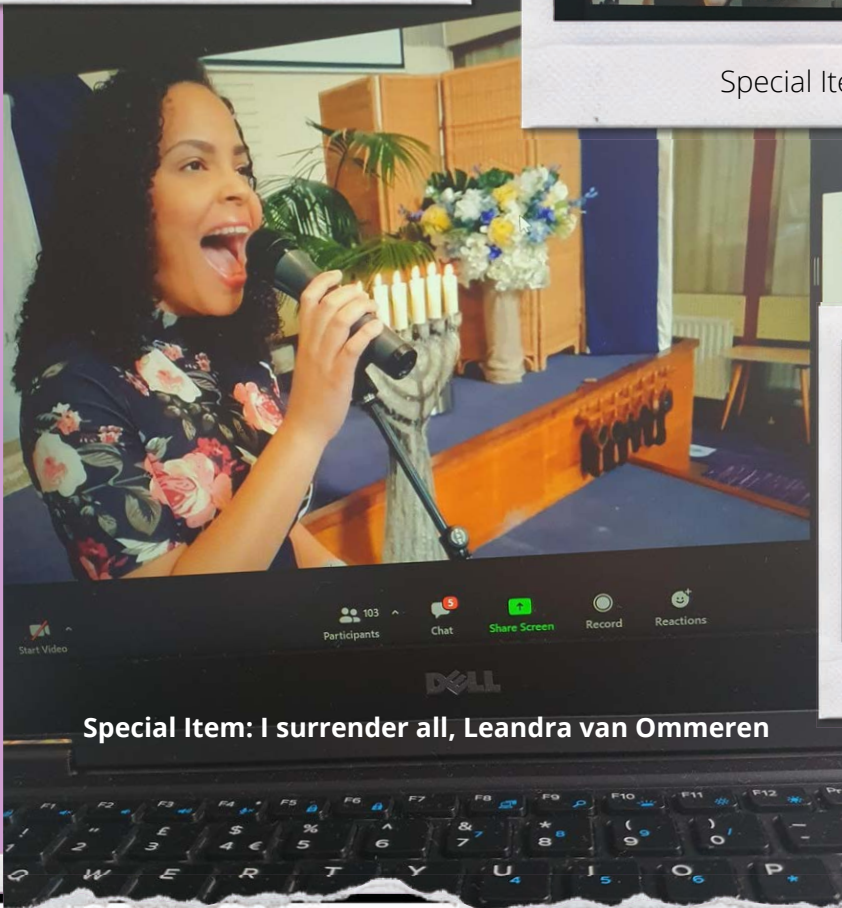
We were welcomed by the WM Directors across the Unions and Divisions via video, Welcome to Joy Magnified in their languages. We thank them for their contribution throughout the day.



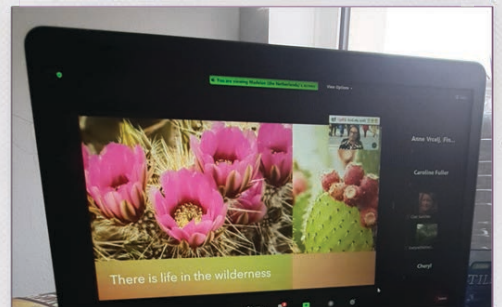
WM Directors "Welcome to Joy Magnified"



Special Item: Newbold singing group



Special Item: I surrender all, Leandra van Ommeren

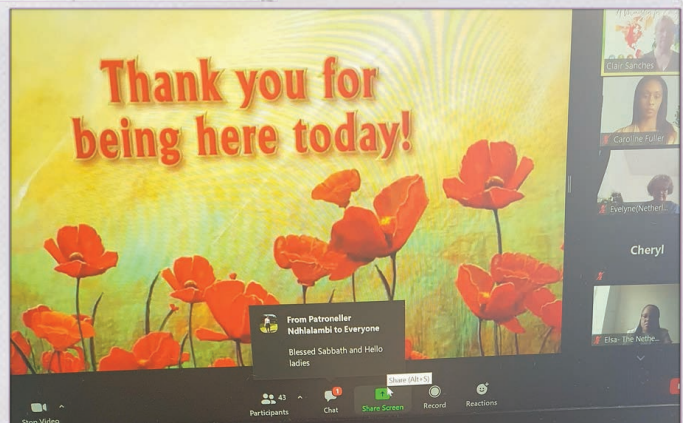


There is life in our wilderness experience

In one word: What brings you joy?



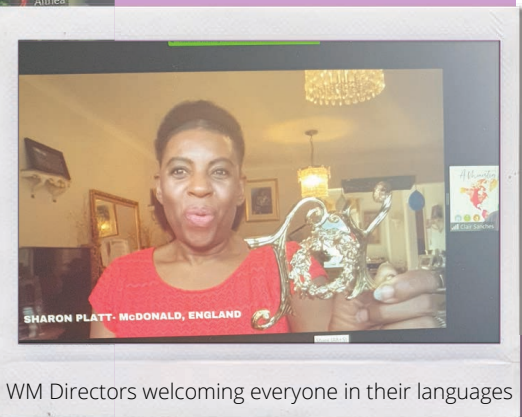
We interacted with each other using our phones via menti.com to form a brainstorm of what comes to mind when we think of Joy.



