It’s January, the start of a new year. It’s a time when we start working on all those new year’s resolutions. Unfortunately for most of us they just don’t work. Don’t take my word for it. Did you know that studies have shown that only 12% of us actually keep our new year’s resolutions. As far back as the Babylonians were making them and no doubt they also didn’t manage to keep them.

Why do we keep making resolutions. I suppose that we just need it. The need to recommit or re-evaluate ourselves. We make resolutions like: this year I am not going to gossip as much, this year I am going to pray to God more. But 88% of us just don’t carry through so you think we would have learnt our lesson by now.

My suggestion is that we do away with new year’s resolutions this year. Instead let’s take a good hard look at ourselves through a new mirror. The way we have been evaluating ourselves doesn’t work. It really is true that it is the inside that counts and not the outside.

In 2 Corinthians 5:16,17 (Message Bible) we read:

“…we don’t evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don’t look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons!”

So this year let’s do the inside-out change. Not looking at what we do, but finding the person we truly are. The person trying to get out. The beauty we have within to bless others and ourselves.
In September 2012, Éva, the Hungarian Union Women’s Ministries Director held a meeting for women in Debrecen. In the morning 3 Women’s Ministries leaders preached the word of God and in the afternoon the ladies work with the Prayer Boxes.

The ladies were very grateful for a lovely day in which they could share together Bible study and fellowship.

Visit to Greece

In a time of credit crunch the members in Greece are still looking to share the gospel with many who are in need of security and love.

In the week of 11-21 October, 2012, I had the privilege to visit with our members in three different churches. Thessaloniki, Katarini and Athens.

John and I visited for two reasons. Family Ministries and Women’s Ministries. Women’s Ministries is very strong in Greece.

Women’s Ministries gets off to a good start

On Sabbath 6th of October 2012, Vera Gietzmann, launched Women’s Ministries in the local church of St. Albans. Why do we need Women’s Ministries was the theme of the day. After an icebreaker, which gave a lot of laughter, a presentation on this subject was given. The day was rounded off with a High Tea, which had been prepared for everyone by the men of the church. Working in perfect harmony together. Men and women.
Women’s Ministries Netherlands

The title of the Women’s Ministries Retreat was “Chocolate Boutique—Where women come taste and see that the Lord is good”.

This was the third weekend with the same theme because the weekends are all fully booked.

As soon as women walked in the décor and atmosphere was very welcoming. The women received little gifts, booklets, discussion questions etc. Although the gifts were great the ladies came for the spiritual growth they all wanted.

There were workshops, Bible study, singing and prayer.

45 women attended. They represented 22 churches and 9 of the ladies came from Belgium.

The weekend was wonderful. There was only one thing wrong and that was that it was over too soon.

World’s most dangerous countries for women

LONDON, June 15 (TrustLaw) - Afghanistan, Congo and Pakistan are the world's most dangerous countries for women due to a barrage of threats ranging from violence and rape to dismal healthcare and "honour killings," a Thomson Reuters Foundation expert poll showed Wednesday.

India and Somalia ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, in the global perceptions survey by TrustLaw (www.trust.org/trustlaw), the Foundation's legal news service.

TrustLaw asked 213 gender experts from five continents to rank countries by overall perceptions of danger as well as by six risks: health threats, sexual violence, non-sexual violence, cultural or religious factors, lack of access to resources and trafficking.
In the local church of Kragujevac, in the South Conference, in cooperation with the church Health Club, Women’s Ministry department organized a Cooking School for the church members and visitors held twice a month. The main topics were: Preparation of the Plant Milks, Preparation of the Plant Cheeses, Preparation of the Plant Spreads, The Use of the Plant Cheeses, The Use of Millet, etc.

Each class begins with the short presentation of the chosen topic and continues with the practical implementation of the gained knowledge. In that way each participant has a chance to take an active part in the healthy food preparation. Besides learning about the healthy way of living and preparing healthy food, the Cooking School students exchange life experiences, and build up their fellowship and unity.

According to Mirela Lukic, the WM Coordinator of the SDA church in Kragujevac, “The Cooking School helped the church community to became more connected and united but also reshaped the visitors’ views about healthy life and diet and helped them made life changing decisions. They are now the best advertisers of the better life qualities in the wider community.”