

PAGES *Women's Ministries*

Dear Friends,

A new year and a new look for what we are now calling News Pages. We are continuing with the idea of having each Union take a turn at presenting news for us. I love this way of doing things because we get to hear so much more from each of you and that only helps to encourage one another. These news pages are from the South-East European Union which has Marija Trajkovska as it's Women's Ministries leader. As you can see from these News Pages there is a lot happening and we thank

God for leaders like Marija who have such vision and leadership. Many of the news items have to do with outreach and for me that is what Women's Ministries is all about. So many ideas which I hope will inspire each of us to try something new.

My prayer for 2018 is that Women's Ministries will continue to reach women with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you all,

Clair

Clair Sanches-Schutte
Women's and Children's
Ministries director
Trans-European Division



News from the South-East European Union Conference

Marija Trajkovska, Women's Ministries director

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

Connect, Inspire, Change – Heads, Hearts and Hands

Connect, Inspire, Change - that was the leading thought in the work of the Women's Ministries of the SEEUC throughout the year 2017. The connected and inspired heads, hearts and hands got united in order to reach the women in and outside the church to be able to make a visible change in all the aspects of their lives.



Connected Through WM Special Days

In 2017, like in all previous years, WM departments in the SEEUC got connected through the implementation of the resource packets translated and prepared for the special WM days:

- Resource packet "Passionate Prayer and Fearless Faith" for the WM International Day of Prayer, on March 4, 2017 with the personal growth seminars "Back to Basics" and "Invitation to Pray";
- Resource packet "Gifted to Serve" for the WM Emphasis Day on June 10, 2017, together with the seminars "Spiritual Gifts" and "WM Impacting Teens";
- And resource packet "Love Protects – Healing the Wounds of Emotional Abuse" for the WM Abuse Prevention Day on August 26, 2017 together with the seminars "Children at Risk", "Bullying Tips" and "Relationship and Dating Violence".



Inspired by Training Seminars

Making the GC initiatives on Revival and Reformation (R&R) and Total Membership Involvement (TMI) relevant for the women's spiritual life, SEEUC WM department, connected with the TED WM department, organized training seminars:

- Creative Bible Study and
- Girls for Christ



The seminars were presented by Clair Sanches, TED WM director, in two main centres, Belgrade, in the South Conference, and Novi Sad, in the North Conference, on February 24 and 25, 2017, empowering WM directors and church leaders to implement these two projects in their local churches.

The complete Manuel for the Girls for Christ project is now being translated in order to be published and sent to WM departments in the local churches of the SEEUC. The Girls for

Christ programme is intended for teenage and young girls to help them nourish their spiritual life and health in a creative and applicable way by the help of older women as their mentors and counsellors.



Bringing about life changes through integrated evangelism

Many WM departments in the SEEUC connected their efforts with the Health Ministry department through Health clubs and Children and Youth Ministries departments through Pathfinders and Youth clubs to make integrated evangelism possible. They organize seminars on women's health, marriage and family relationships, health expos, cooking schools and creative workshops to reach women in the local communities.



Especially good example of it is the cooperation between Women's Ministries department and Health club in Ćuprija, a town in the central part of Serbia.



Together with the SDA Health club, WM department in Ćuprija, organized a project under the common title „Creative Whatnot“ to promote Christian values among the women in the local community by creative and craft workshops and humanitarian actions. Jelena Trajković, WM leader in Ćuprija church and project coordinator, explains that they first organized:



The „Sweet Workshop“ on preparing healthy and nurturing sweets with Vesna Arandžević, from SDA Health club in Niš, Serbia.



Then they organized the creative workshop “Heart to Give” and ceramic hearts decorated by the decoupage technique were given as Christmas gifts to the patients and medical staff at the Children’s Ward, Maternity Ward and Gynaecology Ward in Čuprija hospital, together with the fruit baskets. The same gifts were given as Women’s Day Surprise to the women employed in the town’s library “Dušan Matić” in Čuprija and the Gymnasium in Paraćin, Serbia.



At the beginning of September, town authorities extended an official invitation to Creative Whatnot to take part in the public manifestation “Come into my jar”. The aim of the manifestation was connecting past and present, villages and towns. The jars filled with food made according to the old and famous recipes were presented to the most deprived families together with the small creative gifts from WM creative workshops, made by decoupage technique.

At the beginning of November, a new workshop was organized in Čuprija entitled “Be Creative – Be Happy!” with the presentation on the impact of creativity on mental health and the practical creative activity at the end.



In the second half of November, all interested participants of the Creative Whatnot from the church and local community were given opportunity for regular exercising in a newly equipped exercise and gym rooms.

In December, the lectures on children’s health were presented in the Children’s Ministry department of the Čuprija SDA church but also in the classes of the elementary schools in Čuprija’s district which was an excellent opportunity to contribute to the public educational system.

Together with the Health club "Pomoravlje", Creative Whatnot organized a "Spa workshop", as a special New Year's treat for women. After the lecture on natural cosmetics and sharing recipes for making domestic products for skin and hair nurture, the attendees were given hand massage and hydration which they have thoroughly enjoyed.



Jelena Trajković, WM leader, also shared that the WM department from Ćuprija church had continued earlier established cooperation with the local prison through decoupage workshops for the inmates. In addition to the creative activities, they were now given the opportunity to think about Creator and Maker of all and to reach decisions for better life choices in the future through the spiritual health presentations.



