News from Women’s Ministries Inter-European Division

Women’s Ministries in Germany: Fall Retreat

The traditional fall retreat for women was relaunched October 2 to 4, 2015, with a small group of 12 ladies from Thüringia, Saxony-Anhalt and Saxony. Under the motto “As God treats me I treat you” the speaker Blanka Schuchardt presented God’s love towards us in a way to make clear that it is so undeserved, comparable to an orphan being adopted by loving parents. When God adopts us we belong to Him. We are sealed and protected no matter what happens.

A visit to an old people’s home in the vicinity with small presents was a practical token of how God loves to surprise people. Time for encounters and crafts helped everyone to find enrichment and relaxation. It was really worth while to come to this WM weekend.

According to a report by Maike and Verena

Desert Flower Center participates in church service in Waldfriede, Berlin

On October 10, 2015, the Waldfriede Hospital church service was organized with a special spotlight on the work of the Desert Flower Center. Dr. Cornelia Strunz and Ms. Dittwald who work at the DFC were convinced from the inception of the idea that it would be good to involve the women who had found help at the DFC. These women meet as a self-help group on a regular basis once a month and were glad to participate in the service. To the music of Ali Dhantoo, a Somali musician they practiced movements in order to present a delightful choreography. The performance was a great success. Thus the DFC was given a face. What a privilege it is to be able to do this work at Waldfriede Hospital and help women who have suffered so much.

According to a report by Cornelia Strunz

Women’s Ministries in Portugal: A Spiritual SPA in Porto

At Porto (North of Portugal) Woman's Ministries, have started a spiritual SPA: "Só Por Amor", which literally means "Only Through Love". This is our theme this year. "Only Through Love" are we able to get on better with one another, and "Only Through Love" is it possible for Jesus to have given His life for us. Our SPA is a prayer meeting which is held once a month, on the last Friday evening of each month. The programme consists of the following elements:

- song service - we sing together
- "treatment" - activity aimed at improving our inner self
- meditation - each month a different theme
moments in prayer - we pray together for a specific issue
special musical item - a guest is invited to sing
frequent customer ceremony - ladies that visit us every month (6 in a row) receive a special incentive
secret friend ceremony - we exchange names every month, so that we can pray for that person as the month goes by, we are also encouraged to correspond with that lady, but we keep our identity a secret for that specific month, and then only at the next SPA, do we reveal our identity.
tea & biscuits at the end - helps ladies to get to know each other better by socializing with each other.

So far 61 ladies have visited our SPA, there is an average of 25 ladies present at each prayer meeting. We send out SMS's to encourage our ladies to keep praying for each other and also to be present at the next SPA. We have a page on facebook which has reached approx.. 140 likes. We use this page to advertise our monthly prayer meeting, and then to share the respective moments.
We have a personalised uniform to help the SPA theme come through, also our hall is decorated accordingly.
So far, four non-adventist ladies who had never been to our church before, visited our SPA. To God be the Glory! One of these ladies visited us because she saw our page on FaceBook.
Please keep praying for our SPA.
Isabel Ferreira, Porto Women’s Ministry Director

Leadership Congress for the German-speaking countries celebrate 20 Years Women’s Ministries

September 24 to 27, 2015 about 350 people convened in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, for the third Leadership Congress of the German-speaking countries. To celebrate Women’s Ministries in this year of the 20th anniversary as a department the leaders of the German-speaking field invited participants to enjoy a piece of cake.
In the photo: Angelika Pfaller, Heidi Albisser, Denise Hochstrasser, and Gerd-Laila Walter.

Leadership Training Level 2 in Valle Grande, Sicily, October 16-18 2015

Fifty women attended the women's ministries level 2 leadership training in Vallegrande. There were various seminars, touching moments, prayer time and lots of joy and sharing. As women we have learned that with the grace of God we can be powerful, and wherever we go we can touch a heart and tell the people how great our God is and how much he loves each one of us. We enjoyed the 10 seminars, dealing with Finance Budgeting, Prayer, Reclaiming Members, technics of holding a seminar, women in the Old Testament etc by the different speakers Raquel Arrais, GC, Denise Hochstrasser, EUD, Mirela Pascu, Psychologist and Teacher at Villa Aurora Theological Seminar, Abigaela Trofin, Pastor, and Maria Fortuna. We left the venue encouraged to be armed, to trust in the Lord in all challenges and to be still and know that HE is God. As women we have many gifts and we want to use them for HIM.

