

*News & Views*  
*Summer Edition 2011*



*European Baptist Women's Union*



# EBWU Nordic Regional Conference

October 6-9, 2011

Tallinn, Estonia

Radisson Blu Hotel Olumpia



## Spiritual Balance

*"The Sovereign Lord is my strength" Habakuk 3:19/a*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Mari Vahermägi

*(pastor, General Secretary of the Estonian Scripture Union)*

Conference for the Baptist women in the Baltic States, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Russia, but also for everybody, who is open to join to this meeting from any country belonging to the EBWU.

Read more and registrate by August 31, 2011  
at <http://www.ebwu.org/tallinn.html>



Union of Free Evangelical and Baptist  
Churches of Estonia



European Baptist  
Women's Union



# *News & Views*

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*Summer Edition 2011*



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Let us endeavour to repair the things that are broken by reaching out in Jesus' name to the broken of heart, of spirit, of

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## ***Committee Meeting in Wales***

The invitation had been issued some time previously and what a

joy it was to be in Wales! We were warmly met at Cardiff airport by Rosemary and Evan Morgan, who acted as our hosts and drivers for the duration of our stay.

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***"The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced"***

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# EDITORIAL



*By Margaret Brown*

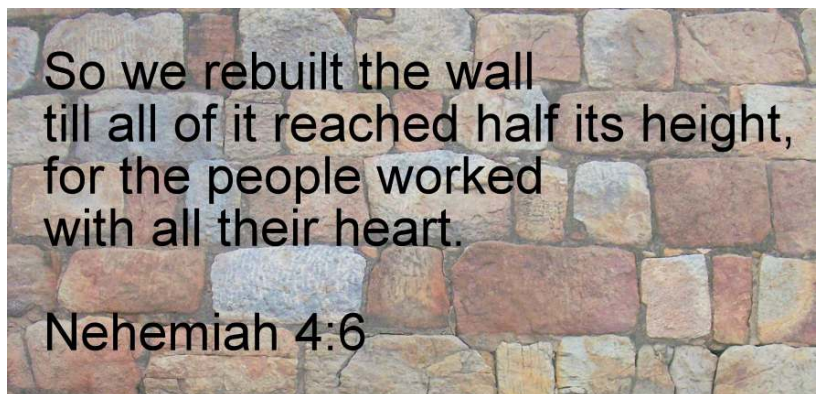
Once again it is summer, and many of us will possibly have a break from the usual things that we are involved in throughout the year. We enjoy relaxing in the warm sunshine and getting outdoors to enjoy the wonders of God's creation in the countryside or the seaside, wherever we may find ourselves. Perhaps we take time away to be with God, seeking His direction for the coming months and being refreshed by Him for the work He has called us to.

Over the summer months during the midweek Bible study & prayer meeting our church is studying Nehemiah – a man of prayer and ac-

tion. The walls of Jerusalem were broken and the city left in devastation and unprotected. This caused Nehemiah great distress and brought him to his knees in prayer for many days. He was so earnest in seeking God that he also went without food. God heard his prayer and gave Nehemiah the opportunity to be part of the answer to his prayer. Nehemiah was given permission to leave Persia (where he was in captivity serving king Artaxerxes) and go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. He was given what he needed for the task. Nehemiah sought to repair what was broken. Today we live in a broken world; many of us live in a society which is broken and come face to face, at time, with people whose lives are broken. Is this a burden for us which we need to bring before the

Lord? Is He asking us to pray and if He so wills, to be part of the answer to our prayers. The work was not easy for Nehemiah; he met with opposition but he always brought everything to the Lord in prayer. If we are seeking to reach out to the

brokenness around us it will not be easy, but the Lord's ear is always open to hear our prayer, and just as He granted success to Nehemiah so He will grant success to us also. The walls which had been broken were rebuilt and people who had turned away from God were reformed – it's all in the book of Nehemiah – read it and see for yourselves. The work was accomplished because, *'the people worked with all their heart'* (Neh.4:6) and because God heard and answered Nehemiah's prayer.





As you read this issue of News & Views you will find in it stories of women who are working 'with all their heart' for the Lord and His kingdom. They are working to repair the brokenness around them in Europe and further afield. God has touched their hearts and it is incumbent upon them to give themselves and what resources they have, small or great, to Him. Read the articles and praise God for what He is doing through ordinary women dedicated to Him.

Let us also endeavour to repair the things that are broken by reaching out in Jesus' name to the broken of heart, of spirit, of soul, of body. Ultimately it is the Lord Who heals and repairs but oh the joy of being involved with Him in this repairing work.

May the Lord bless you, speak to you and move you as you read this magazine.



*When I see all the beauty of Your Creation  
Lord it makes my spirit free to worship You  
When I see all the beauty of Your Creation  
Lord it drives me to my knees to worship You*

# PRESIDENTIAL LETTER



*By Līvija Lāme*

My dear sisters!

I send you greetings from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. It is a very different continent from Europe. Outside the temperature is about 40 degrees, sometimes it is raining. It has a tropical climate, with nature-palms and different tropical plants, flowers, vegetables and fruits and of course people. As you know all are different and look different. I feel to be too white to be hereJ.

The Malaysian Baptist Convention is hostess for BWA Annual Gathering. More than 300 Baptist leaders and delegates have gathered in Kuala Lumpur from July 4-9 for the BWA Annual Meeting. The BWA involves yearly meetings of a number

of BWA groups, including the General Council and the Executive Committees; executive subcommittees and divisional advisory committees; women's, men's and youth departments; regional groupings; and commissions of the divisions of Freedom & Justice, and Mission, Evangelism & Theological Reflection, plus others. Four organizations in Africa have been accepted into membership of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) at the meeting of the General Council. The BWA now has 222 member bodies in 120 countries.



A few days before the gathering was the WD (Women's Department) annual meeting. There were together WD officers - President Raquel Contreras, Director Patsy Davies, Secretary-treasurer Donna Groover and 7 continental presidents. It was the first meeting guided by our new president Raquel Contreras. It was a very good meeting, very nice and efficient and at the same time there was a spir-

itually warm atmosphere. Each president shared her report of the past year and then we prayed for each continent's president and of course you all are included in our prayers. All are sending you warm and hearty greetings!

Raquel read from Acts 16:11-19. For women it is natural to be together. Lydia was a busy woman – a business woman and home keeper but she always had time for God.





Livija Lame Europe, EBWU  
 Linda Weber -Northamerica, NABWU  
 Montunrayo Adegbilero -Africa, BWUA  
 Julie Belding- South West Pacific, BWSWP  
 Marlene Baltazar Latinamerika, UFBAL  
 Yvonne Pitter- Carribian, CBWU  
 Sook Jae Lee - Asia, ABWU  
 Patsy Davis BWA WD Executive Director  
 Raquel Contreras BWA WD President  
 Donna Groover Secretary/Treasurer

Spirituality was natural. Leadership comes as gift. Power comes from the Holy Spirit, not from abilities. Raquel accepted that we should have balance with ministry in church and community. Sometimes we are well known in church but nobody knows us out-

side. It is important to remember our mission for people to help them find Jesus.

