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TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Women's Ministries Newsletter

Just a word

I am feeling in a silly mood so here is a silly photo of me. Sometimes you just need to unwind and become yourself. For me this means doing something funny and making myself laugh. Laughing is such a fantastic way of releasing stress. I know that when my sister and I get together we can be very silly and then my sons look at each other with a look of there they go again. We need very few words to know what we are laughing at.

Do you have a friend, sister, mother or other significant person who makes you laugh and sometimes take a look at yourself when you are taking yourself too seriously?

In Proverbs the text says "Laughter is the best med-

icine". And I wholeheartedly agree with that. The world looks so much brighter when you look at it through glasses of fun.

Sometimes I think we need more fun in the church. No one wants to be part of something that depresses you. With Women's Ministries we can make moments of fun and laughter. Moments of spiritual healing, moments of emotional healing, moments where we can just be ourselves.

In the next years we would very much like to concentrate on Women's Ministries as an outreach tool. One in which we reach women for Christ one woman at a time.

So let's start thinking together of how we can make someone's life a

little more bearable, how we can help that someone find Christ by being that friend that they need or the person who brings some sunshine into an otherwise dreary life.

God has a plan for each one of us but if we don't take time to listen to what that plan is we may never know. Start praying today that God will help you find that plan and help you to reach those you meet.



CLAIR

Women's Ministries Advisory 2012

Well time is flying and before you know it we will be meeting for our quinquennial Advisory. Solveig and I are very excited about this Advisory because we not only have Raquel from the General Conference meeting with us we also have a

special guest from Australia, Debby. She will be teaching us how to use flowers to reach others. We want to give something to you that you can take home and use in your Unions. Marija from Serbia drew my attention to her because she had met

her while there. Please don't forget to come and be filled with ideas and excitement because with Women's Ministries we can do so much more than just being a social club. God can use Women's Ministries in a big way.

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Special points of interest:

- *Women's Ministries Advisory*
- *27th February—2nd March 2012*
- *Women's Ministries International Day of Prayer—March 2012*

Women show deep drop in church attendance

New research by the Adelle M. Banks, Religion News Service has discovered that women attending church has dropped dramatically. Women, long considered the dominant pew dwellers in the United States have shown a dramatic drop in attendance in the last two decades, a new survey shows.

Since 1991, the percentage of women attending church during a typical week has decreased by 11 percentage points to 44 percent, the Barna Group reported. Sunday School and volunteering among women also has diminished. Two decades ago, half of all women read the Bible in a typical week—other than at religious events. Now 40 percent do. The survey also found a marked stepping away from congregations: a 17 percentage increase in the number of women who have become “unchurched”.



“For years, many church leaders have understood that ‘as go women, so goes the American church’, wrote Barna Group founder George Barna, on his website. “Looking at the trends over the past 20 years, and especially those related to the beliefs and behavior of women, you might conclude that things are not going well for conventional Christian churches.” The Ventura, Calif.-based researchers compared surveys of more than 1,000 people in 1991 and 2011. They found that the percentage of women who strongly be-

lieve the Bible is accurate in all it teaches declined by 7 percentage points to 42 percent. And those who view God as “the all-knowing, all-powerful and perfect Creator of the universe who still rules the world today” dropped from 80 percent to 70 percent. “Women used to put men to shame in terms of their orthodoxy of belief and the breadth and consistency of their religious behavior,” wrote Barna. “No more; the religious gender gap has substantially closed”.

Denise Hochstrasser, Women’s Ministries Director, Euro-Africa Division in Bern writes: “As the Seventh-day Church consists of more than 73% women, this development is serious. There is an urgent need of nurturing, empowering and outreach to women in churches. Women need to find their own place and task inside our churches, and we need more women in leadership.

An Adventist First: Mother and Daughter Pastors

Mother and daughter graduate together from University.

It is not often that a mother and daughter graduate together from university. More unique still, a mother and daughter being simultaneously employed as Adventist ministers. Indeed, the story of Nancy Chadwick and Christine Chadwick Wallington, who recently graduated together from La Sierra University, is a first. The two are employed by the

Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Nancy Chadwick serves as associate pastor at the Hemet Adventist Church and her daughter Christine Wallington has just begun a master’s degree at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Get the full story at:

Spectrummagazine.org



Women’s Ministries Scholarship program celebrates 20th Anniversary



Members of the WM Scholarship Committee at the General Conference meet to consider applications.

Giving Seventh-day Adventist women the opportunity of higher education when it other wise might not be available is the fruit of a unique volunteer effort that recently marked its 20th Anniversary.

Since it’s beginning, the General Conference Women’s Ministries Department Scholarship program has provided funds for 1,748 women to attend college—and the number is constantly

growing. As of the first quarter of 2011, a total of approximately \$767,700 has been raised in the program’s 20-year existence.

