

NEWS & VIEWS

2018–2021



EUROPEAN BAPTIST
WOMEN
UNITED

To Jesus,
Our only Lord and Savior
For His glory we became a team in 2018
For His glory we serve women around in Europe in 2019
For His glory we keep serving in the time of pandemic, 2020-2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Sisters,

In 2018, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of EBWU. Many things happened during that time and many things happened during the last three years too. Unfortunately, because of the sanitary situation and social restrictions we had to adapt. We stopped traveling and canceled our women's conference in 2020. We learnt (and we are still learning) how to use the new technologies, made videos.

It was not easy, but we could keep in touch at least. We could share our information differently, we saved money.....but we are so looking forward to meeting in person again!

I love our EBWU region (covering Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia). From the time I was a child, I have always been interested in our diversity of languages, alphabets, cultures, foods, histories, geographies (landscapes, flowers, animals...) etc. This part of the globe is called the « old world », the « old continent ». It is so rich in diversity. As an EBWU president, I have had the opportunity to visit several countries. Thanks to Jesus-Christ who is bidding us together, everywhere I go, it is different than at home and everywhere I go I feel at home with you. As Christians we are taught to respect life in every human being, to consider every person, whether he/she is a Christian or not, as God's treasure. And it is our duty to raise our voice when we witness any situation of discrimination. Unfortunately this world hasn't become better after the pandemic than it was before. So it is still urgent to wake up and to open our eyes and look around us. There are even more people in need (the pandemic has led to a huge economic and social crisis). The number of refugees is increasing. It is not the time to make a list of our differences; it is the time to behave as « good Samaritans », to have mercy and to take care of one another. « *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me* » (Mt 2:40).

A few months ago, the 22nd BWA congress took place online and Elijah Brown, general secretary of the BWA, reminded us of this motto : «Every Baptist, a missionary ». With the BWA Women's conference, we celebrated the abundant Life. So many people are looking for the goal of their lives. As Baptist women, let us shine and spread the Gospel of God. Let us be the hands and the feet of Jesus!

I'm delighted to present you a new issue of News & Views. As I know, some of you are missing this magazine so much. This one looks more like a newsletter. It seemed to us that it was important to record what happened in order to share it with you first but also to keep the memory of EBWU for the future generation. This newsletter is also yours. So if you have events or prayer requests or any information to share please let us know.

You are in my prayers and in my heart.

In Christ,

Fabienne Seguin,

EBWU president (2018-2023)

20-23 SEPTEMBER 2018: EBWU FIVE YEAR CONFERENCE, LVIV, UKRAINE

In 2018, the EBWU quinquennial conference took place in Lviv, Ukraine, 20-23 September.



The conference was hosted at Hotel Dnister. A wonderful team of Ukrainian Sisters met with a few EBWU members beforehand and then made all necessary arrangements together with the EBWU before and during the conference. The EBWU was very grateful for their great help and deep commitment in the preparation. The context was very difficult for some of our Sisters because of the war in the East part of the country. Nevertheless, they did their best so that everything happened smoothly during the conference.

The topic of the conference was « Love One Another » from John 15 :12.

86 women, from 30 countries, attended the conference.



Yaroslav Nazarkevich, pastor of Center Church, welcomed the participants. During the roll call, each of them was invited to hold a frame over their faces and say « I'm God's Masterpiece ».

Dr Ksenija Magda, president of BWA Women and Aniko Ujvari, president of EBWU brought the Bible messages. The morning devotionals were led by Anna Doroshenko, president of the Women's Union in the Ukraine and Fabienne Seguin, treasurer of EBWU. The participants were also able to attend several workshops such as :

- Baptist Women in the UN, BWA & Day of Prayer– Dr Ksenija Magda
- Anti Trafficking – Dr Lauran Bethell
- Who is my Neighbor – Anna Doroshenko
- Creative – Olga Teslenko
- Cyber Communication – Haldi Leinus
- Love One Another – Alexandra Anderson
- Conflict Resolution – Dimitrina Oprenova



EvelynTully , of the Tully Foundation, in the USA, gave a report about the endowment fund. EBWU is very thankful to the Foundation which supports the organization of women's conferences so faithfully.

