

News & Views

December 2007



European Baptist Women's Union

Purge me with hyssop,
and I shall be clean: wash me,
and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me to hear joy and gladness;
that the bones
which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Hide thy face from my sins,
and blot out all mine iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51,7-10



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EDITORIAL



As we are getting closer to the end of the year I realized that I regularly reckon with the events and happenings of the passing year. I had some very hard days, some of them were really painful, than I had some nice, lovely days, but as I count them, most of them were simple, ordinary days. But honestly, throughout the whole year I felt the caring love of our Heavenly Father.

This year the greatest teaching for me was not to ask Him "why", but to tell Him "I need you! Without you I can't do anything. I am weak, I am a sinner and tired, even sometimes very close to be depressed. So in good days and bad I can't do anything without you, my Lord."

Do you know this feeling, my lovely Sisters in Europe? I think, you do. As I had this special privilege to visit some countries and talk to some sisters, I saw the human life is very similar. It doesn't depend on where you live, how old you are, rich or poor. Each of us have families with lots of challenges. Maybe we have health problems sometimes. Another time we are cheated, we are humiliated. We are mourning or have fear. What can we do?

I heard a nice prayer from Henry Viscardi about how God answers our prayers. There was written something like this: when I asked strength – he gave me difficulties to train me; when I asked wisdom – he gave me problems to solve them; when I asked progress, sharp brain, he gave me physical strength to work hard. When I asked courage, he gave me danger to overcome. I wanted to get love, he gave me people in difficulties to help them. Instead of his kind goodwill I had got opportunities to do good. I may tell I hadn't got anything of that what I had prayed for, but I had got everything what I needed. So, He answered my prayer.

Well, do we need more than such kind of love? Watch carefully your life and observe how God acts in that and thought that. God bless you in the coming new year!

Aniko Ujvari

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

Dear Sisters,

"The Lord has helped us all the way..." said Samuel (1Sam 7,12). We can say the same when we look and think about women's ministry in our own countries during last period of time. It was my great privilege and honor to take small part in your great ministry.



In May the EBWU committee organized and covered all the costs of the conference for women from Uzbekistan (Central Asia) in Taskhent. Together with Olga Mocan we led the workshop and presented lectures connected with the theme: "If we are not living for the time like this?" At this meeting 155 women took part, mainly from Russian 40 Baptist churches (officially accepted by government). There were also Christian women from Muslim background and quite big group of deaf women (about 30). They could understand lectures by interpreters using the sign language. Uzbek sisters try to help children and people in need. Uzbekistan is a very poor, Muslim country. God works through his children among Muslims and many of them accepted Jesus Christ but they are secret believers because of persecutions. We visited one Christian women's group with the Muslim background and we could listen amazing stories about their way to Christ.

Also in May God allowed me to go to the Netherlands and to take part in the Jubilee conference of the Dutch sisters – 75th anniversary. Over 350 women participated in this gathering. The theme of this meeting was *"A time for everything"*. Very good program, power point presentation of the history of women's ministry

also mission's work abroad and personal testimony of the missionary to Cameroon allowed to see how God worked through women's generations and still works. Full of energy and enthusiasm sisters are big encouragement. As you know the team of the Dutch sisters are involved in the preparations of the EBWU conference in the Netherlands next year May 15–18. Please keep in prayer this group of women.

On June 25th to July 1st 2007 the BWA Women's Department Executive Board had a meeting in Accra, Ghana. At this meeting WD president – Dorothy Selebano, secretary/treasurer – Donna Grover, director – Patsy Davis and continental presidents took part. Chiyo Murakami – Asia and Judith Chambers – North America because of serious reasons did not participate in this meeting. Judith Ch. is very ill so please pray for her. Generally it was nice possibility to see how God works through women in other continents.

