

# *News & Views*

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*July 2009*



European Baptist Women's Union

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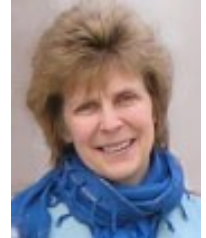
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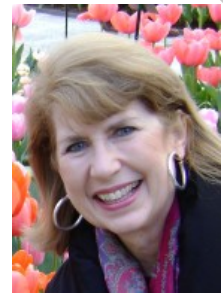


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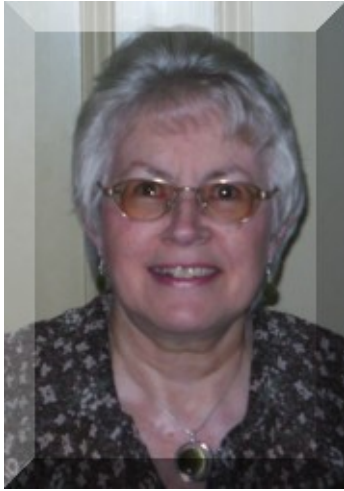
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# EDITORIAL



*By Margaret Brown*

Isn't it good to be part of the family of God, working, praying, living, loving, supporting one another together? As children of God we belong to each other and we share our joys and our sorrows. From time to time News and Views publish articles which are joyful and others which are sad because that is the way we live in this world. We have 'ups' and 'downs'; sometimes things run smoothly for us and at other times trouble and trials enter our lives – that is life as we know it. The Lord asks us to follow Him; He did not say that the road ahead would be easy but

He did promise to be with us always.

At present, my Pastor is preaching from the book of Nehemiah on Sunday evenings. I like the way Nehemiah organised his work force as they rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and coped with the opposition they faced (Nehemiah ch.4). The people worked together and watched out for each other, and they worked with all their heart.

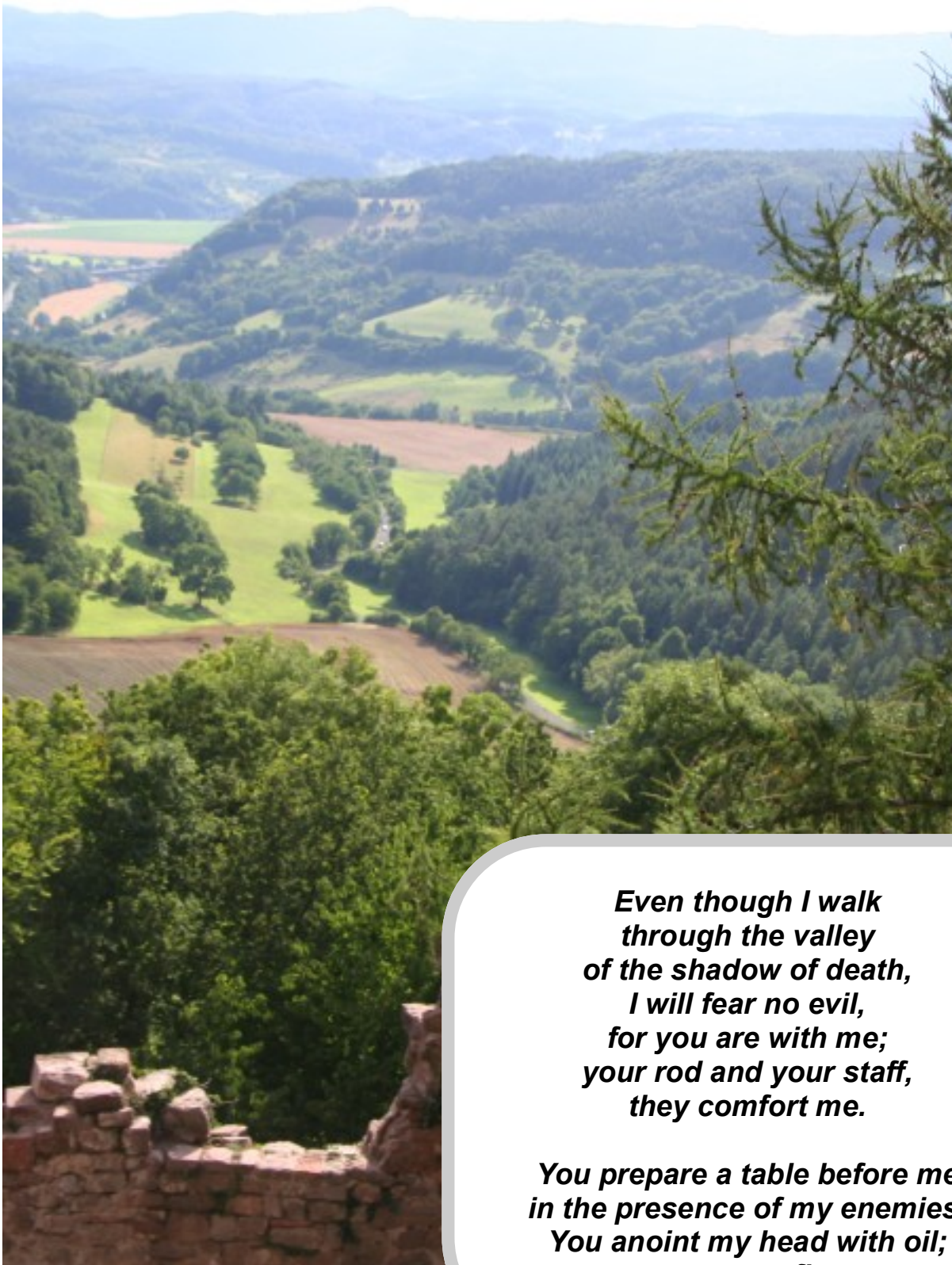
Yes, we are all different, with different outlooks on life and varying opinions, but we are together as we seek to serve the Lord. We know that we are the body of Christ: *'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body... We were all baptised by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink... God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be.'* (1Corinthians 12:12, 13, 18). We know that Christ is the Head of the body: *'From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.'* (Ephesians 4: 16).

In EBWU we are many parts but we make up a whole. We represent different countries and various groups of women but we are one in purpose and so it is good to hear from the countries that make up EBWU, to hear what the women are doing and how God is working through them to fulfil His plans and purposes, to hear of the work and the projects the women are involved in. We can support each other and pray for one another.

The Lord has given each of us gifts, talents, abilities which are to be used for Him where He has placed us in His body. We are not to work in isolation but together. As you read the article in this issue from Albania it is worth noting that the women there 'do their part' for God's Kingdom. All the women's groups are working together, young and old alike, working for the good of one another, working for the



salvation of others, working for the glory of God. I trust that is true for us all as we continue to serve the Lord. May you all know His abundant blessings in your lives and on your work.



***Even though I walk  
through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.***

***You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.***

# PRESIDENTIAL LETTER



By Livija Lame

Dear sisters,

I greet you in a new summer which has come to our hemisphere.

*I thank my God for you every time when I remember you...*

And during this year I had the privilege to meet some from EBWU countries and get to

know you more and therefore remember more often.

