



Dear Friends,

Our newsletter this month centres around activities in Cyprus. Every month it always surprises me of the many different ways of doing Women's Ministries. In all sorts of settings and countries. The creativity and intentional discipleship encourage me. That is the wonderful thing about Women's Ministries, there is not just one way to do it. Being part of a bigger picture when it comes to the local church is what it is all about. Sharing, caring and helping others find Christ, building healthy relationships and impacting the local community are all ways we can engage in Women's Ministries.

Women need other women. Women are relational and women's ministries can help meet that need. I am totally convinced that women who are faithful in sharing the gospel, in investing in the lives of other women, will be blessed beyond measure.

May this newsletter encourage you to start something within your local church. Pray that the Holy Spirit will impress on your heart what you can do to further the work of His kingdom.

Blessings,

Clair





News from Cyprus

Marica Mirilov, Women's Ministries and Children's Ministries director



HOME AWAY FROM HOME MINISTRY

The Limassol SDA church centre, Meeting Point, continues to be a home away from home for many migrant workers every Sunday, on their day off. Some 9,000 kilometres away from their home in the Philippines, Cyprus can be a lonely place for thousands of women, mainly domestic workers, posing challenges too numerous to be mentioned and too complex. The Meeting Point offers free Wi-Fi, use of computers, a well equipped kitchen, delicious lunches, comfortable sofas, and much more.

Helen, a Roman Catholic and mother of two school children, greatly appreciates being emotionally supported and finds the health programmes useful and instructive. She enthusiastically joins the Bible study group for the following reason: "I can understand biblical teachings better and they make sense for my personal life."

Merichelle, age 25, who came to Cyprus to support her family in giving her younger siblings an opportunity for better education, will remember the Meeting Point for the rest of her life.

For the first time ever she had her own birthday party, organised and supported by the Limassol SDA church community and the Meeting Point friends.



A year ago Yolanda invited Merichelle to the Meeting Point, and ever since she has regularly been coming and participating in all the activities and programmes. Yolanda joined the Limassol SDA church family and got baptised 2 years ago and with passion invites her fellow Filipinas, kababayan, to the Meeting Point and to Christ.

Jesus' words loudly echo in Cyprus: to feed the hungry, refresh the thirsty, clothe the poor and invite the strangers in.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40).



MOTHERS IN ACTION

What started as the quest of one mother trying to deal with the issues that her children face, developed into an organized mothers' support prayer group in Limassol, Cyprus.

During the past year Teresa, one of the core church members of Limassol SDA church, initiated meetings where mothers would gather for emotional and spiritual support and guidance. It gradually caught the hearts and minds of other mothers who have the same need.

Emily, a church elder, reflects on the first official meeting: "This meeting gave us the opportunity to speak openly to each other as mothers. We prayed together and had the chance to share the word of God. We decided to have a mothers group to pray over our church, our children, our husbands, and our ministry. After our prayer we laid down some objectives to which we will all work towards concerning the spiritual development of our children and our church."



Emily shared a bible verse that is a great inspiration to her:

Hebrews 10:22-25

A Call to Perseverance.

"22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

The mothers' enthusiasm and creativity was soon put into action. They took the idea of German school cones and worked for hours making them for their children and their friends. They were determined to send their children to school not only technically equipped with school goodies, but with the blessing of God.

Plans are being made to reach out to the mothers in the community who would benefit from joining the group; or from being helped with decorating their homes. Mothers in Action want to make this world more loving and more beautiful.



CLAIR'S VISIT IN ESTONIA

On 18 June 2017, women from different churches of Estonia came to Tartu to learn about Girls for Christ, a mentoring programme, which helps women in church to mentor and guide young girls. The programme is developed by Clair Sanches and others from the TED. She said that very many people have stayed in church because there was somebody in church, who took notice of them, talked to them and listened to them; somebody who cared.

The programme consists of five parts: Bible study, prayer, crafts and service projects, health and lifestyle, and socialising. Our training with Clair started with the creative Bible study. "You cannot give others what you do not have," Clair said, and encouraged us to find our own favourite Bible study method, so we could indeed always look forward to studying God's Word. We tried out many different activities from the programme manual and it was very interesting and engaging. Laura Kangur from Tallinn new church plant liked especially the practical side of the training, which in the future, she believes, can be done with girls. For Ly Kaasik from Rakvere church the importance of individual work with people was what became clear from the training. She also got many good ideas that she can use when making events for children. Laura and Ly both emphasised the importance of consistency and dedication in this kind of work. We are all very grateful to God for Clair's dedication and talents.

-Alla Nõmmik, Women's Ministries Director in the Baltic Union Conference

