

JANUARY 2014

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES Newsletter

Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventist

24-28 September 2014

Come to the Spring

Women's Ministries Conference  
in Rogaska, Slovenia.



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Wow 2014 already.  
Where does the time go .  
Last year went so quickly  
and that made me think  
we need to make the most  
of every minute we have.

I love Pinterest and re-  
cently I found a quote  
which I wanted to share  
with you. The author is not  
known but it is my prayer  
for you for 2014.

## The Knots Prayer

Dear God:

Please untie the knots that  
are in my mind, my heart  
and my life. Remove the  
have nots, the can nots  
and the do nots that I have  
in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may  
nots, might nots that may  
find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could  
nots, would nots and  
should nots that obstruct  
my life.

And most of all, Dear God,  
I ask that you remove from  
my mind , my heart and  
my life all of the 'am nots'  
that I have allowed to hold  
me back, especially the  
thought that I am not good  
enough.

Amen.

May 2014 be a year in  
which you can say to the  
Lord 'here I am use me'.

Many blessings to each of  
you.

CLAIR

## Nationalgeographic.com

1 out of 9 girls living in de-  
veloping countries are forced  
to marry by age 15. If noth-  
ing changes by the year  
2020, the United Nations  
estimates that 14.2 million  
girls this age will marry each  
year.

That is mind blowing if you  
think about it. End-It-Now is  
still an ongoing campaign

within our church to help girls  
like this and women in violent  
situations. Please remember  
that we can do something  
even if it is only small. Col-

lecting signatures is not hard.  
Let's work together to help  
women all over the world  
who are not as privileged as  
we are.

# enditnow®

Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women



## Women of Virtue

### Women of Virtue

The weekend of the 18-20 October saw 300 women from across the BUC come together for the 'Women of Virtue' women's retreat held at the Orchard Hotel, Nottingham.

The theme of the weekend centred around the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31 and saw the interim launch of the 'Women of Virtue' initiative by BUC Women's Ministries Director, Sharon Platt-McDonald and Sandra Golding.

The guest speaker for the retreat was Dr Deborah Harris from the USA. Dr Harris is a well-reknown speaker and founder of a non-profit organization called 'Praying for our Children'. She has also served as the Women's Ministries Director for the South Atlantic Conference.

Her timely messages 'Count it all Joy', 'Before the Hem' and 'What Women Want' spoke to the emotional, social and spiritual sides of women. Dr Harris reminded the women that the virtuous woman had something that the world did not give to her – she had joy that comes from God! This joy allowed her to be forgiving, patient and prudent.

Many women were brought to tears each time she spoke as they could relate to her stories and life experiences, due to her openness and transparency and the way that she bared her soul. This level of personal application and vulnerability has never been experienced by women to this depth.

Dr Harris was excited that the BUC women's ministries department would be starting a UK Chapter of Praying for our Children.

Outreach and witnessing is part of the aspect of being a woman of virtue and we were able to present a prayer blanket saying 'This child is covered in prayer' to the PA technician at our event. The gentleman was a non-Christian and had a three-week-old baby boy. His wife and himself were delighted to know that the women would be praying for his son and his family.

Beautiful shades of purple could be seen during the Sabbath as the women graced the room with their array of purple clothing and accessories, which is the colour for women's ministries.

During the Saturday evening banquet, the women showed exceptional artistic creativity in the game 'three little musical words'. Some of the women stated they had not laughed so much in a long time.

On the Sunday morning the women attended various workshops including Breast Cancer Awareness by Grace Walsh; Praying for our Children by Dr Deborah Harris; Single, Sassy and Saved by Sandra Golding and Time of your Life by Geraldine Farmer.

In the closing plenary by Dr Harris she encouraged the women to remember "they are not in the race alone and that God is always beside us through the pains, trials and tribulations. If God never does another thing for us, He has already done enough!"

In completing their evaluation form's many women stated that the weekend has been 'life changing' and that they would be implementing the things learnt. One lady said "Thank you Lord for a beautiful and spiritually uplifting experience!"



Sandra Golding

Submitted by Sandra Golding

## Women's Ministries Training in Hungary

28 November 2013 | Pécel, Hungary [Maria Tokics, *ted*NEWS] "If God gives you a vision for your life, then He will definitely help you achieve it; thus, you can realize more in life than you have ever imagined. You are precious!" These empowering words were spoken by Clair Sanches-Schutte, Women's Ministries Director at the Trans-European Division (TED), at a Women's Ministries training event held in Pécel, Hungary from 8-10 November, 2013.

During the seminars, which consisted of 11 modules, Clair talked about the example set by women in the Bible, giving valuable advice on how and why to study the Bible daily, and also invited the participants to see the potential of women's ministries.

During the training, the participants learnt how to improve communication skills, lead women's ministries in a way that will enrich the life of congregations, but above all, how to serve and spread the gospel in their communities.

At the end of the training the delegates of churches compiled different declarations of mission according to the needs of their local congregations.

Clair and Eva Hella, leader of Women's Ministries Department of the Hungarian Union, along with the members of the workgroup, prepared small presents for the participants to encourage them to continue to be faithful and to show empathy and love to each other. These actions were also encouraged during the three-day training by the workshops and creative tasks.

Clair presented certificates of 'Successful Leadership' to the ladies who came from more than 30 different churches in Hungary. These certificates prove that all 33 women participants achieved Level 1 of the General Conference Women's Ministries Leadership Certification.

"This training encouraged, inspired and taught me the importance of women's ministries in all aspects of life," said Zsóka Bodnár, a minister's wife.







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*Your life is God's gift to you;  
make it your gift to God.*



## Love Your Neighbour as Yourself

On Friday, 25th of October 2013, 67 women from different parts of Slovenia gathered in Crikvenica, Croatia, where we were welcomed by the warm sun. More than nice weather, we were looking forward to enjoy the company of each other, and especially, to be in the presence of our heavenly Father, who made a great feast for our soul, spirit and body.

In the evening, we created things that reminded us of love by using small stones on the beach. Surprised by various images each of us made, we continued ruminating on love (agape) during the evening worship. Glorious knowledge about God's immense love again rose within us and reminded us how important it is to love ourselves and our neighbours. With that in mind, our hearts were filled with joy and gratefulness. On Sabbath, we had special guests: the queen Esther, Mary Magdalene, the widow from Nain, and the woman who had been healed after eighteen-year-long illness. They entrusted to us their experience, feelings, and told us how it was to be surrounded by love. Their astonishing stories gave us comfort and strength. The same power was felt with the worship songs we sang, prayers, and our life experience we told each other.

Of course, that was not the only thing that made us enthusiastic. There were lots of others that recharged our batteries for the days to come, and helped us to make better choices in our lives: praying hours, workshops, long walks, breath-taking arrangements in dining room, delicious vegetarian food, hugs, warm conversations, wide smiles, individual prayers, life stories, and recitations.

This wonderful experience will help us that, filled with God's spirit of love, we will be able to hold on until the next women's weekend.

Thank God and all the women who made those three days a real blessing.