Despite problems and crises in our countries, I'm glad to see you serving the Lord so that people, who have never met Him, can meet His love finally. By changing circumstances, our methods change as well, our ways in which to help people change, but the main message is constant – Jesus Christ, Who loves all of us. I'm happy to see all of you doing this great job. May the Holy Spirit guide you in His unique way, refresh you, and give a new joy and love that knows no limits.



I want to share some glimpses from the countries I have visited.



At the end of last year I visited Ukraine, Kiev December 11-13.

The Ukraine is divided into 25 regions and I attended a regional leadership meeting, all responsible sisters were there. We were speaking about the theme ***Leadership Means Servanthood***. It was an encouragement to hear testimonies of how God uses even unpleasant events so that in *all things God works for the good of those who love Him* (Rom 8: 28)

This spring has been a marathon challenge for me – 6 weekends in other countries.

Moldova, Chisinau March 19-22.

Theme: “A Woman after God’s Heart”.





Armenia, Yerevan March 31-April 6. Executive Committee meeting and conference with Armenian women. Theme: **“Women’s Ministry”**.

In Ukraine, Moldova and Armenia I experienced a very big significance for prayer – prayer group for elderly women, prayer for girls, prayer group for widows, prayer for moms, prayer chain – all the congregation divided into groups, praying every 15 minutes, with some people praying for 24 hours one day a week and also fasting etc.

Czech Republic, Brno May 1-3.  
Women’s Fortieth Jubilee.

Theme: **“...it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more...”**

*Phil.1: 9-11.* It was a thanksgiving service for 3 days. It is God’s miracle how during communist times a women’s ministry was started, in the spring time in Prague. For one year the government allowed the organization of different women’s activities

and then later closed it. But women’s ministry continued to work. And another nice example is Czech and Slovak women’s cooperation for ministry.



Serbia, May 10. Theme: **“Women’s WORK - DUTY OR GLADLY SERVING?”**

The Bible verse was 1 Peter 4:10. It was my privilege to be together with Ewa Gutkowska in this conference.

Each country is special; I really experienced God’s love through God’s people. I thank you for the hospitality and love that I have received.

It was very interesting and touching to see that women are so organized, to listen to stories – happy and sad, and to pray for the needs. Thank you for fellowship. Let’s continue with loving hearts to serve other people in our society and in our churches.

The EBWU committee will participate also in Amsterdam 400, making a stand in which will be information about EBWU. In 2010 EBWU committee’s meeting is planned for Denia, Spain.

We support and promote the fight against the sexual trafficking of women.

The Norwegian Baptists have a work group which supports and promotes this project. Margun Warem is in contact with this group. Susie Mefford from Spain actively participates in the solution of these problems because Spain is a destination country.

Remember each other in prayers!

Thank you for your cooperation.

*May God give us wisdom, supernatural power and love so we may continue to serve.*

In His task,  
*Livija Lame*



**A unique opportunity for European, Middle-Eastern  
and Central Asian Baptists  
to celebrate Baptist beginnings  
and to look to the future**

In the year 1609 a group of Christian believers gathered in the back room of a bakery in Amsterdam and dared to be different . . .

. . . and as a result there are 100 million Baptists in the world today

*Come to Amsterdam 400 to discern the ways in which God calls European Baptists to dare to be different today!*

**Friday July 24 - Sunday July 26, 2009  
RAI Centre, Amsterdam**

***The EBWU committee will participate also in Amsterdam 400, making a stand in which will be information about EBWU***





# ARMENIA CONFERENCE



Armenia is landlocked in the southern Caucasus. Located between the Black and Caspian Seas, the country is bordered on the north and east by Georgia and Azerbaijan, and on the south and west by Iran and Turkey.

The terrain is mostly mountainous and volcanic, with fast flowing rivers and few forests. The climate is high-land continental, which means that the country is subjected to hot summers and cold winters. The land rises to 4090 metres (13,420 ft) above sea-level.

Mount Ararat, which was historically part of Armenia, is the highest mountain in the region. Now located in Turkey, but clearly visible in Armenia, it is regarded by the Armenians as a symbol of their land. Because of this, the mountain is present on the Armenian national emblem today. Noah's Ark once came to rest upon Mount Ararat.



Armenia has a population of 3,215,800.

The predominant religion in Armenia is Christianity. The roots of the Armenian Church go back to the first century. According to tradition, the Armenian Church was founded by two of Jesus' twelve apostles -- Thaddaeus and Bartholomew -- who preached Christianity in Armenia between AD 40-60. Because of these two founding apostles, the official name of the Armenian Church is Armenian Apostolic Church. Armenia was the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion, an event traditionally dated to AD 301.

Over 93% of Armenian Christians belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church.

## ARMENIA CONFERENCE

On 26 March 1998 , the Congress of the Baptist churches decided to request the registration of the Baptist Union in Armenia . The registration was successful and Yuri Avanesyan was selected President and Asatur Nahapetyan was elected General Secretary. From that period the Board of the Union began to work actively with a vision of church planting and providing education for pastors.

Today, in the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches of Armenia there are more than 125 churches and mission points, with about 4000 baptized believers.

(Information from Wikipedia and <http://www.armbaplife.am>)

During the time we, as EBWU leaders met in Armenia for our annual Committee Meetings we had the wonderful opportunity of sharing with the women of Armenia as they came together for a Day Conference. This was held in Central Baptist Church, Yerevan on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April and it surely was a day to remember.



The church was crammed full of women of all ages (and even one or two children). Women from the eleven regions of Armenia had been invited but not every area was able to send representatives. The Conference began just after 10.00am and continued through the day until 5.30pm.

Rev. Asatur Nahpetyan, General Secretary of the Armenian Baptist Union and Pastor of Central Baptist Church opened the Conference by welcoming us and then introducing Livija who in turn introduced the other six members of the Committee. The President of the Armenian Baptist Union then addressed us using Scripture to outline the role of women. Then it was over to the ladies, and Alla who led the Conference.

As there were seven of us in the Committee each of us were allocated a topic to speak on so that we could all participate in the day's proceedings. Our theme was 'Women in Ministry' and we had the topics as follows:-



Livija – Women in Service

Margun – Caring for Children & Young People

Elisabeth – Caring for the Elderly & Visiting the Sick

Margaret – Financial Responsibility in the Family & Church

Susie – Women in Trouble (Prostitution, Trafficking & Violence)

Wies – Influencing our Neighbourhood & Workplace

Aniko – Looking after our Environment (our Homes & Church)



Each of us brought a short message on our allocated topic, using Scripture to affirm what we were saying, and some gave personal examples and testimony from their own lives and experiences. I must pay tribute to Nelly Hakobyan who interpreted for us during the day. She tirelessly translated our words into Armenian so the women could understand our message.

We had hoped to bring a Power Point presentation of the work of EBWU but I'm afraid technology let us down as, in spite of assistance from one of the men, the computer failed to connect with the projector. However Livija filled in the time.





## ARMENIA CONFERENCE

Towards the close of the Conference questions were invited and we received one or two which were answered.

Interspersed throughout the day we sang praise to the Lord and had several times of open prayer. We also had two short breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, as well as a longer break for lunch. As it was a lovely day and the church had quite a good sized courtyard we went outside to enjoy the beauty of the sunshine and to speak, when we could, with the women. A very substantial lunch had been prepared for us and we were very well looked after. The hospitality was just amazing and the love shared was almost tangible.