Would you like to read more? Go to:

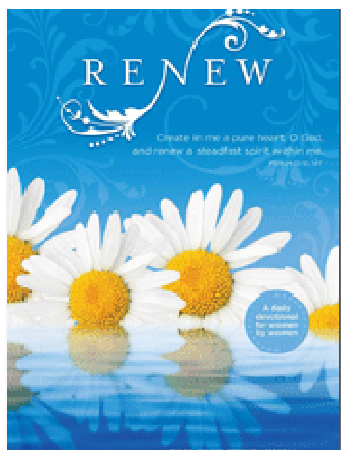
www.adventistreview.org

FUNDING FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

In 2003, members of the General Conference Women's Ministries Scholarship Committee felt distraught over the number of applicants that were being turned down. "There had to be a way to raise more funds," Carolyn Kujawa, a now-retired GC employee who still volunteers said. "These were our sisters."

Now money is raised each year through the royalties from an annual Women's Ministries devotional book, which also is published and sold to raise funds for the scholarships.

Renew is the devotional book for 2012. If you are looking for a gift to give at Christmas, but still want to help someone in the process then this is a wonderful option. As you know each year our department at the Trans-European Division



send you a devotional book. This is for your use but if you know women can read English perhaps this is also an idea to use when you are giving a gift.

Our Division has had several girls

helped through this scholarship program. We get more requests each year.

The program is about education: the key to changing lives. Education gives these dedicated women a future and a hope. Prayers are answered, lives are blessed forever, families are strengthened, communities are reached, churches are blessed, and, above all, women are empowered," says Raquel Arrais, associate director of Women's Ministries and chairperson of the scholarship committee. "These women serve in multiple ways in their churches—leading out in Women's and Children's Ministries, Sabbath School, evangelism, health seminars, literacy programs, prison ministry, community service—all while attending school and often raising a family. They are our inspiration."



Breast Cancer awareness

How common is breast cancer?

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among women and affects approximately one million women worldwide.

Breast cancer accounts for 30 per cent of all female cancers in the UK and approximately 1 in 9 women in the UK will get breast cancer sometime during their life.

What are the risk factors leading to the

development of breast cancer?

The incidence of breast cancer increases with age and doubles every 10 years until the menopause when the rate of increase slows.

Approximately a quarter of breast cancers affect women under the age of 50, a half occur between the ages of 50 and 69 and the remaining quarter develop in women who are 70 years or older.

Geographical variations, reproductive factors, age of first pregnancy, inherited risk, previous breast disease, radiation, weight, alcohol intake, hormones, to name but a few.

Go to your own countries Breast Cancer page and let's make our sisters aware of the risks. Because the earlier it is diagnosed the better the results.

The good news is that breast cancer survival rates are among the highest of all cancers.

Silent protest—End-It-Now Netherlands Union Conference

On Friday evening the 27th of May of this year the church in Delft, (Alivio) the Netherlands held a silent protest march for the End-It-Now initiative. They went through the streets with t-shirts and banners which said: 'Alivio says no against domestic violence'. A manifestation was held in the park. Many other organisations were there. Also representatives from the Moroccan, Turkish and Antillean communities were represented.





"But the gifts of Jesus are ever fresh and new. The feast that He provides for the soul never fails to give satisfaction and joy. Each new gift increases the capacity of the receiver to appreciate and enjoy the blessings of the Lord. He gives grace for grace. There can be no failure of supply. If you abide in Him, the fact that you receive a rich gift today insures the reception of a richer gift tomorrow. The words of Jesus to Nathanael express the law of God's dealing with the children of faith. With every fresh revelation of His love, He declares to the receptive heart, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that.' John 1:50"

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Nice to meet you

Raleigh Aurora Fernandez, 42 years of age, is married to a pastor and presently they are working in the Greek Mission. Raleigh is the Women's Ministries Director for the Greek Mission.

Raleigh tells us something about herself:

"Prior to my conversion in the SDA faith, I already had a passion to work for the Lord, but I didn't know how to start it, so I prayed if the Lord would give someone to help and teach me. God favored me, until I was converted into our church. Added to my conversion was that God's will of giving me a husband to be my partner in ministry. After our marriage, the more that I crave of God's mercy as to how I can work for Him. I attended Women's Leadership Training, Seminars and meetings to learn and I thank God because my husband is in Greece doing God's calling, because I am not expecting even in a thousand dreams that I will be in charge of Women's Ministry Department. One thing I am impressed is that if God see

in us that we are zealous of His commission, He will catch us by surprise and show us mighty and wondrous things (Jeremiah 33:3)."



It was a wonderful experience to catch up with Raleigh in Greece in June of this year. About 80 women came together for training and seminars. We

were very blessed while meeting and the excitement of the women was clearly visible. Using Women's Ministries as an outreach possibility seems to be what is needed for the women of this Mission.

