



New quinquennium new beginnings

We are starting a new series in which each newsletter we will focus on one of our unions. We have asked all of you to participate and in this issue we are presenting the **South-East European Union Conference**. We hope this will help you with new ideas and motivate you. We look forward to each issue.

Marija Trajkovska has been married to pastor Djordje Trajkovski, who is serving as a President of the SEEUC for 28 years. They have one son, his name is Pavle Trajkovski and he is now studying theology at Newbold College.

Marija has been serving in Women's Ministry for 21 years and 12 of them as a Union WM director. Prior to that she served as a WM director in the Macedonian Mission.

Her biggest challenge is struggle against prejudice and misconceptions about WM role and function in the local church since they are still present in the minds of the older church members and pastors.

Her biggest joy are changed and transformed lives of the women who got to know God's love and grace and their positive, transforming influence on their family and community circles.

Her favourite Bible text is from Psalm 36:9: "For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." (NIV)





WM ACTIVITIES IN SEEUC IN THE YEAR 2015/2016

The Women's Ministries activities in the SEEUC in the year 2015/2016 could be classified in four main areas:

- Promoting the role and the function of the WM in the local churches and overcoming the old prejudices among leaders and church members of both genders;
- Training the new leaders of the WM in the local churches;
- Creative Community Evangelism;
- Winning back former church members, especially adult children of the Adventist parents who left church through the project "Coming Home" – It started with publishing a book (Prayer and Love Saves by Dorothy Eaton Watts), and organizing special parental prayer groups in the local churches of our Union and will continue with the social activities and other special church meetings for the former members.



Skopje, Macedonia

WM of Skopje, Macedonia, organized its traditional visit to the city Firemen station, Police station and Emergency ward with the parcels of the domestic cakes during the New Year's holidays. It was their way to show appreciations and care for those who are on duty when everyone else is celebrating. The delight and happiness was mutual.



Women's Ministries News



Novi Sad, Serbia

WM of Novi Sad, Serbia visited the patients and the staff of the Orthopedic ward in Vojvodina Clinical Center in Novi Sad with the parcels of fresh fruits, salty pastry, WM brochures and Steps to Christ books on January 3, 2016 wishing them happy holidays but also quick and successful recovery. Both patients and medical stuff were deeply touched with this simple act of kindness and love (picture on the left).

Ćuprija, Central Serbia

WM in Ćuprija, Central Serbia, first organized the training workshop on decoupage technique in the City Library hall of Ćuprija and then organized the advance courses at the SDA church hall, inviting 30 non-Adventist women to keep attending. The WM department also started the decoupage creative workshops for the inmates of the local prison under the title "When the Old Pot Becomes New", followed by the Bible lessons on God's transforming power.



Women's Ministries News



Gradiska, Bosnia

WM in Gradiska, Bosnia, organized craft workshops making creative gifts for the Women's Day Surprises that were given away to both 13 Adventist women in the church and to 14 non-Adventist women passing by the WM stall in front of the church building. That was their way to build the bridges of friendship with the local community.



They also started a series of craft and prayer workshops under the common title "Dare to Ask More" attended by more than 20 non-Adventist women. Besides learning how to use the craft techniques to turn something old and useless into something new and useful, women learned how to trust God, claiming His promises, and dare to ask more in prayer.



Macedonia

The street actions were organized in the cities of the Macedonian Mission on March 8, 2016 to distribute a special booklet with encouraging thoughts entitled "The Words of Hope". In total 3000 copies were given to Macedonian women as a special Women's Day gift.

Women's Ministries News



Pirot, Serbia

WM in Pirot, South-eastern Serbia, visited Old People's Home in the neighboring town of Dimitrovgrad, with 100 residents. Cards with good wishes and gifts made at the craft workshops were given to both male and female residents on the Women's Day, March 8, 2016. Their tears, smiles and kind words were enough reward for all those WM efforts.



In cooperation with the Health Club, they also organized a special meeting for the women from the local community in Pirot, under the title "Spa for Your Soul" providing spiritual nourishment and special hand massage.

Novi Sad, Serbia

in Novi Sad, Northern WMSerbia, organized the distribution of 1000 Women's Day surprises, consisting of the book Steps to Christ (with the BCS enrolment card in it), a fridge magnet with the words "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" and a pen with the web site address of the SDA church in Novi Sad. The gifts were given to the various women - neighbours, supermarket cashiers, bank clerks, chemistry shop assistants, bakery sales persons, etc.



Women's Ministries News



Novi Sad, Serbia

WM in Novi Sad, Northern Serbia, organized weekend meetings for the women of the three SDA churches from Novi Sad on March 12 – 13, 2016. The common motto was "A Women After God's Heart" with encouraging presentations on Sheerah, Huldah, Pilate's Wife and Samson's Mother and special musical items. A special Prayer Session was organized after the potluck time on five prayer stalls with the brochures on Well Dressed Feet, Divine Cosmetics.



Women's Ministries News



More Prayer Sessions were organized on Golden Apples in the Silver Settings, Lemonade from the Life Lemons and Spiritual Fly Swatter. A gift of a heart-shaped candle was to remind them to always live as women after God's heart.



Women's Ministries News



The Prayer Breakfast organized on Sunday, March 13, 2016, was followed by the presentation on Marita, a modern blend of Mary and Martha, and the training seminar on creative ways of doing Women Ministries in the local church "You Can Also Fly". More than 150 Adventist women attending the meetings and a dozen of non-Adventist were delighted and spiritually refreshed with this weekend activity.

