



Dear Friends,

Before you is the last newsletter before the summer. It is very encouraging to see that each Union has something different to report. So many people so many ideas. We hope doing the newsletter this way encourages you to try some of the ideas you see each time the newsletter comes your way.

Whenever I think of ministry I always think we must first have a relationship with God to be able to share with others. Having a personal relationship with God takes time and effort but if something is worthwhile and important to you, you will be able to find the time. Studying your Bible, whether at home, in small groups or in church is an important part of a Christians walk with God. Spiritual growth must be our ultimate goal. If we are not growing spiritually we are stagnating. One of the best things to do is to bring into practice and use what you have learnt. This is a wonderful way of serving the Lord.

My prayer is that all of us will have wonderful experiences with God this summer. Be bold, be inspiring and be all that God intended you to be.

Blessings,

Clair





News from The Netherlands

Madelon Comvalius, WM and ChM director

In the Netherlands we organise different things on a national level for women's ministries, you've read all about it in the WM newsletter of October last year. This time we would like to tell you about some of the local WM activities which are happening in the Netherlands.

ALPHEN DC

Women's and girl's ministry

In Alphen DC, we organize a Sabbath afternoon about three times a year for women. This afternoon is not only meant for women from Alphen DC, but also for friends, neighbours and acquaintances.

There is always a theme and we mostly do something creative. This creative activity is hosted by someone outside our group: a neighbour, friend, etc. We have already followed painting lessons, a flower arranging course and a walking lunch.



Painting lessons by Leny



Flower arranging with Anita



This way, other women get to know our group, while having an active role. Additional to this workshop, there is a lot of time for lunch and conversations.

A few weeks ago, we held our first 'girls only' afternoon for young girls (aged 12-20 years old.) We plan on having such an afternoon three times a year. We had a lunch, did a creative Bible activity and we closed the Sabbath together. Friends of the girls from Alphen DC were also very welcome.

Furthermore, we have an app group, just for women. In this app are not only women from Alphen DC, but also women who regularly join our women's afternoons.

Women's Ministries News



ARNHEM

This year it finally happened: the church in Arnhem, the capital of one of the provinces in the Netherlands, started with a women's ministry. Arnhem church is blessed with a lot of different cultures from all around the world, as you can see on the picture. You can imagine how much fun we had at our first meeting where we got to know each other better with different activities. Everyone is looking forward to our next event.





AMSTERDAM GHANA

We organize different women's ministries activities in Amsterdam Ghana. Every first Sunday of the month, we gather with all the women of our church for a programme. We choose different women to give presentations about certain subjects. We learned about different vitamins that can help us, 'secrets to keep your spouse happy' and 'how we can help our children to marry in the church', etc. The theme for our international Women's Day on the 4th of July 2017 is: 'Passionate prayer and fearless faith'. Out of the seven received subject proposals, we chose three:

- Answered and unanswered prayers and why
- How to help our children develop prayer life of their own
- How fasting can enhance our prayer life

And then there is our powerful slogan: **Women in Christ! We lift him up!**





THE HAGUE

Relaxing afternoon for single mothers

"He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, and the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked." Psalm 146:7-9



With this verse in mind, we held our annual relaxing afternoon for single mothers with children at home, on 26 February. The mothers were welcomed with a bite and a drink. They could then choose from different programmes. They were offered a workshop 'Facial care', a quick haircut or hair advice and the possibility to relax during a chair massage or a manicure and pedicure. The second part of our afternoon, we spent at the Mommies café. Whilst enjoying a wonderful afternoon tea, the mothers talked to one another about their motherhood experiences. They were guided by a psychologist and pedagogue with lots of experience. It was the first time we hosted this event. Even though it has delivered various learning points, we concluded that it is worth repeating.





WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT IN ALBANIA

On 2-4 June, 2017, Albanian Mission had a very special women retreat with TED Women Ministries Director, Clair Sanches, as guest speaker.

Annual SDA Women Retreat in Albania has always been an evangelistic event where church women bring their friends and relatives. This year was not an exception. From 38 women attending, only 18 were baptized church members. Some of the participants even heard the Good News about Jesus for the first time in their life.

The feedback was very positive. Women truly enjoyed the program. The theme of the Retreat was "Jesus in all four seasons of your life". We reflected on how winter is time to get to know yourself and to be honest with God; how Jesus brings joy to our life in spring; how Jesus is with us even in summer heat; and how we can bear fruit just like trees in autumn if we let Jesus in our heart.



Women's Ministries News



How interesting and relevant the programs were, can be estimated by the fact that even some elderly Muslim men from Kosovo, who were staying in the hotel, chose to join us listening attentively and taking part in the spiritual activities.

During the programs, each woman created a prayer journal which would serve as a reminder to spend time with God regularly. However, the best remembered activity was the tree of prayers, which was created during the programs, and which Clair promised to take home to continue bringing our prayers before God. This promise and the God's presence which could be felt there touched many hearts and inspired them to open more to Jesus.

The blessed weekend flew away, but its impact is still felt. Flora and Ana from Tirana decided to come to church more regularly and start baptism classes. Flutura, a woman who came to the retreat and had her first encounter with Jesus there, is coming regularly to the local church in Elbasan. Her daughters are going to enrol in Pathfinder's Club. We praise the Lord for using Clair to touch many hearts and bringing more women closer to our precious Saviour.

*-Sanda Veidemane-Thomollari,
Women's Ministries Director in Albania*



NEW!!!

ADULT COLOURING BOOK

125th ANNIVERSARY OF "STEPS TO CHRIST"

At the Spring Meeting of the Executive committee of the General Conference, Heather-Dawn Small, Director of the Women's Ministries Department, presented on April 11, 2017, a new book published jointly by the WM Department and Safeliz Publishing House. "Steps to Christ for Reading and Colouring" contains the complete text of the book by Ellen G. White as well as colouring designs which will help the mind to meditate on the thoughts presented. Ellen White writes on page 71 of Steps to Christ: "A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. Let the mind dwell upon his love, upon the beauty, the perfection of his character. This is the subject for the soul's contemplation." Reading and colouring this book will relax your mind and soul. You will find colouring books for adults everywhere. In 2015 12 million adult colouring books were sold in the US alone. People love them. God is going to use this book in a great way. The book is available in English, French and Spanish.