At the close of the Conference many of the women came forward to talk with us and quite a few asked for prayer for various family members and concerns they had, so we stood in small groups talking and praying. It was such a privilege to stand with groups of two or three and pray with and for our Armenian sisters. During the day there was a real sense of the Lord's presence and each of us gave thanks for the honour of being used by God to bless our sisters and for them to bless us. It was a two-way thing. We were so blessed by just being there. It was a marvellous experience. Praise the Lord.

The Armenian women of Central Baptist Church have a lot to teach us; their great concern is to make disciples and for there to be true spiritual commitment. They have a great concern for and are very earnest about prayer. Every Tuesday about eleven women gather to pray from 12 noon – 5.00 pm and on the first Tuesday of the month they have a night of prayer and fasting.

They also meet for prayer prior to worship services. Approximately ninety-six people, men as well as women, are involved in a twenty-four hour prayer chain ministry, each praying for fifteen minutes per day at allotted times – some pray four times per day. A calendar and items for prayer are drawn up for their use.

The women have three groups who regularly visit; one group visit the very poor of the church, another group visit those who don't come to church and those who have stopped coming, while the third group visit new converts, just baptised and also those with spiritual problems. Three older sisters visit newly married couples and offer advice and are also willing to help if necessary when a family starts to arrive.

So our Armenian sisters are active and faithful in the work the Lord has called them to do and we praise God for them and pray for His continued blessing and guidance on them and the work they are involved in.

*Margaret Brown*



The EBWU committee in Armenia with Armenian sisters, preparing the conference.

Second line: Wies Dijkstra, Margun Warem, Susana Mefford, Margaret Brown, Nelly Hakobyan, Elisabeth Vekas.

First line: Aniko Ujvari, Livija Lame, Anahit Davtyan and Alla Tsarukyan.

# DORFWEIL REPORT



## Look – Go – Encourage - in the Name of the Lord!

Meeting of the German Baptist Women's Union in Dorfweil ,  
February – March 2009.

*By Christina Bombeck*

Approximately 80 women from the Baptist Women's Union in Germany met for four days at the end of February 2009 in a little village named Dorfweil, nearby Frankfurt. We gathered to sing & pray and to encourage each other by the story in the Bible of Ruth, Naomi and Orpah. And we discovered that all three women found their own way – very differently but honestly. God wants us to find our special way in the different sections of our lives – each way is unique and special - independent from our age and our good or bad life situations. God is near and with us in every situation even when we are not sure if this way is good.

We exchanged information about our work in the different places of Germany and voted a new Board: Dagmar Kersting (1<sup>st</sup> Chairwoman, *on the picture left*) and Anne Koerner (2<sup>nd</sup> Chairwoman) finalised their service after more than a decade in the board. Also Barbara Tomaskowitz and Doris Allgaier left the Board. Barbara will work in the management of her church and Doris will be moving together with her husband to a mission station in Zanzibar.



Elisabeth Kapsreiter, Board member with responsibility for the finances for the last six years, took over the seat of the 1<sup>st</sup> Chairwoman of the Board. Gisela Bullermann is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chairwoman and Cornelia Nikesch is the Secretary. Elisabeth Deschner is our new Treasurer.

*Elisabeth Kapsreiter  
and Dagmar Kersting.*



Newcomers to the Board but experienced in women's service are: Edith Becker, Elisabeth Malessa and Bärbel Völker, Annegret Drüke, Gaby Löding and Herma Theeszen remain working in the Board.

Wies Dijkstra, member of the European Baptist Women's Union Board and special guest in Dorfweil, blessed the new German Board members and 'forced' all attendees at the conference in a very humorous and emphatic way to buy the EBWU scarves she brought with her.



Please pray with us that God may send His strong blessings to these courageous nine Board women who will lead our Union for the next years.

Founded in 1927, the German BWU was built by a few women on the basis of the first sentence of 2. Corinthians 5 verse 14: "Christ's love compels us." These few women saw the poverty of other people and started a group to support them practically and financially within their small budget. Especially after the 2nd World War a lot of women's groups arose in the churches to support the people around them, and the women's work internally, but also in the neighbourhood, cities in Germany and around the world. In the Sixties and Seventies more than 800 groups were active to bring God's love to the people and spend a lot of money to make HIS love visible. Now, more than 80 years later, the time has changed: women's groups become older and young female Christians are busy in day to day work and not really interested in those "older" groups. The number of women's groups has now dropped to less than 500.



*Wies Dijkstra giving an EBWU scarf to Bärbel Völker.*

Two years ago the Board members of the German Baptist Women's Union started to work with an external Christian consulting firm to find new ideas and ways for future Christian women's work.

Several representatives of other Christian Churches and Unions were invited to the Union's meeting this year because networking will become more important in the future.

The Board of the German Baptist Women's Union got a new vision on the basis of 1 Timothy 2: 4 – let's *see* around and *go* to those who need help; *encourage* them with all the gifts and talents we have received from our Lord! They presented this new vision at the Union's meeting in February. It may help us to evaluate the work and to follow our dreams to reality:

*We dream:*

- of women discovering and appreciating their holy uniqueness and dignity, revealing their gifts and activating their talents in an open atmosphere.

- of building places where women can find answers to their searching for God.



*What is impossible with men is possible with God*



- of founding oases where women from all generations can recover through God's love.

- of communities giving orientation through the Bible and prayer, teaching the whole person (body, spirit, heart and mind).

- of women naturally finding their places in their churches where God will have them.

- of a strong network within our own and other churches and between the cultures.

- of a strong power for both, men and women, to change together our society in the name of the Lord.

*Theme Poster:*

*LOOK, GO and ENCOURAGE*

We pray and hope that we will take the next steps on these new ways and establish structures to bring Christ's love to the majority of German women who neither know the Bible nor have any idea of God. Please pray for Germany!

*Christina Bombeck*  
 Editorial office of "Miteinander Unterwegs"  
 Journal of the German Baptist Women's Union



Board of "Frauenwerk im Bund Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden" Germany:

Second line: Bärbel Völker, Herma Theeszen, Annegret Drüke, Cornelia Nikesch, Claudia Deppner (full time representative)

First line: Elisabeth Deschner, Elisabeth Malessa, Gisela Bullermann, Gaby Löding, Elisabeth Kapsreiter (Edith Becker is not on the picture)



# NEWS FROM ALBANIA



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Albania is a country in South-Eastern Europe, in the West of the Balkan Peninsula.

The Republic of Albania on the North borders with Montenegro, on North-East with Kosova, on the East with Macedonia, and in the South and South-East with Greece. On the West Albania is washed by the Adriatic and Ionian seas.

Population: 3,364,571 (June 1999).

Capital City: Tirana. Official language: Albanian. Albanian is an Indo-European language. The Albanians call their country "Shqipëria".

The Communist regime that took control of Albania after World War II suppressed religious observance and institutions and entirely banned religion to the point where Albania was officially declared to be the world's first atheist state. Religious freedom has returned to Albania since the regime's change in 1992.

The Baptist Union of Albania was organized in 1999 with a membership of four churches. Delegates from the four churches met to adopt their constitution and statement of faith and to elect officers. A celebratory worship service followed the delegates' meeting.

