

WOMAN'S MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

April 2013

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Devotional

Blessed is the title of the 2013 Women's Ministries devotional book for women and its publication marks the 20th year anniversary of publishing devotional books.

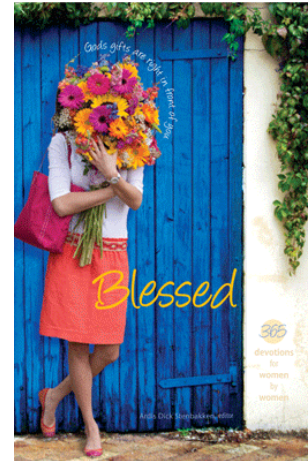
The God-inspired devotional book project began in 1992 as a one-time idea to raise funds for Women's Ministries scholarships, but that book was so well received, and so many blessings flowed from it, that the books just kept coming—and kept blessing. Not only are book readers blessed, but every writer and scholarship recipient is blessed. And blessings continue through the service

these amazing women provide.

The devotional book is a blessing in at least three ways: the women who write for it are greatly blessed; the women who read the book receive a spiritual blessing and the women who receive the scholarships receive a life-changing blessing. You may become part of this by writing a devotional (guidelines available).

If you know of any woman who can write. Please contact us at the Division for further details.

Become part of this wonder-



ful initiative either by writing or buying the book.

Hello from the Trans-European Division office

Usually I start the newsletter off with a short note but I felt that the story of the devotional was so important it needed to be the first thing you saw.

Our Division has received many scholarships and throughout the

world 2,013 women have been blessed.

We aren't all writers but there are writer's out there who could make a big difference. Using their talents to help others.

Please look to see that you

have some of these gifted women and let us know. Women's Ministries is all about reaching, helping and loving all those we meet. Let's keep supporting each other with the talents we have received from the Lord.

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Special points of interest:

- June 8, 2013 - Women's Ministries Emphasis Day
- 24-28 September 2014—Trans-European Division Women's Ministries Conference

Danish Women's Retreat



In the weekend of 25-27 January, 70 women got together for a weekend Retreat. Jill Rasmussen, Women's Ministry leader from the Danish Union of Churches, organized a wonderful weekend. The food, the accommodation, the company and meetings were a real treat.

The arrival at the centre was very welcoming. Little treats and gifts awaited us all. The singing was beautiful with lovely Danish songs. Clair held a Friday even-

ing devotional and the evening was closed with a prayer meeting.

Sabbath was cold. Really cold! The wind went straight through you but after the Sabbath morning service many women went for a walk. Refreshed we had a lovely meal. Sabbath afternoon was a time to be creative. Making cards, playing games and a presentation on flowers and relationships. Saturday evening was really interactive. The meal was served to us all and

in between ladies presented a variety of things, from stories to clips.

Sunday morning was spent in workshop rounds. One about posture, one learning to massage and one to relax our tired feet. The weekend was closed with a short devotional and before you knew it we were on our way home.



New Sewing School in Bosnia Herzegovina

Marija Trajkovska reports from the SEEUC.

The Women's Ministry leader, Silvana Pažanin – Kostadinović is working together with her husband Radivoje in the town of Tuzla, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is a part of the South – east European Union Conference. Tuzla is a town of about 200 000 inhabitants but the local SDA church has only 12 church members. The youngest church member is over sixty years old and four of them have diabetes and are regularly taking unsulin.

Thinking of developing WM and doing more for this predominantly Moslem community, besides organizing seminars and evangelistic series together with her husband, Silvana decided to start a sewing school for the women from the town. She used what she had: knowledge and skillful hands of the church member, seamstress Jadranka Karišik, and five old sewing machines that reached Tuzla toward the end of the Balkan wars and were stored in the church building. Sharing her idea with the Missionary department Director in the Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

pastor Lidija Đorđević – Runić, she asked for some financial support. Pastor Lidija contacted and met some enthusiastic some donors from abroad to help with the plan.

In the meantime, while waiting for donations to come, two WM leaders, Silvana Pažanin – Kostadinović and Jadranka Karišik, visited the Home for the Children without parents in Tuzla and realized that they need curtains for the room windows. There were 32 rooms without any curtains in the Children's Home in Tuzla. But the first donation was enough for the extensive repair of the old sewing machines and purchase of the tailoring table, together with the scissors, thread and curtain material for only 4 rooms.

They started to pray for a new donation that soon arrived from one SDA church in Stuttgart, Germany - enough money and curtain material for all 32 rooms! They bought two more sewing machines and invited four women from the local church and several lady visitors to join them in the project. They finally sewed 300 meters of the light curtains and 100 meters of the heavy curtains. They also made curtains

for the shoe shelves in the Children's Home's corridors. The inhabitants of the Home were overjoyed.

After that they decided to start a sewing school for the women from the local community with the seamstress Jadranka Karišik, who prepared the plan for lectures and practical work. Soon they faced with a new problem - the problem of heating the seminar room but God solved the problem with the new donation from Germany and the sewing school began!

At the moment eight non -Adventist women regularly attend the sewing course, seven of them being Moslim. Four of them even dress according to the Moslim dress code. Every week, they come to learn and work together, to sing and share their life experiences. Since the sewing course is soon coming to its end, some of these women were invited to a new course on the proper diet organized in the Tuzla church and the WM leaders are looking for opportunity to invite new students to the sewing school. Their motto is: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4: 13).



"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME". Philippians 4:13

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SWEDISH WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Kvinnornas!

It began with a personal letter to invite all the female members in the church in Sweden to a women's weekend at a retreat centre near Vaxjo.

The theme of the weekend was "Created to be you!" Thirty five women came and at the agape meal on Friday evening shared their expectations for, and reservations about the weekend. In Sweden, the home of equal opportunities, was it necessary to have a weekend for women? Was this going to be a Feminist weekend?

On Sunday as people left it was clear the weekend had met a need and no it was not a feminist weekend. It was a meeting of women of all ages: a time to



reflect, to share life experiences and renew our relationship with God. Workshops concentrated on who we are, our relationships and interaction with others.

Saturday night was a time to

look after ourselves with a spa evening, including the possibility of a massage, sauna and outside jacuzzi, heated by a wood burning stove.

As many said as they

left ... When can we do this again? Thank you to Sonja, Christina and Anna for the hard work planning the weekend and blessing your sisters!

Audrey Anderson