

PAGES *Women's Ministries*

Dear Friends,

Before you here is the newest Women's Ministries News Pages which has been filled with news from Hungary.

Hungary has a very active Women's Ministries and as you read the stories you can see that they are very creative and innovative when it comes to finding ways of spreading the gospel.

We women sometimes don't realise that we have such good opportunities to meet other women and share and get to know them. One of the things I read in the news pages was about a shop called HopePoint.

You will see that personal interest and relationships make the best approach.

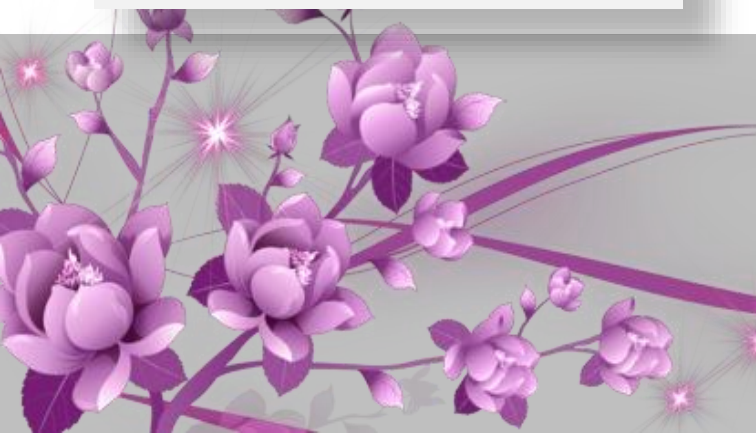
As we read the news pages may God open our hearts and minds to find ways to reach others.

Please check out our webpage which is changing all the time. We are trying to add more helpful things for you to download and use.

Blessings to each and every one of you as you find your relationship with Jesus and share it with those around you.

*Clair*

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



## News from the Hungarian Union Conference

Zsóka Bodnár, Women's Ministries director

### Women Building Bridges

Dear Reader!

Come with me on an imaginary journey to the Hungarian "Calvinist Rome", to Debrecen. This is the country's second largest city. At the station we will take tram number 2, which will take us to the densely populated downtown, to the neighbourhood of the three largest shopping centres. After getting off the tram you will see in front of you the Kölcsey Cultural Centre, the Debrecen Reformed Theological University and the Reformed College which is famous throughout Europe. By walking pass these buildings you will get close to a nearly 35m2 shop and your heart begins throbbing when you see on the façade of the building the huge logo of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church: the opened Bible, the cross and the golden flame tongues around our Earth. We will walk by several shops: Cool Fashion clothing shop, Tünde Hairdressing Salon, Mária Cosmetics, Colour-picture Studio, but among them there is an influential centre with a special mission: the Community Office called Hope Point (ReményPont in Hungarian).

HopePoint is a place in the heart of the town where anyone can find peace of mind in inspiring and pleasant environment. Here you can buy the books of Advent Publishing House although selling the books is just one of many activities that are done here.

HopePoint is a living and influential bridge between the city dwellers and the church.

- How do you fulfil the role of the living bridge here at Hope Point? – I asked one of the staff from the office.

- We are advertising and inviting everyone from the town to different programmes organized by



our office or our church. In addition, there is a possibility to have appointments for personal counselling, mental hygiene-, marriage- and medical counselling.

- Can you tell us please a few words about your last programme?

- Just before Christmas we organized a Vintage packing week, thus offering city-dwellers a free, creative gift wrapping service.

- Which is the most successful mission method?

- The personal influence, nurturing personal friendships turned out to be the best mission method. This comes naturally, it is not direct and you can enjoy it.

People turn to us in different but quite difficult life situations: some are looking for a friend who would listen to them; others come for help and advice since they have lost the meaning of their life because of the conflicts they face.

According to our experiences women are the ones who visit our office the most so the Women's Ministries Department plays a major role in the effective functioning of our missionary activity, since we often have to join in prayer to unite human forces with divine guidance.

- As far as I know only women work here in the influential office? Am I right?