The union's charter-member congregations are Freedom Baptist Church and Way of Hope Baptist Church, both in Tirana; the Baptist Church in Bregu i Lumit; and the Good News Baptist Church in Lezha.

Now, in 2009, there are eight Baptist Churches in Albania, with 250 members.

## NEWS FROM ALBANIA

When I was at the German Baptist Women's Leadership Conference in Dorfweil, in February, I got the information letter from the German Baptist women and on the cover was a beautiful picture of a woman in her national costume. It turned out to be Hajirie Hamitie, Women's Ministry Leader in Albania, as I read in the Info-letter. Elisabeth Kapsreiter made the picture and wrote the following article which has touched me deeply. After that I have asked Hajirie Hamitie and Shqiponja Lamce to tell us about women's work in Albania. Please read and be touched also!

*Wies Dijkstra, Holland.*



*Elisabeth Kapsreiter,  
President Baptist Women's Union Germany.*

I saw the woman in her national costume last year at the EBWU conference in Dalftsien, Holland. I asked her if I was allowed to take a picture of her. She smiled, gave me her visiting card and then she asked me very seriously to pray for her and her ministry.

Doing thus she made the following clear in my mind: 'Please don't look at me just as an object for a nice picture, but see me as your sister in Christ.' It touched me and therefore I forward you her concerns: To pray for, and to see with "new eyes" and an open heart to one another.

I wish that you and I would let that happen every time again and again – to be willing to see each other with that special sight which comes from God. For to God we all are worth that special attention, let's treat one another with that same special attention.

*Photograph of Haijrie Hamitie, President of the Baptist Women of Albania.*



### **Through Challenges We Continue to Love Christ and Witness in His Name**

Lajmi i Mire (Good News Church) is one of the Baptist churches of Albania in the city of Lezha. It is a small city which resides in the North West of Albania. The Baptist Church had its beginnings in 1993. It's a new church with mainly young members. 80% of the church are women and the rest of it are boys and youths. Men in Albania think religion is mostly for children and for women but not for them. This is one of the reasons why the Albanian church generally lacks men.

Since the women at the "Good News Church" are made up of different ages (17 – 75 years old) the women's ministry is divided into two separate meetings. In both meetings the women study the Word of God together. They pray for one another and for the church's needs as well as the needs of the nation. The women's meetings mainly serve as an encouragement for one another to walk with God in the midst of different challenges in their lives.

Their challenges are related to society as well as their family. Related to the society, because their faith is not embraced by it and because this society is corrupt. Related to their family, because their husbands and the rest of their families are not believers and the women are continuously facing mocking and contradiction.

The women are a great blessing for the “Good News Church” because regardless of the challenges, they continue to follow the Lord and contribute with their prayers, finances and their service in the Kingdom’s best interest. Their life is also a great example in the middle of a corrupt society. They follow Jesus with a passion in their heart, they develop good friendships with one another and they invite other women to follow Christ and are His light in their society.

*Hajrie Hamiti, Women’s Ministry Leader,  
Good News Baptist Church, Lezhe, Albania.*

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Albania! Let me tell you first a short fable I have heard from a Brazilian pastor.

There was a big fire in a forest and all the forest animals ran towards the river to get water to put out the fire. There was the elephant, the giraffe, the bear, the stork, the rabbit, and the wolf. After a while the animals saw a humming-bird flying to and from the river carrying a drop of water in his beak. The animals told him, “Do you hope to put out this big fire with just a drop of water?” The humming-bird said, “I am doing my part.”

We, the Baptist women in Albania, are also doing our part, however small, for the building of the Kingdom of God. We are growing especially in the Spirit. We are taking steps towards founding the Albanian Women’s Baptist Union. Although we don’t have an official Union yet, we have had activities where all or almost all the women’s groups of the churches of our Baptist Union have been involved.

Among other things for the past three years we have organized spring retreats with the women leaders of the eight churches of the ABU. The first two retreats were focused more on fellowship and getting to know each other, while the third was more like a workshop, meant to equip us for our ministry. We covered topics like “Leading a Small Group or Cell” and “How to Prepare a Bible Study/Lesson from the Word.”

The Lord has called us to serve Him, so together wherever we are, we serve Christ.

I Pet. 2:5

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

*Shqiponja Lamce,  
EBWU – contact person, Albania*





# KITTY IDLAND NORWAY

## A Box Full of EBWU Experiences

*Dear sisters in Christ,*

My name is Kitty Idland and I live in Norway. I am 90 years old, and I have been a member of women's groups in my local church since I was 14 years old. Women's groups are very well organized here in Norway and have always been an important factor within church and also in society outside church. All the groups in Norway are organized in the Baptist Women's Union of Norway.



Through the Norwegian Women's Union I was introduced to EBWU. The first time I took part in a conference organized by EBWU was in Rüsclikon, Switzerland, in 1961. It was like a new world opened to me, meeting all the women from countries throughout Europe. I experienced that no matter differences in culture and political background, we are one in the Lord! This was very important to me, coming from a country which at that time was very male orientated.

After Rüsclikon 1961 I took part in many conferences organized by EBWU, twice in Germany, twice in England, in the Netherlands, Vienna and Budapest. The last time was in Prague 2006. I have made contact with many women from many different countries. Especially I remember women from Lebanon, who made a very deep impression on me, coming from a country at war and a very difficult political situation. But I could see that for them coming to such a conference and being able to talk about their situation, and to have people listening, was like a balm from the Lord. They experienced they were not alone!



In 1967 I got to know a lady from Switzerland. We have been friends and have kept in contact ever since!

Also I remember specially coming to Vienna. We were two ladies who were going to represent the Norwegian Women's Union at a conference. On the railway station (we didn't fly at that time) two ladies were waiting for us with posters telling who they were. We were taken to a building where the women were gathered. We were heartily welcomed. At that moment I had this wonderful feeling of being one with the sisters of the Lord, from countries far away,



speaking languages which I didn't understand. We were served delicious food, and we received a gift, a pin with a hand embroidered rose set in a frame of beautiful filigree work. I have been wearing it ever since, always reminding me of all these precious sisters in the EBWU.

Now, at the age of 90, I am looking back, and I am so grateful to the Lord for all the blessings I have received from him through my meetings with Baptist women throughout Europe. Times have changed since my first conference in Switzerland. With easier travel communications and the fall of communism in Europe, opportunities for getting together have improved tremendously. I pray for the future of EBWU.

Finally I want to greet you with the verses from the Bible which are the motto of the Baptist Women's Union of Norway: Gal. 6, 9-10. *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

***Yours sincerely, Kitty Idland, Norway***

*During the Conference in Prague 2006 Kitty made in the creative workshop a box for precious texts, which she was holding in her hands. My camera had to make a picture of these old hands! I, Wies Dijkstra, was thinking about all the precious memories this wise lady must have gathered throughout the years...and asked her to write her Memoires!*

*On the card: "Trusting in God means that we must know deeply in our hearts that He knows us better than ourselves"*

*Kitty is the mother of our vice-president Margun Warem.*



# LETTER FROM LAURAN

## Work of the Heart: “Herzwerk” in Vienna, Austria

By Lauran Bethell

Greetings to all my dear EBWU sisters!  
In this issue of “News and Views”, I’d like to introduce you to a new ministry to women in prostitution that was started out of a local church in Vienna, Austria. It’s a great example of God’s surprising call to ministry into very dark places: places we’d rather not think about, places we’d rather not go. But I’m convinced that if Jesus lived in our time, He’d be there. In His time, Jesus went to those places, where “respectable” people wouldn’t go.