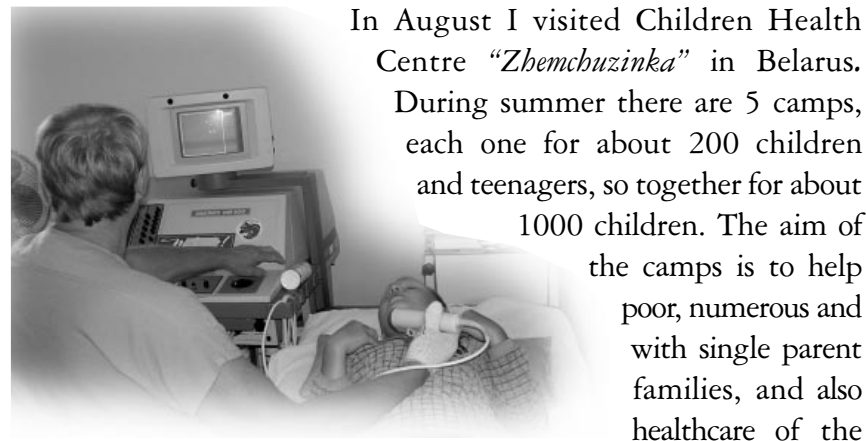


We had also a meeting with Ghanaian sisters. It was a very moving experience for all of us. The worship was very special for us. African women really dance to worship God. They are full of enthusiasm, joy and gratefulness to God when they sing the songs and do the offering. Their reaction to God's Word is very



vivid. They pray aloud and passionately. We could also listen about their ministry for neglected children, girls, young widows and women who have been sold to sexual slavery.

Directly after the WD meeting on July 1–7 we took part in the Annual Gathering. At this meeting about 500 people participated, majority of them were from Africa of course and from America. Europe has been represented by about 60 brothers and sisters from about 30 countries. The theme of the gathering was: “Freedom in Christ”. It was an interesting form of the reports from different continents. There were “journalists”, interviews and power point presentations. Generally it was a very interesting meeting. During this meeting the official farewell for General Secretary – Denton Lotz his wife Janice took place. The members of the gathering prayed also for new General Secretary – Callam Neville and his wife Dulcie. Callam Neville, a Jamaican is the first person outside of North America or Europe to be elected to this position.



In August I visited Children Health Centre “Zhemchuzinka” in Belarus. During summer there are 5 camps, each one for about 200 children and teenagers, so together for about 1000 children. The aim of the camps is to help poor, numerous and with single parent families, and also healthcare of the children living on the contaminated areas of Chernobyl nuclear disaster. There are three main purposes in this work with children: spiritual and moral education; medical examination and treatment and healthcare program. During my stay in the Centre I could observe great and fruitful work of many volunteers and workers. I could also see happy and smiling faces of children almost all the time. Next year they will continue the same work. The name of the project is:

“By the Road of Faith”

In the beginning of September the mini-conference for women leaders from former Soviet Unions (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) took place in answer to the dream and prayer of many women from this part of Europe,





also of the EBWU committee and other sisters. Two European Unions supported individually and partially this important and blessed event. The conference was holding in Chisinau (Moldova). It was nice opportunity to have fellowship together, to talk, to pray, to participate at the seminars, to share some experiences concerning women's work and to listen to testimonies about God's work in personal women's life and in the ministry. It was big encouragement and inspiration to all of the participants of the conference.



Part of the EBWU committee took part at the EBF General Council in Budapest in September. During this meeting the president of the EBF Helari Puu has finished his work and new one – Toma Magda from Croatia has been elected for next two years. At this gathering we farewelled Janice & Denton Lotz, the former General Secretary of the BWA in the time of 19 years. On behalf of the EBWU we gave them a nice gift. Part of the committee had two meetings during the short break at the Council. We could work together especially with some issues concerning the EBWU conference next year, May 15–18 in the Netherlands.



In October I had privilege to participate at two women's gatherings: Conference in Poland and Jubilee Congress in Latvia. The Conference in Poland with the theme: "Let's Stimulate One Another to Love" was holding in a very nice southern area of the country. There were also workshops concerning difficult issues like: How to cope with the cancer or depression apart from the main subject of the meeting. One of the guests of the conference was the previous president of the Women's Work in Germany – Anita Jancen. Anita introduced the lecture concerning reconciliation and she presented us pictures of the 80th Anniversary of the Baptist women's work in Germany. The biggest joy of the conference was the decision one of the participants to follow Christ.

It was also great and blessed time together with the Latvian sisters. About 200 women we took part at this Congress. Reports, sharing, testimonies concerning God's work in the women's ministry showed clearly to the participants that God is full of power and



He is the source of strength. The Bible study and the lectures were connected to the subject of the congress “The Lord Gives me Strength” (Hab 3,19). God empowered many Latvian women, with its leader Livija Lame in the ministry during last fifteen years.