- Yes, only women work here, but if we encounter an acute spiritual problem we invite a qualified counsellor and the pastors of our congregation to join in our activity.

- What are your plans for the future, how can you specifically address women with the message of hope?

- Just as we did before we would like to continue to participate on the "Only a Woman!?" Conference organized locally by the town, offering our books to the women who participate. Further on we would like to create another HopePoint. This would be HopePoint no. II where we want to focus on healthy lifestyle and our plan is to help young girls to learn how to cook healthy nutritious food.

- Tell me, how can you have a good impact on those strangers who come into your office?

- This is a very simple and natural thing. If people are interested, we are willing and open to answer. In winter time we offer them a hot tea. In summer time we invite them to drink fresh lemonade. We listen to those struggling with difficulties; we offer them our personal intercessory prayers and pray with them in the office or write their names on the prayer list. We draw their attention to satisfaction and gratitude. This October we organized Thanksgiving days. We made TV interviews with people, who told us what they are thankful for. We have also set up a crop exhibition in front of our office that drew people's attention to the importance of thanksgiving.

- Do you have any secrets only you know here at HopePoint that helps you spread good influence?

- We do not possess any secret. We just follow a simple statement: the welfare of others can depend on you because you can enhance people's happiness through a conversation filled with faith and courage.

Good influence is like a pleasant fragrance: it can penetrate everything. In fact, we are Christ's good fragrance here on this Earth.

- I've heard you are doing a flower mission here in town. Would you say a few words about that?

- Yes. Everyone who steps in to our centre receives a lavender bouquet, which is labelled with an encouraging quotation. Our most popular programme, however, is the Daffodil Week, when thousands of daffodils are sent with the help of our student volunteers to old people's homes.

- How do your visitors reciprocate your help?

- The best part in our work is when we experience that after a relationship crisis the visitors come back and express their gratitude in tears for the help we have provided. In these cases, we remind each other that God is to be glorified for all the changes that are made through our ministry. As people change their lives, we are also receiving growth in faith because it is a great feeling to work as God's staff to rescue people.

- What results do you achieve by building personal relationships?

- There can be a lot of results. We recognize results in cooperation, common prayer, effort for one goal. But on the other hand, it is a result when people greet you on the street, they call you on the phone, they ask for you in person, they come back to thank you, they may come up with a small gift, curious about your congregation, attend a prayer meeting, or worship service and sign up for baptismal class.

*-Annamária Szöllősyne Nagy*



## Ideas for giving presents on women's prayer days and trainings

We often go out into the country to minister and it is always a great joy for us to take some means of kindness to our sisters. They always have a great success which is much to our delight. Of course, it is always a pleasure to give.

I would like to list for you some ideas which may help you to prepare for the ministry easily:

- A card with a Bible verse on it. I select the Bible verse according to the topic of the day. If it is Enditnow day I use dark blue lace to indicate the seriousness of the issue.
- I cut out the coloured cardboard with special scissors to give it a nice pattern. They can put the card into their Bibles or on the shelf. The main point is to keep the Word in view.
- We print a special blessing on a tracing paper. I wind it up onto a reel and bind it round with a ribbon. Many sisters are so thankful that they are even moved to tears. It is important to caress women's soul with God promises.
- Chocolate bonbon. Of course, everyone is happy about it. However, there are more and more brothers who find great pleasure in staying at the women's prayer days so that they can also have a share of the hospitality.
- We buy mineral water bottles (0.5 l) & relabel them according to the topic of the given day, or we use a slide from the prayer day power point presentation.
- We edit new labels for smaller chocolate bars. I don't put any Bible verse on them, but something funny which makes us smile. We all need some humour and this little gesture can bring some joy to our sisters.



I hope you can use some of these ideas. I wish you God's great blessings on your ministry for Him.

*-Edit Bihariné Lehelvári*

## Reaching Women in other Religions and Cultures

The Working Group of the Hungarian Women's Department was pleased and enthusiastic about the International Leadership Training Conference, which took place in Budapest from the 10th to 13th of May 2017. The special meeting was organized by the General Conference of Women, Children and Family Department. We were excited about the more than 400 delegates from 60 countries. The theme of the conference was Reach the World.