We continue to move In Step With Spirit, as we began with this theme last year, in our serving. May God fill our hearts with His love as we go and serve and share His love!

*In Christ's love*

*Yours, Līvija Lāme*

# COMMITTEE MEETING



*By Margaret Brown*

Report on our Visit to Wales

March 15-20<sup>th</sup> saw the EBWU leaders arrive in Wales for our yearly committee meeting. The invitation had been issued some time previously and what a joy it was to be in Wales! We were warmly met at Cardiff airport by Rosemary and Evan Morgan, who acted as our hosts and drivers for the duration of our stay. As we left Cardiff airport, the sun was

shining brightly in welcome, and as we travelled through the countryside to our destination, the daffodils were out in bloom along the wayside, waving in the breeze to greet us. It was most enjoyable to sit and relax and to admire the views from the car.

We were based in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, where the Welsh language is freely spoken. We were very indebted to Rev. Mary Davies, pastor of five churches in the area including Llandeilo for allowing us access to the church where our meetings were held. Members of the church provided us with lunch each day. Two of the other churches pastored by Rev Mary provided our evening meal on Wednesday and Friday. It was lovely to sit down with the people of the churches and share fellowship and conversation with them over our meals. They were interested in us and of course we were interested in them. The food was wonderful; we were so well fed that our clothes felt tight by the end of our visit! The fellowship also was wonderful and we were so blessed by being with God's people.



Business was conducted Wednesday – all day, Thursday – morning, Friday – all day and for an hour on Saturday morning. The business included various reports from each of the committee, from the countries we are in contact with, and from other agencies. Finance always features in our business; a fair amount of time is spent dealing with requests for funding



for a variety of projects within the Union. Prayer and consideration has to be given with regard to what projects to support and to what amount can be allocated to these projects. Planning ahead also takes up our time and on this occasion we were thinking about the autumn conference to be held in Tallin, Estonia, at the request of the Estonian women. Europe is responsible for 2013 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, and we reminded ourselves so we could each be praying and noting our thoughts.

Across the road from the church where our business was conducted was a beautiful view across the valley which stretched for miles. As the weather was good and the sun shone, once we had eaten lunch we went outdoors to enjoy the fresh air, the scenery, and to have some gentle exercise by having short walks in the vicinity of the church.

On Thursday afternoon we paid a brief visit to the Welsh Baptist Union Office on the way to Broad



Haven, Pembrokeshire to visit Yona Pusey, a former Secretary and President of EB-WU. She had arranged for us to have afternoon tea with some of the local Baptist ladies in a restaurant owned and run by a Latvian lady which brought much delight to Livija, our present President who is from Riga, Latvia.



Livija Lame and Aniko Ujvari  
On the background St. Bride's Bay

Following tea we each shared a little of our roles within EB-WU and then we were taken to Yona's home which is situated on a cliff top with a commanding view of the sea in St Bride's Bay. We had a beautiful view of the setting sun as we watched it sink beneath the horizon, praising God for

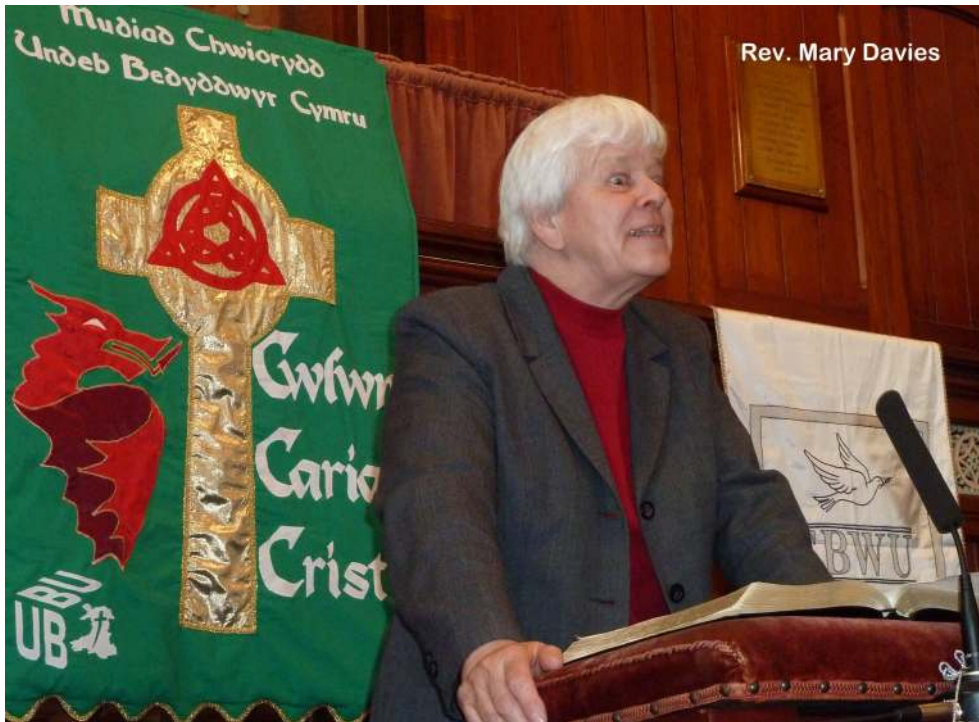
the wonders of His creation. Yona was brought up to date as far as we were able with the European scene, and we enjoyed relaxing and chatting. She fondly remembers her time serving with EBWU. Yona provided a sumptuous supper for us before we travelled back to Llandeilo.

Once our business was completed on the Saturday we were able to have a short walk around the town to see a bit more of it, and as women usually do, to visit various shops. Wies, a butcher's daughter, was delighted to come across an old-fashioned butcher's shop; she just had to go in and get some photographs!



At lunch time we had a special lunch in a hotel where members of the Women's Union and Baptist Union Officials also attended, and brought Welcome Greeting officially to us. All the members of the Committee were presented with a Welsh Loving Spoon beautifully carved in wood. Following lunch we returned to the church for a Celebration of Faith. This was arranged by Rosemary, and presided over by Rev. Davies. It was a wonderful time, a blend together of worship and praise and Welsh culture of music and song brought to us by various bards, singers and musicians who had won prizes at the national Eisteddfod, the annual Welsh festival of poetry and music. Again each of us shared about EBWU between the items of music and song. This was one of the highlights of our visit, and will be long remembered. In the evening Rosemary provided a lovely supper for us in her home, and we enjoyed a time of fellowship together.





Rev. Mary Davies

Three of us were able to attend morning service on the Sunday morning and very kindly Rev. Davies preached in English so we could understand, and benefit from the sermon. It was a joy to share with the folks in worship.