This story was written by Rachel Zuch. She and her husband are in ministry in a Baptist church in downtown Vienna. I hope that you are moved and inspired by how God’s love is being shown to *the least of these* in Central Europe.

### The story of Herzwerk, by Rachel Zuch

Several years ago I (Rachel) began to sense a growing burden to reach out to women in prostitution and victims of trafficking. Along the way, God kept sending indicators that He was going to do something in this area and although I knew absolutely nothing about that way of life and felt like the Berlin Wall was standing between us, God just kept tugging at my heart and taking me a step at a time. The sense was, however that the time had not yet come.

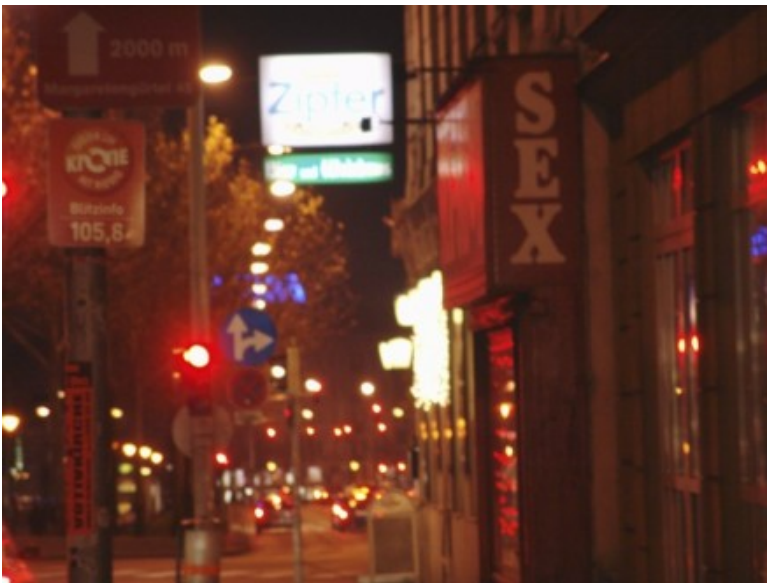
In October 2006, Andrea Klimt, who leads the diaconal work for the Baptists in Austria was planning the yearly diaconal day and asked if it could be held at our church. First we said: “yes” and then we asked who was speaking and what the topic was. She said: “Lauran Bethell will be coming to speak on the subject of human trafficking and prostitution.” With fear and trepidation I went, but I earnestly prayed that God would protect me from an overly-emotional response and that He would just lead me the next step. I think I can best describe what happened that day in that the faceless, nameless people working in dark and dangerous places took on names and faces and God tore down the “Berlin Wall” that separated me and our church from the bars and clubs just a few blocks away. Over the next several months I began to read, pray and investigate the situation here in Vienna.



## LETTER FROM LAURAN

In January 2007 I sent out an e-mail to all of the people, who had come to the diaconal day, as well as any other contacts I had gained during that time. I asked for anyone, who was interested in meeting together for prayer to come to a meeting at the end of the month. The response was overwhelming! The first evening 23 people came from about 8 or 9 different churches and organizations across the city. It seemed as if God had been working in all of their hearts individually and they were all out there just waiting for someone to say, “Hey, let’s get together.” We agreed to meet monthly for prayer and seek the Lord’s will for a possible outreach to the women.

It became clear to me fairly quickly, that although God had chosen me to begin something, I was not necessary the one to lead the actual outreach ministry. I kept hearing of a couple, who had a lot of experience doing street ministry, mainly with drug addicts. Right from the start Sabine and Andreas Kallauch came on board, and with their help and experience we were able to begin going out onto the street almost immediately. In the fall they agreed to lead the ministry and in March 2008, we were able to hire Sabine for 10 and then 15 hours a week. We now have been able to take her on for 20 hours and we have just hired Andreas as well.



Because Vienna is situated very close to the Hungarian and Slovakian borders, we have quite a few women who commute on a daily basis into the city. Others have obviously been trafficked in. Most of women we speak to are from Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Bulgaria. One of the saddest situations is the large number of Nigerian women, who are being trafficked in. As with most trafficked women, they have been promised won-

derful work that pays far more than they could ever have imagined in their country. Many are Christian. Upon arriving they are required to work usually for a “madam” until they pay off their “costs.” These costs usually range from €45 000 - €60 000. They are told if they don’t pay a certain amount per month, their family in Nigerian will be taken to the police station and beaten or worse. At least one of the women goes to choir practice at her church before going out onto the street.

God has laid it on our hearts to take further steps in ministering to the women holistically. In June we did a trial run for a café/drop-in, and we are looking into ways of helping women, who want to leave prostitution.

Our greatest hope of course, is that the women we minister to come to know the unconditional love of the Father and what Jesus did for them on the cross; that they would experience forgiveness, transformation and healing. On the other hand, we don't want to just say: "Be clothed and fed" without putting feet to our words.

Our hope and desire is to have the capability of helping women, who want to leave prostitution. That could mean providing temporary housing until they are able to either return to their country of origin or get on their feet. We would like to find companies that would be willing to sign working papers for the women, so that they can legally be able to work a regular job. We would also love to see networks among churches set up in the countries of origin that would provide a net for women going back and perhaps be able to give micro-loans to the churches to help them set up small businesses to provide work for the women upon return. We have already found one church, for example in Hungary, who has agreed to take in and care for a young pregnant woman, from their area.

I see Herzwirk as a group of people who have a special burden for people in prostitution and/or victims of human trafficking. It is our conviction that God has called **His church** to go and reach out to all those in need of Him. It has been a wonderful to see different local churches in Vienna become involved by setting people free for this type of ministry, in order that we, as **the Church** can answer the call and do together, what would be impossible for one person or local church to do alone.

You can be in touch with Rachel or myself through my e-mail:  
lauran@pobox.com

May God Bless you all!  
*Lauran Bethell*

*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.*

Lauran is writing for News & Views on a regular base to keep us informed.

# IBTS CONNECTS HEARTS



*By Jenny Kanunnikova*

I started my study at International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS) two years ago. I came to do the Certificate of Applied Theology program. It was a really nice experience, I liked everything because everything was new for me. Fourteen people from different countries and backgrounds were living in building “G”. It was very interesting for me because my University diploma was about cross-culture of living in a multicultural society. I had understood some things about multicultural living but here the scale was completely different. Here, at IBTS I could practice it. It was a kind of confirmation of my knowledge.

So, I came to Prague 2 September 2007. I like this city very much. I was impressed by our seminary also. When I saw the students with whom I would study, they were really nice people. My roommate Anna was from Poland. It was an interesting experience to meet so many different people. We met everyone that same evening and our study began the very next day. From the beginning of September till the end of December we studied English. We had some level of the language when we came, but it was not enough for studying, listening to lectures and writing essays in the English language. Every day we had 3 classes of English,

homework, and some other activities apart from study (Bible study, for example). After two or three months I started to miss home. Homesickness is known to everyone. No one can die of this “disease” but it is hard to have it :-)

Praise the Lord that He gave me good friends with whom I could talk, cry, laugh, etc. Well, our study continued....

