



News & Views

Newsletter Summer 2015

Year 1 No. 1



Introduction Newsletter EBWU

This is a new initiative from the EBWU committee. We try to keep in touch with you throughout the year by our website www.ebwu.org, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/europeanbaptistwomen>, our magazine News & Views and of course by our emails to each other. Because the costs of printing and sending News & Views are so expensive, we had to decide to publish this magazine only once a year. We feel that this is not enough, therefore we have decided to send a digital Newsletter to those who have an email address and send it by snail mail to everyone who does not have email.

If you read this and you do have an email address, in the meantime, please send a message to reduce the costs and feel free to send in your dates of Conferences and stories to the editorial address: wiesdijkstra@gmail.com. We like to know and pray for you and even visit you! *Editors: Margaret Brown, Synnøve Angen, Wies Dijkstra.*

EBWU Conference - Ozdere, Turkey 12-15 November, 2015

To give you the opportunity to have a glimpse of the big Baptist World Conference which will be held in South Africa, the EBWU are organizing November 12-15, 2015 a Women's Conference in Turkey. We hope to meet all women who are interested in a wonderful meeting with their Baptist sisters from Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. As you know we choose the places for our conferences very carefully, so everybody can attend from time to time a conference near their own region. We are aware that not everybody can go to world conferences because of the costs, therefore we are planning this conference to bring you the atmosphere of South Africa into Europe. It will be a special Conference, because



the main speaker will be the World President of the BWA- Women's Department : Ksenija Magda. She just will have been appointed in SA and..... she comes from Europe!! The theme of this Conference will be the same as in South Africa: '**Arise and Shine**'. We will also have an outing to the wonderful ancient grounds of Ephesus. Come and join us! Look at our website www.ebwu.org for

more information or ask your country contact person. Get inspired and inspire your own women afterwards back home.

EBWU consultation in Crikvenica, Croatia 30th October – 2nd November 2014



In 2014, thirty-three European women from eighteen countries in Europe and the Middle East came together in the town of Crikvenica, Croatia for a three day Consultation Meeting to reassess the role of the European Baptist Women's Union and determine the future work of the European Baptist women.

In August 1948 during the BWA Executive Meeting in London, England, several European women came together to discuss the possibility of a European fellowship of Baptist women. A proposal was made: *'that a European Baptist Women's Union be formed for the purpose of stimulating closer fellowship, greater co-operation, deeper sympathy for and understanding of mutual problems'*. In no time a constitution was drawn up and agreed.

2014 EBWU Resolution:

We Reflect on the first statement the women made in 1948 in London: *"Facing the world... today, with its desperate need of faith, of hope and of love, we turn to our Heavenly Father for purification, for guidance and for strength. He has great blessings in store for us, which he is longing to give to us, but which can only given to us in answer to our prayers.....Let us, as European Baptist women, dedicate the first week in November as a week of prayer when we unitedly pray for each other and for all the world. Never is the fellowship deeper, richer and stronger than when we as one heart and soul are praying together."*

We Affirm the value of women, encouraging us to discover who we are in Christ, and dedicating ourselves to His purposes, according to the Scriptures:

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God." Ezekiel 36:26-28.

We Accept the challenges of a suffering world and how we deal with that as daughters of the living God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We Commit ourselves to pray for the determination and fulfilment of our calling as women individually and corporately in Europe and in the Middle East.

This Consultation meeting was a great experience for each one of the attending women. We had also the great privilege that former President “Mother of Europe” Yona Pusey was in our midst , inspiring us with her experience and spirit and above all her prayers.

The Croatian sisters have done a tremendous job by organizing everything so well for us and taking us on a wonderful tour to the island Krk and the city of Rijeka. Read more (nice report from Speranca Tomin) and see more (nice pictures) on our website: www.ebwu.org

Relief Fund for Syrian Women



The EBWU has an ongoing special project: **Relief Fund for Syrian Women.** Our President Aniko Ujvari and Synnøve Angen have been in Lebanon in February 2014 to hand out personally the goods they could buy from the financial gifts from all of you to the refugees from Syria in Lebanon. It was an emotional journey in sometimes dangerous situations. The President of the LBWU (Lebanese Baptist Women's Union) *Saada Malky* works together with Syrian Baptists and the LSESD (Lebanese Society for Educational & Social Development). There are plans to start a centre in Syria, a home of peace for women and children who have been abused in the midst of the war – to have a place where they can come and be healed and return to society strengthened.