All too soon it was time to take

our leave, but we will never forget our visit to Wales, nor the warmth of the people, their faith in the Lord Jesus, and the hospitality and help they gave us – true Christian service.

Our hosts, Rosemary and Evan Morgan, just ‘pulled out all the stops’ for us – they couldn’t have done any more for us than they did. Three of us stayed with them while two were with another couple and two with another lady, all of us some distance apart, yet it seemed no bother for Rosemary and Evan to ferry us around, by ensuring we were at the church in time each morning, and at the venues for our evening meals, and returned to our ‘homes’ at night. Their hospitality and care was first class.



Rosemary and Evan Morgan

We give thanks to God for all the people we met, and for all the experiences of our time in Wales, knowing that our lives are the richer for having met these wonderful servants of His.

# KIEV CONFERENCE



*By Ewa Gutkowska  
Former EBWU President*

**“The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced”**

This verse from Psalm 126:3 was the motto of the conference organized by Ukrainian Women’s Baptist Union. This conference was held 24-25 March 2011 at the Christian University in Kiev. This event had a special, yet solemn nature, since it was the climax of 20 years long service of Baptist Women Union in Ukraine. In the meeting participated 125 women, who were leaders of women’s service in 25 districts of the Baptist Union in Ukraine. Some foreign guests who were invited also took part in the meeting: the president of the European Baptist Women’s Union - Livija Lame from Latvia, sisters from Belarus, Moldova, Russia, USA and Ewa Gutkowska, who is making this report.





The setting of this conference was prepared with great care. When the leaders were introduced at the same time the map of Ukraine was put together from pieces of districts which those sisters were representing. The sisters who were conducting the conference were dressed in national clothes and the song chanted at the beginning “Prayer for Ukraine” moved everyone to the depths of their hearts, bringing the joy of freedom and a heightening feeling of gratitude for the great deeds that the Lord performed in this country through women.



## UKRAINE

**Capital:** Kiev

**Population:** 45.4 million (2010)

**Major languages:** Ukrainian (official), Russian

**Major religion:** Christianity

**Monetary unit:** 1 hryvnya = 100 kopiykas

The Baptist Union in Ukraine is the biggest in

Europe and it includes about 135000 members with women constituting 75%. The women make a considerable contribution in the mission work of the churches and in winning others for Christ.

The President of the Ukrainian Union, Vyacheslav Nesteruk, participating in the opening of the conference, thanked the sisters for their previous and current eagerness in service and devotion in prayer, and at the same time he gave some advice for further years. He encouraged them to continue prayer for pastors, leaders, for new calls and for their own husbands so that they could get more involved in church work. He encouraged them also to engage in mission and evangelization not only in Ukraine but also in other countries in Europe.





Sister Nadia Komendant, the President of the women's service until 2006 and whose participation together with sister Aleksandra Kowalenko in organizing the work in particular districts is unquestionable and immense, shared with us the previous history of women's work for the Lord the memories which go back in the past into the end of the nineteenth century. Many of the women paid a high price for their engagement in Christian work and suffered arrests, tortures, prison and even loss of life during the communist regime. In the end sister Nadia stressed that all those stories about how God used women we not only should remember, but we must remember.

The President of the women's service since 2006 - Svetlana Swischova in her multimedia presentation, highlighted the leaders and their work over the in past 20 year period. In her report she laid out the main directions of women's service: service of prayer, service of learning God's Word, service of carrying help, service of evangelization - the numerous examples of which were presented by sisters engaged in these services.





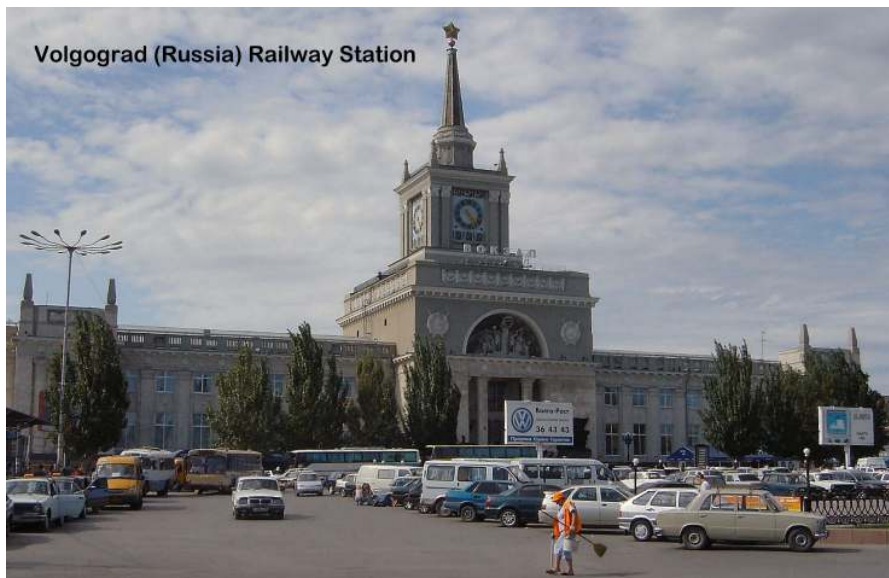
The President of the European Women's Union – Livija Lame in her presentation emphasized the meaning and value of love in the work for the Lord, which in the multitude of daily duties and work may be lost. She quoted facts and gave examples about this that because of love for Jesus, Christian martyrs died. The message of Livija was additionally developed in the preaching, which was shared on the last day by one of the pastors, on the basis of the text from John's Gospel 13:34-35, indicating love as the recognizable sign of Christians.

I am grateful to God that I could participate in this particular meeting of the Ukrainian sisters and to pass on to them greetings and good wishes from the Polish women. God once again showed me **what great deeds He did** through those sisters from Ukraine who are faithful in prayers and dedicated in service. This report is a short account of this event and there is no place for descriptions of sometimes dramatic stories of women's lives, which teach me, personally, humbleness before God's greatness and faithfulness and in themselves bring a freedom of gratitude. And that atmosphere of gratitude and joy expressed in various ways including poetry and songs sung by the men's choir "Syjon" and the women's choir from Charkov infected everybody and united us causing, through this meeting, glory was given to the Highest God.

# EVANGELISM IN RUSSIA

## Evangelism is our Main Goal

*By Natalya Kovalchuk*



One of the core tasks for us as Christians is described in the Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20. Among the various methods of evangelism are private and public evangelism. Both these methods women are using in our ministry. In the city of Volgograd at Christmas time there was the drama "He came as a Stranger".

We prayed for its preparation and implementation for three months. We distributed invitations to families and friends. At the performance, ultimately, were about 300 non-believers. Now for them we have open Bible Courses.

In December 2010, the celebration of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church of Evangelical Christian-Baptists in Tsaritsyn took place. (Tsarina used to be the name of our city, which was preceded lately by Stalingrad and Volgograd). To the celebration



we invited our friends and were glad that many of them attended. At this celebration were stands depicting the life of yesterday and today of the Baptist churches in our city. There were shown listening slides about the history of the Christian-Baptists. Finally there was a wonderful concert of Christian songs. Our women were involved in its preparation and performance.