It was interesting to experience the Spirit of Christmas which started from the beginning of December. I learned about Advent season here in Europe. It is very impressive when you are waiting and counting days, when Christmas is slowly moving toward you. So, Christmas came and I was in a very good mood (except for homesickness) because for the first time in my life I was so far from home that day.

My friends Tima and Yulia invited me to celebrate this holiday with them and their family.

I am so thankful for their invitation because it was really one of the best celebrations which I have ever had. Actually, we spent all Christmas vacation together. I en-



joyed that time. After vacation was completed, we started the new semester. It was harder because we started to learn theology in English. I remember my first essay in theology. It was strange and unusual to do such work in English. The first few times it was really difficult but then I got used to it.

The 2007-2008 academic year flew by very quickly. Graduation came, everyone was in nice clothes, everyone wanted to get their long-awaited certificate, everyone missed their family and wanted go home. However no one wanted to leave IBTS and the people with whom they had become acquainted there. It was sad but our study finished and all the students left for home.

I was invited to continue my education and do the Master's program. After many prayers I decided to stay.

The next academic year started at the same time (September). By this time IBTS was a well known place for me. I was really happy to be back, but after a few months homesickness came again, and I felt it very strongly. I think, it is hard to become used leaving home. It was difficult for me to do my Master's program because the system of education in my country and here is completely different. The first essay of 5000 words was the most difficult for me. After that the other essays have become easier, and easier. Now I am writing my 5<sup>th</sup> essay and I am happy that I can do it.

I am really glad that God gave me this opportunity to study here. I have met a lot of people, and learned how to live with people of different character. Sometimes we have had some arguments or misunderstandings but now, looking back, I can laugh at those situations because it was nothing really important. What we have received from IBTS is much deeper than just an education. We have learned and are still learning how to live in community, share things, have patience, forgive, love, respect, etc. "IBTS connects hearts", everyone who has ever been at the seminary can confirm it.

*With love Yevgeniya (Jenny) Kanunnikova*

*To be continued..*



# Window to the World



## *News from Portugal*

*By Noémia Pereira and Margarida Barros*

We would like to take the opportunity to share some news about the work of Baptist women in our country. We had our General Assembly on the 14th March, where we gathered 51 women delegates from the churches. We recognize we are in times of change, and notice that the local women's groups are not so many and not so active as they used to be.

In spite of that, the present national leadership, headed by Noémia Pereira, is alive and in good spirits and trying to encourage the women keep going.



*Regional Meeting in Lisbon*

For this reason, we are in a period of reviewing the work of women. The process started through several meetings of women around the country, for the sharing of ideas and suggestions and also for listening to the needs and the aspirations of the women. We ask your prayers for this year of change, that it may bring us a new vision for the future and that there may be a new beginning of God's work among women in local churches.



*The theme for this year 2009 -  
"Living the faith"*

We decided to chose "Living the Faith" as the theme for this year, trying to be relevant and inclusive for the young and working women. Our special guest and speaker was Pastor Abigail Castillo, from Spain. We continue to have each year this blessing of partnership with our sisters of the Spanish Women's Union.

Our main missionary project for this year is "*Filling the Empty Shelves*" of books for the Library of the Theological Institute of Beira, Mozambique, where we have our missionaries. We are also very enthusiastic about the ministry of prayer which is the strength of our local women's groups.



*The present national leadership*

Through projects like “Families Praying for Families”, “Mothers who Pray” and new forms of Regional Meetings we have experienced growth and blessings.



We ask that you keep praying for our women leaders, for the projects in which we are already involved and for new things that may happen among us.

*Noémia Pereira, President and Margarida Barros, Director of Publications  
Departamento Feminino Missionário Baptista Português  
da Convenção Baptista Portuguesa*

**News from Kazakhstan**

*By Gina Bulica*

*Thanks be to God, who ... through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him... Therefore we do not lose heart... For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 2:14; 4:16-18)*

Dear sisters,

Finally, after a slow recovery from the long journey and challenging time in Kazakhstan, two lots of dental surgery that I needed to undertake because of a bad abscess and a conference in Serbia for pastors and Christian workers and their wives where I was the main speaker for the women’s part, here is the long awaited report about Kazakhstan. Thank you so much for your patience with me!



I remember a T-shirt from a conference my husband and I attended in Manila, in 1990, during which time we experienced a very strong earth-quake, terrorist threats and caught a bad virus. On it was written: “*We survived Manila 2000*”. With a large, happy smile on our faces and with thankful, joyful hearts, this is what my husband and I feel like saying now: Praise the Lord for His goodness, Gina survived Almaty 2009! There were no earth-quakes, no terrorist threats, not even a virus, and yet, it seemed one of the hardest things I have ever done.

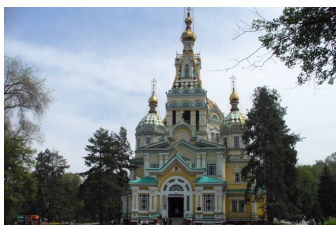




From the moment I started preparations for this trip I experienced strong opposition from the enemy in all sorts of ways. Yet, by God's grace, I accomplished everything I felt called to do there. For this reason both my husband and I are so thankful to all our supporters who lifted this mission trip in prayer before the throne of grace, for we know I could not have done any of the things I did without God's special protection and help.

As you are well aware, my state of health had been a concern from the start but my determination to trust and obey God's call continued to be unmoved throughout the whole trip, in spite of continuous challenges. On the journey from Prague to Almaty the pressure in the aeroplane was so bad that my oxygen level went down to 76%, which was pretty dangerous. For this reason I had to keep the oxygen concentrator working throughout the flight. I am really thankful that my husband accompanied me, especially as Alina, my team-mate could not come with me, after all. One concern as we left Timișoara was that one of the 3 spare batteries for the concentrator could not get charged before the trip, so I was only covered for about 6 hours out of the whole journey. But, as it turned out, this is all that I needed. I even had some 20 min of oxygen left to use in the car from the airport to the flat where we stayed. God's provision of grace is always sufficient!

Almaty had a not so pleasant a surprise in store for us, one for which we were not prepared: the level of pollution was probably the highest we had ever encountered, and this affected me quite a bit, as the car the organizers hired for us had no recirculation or air-conditioning and the traffic in the city was very bad.



*Old Orthodox church in the central park in Almaty, made of wood and without any nails.*

Furthermore, during the three days of the women's conference, I had problems with my oesophagus, so I could not eat or sleep much because of the pain. Despite all these drawbacks, God enabled me not to miss even one session, and I managed to cover all the material that I had prepared (8 sessions). What a great God we have! Although I encountered problems and limitations, one remarkable thing will always remain in my memory – that deep feeling of peace and happiness I experienced throughout this mission trip, which comes from knowing that I was in the centre of God's will. If only for this, all the struggles and frustrations have been more than worth enduring!

Can you imagine how it would be not to have the Bible translated in your own language? (Only 4 books of the OT and the Psalms are currently translated in Kazakh!) Or not to be able to study theology in your own language (that is, if you are able to study it at all!)? Do you know that presently there are more ethnic Kazakhs who went to Seminary in Moldova than in Kazakhstan?