During the last year they have been providing an on-going food aid program as well as providing blankets, heating stoves and fuel subsidy, to families displaced within Syria. Unfortunately the situation has not improved since then and there seems to be no end to the conflict! We read in papers and see it on TV: an estimated 12.2 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria and 3.8 million Syrian refugees, and people from other countries have fled to neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt since the conflict started four years ago! In Lebanon the refugees now comprise nearly a third of the country's population. That makes Lebanon the second largest refugee-hosting country in the world. Can you imagine all those people depending on the mercy of the goodness of the Lebanese population! They cannot do that on their own!

International aid organizations have cited it as the “most challenging refugee crisis in a generation”, the scale of humanitarian need is approaching levels not seen since World War II! President Saada Malky, wrote in February 2015 in an email: *At the moment the number of refugees coming to Lebanon is increasing day after day, with it the need for food, milk for babies and hygiene items too.* And that is exactly the main goal of the EBWU Relief Fund for Syrian women. We try to get even more women involved in this project, because we feel so connected with those mothers: Imagine that you do not have food for your child and only

a tent as a shelter in winter while you were used to living in a warm house and having enough to eat! Synnøve Angen, our EBWU committee member asked her women in Norway to knit socks. She came with suitcases full of socks to Lebanon and the women there were so grateful: To know that these socks were specially made by hand for them and with the intention to help



them even more with other items because they see it as their Christian duty to help other Mums out! That is a message which is touching the hearts of people. The refugees all came to the meetings to thank God for the help they received and for the spiritual bond they felt with the Baptist women in Europe.

We understand that we cannot help everyone, but we know that we can bring hope and love to someone! *We need YOUR help too!*

Please give your donation to:

EBWU “Relief fund for Syrian Women”,

Account number: 272728.

Spar- und Kreditbank Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden eG.

Postfach 1262, 61282 Bad Homburg , Germany, Europe.

BIC: GENODE51BH2

IBAN: DE45 5009 2100 0000 2727 28

Treasurer: Fabienne Seguin - e-mail: treasurer.ebwu@gmail.com

EBWU Committee meeting in Budapest, March 2015

As you know the EBWU committee comes together once a year for her annual meeting. We always choose a country where we have never been and take the opportunity to attend a National Women’s conference or a meeting during the time we are there. In this way we meet women of many countries and hope the European Baptist women feel more close to us as we personally meet each other. We always enjoy these meetings very much because talking and praying bring us together.

Last year we were on the island of Malta. And now we have been to Hungary, the homeland of our President, Aniko Ujvari. She hosted us in Budapest in a guesthouse of her church and

a guesthouse of the seminary. The meetings took place in her own office in the building of the Hungarian Baptist Seminary where she is working.

Such a meeting is very busy, but also we enjoy it very much, to be together, to listen to our stories and struggles, and above all having the possibility to pray for it together because it is said in Philippians 4:6-

7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

One of the highlights was that we could meet Aniko's family and the women of her church in a special meeting and the other church members on Sunday in a special greet and meet service. All committee members shared a testimony and we listened to the beautiful hymns of the Church Choir.

And of course in our (little) spare time Aniko took us to certain places in the beautiful city of Budapest. So we took , besides a lot of work, a good remembrance with us back home.

Read and see more pictures on our website: www.ebwu.org

Women's Meeting in Pesterzsébet Baptist Church, Budapest.

Saturday night we were invited to visit *Pesterzsébet Baptist Church* for a women's meeting.

The Pastor of the church had heard of our visit to Budapest and remembered that there was once in his church a blooming women's group. His goal is to start up a Women's group again. He invited all the women of his church to attend a special meeting to learn about Women's work in Europe. The EB-WU committee members told stories from our their countries,

about our different ministries and experiences, shared ideas and activities and encouraged the women to start women's work in their church.