We will never appreciate the love of Christ, if we do not see it on the background of His for-



giveness. "We love Him because He first loved us" - 1 John. 4:19. Of course, our personal testimonies are as a powerful tool in evangelism. The success of evangelism is measured by the number of those we helped, who heard and accepted the Gospel, and who came to God and became a member of the church. We can also add that in our local Training Center we have students who live in the outback. They testify to Christ by the way they live their lives, using the 'evangelism of presence' method. About myself I would like to say that I use my computer to do outreach and carry on correspondence with people whom I meet on the Internet. I would like to give some personal testimonies of our sisters.

***Irina Ananyeva:***

At my work I often have talks with the girls about God, because many of them know that I go to church. But the spiritual questions do not always arise. We talk about problems and our conversation sometimes takes a religious route. My neighbours talk about God. We invite them to concerts, to watch the film "Jesus".

As soon as I came to believe, I started to read, to study and understand the Bible. Most of the girls' parents forbade them to talk with me, but now they can decide with whom to communicate. Recently I met with one of them, and she asked me: "Do you still go to church?" - "Yes" I replied. So we began to talk about Christ again. I invited her to watch "Jesus" film



and join discussions afterwards. Again I met her and asked: "Well, how was the film and how did you like it?" Her answer was positive. She even invited her mother. Her mother enjoyed it too; although before, she did not want even to listen about God. That's how it is now!

From time to time I talk with ladies walking with the children, next to me; I try to have a conversation about God. Sometimes, I do not know where to start, and then it happens that I share my own conversation in testimony. Not immediately a slap in the face, it all depends on the circumstances. Not so often I have the opportunity to testify. My husband bears witness in our courtyard to many people who drink and are drug addicts; he shows Christ and invites them to church. But sin keeps them firmly. And so far none of them have gone to church, although many had promised to come and hear the Word of God.

### ***Victoria Dovzhenko:***

In Volzhskiy there was a festival of Christian culture following the film "Jesus." It was organized by the mission New Life and the Church of Evangelical Christian-Baptists. We prepared for this project for more than two years. There were five levels of training for all church members who wanted to participate in the event. On October 15, 2010 we started the showing of the movie in the cinemas in our town, and it finished with a gala concert on 13 and 14 of November.



Our church has donated money for this project and continues to donate to this very day. At the entrance our women handed out questionnaires to the people who came to the movie and got the feedback that they filled in. According to statistics, this film was watched by about six thousand people. Now we have formed a group that engages the brothers and sisters from our church in various programmes. We have organized a

group of teens of 8-10 people, which visit mostly girls. In January 2011, we began to meet with them every Saturday. To our group came a girl, who did not see the "Jesus" film, but wanted to learn about God. We plan to develop this ministry further. We also would like to hold a summer camp, called "Dream" for the unbelieving adolescents in the cities of Volgograd and Volzhskiy.

We practice the personal evangelism. At a meeting with neighbours, colleagues at work start a conversation about God. Personally, at work I have continuously evangelised in connection with the children's classes on spiritual and moral education. Colleagues ask me questions as soon as it comes to God. They know whom to call and ask. Recently, I was sent on a course on spiritual and moral education at the preschool age. Attending these classes was a priest; he said many things right, but with some I could not agree. I know that the entire training process takes place under the guidance of God. How He will continue to lead me I do not know. At my work I will need to give an account of these courses. I have got something that I want to say to my unbelieving colleagues. I thank God that He uses me in this case.

### ***Jamila Tarovatov:***

I'd participated in the project "Jesus" film and led a group of non-believers who came after the showing. I also am trying to reach with the Gospel my neighbours and relatives, using the Four Spiritual Laws. In the same way Anna Bobrova



preaches, but she is also actively talking about God to her colleagues. Nastya Chernenikova's door is open to the women, who come to her home for advice and instruction. Summarizing, we may say that our women are using every opportunity to carry the love of Christ to all their friends and acquaintances. All our sisters, without exception, use the opportunity of evangelism at work, at home and to all whom they meet in different life situations. We include this ministry in our petitions and pray about the hearts of the people to whom we preach the Gospel. With God's help, we are able to do something. If someone has her own special way of evangelism we'll be glad to know about it. Each of us has a gift given by the Lord. Pray for us, that the Gospel will become "our main business" and that we use, for this purpose, every opportunity.

May God bless all of us in this ministry!

Greetings to all my EBWU Sisters!



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# SWEDEN: JOINT CHURCH

## Something Special Stirring in Sweden



At the beginning of June I had the privilege of attending very important and special meetings in Stockholm, Sweden. It was wonderful to be with some of the Swedish sisters at this stage of the new historical development taking place at present. I was also able to meet up with 'old' friends (see photographs) – Aina Rasmussen, Birgit Karlsson and Karin Wiborn. John Upton, BWA President was also attending these meetings.

For more than three years the Baptists, Evangelical Methodists and the Mission Covenant Churches have been having discussions to determine if it would be possible to come together as one united Church. In many small villages these denominations have already been co-operating with each other; because of financial restraints it has not been possible for each church to employ a pastor and so resources have been shared and the people have worked closely together. Recently there has been dialogue in each denomination with their members discussing some of the difficult theological issues pertinent to each denomination. The people had the freedom to express their opinions and give their reactions to proposals. These discussions culminated on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011 when voting resulted positively when they made **an agreement to be united in one Joint Church**. How pleasant when brothers (and sisters) dwell in harmony! At this meeting byelaws were adopted and an executive committee elected but as yet no president or general secretary appointed. The name of this new church has not been decided either but will continue to be called by its unofficial title – Gemensam Framtid (Joint Church) – for an interim period. As of 2012 these three denominations will merge into one. The youth of these denominations united in 2008.

There are still many questions which require



Aina Rasmussen





Wies Dijkstra  
with Welsh Sisters



Wales March 2011





Ukrainian Women's Conference 24-25 March 2011 in Kiev



photo by Antonina Kreposniak







Françoise (green dress) President of the Women's Department of Burundi



Solveig Nielsen giving knitted shirts from Denmark



# Something stirring in Sweden ...



Livija Lamp and Aina Rasmussen



Birgit Karlsson and Livija



answers and issues which need ironed out but the people are determined to comply with Jesus' prayer for unity as this was the primary motive for this amalgamation. Each church will continue to work and serve as is acceptable for them, just as they have been doing.