I am very grateful to God for everything what He did and still is going to do through women who belong to Him. Great work was done but there are still numerous needs. There are a lot of women and children who suffer, who have not hope... God wants to use each of us!

He wants to be our hands full of power and might, which will change the life of other people.

He wants to be our eyes to see like Him, women, children, others in need.

He wants to be our ears listening to cry of suffering.

He wants to be our feet to go where people are waiting for him.

He wants to love by our heart!

Therefore my Dear Sisters *“stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless.”* (1Cor15,58)

In His grace humbly submitted,
Ewa Gutkowska

News from Moldova

Dear sisters in Christ,

We'd like to tell all sisters in Europe how much the Lord blessed us, Moldovian sisters, in this year.

A few years ago the leadership of the European Women Committee (EBWU) decided to conduct mini-conferences in various parts of Europe. Such mini-conferences were conducted in Cyprus in 2005, in Prague in 2006. And in September of this year we had this high honor – all sisters of the European Committee arrived to Moldova, to Chisinau, to conduct a mini-conference, where two sisters from all CIS countries were invited (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Moldova).

Even the nature seemed to rejoiced because of this event. The weather was warm, the bright Moldovian sun awaited the guests. The theme of the conference was “Trust in the Lord, and do good”. In the morning on the 13th of September everyone gathered in the spacious hall and the President of EBWU Ewa Gutkowska, opened the Conference greating the sisters.



Our honored guest was the Bishop of the Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Moldova, Valeriu Ghiletschi. He wished all the participants to do everything for God's glory in this event. It was touching to listen to testimonies of the speakers – sisters from the above mentioned countries.

They one by one were talking about their ministry among the women, about their joys and hardships of their work in their countries. Especially moving stories we have heard from the sisters from Muslim countries.



On Friday, September 14, at 2p.m. we joined to the large Moldovian Conference, which had started that morning. Beginning with 1991 – in our country, Moldova, there are annual conferences with different themes. Our Union counts about 400 churches. We invite sisters from every church to attend these annual conferences. There were more than 400 sisters at this time. All of them with great interest were watching slides and listening to the information about the ministry of sisters all over Europe. Janny Kingma, the Secretary of the EBWU presented it.

Greatly involved, sisters participated in Bible study lessons which Livija Lame, Vice President, and Ewa Gutkowska, President, conducted in harmony with the conference theme. Livija showed on the basis of the Word of God, what a Great, All-Mighty, Omnipresent God we have, calling all of us to trust in him! Ewa taught us to do the good. This topic was especially essential. In our country the summer was very dry, many villagers have no crop in their gardens. We think, that is why the Lord takes a special care of us and sent us sisters, who were encouraging us and taught us deeply trust in him! He will never forsake us.

On Saturday, in the morning the testimony of sister Elisabeth Vekas, Treasurer, about her life appeared to be a great blessing for all the sisters. After that we prayed in groups, then – we prayed all together for the needs, which sisters-participants of the conference had written and collected in baskets.

It was very interesting for all the sisters to listen to Margun Warem about her missionary trip to Africa. It was a special meeting, and the Lord blessed that joint communication of sisters from Europe and Asia.

We say thanks all the sisters in Europe, due to whose help the Lord made this meeting possible. Thank you, dear sisters! May the Lord reward you all!

Olga Mocan

Don't forget we have website:
www.ebwu.org
 Visit it please and share with us
 your experiences!

Be quick to do good



“Trust in the Lord and do good” Psalm 36,3. This Bible verse was the topic of the miniconference organised by the EBWU for women from the countries of the former Soviet Union in Chisinau. Moldavian women waited us with open heart. We arrived from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Chisinau was filled all of the beauty and taste of the autumn sharing its caress sunshine. The yards around the homes were full with heavy, smelling brunches of grapes and the apple trees bent under their rich fruits.

Our goal was to come closer in prayer, in God's love, to think and talk about what does it mean to do good nowadays, look up to Christ and stand firmly in his promises. The president of the Moldavian Baptist Union, Valeriu Ghiletschi opened this meeting. He drew our attention for a special woman from the Scripture: *“And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman,*

thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.” Luk 13,11–13 Jesus set us free, we are called to glorify his name. The seeds of his teaching were placed in every heart.

