

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER

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ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES

CREATIVE "WHATNOT" WORKSHOP IN POMORVALJE
DISTRICT, SERBIA

Life is Beautiful



CREATIVE WORKSHOP "WHATNOT" IN ĆUPRIJA, SERBIA



The South-East European Union Conference comprises of four countries with vast territories and language differences: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia.

Despite some challenges and obstacles the Women's Ministry is alive and very active. There are two words that describe the work of the SEEUC Women's Ministries in the year 2019 and that is CREATIVE and VERSATILE.

We have developed health seminars and workshops in 16 towns in Bosnia and Herzegovina to deal with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual issues of women in the church and society.

In our holiday seasons we visit public institutions and offices with a gift of homemade cakes and spiritual books in Macedonia.

We have formed women's choirs, clubs, books, meetings and retreats to nurture and empower our outreach to women. Here are a few stories and photos we would like to share on the success of our ministries.

On March 8th – 10th 2019 in Belgrade and Novi Sad, Serbia, we had Raquel Arrais as a main speaker for an inspiring theme of 'Women's Worth in God's Eyes'. The program helped women to change their perspectives on themselves and their service to God. They motivated them to reach up, to reach in and reach out again more eagerly and earnestly preparing themselves for Christ soon return.

The same motivation and dedication could be seen in the four year work of the Creative Workshop "Whatnot" from the Pomoravlje district in the South Conference that is gradually turning into a far-reaching Center of Influence.

We have been doing creative evangelism through the creative workshops called "Whatnot" in three local churches of Pomoravlje district, Serbia: Ćuprija, Paraćin and Jagodina. Their main motto was "Life is Beautiful", expressing the thought that life is beautiful and worth living not because of the ideal circumstances we live in or the smooth fulfillment of our dreams and plans. Life is beautiful because it is a new gift from God to everyone of us, every new day and a secure way of discovering His love and grace in all of our experiences.

At first "Whatnot" was a place for the decoupage technique lovers, used to make simple objects into more beautiful and useful ones but in four years of its existence it has developed into a unique Center of Influence program. A School for healthy cooking, natural cosmetics workshops, social and poetry evenings, women's emotional and mental health presentations and seminars, humanitarian projects, trips, excursions and other activities offered to learn and to grow.

For our 3rd Anniversary we celebrated with a unique and versatile celebration, introducing for the first time a worship activity called "Thanksgiving Eve" a time to express personal thankfulness for the workshop benefits, to listen to the uplifting spiritual music and sing together. Followed by an Agape dinner and opportunity for the women to interact, fellowship and build friendships.

The workshops are open to everyone with 90% non-Adventist.

The workshop “Whatnot” is organized by women of the SDA Church who have been sharing positive impressions about the Church and their new Adventist friends with their families, friends and social network.

All our creative activities has enabled the fruitful cooperation from institutions such as the Town’s Library, Cultural Center, Red Cross, Kindergartens, Elementary schools and even the local prison in the Pomoravlje district.

The beautiful craftworks made at the creative workshops were offered as gifts of love during the holidays for Easter, Christmas and New Years to the staff and beneficiaries of the hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and other municipality institutions.

Last spring women involved in the workshops invited 60 young people from the South Conference Youth Department to prepare gift boxes for the patients of the Oncology Ward of the town hospitals of Paraćin and Čuprija which were given to them on the Women’s Day – March 8, 2019. Their spirits were lifted up by the encouraging massages attached to the box lids

Jelena Trajković, South Conference WM Director and the Creative “Whatnot” Workshop Project Coordinator shares some impressions of the participating ladies: “This is an atmosphere to be looked for and experienced – an atmosphere of creativity, peace, beauty, positive thinking and sincere friendship that is so rare to find today.” Filled with peace, happiness and satisfaction it awakes everything beautiful, creative, good and joyful in us...”.

Throughout the four years of the creative workshop meetings the Holy Spirit was working on the hearts of the participants leading them closer to God and to other people. One of the blessed results was their own suggestion to start a new weekly program called “Teatime with a Book”. Besides having a nice conversation around a cup of tea, the meeting time is devoted to reading and studying, they find tremendous joy in singing newly learned Christian songs and a time for prayer.

Women from the Whatnot Center of Influence are eager to get more involved in the local community programs and activities reaching out toward women's needs and challenges. Their plan for the year 2020 is to take part in the “Humanity Expo”, a big event supported by the Cultural Center and Municipality of Čuprija town. They plan to set up the following booths:

“From Heart to Heart” booth for selling craftworks made by the women at the creative workshops.

“Spread and Snack” booth for trying and selling the healthy food products.

“Make a Smoothie and Drink It” booth with the delicious smoothies extravagantly made on a bicycle.

“Read Me” booth with the spiritual literature from the SEEUC Publishing House “Preporod”

The Free Haircut booth.

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The Free Pant Cutting booth.