Wies Dijkstra presented a virtual Tour of Corrie ten Boom's House.

During a quinquennial conference there is also time set for a Business Meeting. In Lviv, the meeting was chaired by Aniko Ujvari, outgoing president of EBWU. Tony Peck, General Secretary of the EBF brought greetings. He reminded us that EBWU was one year older than the EBF and that women and men belong together in the life of the church. The EBWU President, Secretary, Treasurer and News & Views editors gave their reports. The constitution was also amended and the membership fee was increased.

Margun Warem chaired the Nomination Committee.



The new Executive Committee was elected and composed as follows :

- Fabienne Seguin, France, President
- Ruth Madarova, Slovakia, Vice president
- Alexandra Anderson, Wales, Secretary
- Ligita Bodniece, Latvia, Treasurer
- Siham Daoud, Lebanon, Member
- Cristina Pokidko, Moldova, Member

Dr Ksenija Magda welcomed the new committee and Jenni Entrican, president of the EBF, prayed for the committee after she addressed the meeting. The dedication of the new office bearers took place during the Church service in First Baptist Church, Lviv on Sunday morning.

Besides the duties, we had fun too. We celebrated the 70th anniversary of EBWU and shared a very nice and very good birthday cake. It was the opportunity to remind us of the beginning of EBWU and the main events through its life. We also paid tribute to those who had walked

boldly before us and made the EBWU what it still is today. We could see the hand of God upon us through the years, His faithfulness and His love for His daughters.

On the final evening our Sisters from Ukraine organized a beautiful evening with a special dinner and Ukrainian songs and music. We were able to exchange presents.



This conference has opened a new chapter in the EBWU story. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, and we came back home joyful, encouraged, blessed, amazed and with many very good memories. We treasure this precious time together. Thank you so much, our beloved Sisters in the Ukraine!

Fabienne Seguin,
EBWU president (2018-2023)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EBWU Committee Meeting in Riga, Latvia

20-24th February, 2019



Our first business meeting as newly elected EBWU Committee was held in Riga, Latvia where we were the guests of the Latvian Women's Ministry Association. We had a wonderful time together getting to know one another as it was our first time as a team after the election in Lviv, Ukraine. Our president Fabienne Seguin worked very hard to explain to the newcomers all the details about the committee agenda. We were discussing different topics, talking about upcoming events. Wednesday Committee Members were invited to lunch by Livijs Godinats the ex-President of EBWU/ Thursday we were talking most of the time about the annual conference in Warsaw, Poland October 10th – 13th 2019. Our business was conducted and completed in three days. We really had a very full agenda, being so grateful to have it all done.

On Friday afternoon we had the opportunity of meeting the new Latvian Head of Women's Ministry Association Agnese Megne at the Baptist union building in the center of Riga, and prepared some gifts for them. The weather was quite good but for our team members from Lebanon Siham Daoud and Alex Anderson from South Wales it was unusually cold.



EBWU Committee Meeting in Beirut, Lebanon

11th March, 2020



Our second business meeting was held in Beirut, Lebanon. We met right before the situation with the pandemic in the world began. It was quite a short meeting as the news of the canceled flights came at noon on the first day we met. Some of us were able to change the date, some to buy new tickets and to fly back home to keep the quarantine in a home country for two

weeks. In spite of the short time we had a blessed time together in prayers and discussions on the future events. All of the events planned for 2020 were canceled, nevertheless we keep going for Christ's sake, ministering to dear women around Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. Siham Daoud, our committee member, did a great job hosting us for such a unique time.

EBWU Committee Meeting online

23 nd April, 2021

On Friday 23rd April 2021 the EBWU committee met online. The meeting was opened at 9am (CET) by the President Fabienne who led a short time of devotion based on Matthew 20:1-16, The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. She reminded the EBWU Committee members that we have a great responsibility as we may very well be 'the only Bible people will read'. Our actions will speak louder than our words. Our calling is to be salt and light in the world but we know this is not an easy task. If we want 'to walk on water' we need the power of the Holy Spirit to keep us going as we toil together in God's vineyard. Fabienne was pleased that the Secretary, Alex Anderson, had also made reference to this particular passage in her report which she took as a positive sign that 'we are all on the same page' as a committee and that God is blessing our work.

