News from Women’s Ministries Inter-European Division

Women's Ministries celebrates 20th Anniversary 1995-2015

Women’s Ministries is 20 years old. There are many reasons to celebrate. Come to the Women’s Ministries booth at the General Conference to meet us! We would like to meet you!

Material from First Inter-European Congress 2014 is ready for download

Here you find our homepage:  
http://www.women.eud.adventist.org

Download the videos of the main presentations:

For the videos of the Congress go to - CONGRESS Women-in-Action - here you will find all the main topics ready for download.

MP3 files have been produced and can soon be downloaded here as well.

If you like to have the Congressbook in a digital form, please find it here:
http://www.women.eud.adventist.org/site_data/3573/assets/0020/1495/Women_s_Ministries_Congress_Book.pdf

Logo girls4christ

we are happy to present to you the official logo for girls4christ in EUD. You will soon receive the graphics for download.
January 25, 2015 – National Women’s Retreat, Luzern, Switzerland
Heidi Albisser, WM Director invited to a national Women’s Conference. It was the 25th of the month (United Nations orange Day), so many came with orange scarfs or flower-broches as a sign of solidarity with abused women worldwide. Each woman had an orange sign on her name tag. The meeting was entitled ‘My story with God’ The main speaker was Lydia Hierzer from Austria who spoke about her personal and very difficult experiences in life. Many women were much encouraged to trust in the Lord despite many obstacles and challenges in life.

January 28-30 – Meeting of Women’s Ministries Directors in Prague, Czech Republic
It was a wonderful and blessed meeting with Renata Chlebkova, looking back to the blessings in the past, and looking forward to new ways and chances to develop Women’s Ministries in Czecho-Slovakian Union. It was a joy to meet for a meal with Pavla Sustkova, who was in charge of the department for nearly 20 years.

February 4-8, 2015 - Girls4Christ at PulseMeet Conference, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany
PulseMeet, the conference for leaders who engage with young people of the Church in EUD, offered a second meeting. Again Women’s Ministries was present with Workshops, two years ago on mentoring, this time on girls4christ. Doris Lumpi from Austria and Denise Hochstrasser, EUD showed how we can reach out to young women of the church and from outside.

February 24, 2015 - enditnow program in Yambol, Bulgaria
Stefka Anastasova, a SDA teacher of a professional school in Yambol, Bulgaria introduced an enditnow abuse prevention program at the School she teaches in Yambol.

When the Bulgarian State called for schools to apply for this prize, hundreds of schools registered for this contest. This school in Yambol won the first prize. They were awarded the first Prize as School Without Violence from the Bulgarian State, it was presented by the Ministry of Education.

The school has worked in partnership with various foundations and representatives of local businesses. Currently they are
preparing for the National Chemistry Olympiad. Some students are selected to the school Parliament. It is a Professional School of Light Industry, Ecology and Chemical Technologies. They offer courses in furniture production, hairdressing, tailoring, ecology.

Projects where they cooperated with editnow:
2013 celebrated the World Day of Tolerance (16 November). The students received the brochure ‘Break the silence’. 2014 editnow was a partner of the school in the Week of Tolerance (10-14 November). Throughout the week, various training programs and initiatives were held: Network of friendship, communication without violence, teamwork, tolerance and respect, flash mob, Orange Day.

A Women’s Ministries delegation was invited to visit this school. On Feb. 24 Denise Hochstrasser from EUD arrived with a delegation of Women’s Ministries leaders from Bulgaria. They were heartily welcomed by the school Principal, Mrs Sulivan and the traditionally dressed students who greeted the delegation with a reception of traditional bread and salt. Meetings with the school board, board of parents and teachers followed. After a program in the Aula where Denise Hochstrasser spoke about ‘To be or not to be Charlie’, and about how we can make a difference by accepting and respecting each other in society, irrespective of colour, culture, belief or gender. After the meetings the delegation was invited to visit the school, classrooms, and there was much time for photoshooting etc. Once again we were impressed by what an impact it can have when we don’t remain in our Adventist boundaries, but go out and be part of our social community.

February 23-24 - Meetings in the Roma Churches of Kyustendyl and Yambol, Bulgaria
A wonderful experience were the visits to the Roma Churches in Kyustendil (South of Sofia) and Yambol (5 hours east of Sofia), where we could experience the lively and joyful way of the Bulgarian Chipsees. It was a joy and blessing to see how people love Jesus and are devoted to the Church, even though their personal life is full of challenges. Love allows no barriers and hospitality is offered in a way you would hardly find in more privileged regions. In Yambol Denise Hochstrasser was offered a national evening, with Bulgarian Folk Dances and wonderful traditional food.