Only two words are enough to summarize the wonderful development of this creative evangelism effort: Eben-Ezer (Thus far the Lord has helped us“ – 1. Sam 7:12) the same words are enough to express all our thankfulness and hope in God’s future guidance and blessings”, says Jelena Trajković, South Conference WM Director and Project Coordinator.

Women’s Ministries Creative Workshops in Vršac, North Conference

In the last three years the Women’s Ministry of the SDA church in Vršac, Northern Conference, has been organizing the creative workshops for the 30 regular non-Adventist participants. At first the workshops were organized in the public hall of the town’s Cultural Center but has now been transferred to the local church facilities.

The main aim of the workshops was to meet the various needs of the participants but also to find out their interests and to organize presentations, seminars, cooking schools, Bible studies and discussions that can help them grow mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Creative workshops were their way to establish a fruitful cooperation with the local elementary school “Jelena Varjaški“ introducing the humanitarian sale of the decoupage works in the year 2017. With the Potpornja kindergarten in Vršac district, by presenting the children with the handmade holiday season cards in the year 2018. The WM leader, Marijana Buvari says, “We are tremendously thankful to God for giving us the opportunity to serve Him in creative and vivid ways.”

SEEUC WM Plans for the Year 2020

On May 9th 2019 a new Union leadership was elected at the regular Union session and a new strategic plan was made for the next quinquennium period. The three main objectives of that plan are getting closer to God in every day devotional, prayer and Bible study time, getting close to other people in everyday interactions and getting closer to Christ return in more dedicated outreach activities.

With these goals in mind the re-elected SEEUC WM Director, Marija Trajkovska, shared the WM plans for the year 2020: In order to nurture women and help them get closer to God, a new series of the bible studies “Women in the Bible and Me 2” will be prepared to be used in an addition to the already existing series “Women in the Bible and Me 1” and corresponding Coloring Book. My Bible Journal made in accordance with the samples sent by the GC WM department was translated, published and made available to the women across the SEEUC.

In order to empower women to get closer to other women and to become more actively involved in the service, the project “Girls for Christ” is going to be launched in the local churches of the SEEUC. The Manuel with the Bible and health studies is already prepared and uploaded to the Union website for the free download and Prayer and Creative Bible Study Journals published and sent to the local churches.

In order to reach out to women within the church and outside it and to better prepare them for the soon return of Christ, series of presentations and special conference meetings and retreats titled “Daughters of Grace” (based on the Trudy Morgan Cole’s book) and “Woman After God’s Heart” will be organized. We believe God will keep pouring His blessing upon us and guiding our sincere efforts to serve Him more diligently and devotedly.

Marija Trajkovska, SEEUC WM Director

Woman Ministries 2019



Bosnia & Herzegovina



Macedonia



Serbia



RAQUEL ARRAIS VISIT TO SEEUC - WM FELLOWSHIP DAY
IN BELGRADE, MARCH 8, 2019



RAQUEL ARRAIS VISIT TO SEEUC- WM FELLOWSHIP DAY IN NOVI SAD,
MARCH 9, 2019



FROM WHATNOT WORKSHOPS TO THE CENTER OF INFLUENCE -
HEALTHY COOKING SCHOOLS, NATURAL COSMETIC WORKSHOPS, SOCIAL AND POETRY
EVENINGS





FROM WHATNOT WORKSHOPS TO THE CENTER OF INFLUENCE - MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH SEMINARS AND HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS



FROM WHATNOT WORKSHOPS TO THE CENTER OF INFLUENCE - TRIPS, EXCURSIONS, JOURNEYS



FROM WHATNOT
WORKSHOPS TO
THE CENTER OF
INFLUENCE -
OTHER
ACTIVITIES





"THANKSGIVING
EVE"

WHATNOT
WORKSHOPS AND
FIRST WORSHIP
TIME 3RD
ANNIVERSARY





THANKSGIVING EVE" FOR THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHATNOT WORKSHOPS AND FIRST WORSHIP TIME WITH AGAPE DINNER



90% OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE NON-ADVENTIST WOMEN READY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD AND SDA CHURCH



WHATNOT WORKSHOP
FRUITFUL COOPERATION WITH TOWN'S LIBRARY, CULTURAL CENTER, RED CROSS, KINDERGARTENS, ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND LOCAL PRISON IN THE POMORAVLJE DISTRICT.





GIFT BOXES FOR THE PATIENTS AT THE ONCOLOGY WARD OF THE TOWN HOSPITALS IN PARAĆIN AND ČUPRIJA MADE BY THE WM AND SOUTH CONFERENCE YOUTH DEPARTMENT



JELENA TRAJKOVIĆ, SOUTH CONFERENCE WM DIRECTOR AND THE CREATIVE "WHATNOT" WORKSHOP PROJECT COORDINATOR SHARES SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE PARTICIPATING LADIES:

"THIS IS AN ATMOSPHERE TO BE LOOKED FOR AND EXPERIENCED – THE ATMOSPHERE OF CREATIVITY, PEACE, BEAUTY, POSITIVE THINKING AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP THAT IS SO RARE TO FIND TODAY."