Rev. Alice Cooper (Sweden) and Wies Dijkstra in Budapest

The women's organisation also desire to come together in unison. In fact last year at our EBWU conference in Budapest we welcomed Methodist pastor Rev. Alice Cooper who came with the Swedish women. She thoroughly enjoyed herself and the fellowship shared together and we benefited from her being amongst us and enjoyed her company. One afternoon was set aside specifically for the women. I was able to bring the greetings of EBWU to the Swedish women. I was also invited to sit in on the Board Meeting where the women's leaders of the three denominations met for discussion. A decision was made for a general meeting to take place on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2011. At this gathering the new women's organisation will come into being and decide on the structure for leadership etc, choosing a specific Leader. It is anticipated that they will desire to apply for membership of EBWU and this would be a new situation for us too.



This is a new beginning for many in Sweden and has not been entered into without much soul-searching, discussion and prayer, but it now appears to be the way forward for the Baptist, Methodists and Mission Covenanters.

Please pray for our Swedish brothers and sisters that God will give wisdom and clearly lead them; that He will use them to build up the believers and to bring others into the Kingdom. Pray also for the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> August that again God will give clear guidance in all their deliberations and in the choice of leaders.

*Livija Lame*

# LITHUANIA

## President's Visit to Lithuania



Women's Day Conference in Vilnius Lithuania

At the invitation of the Lithuanian women, I was able to go to Vilnius, the capital city, to participate in the Lithuanian Women's Day Conference on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2011.

This event was well organized by the women with help from Brother Vasil from Moldova, and was attended by just under 200 women from different denominations.

This year on 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>

October, in Lithuania, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is planning to host an initiative called Hope Festival. The Women's Conference was held to encourage, prepare and motivate the women for this up-coming event; to be active, to pray and to strive to have good relationships with their neighbours, colleagues and relatives so that they will attend Hope Festival and find the Truth as they come to know Jesus Christ. Many people are unresponsive to the good news of the Gospel; there are many religious people in Lithuania, maybe attending church twice yearly, but most are nominal believers only and do not have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. It is important to give them the opportunity to get to know Him.



Young people at the Conference





Leading the conference was Sandra, the women's committee Leader. The speaker was Nijole Latuziene from Klaipeda. Her husband is a former President of the Lithuanian Baptist Union. Her daughter, Lina Androviene is well known to the EBWU as we supported her for one year during her studies at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague.

Lina is continuing her studies working on her doctorate.

There was a warm atmosphere at the conference and God opened the windows of heaven and poured out His blessing. I felt honoured to be there.

I would ask you to pray for Lithuania; for the Hope Festival in October; for the festival organizers and all those involved in running it; above all pray that salvation comes to many people as a result.

*Livija Lame*



## ***EBWU Conference Tallinn, Estonia***

NO PRESENT, NO PRESENCE AT THE ROLLCALL .....

IMPORTANT : If you are coming to the **EBWU conference** Spiritual Balance in October 6-9, 2011 in **Estonia**, you HAVE to take something with you:

Buy or make a little present, approximately 5x5x5 cm or smaller. Write on a piece of paper an encouraging text from the Bible . Add your name, address and email address and (cell) phone number . Wrap everything in gift paper. Write the same text again on a piece of paper and PUT that piece of paper IN YOUR PURSE!! So you write the text 2 times! One for IN the present . One for IN your purse. YOU WILL NEED IT AT THE ROLLCALL on the first night of the Conference.

Don't forget: NO PRESENT, NO PRESENCE AT THE ROLLCALL .....

# LETTER FROM LAURAN



## *Why Are Women in Prostitution?*

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Ireland.... and Malaysia.... and the USA.... and The Netherlands! These are countries where I've traveled to in the last few months - and where this message has been formed. As you know, much of my ministry is about helping people to understand the dark world of human trafficking and prostitution - and then helping those who God Calls, to shine God's Light of Unconditional Love into the darkness of that world. What is exciting to me is that this IS God's moment and

many people ARE hearing God's Call to do just that!

*Understanding a situation that seems un-understandable sometimes leads us to action:* and so please continue reading and I challenge you to *pray into this article* that you, too, will have a greater understanding and heart and compassion for those who so desperately need to know God's Love through you.

My definition of human trafficking is "*the exploitation of vulnerability*". **Human trafficking equals the exploitation of vulnerability.** So why are people vulnerable to the victimization of human trafficking? My own experience and research points to 3 major broad categories. They all overlap in some ways, but I believe that these 3 categories illustrate the majority of reasons for vulnerability and victimization.

1) The first is the most obvious: economic hard-ship. Poverty. But not all impoverished women and girls work in prostitution. Twenty-five years ago, when I was first meeting Thai women and girls in prostitution in Bangkok, they told me that they were working in prostitution in order to send money home to their mothers and fathers and to support their brothers and sisters. They were providing food and new houses and vehicles and school fees for their families. They would tell me that they were "sacrificing" themselves for their families. They were raised from birth to believe that the value of their life was dependent on how much money they could make for their families. *Their families' economic difficulty combined with the cultural value of obligation to the family creates vulnerability that is exploited.* In many community-based cultures around the world, including some cultures in Europe, the girl child is raised with this value - that she is economically responsible for her family. And if she has little or no education, and sees prostitution as the way to make the most money possible for her family, then she will sacrifice herself in this way.

2) If poverty and culture are exploited in developing countries, then why are there so many women and young girls who are victims of human trafficking and prostitution in *developed* countries? The second vulnerability factor is the *incidence of childhood sexual abuse*. In my own country, the USA, as many as 70-95% of those



working in prostitution have been sexually abused as children in their families or communities. Sexual abuse does inestimable harm to the soul of young person. Children who have been abused live with immense sexual confusion which can lead to their identities being defined by sexual expression.

In the USA, Canada and the UK, drug abuse and prostitution very often go hand in hand. People often say, “they’re working to support drug habits”. That may be true. Often, drugs are used to numb the emotional pain of an abusive childhood and result in the downward spiral of addiction to both the drugs and to the prostitution that supports the habit. In some cases, the pimps have forced the drug abuse in order to keep the girls and women dependent and in an endless cycle of working for drugs and providing money for him.

3) For a number of years, I only used the 2 broad categories of poverty/culture and childhood sexual abuse that I have just named to describe vulnerability factors. And then I was confronted by a dear Christian woman in a



Lauran with amazing young Irish women who have felt led to meet and befriend women on the streets of Belfast

wealthy country who chastised me: “My daughter is also a victim of human trafficking and prostitution” she told me. “And she is neither poor nor was she abused. Rather she was “groomed” into prostitution by a man who developed a relationship with her with the goal that he would become her pimp and have her working in prostitution.” I learned from this broken-hearted woman that I must include the category of “grooming” to describe a 3<sup>rd</sup> major vulnerability factor.