And that Kazakhstan is at the moment the most open of all Muslim countries in that part of the world regarding the Christian faith?

Realising all these truths made me even more aware of the pressing need to train and mentor national Kazakh women leaders while this is still possible, so that the impact they have on their own people would be powerful and lasting, even in the event of less freedom in the future. This is one of the main things that I feel God has called me to do. I also realised there how important it is to provide the translation of a basic leadership training course in Kazakh, and with God's help, this will be done in the next 12 months.

The main purposes of this trip was to train the ethnic Kazakh national women leaders and to identify a group of pastors/leaders and women with leadership potential that we can continue to mentor via Skype, helping them to grow in their walk with God and their knowledge of Him, so that they can become what God desires them to be and serve Him on His terms, not their own. I am very happy to tell you that steps were taken and, with God's help, I hope to start investing long term in 2 (possibly 3) Kazakh women. We were also very happy to find a Romanian young woman that serves in that part of the world who would also like to be mentored by me.



The women's conference, in many respects, exceeded my expectations. Although it was meant to be the Kazakh Women's National Conference (the last one was held in 2007), some of the leaders from Russian churches also came in the first evening. From the second day there were just over 30 participants, most of them from different parts of Kazakhstan, with some sisters from Karakalpakia (an autonomous region in Uzbekistan, with a distinct language and culture) and from Uzbekistan, with the translation for most part in Kazakh. Some of these ladies were ready to take a 2 days and one night train trip together with their small children only to participate in the conference!



All the women who attended were very enthusiastic about the teaching received and the greatest majority of them wrote in the evaluation form that the conference had exceeded their expectations and that they had been challenged to grow in their prayer life, ministry and family relations by what was taught.

Many indicated that during the conference they felt the Holy Spirit calling them to particular areas of ministry.

Anara (my Kazakh friend who is the leader of the Kazakh Baptist Women) and I were very disappointed that a group of Kyrgyz sisters who were invited to the conference were not allowed to attend by their Union leadership, although they were in Almaty at the time as part of a singing group who performed at a pastors' conference. Women's ministry is still very much regarded with suspicion in that part of the world, which is very sad.

There was also a historic moment at the end of the last day, when for the first time the Kazakh women's ministry received official recognition from the Kazakh pastor in charge with the supervision of all Kazakh churches within the Baptist Union. A national team of 5 leaders was appointed and Pastor Galim prayed for them, asking God's blessing over them and the ministry they were entrusted with. I felt very honoured and privileged to be able to be a part of such a special moment.



*Pastor Galim praying for the 4 regional leaders and for Anara, the national Kazakh women's leader (last one on the right)*

Looking back, there are many more things that I would love to share with you about this mission trip to Kazakhstan that I will always treasure in my heart, but I do not wish to try your patience any longer. I cannot close this letter, however,

without thanking you from the bottom of my heart for the loving support that you offered for this trip (both in prayer and the donation of 500 Euro that were used toward covering conference costs for the participants). Please continue to bring before God's throne of grace the women's ministry in Timișoara and Romania, asking Him to lead and sustain us as we continue to serve Him. I also urge you to pray for the Kazakh people, asking God to send out many workers into His harvest field in Kazakhstan, so that His Kingdom will be extended among the Kazakhs.

Yours, with love in Christ, *Gina Bulica*

*Gina is President of the Baptist Women's work in the district Timisoara, Romania*

***We have a website!***

**[www.ebwu.org](http://www.ebwu.org)**

*Welcome to  
the homepage*





## News from South West Pacific

By Julie Belding, President BWUSWP

### Baptist Women Gather in Cairns

On 1-4 May, some 131 Baptist women from the Pacific region, including 55 Australians, gathered in Cairns for the quinquennial conference of the Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific and to repeat the words of Patsy Davis: It was a blessing to everyone who attended.



Outgoing president Lorraine Walker acknowledged a tribute from world president Dorothy Selebano and Women's Department executive director Patsy Davis.

Lorraine Walker, from Brisbane, handed the leadership baton to New Zealander Julie Belding, a former editor of the *NZ Baptist*, who has been elected president of BWUSWP for the next five years.



On the picture Patsy Davis (2nd from left) commissioned new BWUSWP officers Anne MacCarthy, Kaa Simon, Julie Belding and Judith Searle, as world president Dorothy Selebano looked on. Kaa Simon from Papua New Guinea is the new

Vice President, Anne MacCarthy of New Zealand is the new Secretary, and Judith Searle of Queensland is the new Treasurer.



Besides the Australians, the colourful conference (themed *Clothed in Christ*) hosted 9 women from New Zealand, 7 from Fiji, 55 from Australia, 41 from Papua New Guinea and 18 from Papua Indonesia.



A special guest at the conference, which was held at the Cairns Colonial Club, was Dorothy Selebano from South Africa, the current world president of the BWA Women's Department. Also present were Patsy Davis (executive director) and Donna Groover (secretary/treasurer), who are both based in Virginia, USA.



***BWUSWP***  
is  
***Prayer Partner***  
***of Europe***



***BWUSWP is one of seven continental unions (or regions) organised under the umbrella of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department.***

***Member countries of BWUSWP are Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua Indonesia, Papua New Guinea.***

***The other six unions are Asia, North America, South America, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean. The Baptist World Alliance is a global association of Baptists, with 211 member conventions/unions and a total membership of 35 million baptized believers. It represents a worshipping community of more than 100 million Christians worldwide.***





On 25 November 2008, UNIFEM presented UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with more than 5 million signatures to the Say NO to violence against Women campaign. Handing over the signatures to the Secretary-General, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman said, “As long as one in three women and girls may be abused in their lifetimes, violence against women must be everybody’s business.” The Secretary-General responded: “Social mobilization is the spark that ignites action. I am delighted that governments, civil society organizations and the private sector have come together through the *Say NO* initiative.”



From all over the world, 5,066,549 people said **NO** to violence against women and girls and urged **YES** to governments everywhere to take action. Governments answered our call to action in many ways.

The Swedish Member of the European Parliament and Vice Chair of the Women’s Rights Committee Ms. Eva-Britt Svensson is leading efforts among all members of the European Parliament for a “Written Declaration on the Say NO to Violence against Women Campaign.” With enough signatures, the European Parliament can call for a “European Year on Zero Tolerance of Violence against Women.”

UNIFEM Executive Director Inés Alberdi will participate at the Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality in Rio de Janeiro on 31 March to support the work on involving men and boys to end violence against women, which is a priority within the framework of the Secretary-General’s *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* campaign.

Stay tuned for more updates coming soon on the [Say NO website!](#)

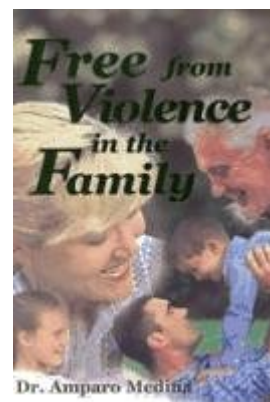
## Book Recommendation

### **Free from Violence in the Family.**

Author: Amparo Medina (\$9.50)

With the publication of this book in English, people in many lands will hear an urgent call for the Church to break its silence regarding the terrible blight that affects families around the world.