"FILLED WITH PEACE, HAPPINESS AND SATISFACTION, IT AWAKES EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL, CREATIVE, GOOD AND JOYFUL IN US..."

CENTER OF INFLUENCE ACTIVITIES: TEATIME WITH A BOOK – BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS



THE CENTER OF INFLUENCE PLANS FOR 2020: BOOTS AT THE HUMANATIY EXPO:

1. "FROM HEART TO HEART" BOOTH FOR SELLING CREATIVE CRAFTWORKS OF THE PARTICIPANTS.
2. "SPREAD AND SNACK" BOOTH WITH THE HEALTHY FOOD PRODUCTS;
3. "MAKE A SMOOTHIE AND DRINK" BOOTH WITH THE EXTRAVAGANT SMOOTHIE MAKING ON A BICYCLE.
4. "READ ME" BOOTH WITH THE SPIRITUAL LITERATURE OF THE SEEUC PUBLISHING HOUSE "PREPOROD";
5. FREE HAIRCUT BOOTH;
6. FREE PANTS CUTTING BOOTH, ETS.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CREATIVE WORKSHOPS IN VRŠAC, NORTH CONFERENCE



MARIJANA BUVARI, THE WM LEADER OF THE SDA CHURCH IN VRŠAC, SAYS "WE ARE TREMENDOUSLY THANKFUL TO GOD FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE HIM IN CREATIVE AND VIVID WAYS."

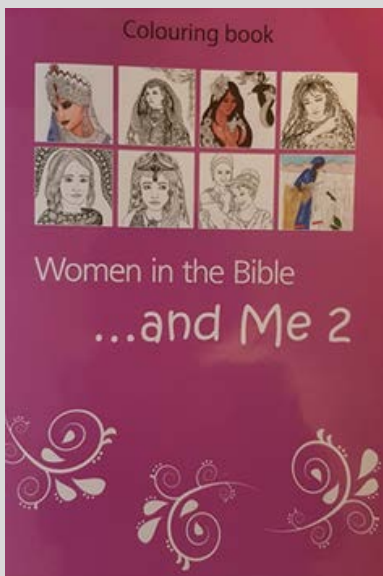
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CREATIVE WORKSHOPS IN VRŠAC, NORTH CONFERENCE



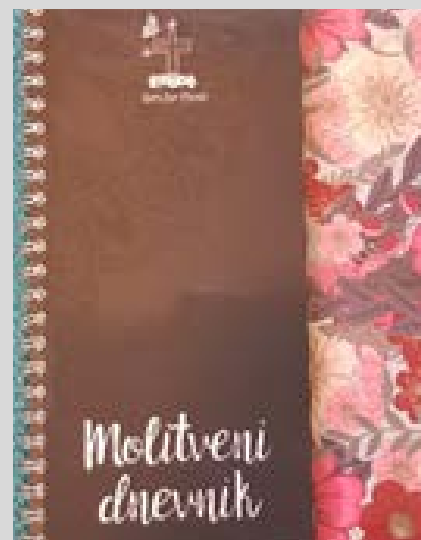
SEEUC WM PLANS FOR THE YEAR 2020:

NURTURE (CLOSER TO GOD)

"WOMEN IN THE BIBLE AND ME 2";
"WOMEN IN THE BIBLE AND ME 1";
„WOMEN IN THE BIBLE AND I" COLORING BOOK
MY BIBLE JOURNAL



EMPOWERMENT (CLOSER TO OTHER PEOPLE)



"GIRLS FOR CHRIST" MANUEL
CREATIVE BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER JOURNAL

REACH OUT (CLOSER TO CHRIST RETURN)
"DAUGHTERS OF GRACE" (BASED ON THE TRUDY MORGAN COLE'S BOOK)
"WOMAN AFTER GOD'S HEART"



MARIJA TRAJKOVSKA
SEEUC WM DIRECTOR

WM Ministries The Netherlands



Pictured: Madeleon with the Women's Ministries Committee in the Netherlands. These lovely women give meaning to our women's department. They were apart of our women's council of which we are very proud.

Our department has put on two online shows through our YouTube channel and Facebook: At Home with Jolanda and Creative with Celine



Pictured: Our weekly youtube shows

A NATIONAL EVENT
HOSTED BY SEC
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY: 25 YEARS OF GOD LEADING WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Heather-Dawn Small
GC Women's Ministries



Raquel Arrais
GC Women's Ministries



Clair Sanches
TED Women's Ministries

*Women crossing over
into a new era in
these trying times!*

*A Modern-Day
Exodus Experience
of Transition*



Sharon Platt-McDonald
BUC Women's Ministries



Jacqueline Otokpa
SEC Women's Ministries



Beulah Plunkett
NEC Women's Ministries

**Sunday 4th – Sabbath 10th
October 2020**

Live Stream & Via Zoom
(details to follow)





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If you would like to add an article or advertise your
ministry in our monthly Newsletter please email:
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