



PAGES *Women's Ministries*

Hi Everyone,

Yesterday I received an email from Heather-Dawn and Raquel from the General Conference Women's Ministries Department. I wanted to share a section with you because I found it rather funny but at the same time said so much.

We just celebrated Thanksgiving weekend home. Still in the celebration mode, I watched a travel/food show last night. It was an episode about food in the context of American Thanksgiving Day. The host of the show was American, and the episode took place somewhere in Europe, I believe in France. So as the show went on, the host asked a French restaurant chef what would he recommend to eat for Thanksgiving in France! The French chef looked confused. He began asking the American host questions about what Thanksgiving was since in France there is no "thanksgiving" tradition as in America. So the American host attempted to explain how thanksgiving is a gathering, with loved ones, and food, and gratitude. And as the

American host was explaining the concept of thanksgiving day to the French chef, the face of the French chef lit up! And the French chef replied: "Yes! I understand! Thanksgiving in France is just dinner! Because every dinner is just as you described for your thanksgiving party." This made me laugh. But may we see the lesson in the humor of the French chef. May our expression of gratitude overflow out of the one day into all of the days of our life. So be thankful. Eat good food. Laugh good laughs. Enjoy people. And bask in the gift of life that comes from God himself. Today, and every day.

May every day be a day of thanksgiving and praise to God for what he is doing and has done for us.

Blessings,

Clair

Clair Sanches-Schutte
Women's and Children's
Ministries director
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News from the Baltic Union

Alla Nõmmik, Women's, Health and Children's Ministries director

WM news from the Baltic Union

The Baltic Union consists of churches in three small countries – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. There is a WM department director only in one of these three conferences – in Latvia. Marite Lipska, who works for the church as a volunteer, is a very dedicated and enthusiastic leader, whom God has given a talent to bring women together for inspiration and empowerment in God's work.

Marite, together with her team, organized a WM congress, which took place 13-15 April in Riga, Latvia.



The name of the congress was Closer to Home. About 160 women from Latvia participated.



The speakers of the event were Heather-Dawn Small and Raquel Arrais from the GC.



Besides highly motivating and nurturing sermons on Sabbath given by them, a health expo was conducted on Friday for people from Riga, who had received invitations in the streets.



During a charity concert on Sabbath evening, money was raised for a single mother, who had to take care of her blind daughter. Workshops on Sunday featured natural skin care, creative Bible study, the solutions for co-dependency, and interactive ministry in Sanctuary.



The profit of the charity market, conducted on Sunday, was given to a little boy Rikard, to take care of his health problems.



In addition to that, a magazine Wonderfully created, written by Adventist women of Latvia, was published especially for this congress.





Even though there is no officially elected WM department director in Estonia or Lithuania, the ladies of these countries are very active in church.

Some examples; Daiva Paulauskiene from Lithuania has organised a group of women in Siauliai, who come together regularly to learn the Word of God, prepare healthy food, discuss topical issues, and make natural skin care.



There are about 15 women, who participate and at least half of them are not Adventists.

Therefore, it is also an outreach activity.





In Estonia, the ladies of Rakvere Adventist church, led by a very energetic and resourceful local pastor's wife Annely Kaasik, have established a healthy cooking club and also a handicraft club to reach people in the local community with the Adventist message of health and God's grace.

Each year they make a calendar with recipes of healthy food and inspiring Bible verses, which they distribute in town during Christmas-time when they offer the samples of healthy food, prepared by them to town people who come to do their Christmas shopping.

Each summer they participate in garden café days organised by the local town, opening a pancake café in the yard of the local Adventist church. Many people come to eat the tasty pancakes and receive Adventist literature. There are people from the local community, who participate both in the cooking club and the handicraft club, who are not members of the Adventist church, but who like the activities and friendly people of the church.



Please keep the Adventist women in the Baltic Union in your prayers that God could work in them and through them; that they could be God's light bearers wherever they go and are in their local communities.

Alla Nõmmik

WM Department Director of the Baltic Union

News from the Adriatic Union

Meet the new Women's Ministries director at the Adriatic Union - Svjetlana Veble

She was married for 27 years to her husband Roland. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2007 so she is a widow. She has two daughters, Iva (36) and Ana (22). Iva is an economist and has been happily married for ten years now with her husband Rudolf, and Ana is finishing her master's degree in social pedagogy.



She has been Women's Ministries director and Executive Secretary in the Adriatic Union for 6 months now.

The biggest challenge is to keep patience in midst of all troubles and new situations she confronts daily.

The biggest joy for her is knowing that everything she does, she does with God and for God. That is something she didn't have in her previous job which she was dedicated to for 37 years. She was a director of our publishing house which is now in the hands of her older daughter Iva.

She has several favourite Bible texts, but the one that is always on her mind is from Isaiah 41:13.

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

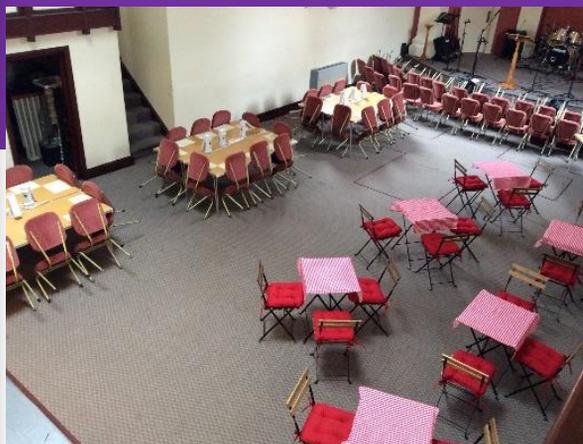
(photos: Svjetlana with her younger daughter and with family)

Using your gifts and talents to reach others

We are getting crafty at The Mission - Leamington Spa!

Earlier this year we decided to use the creative programmes we had been running for our church family, to connect with our community. With 18.3 million women crafting in Britain, we thought it could be a good way for us to make new friends. With God's blessing, this has proved to be a most amazing ministry!

In the summer we had a craft morning for our Baby and Toddler group, inviting the whole family including siblings who are usually at school when the group meets. We didn't know what to expect because it was a new initiative and many families go away during the school holidays. We were amazed when we had over 60 in attendance, including mums, children and helpers! This was followed shortly by a Ladies evening, again attendance was beyond expectations! Since then we have had regular 'Crafternoons' and 'Creative Cafes' each month with attendance growing each time.



We are blessed with church members of both genders and ALL ages who were willing to do whatever it takes from setting up and breaking down to making cakes and serving refreshments in our cafe and most important of all, making friends with our guests!

The biggest blessing has been the way we saw and felt the Holy Spirit working in our lives, showing us how fabulous and fun it can be to share and make friends with our community because relationships are the key to this ministry!

Carolyn Schulz