Girls4Christ Weekend in the Hansa Conference, Germany, December 19.-20.2015

A new event organized by WM in the Hansa Conference had been in preparation for a long time and it was with excitement that we gathered in Lübeck in order to spend time with teenage girls, listening, sharing, eating and sleeping in the various rooms of the church.

A whole bunch of teenage girls came to the G4C weekend, looking forward to the topic “Do you know how beautiful you are? See yourself with God’s eyes!”, and the pajama party. The program started on the Sabbath afternoon with a praise session with the “Girls4Worship” band and a devotional by Hannah Bendner, Team Leader for the project "1 Year for Jesus" in the North-Rhine Westphalia conference, who reached the hearts of the girls right at the outset. The girls were between 12 and 20 and came from varied backgrounds. There were even five refugee girls for whom the program was translated so that they were able to participate. Some workshops had to be moved in order to provide handicapped access.

The evening worship was held by the conference Youth Department Leader Benny Brunotte. After that the girls could choose from four breakout sessions:

WS1 “Smoothie Island” – healthy snacks. The spinach smoothie was the hit.
WS2 “Building a friendship” – knotting a friendship bracelet
WS3 “Being like Queen Esther, beautiful inside and out” – how to care for your skin
WS4 “You are valuable, unique and distinctive!” A discussion group.

In the discussion group the girls were given an envelope containing a letter from God and a small mirror. The text in the letter said: “You are beautiful, you are the child of a King. I wanted you. Your God.” One of the refugee girls had tears in her eyes when she opened her letter and heard the translation of the text.

Due to the great variety of activities every girl found something of interest to her. Many girls told us that they would come again the next time. Due to the success of this first event we are looking forward to the next G4C in 2016!

According to a report by Nancy Duske

EUD Women’ Ministries Facebook Page

Moving to a new Facebook page is not quite as easy as we hoped. Due to the new address we have “lost” about 400 people who used to like “Women in action”. This change was necessary because there is another fb-site called Women in action that has nothing to do with us.

Please like and visit our new site: https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries
Christmas Concerts in Northern Italy

WM of Northern Italy, under the direction of Abigaela Trofin, organized beautiful Christmas concerts in four places on different dates. Each concert included some short meditations in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Ghanaian.

Reported by Franca Zucca, WM Leader, Italy

Christmas program in Bari (Southern Italy)

On Sunday afternoon December 20 the WM of the church in Bari, in collaboration with the Personal Ministries Department and the Department of Music, organized the program “Christmas around the fireplace with friends”. Assisted by efficient deacons and deaconesses and young people with great creativity, in a few hours the church was transformed into a comfortable cozy home, complete with a fireplace, ready to welcome our friends as if we were at home, offering them a warm herbal tea and Christmas sweets prepared by hand and packed with care by expert hands.

The aim of the evening was to spend time in fellowship, singing together Christmas carols and other songs, led by the “Maranatha '96 choir”, with joy and fraternal peace. In a time when we are witnessing the creation of many barriers that divide peoples and nations we wanted to affirm that God hates divisions and gives us a hope which became real when Jesus Christ came to earth. He assured us that wars, suffering and tears are destined to disappear when He returns. The Bible is full of promises about it. Each person was offered small gifts that speak of hope: small Christmas trees, with magnet, along with some cards containing numerous promises on the return of Christ. At the end of the evening there were many expressions of gratitude for the spiritual messages and some have decided to continue to meet with us to deepen the study of the Word of God.

Santa Ablusi, WM director for Southern Italy

New Women’s Ministries Leader in the North-Rhine-Westphalia Conference

A change has taken place in the WM leadership of the NRW conference. The conference board appointed Olga Scharf to lead the WM department as of January 1, 2016, taking over from Mirjam Kohmann. Olga is employed by the conference and also works in the communication and education departments. We want to thank Mirjam for all she has done for WM and wish her God’s blessings for her future. At the same time we are glad to welcome Olga and wish her joy and vision in her new task. May God be with her and her ministry.
Heartlift is a program on 3abn.org you might be interested in. Starting in the first week of January 2016 Jill Morikone’s program particularly addresses women. You will find Heartlift on the http://3abn.org/media/3abn-broadcast/. The broadcasting schedule for her programs is: Sunday 1:30 pm Central European Time; Tuesday 9:30 CET; Thursday 5:30 pm CET. She has also written a book with the same title (available as an e-book or paperback through online bookstores).

Are you enslaved by your emotions? Are you held back from following God, even though your heart longs for Him? Do you doubt you can ever be truly forgiven, experience joy, or walk in victory with Jesus? You’re not alone! This book comes from that real broken place. Real stories of real pain. Real battles—and real victories. Jill Morikone's candid sharing of her own struggles cuts to the heart of the many issues women face. You don't have to struggle in the mist – fighting and losing. Your Father wants you to break free!

WM Team organized in the Italian part of Switzerland (Ticino)

On January 10, 2016, a group of 13 women and 3 pastors gathered for Women’s Ministries (WM) training sessions. The pastors are very supportive of WM initiatives. The new pastor for Lugano and Locarno, Matthias Maag, is convinced that women are the motor of the church. David Jennah, Swiss Union President, announced that it is now official that there will be a first WM congress for the Italian part of Switzerland next year. We are very thankful that networking in Women’s Ministries works very well, and that WM of the Italian Union will join in this event.

David Jennah presented a very constructive devotional based on 1Kings 19:3-12 and spoke about the various aspects of helping our neighbors. Lucio Altin in his talk presented the nine phases of conflicts and how to deal with and avoid them. Bernadette Fogliani presented the concept of Girls4Christ, which was met with enthusiasm. The WM team is considering how to implement this and reach out to teenage girls withing the church and their friends.

On this occasion the women organized an official WM team for the Tessin Canton, consisting of the WM leaders of the three main churches in the region, see picture.

left: Marzia Ravani, Locarno
middle: Bernadette Fogliani, Lugano-Massagno
right: Martha Santana, Gravesano (near Lugano)
Lucio Altin will continue as coach and trainer of the team.

The team is looking forward to intensive activity in organization and planning projects as well as organizing the WM congress 2017. The Lord has blessed and guided so far and it is with gratitude to God's leading that the team is ready to be used to be a tool in the Lord's hands. - According to a report by Bernadette Fogliani

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

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