The purpose of the meeting was to go about the usual business of EBWU: we approved the minutes of our last meeting, and discussed a range of interesting subjects that have been going on in spite of the pandemic this year, including finance, project funding, the relaunch on an online version of the "News and Views" magazine which Cristina is overseeing, prayer partnership and much more. The meeting was also used to plan a series of online breakfast meetings for EBWU ladies all over Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. Sadly, it is

still not possible for us to plan our usual annual EBWU conference in one of the EBWU countries where we can all meet together in person because of travel restrictions imposed on our countries to contain the Covid virus outbreak. So, it was decided that we should have our meetings online. Our first of a series of three will be an online breakfast together on Saturday 3rd July 2021. The Virtual breakfast has been advertised on the EBWU Facebook page and will be at 7.30 (GMT) 8.30 (CET). It was repeated on the following dates: Saturday 11th September 2021 and Saturday 4th December 2021.

One of the highlights of this year was the making of an EBWU video to which each of the committee members contributed. The video was put together as a collaborative effort and each committee member talked about the work that EBWU has accomplished over the past year or two. There are also many beautiful photos of the women we have met on our travels and with whom we work. The video was part of the BWA Women's conference which we attended on line on 7th July 2021.

The EBWU Committee meeting finished, as always with prayer.

Events, visits, conferences 2019–2021

16 MARCH 2019: WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, TOURNAI, BELGIUM

At the Women's Conference over 400 women gathered together. It was a beautiful, blessed and joyful time! On the basis of the book of Haggai, Fabienne encouraged the Sisters to clean the temple that they are and to deepen their relationship with God which is more important than cleaning their home. It is necessary to find time in our lives with God. She reminded them that each of us has a place in the body of Christ and must use it.

4-6 APRIL 2019: EUROPEAN BAPTIST FEDERATION (EBF) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, BEIRUT, LEBANON

APRIL 6TH : MEETING WITH THE LEBANESE SISTERS

Fabienne Seguin attended the EBF executive committee meeting.

After the ExCo meeting, Jenni Entrican, president of the EBF at that time, and Fabienne Seguin had the opportunity to meet the Lebanese ladies.

Over 60 women attended this half day meeting. We heard very moving testimonies and had great joy being together. Fabienne encouraged the women attending not only to reconcile with others when there is a conflict, but to reconcile with themselves. Sometimes in our lives we make wrong decisions, we do things or say words of which we are not proud. We remain stuck in our disappointments, in our fears, and in our disgust, but we must turn the page if we want to go ahead. If God can forgive us, we must forgive ourselves too.

5-7 APRIL 2019: IBC CONFERENCE, REHE, GERMANY

In April 2019, an IBC Women Conference was held in Rehe, Germany. There was an amazing atmosphere of many different women of different colors and nations from all over the world. The main speaker Kim Blackaby from Canada brought a powerful and prophetic teaching on the topic of "Unshaken". There was also an opportunity to say a greeting on behalf of EBWU and a short words of encouragement and blessing for the gathered women.

5-7 JULY 2019: BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (BICTE), NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Topic: « TogetHER : Re-Imagining, Re-Reading HERstory in the Church »

Plenary I - Baptist women in ministry : their unique contribution

Plenary II – Baptist women and Spiritual formation across generations

Plenary III – Bible translations and how they have affected women's engagement in the Church and the society

Plenary IV – The place of women in a Baptist theology of ministry

Breakout sessions : Preparing ministers to serve the whole Church

Plenary V – Oppressed Baptist women and how they shape the Church today

Plenary VI – Vocational call : Family, society and ministry

Panel – Encouraging women in ministry

Fabienne Seguin had the privilege to attend this conference.

8-12 JULY 2019: BWA ANNUAL GATHERING (AG), NASSAU, BAHAMAS

During the BWA AG the following resolution was voted upon: « Resolution on Recognizing and Affirming the Calling of Women in the Church».