We continued our meeting acquainting the members of EBWU Committee. Then Ewa Gutkowska gave us a teaching in topic “Do good”. She had some questions: What is the goal of doing good? Why does God wait for us to do good? What kind of good fruits may we bring to the Lord? For these questions we can find the answer in the Bible.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Eph 2,10

So here is the answer: we are created in his own image to do good. To do good is God's law. The fruits of doing good are our relationships with surrounding people, our acts and thoughts. But the most important fruits are the results of Holy Spirit in our heart.

Livija Lame from Latvia mentioned in her Bible study many Bible verses which are the principals to build up our life in Christ. She called us to put our faith deeply in the Lord. To trust means we put ourselves to his hand. She shared with us her own experience how God led her through the time of her husband's passing away. As we trust in the Lord we may have got his love towards other people. Livija emphasized: don't judge one another, but ask yourselves: What can I do for others? As we trust in the Lord in difficulties we'll get peace what we have to appreciate very much.

Aniko Ujvari from Hungary led a workshop. Are women today similar to their fellow sister whom the Proverbs 31 writes? To work on the texts easily we were divided into groups, sisters thought about their text, analysed it and adopted for their own life.

Then the sisters from the above mentioned countries shared their testimonies and experiences on women's work. And from



*Jelena Boreckaja, Diana Kondratejeva
and Ljudmila Pavluchenko from Russia*

these testimonies came out the love of the sisters to our Lord, and their wishes to trust in Him and do good. We prayed in our own language and the Heavenly Father heard and understood our prayers.

Our special guest was Nadezda Komendant from Ukrain, in her testimony she said to do good means not to do bad. She told it is the elderly sisters' task to teach the younger ones. (Tit 2,3–5)

We felt through this meeting peace from God, his blessings upon us and the unity of the Spirit. Special thanks to Olga Mogan and the Moldavian sisters for their many kind of services. May God bless each sister who worked for this conference.

Diana Kondratejeva
Russia

TRUST IN THE LORD

Trust in Lord and do good (Ps 37,3)

What does it mean to trust? Trust, hope, and take risk- synonyms. We believe in many different things but we don't trust in everything. We don't put our hope in everything. When we get in the bus we do believe that the driver will take us to the right place. Actually we trust him our life. We have already an experiences, so its easy to trust in that. We really depend on this driver. To trust sometimes is a risk. You lose control that you had over yourself.

What is He like, The One that we can trust, The Lord, how is God?

- Gen 21,33 *The Everlasting God*
- Ps 139,7–8 *He is everywhere*
- Gen 17,1 *Almighty God*
- Mal 3,6 *He does not change*
- Iob 12,13 *Smart, clever*
- Mr 10,18 *God is good*
- 1Thess 5,24 *He is faithful*
- John 17,3 *The Only true God*
- Ps 103,8 *Lord is merciful*
- 1John 4,16 *God is Love*
- 1John 1,5 *God is Light*
- Lev 11,44 *God is holy*

Why is it important to trust in God?

- Bible encourage us (Jer 17,7–8)
- Its unbelief, not to trust is sin
- God cant use us for ministry
- I can't do anything by myself,
only if we trust, impossible turns into possible.

What are we to commit to God?

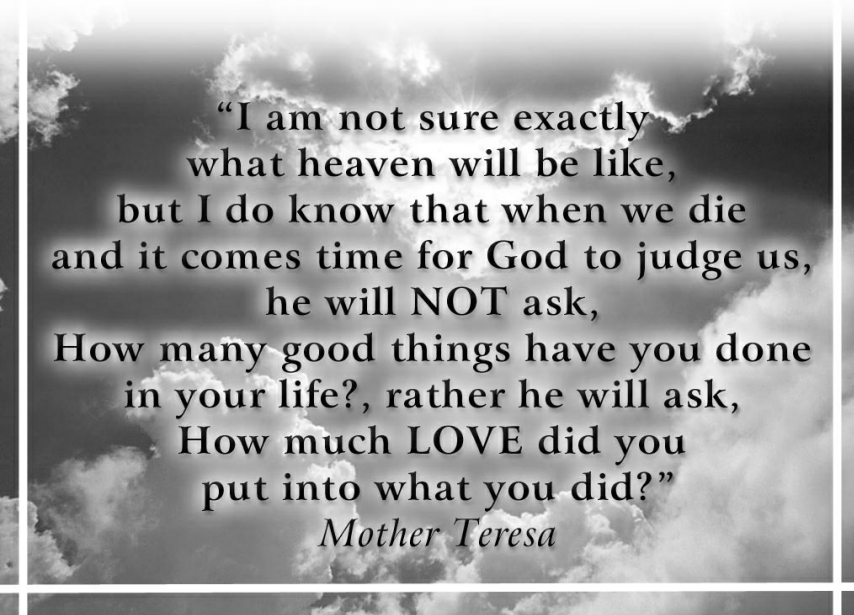
- Ourselves Psalm 22,8
- Our burdens Psalm 55,22
- Our souls 1Peter 4,19
- Our ways Psalm 37,5
- Our cause 1Peter 2,23
- Our works Proverb 16,3

