

# Women's Ministries Newsletter

## Just a word

In this issue you will see a report from the South-East European Union on their enditnow campaign. Please read it and see how good God is when we are daring to go. Somehow enditnow has really spoken to us. So many Unions have taken part. By the time you receive this newsletter I will have gone to the Women's Ministry Advisory at the General Conference. Heather-Dawn and Raquel would like to interview all the Division directors and give us a chance to tell them what we would like. I will definitely be asking for a follow-up programme for the enditnow campaign.

In the next issue I will be telling you about some wonderful things happening in the British

Union. There are so many wonderful ideas and programmes in our Division and we need to keep each other informed so we can help each other with our work for Women.

Recently in a little book called HOPE FOR A WOMAN'S SOUL I read the following: Christian women who have had the heart to seek not their own have had an enormous impact on the world. If love had not motivated women who are a part of our spiritual heritage to seek not their own, there would have been no missions as we know them today, prison reform would still be in the dark ages, nursing would be undeveloped, and orphans would still roam the streets begging for food.



This is some sorority! Join the sorority of sisters whose expansive souls, through deeds of loving-kindness, have brought Christ and belonging to the most hopeless and helpless "element".

God bless you all.

Clair



## Women's Ministries Advisory

Just a reminder of the dates: 27th February until 2nd of March 2012. Sounds a long way off doesn't it, but one thing I have learnt in life, things go a lot faster than you expect.

For this Advisory every

Union will be asked to give a short presentation about the work for Women's Ministries in your country.

Sharing ideas and things that have worked for you is what we hope will inspire each other for

this department.

Please prepare and think ahead for 2012.

Trans-European  
Division of the  
Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

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### Special points of interest:

- *Women's Ministries Advisory 2012*

*27th February*

*to*

*2nd March*

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## Take your Women's Ministries events to new heights

Is your women's ministries just so-so? Are you in need of some new ideas? With a few fresh and new ideas, you can transform it into something that every woman, from every walk of life will want to experience. Here are a few ideas to help you get started.

### 1. Devotionals

A devotional is part of any Christian's life. If the women in your ministry have access to a computer and an email address, then you can send them a daily or weekly devotional. This helps you to stay connected. Or order the Women's Ministry Devotional from the GC. This helps towards scholarships for women.

### 2. Themed meetings

Themed monthly meetings are another idea that women are sure to enjoy. Whenever your group meets each month, your activities, decoration and even snacks can support the theme. The themes should be something interesting and fun. They could be inspired by the month, season, or special causes, and should always promote and encourage the women's faith.

### 3. Secret Sisters

This is a fun idea that the women will love doing. Have the women choose a name from a hat. The person they chose will be their Secret Sister for a

month. During the course of the month, the Secret Sister will do little things such as send greeting cards or leave small gifts. You can decide if you would like to have a special get-together where the women find out their secret sister. This is a practical way for women to experience fun way to share a little of Christ's love with each other.



## What can I do as a Women's Ministries Leader?

- Pray with your team for those who are suffering
- Inform the women about the Six Issues and how to minister to these needs (see below)
- Conduct a research to determine the major needs of women in the church and community
- Start with a project
- Give the church opportunity to participate
- Work in partnership with Church Departments
- Form a team of volunteers, including health professionals, educators, business women and people willing to help
- Provide training seminars in these topics
- Help the women to find a ministry they can be involved in different projects



## The six issues facing women

**Threats to Health**—Women's health includes her emotional, social, and physical well-being and is directly affected by social, political and economic factors.

**A Women's Workload**—Women around the world and in all cultures face the problem of work overload. Women are faced with the challenge of doing 90% of the world's agricultural work which includes long work days,

small salaries and then the additional hours of housework and childcare with limited rest and recreation and little time with God.

**Poverty**—The UNIFEM report "Progress of the World's Women 2005" presents some startling information on this question of women and poverty. Progress for women in this is improving but very slowly. The report notes that "despite parity in primary

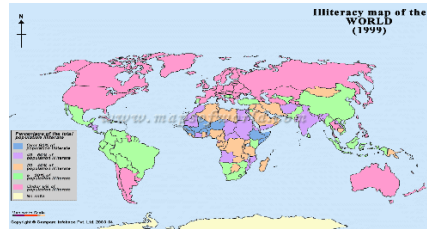
education, disparities are still wide in secondary and tertiary education—both increasingly key to new employment opportunities".

**Lack of Training, Mentoring and Leadership Opportunities**—Education for all is a basic human right. For women to achieve better health, nutrition, and quality of life for themselves and their families they need equal access to education.

## The six issues facing women (continued)

Abuse—Domestic violence, incest, rape and battering are all too common burdens that women carry. Physical, sexual, and psychological battering happens to small girls, adolescents, single, and married adult women, and elderly women. No stratum of society is immune from the epidemic of violence and as a church we believe that tolerance of abuse is a denial of Christ.

Illiteracy—There are nearly one billion people in the world who are illiterate, one-fifth of the world's population. One out of every three women in the world cannot read and write.



There is much we can do.

The General Conference has a scale of seminars from which to choose. If you would like to know what they are visit their website:

[adventistwomensministries.org](http://adventistwomensministries.org)



WOMEN'S HEALTH



## Report from the South-East European Union



# enditnow™

Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women

Marija Trajkovska, Women's Ministries Director of the South-East European Union writes: The main emphasis during the year 2010 was on the implementation of the campaign enditnow. Due to the different activities of the WM such as promoting the campaign in the public squares, shopping centers, colleges and universities, during humanitarian concerts, and local radio and TV programs, more than 10.000 signatures were collected

for the enditnow petition.

The most successful activities were organized in Podgorica, Montenegro and Smederevo i Kragujvac, Serbia, where WM leaders and local pastors established such good cooperation with town's and local municipality authorities that the prominent newspapers and TV channels were reporting about the campaign implementation. Due to those activities of the WM

in the SEEUC, and the good cooperation with the town's mayor, the ADRA country office got the opportunity to open a new Safe House, as a shelter for women and children, victims of domestic violence. The house was opened in September 2010.

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**GOD IS LOVE**

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*Quote Mrs. White*

*The Lord has a work for women as well as for men. They may take their places in His work at this crisis, and He will work through them. If they are imbued with a sense of their duty, and labour under the influence of the Holy Spirit, they will have just the self-possession required for this time. The Saviour will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women in the light of His countenance, and will give them a power that exceeds that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labour is needed.*

*Review and Herald, Aug. 26, 1902*

## Nice to meet you

Let me introduce you to Madelon Comvalius. As of the 1st of February Madelon will be working at the Netherlands Union Conference as Women, Children, Teen and Family Ministries director. Madelon is taking over my old job and I am very happy to be able to introduce you to her.

Madelon is married to Machlon and together they have two children.

Jordan 8 and Jaylisa 6.

Her hobby's are singing, travelling and her family.

Madelon has a choir and has organized a X-factor type programme for young people within our church.

One of the things Madelon said to me was: "church should be a place you want to be".

We wish Madelon God's blessing as she embarks on this new adventure in her and her family's life.