CELEBRATES the Baptist International Conference on Theological Education that met in Nassau, Bahamas, July 5-7, 2019, with the theme of “TOGETHER: Re-Imagining, Re-Reading HERstory in the Church,” with significant discussions of women in the church;

REAFFIRMS the resolution of the BWA entitled “Women” adopted in Nassau in 1988, which called for Baptists to “celebrate the multiple gifts and sensitivities women bring to the service of Jesus Christ and the work of the Baptist family around the world” and “commend Biblical and careful attention by our member bodies to the enabling of women and their gifts”; and

CALLS for global Baptists to:

REPENT from the teachings and practices which have prevented women from flourishing as human beings created in the image of God and full members of the body of Christ;

OPEN OURSELVES to the Holy Spirit to bring conviction, inspire discussion, and provoke transformation in individual lives and communities, affirming the God-given call of women for service in the church, so that their stories may take a rightful place in the expansive body of Christ in the world;

LEARN and then use language that is affirming to both women and men in worship, communications, and publications, including Bible translations;

WORK intentionally to create equal space for women in all leadership roles in the church, Baptist conventions and unions, and in the Baptist World Alliance».

12-15 JULY 2019: BWA WOMEN ANNUAL MEETING, NASSAU, BAHAMAS



It was mainly a business meeting when the board prepared the Women's conference due to take place in Rio de Janeiro in 2020, but the board could also meet the Sisters one evening.

24 SEPTEMBER 2019: EBF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Fabienne Seguin attended the meeting.

25-27 SEPTEMBER 2019: EBF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

EBF Conference 2019 in Glasgow's theme was: Freedom of Religion or belief. Three ladies from the EBWU committee were present, Fabienne Seguin from France, Ruth Madarova from Slovakia, Siham Daoud from Lebanon. Many members of the EBF family came from countries that have restrictions on religious belief & freedom.

The Baptist convention in Glasgow prepared a beautiful dinner during which everyone enjoyed an evening with celtic music.

La Palabra En Acción

‘The Word in Action’, this was the title of the Spanish Baptist Women’s 40th Convention (40^a Convención UMMBE) which was held in the beautiful city of Valencia at the Hotel Eurostars Rey Don Jaime from 27th-29th September 2019. The EBWU Committee received an invitation from the secretary of UMMBE Lucia Vicens and it was decided that Alexandra Anderson and Cristina Pokidko would go to represent Baptist women from all over Europe at the celebration. They were delighted to accept.



The Spanish Baptist women were warm, vibrant and hospitable and the passion and energy they showed for their work was inspiring. In fact, not surprisingly their motto is “Porque nosotras somos colaboradoras de Dios” 1 Corinthians 3.9a (Look it up for yourselves!). The guest speaker, Liliana Fernandez de Farina, president of the Baptist Women's Union of Latina America, (UFBAL) encouraged women with great messages.

There were about two hundred women from all over Spain who came to praise God, to pray for the work, to socialize with one another and of course to eat delicious Paella! Valencia is famous for this typically Spanish dish.



The women also came to talk about the projects they had been supporting throughout 2019 including, among others, ‘The Potter’s House’ , a rehabilitation center in Albacete funded by the Baptist churches.

But, one of the main purposes of this convention was to say farewell to their President of

Pastora Stella-Maris Merlo Gil who had faithfully and so enthusiastically served the Spanish Baptist women and encouraged many younger women to join their mothers and grandmothers to carry on the good work and, of course to welcome in a new UMMBE Committee and a new national president Raquel Abellán Navarrete.

We wished the new committee every blessing as they continue to serve God through their work with the Spanish Baptist women with enthusiasm and joy. Until we meet again, Hasta luego.

Alex Anderson

Secretary EBWU (2018-2023)

28-29 SEPTEMBER 2019: WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, PARIS, FRANCE

The topic was « My Life in the City». The guest speaker was Mary Cotes from Great Britain. We have been encouraged to go out of our home/out of our church to reach non Christian people, for example: involving ourselves in various activities of the city, in associations and using our gift(s) to serve others and be good witnesses. Fabienne Seguin was asked to give the latest news about the EBWU.

7-10 OCTOBER 2019: ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE EBWU, WARSAW, POLAND

FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

Aroma is a powerful thing. The faintest aroma can evoke powerful memories of a loved one or of a pleasant experience from long ago. I think every woman loves the scents and every woman would appreciate it if she got a precious perfume.