What happens if we trust?

- Our burdens become lighter
- God can use us more
- We receive peace in our heart,
if we don't trust we start worry 1Sam 30,6

Lack of trust keeps us from receiving God blessings for us. Sometimes it is difficult to trust when facing new situations. It is difficult to continue trusting when nothing seems to happen.

Livija Lame
vice-president of EBWU



**"I am not sure exactly
what heaven will be like,
but I do know that when we die
and it comes time for God to judge us,
he will NOT ask,
How many good things have you done
in your life?, rather he will ask,
How much LOVE did you
put into what you did?"**
Mother Teresa

DO GOODS

*Why God expects good deeds from us,
His children?*

God himself is good and He has done and still does only good works. In book of Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25 after every step of creation *"...God saw that it was good."*

In verse 27 we read *"God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* How often do you think about yourself as the woman created by God in His image? This is amazing how we have been created.

Dear sisters it means that you carry His image. Your heart has been created and equipped in the biggest dignity as the image of God's heart. And I think that therefore after all the creation God said: *"it was very good"*. (v.31). We can add it was not only good but also beautiful and perfect.

What is the purpose of good deeds?

a. Bringing glory to God.

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:8)

b. God likes it and He is happy when people do good.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Hebrews 13:16.)

c. This is good and useful for everyone.

In Titus 3:8 Apostol Paul said: *"...And I want you to stress the things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing good deeds."* These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."

- d. Good deeds may provide for daily needs and protect us against useless lives, what means they help us to build our sense of value. *"Our people must learn to devote themselves to **doing what is good**, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive (unfruitful) lives."* (Titus 3,14).

What kind of good deeds (fruit) we can do or bring?

INNER FRUIT. We bear inner fruit when we allow God to create in us Christlike quality. In Galatians 5,22 Apostol Paul says: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* In this relation spiritual discipline is very important what means *reading & study of the Bible* that to listen what God wants to tell us and to do through us. The next one is the *prayer* when we can talk to God.

OUTWARD FRUIT. We bear outward fruit when we allow God to work through us to bring Him glory. So the motivation why we do different good works is very important Jesus says: *"...I chose you and appointed you to go and bear **fruit** – fruit that will last..."* (John 15,16).

Short testimonies from my life

Even if you have in your hand only small widow's coin or just a needle and thread. Even if you have just a small room or little food. Even if you know only how to clean and how to wash dishes or to bake cake... Whatever you have in your hands and whatever is your gift or talent from God use it to do good deeds that bring glory to the Lord.

This year in July, I was to Ghana (Africa). It was the Annual Gathering of the BWA and WD of the BWA meeting. I talked with

one Nigerian sister about poverty in her country. She said that many people are really hungry and even die because of famine, but she added the Christians help one another, for example when they cook rice they usually add one handful more just for those who are hungry.

Let me share with you our special situation in my personal life. It happened years ago. My husband was elected the General Secretary Polish Baptist Union. So we had to move to Warsaw as a family with three children. This decision was not easy especially for me. It was not easy to leave work at the University, to leave our nice flat and to start life in a new place. First it was necessary to renovate our new small apartment. One day I went to Warsaw and we were putting new wall paper together with our children. It was necessary to take out the old one. When in the evening I tried to arrange the sleeping on the floor for the children in this renovated place, in my mind I had thoughts and questions addressed to God. I did not want to move to this new place and I closed myself in the bathroom and started to cry. Suddenly somebody knocked at the door. I washed quickly my face with cold water and opened the door. One sister from this Baptist Union building brought fresh, nicely smelling cookies. It was small thing made by this sister but for me it was great, because it was God's confirmation of our decision. I heard His calm voice: "Do not worry, I will take care for you. Your husband's and your ministry are very important. And from this very moment I freed myself from fear and feelings of uncertainty about the future.

