

# Women's Ministries Newsletter

1 John 1:7  
Walk in the light



I am writing this to you in November. But all around me I see signs of Christmas already. Some people have already put up their Christmas tree. You can see it through the windows. What people are looking for is light. Light makes us feel good and in these dark days it helps us feel better about ourselves. At Christmas it is also a time that many people to go church for their once a year visit. What a lot of people don't realize is that God provides us with light. Jesus said "I am the light of the world". Quite often people search in the wrong place for light. If they only knew that light is given to each of us freely from Jesus. He died to make it possible. So at the Christmas

time, whether you celebrate it or not, let us think of the true light and not get caught up in presents, food and anything else society has thought of to keep us away from the true light which is Jesus.

Let us celebrate and be thankful for what he has done for us.

Greetings to you all.

*Clair*

## Inside this issue:

Ebola

2

WM weekend Slovenia

2/3

WM training Latvia

4

Launch Woman of Virtue

5

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

I think all who attended can say it was amazing and the Spirit of God really was with us. For me it was the highlight of the year.

Many of you have been asking for the photo's and I am happy to tell you that you can go to the following link and download

them and give them or the site to your participants.

Dragana has done a marvelous job. They photo's really do look very good.

The video is to follow. Due to things outside of our control it

has not been finished yet. Needless to say it will follow as soon as possible.

Because of a new web design the pictures of the Conference have not be uploaded yet. This will happen in January. Will keep you posted.

## Ebola in the West Africa Division



Let our lights shine

Recently I received this email from Omobonike Sesou, Women's Ministries leader in West Africa.

May the peace of God be with you all in Christ Jesus.

With a heart full of gratitude, WM department of WAD, uses this medium to thank you all for your prayers and concern toward us since the outbreak of Ebola in our territory. May The Lord bless you all and protect you from an outbreak like this. By the grace of God, we can testify to an answered prayer to our united request of healing and restoration. The news from WAUM, the territory most touched by this epidemic is that things are coming under control gradually.

Please do not stop to pray for us because a new territory Mali is also attacked by this Ebola.

I humbly come on behalf of WAUM WM to present to you all, an outreach proposal to respond to this problem. We thank sister Josie, the WM Director of WAUM, and her team for coming up with this project that will benefit both our Adventist women and non Adventist as well. Please carefully read through,, the date for the implementation of the project is January to June 2015.

We solicit for your support in kind and cash to raise this amount of \$10,000 for this project, which will be monitored and an adequate report

will be sent to you all. Your donation of love can be received through the WAD WM dept account. The treasurers know how to go about it.

We rejoice in the fact that we are sisters in Christ globally.

God bless you as you think to help us fight this epidemic.

If you would be interested in helping our sisters in West Africa please let me know and I will send the proposal to you. It is times like this that we need each other. Whatever you decide remember prayer is always open to us.

---

*Matthew 5:14*  
*You are the light of*  
*the world. A town*  
*built on a hill cannot*  
*be hidden*

---

## Women's Ministries weekend Crikvenica Slovenian Conference

Spiritual weekend for women

We had a privilege of enjoying spiritual weekend for women entitled *For You are precious in my eyes... and I love you* in Crikvenica from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October. Who would not want to be precious and loved? The time we live in gives us less and less opportunity to think about that and even less to do something about it. But that particular weekend that was not the case. The programme, which was

perfectly organized, planned and carried out, gave us the feeling that we are loved and precious no matter what. We began with spiritual gatherings on the beach on Friday evening. By making small handcrafted objects women like to make, singing and praying together we began our three-day spiritual journey. In four short sermons (from Friday to Sunday) our guest for the weekend, Clair Sanches-Schutte, showed us how all bib-

lical women presented had their own problems, burdens and cares for which the solution was always and only Jesus. The way He treated women and gave them the opportunity for new beginnings, encouraged and convinced us that in Him there is nothing impossible. »Besides well-prepared, rich spiritual food we enjoyed singing (we had excellent musical accompaniment) and praying together, reading precious and





precious and beautifully written thoughts, listening to each other's experiences and thinking about women around the world. Of course we also have to mention music-making of your youngest participants.



were looking for "treasures of the Bible" and praised God for everything He created. In the town aquarium, we became convinced of the fact that our God is a lover of beauty. With this ability (to create beautifully) He endowed many women, who delighted us with exceptional table decoration at every meal.



that is an unforgettable experience promoting joy and expectation of a new reunion.  
Helena Korat



On Saturday evening we had time to relax. We learned how to take care about the appearance and comfort of our feet. We were particularly interested in a lecture on women's shoes (what suits a certain 'type' of legs). We were drawn by a workshop on making homemade cosmetics in which we learned how to make homemade soap. We also enjoyed enough free time, which we spent on the beach. Despite cold water, a clear sky and sunshine encouraged many to taste the charms of October swimming. While sunbathing on the beach we



Because of that tasty vegetarian food tasted even better.

