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European Baptist Women's Union



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Front Cover: "To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it." Revelation 2:17 ESV

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**We live in Him.
God in childhood.
God now.**

Acts 17 : 28 “For in Him we live and move and are!”

I met God as a child. In my home, in Betania, at women's gatherings, under the northern lights at a fjord. I am not ashamed of the gospel which came to me as a child! It is Gods power to salvation.

By Aase Johanne Aune - Page 17



Report of ‘Colours of Autumn’ Conference, Rucheek, Moscow, Russia

Over 100 women attended from all parts of Russia and from Belarus and Uzbekistan (some had to travel for days), and although the weather was cold and crisp, there was warm fellowship amongst us as we met, talked, learned, worshipped and prayed together.

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From the History of Russian Women's Ministry

Since the beginning of the evangelical movement in Russia, in the middle of the XIX century, the women stood together with brothers

in the preaching of the Gospel and the ministry of charity.

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A Prayer Story

Up in the far North of Russia near to the border of Alas-

ka a little girl was born, named Anna. Many children did not survive in these remote areas far from civilization. No doctors (GP's) , no hospitals, and often no neighbours right next door.

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A Pearl in God's hand

For years the Dutch Baptist women have supported a summer camp for the victims of the Tsjernobyl disaster in Belarussia together with the European Baptist

Women's Union. When a delegation of the EBWU Committee was asked to be present at the Jubilee conference in 2015 in Minsk, I asked if it was possible for me to visit that project.

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By Margaret Brown

Welcome to our 2017 Edition of News and Views!

As I write this we are drawing near to Pentecost, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit of God on the faithful, fledgling church, empowering her to go forward into all the world and spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise God that He came, that the church was obedient, and that down through the centuries the witness has been maintained, that the church has continued to be built, and that you and I are where we are to-day, with faith in the Lord Jesus, because the

church is faithful to her calling.

Across Europe at this present time, almost without exception, there is anxiety and fear, terrorism is causing a real threat, there is political instability – much to cause alarm and panic. Europe is changing. Refugees, asylum seekers and others looking for a better life are continuing to flood into almost all parts of Europe. People seem to be inundated and are seeking to cope with what resources they have. The European Union has failed to live up to its ideals. Although it has brought good it has also caused problems. Some countries are waiting to join the Union, at least one is waiting to leave. In many places people are without hope.

Where is the church in all of this? Where are the men and women of faith? Let me tell you that many of our brothers and sisters are reaching out in Jesus name. In these days of uncertainty, the church, all of us who know and love the Lord Jesus, are called to be a beacon of hope, a light on a high hill to be seen by all. Jesus asks us to be His witnesses. Just prior to His return to heaven, Jesus affirmed to His disciples, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8).



Europe needs Jesus! In these days, we need a fresh anointing of the Spirit. Jesus promised He would be with us forever. We can only do Jesus' work if He is with us and gives us the strength we need.

Christians are not exempt from the woes of this world. The storms of life come and often they rage so fiercely that they 'rock the boat' and cause our faith to be shaken. At times like this we must remember that we have the Holy Spirit. His promise is true. We have an anchor which hold us secure in Jesus Christ, the solid Rock.

As you read the articles in this edition of N&V, as in the past ones, you will read of women who are totally reliant on the Lord, and His Spirit to enable them to live in the midst of storms and uncertainty as they hold out the truth of the gospel and the hope of salvation and eternal life available in Jesus. They are shining lights, they hold out hope.

God is at work through them.

Let's determine by the power of the Spirit to be women of God, women through whom God manifests His love, light and hope to the world.

May you be encouraged as you read the stories contained in this magazine for they bear witness to the Lord Jesus and what He can do through lives surrendered to Him.

We are His witnesses, pointing people to the Lord Jesus. Let's ask for a fresh anointing of the Spirit as we continue to surrender each day to God's will for us, and to Him be the glory and honour.

*You will receive power
when the Holy Spirit comes
on you; and you will be
my witnesses.*

Acts 1:8

*Our prayers may be
awkward. Our
attempts may be feeble.
But since the power of
prayer is in the One
who hears it and not
in the one who says it,
our prayers do make a
difference.*

Max Lucado.

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER



By Aniko Ujvari

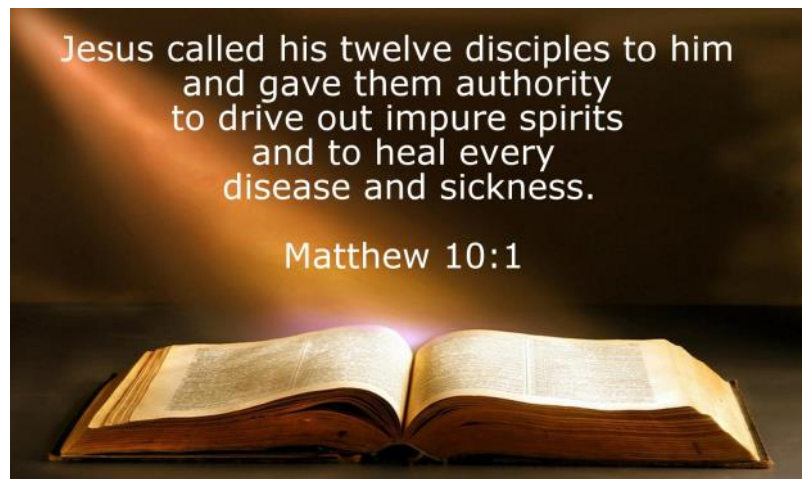
My dear European Sisters,

It has been a long time now, since we sent you a message, information through this special newsletter, which is a lovely heritage from our sisters who came before us on His path in Europe.

