



Women's Ministries Newsletter

Trans-European Division

Summer 2013

Happy Summer

Well another 1/2 year has gone. I really don't know where the time has gone. But here we are, another summer just around the corner. I don't know whether it is because it has been so busy or because this past 6 months has been so wet but I really look forward to the summer break. Especially the time of resting and reflection is important. Sometimes you just go from one event to another but reflection is very important. Especially in our work as Women's Ministries Directors. You know people share their thoughts and feeling with you and we need to be aware that it takes a lot for people to share. Being close to God ourselves will always help when wanting to comfort others. Having a close walk with God is essential. When John and I go on holiday we really enjoy the unhurried devotionals we have each morning. No hurry. And because we don't have any hurry we sometimes end up having a devotional which lasts 1 1/2 hours because it is so interesting and exciting to read and discover God's word again. When we come back from our vacation we are just excited about God and His work.

I wish for everyone a summer of rest and reflection and look forward to meeting many of you in September.

God bless,

clair

GIGI (GORGEOUS IN GOD'S IMAGE)

Just received the new winter issue of GIGI magazine. It is called the winter issue because Australia, where the magazine comes from, has their winter when we have our summer. I cannot encourage each and every one of you enough to get subscriptions to this magazine. Not only does it look good but it is something we need to share with our young girls. The issues they tackle are so up-to-date. A lot of our young girls speak English and giving this as a gift for their birthday would be a wonderful thing.

If you want to impact your girls think about GIGI. A subscription costs \$ 110 (Australian). You can subscribe at subscribe@5sistersministry.com.au

The reason it is called 5 sisters Ministry is because the magazine was the brainchild of 5 sisters who had a vision to reach young girls with a positive image of themselves.
<http://www.5sistersministry.com.au/>

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Recently Raquel Arrais came to visit our Division. After meetings in Finland Raquel and I met up with the WM co-ordinators of the BUC. Mission to the City is about the start in London and Sharon Platt-McDonald is making many plans for this.



We wish the women in London God's strength and courage as they find new and innovative ways to reach the women there.



PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

SEEUC Women's Day in Novi Sad, Serbia

A personal encounter with Jesus is always new, refreshing and life changing experience. Such was also the SEEUC Women's Ministry Congress held on May 24 - 25, 2013 in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Dramatic monologues on the New Testament women encounters with Jesus, carefully selected poetry, songs and instrumentals, together with the inspired presentations, Bible studies and prayers helped the SEEUC women and girls of all ages to search for and experience their personal encounters with Jesus.

The evening encounter with Jesus started on Friday evening with the program prepared by the students and professors of the Adventist High School „Živorad Janković“ from Novi Sad and continued with the inspiring sermon „Unexpected Journey“ delivered by the guest speakers from the Trans-european division, Clair and John Sanches.

Refreshed and encouraged by their powerful Bible messages, women eagerly waited for the Sabbath morning and their new, all day long, encounter with Jesus.

And it was full of fresh insights, unexpected experiences and decision making moments. Brightened with the fellowship and unity in praising God and serving Him, girls and boys, young women and men, adult women and men together. During Sabbath school time the participants were reminded of the Samaritan woman and the woman with the blood issue encounters with Jesus by the women's dramatic monologues as well as on prophet Habakkuk's unusual encounter with God by the Sabbath School lesson summary. The missionary stories about a convicted man who had met Jesus in prison and a British lady overhearing the Adventist couple family devotionals at the edge of their garden, shared by John and Clair Sanches, showed that encounters with Jesus can happen anytime and anywhere.

The WM leaders of the three conferences in the SEEUC, Jelena Trajković (South Conference), Judita Erdeg (North Conference) and Violeta Mirčeta (Conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina), shared the reports on the WM programs and activities organized by the women who were changed and moved by their personal encounters with Jesus.





Some of the women in Novi Sad

PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

The thoughts on how God sees and values women and their ministry, the call to women to involve more in sharing gospel and use their time, talents, influence and devices for God's mission prepared the participants for the new encounter with Jesus through John Sanches' sermon „Rooted and Grounded in Jesus“, preceded by the dramatic monologues on a Canaanite woman.

Prior to that, through a modest ceremony, Clair Sanches TED WM Director, Marija Trajkovska, SEEUC WM Director and Judita Erdeg, North Conference WM Director, presented the scholarships from GC WM funds to the three female students of the Belgrade Theological Seminary helping them to meet their educational expenses.

Well nourished by the potluck lunch, the participants divided into two groups for the afternoon workshops. The two workshops for women, „The New Beginning with Jesus“ and „Women in Service“ done by Clair Sanches, TED WM Director, and the workshops for men entitled „Becoming the Man Jesus Had in Mind“ done by pastor and psychologist, John Sanches, moved them to the new decisions and empowered them for a greater involvement in the Christian service.