We would not have experience any of this without the main organizer Nataša.

We praise God for her and for all the women who are willing to contribute their share so that every weekend like





## Women's Ministries Leadership training Level 1 in Latvia



Women's Ministry in our worldwide Church has been created to nurture, facilitate, and support women in their Christian lives as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His World Church (GC WM Department). Women, being active in church as Sabbath school teachers, deaconesses, pathfinders' leaders, choir conductors, etc., are striving for excellence in the work of God, and they recognise their need for effective leadership skills training. That is why on one beautiful Sabbath morning in October about 75 women from Latvia and some from Estonia came together to take part in a Leadership seminar in Riga lead by Clair Sanches – Schutte the Director of TED Women's Ministry Department.

Ladies were welcomed by Latvian vocal band Signature Sound Quartet. Their performance reminded us in a beautiful way where our strength lies, and who is our hope in storms – Christ alone. Starting with prayer we moved to the first topic – how to study the Bible. As Adventists we like to think about ourselves as about people who love reading and studying their Bibles, but do we really, and do we know how to do it? For the beginners, a good formula was given: For a 15-minute Bible study 1) Relax (1 minute), 2) Read (4 minutes), 3) Reflect (4 minutes), 4) Write down anything that comes to your mind (2 minutes), 5) Pray about what you have read, written, and how to apply it into your life (4 minutes). For a longer study, questions were introduced, e.g. what is the topic of the passage, which text stood out for you in the passage, what are the promises we can rely on, etc. In groups, women took time to study one Bible passage of their choice.

The next topic was women's self-worth. Low self-esteem can influence a person's life in many negative ways; it can be the cause of eating disorders, self-harming, harming others, and even depression. In the world, self-worth is often based on appearances, success or possessions, but healthy self-worth comes from our worth and uniqueness in Christ, which cannot be changed. A contact with God transforms our negative emotions (Isaiah 61:3).

In the afternoon Clair told us about the life conditions of women in the Bible times. Several times we could feel how much more fortunate we were to live in the 21 century. But there are women in the world who suffer even nowadays. Clair handed out papers from which women cut out little houses that symbolised safety and homely warmth, and then, hand-in-hand prayed for women in Syria; for God to give them safety, peace and the knowledge of loving Father in heaven.

The seminar continued on Sunday with very practical topics: like communication skills, public speaking, and advertising Women's Ministries, during which participating ladies, using paper, newspapers, magazines, scissors, markers and glue, came out with advertisements to draw public's attention to their events and ventures. At the end they had to brainstorm for a vision and purpose for Women's Ministries in their local church.

All the participants, who were persistent enough to come on both days, received a beautifully designed certificate, which was a nice addition to the knowledge, skills and ideas everyone could take home with them.

A big thank you goes to Marite Lipska, the Director of WM Department for the Latvian Conference, and her team, for organising such a good seminar; to Clair who came all the way from England to help us to grow as women and as leaders; and to God for teaching us again through His word and showing His tender care and mercy.



## BUC 'WOMEN OF VIRTUE' PROGRAMME LAUNCH

A weekend programme crossing two locations, Luton and Leamington Spa, saw the launch of a Women's Ministries initiative conceived back in the summer of 2007. Aiming to nurture the holistic development of women, and complete with handbook and resources, the BUC Women of Virtue launch encompassed both a Day of Fellowship and a Sunday seminar.

Founder and director Sharon Platt-McDonald laid the foundation for the programme in 2007 when she presented a PowerPoint presentation one Sabbath afternoon on the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31. In that presentation she outlined 13 key principles from the life of the Proverbs 31 woman, depicting her attributes. When elected to serve as BUC Women's Ministries director in 2011 she says, "I spoke to God about my desire to produce a programme for women that would build them up in every aspect of their life. God showed me that I already had the tools to do so and referred me to the presentation I had been using over the years on the purposeful and productive life of the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31."

However, Sharon realised that creating such a programme would be a huge task and began praying earnestly for God to show her someone she could work with

in the delivery of such a programme. The result? Sandra Golding is now an associate director of the programme."

With a 282 page Women of Virtue Programme manual and accompanying literature such as the Programme Brochure, Spiritual Journey Journal, Gratitude and Payer Dairy, Prayer Series, Financial Tips for Women and Theme Song bookmark, a suite of programme products were on display throughout both days.

