



My best wishes for a wonderful healthy, happy and especially faith filled year to you all. I am very excited about 2017 because this is the year we launch Girls for Christ and Creative Bible Studies. As you can imagine we are very busy with that right now in the office. Zsuzsanna, Karen, José and I are working to make a Girls for Christ manual. I especially look forward to presenting this in many of your Unions. God has called us to make a difference. Not just in faraway places, but in places closer to home as well. Where to be honest it is sometimes more difficult. At the Division we hear many stories of how God is working and if we let him lead in our lives we will experience those stories for ourselves. My prayer is that we will make a positive impact just where we are. By being all that God intended for us to be.

Blessings to you all,

Clair





WM Wellness clubs in Novi Sad and Temerin, Serbia

Wanting to empower women to improve their health and living conditions, WM departments, together with the local health clubs, organized WM Wellness clubs in Novi Sad and Temerin, Serbia. The clubs provide lectures and workshops from the Cooking School, Exercise School, Health School and Bible School, teaching women to cook and eat healthier, to exercise regularly and to trust God getting to know Him better and closer through Bible studies. The regular measuring of the body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, sugar and fat level helps women to follow their health improvement. Judita Erdeg, the North Conference, WM Director and Wellness clubs Instructor says that the attending women are "delighted both with the Wellness club activities and their health improvement as a result of the new lifestyle."



Cooking School and Exercise School activities in WM Wellness clubs in Novi Sad and Temerin, Serbia



Health School and Bible School, as a part of the WM Wellness clubs activities in Novi Sad and Temerin



Judita Erdeg, North Conference WM Director and Wellness club instructor, and the Wellness club participants

Women's Ministries News



WM "Golden" Bread

WM department from Novi Sad, together with local health club "Life and Health", took part in the local public festival "Elijah's Days" in July 2016, in Temerin, Serbia, winning the "gold medal" for the healthy homemade breads. They presented 10 kinds of healthy and easy to make domestic breads that got the highest grades of the jury and the audience. But the highest prize was the acquaintance and friendship with the new people who got sincerely interested in the healthier way of living and eating.



WM department from Novi Sad and health club "Life and Health" at the public festival "Elijah's Days" in Temerin, Serbia, July 2016

Ten kinds of healthy and easy to make domestic breads



WM domestic breads got the highest grades of the jury and the audience at the Elijah's Days festival in Temerin and won the "golden medal"; Judita Erdeg, WM North Conference Director receiving the prize

The greatest prize was the acquaintance with the new people sincerely interested in healthier way of living and eating



PALS Program in the local churches of the SEEUC

The local churches that implemented the programme "Prayer and Love Saves" based on the translated book of Dorothy Eaton Watts, and organized special prayer meetings for the parents of adult children who left God and the Church, during the year 2016, share the reports of the answered prayers and the return of former church members.





Sewing School in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Back in 2013, two enthusiastic women from Tuzla, Bosnia, seamstress Jadranka Karišik and pastor's wife Silvana Kostadinović, decided to open a Sewing School for the women from the local community.

At the beginning the school enrolment was modest – only 8 students, 7 of them being of Moslem origin.

Managing the basics in tailoring and sewing these young women and girls made the life of the parentless children in the Tuzla Orphanage nicer and more comfortable with the 300 meters of curtains and 100 meters of drapes for their windows.

Reopened in May 2016, the Sewing School enrolled the new students who learned the patchwork technique in making bed covers. The students were delighted to create warm and useful covers for their families and friends out of the material scraps. They proudly exhibited them during the closing ceremony at the end of the course.

Sewing instructor
Jadrenka
Karisik (left)

and Sewing
School
students
(right)



Cooking School in Tuzla, Bosna and Herzegovina

The follow –up activity of the Sewing School was the Cooking School organized by the pastor's wife Silvana Kostadinović . The health club instructor and guest speaker, Melania Ickov, from Zrenjanin, Serbia, spoke of the use of the modern cooking appliances technology in preparing healthy vegan and vegetarian food. The presentation was followed by the actual food preparation and gustation.



Silvana Kostadinovic and Melania Ickov – food preparation at the Cooking School in Tuzla, Bosnia Herzegovina



Helath instructor Melania Ickov (sitting on the left) and pastor's wife Silvana Kostadinović (sitting on the right) with the school students



Food preparation and gustation

"From Heart to Heart" Program in Serbia and Macedonia

In cooperation with the WM leader, Barbara Lučić, from Yugoslavian Diaspora church in Stutgardt, Germany, the heart-shaped cushions were provided as a gift for the women recovering from the breast cancer. The cushions are designed to be used as an arm rest in the recovery therapy after the operation. Together with the WM cards wishing them soon and successful recovery they were gladly accepted by the women who found themselves in this unfortunate situation.