The Women's Ministries Department of the General Conference held a special seminar in the "Woman to Woman" programme focusing on the deliberate confession of our faith, presenting and encouraging us to talk about Adventists to other religions. Heather-Dawn Small, Director of Women's Ministries Department and Raquel Arrais Associate Director invited guest speakers who introduced us to another world religion, showing how women in other cultures think of whom we can help.

Participating visitors brought with them a postcard from the capital of the countries they came from in order to commemorate each other in prayer in the future. Of course, we have also taken the postcards from our beautiful capital, Budapest, which was distributed by the staff at the end of the conference, so that the sisters who took these beautiful memories with them would remember us in their prayers.



Women are very creative. The GC Women's Ministries Department at this meeting presented to us the recently published Steps to Christ colouring book, which we were happy to receive. It's great to read Ellen G. White's books. We look forward to take this book in our hands in Hungarian in the near future.

During the Conference we have been really impressed with the encounter with old friends; of course, new friends have also been born, as shown in the photos.

Our team members tried to endorse the Registration as well as the translation, the Prayer room, and also the participation in the event.

For this occasion, we tried to make a gift that was welcomed by the interested ladies, which was distributed to the participants at the GC Women's Department's lectures. Edit Bihariné Lehelvári, a diligent member of our team, will never run out of good ideas. The pack contained a welcome card, a fridge magnet with Welcome to Budapest inscription and a small chocolate bar which was labelled by us "Stress wouldn't be so hard to take if it were chocolate covered".



The important topic of the conference has deeply addressed me and I have been living in it ever since. I often think of it, I want to reach as many people as I can to show the love of Jesus and His salvation. Do you want to reach the women and Reach the World? All the lectures have confirmed us that it is worth serving the Lord through the Women's Ministries Department.

*-Maria Tokics, Budapest, Hungary*

## Women in the time of Reformation

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Department of Women's Ministries organized a reformation tour to the Hungarian reformation sites in Sátoraljaújhely, Gönc and Vizsoly.



This was a two-day tour. On the first day, on Sabbath we worshipped in the local church in Sátoraljaújhely. The local pastor gave a comprehensive insight into the Reformation period. Through the lives of two women who lived in those times we could see the importance of the role of women in reformation. Annamária Szöllősyné Nagy member of the WM's working group presented the life story of Zsuzsanna Lorántffy who played a big role in the Hungarian reformation. Than Renáta Csalmi brought us closer to the ministry of Katharina von Bora /Martin Luther's wife/ and her loyalty to God.

Apart from the dominant male figures of the Reformation, their wives also played an important role. The prince and the women were living as faithful and steadfast distributors of the reformation. Their generous support helped this noble cause.

By uplifting the truth these famous women joined their strength in an exemplary way and used their possessions and talents to spread the Word of God in Hungary.

Thus, with their noble deeds, they are exemplary to the ladies living today. They are worthy to remember them.

We have created a memory card (see picture) called "Women in the Reformation", in which the initial letters emphasized a characteristic of those women as a message for today's women.



The Bible Museum in Gönc presents the history of the Hungarian Bible translation, which was published in 1589, under the leadership of Gáspár Károli. In addition, we could also see what local historical events took place in that time.

Our tour guide presented to us beautiful embroidered tablecloths which were made by women of that time to make the Lord's Supper even more worthy.

On Sunday we visited the printing house in Vizsoly, where the first Hungarian Bible was published. We could hear and see how God made it possible that the Bible would be available in Hungarian language for those living in the territory of Hungary.

We had the possibility to learn about the printing techniques which have been used at that time. We could see the strictly guarded first original Hungarian-language Bible among its ancient church walls.





The purpose of tour was to see what women did during the Reformation, how they served their husbands as they became loyal helpers in this special period.