In The Netherlands, those who “groom” teen-age girls into prostitution are called “lover-boys” by those girls. However, there’s no true “love” involved - only exploitation. “Lover-boys” hang around places where teen-age girls would be: on the edge of high school grounds or shopping malls, at discothèques or beaches. They compliment the girls as they walk past: “oh you’re so beautiful”. If the girl has a strong sense of self-esteem, she will just say “thanks!” and keep walking. But a girl who doesn’t hear many compliments, who has low self-esteem, will stop, the compliments will continue, dates will be made and the “lover-boy” knows that he has

her hooked. He will do everything to convince her that he is her only love, that her family and friends don't love her as much as he does, and in this way, he attempts to isolate her from her primary relationships. A sexual relationship develops, and thereafter, he convinces her that she should have sex with his friends. There may be gang-rape. And then comes the moment when all of the sudden he has no money. And, he continues, since she's had sex with so many men already, working in prostitution will not be any different and will solve all their financial problems. She comes to believe that the more money she makes for him, the more he will love her, or love her again. By this time, she's found out that he has 3 or 4 or 5 other women working for him but she's sure that she's the one he loves the most.

"Grooming" girls into prostitution as a form of human trafficking was previously an invisible phenomenon and certainly wasn't identified as trafficking. Many people wanted to believe that since the women were not chained to the brothels and could walk away at any time, they had obviously "chosen" to work there. And yes, there is an element of "choice". *But I always say that "choice" has a very thin veneer.* Scratch the thin surface of "choice" and you find the story behind the story of woundedness and helplessness and hopelessness. I know that I, personally, had little self-esteem when I was 15 or 16 years old, and am thankful that, by the Grace of God, no one set out to groom me into prostitution!

Dear Sisters, I pray:

--- that the more deeply you understand the women (and men) who are victims of trafficking/prostitution that you see and hear about, the more compassion you will feel.

--- that YOU will pray that God will continue to raise up individuals who are Called to offer God's Unconditional Love to those who are trapped.

**Please Pray** for your EBF Anti-Trafficking Network, meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, August 23-25. Pray that more and more Believers in this part of the world will have a compassionate heart for victims of human trafficking/prostitution and feel led to creatively minister in Christ's name to their needs.

Love and Blessings to All!

Lauran

*Rev. Lauran Bethell serves as Global Consultant, helping Christians to minister in Christ's name to victims of human trafficking and prostitution. She is a missionary with International Ministries ABC/USA, and is based in The Netherlands.*



# Window to the World



## Danish Baptist Women visit Burundi

*By Karin Lignel Christiansen*



**Karin Lignel Christiansen, the president of the Danish Baptist Womens Union, visited the Womens Department in Burundi's Baptist church. Niels Chr. and Solveig Nielsen accompanied her to help to translate into local language. They speak the language and know the culture as former missionaries. Since 1928 Danish Baptists has been committed to mission in Burundi. The Baptist Union of Denmark (BUD) and the Union des Eglise Baptistes du Burundi (UEBB) have worked together since 1963, when Burundi became independent, as equal partners. Karin, Niels Chr. and Solveig travelled through Burundi and visited 11 women's groups and churches.**

Being welcomed in the elegant Bujumbura airport is a unique experience. In keeping with tradition we were met by a whole delegation of leaders from the Burundi Baptist Church and Francoise, Magarita, Marie Jose and Vénance, who are leaders of the women department. The time had come to meet the women, with whom I had had e-mail correspondence for two years, and I sensed that they were as excited as I was to finally meet.

Solveig and Niels Chr. Nielsen (ex-missionaries) accompanied me as interpreters and co-workers. They spoke the Kirundi language, they knew our partners – several of them personally – and they knew the local culture and shared a spiritual connection. On top of this we benefited from our on-site contact Susi Baggesen's expertise, which she had gained during a two-year long co-operation. These were all prerequisites of a successful dialogue between our different cultures. Linguistic, cultural and spiritual inexperience might well ruin well-intentioned negotiations.

The conversations with the women from the women's department were exciting, instructive and challenging. We established a close, loving, honest and humorous rapport. We would not have come far without the above-mentioned experience as well as my own experience of communication and educational theories. It ended up being a warm and lovely journey.

Generally speaking our conversations focused on ways in which we could offer assistance supplementary to the locals' own efforts. The women's most urgent need was specifically financial means to enable them to work as inspirators and catalysts by visiting the numerous women's groups in the different churches.

On the third day we filled up the good four-wheel drive belonging to our delegate as this vehicle was suitable for the extremely challenging roads. After the morning prayer, which seemed particularly relevant knowing the traffic in Burundi, we visited three women's groups on the first day with Niels Chr. Nielsen as a skilled driver guided by the women. First visit – Ceyerezi. Seeing the colourful and beautiful women welcoming us with African dances was evocative. (I so wish I had that sense of rhythm.)



Magarita, a beautiful young woman, minister's wife and mother, whom I had met previously, vividly described the lobby work. They were cultivating the land, weaving baskets and teaching together as well as sharing joys and sorrows. Women and families with special needs are close to Magarita's heart. These include women due

to give birth, and Margarita was one of the women who were in desperate need of our first aid kits. Solveig and Susi were highly instrumental in making sure these kits reached the people who needed them. In Ceyerez there was also a young man, who was an accomplished baker. This made them consider the possibility of making and selling bread in the market. We were lucky enough to try out this bread along with a coke.

I can still picture the women in Bwari, Kayanza, Murama, Karonge and Kibingo – beautiful, rhythmically dancing and singing wearing colourful dresses surrounded by children or carrying children on their backs. Brave, strong, proud and giggling with a humourous twinkle, but at the same time poor, worn-out, tired with almost stony looks and faces reflecting anxiety. I saw these women walking long distances carrying heavy weights, their stature erect and with open attitudes. I cannot conceive how, but they managed to bounce back despite poverty and repeated conflicts and wars. Numerous rapes resulting in unwanted pregnancies and children not knowing who their fathers are, are one of the most serious consequences of the war. Another consequence of the war is the great number of widows and traumatised men. Everywhere we went we were asked to support the widows in particular.



I vividly remember the young woman from Karonge, who deeply concentrating told us about the women and the work. She was reading aloud from her meticulously written notes. She told us that 88 % of the women had never learned to read. Personally she had learned to read recently in connection with the literacy campaign led by Susi. “The need for education is massive. Please help us teach more people how to read.” We heard this appeal over and over again.

I so wish another campaign would follow with an emphasis on educating teachers, making it a case of supplementary assistance (my own comment). Such a follow-up should be aimed at both men and women. However, experience shows that women and men should be taught separately. Men have a privileged position and become domineering in an educational setup within a society suppressing women.

We left the small school after a lovely meal, taking with us pineapple and papaya, which we had for lunch the next day. What an impressive strength and dignity in the face of poverty.

Visiting the women in Murama was an intense experience. The minister Simon is a highly gifted minister, craftsman, administrator and organiser. The women benefited very much from these gifts of grace. Many learned how to sew, read, cultivate the earth, keep goats etc.

A clear example for imitation. Francoise and her co-leaders have made extensive use of the experiences from Murama as an educational example when inspiring other women’s groups on the remainder of our journey.

The women from the area surrounding Bujumbura (the capital) had been invited to a meeting with us one afternoon.