According to the Bible we are called to be a sweet aroma of Christ as it is written in 2 Cor 2:15.

„For we are a sweet aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.“



Can you imagine that you are like a precious perfume? You are precious and unique, because you are bought by the precious blood of Jesus. That makes you valuable.

The verse 2 Cor 2:15 accompanied us during our conference in Warsaw, Poland in October 2019. It was also the first EBWU conference organized by the contemporary committee. We had a great awe as we prepared and our desire was to

glorify Jesus with this conference.

During these days we have discovered the mystery of how to become the precious fragrance of Christ and how to live our lives for Jesus with a new passion.

We enjoyed a deep fellowship with the Lord and with each other. It is always wonderful to meet women from different cultures, different countries and be encouraged by their testimonies

We also enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of our Polish sisters. They pampered us with love and joy.

Our main speaker Michelline Makkar from Syria shared the Bible message and her rich experiences in the area of enthusiastic service to the Lord, despite many extremely difficult situations in her life and ministry. She taught us and encouraged us how to be such a sweet



aroma of Christ in our families, in our jobs, in our nations and wherever we are.

We live in a world full of evil and darkness. Satan knows that he has little time, and therefore he exerts great pressure on believers to keep them lukewarm. Many are deceived. However, we have a clear calling. When we look to 2 Cor 2, verse 14, we read: „*But thanks be to God! He always leads us triumphantly by the Messiah and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of knowing Him.*“

We are the glory of God! We have victory because Christ is in us. We have a future because we are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus! So we are called to be Christ's good fragrance despite the times in which we live.

Many of us don't feel like we are the glory of God. Many women see themselves as not beautiful, not perfect. These are also Satan's lies. Don't be concerned with Satan's lies in your life! Instead listen to Jesus!



According to 1 Peter 2:1 we are invited to get rid of every kind of evil and deception, hypocrisy, jealousy, and every kind of slander in our lives, because we are a chosen people,

a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people to be His very own and to proclaim the wonderful deeds of the one who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light!!! (verse 9)



We are a chosen generation to be His people. Thank the Lord for being weak, because that's when we can only rely on Him! He is our strength! He is our wisdom! He is our everything! Only with Him in our lives we are able to bring victory and change to the world we live in! Jesus is beautiful and when He dwells inside of us, we reflect His splendor and His fragrance. Jeremiah says about the new covenant written in our hearts. If you feel distant from God, today is the time to renew this covenant with Him.

We need to draw closer to God every day. When we live near God, then we have reach for people around us. What kind of Christian are you when your colleagues, neighbors, friends don't know you are a Christian? How can you be a Christian if you do not share the gospel and live just for yourself? What happened to the Church these days? Many are deceived because they thought that the faith was just for them within the church. They started to speak a new philosophy which is theology, they started building beautiful temples but they lost their mission. Believers who rely only on the flesh, they do not build a church, they divide it.

We are a royal priesthood. The main responsibility of the priests in the Old Testament was to stand between the people and God and reconcile them with Him. There is a deep secret for us hidden in this part. We are here to bridge God and people as priests, to stand in the gap, to intercede for them in our prayers. What a noble calling!

We are a holy nation. We are to be consecrated to God by all our being as He says in 1 Peter 1:16 „for it is written, you shall be holy because I am holy“. We must be different from the people of this world. Don't follow the world! Don't follow all the fakes that Satan gives you to deceive you and discourage you from eternal values! Do not be an entertainer, be a blessing in your family, job, ministry!

We are a special possession. In Exodus 19:5 there is a powerful promise of being a special possession of the Lord: „*And now if you carefully obey me and keep my covenant, you are to be my special possession out of all the peoples, because the whole earth belongs to me.*“ We are the apple of God's eye. No one can even touch us without His permission. We are perfectly protected and provided by Him. What an inheritance!



What to do and how to live in God's precious presence every day? Here are some tips:

Don't follow the culture of the world,
Don't follow the another solution apart from Jesus' one – dig deep into the Bible,
Don't depend upon circumstances,
Don't depend upon feelings,
Be led by the Holy Spirit,
Be ready to accomplish the Word of God for you,

Read the Word of God – deeply, dig in it, study it, eat it, live it!