This program provided women with a variety of new knowledge, enhanced a greater mission and vocation sense, built a stronger faith in God, giving all of us a community experience and relaxation.



We are grateful to God that we could visit these reformation sites. The programme proved to be delightful and useful.

Let me end with a quotation "The strength of man lies in the woman's faith" (Zsuzsanna Lorantffy)  
-Zsóka Bodnár

## Women's circle in Baja

We moved to Baja about 5 months ago. It didn't take long for us to realize that families need treatment and healing in the church. We began a programme entitled „Praying couples”, which has 20 sessions, with different topics for women and men respectively. The main idea was to get to know the other side more deeply and give a spiritual foundation to strengthen marriages. We have decided to create a so-called women's circle and men's circle. Each group is supposed to have a discussion on a certain topic, where not married individuals are also welcome. And they do come. We share our stories, experiences, concerns and challenges. They are given some suggestions and advice. We start and finish each meeting with prayers. At the end of each talk the couples are supposed to pray together, and talk about the topics shared in both groups. Those who are single pray together for each other. There are husbands who are not Adventist, but come to the sessions and they pray together with their Adventist wives. From time to time we have sessions when we are to gather as one community undivided and hold interactive presentations on a given topic. We are delighted that young people also come with enthusiasm and they enjoy these meetings a lot. Apart from strengthening marriages the ladies have developed closer relationships as sisters, for which we are so grateful to God.

-Márta Mayor

## WOMEN IN THE BIBLE AND ME colouring book

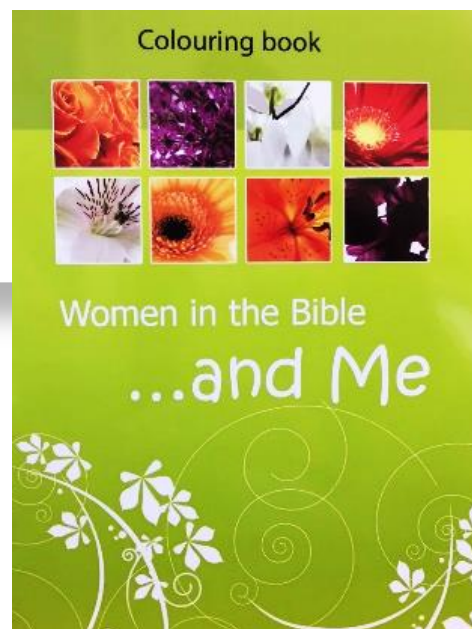
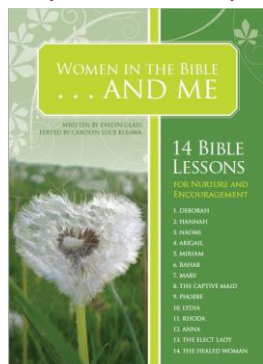
At the Trans-European Division we have created an adult colouring book for you to accompany the Bible Study that you can download from the TED website:

<https://ted.adventist.org/women-s-ministries>

Double sided version: €1.50

Single sided books: £3.00

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



## Monthly Bible verses on our website

Please visit our TED Women's Ministries website to discover the monthly Bible texts that can be downloaded from there.

<https://ted.adventist.org/women-s-ministries>

Start a new journaling book today. Try these texts out for a month and see how spending time with God will make a difference in your life. Each of the scriptures takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Just reading is not enough. Let the text really speak to you. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

Enjoy you time with God!



## International Women's Day of Prayer

3 March, 2018

This year's packet titled, "God Understands," was written by Chantal J. Klingbeil, Associate Director, Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Last November this packet was sent out to the Women's Ministries directors in each union.

The entire programme packet may be opened in MS Word or Adobe Acrobat. The packet also contains two coordinating activities, "Who Am I?" and "Prayer for the Discouraged." The auxiliary seminar for 2018, "A Spiritual Woman," includes a script, slides, and handout. Another useful tool is the two-page handout "Partnering in Prayer." We encourage you to print and distribute this handout in the International Women's Day of Prayer programme at your church.

<https://women.adventist.org/international-womens-day-of-prayer>