



# Women's Ministries Newsletter

## Just a word

Summer is just about to start for many of us. A time to relax and get your energy back. A time to reflect and get your priorities back in order. At least that is what I would like. Sometimes things don't turn out that way but mostly the holidays are a time when you do get to do things you normally don't have time for.

Last year when I was approached to work at the TED we spent most of our holiday at the internet café, mailing back and forth to the Division so this year I am looking forward to a time of relaxation and getting the battery recharged.

To be honest I can't believe that it was a year ago that I

was approached. Time really does fly when you are having fun. Of course the work involves more than having fun alone but meeting quite a few of you has been a real privilege. That is the one thing I enjoy most, meeting different people and learning about the different customs we all have.

If more of us would take the time to get to know people around us we would probably find that there are a lot of interesting people out there.

I have heard stories I would never expect. Stories of hardship overcome, amazing things happening in someone's life and miracles. You just can't tell someone's

story from the outside. You have to make an effort to get to know people.

My prayer for the summer is that we take time, not only to relax and enjoy, but to get to know amazing people who surround us all the time. Take time to get to know people.

God bless you all and have a



sunny and happy summer.

*Clair*

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## Special points of interest:

- Abuse Prevention Day—August 2011
- Women's Ministries Advisory 27th of February until 2nd of March 2012

## End it now

## Adventists Say **No** to Violence Against Women

The General Conference Women's Ministries department is still trying to get signatures for this important issue. Up until March they had 800,000 signatures and would very much like to have 1 million. So if you are still interested it would be wonderful if our

Division could help in getting to our goal.

The signatures should have been presented already but you know how things go. The initial meeting was cancelled and it is not always easy to make new appointments.

Perhaps this is a good thing

when you consider that it gives us a little longer to work on this project.

As we read in our last newsletter Serbia did a wonderful job in getting 10,000 signatures.

## WHEL—Women/Men's Healing and Empowerment Helpline—Exciting news from the British Union

WHEL is being launched in September 2011. It will be the first European branch of the Women's Healing and Empowerment Network. See [www.pollysplacenetwork.com](http://www.pollysplacenetwork.com). Dr. Mabel Dunbar, a Women's Ministries Director in the NAD, set up the first SDA women's refuge and the WHEL Network. She is also the author of the 2011's Abuse Prevention Awareness Day material and, with her husband, authored the books, *The Truth about Us* and *No More Excuses*.

The vision of WHEL is to set up services, such as a phone/skype helpline and prayer ministry. The goal is that those accessing the services and programs will:

- Discover their value to God.
- Experience wholeness, healing and renewal
- Grow physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally and socially
- Become positive role models for future generations
- Become advocates in promoting healthy Christian family systems

The first part of the strategic plan is to develop the Help/Prayer line. This is happening now with the Accredited Christian Counselors Association running training for 20 people. It is hoped 60 people across the Union will be a part of this helpline.

A promotional DVD is being sent out to the churches, and promoted at various events. When Dr. Dunbar and her team come in mid September everything will be set up for its launch at a Conference in the West Midlands. The date is to be confirmed. For information email [info@whel.org.uk](mailto:info@whel.org.uk)

This event has all come about according to God's timing. Firstly, there was a realization of the need for official support for those within the church being abused by those in paid and voluntary leadership. Women's/Family



Ministries, Ministerial Association and the BUC Executive worked together in producing the Policy on domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Secondly, the EnditNow campaign focused the members and church leaders as to the enormity and devastating impact of violence against women. In the South England Conference pastoral

in 2010.

God now brought together these five elements at the end of 2010. The BUC Executive voted the support of setting up WHEL and suggested it included the needs of men too. Women's Family and Health Ministries are partnering with Joan and her team. We are helping to finance its start and Dr. Dunbar's travel to the BUC in September when she will launch WHEL.

We wish God's blessing on this very important work

**enditnow**  
Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women

workers are taking a course run by Newbold College on this topic.

Thirdly, Joan Suanders, whose heart had been touched by the Lord through a member committing suicide due to the stress of living with domestic violence, realized more support needed to be given to such people.