Apostol Paul in Galatians 6,9–10 says: *"So let us not become tired of **doing good**; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. So then, as often as we have the chance, we should **do good** to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith."*

Ewa Gutkowska
president of EBWU



Happy 80th Birthday German "Frauenwerk"!

What a year this has been for the German Baptist Women's Department! Praise and honour to God, our Father, our Creator and provider, for the many blessings He has bestowed upon the German "Frauenwerk" over the last 80 years. We give God all the glory and praise Him with grateful hearts!

It has been a year of celebrations. About 5000 birthday candies and 240 printed anniversary- mugs were shared at the various gatherings.

Our nostalgic anniversary cards were received well and created many happy smiles. Some women's groups dug out their fancy old china and yester- year's attire and organised birthday parties with nostalgic flair and wonderful, mouth watering cakes. Women just know how to celebrate, don't they?



Our sincere thanks to all who sent their congratulations, especially the BWA- Women's Department and the EBWU. Thank you also for all your prayers! We love and appreciate you!

It has been a year of sharing precious memories, of remembering with grateful hearts how obstacles were overcome, how God proved faithful and true through hardships and sad times. These were experienced especially after the war and when the wall went up to separate sisters in East and West. But God's love is not hindered by walls and separation.

Touching testimonies from our senior sisters spoke of the encouragement and strength that was received through the love of God which bound their hearts together across borders.

The love of Christ spurred women on in East and West to help sisters in need, to train women for women's ministry, to reach out and beyond, to spread hope and encouragement.

The theme at many women's gatherings focused on "Gratefully looking back – expectantly thinking ahead"

Thanks to the generous giving by faithful supporters of the Women's Department, we were able to launch a special campaign, "Women helping women", whereby we give financial support to special social projects like hospice work, an MS- self-help group, missionary outreach among women etc.

A lot has changed over the years – people, circumstances and requirements, but one thing remains: It is still the love of Christ which moves us on (acc. to 2.Cor 5:14). It is still the love of Jesus that keeps our hearts on fire for Him as we move into a future with many open questions. Nevertheless, we look ahead with confidence that God will show us the way and lead us step by step. We are determined to face the challenges the future holds, because we know who holds the future!

So we trust in the Lord and do good!

Greetings from Germany, on behalf of the "Frauenwerk".

Annegret Druke

Meet Baptist Women at 69° North in Norway

By Liv Rise and Gjertrud Knutsen



During the years the two of us have done much travelling in Norway as well as abroad. We have taken part in many Baptist Women's conferences both in Europe and in the U.S.A.

Meeting Baptist Women from many countries has enriched our lives, renewed our spirit and given us friends for life!

At the same time we feel the challenge to share our singing and our testimony here in Norway. We cannot say "No" when asked to take part in meetings and arrangements – as long as we have the health and strength.

We want to tell you a little about the most Northern Baptist Women in the world! At about 69° North there is a fishing center right at the sea, called Bo in Vesteraleen. There is a small Baptist Church, now 90 years old. A women's group had started even before the church, and is still meeting regularly. Several years now this group has paid our journey from Bergen to stay in Bo for several weeks, giving Bible studies, singing and preaching at meetings, and also visiting all the senior groups, "Day centers" and old people's homes in the community.

The journey from Bergen by plane, bus and private car takes nearly a day, including waiting hours in between. While installed in Bo we are taken by car to the different arrangements. The distances are long, but the women never complain about the many miles they have to drive. And they never complain about the preparing of food for many different occasions. The three weeks' stay in Bo meant about 15 different possibilities of contact with the people, and we really felt "on wave" with them.

Also we had the opportunity of taking part in the Baptist Women's Conference for the whole Northern part of Norway. About 40 women from many places up North were gathered for four days in a special Baptist Conference Center called "Rivermont". The Baptist pastor Anne Marie Soderquist had Bible studies on the theme *Woman, what have you got in your house?*

1. King 17. And we talked and prayed together. Many of the women come from very small communities, and this yearly conference gives new inspiration and makes them feel a fellowship that gives strength.

Back in Bergen we carry these women up North with us in our thoughts and prayers. And we want to remind you that in our European fellowship they too are an important group even if they seem to be far away, and even if they are not so impressive, neither in number nor in influence. They are brave women standing up for the gospel!