Heart-shaped cushions packed and ready for the distribution



Two of the ladies who have received cushions



Anti-stress seminar in Padina

The anti-stress seminar under the capturing title „Don't Eat the Soup as Hot as They Cook It“ was held on two weekends in January (January 22 – 24 and January 29 – 31) 2016 in the town of Padina, in North Serbia, by the SEEUC WM Director, Marija Trajkovska, and was regularly attended by 30 – 40 non-Adventist men and women. The „Soup Party“ held each evening, after the presentations, offered the participants not only a cup of hot vegi soup and toasted bread squares but also an opportunity to know each other better and to find answers to their burning personal issues.



The Integrative evangelism together with the Health Clubs in Serbia

In cooperations with the Belgrade health club, during the months of February and March 2016, the anti-stress seminar „Don't Eat the Soup as Hot as They Cook It“ has held in a public hall in the downtown of Belgrade, Serbia, with SEEUC WM Director, Marija Trajkovska, for the 25 – 30 non-Adventist regular participants.



Pastoral Wives Meeting in Skopje, Macedonia

The WM department of the Macedonian Mission organized a whole day meeting for the pastoral wives on October 23, 2016 in Skopje, Macedonia. They first got better acquainted with the wife of the first preacher in the world – Noah's wife – and then have a creative seminar on coping with gossip and criticism - „Gossiped and Criticized She Still Survives“. In the afternoon, they had a heart to heart talk and shared their experiences in the pastoral work. After a delicious lunch they shared together in the national restaurant „Macedonian House“ they were ready to go back to their homes and duties, refreshed, energized and aware that they are not alone in this solemn and responsible work.





„She Has Done What She Could“ - WM Retreat and Training seminar in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The WM retreat „She Has Done What She Could“ and the evangelistic training seminar „Outreach is for Everyone“ was held on June 11, 2016 in the Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the WM leaders and church members, enabling them to do to what they can with what they have in reaching people in their communities for Christ.



„Women After God`s Heart“ - WM Retreat and Evangelistic Training Seminar in Banja Luka

Following the initiative Total Membership Involvement, an active and resourceful WM department of the SDA church in Vršac, Serbia, organized the WM retreat under the title „Women After God`s Heart“ and the evangelistic training „Outreach is for Everyone“ on September 24, 2016, preparing women and men of all ages and talents to get actively involved in the evangelistic work.





The Traditional Visit of the Macedonian Mission WM to the Emergency Services in Skopje, Macedonia

During the holiday season of 2017, WM department from Skopje, Macedonia, visited the officers on duty of the city Emergency Department, Police Department and the Fire Brigade Department and presented them with the parcels of the domestic cakes, calendars for the New 2017 year and the books „Steps to Christ“ Mirjana Gureva, WM director in the Macedonian Mission, said that „they all were delighted and thankful to the WM department for remembering them during the holiday season, every year without exception, and that the visit now became the traditional one. Their thankfulness and joy was the reason for even greater thankfulness and joy of the women from the Macedonian Mission Women`s Ministries department, for being able to serve in that way and maintaining this blessed tradition.“ (See the group picture below)



Evangelistic series in Padina, Serbia

Implementing the initiative of integrative evangelism, SEEUC WM department organized the weekend evangelistic series in Padina, Serbia, on December 2 – 4, 2016 under the title „Women After God`s Heart“ dealing with virtues of Ruth, Queen Esther and Pilate`s Wife needed in everyday life of every woman and man. The series was well accepted and regularly attended by 12 – 14 non – Adventist men and women from the local community. Although newly planted and currently consisted of only 3 church members, Padina SDA church is very active in reaching their neighbours and friends.

SEEUC WM Plans for the Year 2017

The three main emphasis of the SEEUC WM department in the year 2017 will be:

- Creative Evangelism;
- Women`s Spiritual Health Nourishment;
- Work with the Teenagers and Young Girls

Having in mind the above mentioned emphases, the training seminars with Clair Sanches, TED WM Director, will be held in Belgrade and Novi Sad on February 24 - 25, 2017 dealing with Creative Bible Study and Girls for Christ.

