

women's ministries



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



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News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

Women's Health

In this issue of our newsletter we will concentrate on one of the six challenges issues facing women worldwide – Threats to Women's Health.

Poor health undermines woman's ability to be a fully productive participant in God's work. Globally, the health of women is deteriorating. This process is closely aligned to environmental deterioration, declining agricultural productivity, and social demands on women, particularly in poor countries, for the production of large numbers of children. In many parts of the world, the devalued social status of being born female sentences the woman to less claim on food and health care.

Fifty percent of all poor women and two-thirds of pregnant poor women in less developed countries are anemic, robbing them of energy and physical resources to give their best to the new lives they nurture in their bodies. Maternal mortality remains the leading cause of death among women globally. One-half million women die each year from childbearing related complications. For every one that dies, twenty are physically damaged in the process of giving life. Maternal mortality has been called the "silent epidemic".

You can read more about these challenge issues here: <http://adventistwomensministries.org/index.php?id=12>



About 280,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth worldwide every year, according to the WHO.

Adventist hospitals in Africa are to train midwives in order to combat the high mortality rate of women giving birth and their babies. This co-operation is a result of the first Health conference in Geneva in 2009.

The World Health Organization and the Seventh-day Adventist Church are kicking off an unprecedented global partnership aimed at reducing infant and maternal mortality rates. This is the first time that the WHO, the public health agency of the United Nations, has partnered with a faith-based organization on a global scale, said Annette Mwansa Nkowane, WHO's lead nurse and a main proponent of the five-year project to educate more midwives. The WHO approached the Adventist Church with the proposal for the project after a major health conference organized by the church in Geneva, Switzerland. The Geneva-based WHO has identified a global lack of qualified midwives as a contributing factor in the deaths of mothers and babies and the church's global network of educators and hospitals as a way to address the shortfall.



The project focuses on four institutions in Africa where the maternal mortality ratio is 14 times higher than in the world's developed regions: Malamulo College of Health Sciences at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi, Maluti College of Nursing at Maluti Hospital in Lesotho, Kanye Adventist College of Nursing at Kanye Hospital in Botswana, and the at hospital Adventist University of Cosendai in Cameroon.

In the photo: Annette Mwansa Nkowane, left, WHO's worldwide technical officer for nursing and midwifery, attending a meeting this week in Bloemfontein, South Africa, to implement a \$1 million, five-year project between the WHO and the Adventist Church. Pictured with her are Paul Ratsara, president of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, and Patricia Jones, associate director for nursing with the health ministries department of the Adventist world church.

Read more: <http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story3097-who-teams-up-with-adventists-in-a-world-first>



Heart Pillows for Women with Mastectomy

WM Group in Linz, Austria, has produced and donated 1000 heartshaped pillows to the catholic hospital "Krankenhaus Barmherzige Schwestern Linz", Austria

Why would an Adventist church get involved with a catholic hospital? "Trust in God and our wish to help people in a very difficult time", says Irene Poimer, WM leader in Linz (in the photo with Dr. Florian Fitzal). "I have lost loved ones to cancer myself."

The heartshaped pillows are appreciated by women who have had their breast amputated and who carry it in their armpit for more comfort. Irene read about the pillows in an article and started the initiative in her church

three years ago. Retired nurse Christa Plum and the retired seamstress Klara Ritzmann have been actively producing pillows and Irene Poimer is in charge of the organization. The filling is provided by ADRA and the fabrics are donated. In the past three years they have been able to give 1000 pillows to the hospital to be passed on to the patients.

Desert Flower Center in Berlin



In 2013, the Desert Flower Center was launched at the Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin. It was worldwide the first medical centre for victims of FGM offering holistic treatment. Led by Dr. Cornelia Strunz, women are treated by gynaecologists, urologists, plastic surgeons, proctologists, psychologists and physiotherapists.

The patients meet regularly in a support group established by the Desert Flower Foundation, where they can speak about their problems and participate in yoga- and gymnastic-hours. Meanwhile, they bring their children and other women, willing to undergo reconstructive surgery, with them. At these meetings women discuss how FGM could be finally eradicated. Because of the great demand, we have a long waiting list. Many women from abroad, especially from UK and African countries, come to the Desert Flower Centre Berlin in order to undergo reconstructive surgery.

Deutsche Welle, the German official Radio and TV Program is producing a report on the Desert Flower Center and has already interviewed women who have received help as well as Dr. Strunz and Evelyn Brenda, a Kenyan FGM activist living in Germany.

Upcoming Events: Enditnow day on August 22 Don't forget to organize the special Enditnow day on August 22. Violence against women and children affects their health!

Join us on facebook women-in-action.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Women-in-action/634611833226119?fref=ts>

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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