So take them with you in your thoughts, and pray that they may get inspiration and wisdom in bringing the word of God to their fellow beings.

Liv and Gjertrud



THE SOVEREIGN LORD IS MY STRENGTH

This was the motto for LBWU congress October 26–27. There took part 200 delegates and guests from our churches. During this congress we mentioned our union's 15th birthday.

These years our work has developed in different ways:

- christian education, organizing seminars and courses;
- social work, co-operating with health and crisis centres;
- promotion of communication, fellowship and experience exchange organizing regional seminars and conferences;
- co-operation with other Women Union's of Europe.

This year as a guest we had EBWU president Ewa Gutkovska from Poland. During her presentation “Window to Europe” she gave a view of Christian women serving in European countries and read a lecture “Beyond human limits” as well. Ewa's wish to all Christian woman in Latvia is to live with open eyes and mind. Remember that the most important serving is practical help and then message about Jesus by word of mouth. As often as not in area of social help society does more than Christians.

We have to change this situation. World is thirsty for practical love and we know the source – Jesus Christ.

Anda Kostanda – LBWU secretary

*“I am a little pencil in the hand
of a writing God who is sending
a love letter to the world.”*

Mother Teresa

“But only one thing is needed” (Lk 10,42)

This was the motto of the 5th Electoral Conference of the Hungarian Baptist Women Union of Romania. It was held on October 13, 2007, in Cluj – a big city in the centre of the country. About 100 sisters came together from 54 Hungarian-speaking churches to elect the new leader team for the next four year.

After the prayer-time, we listened to reports about women's ministry and testimonies of how God is working in different churches among the women and through women.



The results of the elections are: President: Ibolya Balint, Vice-president: Evodia Budai, Secretary: Erzsebet Vekas, Treasurer: Barbara Szilagyi, Members: Judit Kiss, Marta Borzasi, Adina Mike.

At the end of meeting Rev. Istvan Gergely, the president of the of our Baptist Convention told us about the most important thing, what Mary has chosen. We can be as upset over all the work we have to do, as Martha was, but we need to know: “only one thing is needed” – and we decided to choose the right thing, that will not be taken from us.

Barbara Szilagyi



Quotations

MOTHER TERESA

"I think today the world is upside down, and is suffering so much because there is so very little love in the home, and in family life. We have no time for our children, we have no time for each other, there is no time to enjoy each other."

"The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved."

"THERE IS MORE HUNGER IN THE WORLD FOR LOVE AND APPRECIATION THAN FOR BREAD."

"Love begins at home; love lives in homes, and that is why there is so much suffering and so much unhappiness in the world today...Everybody today seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater developments and greater riches and so on, so that children have very little time for their parents. Parents have very little time for each other, and in the home begins the disruption of the peace of the world."

"The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted."



Day of Prayer

DOP – very special requests

"During this time of DOP may we focus on the unchanging, compassionate blameless character of God that can change the pain and suffering of the world." Patsy Davis

I want to share with you, my dear European sisters, for what our Heavenly Father opened my eyes, from the prayer requests in this year. Year after year I know it better and better what prayer means for each other. When I went through difficulties, needs, and I knew that people prayed for me – it gave me strenght to carry my burdens. I know, I am not alone in this experience. Each of you, who came together to pray, did it from conviction. In this year there also were some painful, sad, difficult topics. At this time I want to repeat some prayer subjects from two different continents, because as I see, these are quite current in Europe, too. Let us continue to pray for these continents and take these topics to refer to our needs.

1. "Children of North America are often abused and neglected. Pray that God will protect the children and that wholesome homes will be established where parents can nurture their children."
2. "The shifting demographic patterns of North America mean upheaval for families as they seek to establish a home and security for their families. Pray for these families."
3. "Pray about the increasing secularization of both Australia and New Zealand – political correctness, harassment laws, vilification laws and the right to free speech have in some cases been pushed to the extreme and used to try and squash the Christian ethos and spirit."

I add a prayer request from our sisters in Lebanon

With sadness in my heart I regret to inform you that we will not be able to hold our meeting in November. We have already cancelled two meetings: last May and one in September that we have planned to have for the Pastor's wives. The reason is the political situation. The month of November is the month for our President's election and that is going to be done in a very bad political atmosphere as you might be hearing on the news. Lebanon is now situated on the top of a volcano and it remains to be seen what will the outcome be and the economy is going from bad to worse. We are praying hard that God intervene and no civil war break out. Could you please pray for us too.