Pray a lot, enjoy just sitting with the Lord and spending time with Him,

Be silent in God's presence, wait for His answers

Be overseer, watcher on the walls like Nehemiah; watch over the others and on yourself as well like a night watcher. Do not judge others but keep an eye on as a leader.

Be responsible for the aroma. Do not give up! Be serious in your faith!

And many more...

During these days we experienced the touch of Heaven, the presence of the Holy Spirit, It touched us. I believe everybody has returned home changed, encouraged in faith and blessed.

It is worth living for the Lord with all our hearts! Amen.

Ruth Madarova

EBWU vice-president (2018-2023)

7-10 NOVEMBER 2019: NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

More than one thousand women attended the conference. Various speakers, among them Fabienne Seguin, were asked to talk about « The School of Grace". It is always a blessing to attend the conference organized by our Sisters in Moldova. It is amazing to see women of different ages get together to meditate on the Bible, to be students in God's school of Grace. It was definitely an international conference hosted by guests from France, Brazil, Ukraine, Romania. After the two days of fellowship women went back to their homes, churches inspired, encouraged and empowered to live for God's glory.



25-27 MARCH 2020: EBF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, STAVANGER, NORWAY.

Canceled and replaced by a zoom meeting.

Fabienne Seguin attended the meeting online.

15-16 JULY 2020: BWA WOMEN ANNUAL MEETING IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Canceled and replaced by a Zoom meeting. On July 16, 2020, BWA Women hosted an online Officer Installation and Commissioning Service. Women from around the world gathered to honor President Ksenija Magda and Secretary Treasurer Kathy James for their years of faithful service and to welcome the new officers for the 2020-2025 Quinquennium. Karen Wilson of Australia will serve as the new President, and Sherrie Cherdak of the United States of America will serve in the role of Secretary Treasurer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEhw31WKCl0>

21-23 JULY 2020: BWA VIRTUAL GENERAL COUNCIL

It was held online. Fabienne Seguin attended this virtual business meeting.

24-25 SEPTEMBER 2020: EBF VIRTUAL GENERAL COUNCIL

Originally the council was due to take place in Saint Petersburg. Because of Pandemic and the health and safety regulations it was held online. Fabienne Seguin, Ruth Madarova and Siham Daoud attended.

The EBF gave the EBWU the opportunity to lead a seminar during the council.

The title of this seminar is : **From friendship to Sisterhood : ‘A friend loves at all time, and a [sister] is born for a time of adversity’** (Proverbs 17 :17).

Karen Wilson, from Australia, the new president of the BWA Women was our special guest.

First, we looked at the past and remembered the purposes of the EBWU and the circumstances when it was created. Then we had a short devotional based on the parable of the 10 Virgins in Matthew 25 :1-13. It was followed by a sharing time.

This seminar was a great success and it encouraged the EBWU committee to use new technology.

1ST of NOVEMBER 2020: DAY OF PRAYER

On Sunday 1st November 2020 at 17.00 (GMT) and 18.00 (CET) the EBWU Committee launched an online prayer meeting to mark the annual Day Of Prayer (DOP). As many churches were closed because of the Pandemic, it was a great opportunity for women everywhere to join together and pray for the world and the specific projects being supported by BWA Women and EBWU this year.

The meeting was opened in prayer by the President of the EBWU, Fabienne Seguin (France). The guest speaker was Dr Ksenija Magda (Croatia), former president of BWA Women. She spoke about the Good Shepherd and gave a powerful message based on the Gospel of John ch. 10 :1-17 in which she shared some of her own struggles. She reminded us that there is *true life* after and through suffering, indeed there can be no resurrection without crucifixion. She also encouraged us saying that even in this pandemic, where we are shut out of our usual 'sheep pens', God is bigger than our fold and there are opportunities to reach out and hold hands across the world with fellow believers.

EQUIPPING NEW LEADERS FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

BUILDING A EUROPE-WIDE FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN THROUGH THEIR LEADERS

WORKING WITH INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

UNITING WOMEN IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

We also had a chance to hear the song ‘Life’ recorded for the BWA Women’s conference in Rio de Janeiro last July, which, sadly, had to be canceled because of the Pandemic.