Many had come a long way on foot to join us. A lot of young women were present surrounded by children on the floor or carrying children on their backs. I only knew a few



of them beforehand, but it was a fantastic sensation making eye contact everywhere. I met smiling and also slightly shy and bashful young women.

I participated somewhat awkwardly in the dance, and the women appreciated that. I gave a lesson again similarly to all the other places. “Woman – know that you are loved and that you are invaluable in the eyes of the Lord. To God we are all equal regardless of gender. You have been created with talents and gifts of grace, which

you have been called to exert in His honour – bring forward your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice to please God – that is your spiritual service. When you dance, you praise God with your entire body.” God has showered the African women with the grace of dance, music and singing.

The women asked Francoise: “Why didn’t she [me] come from the early morning when we finally have someone who can teach?” How I would have loved to have spent the entire day with them.

You should have seen them when Solveig arrived later on with her bag full of the knitted sweaters from Denmark. It was a glorious sight. A mother came over and let me hold her little girl.



Burundi: 1200 people in the Church.  
The children are very quiet during the Service!

1200 black faces and 4 white ones were present at the service in Kibogoye. 30 children were sitting immediately in front of us on a rug measuring 20 square metres. We had their full attention, because “those white people really look funny.” I can still hear the children shouting

“abazungu” (white people) when they spotted us. There were exceptionally many children at church and they participated using their entire bodies. There were no disturbances as is the case in Danish churches, and they were praised by the minister when the service ended.

I was honoured to be allowed to deliver a sermon as a woman minister to this highly attentive audience. There is only one woman at the seminary, and she has not yet been called and ordained. Opinions are still divided on women ministers. But the women said “Please tell our men that Denmark has women ministers.”

500 people were at the service in Ngagara, including the four of us. I was allowed to deliver a sermon here as well. Listening to a woman reading a passage from the New Testament during the service made a deep impression on me. A year ago she had been asked to read aloud at the service, but she had declined explaining that she had left her glasses at home. In reality, she was embarrassed to admit that she did not



The young lady,  
who recently  
had learned  
to read



know how to read, but now she had joined the group of people who had learned to read. She was a charismatic woman blessed with the grace of being a “church mother” I can still picture her face.

When we set out on our journey, the big question was whether it still makes sense to co-operate. We are aware of certain difficulties. Like everywhere else there are administrators who “do not keep their accounts carefully.” It is perfectly understandable that in areas of great poverty, a fair distribution of the aid given is not a seamless process. Many years of dependency upon external development aid can hamper the transition from charity to “supplementary assistance”. Who has the greatest need? We are all poor! When we have 20 sewing machines, but 50 churches – who should be the beneficiaries? Support and partnership are essential.

The importance of partnership becomes particularly obvious when travelling around Burundi and meeting the church members. This is when we feel connected through Christ – an intense, warm and moving feeling.

After the visit and conversations there is no doubt in my mind that we should continue to partner up to do missionary work. But the prerequisite for a continued partnership, as I see it, is that we as a church and a women’s union have one or more country representatives through the Baptist church in Burundi – representatives who speak preferably Kirundi or French and English, are familiar with the local culture and have mental ballast.



Visiting the 11 women’s groups and churches together with the women was an intense, exciting, educational, warm and moving experience. How I burn with love for these wonderful women. By supporting the women, we support families.

I pray fervently that these women will achieve equal rights and receive an education to grant them social, cultural and spiritual influence in a society, which suffers in so many ways.

I hope that they and we, being the work of God, created in Jesus Christ, will travel in the good deeds which have been laid out by God for us to travel in.



## Life and Work of Polish Baptist Women for the Lord

*By Anna Wisniewska*

There are approximately 4500 baptized members in the Polish Baptist Union of which women are a meaningful and important part of the Body of Christ.

In the 76 churches all around Poland women carry responsibilities of mission and service .

Every four years a Committee of Women Church Council is elected to represent and organize some work and conferences in Poland. In many churches sisters of all ages are involved and we are thankful to God that national conferences and local meetings are attended by younger and younger sisters every year. This year when the conference in Krakow took place an eighteen year old sister attended.

Women are involved in church and social work in many ways. We meet for prayer meetings when we praise God, but also intercede for many needs of other people and nations. This year when meeting for the World Day of Prayer (WBWA) we prayed with all our hearts for all the needs mentioned in the prayer letter. In Katowice Baptist church where I come from, meditation and sharing on the fruit of the Spirit presented a wonderful possibility to make it not only a spiritual, but also a visual experience. Sisters shared about the fruit of the Spirit one by one, there was also a grapevine made of balloons and every balloon had the name of one fruit of the Spirit written on it. After the official part we prepared bookmarks with verses about fruit of the Spirit.

Sisters prepare agape meals for different occasions, one of which is a Christmas supper for the elderly church members. The majority of these seniors are not able to come to church on a regular basis. Sisters also organize meals for the homeless, hungry and unemployed. There is mission work among alcoholics, broken families, and abused spouses. Every summer women help with summer camps for children, youth or seniors.

God blesses us in our life and work. We realize how much our country needs Jesus. We pray and ask for prayers for our mission among the unbelievers and people who have not given their life to Jesus in spite of being called Christians in the nation where almost every born child is baptized. We need strength, endurance, and wisdom. Wisdom is also needed for organizing and getting finances for the basic work



and help which we may offer.

Thanks be to God that He is able to give us all we need, to give us faith, the most crucial thing, to carry on, keep joyful and not to give up until Jesus comes back.



## Conference of Slovak and Czech Baptist Women 2011

*By Ruth Mad'arová*

In spite of splitting of our nations, Slovak and Czech Baptist Women work together and have their common conferences each year. We are thankful to our Lord for His blessing on the last conference in April 2011. It took place in the Czech Republic this time.

The main topic of the conference was: ***„Are we the light of the world!?“***

*„You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.“ Matthew 5:14-16*

Although we live in the world, we are not to be of the world, we must not be like the world in our attitude or behaviour. As the children of God, we are to be a light to others – to our immediate family and also to those who dwell in darkness. We are to be Christians who live what we preach and teach. We should determine that we will be a light in this present world, wherever we are. We can ask God to help us glorify Him through our choices and actions. Let's be a shining example of victorious Christians!

At the conference the new committee for Slovakia and for the Czech Republic was introduced. Personally I am very thankful to the Lord for all the sisters of the retiring committee because they are lovely Christian women who work a lot for our Lord.

Now they are praying for us and encouraging us in our beginning as the new members of the committee.

I'd like to introduce to you the new committee.



### **The retiring committee:**

From the left side:

Ľudmila Englerová (leaving leader for SR), Jarmila Rečníková, Želmíra Praženicová - these three women were in the Slovak committee, then Věra Černíková (leaving leader for CR but she stays as a leader in the new committee for the Czech Rep.),

Marie Smilková and Julie Hejlová - these three women were in the Czech committee.