February 24 – Meetings in Lisbon, Portugal
Raquel Arrais (GC) offered to spend 2 days with the women in Lisbon, Portugal on her way back to USA from another trip. She reported that the meetings in Portugal went very well. Milù organized a very inspiring Sabbath for the women in Lisbon. Many came from afar and Raquel Arrais was able to meet some of the leaders from the North and South part of the country which was good and also to let them know about the upcoming training in Lisbon. Many raised their hands confirming their attendance which will be a big boost for Portugal.

In the morning Raquel Almeida presented the Sabbath School lesson and Raquel Arrais had the sermon, we had a lunch together at the union and then in the church during the afternoon, Katia did a presentation on Emotional Intelligence and Raquel Arrais finished with a call for the women to be involved in outreach. In the afternoon Raquel Arrais gave an overview of WM and how WM is perceived in their local churches. The day ended with a consecration prayer. The high point of the day was to appreciate all the WM leaders in Portugal since Eunice Dias, Rosa, Guida, Izabel, Hortelinda, Milù and Raquel. Milù had invited them all to come and gave flowers and thanked them for preparing the way. The women are eager to learn and do something. – Thanks to Raquel Arrais for helping out so spontaneously and heartily.
March 6-8, 2015 – Seminar Hilflose Helfer, Ellwangen, Germany.
Some 50 Women’s Ministries leaders, medical Doctors, Psychologists and other professionals met in Ellwangen Germany for a seminar of ‘Hilflose Helfer’ (helpless helpers). The speaker Andreas Bochmann, PhD, spoke about Abuse prevention, and where the limits, the challenges and the possibilities are for us to intervene and be of help. It was not meant for victims, but for people who do deal with victims of abuse. Denise Hochstrasser informed about enditnow worldwide and in Inter-European Division.

March 7 – Czecho-Slovakian Union
Renata Chlebkova reports that they have had several meetings in different Churches in the Czecho-Slovakian Union. Sisters have taken a special part presenting the women’s day of prayer and also special afternoon programs in Bratislava, in Banska Bystrica, Revuca (Slovakia), Znojmo, Ostrava (Moravia), and near the Hungarian border. In other places, several churches wanted to participate in this Special day. It was so nice, a blessing, encouragement for all!

March 18 – Swiss Conference Zürich, Switzerland.
Women’s Ministries celebrates 20 years of meetings. EUD only started Women’s Ministries Department a year after the GC, but Switzerland was early. They started organizing themselves in 1995.

April 3-5, 2015 – Brasov, Bulgaria
Rada Sakaleva, Women’s Ministries Director in North Region of Bulgaria, reports about the international Conference in her territory, where people of different ages, languages and nationalities spent time together. These meetings were organized by Women’s Ministries, Family Ministries and the local Churches. 106 persons participated in this encouraging and happy event. ‘This weekend was a combination of an impressive history, enriching experience and cooperation.’ she says.

April 10-12, 2015 - DACH Leadership Training, Germany, Austria and Switzerland
The four German speaking Unions North- and South Germany, Austria and Switzerland successfully coordinate and offer the four levels of leadership training. Please read here a few lines referring to the leadership training Level 3 in Wittensee:
"Last week I spent the weekend together with 23 motivated women at the leadership training, level 3 in Wittensee, near Rendsburg, Germany. The four speakers Angelika Pfaller Germany, Gerd-Laila Walter Austria, Hannele Ottschofski Germany und Heidi Albisser from Switzerland taught us the 10 topics in a very vivid way. With a test we could find out about our personality and our spiritual gifts and therefore more about ourselves and we could learn by looking at 5 women of the New Testament how Jesus dealt with them. We spoke about abuse and other very interesting topics. Any interested women should be encouraged to come to these programs." - a participant

The first 3 levels can be accomplished in any order. Level 4 is offered only to those who have finished levels 1-3.

65 Women’s Ministries Directors from North French Conference and their teams met near Paris for a weekend with the title: ‘Femme lève-toi et agis’. Woman, get up and act. It was a blessed weekend filled with singing and praise, devotion and encouragement. Enide Cadasse, Women’s Ministries Director (NFC) lead through the meetings, supported by Alicia Denteneer (FBU) Denise Hochstrasser (EUD) spoke on the topics, ’en lui’ (in Him), ’par lui’ (through Him), ’avec lui’ (with Him) and ’Lève-toi et agis avec lui’ (get in action with Him).

April 10-12, 2015, Moravia, Czecho-Slovakian Union
Renata Chlebcova, Women’s Ministries Director for Czecho-Slovakian Union reports about an awesome time, where almost 140 women, of which 19 nonSDAs participated. The women were so touched, she writes, they long to come again next year. Halleluja. One woman said: “I decided to follow God in my life now, let Him be my guide.” A psychologist spoke about 4 season in our life, spring, summer, autumn and winter and how we can be inspired by that. The photocorner was a success, many women loved that. There was also a charity activity for homeless women. It was a blessing’.