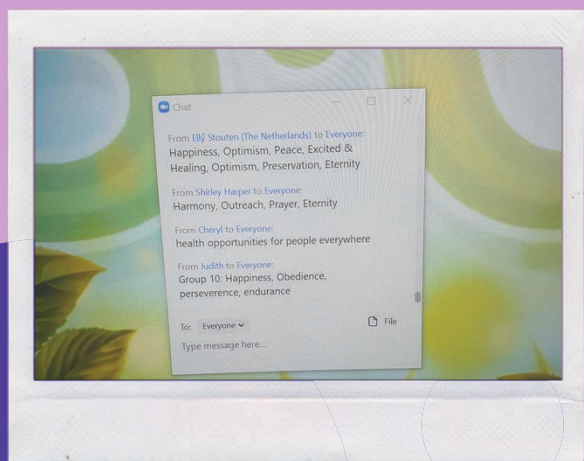
PROGRAM



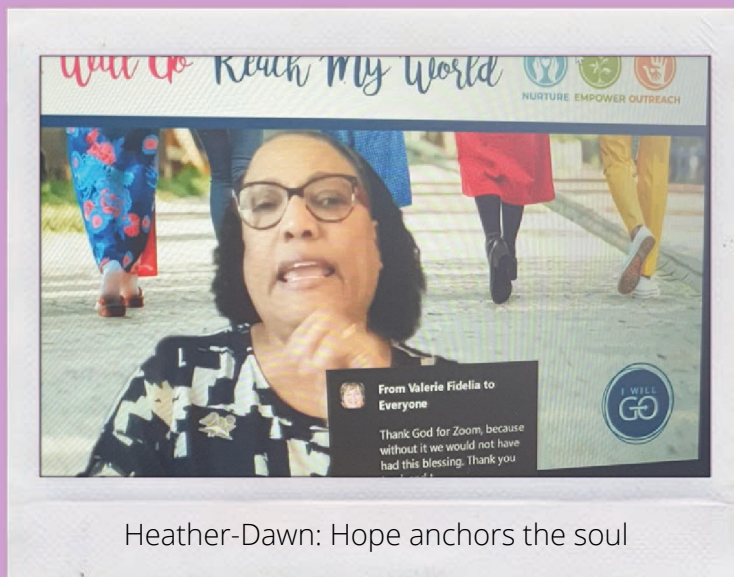
Clair Sanches-Schutte: Gratitude



WM Directors welcoming everyone in their languages



We enjoyed breakout rooms where we shared the meaning of HOPE to us in an acronym (an abbreviation formed from each letter) for example Heaven, Obedience, Perseverance and Everlasting, using the letters of HOPE.



Heather-Dawn: Hope anchors the soul



Karen Holford



It's lovely to meet you and I am really looking forward to working with you very soon!
I thought that you might like to know a little bit about me.

I was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, in the north of England. My parents and grandparents were all Adventists. I grew up in the sixties and seventies and went to a lovely church that was very ahead of its time, with a cafe church and a strong intergenerational worship ethos. Even though our church was like one big and caring family, I was so shy that I would hide after Divine Service so that I didn't have to speak to anyone!

I wrote stories to read in church, and, before I was ten, I had started writing news items about church events for the local paper in my home town of Coventry. I enjoyed writing so much that I decided I wanted to be a writer when I grew up!

I left school and trained as an occupational therapist, specialising in the rehabilitation of people with brain injuries. Then I met Bernie, who was just about to go to Andrews University to finish his MDiv. After spending 4 weekends visiting each other, he asked me to marry him. So we went to Andrews University, one week after we were married, as poor, unsponsored students. Once at Andrews University I decided to study for an MA in Educational and Developmental Psychology.

We returned to the UK and had three children Bethany, Nathan and Joel. The oldest two are now married, and Beth has three children under 10, so I am enjoying being a grandma! God also opened up some unexpected opportunities to write and I have written books on family life, relationships, parenting, and creative worship.

My husband, Bernie, is very busy as a local church pastor of two churches and about 450 members. We've now been married for more than 37 years. We used to work in family ministries at the South England Conference and we both studied for our MSc In Family Therapy. Last year I completed an MA in Leadership from Andrews University. So I have quite mixed educational background! But God brought all of the different studies together to help me in my work in Family Ministries. What looked like a jumbled mess has been the perfect combination for my current work, and it will also be helpful for working with the Women and Children's departments too.

I am an introvert, but fortunately I no longer hide after church, because I eventually learned how to talk to people! I love to write, be creative, surprise people with kindness, go for long walks in nature, and take photographs.

I am really looking forward to meeting you too, and learning from you all!
Blessings of love and peace to you,

Karen Holford

Welcome

A close-up photograph of a blue marker writing the words "Thank you" in a cursive script on a light-colored, textured surface. The marker is positioned at the end of the word "you", with its tip touching the paper. The ink is a vibrant blue, and the strokes are fluid and expressive. The background is a plain, light-colored surface, possibly a piece of paper or a wall.

Thank you

Clair Sanches-Schutte: WM Director
Caroline Fuller: PA, Editor

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