

Dear Friends,

I recently held workshops in The Netherlands. The day was for all leaders of the local churches and I was asked to do two workshops on Women's Ministries. One of them was the importance of having a Women's Ministries and the other was on Creative Bible Study. The group kept laughing because as you can see by the picture I had a friend watching me the whole time. The workshop was being held in a Biology Classroom. Not only did we have him watching but we were also treated to a real live snake, which to be honest, made me very uncomfortable. I don't like snakes.

During the presentation I said to the ladies. You know if you don't do any Bible Study as a Christian than you are like this guy behind me. Dead. We need to grow in faith. Once we stagnate we are on our way to not being all that God has planned for us. Reading our Bibles, praying and doing acts of service for others is what helps us grow. One of my favourite texts is 2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen."



May we continue to grow and may we live more like Jesus every day. So that we no longer need words but that our actions speak so loud that words are not necessary.

Blessings to you all.

Clair



News from the Baltic Union

The Baltic Union consists of three countries / conferences – Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. At the moment, the Women's Ministries' work is flourishing most in Latvia, where the dedicated and enthusiastic WM leader Marite Lipska has inspired and encouraged Latvian Adventist women, young and old, well and less educated, housewives and professionals, to commit themselves to being part of God's mission. They have organised different events:

Seminars

Once a year, there is an inspiring event for Women's Ministries leaders and other women. This year the programme consisted of: a sermon, fellowship, work in groups, programme presentations. The programmes presented were: "Women in the Bible ... and me", "Homes of Hope and Healing", "The Best You Can Be", "Women Discovering Jesus". Some of the churches have already tried out these materials in their home groups and they are welcoming newcomers.





Trainings

Ladies in Latvia have finished Level 3 in Leadership training (by General Conference), which have been led by Clair Sanches – Schutte from the Trans-European Division. These trainings are regularly visited by around 40 women. Many women have gained new inspiration and strength for continued service. Here are some reviews:

"Getting acquainted with the intended training, I was amazed at how wide a range of topics are studied. Here I learned a number of things and with interest I went to every seminar. When leaving the training, I remembered the words of Jesus: "Go home, tell your own people ..." - what you have understood. It is a great, both theoretical and practical, educational programme not only for the women in church, but also men."

"Practically everything speaks to me in this training. After the last time, the Bible verse from Proverbs 25:11 stayed with me; that our words should be as golden apples in silver setting. It makes me think about how I speak to people, in order not to hurt them. Clair's personal experiences speak to me as well. "

"When attending trainings, I get new knowledge on the subject; it also gives me the opportunity to meet women from other Latvian churches to discuss different situations in the churches, share advice and experience, understand what needs to be improved in my own church. I appreciate the opportunity very much to meet the sisters and spend time in fellowship. "

"I consider the training very valuable for both personal development as well as gaining skills in Ministerial work. I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn and I am looking forward to November, when we will continue with acquiring level 4. "





Health evenings in Saulkrasti

Women's Ministries Department in Latvia organizes evenings in Saulkrasti town cafe. These events are taking place for the second year. They are attended by around 15 to 20 people. One lady, who started participating is now baptised.

In many Adventist churches in Latvia special church services are organised regularly:

- International Women's Day of Prayer
- Women's Ministries Emphasis Day
- EnditNow Emphasis Day

In the Lithuanian conference, the Women's Ministries' Department is now in a transitional process, since the previous leader, who led the department for a long time, has resigned and a new team of women is getting acquainted with the work. We want to ask God's blessings for them when they are making plans and setting a vision for the future of Women's Ministries' work in the Lithuanian conference.

Unfortunately, there is no Women's Ministries' Department in the Estonian conference at the moment.