Other guest speakers shared their understanding of what Jesus meant by ‘abundant life’ and we had wonderful testimonies from Melita Vidovic for Serbia, Nada Haddad from Lebanon, Klaudia Wiazowska from Poland and Lucia Vicens from Spain. We are very grateful to these ladies for being willing to take part.

Between 2020 and 2025, EBWU partners with Africa in prayer and we were honored to have the President of the Baptist Women’s Union of Africa, Marthe Nguime Ekollo with us.

Half way through the meeting Siham Daoud (EBWU Committee Member) organized the ladies into breakout rooms so that there was an opportunity to pray more specifically for individuals and particular countries and projects. The session was concluded by Cristina Pokidko (EBWU Committee Member) who brought the prayer meeting to a close with a word of encouragement.

Alexandra Anderson,
Secretary EBWU Committee (2018-2023)

7 JULY 2021: BWA WOMEN'S ONLINE CONFERENCE



Global Conference
of Baptist Women

LIFE!

ONLINE: JULY 7, 2021

Due to the pandemic Global Conference of Baptist Women supposed to be held in July 2020 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was held online. The tremendous work was done by a team to make this conference a celebration for the global baptist women family. EBWU

took part in this celebration by presenting a video telling about the uniqueness of our region, sharing the projects women in our region are involved in. It was a great opportunity for all the participants to feel the atmosphere of sisterhood, to get to know one another, to share Christ’s love which binds all of us together. This event gave a glimpse of the future event

Global Conference of Baptist Women in July 2025, in Brisbane, Australia. Trusting our Lord will make our dreams come true and we will be able to meet in person.

ONLINE Prayer Breakfast Blessing

Every woman will appreciate the special atmosphere of the weekend breakfast after a busy week, which she can enjoy in peace with a cup of coffee or tea in the company of family or friends. It is often like an oasis in the middle of the desert or an island in the middle of the sea, where we can relax for a while and gain new strength.

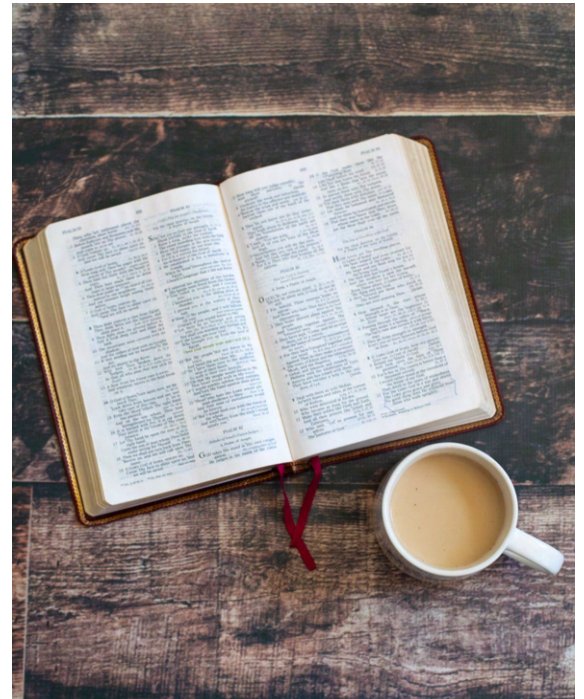
Several months ago, the Lord put in our hearts to organize such a Saturday Breakfast for our dear sisters from all over Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia and spend a wonderful fellowship with one another in God's presence.

In addition, we have realized that we need to be encouraged together by God's word and prayers so we called this breakfast time a Prayer Breakfast.

There are so many prayer needs and requests, whether personal or global and we are called to pray for one another.

Thanks to the Lord, since the summer of 2021, we have organized three such meetings through Zoom – in July, in September and in December and welcomed women from our region.

Our last prayer breakfast was special, we prepared it in the spirit of coming Christmas. At the same time, we welcomed special guests - Ingeborg te Loo, the Coordinator of the IBTS Center Learning Network who introduced program „Empowering Scholars & Leaders in the Church for the World“, and Karen Willson, the President of the BWA Women who greeted us with devotionals of God's faithfulness:



„May the God of peace Himself make you holy in every way. And may your whole being – spirit, soul and body – remain blameless when our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, appears. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will continue to be faithful.“ (1.Thes. 5:23-24).