On March 1, registration started at noon. In the first minute 19 women logged in. By the evening 70 women had registered. Many women were late and could not be accepted any more. Several women came from far away by car every day, because not enough beds were available.

One sister, who was so touched by a video message by Denise Hochstrasser on casd.cz, that she got up at 4.30 am, drove one hour to access internet to register for the meeting, but she was already late. Registration was closed already. She was so sad. So we found a special place for her so she could participate. Women are hungry and longing for meetings like this.

‘We are planning the same topics for Slovakia and Czechia in the autumn’, Renata says, and ‘I have visited several meetings with sisters all over the Union, it is so encouraging! In Ostrava and in the South of Moravia they will start girls4christ in July.’

We thank Renata for the wonderful work she is doing in her Union!

April 11, 2015 – Waldfriede Hospital, Berlin, Germany
"We have just finished our 4th meeting of the group of women who meet in Waldfriede Hospital, Berlin," Dr. Cornelia Strunz reports, who was speaker at the first Inter-European Women’s Congress in September 2014. She conducts meetings for interaction, discussion and gymnastics with women who have gone through mutilation of their genitals in early years.

‘One woman from Somalia entered the room, held her arms wide and exclaimed: „my home, the most beautiful room!”’ This lady never missed a single meeting. Some of the women have been operated, others wait for it to happen. Some have not even started the
procedure.

‘A woman from Kenya came for the first time in a red dress. She looked very attractive. When I told her she looked so good, she took me into her arms and said: this is what you made of me!’ – thus Cornelia Strunz.

The women encourage each other by sharing their experiences. These meetings are a highlight in their lives. They become more and more open and have trust. Children love the many balls in the Gymnastic hall and enjoy the IceCream at the end. The next meetings are planned for May 16 and June 13.

**Girls4Christ**

**Italy**
The Ghanaian women successfully started a girls4christ program under the leadership of Ophelia Dedaa Nyarko. She reports: ‘The women’s ministries of District A including Ghanaian community churches of Modena, Reggio Emilia, Parma and Torino respectively, has started a young women’s ministry. It is called ‘Young Ladies’, as known in Ghana.

The program already started in September 2014 at the Reggio Emilia church. The theme for the day was ‘I have a dream’. Over 40 young women between the ages of 12 and 35 dressed in the African way with cloth printed for the day. The sermon and the afternoon program dealt with how important it is to mentor mentoring young women in the church.’

**Germany**
Here girls4christ is enjoying a new emphasis with considerable financial support. The Unions are encouraged to promote this in cooperation with the youth Department.

**Spain**
Isael Rodriguez started girls4christ meetings at Sagunto University and uses the ‘Life Tree’ Material which she adapts to the needs.

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**Meetings ahead:**

April 24-26, 2015 – Women’s Retreat, Mondsee, Austria
Title: Don’t let anyone steal your joy.
Expected 50 Women from Austria.

May 1-3, 2015 – Meeting for Ghanian Women, Bergamo, Italy
Title: Equipping Women For Service

May 7-10 – Rickenbach, Switzerland
Leadership Training Level 3

May 8-10 – Poppy, Italy
Leadership Training level 2

June 5-7, 2015 Porto, Portugal

and many more on Conference level.
Material for Mental Health

bookmark download here:
http://www.women.eud.adventist.org/site_data/3573/assets/0020/1490/bookmark_thinking_well_feeling_well.png

Essentials every leader should know
- if you are a leader, lead! don’t drive people! Don’t dictate! Make sure that you are with the people and that they are with you. – Jim Gilley
- Maybe you are saying, ’Don’t look at me, Lord!’ but if you are a Christian, you are a leader! – Cindy Tutsch
- Humility is necessary because success in leadership can be your greatest danger! – Prodence LaBeach Pollard
- Pulling rank and making power plays is not leadership. – David S. Penner
- There is nothing more dangerous to leadership than the individual who is not self-aware. – Dan Jackson
- Be willing to stand up for what is right ,though the heavens fall.’ Do not fear to take a stand for something even if it is not popular. – Ted N.C.Wilson
- Regardless of how smart you are...nothing can take the place of emotional intelligence or core interpersonal skills. – Delbert Baker

Quoted excerpts from ,As I Follow christ: 20 Essentials Every Leader Should Know, by Dwain Esmond.

Do you remember the Song?

Jesus, here am I, send me! 2x
I will live my life to serve you, Lord !
Jesus, here am I, send me !

It was our Congress Motto Song.

Join us on facebook women-in-action.

Further Links:
Events: Calendar Women’s Ministries EUD
http://women.euroafrica.org/calendar

Homepage Women’s Ministries:
www.women.eud.adventist.org

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