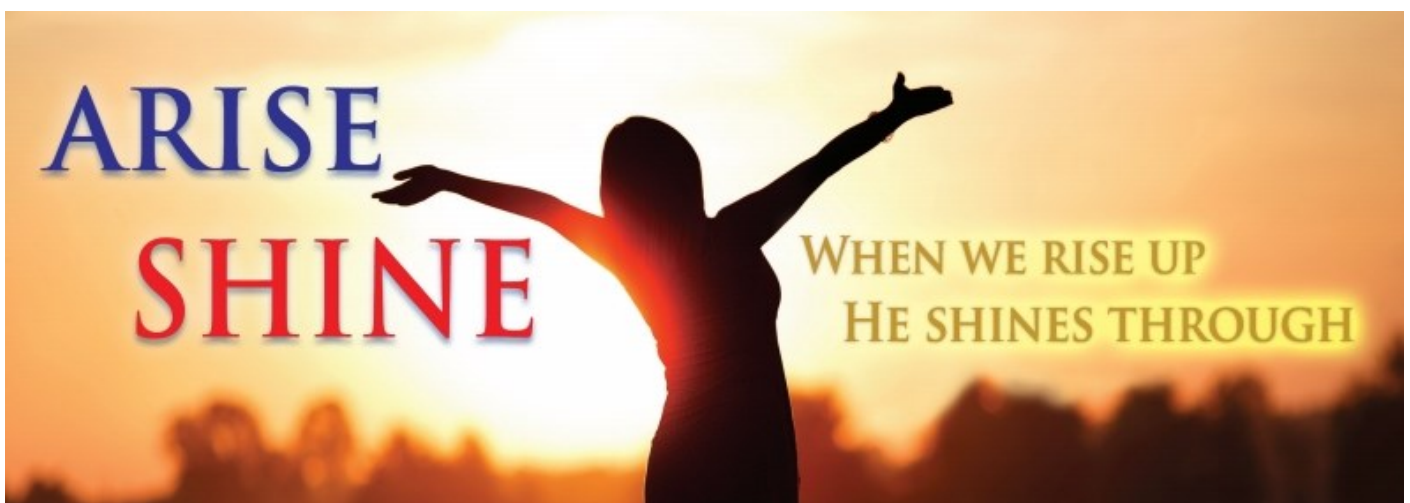
Our own President Aniko Ujvari shared information about EB-WU's work in Europe. 40 women of different ages, as well as the church's pastor, shared fellowship and refreshments around the table this Saturday evening. It is always a big blessing and encouragement for us to meet local women!



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
November 2, 2015
Theme: Arise and Shine

On the first Monday in every November, Baptist women unite in praying for one another and for worldwide social and evangelistic needs. In this way we benefit from being part of a world community.

5 years ago the theme “In Step with the Spirit” was launched at the BWA Women’s World Conference in Hawaii. Each year had it’s own sub theme: the fruit of the Spirit : Love, Joy, Peace, Faithfulness. This year we will start a new theme: “Arise and Shine” which will continue through 2015-2020.



A little history: Did you know the first Day of Prayer was held in Europe in 1948 when women wished to bring about reconciliation between war-divided countries. Today many countries worldwide still experience division rather than unity, and so the faithful work of prayer is carried on. We give God thanks for the barriers which He has broken down, and in hope and faith we continue to pray for the reality of the kingdom in the lives of all His servants, and for its spread among people who do not recognise Him.

The annual programme is prepared by women from different continents in turn, and a tremendous network of translators work to bring the programme to their own unions.

Our European offerings...

are used to encourage various projects. They also support our World and Europe, Headquarters, the mailing of the different publications, and the sponsoring of (leadership) conferences. In Europe our president, has a special travel role in order to encourage the individual unions. Did you know we almost only depend on the income of this special Offering Day? And do you know EBWU has less money too, since the economical crisis affects us all? We kindly ask to remember the finances of the EBWU in your prayers.

How far would we go?

In some parts of the world, women are known to walk miles, some over mountains, to reach the place of prayer. In areas of Africa and Asia, women wade and swim small rivers to join in the prayer gathering. They carry their food, and leave husbands to care for their children and families.

It has become our largest Baptist celebration of the year.

For more information about the annual programme and projects please contact the European Women's Secretary Margaret Brown mib4m5@btinternet.com

Also if you would like to apply for our support.

Day of Prayer 2014 program can be downloaded from our webpage www.ebwu.org or visit the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department homepage, www.bwawd.org, Day of Prayer Program.

Will you be a part of the prayer chain around the world next November and encourage your local women too? We need you all as shining lights in this dark world.





2015 Baptist Women's Leadership Conference

"Arise, Shine"

July 18-21, 2015

"Arise, shine; for your light has come!" Isaiah 60:1



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