A special highlight was the celebration of 20 years anniversary of women's ministries on Saturday night. The big birthday cake was just great!
It was a happy and joyful time with the Italian ladies. Thank you, Franca Zucca, WM Italy and Katja, WM Sicily, for preparing this meeting with so much love and precious details.
Christine, Giusy
EUD WM Infos translated into Italian and German

Beginning with this edition the EUD WM newsletter will be translated into Italian by two ladies, Santa Abiuse and Christine Palmyre.
The women in Germany, Austria and Switzerland are already receiving a German translation made by Caroline Plank.
Please send reports of all your events to us so that the newsletter will really be a source of international information of what is happening in Women’s Ministries in all of the EUD countries. Maybe others will then also be interested in translating it into your own languages.

Photo left: Christine and Santa / right: Caroline

WM Scholarship awarded to Karine Eloidin of France

This is what Karine writes in response:
“Thank you for the scholarship I received this year. I am now an intern pastor in the Northern France Conference. It was not my aim, but when I let God lead, the doors opened for this way, which revealed to me my vocation! I can no more see me anywhere else than SERVING GOD FULL TIME!

At the moment I am working on a devotional for the women ministries's Devotional book. I will never forget what Women’s ministries did for me!

I cannot count God's blessings I encountered since I said YES to know more about God and start my theology studies in 2012. Nothing has been the same since then, each day is a new opportunity with God!
MAY GOD BE PRAISED! He knows exactly how to satisfy us completely! Just TRUST!

May God continue to use Women’s Ministries powerfully!
Karine Eloidin

October 24, 2015 in Malta

After the leadership training in Sicily Raquel Arrais, WM GC, took time to visit Malta, an island in the south of Italy, where she spent time preaching and ministering to the Church and Women in this territory. She had a picture with her, from four very active Maltese women she met in 2011, at the WM meeting that took place previous to the EUD advisory in Poppi. She was told, that in the meantime one person had passed away, and the others had left the Church. Therefore Women's Ministries was no longer active on Malta. She asked the local pastor to take her to the missing persons, and to the family of the person who had passed away. They were deeply impressed to receive a visit from GC on a Sunday morning, and were much encouraged to find their way back to the Church.

‘Reclaiming our loved ones and the ones that for some reason are not among us anymore’ is one of the seminars we offer in our Leadership program Level 2. We cannot only speak about this without putting it into practice. On Sabbath the church was full and she spoke about the Holy Spirit calling the members, of whom the majority are women, to be part of God’s mission.

Thank you Raquel for going this extra mile for Malta, Italian Union.
International Women’s Sabbath in Berlin on October 24, 2015

Silke Donat and Nancy Duske (WM leaders in Berlin-Mid-German and Hansa Conferences) invited to an International Women’s Meeting in Berlin.

200 women, most of them with other than German background met for a common Sabbath in Berlin Charlottenburg. The Motto was: Stand up, come with me! Women moving the World!

Fabiana Bertotti, a Brasilian woman who came from London spoke in a powerful and lively manner, how we can better serve and find joy in reaching out to others by getting rid of our injuries and by trusting in the Lord. Denise Hochstrasser explained the philosophy of Women’s ministries, and called for women to stand up, and together start to move the world.

Reinhard Jurke, who represents WM on the Conference board, offered a special Workshop for the participating men on men’s five senses and how they can use them to better understand women. Furthermore there was much music and colourful presentations.

Even though the schedule was very tight, the day was a highlight for the International Church as a whole.

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International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – November 25

Human Rights Day – December 10

Don't forget these important days and plan actions to show your solidarity during the days between the two dates.

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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