(Notes from the editor)

BWA Women's Day of Prayer among the Hungarian-speaking sisters of Romania

Our women union was re-established in 1991 – after 50 years of communist regime, during which the churches were hindered in their activities. Beginning with 1992 we joined the BWA Prayer Day. Every year we count as a special privilege, to pray to our Lord, together with the sisters of the whole world. We are thankful, that we can meet in freedom and peace, and remember that it was not always so in our country.

Martha Borzasi: We joined also this year, the praying sisters of the world in the city of Targu Mures and 5 neighbouring towns and villages. In these smaller localities the sisters meet monthly to pray together, study the Bible and they also call others from the town or village. The preaching of the Gospel started not long

ago, in these localities. Our Lord is glorified as people turn with full heart to Him and leave their previous way of life.

Judit Kiss: In Sepsiszentgyorgy, one of the most eastward Hungarian-speaking city of Romania, and other two village churches, we were praying together with the sisters. We prayed for the suffering, the poor, the ill. We gave presents to each other. In all the three localities there was also an agape meal, where we continued to discuss, we were getting to know better each other, and those who came first time to church.

Erzsebet Vekas: In the north of the country we prayed together in the city of Satu Mare, and in 4 surrounding villages. In one of the largest Roma (gypsy) church of the country one sister was encouraging us to giving: "we are now helping people that are much poorer and more dark-skinned than we are". Our Roma sisters prayed with enthusiasm, for the African sisters that live in poorer conditions than they live.

Ibolya Balint: In our church, in the large city of Cluj, this day is a also holiday. Much more people come to pray than usually. We listen to statistics from different continents and project pictures. But the main emphasis is on prayer. Because we like if others are compassionate toward us, that is why we bring our petitions before the Lord feeling together with others, many times crying. Compassionate love can heal the hearts or gives power to fight among difficulties, since our greatest needs are to be loved and accepted.

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty." — Mother Teresa



JESUS OUR SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

The theme of the European Baptist Women's Conference,
which will be held in Dalfsen, the Netherlands,
May 15–18, 2008.

- *It will be an opportunity to meet sisters from all over Europe and the Middle East.*
- *Through Bible Study and worshipping together, we will strengthen our faith.*
- *Workshops will encourage us and teach us to improve our women's ministry.*
- *Through sharing we will hear amazing stories of what God is doing in our part of the world and we might be inspired through these stories.*
- *Also the leaders from the Women's Department will be present so we can feel part of the bigger Baptist family and experience the ties that bind us together as His daughters all over the world.*

If you would like to have more information, look at our website www.ebwu.org or contact the secretary, secrebwu@planet.nl



PRESIDENT:



Ewa Gutkowska
ul. Berlinga 40/164
15-814 Bialystok, Poland
Phone: +48 85 662 08 84
Mobile: +48 607 075 755
Fax: +48 85 654 52 59
E-mail: ewagut2@wp.pl

VICE PRESIDENT:



Livija Lame
K.Valdemara str.151-137
Riga 1013, Latvia
Phone: +371 7227 195 (office)
Mobile: +371 6352 8239
Fax: +371 722 3379 (Baptist Union)
E-mail: marta@lbds.lv

SECRETARY:



Janny Kingma
Vanghout 13
9422 MG Smilde, Netherlands
Phone: +31 59 24 15 25 1
Fax: +31 59 24 15 840
E-mail: secrebwu@planet.nl

TREASURER:



Elisabeth Vekas
Pta Eroilor Revolutiei 9
440055 Satu Mare, Romania
Phone/Fax: +40 261 71 0140
E-mail: elisabeth.vekas@datec.ro

MEMBERS:



Olga Mocan
Moldovita 2A
Chisinau 2059, Moldova
Phone: +3732 246 6928
Fax: +3732 254 2241
E-mail: mariamagazine@hotmail.com
olga_mocan@yahoo.com



Margun Warem
Barliveien 11
4330 Algard, Norway
Phone: +47 51 617 299
Mobile: +47 95 828 327
E-mail: awarem@online.no



Aniko Ujvari
József u. 12. 3/1
1084 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 333 8468
E-mail: uszaniko@gmail.com

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