Similar kind of integrated evangelism between the WM departments and Health clubs is also being done in the districts of Pirot and Knjaževac, towns at the south-east of Serbia. They regularly present WM resource topics to the general audience in a public hall or during the Health club classes. They also organized different kinds of creative workshops as a stress relief activity.



These workshops then serve as a foundation for the presentations on emotional, mental and spiritual health. The creative items made at the recently organized creative workshops were given as gifts to the 230 residents of the Gerontology Centre in Knjaževac during the visit of the WM representatives.



Women's Ministries department in Vršac, town at the north-east of Serbia, is also active in implementing integrated evangelism and cooperating with the local Health and Youth clubs. They started simply – by finding and exchanging recipes for boosting body immune system. Then they started knitting warm clothes items – caps, shawls and gloves for the deprived people and continued with making parcels of life necessities for poor families and children.

Special seminars and prayer sessions were organized as a part of project Coming Home for the parents whose adult children left church and God as described in the book by Dorothy Eaton Watts "Prayer and Love Saves" They were followed by the seminar and prayer session "Prayer Warriors" and church members got encouraged to do more for nurture and retention of the teenagers and young people.

The next step were decoupage creative workshops organized in the Cultural Centre of Vršac and then in the local SDA church.



The last project done in this year, "From Heart to Heart" brought enormous happiness to both donors and recipients. It referred to making heart shaped pillows as a kind of supportive tools for the women recovering from the breast cancer operations.

Sewing them after the provided cut, the women from Vršac WM department donated them to the patients at the Oncology and Chemotherapy Ward of Vršac hospital, together with get well cards and a book "Secrets that Really Change Your Life".

Božidar Prgonjić, young pastor from Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, delightfully informs about the excellent cooperation between the WM department and Health club work in his church.



Every second Sunday, from December 2016 to May 2017, WM department organized a series of creative workshops, making women from the church and the local community skilful in different decoupage techniques. The second series of 8 creative workshops started in October, making friendships established between the Adventist and non-Adventist women even stronger and more precious.



Women's Ministries Creative workshop in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina



It was followed by the healthy cooking workshops that had practical implication in the women's lives and brought about some important lifestyle changes. More about them you can learn at <https://www.facebook.com/Kreativne-radionice-Prijedor-1796598350628093/>

Lidija Topić presenting healthy cooking lessons

Lav Šćelović, young pastor from Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina, informed us about the successful participation of the WM department and Health Club in the city gastronomic festival „Zdravo Fest“ in April this year. Their booth with different kinds of healthy and delicious food was not only the most popular and most visited but also recommended by the town's mayor Mr. Zoran Adžić.



Diligent women's hands from the WM department of the city of Gradiška and the village of Laminici gave their best to make it impressive and useful. Besides testing healthy food, it offered recipes, copies of the Life and Health magazines, books Steps to Christ and How to Truly Love Your Child and New Testament to the interested citizens of Gradiška.



WM department from Gradiška took active part in the New Start Health Club series with 35 non-Adventists regularly attending, stop smoking series "Stop It Now – Seven Steps to Freedom", with 30 non-Adventist regularly attending, and 10 of them successfully giving up smoking. Healthy cooking workshops and Creative workshops were great success as well. „No one has ever done something like this for us in Gradiška. This is awesome, this is exceptional and this is most welcomed“ said some of the participants“ reports pastor Šćelović. "We do not feel like going home yet. It is so warm and pleasant here that we feel like staying here a little bit longer“, people used to say at the end of these meetings. And that is a really good start for making their lives better and happier.

WM department from Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, is continuing its long tradition of wishing Happy New Year to the officials on duty at the Emergency Ward, the main Police Station and the Fire Brigade in the city of Skopje. They regularly do this with the parcels of homemade cakes and copies of some spiritual books. This year it was "Steps to Christ" book. The tradition is eagerly cherished by both givers and recipients and it brings mutual happiness and joy to all.



Scholarships from the GC WM funds

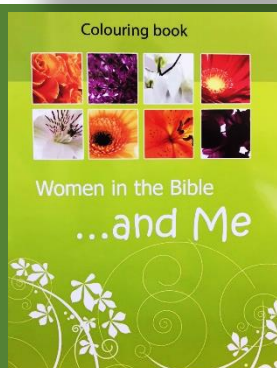
Two female students from the Belgrade Theological Seminary (Ana Meta from Serbia and Biljana Stanković from Bosnia) got scholarship for the academic year 2016/2017 from the GC WM funds amounting to 2.500 dollars which was shared among them and became a tremendous help for their further education. WM department of the SEEUC is especially thankful to the WM department of the TED for providing these funds from the GC WM department.

Plans for WM work in 2018

In the year of 2018, WM department will focus on two main areas of work:

1. Creative Bible Study to promote the regular reading of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books for the women's personal spiritual growth and development. Besides other ways it will be done through the programme Women in the Bible and me and the new Colouring book for the adults with the same title;

2. Nurture and empowerment of the teenagers and young girls through the Girls for Christ programme. The programme manual is being translated and it will be soon sent to the conference and local church WM leaders.



WOMEN IN THE BIBLE AND ME colouring book

At the Trans-European Division we have created an adult colouring book for you to accompany the Bible Study that you can download from the TED website:
<https://ted.adventist.org/women-s-ministries>



The price is: €1.50

Please contact the Women's or Children's Ministries director in your union to place an order for this colouring book.