We were invited to focus our view on Him, to be transformed by Him and sanctify in every area of our lives. His faithfulness brings compassion, peace, protection and every fullness for our lives. Although this world is full of unrest and despair, we can dwell in His care and peace.

Then we were divided into small groups to pray for the urgent needs concerning the region of Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia, such as peace, healing, spiritual revival, refugees, climate changes and many others that lie at our sisters' hearts. During our sharing and prayers, we felt the Lord's presence. We are sure that our prayers have been heard.

The whole program was interwoven with Christmas songs and different Advent and Christmas traditions within the countries of our region that woke up the Christmas atmosphere in us. Perhaps Advent time is not celebrated in all the countries of Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia, but it is such a special time during which we can prepare our hearts for the King's birthday to exalt and praise His holy Name. And despite what is happening in the world, all that chaos, uncertainty and fear, the Lord Jesus deserves our attention even during the coming Christmas. May our hearts be filled with gratitude and praise.

Personally, I am really thankful for these Zoom Prayer Breakfasts. I see it as a privilege to spend this special time together across our region, to share and pray for the needs of others as well as nations. I long for us to be faithful watchwomen of what the Lord has entrusted us with. It is also such a challenge for us to learn to pray with others and for others, to know the ways of the Lord, to hear His voice and to walk on His paths. Being prepared and preparing the way for the Messiah.

I hereby invite you to join us for next Zoom Prayer breakfasts in 2022 and experience this blessed and unique fellowship.

Ruth Madarova,

EBWU vice president (2018-2023)

22-25 SEPTEMBER 2021: EBF GENERAL COUNCIL (first hybrid meeting)

The council was preceded by the EBF Executive committee meeting at the Baptist House in Amsterdam that Fabienne Seguin attended. Siham Daoud followed the council online.

The theme of the council was “Discerning God’s Future Together”. It is not only the future, after the pandemic but also the new era for the EBF with a new president, Stefan Gisiger from Switzerland, and a new general secretary, Alan Donaldson from Scotland. We paid tribute to Tony Peck, who served the EBF faithfully during 15 years and to Mego Remel from Estonia, outgoing president, who worked very hard to serve the EBF “in such a time as this”.

Fabienne Seguin was part of the Nomination committee of the EBF which met online over 2020 and 2021 to look for the next vice president (Mateusz Wichary from Poland was nominated) and part of the Search committee of the EBF which also met online over 2020 and 2021 to look for the new general secretary. Both were very interesting.

The report of the EBWU activities was made through a video. We are still not experts but we have very much improved in recording videos and we are very thankful to those who helped us.

1ST of NOVEMBER 2021: DAY OF PRAYER

The Day of Prayer is a major event in the life of Baptist women.

This year we celebrated our 70th anniversary and the topic was “Courageous Life” based on Hebrew 13:6 « ***So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper ; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me ?’*** ».

Karen Wilson couldn’t join us but she sent us a video with her message for the women of the EBWU. We had a special guest from Pakistan (we should have two guests from Pakistan and one from Africa). In the DOP programme, there were additional testimonies and the committee decided to contact and invite some of them and asked them to tell us more. We were very thankful to the lady, Louis, who could join us, because of the time difference - 4 hours - it was not easy for her. She told us about her ministry among women and children. Ruth Madarova, read the written testimony of Sonia. We were divided into small groups to pray. Ligita Bodniece, our treasurer, described the various projects that women can support this year.

This meeting was also an opportunity to introduce Merritt Johnston from the USA. Merritt succeeded Moreen Sharp as executive director of the BWA Women. We paid tribute to Moreen who served the BWA Women faithfully and was so encouraging. And we warmly welcomed Merritt.

Time went very fast. We are so thankful for the fellowship and the sisterhood within the EBWU and within the BWA Women. It is unique.

Thank you, dear ladies, for these past three years together! Thank you for making the EBWU what it is and for keeping it alive. God bless you!



Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year