

JANUARY 2012

Women's Ministries Newsletter

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GREETINGS FROM THE TED OFFICE

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

International Women's Day of
Prayer

3rd MARCH 2012

At the stroke of 12 o'clock on Saturday evening the 31st of December 2011 many people celebrated the coming of 2012. In the Netherlands, where I was this year, they always have a lot of fireworks. Sometimes if there is no wind the smell of sulfur is so thick it is hard to breathe. In fact we have had years where the smoke just couldn't get away because there was so much and also there was mist and it just hung there. You couldn't even see your neighbors house across the street.

But not everyone wants to celebrate with a big bang. Some people celebrate it a little quieter. Preferring to do things in a cozier fashion.

However you celebrated you can be sure that many people made new years resolutions. Some of us actually make it through the first

week with our resolutions. Resolutions like do more exercise, eat less, be nicer, try to accept people for who they are. You can fill it in for yourself.

But why do we wait for the stroke of midnight for a new years resolutions. We don't have to wait 365 days or 366 days in 2012. God's grace is new every morning. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:16,17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

God is so wonderful he gives us new opportunities all the time. So the big question is what are we going to do about it. Are we going to celebrate the new and wonderful life God is offering us. If we do you can be sure that 2012 will be a year you will not quickly forget. God will give you many opportunities to share what you have learnt and that is only the beginning.



My wish for you all is that 2012 will be a year like no other.

God bless you all,

Clair

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES ADVISORY	1
INVENTIONS	2
THE CHARACTER OF PERFECT LOVE	2
QUOTE BY MRS WHITE	2
A ROSE	3
STORY ABOUT KARE LUND	3
WM RETREAT NETHERLANDS	4

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES ADVISORY

Well time is flying and I am very much looking forward to meeting with all the Union Women's Ministries Directors. Solveig and I have been finalizing the programme and it looks good. We have several special guests coming. Raquel Arais from the General Con-

ference will be our special guest. We have Debby Birac from Australia who will be teaching us an outreach possibility. We have a workshop on Women and mental health and Miroslav Pujic with a workshop on the post-modern person and how we can reach

them.

Of course there will be much more and we are praying that you will go home with lots to think about and to try out in your own field.

INVENTIONS

Inventions tell something about inventors place in the society in which they live, a closeness to certain kinds of problems, and possession of certain skills. It is not surprising that up until the mid 20th Century, women's inventions were often related to childcare, housework and healthcare, all traditional female occupations. In recent years, with access to specialized training and broader job opportunities, women are applying their creativity to many new kinds of problems, including those requiring high technology. While women have frequently come up with new ways to make their work easier, they have not

always received credit for their ideas. Some stories about early women inventors show that women often recognized that they were entering "a man's world," and shielded their work from the public eye by allowing men to patent their inventions.

One such woman Margaret Knight, known as the "female Edison", received 26 patents for such diverse items as a window frame and sash, machinery for cutting shoe soles, and improvements to internal combustion engines. Her most significant patent was for machinery that would automatically fold and glue

paper bags to create square bottoms, an invention which dramatically changed shopping habits. Workmen reportedly refused her advice when first installing the equipment because, "after all, what does a woman know about machines?"



THE CHARACTER OF PERFECT LOVE

A poem by Kim Clement

Slow to suspect, quick to trust

Slow to condemn, quick to justify

Slow to expose, quick to shield

Slow to reprimand, quick to forbear

Slow to belittle, quick to appreciate

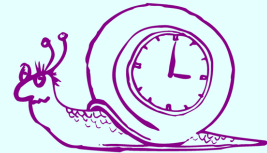
Slow to demand, quick to give

Slow to hinder, quick to help

Slow to provoke, quick to consolate

Slow to resent, quick to forgive

QUICK REMINDER!



SLOW DOWN!
ENJOY THE MOMENTS IN YOUR DAY.
THESE MOMENTS ARE YOUR LIFE.



PRAYER

QUOTE FROM MRS WHITE:

Go right forward
as if every prayer
offered was
lodged in the
throne of God
and responded to
by the One whose
promises never

fail. Go right
along, singing
and making melo-
dy to God in your
hearts, even
when depressed
by a sense of
weight and sad-

ness...Light will
come, joy will be
ours, and the
mists and clouds
will be rolled
back. - *Selected
Messages, book
2, pp. 242,243*

A ROSE

A certain man planted a rose and watered it faithfully, and before it blossomed, he examined it. He saw the bud would soon blossom and also the thorns. And he thought, "How can any beautiful flower come from a plant burdened with so many sharp thorns". Saddened by this thought, he neglected to water the rose, and before it was ready to bloom, it died.

So it is with many people. Within every soul there is a rose. The God-like qualities planted in us at birth grow amid the thorns of our faults. Many of us look at ourselves and see only the thorns—the

defects. We despair, thinking that nothing good can possibly come from us. We neglect to water the good within us, and eventually it dies. We never realize our potential. Some people do not see the rose within themselves; someone else must show it to them. One of the greatest gifts a person can possess is to be able to reach past the thorns and find the rose within others. This is the characteristic of love, to look at a person, and knowing his faults, recognize the nobility of his soul, and help him realize that he can overcome his faults. If we show him the rose, he will conquer the thorns. Then will he blossom, blooming forty,

thirty, sixty, a hundred fold as it is given to him.

Our duty in this world is to help others by showing them their roses and not their thorns. Only then can we achieve the love we should feel for each other; only then can we bloom in our garden.



STORY KARE LUND FROM NORWAY

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, president of Liberia, is the first elected female head of state in Africa.

Leymah Ebowee is a peace activist in Liberia

Tawakul Karman is a Yemeni journalist and human rights activist.



These three women have won the Nobel Peace prize for 2011.

Now what do they have to do with Kare Lund an ADRA worker from Norway who died some years ago.

The following story appeared in the Norwegian ADRA newsletter.

Winner Leymah Gbowee has provided ADRA Norway and ADRA Liberia with new perspectives on the loss of our people in Liberia back in 2003. Last Friday, before the Nobel ceremony, Leymah Gbowee and Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf set aside their time and met with ADRA Norway staff, ADRA Liberia Country Director Emmanuel George and the wife and daughter of Kåre Lund, who was killed in Liberia in 2003. Gbowee had a very special story to tell. She met Kåre Lund and the Liberian workers in the field on the same day they were killed. They met at the same checkpoint, with the same soldiers. That evening, when she arrived in Monrovia, she heard news reports that the ADRA workers were missing.

But it was Leymah Gbowee who gave us new perspectives on the loss of our employees. Her amazing story was that she and her staff had met the three ADRA workers in the field the same day they were killed. They had met at the same checkpoint and had been addressed by the same soldiers. That evening, when she arrived in Monrovia, she heard the news reports that the ADRA workers were missing.

Gbowee then expressed that the horrible killing of ADRA workers was a direct inspiration that culminated her work as a social worker and caused her to sincerely devoted all her strength to work for peace and women's rights. The killing of aid workers from ADRA gave peace efforts a new momentum and this inspired peace movement was recognized through the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo City Hall this weekend.



Women's Ministries weekend the Netherlands, 11–13 November. The theme was 'Chocolate Boutique' come and taste that the Lord is good.

And that certainly happened with the women attending. Miranda Broekhuis was the guest speaker.

One of the things that women love is to make new friends and that certainly happened during this weekend. You go to a weekend and think will I know anyone and when you leave you have a whole new group of friends.



Having been to this weekend, Manon one of the participants says: "I look back on a wonderful weekend, in which I have been filled by the Word of God and his goodness and love. A weekend where we have been fed spiritually as well physically with great food.