### **The new committee:**

From the left side:

Ruth Maďarová (President for Slovakia), Judita Kolaříková, Jarmila Balážová and Ľudmila Sýkorová - these four women are for the Slovakia committee, then Věra Černíková (President for the Czech Republic), Helena Včeláková, Jiřina Vimpelová and Marie Horáčková - these four women are for the Czech Republic.



Our desire is to step forward in the name of Jesus, in His power and wisdom. We don't want to rely on ourselves and our own strength. We lean on our God and we trust Him because He has promised to provide the help and wisdom we need for the task He has given us. We are keeping our eyes on the Lord in everything.

Our desire is to bring encouragement and be a blessing everywhere we go.



# GOOD MORNING !



**When I say good morning I mean to say:**

**G-od  
O-ffers us His  
O-utstanding  
D-evotion to**

**M-ake us  
O-bedient &  
R-eady for a  
N-ew day with Him.  
I-nspire others please, and  
N-ever forget  
G-od loves you!**

***HAVE A BLESSED DAY !***

# PRAYER REQUESTS



## Prayers

Lebanon: Pray for the LBWU - women in Lebanon. They are working on the Constitution and a vision for the future in order to improve their status.

Japan: Pray for the thousands of victims of JAPAN PACIFIC COAST EARTHQUAKE DISASTER, who are suffering deep grief and immeasurable pain and hardship. Pray for God's Peace, Comfort, and Hope. Pray for the Baptist Churches of Japan that they will know and follow the Lord's leadership, and that we will walk with Him in faithful service. (Makoto Kato, Executive Director Japan Baptist Convention)

Czech Rep and Slovakia: Pray for the new Slovak committee: *President:* Ruth Maďarová, *Members:* Jarmila Balážová, Judita Kolaříková, Ľudmila Sýkorov and the Czech committee: *President:* Věra Černíková, *Members:* Helena Včeláková, Marie Horáčková, Jiřina Vimpelová.

**Personal Prayer Requests:** Pray for our President Livija Lame, for health and strength and inspiration on all her journeys.

Pray for Gina Bullica. She finished her ministry as President of the Timosoara district of Romania because of health problems. She did a very good job, and hopes to continue to support the women's ministry and to be a spiritual leader behind the scenes.

In March the brother-in-law of our secretary, Aniko Ujvari, suddenly passed away. Please pray for the family because it is very difficult for them.

Lorraine Walker, former president of BWU South West Pacific had to have breast cancer surgery on April 8. As far as we know now, it went well. Please keep on praying for her.

Our President Livija Lame is getting married on August 6, 2011. Pray for a wonderful day and a happy and fulfilled marriage. We are very glad with her that she has met a supporting husband again. Want to send a card? Write to News & Views editorial address in the Netherlands. Digital cards: [livija.lame@lbds.lv](mailto:livija.lame@lbds.lv)

The Netherlands:

In the last 6 months the Baptist sisters of the Netherlands had to face the death of 4 beloved sisters from their Union. All four were very involved in the Baptist Women's Union work.



# PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the family of Rena Bosma – Boiten 1924-2010, Grieta Olijslager 1945 - 2011 , Truus Tuiten – Franken 1950-2011 and Janny Kuilman – Greidanus 1951-2011.

*“When I am standing on the threshold, my Lord, allow me to lay my hand in Your hand. Then my death will be birth!”*

Our treasurer Elisabeth Vekas had to move out of the pastor’s flat after the death of her husband Zoltan. The family had spent more than 20 blessed years there. Pray for Elisabeth and her children: that they may soon feel themselves at home in their new house.

**General prayer requests:** Pray for the Middle East countries at this time of unrest and uncertainty. Pray especially for our Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering that they would be strong in the face of opposition and know constantly God’s presence with them.

Pray for the children’s camps being held in Europe throughout the summer that the children’s hearts will be open to hear and receive the Word of God and His love as well as enjoy all the various activities they will be engaged in.

## Give Thanks

For the people of Wales, who took care, so very well, of the EBWU committee members during their Annual Meeting in Wales.

For the surgery of our host Evan Morgan who had severe heart problems.

For the wonderful general meeting in May 2011 of the Lebanese Baptist Women’s Union.

For the Baptist Congress of Latvia on May 20 and 21 in Riga. Our president Livija Lame was asked to do a short talk about Europe.

Give thanks for the health of the EBWU committee members. Several of them have faced serious health problems over the past months. We are so grateful that everything went very well for each of them.

Give thanks that our President, Livija Lame experiences, on her journeys, so much hospitality, love, co-operation and support.

Give thanks for the good results of the exams of our Secretary, Aniko Ujvari. She worked very hard!!



# EVENTS

**Events:** *please pray for the following events:*

The Netherlands: July 31- Aug 6, 2011. Mother and child camp in the Netherlands.

Jordan: August 8-10, 2011 Annual Network Conference organized by the Arab Woman Today team in Amman.

Scotland: September 2-4, 2011 Scottish Baptist Women's Conference; October 22, 2011 SBWF Annual Business Meeting and President's Day. Pray for Andrea Voysey who will be installed as the new President.

Estonia: October 6-9, 2011. "Spiritual Balance" EBWU Conference for Northern Europe (but, open for anyone) see website [www.ebwu.org](http://www.ebwu.org) or ask the contact person in your country.

Lithuania: October 29-30, 2011. HOPE festival organized by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. In Lithuania many are just religious and attend church twice a year. Pray that the Holy Spirit is touching people and preparing their hearts for God's Word.



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## *Baptist Women's World Day Of Prayer*

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In Step  
with the  
Spirit



### *Through the Fruit of the Spirit KINDNESS*

We continue this year *In Step with the Spirit* based on Galatians 5:25; "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." The focus this year is on the fruit of the Spirit, **Kindness**. On November 7, 2011 Baptist women from around the world will come together to study God's word, pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ.

The Caribbean Baptist Women's Union (CBWU) has prepared this year's program.



# THE LATEST NEWS

## 55th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)



The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

The 55<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW took place in New York from February 22 to March 4, 2011. During these two weeks, government officials, representatives of the United Nations and civil society, the media and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) met at United Nations Headquarters to share experiences and good practices, as well as agree on priority actions to deal with continuous obstacles in order to accelerate progress towards equality. <http://www.endvawnow.org/>

The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is an NGO, and a team of six represented the BWA at the CSW. The team members were Raquel Contreras, president of the BWA Women's Department (WD); Patsy Davis, Executive Director of the BWA WD; Linda Weber, president of the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU); Barbara Anderson, president of the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM); Virginia Holmstrom, Executive Director ABWM; and Jasmine Turner, AB Girls Convener.



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

# European Baptist Women's Union

Executive Committee Members  
and positions



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# EBWU Committee in Wales



Wales  
March 2011





Wales 2011



EBWU Committee in Wales with Yona Pusey