On Sabbath, 26 April over 600 women attended the Day of Fellowship at Hightown Methodist church, Luton. It was a rich mixture of uplifting music, worship songs, powerful preaching, dynamic presentations, monologues, sketches and special items. Commencing with a lively Sabbath School led by Thembe Mapingire, women were encouraged to take a comparative look at the Woman of Virtue and the Woman of Vice – both portrayed in the book of Proverbs. Lessons were drawn from both lives. Guest speaker Dr Deborah Harris, a trainer and educational consultant from Atlanta, USA, presented a reflective and empowering sermon focused on 'It's a Matter of the Heart'. She also shared her personal passion that has developed into an organisation, ['Praying For Our Children'](#). That prefaced the UK chapter launch of 'Praying for our Children' on the Sabbath afternoon. A very moving exercise invited women to write their prayer request for their children and place it on prayer trees stationed at the front of the auditorium.

Vocal renditions from the Luton Women's Ministries Choir and Praise team together with music from the Luton Central Church Band provided a rich atmosphere for worship and celebration throughout the day. A flute duet by Hopieann Platt and Marie Garri-son added to a feast of musical treats as did Velettia Davis' solo item 'Take me to the King'.

[The dramatisation](#) (with accompanying period props) of the scripture reading by Elleni-Jaye Anderson-Grey and Deborah St Cyr was a riveting portrayal of Proverbs 31:10-31 from both the King James Version and the Message Bible paraphrase.

Monologues on Bible women by Catherine Anthony Boldeau were equally inspiring and moving. One depicted the virtuous woman from her mother-in-law's eyes in a humorous portrayal of her character and the other a sombre and reflective piece on Abigail and her abusive husband speaking from the voice of the abused.

A special moment was the unveiling of a commissioned sculpture of the Woman of Virtue, skilfully crafted by Andrea Rashford-Hewitt. This depicted women in various life stages as singles – Godly character, a mother, and an older woman who bore the weight of life's experience etched into her frame. Equally poignant was the awards in appreciation of women who have made a significant continuation to their church and community. This included the Heather Haworth Award, the Julia Smith Award, the Dr Deborah Harris Award and the Woman of Virtue Award.

On Sunday a smaller but equally enthusiastic number of women gathered at the Woodland Grange Conference Centre, gaining an opportunity for attendees to hear an in-depth outline of the programme, with explanatory guidance for each chapter of the manual and the related seminars which will accompany it.

Attendees were again blessed with humorous but powerful presentations from Dr Harris entitled: 'Oh no, She's Awake!' and 'You are not alone'. Time for reflection allowed for personal application of the messages. Equally enriching was the 'Talk Time' with Dr Harris led by team member Hyacinth Gayle. Questions were answered in an open and engaging manner.

A major highlight was the interactive exhibition which depicted the 13 elements of the programme. It gave women a chance to reflect on their lives as they answered questions using the exhibition workbook.

The Women of Virtue programme is designed to reach churches and communities across the British Isles both as an in-reach and outreach tool. It will equip, nurture and empower women to achieve their full potential through Christ.



Trans-European Division  
119 St. Peters Street,  
St. Albans, Herts.,  
AL1 3EY England

Tel.nr. 0041727860331



## A Prayer

**Forgive me for  
picking up  
what I already  
put at your**



**csanches-schutte@ted-adventist.org**  
**zkovacs-biro@ted-adventist.org**

## New Women's Ministries Bible launched at General Conference

General Conference Women's Ministries (GCWM) launched the first Seventh-day Adventist Women's Bible at Annual Council in October. Co-produced by Editorial Safeliz of Spain and GC Women's Ministries, this NKJV Bible is available in English, French, and Spanish and four colour choices.

The Women's Bible is designed to appeal to women with its varied covers, design and font type, and exceptional beauty of full colour portraits of biblical women. The list of 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and colourful Adventist prophecy charts are also included.

Special study materials—introductions to the sections and books of the Bible, biographies of women in the Bible, a series of Bible studies, lists of interesting facts and weddings in the Bible—are written by women scholars Jo Ann Davidson, Ph.D., Carla Gober, Ph.D., Elizabeth Talbot, Ph.D., and Hyveth B. Williams, D. Min.

GC Women's Ministries Director Heather-Dawn Small wrote "Being a Christian Mother in a Changing World," and GCWM Associate Director Raquel Arrais discussed Proverbs 31 in "Making a Difference in Today's Society."

Women's Ministries Directors of the world divisions and other women contributed to more than 50 brief articles about virtues exhibited by women in the Bible.