Fourthly, since the mid 1990's, professional volunteers in the South and North Conferences have run a part time telephone assistance helpline. In the last 10 years our membership has doubled and these helplines have been on overload.

Fifthly, a God-coincidence meant that Joan sat next to Dr. Dunbar at the GC



## Scholarship Programme

At the recent WM Advisory in Silver Springs, the Women's Scholarship committee celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Women's Scholarship program. It all started in 1991 with one scholarship, how the program has grown, giving 99 scholarships this January! The recent awards totalled \$54,800 to women in 39 countries. In our Division 8 girls received a scholarship. They came from the Middle East Union, Serbia and Israel. Since the program began

in 1991, it has provided nearly \$767,700 to help 1,748 women attend college.



Maria from Israel attending Newbold College

and below the girls from the Middle East University.



Nyariak, Rahil, Gamila and Nyanchok.

## Statement Women's Ministries Department



At the World Advisory 2011 Women's Ministries directors set up a statement which was presented to Dr. Ella Simmons, Vice President at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church and responsible for the Women's Ministries Department. She was charged

with presenting this paper to the president, Elder Ted Wilson.

Considering the times in which we live, the 2011 Women's Ministries World Advisory voted that in the current quinquennium, Women's Ministries focus on three areas of ministry:

1. Nurture/Reach up: To help women in their devotional time and personal growth, enabling them to be nurturers in the church and community.
2. Empower/Reach across: To equip women in and for leadership and to empower them for their activities and projects for the women in the church and community.
3. Outreach/Reach out: To help women use all possible avenues to reach others in their community.

## Joint Women's Retreat

In 2013 or 2014 the Women's Ministries department of the TED would like to organise a joint retreat together with the Euro-Africa Division. This retreat is not just for the leaders at the Union, it is for all women. Of course all Unions will be allocated a specific number of places.

There are two options for this.

1. Take a study trip to Turkey or

Israel (the EUD ladies have chosen Turkey as their option)

2. Have a Retreat in one of the countries in our Divisions and go to a good hotel and have guest-speakers and workshops with possibility of a trip.

The question is which one would appeal most to the ladies in our Division. It would be good if the Unions could find

out which option most appeals to the ladies. We want to start early so that people have the opportunity to save. We will come back to this at a later date.

You need to keep in mind that option 1 will be considerably more expensive than option 2.

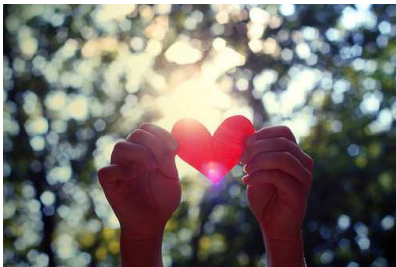




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## GOD IS LOVE

## Nice to Meet you



Let me introduce you to Éva Csergei-Nagy. It was my privilege to meet her in May. The Hungarian Union has asked her to lead out in Women's Ministries in Hungary. Éva works full-time for ADRA and is doing the work of Women's Ministries as an extra. To get things started she organized a Sabbath to try and get more

women involved in Women's Ministries. The woman doing Women's Ministries before her had done a wonderful job and now things need to move forward.

Éva is young but on fire for the Lord. She is not married.

Her hobbies are music, baking, activities with children.

I can let you know that she is a good baker. On the Friday evening when we met with the committee for Women's Ministries Éva had baked a delicious lemon cake covered in strawberry's. Wonderful.

In the summer she helps run a children's camp for disadvantaged children. A really good project which has been running for years. What I really

liked about the project was that they not only run the camp in the summer but visit the children during the year, thus keeping contact with them.



Potluck at church on Sabbath afternoon.

## Are you lonely?

We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy...

He who took humanity upon Himself knows how to sympathize with the sufferings of humanity. Not only does Christ know every soul, and the peculiar needs and trails of that soul, but he knows all the circumstances that chafe and perplex the spirit. His hand is outstretched in pitying tenderness to every suffering child.—E.G.

White—The Ministry of Healing, page 249