**Published by Baptist World Alliance (BWA), Women's Department.**





# PRAYER REQUESTS



## **Albania**

- \* For the formation of the Albanian Baptist Women's Union
- \* For the violated and trafficked Albanian young women
- \* For Muslim women to come to know Christ.

## **Armenia**

For the formation of the Armenian Women's Union

**Azerbaijan** - For Christians to be strong in the face of opposition and persecution .

**Austria** - For project "Herzwerk" in Vienna. (read Letter from Lauran)

## **Germany**

For the new elected Board of the Baptist Women in Germany with Elisabeth Kapsreiter as 1<sup>st</sup> President and Gisela Bullermann as 2<sup>nd</sup> President, Cornelia Nikesch as Secretary, Elisabeth Deschner as Treasurer, members: Edith Becker, Elisabeth Malessa, Bärbel Völker, Annegret Drüke, Gaby Löding, Herma Theeszen and Claudia Deppner as a fulltime worker.

## **Kazakhstan**

For the Kazakh people, asking God to send out many workers into His harvest field in Kazakhstan, so that His Kingdom will be extended among the Kazakhs.

## **Poland**

Pray and give thanks for the Diamond Centre: We thank God for answering our prayers concerning a new club for youngsters, for around 30 boys and girls, ages 17-20, from dysfunctional families in Bialystok. We have already received the rooms for this purpose from the District Administration. Director of this Administration stated he is seeing that God supports us because we achieve step by step our goal, so it reveals His action. Now we have two clubs in Bialystok, one for children and the second for youth. Please pray for this important ministry.

## **Portugal**

\*For our women leaders, for the projects ( a.o. empty shelves in the Library of the Theological Institute of Mozambique) in which we are already involved and for a new vision for the future.

\*For a new beginning of God's work among women in local churches.

## **Romania**

For the women's ministry in Timisoara, Romania, that the Lord will lead and sustain them.

## **South West Pacific** *Prayer Partner of Europe*

For the new elected Board of BWUSWP with Julie Belding as President, Kaa Simon as Vice – President, Anne MacCarthy as secretary and Judith Searle as treasurer.

\* For our sisters in Fiji who are living under increasing political uncertainty.

\* For Joanne Jarlett, who was elected as the new Australian Baptist Women's President.

# AND EVENTS

\* Give thanks for the visas for a lot of women attending the May Conference in Cairns. In spite of many problems, they came in just in time.

## Personal Prayer Requests

\* Please pray for the family of Jan Bowman from New Zealand, a past BWUSWP President . Jan passed away on June 19, 2009.

\* For strength for the family of Elisabeth Vekas. Zoltan, husband and father, has a serious illness.

\* For the weak health of Gina Bullica from Romania, pray that she can continue serving the Lord.

\* For Janette Wilson, Scotland, who has recently suffered a stroke, that she would make a good recovery.

\* For the family of Tony Peck. In a short period they have lost two family members.

\* For the Board of the Baptist Women's Union in the Netherlands as they lost a dear member of their Board in December 2008. Margreet Trip passed away at the age of 59 years. Please pray for her husband too.

## EVENTS

\* **Amsterdam 400**, Celebrating Baptist Life, July 24-July 26, 2009 in The Netherlands.

\* Pray for the BWA WD Executive committee when they meet in July in Amsterdam for the Annual meeting. They will also be selecting the next BWA WD Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer)

### Scotland

\*National Conference, St Andrews, September 4- 7, 2009.

\*Annual Business Meeting & Presidential Celebration, October 24, 2009.

### The Netherlands

\*Training days of the Dutch Baptist Women's Union, October 20-22, 2009.

**Day of Prayer:** Seeing Gods Creation with new eyes. November 2, 2009

\*The main thing is that we all take part! Information about this important event, along with all the resources needed, can be downloaded from the BWA Women's Department website [www.bwawd.org](http://www.bwawd.org) and if there's not yet a Day of Prayer scheduled in *your* area, do take a look at the helpful material provided and consider organising a gathering at your church. Or make it a feature of an existing Baptist women's meeting. These events are so worthwhile, as we pray for women of every region of the world and support women's projects as well.

\* **Spain, April 2010**, Annual meeting EBWU committee.

\* **Hawaiï - Women's Leadership Conference** In Step with the Spirit, July 24-27, 2010.



# THE LATEST NEWS

## ***Big event in river Jordan***

More than 120 persons were baptized in the Jordan River on Friday, March 20, 2009 by pastors from the Jordan Baptist Convention.

The baptism was the culmination of an afternoon of celebration in which the Baptist Centre at Bethany beyond Jordan was dedicated for use by Baptists and other evangelical Christians.

Baptist World Alliance (BWA) General Secretary Neville Callam, who gave the main address, said, “Today, as we assemble by the Jordan... we unite to mark the opening and dedication of this Baptist Centre – a place where people from all parts of the world may assemble for a journey and an experience.”



*Baptism in Jordan River during Dedication of Baptism Center*

The BWA leader expressed the hope that “the waters of the Jordan extinguish the crippling fires of hopelessness that burn in the hearts of those who have no knowledge of God.”

Also speaking at the dedication ceremony was former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who established a faith foundation upon demitting office as British Prime Minister; he commended King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammed for exhibiting courage in the inauguration of the Baptist Centre. The Centre joins buildings of other churches, including the Orthodox Church, which have recently been constructed on the official Baptist Site of Jesus Christ. Blair stated, “In dedicating this site, let us renew our faith in our God, our Lord, and in His message.”

During the dedication ceremony, BWA President David Coffey read greetings from former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, both Baptists, and from prominent Baptist pastor Rick Warren. Coffey also presented a gift to Prince Ghazi on behalf of the BWA. About 1,700 people attended the dedication and opening ceremony.

***“We have a commission from God Himself to present the unchanging but life-changing, message of Christ.”***

*Lorraine Walker, former BWUSWP president*



# SEND IN AND WIN ...

**SENDINANDWIN?SENDINANDWIN?SENDINANDWIN?**

## ***CONTEST***

Yes, you are reading the right words! We are going to organize a contest for **the best story** sent in to N&V.

Dive into your archives or climb into your memory banks, get out your pen and send N&V your most precious, nice, historical thought provoking story you have ever made.

It may have been published before in the past or brand new.

Tell us about what happened in your ministry, about amazing moments, emotional happenings, wonderful experiences, etc.

The only requirement is that it must be related to our General or Women's Baptist Ministry.

We are looking forward to see what storytellers can tell us.

**The Surprise is the prize you can win!**

**SEND IN AND WIN!**

Send your story before November 10, 2009

to: [wiesdijkstra@gmail.com](mailto:wiesdijkstra@gmail.com) or:

Editorial Office News & Views,

Parcours 34, 9285 SC Buitenpost, The Netherlands.

**SENDINANDWIN?**

**SENDINANDWIN!**

**SENDINANDWIN?**



# European Baptist Women's Union

Executive Committee Members  
and positions



**Livija Lame, President**  
Riga, Latvia  
livija.lame@lbs.lv



**Margun Warem, Vice President**  
Algard, Norway  
awarem@online.no



**Aniko Ujvari, Secretary**  
Budapest, Hungary  
secretary.ebwu@gmail.com



**Elisabeth Vekas, Treasurer**  
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elisabeth.vekas@datec.ro



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