The encounter with Jesus always evokes a change. After it, no one remains the same. The present audience was reminded of that by the afternoon monologue on a woman dragged to the Temple by Jesus' feet and the song of the youngest, four year old, Manuella. Only truly changed women and men can really give God the glory by their life and influence and be a true blessing to the others, said Clair Sanches in her evening presentation. Only truly changed people, empowered by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, received in the personal encounter with Jesus can inspire others to change, emphasized John Sanches in his closing evening sermon.

Humming the words of the Congress theme songs about Mary coming to sit by Jesus' feet that changed her into becoming His fervent follower and missionary, people were leaving the meeting place of the WM Congress. Changed and encouraged.

Marija Trajkovska, WM Director, SEEUC

A NEW BIBLE ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN

Recently I had a meeting with the director of our SDA publishing house in Spain, Mario Martenelli, writes Heather-Dawn Small, GC WM Director. Mario is in the process of putting together a women's Bible for SDA women to use. The Bible will be printed in English, Spanish and French and will be available in 2014.

The Bible will be a study Bible. It will contain short articles by women who are known to be Bible scholars such as Dr. Carla Gober, Dr. Hyveth Williams, Dr. Joan Davidson, Elizabeth Talbot and others. But there will also be short articles about women of the Bible and things we can learn from them. These will be written by women from around the world.

The Bible will be attractive to women in design and spiritually nurturing in content. Best of all it will also have a series of doctrinal Bible lessons at the back of the Bible that women can use in small groups or one-to-one encounters. It will truly be a Bible that our sisters can use to grow with spiritually and also help other women to connect to Jesus also.



LATVIAN CONFERENCE

WOMEN'S DAY

Dagnija Roderte is responsible for the Women's Ministries for the Latvian Union. On Sunday 2nd of June the Riga church was full of women from the conference. The

for their local churches and for God. They were put in the spotlight and given a gift.

I was asked to share ideas for outreach. The Latvian Union is doing a lot of outreach and wanted some fresh and new ideas.

We wish Dagnija and her team God's blessing as they continue to do the wonderful work of Women's Ministries in their conference.

focus was especially on the women who had done tremendous things



Two girls received a scholarship from the GC WM scholarship fund. Both are studying at Belgrade Theological Seminar. Marija Zavargo and Ana Savkovic received their scholarships during a WM Day in Novi Sad. Another girl Tijana Tizic also received a scholarship but she was taken into hospital with appendicitis. All three girls are studying Theology. We wish them all God's blessing.

SEEUW WM team

Representing Serbia North and South and Bosnia Herzegovina



Seaside Escape weekend in Netherlands

WM WEEKEND IN THE NETHERLANDS

Seaside Escape

While in the North of the country people were ice skating and in the south of the country 10 centimetres of snow had fallen, a delegation of Frisian women took to “Oud-Zandbergen” seeking Gods warmth. The women’s ministry team had developed an amazing concept. Inspiring days were ahead of us. Spoiled with small gifts, starting with a nice goodie bag sitting on our perfectly made beds. There was harmony and emotion, a laugh and a tear, silence and reflection, conversations with each other or in

small groups, creative moments, singing and pray, had a great meal together and to top it all off the party in the beach club. Where everyone had a good time in summer clothing on flip flops in the sand. It was a completely different experience compared to the “chocolate boutique” Weekend but also an amazing experience. Thanks again to the team for their enthusiasm, care and dedication. They took us out of the cold reality to the warm beach. The Frisian ladies will never forget this amazing experience.

Tineke Jellema





BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

While all the others were celebrating the International Labour Day on May 1, going to the picnics or parades, the Women's Ministry activists of the local church in Prnjavor, Bosnia and Herzegovina were very actively working.

They made assortment of the freshly made domestic cakes and cookies, packed them nicely and went to visit the officials on duty in the firemen brigades, police stations and emergency unit. They also visited the maternity ward in the city hospital, local pharmacy and several petrol stations.

Besides the packages of cookies they gave them the magazine Escape, dealing with the issues of the great controversy and a notebook and pen with the inscription „God is love“.

People were deeply touched by this gesture of kindness. They were delighted that someone remembered them and appreciated the fact that they were on duty while all the others were celebrating. And they were sincerely grateful for the generous gifts they received.

At the end of the day when only one package of cookies and one set of gifts remained, they gave them to the traffic police who were doing radar control on the motor way Prnjavor – Banja Luka. The police officers were surprised but thankful for these unexpected gifts given to them.

„We are thankful to God for this blessed experience that greatly enriched our lives, for the new joy we got in these surprise encounters with people and for the opportunity to witness about God's love to our community in this most unusual way“, says Violeta Mirčeta, WM Director in the Conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the part of the South – east European Union Conference.

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