Our continent is going through a very challenging time. Questions like migration, instability, economical difficulties, wars between brothers, political scandals, natural disasters - all just part of our difficulties. More challenging is to find the answer for our spiritual questions, like indifference, cynicism, decadent worldview, tiredness, hopelessness, loneliness, in spite of living in a stuffed urban life - rat-race with schedules and timing. Living healthy spiritual and physical lives in spite of the fantastic opportunities to take care of our body and soul with great medical care in Europe and having wonderful literature in the topic of self-support.

This morning as I thought and prayed about what to address to you in my message, I had my Bible reading from Matthew 10 verses 1-10.

This passage is about how Jesus Christ sent out his disciples to do his job among the people. Let me share with you what came to focus today. Firstly Jesus Christ called them to him. Is it natural for you, being called by the Son of God? Can you imagine what a privilege it is to be called by him? He knows us by names and by relations, he knows our fathers, parents, all our circumstances. We, each of us, have a calling. We are important to him, one by one, no matter where we are coming from. He knows that, and he calls us.



“...and gave them authority” (Matthew 10, 1/b). What power! This authority comes not from the knowledge, the opportunities, or being in a good place at a good time. No! It comes from God. He sends us out, but he equips us to be ready, to be able for his work. And what a great work: heal, raise, cleanse, drive out...

He sent his disciples to their own people firstly to set them free, with the free spirit which at all the disciples gained in him. We received his mercy freely, we may share it freely.

Let us think about our own people today. With great commitment we think about the mission to go far from ours and to do something for the lost ones. But what to do today in Europe, when the lost ones are around us. Firstly here is the time to go for our European Christian brothers and sisters who are lost, struggling with the traps of all the challenges mentioned above.

We read here that the kingdom of Heaven is near. Yes, we are in trouble with the timing always. And the minutes are flowing out of our hands. We make strict schedules to control and use the time well, but the days and the hours are flying away, and sometimes we just wonder how it is, for what the time was spent on. I tried to do this or that. I tried to control it, I tried to make it useful, to do it beneficially....and the time just went out of my hands.



And finally, Jesus tells his disciples “take no bag for the journey...” Be free. Don't carry heavy burdens, heavy stuff with you and/or heavy chains of impossible duties. Nothing extra we need, “just” his calling, his freedom, and the authority from him. His strength, his presence, his mercy are enough for us in this journey. No worries about the time, no extra burdens. He and me in this journey for you and for her and for him, for our families, neighbors, friends and church people, and wider and wider circle of people around us, depending on His calling.

Be free to serve Him as He wishes! Receive the blessings from Him.

Some reflection on how we serve as European women according to my experiences in the past few months. Let me share with you the special joy that we have old and young sisters' groups in different parts of Europe. One of the oldest are the Norwegian sisters, who celebrated their 100 years anniversary. A century as women's ministry! Wow, how many warm knitted socks, pullovers, warm clothes and many other different goodies came out from the diligent hands of our sisters from Norway. Let the Lord bless them continuing their inheritance.

And there are our lovely Albanian sisters, who are taking their first steps as a Union, searching for God's will and looking for the opportunities to serve him in the best way as a women's union. We pray for them to get the vision and get the wisdom in their way.

We may be thankful for the committed heart of the Finnish sisters, the Russian women's warm, loving heart serving in many heavy needs and painful situations. Be the blessings on them!

And participating at the Polish sisters' conference we just praise the Lord how He is able to call the younger generation among their circumstances and challenges them

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

to serve Him. **Klaudia Wiazowska** who served in a wonderful way as a President was thanked for all her hard work for the Polish Baptist women.

And the sisters in Transylvania, or in Hungary bringing women together to empower them to live in Christ and serve for him.



The Czech and Slovak Women's Conference May 6-8 2016

And...and...and... I can't tell you all the experiences and moving stories all around the past period since we shared it with you last time. But let me encourage you, my dear European sisters, go on, serve, act and stay brave in Christ! He gave you calling, authority, He knows you and loves you!

Stay courageous and be brave to serve Him while the time comes.

Yours in Christ,

Aniko Ujvari,

EBWU President.



CONGRATULATIONS!

The EBWU-committee received an invitation from the Norwegian Baptist Women to attend the celebrations to mark their centenary. We were of course, delighted to accept their invitation.

Aniko Ujvari, the EBWU President gave greetings to the Norwegian sisters on our behalf which are printed below.

Psalm 62:6-8.

"Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God ; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."



Norway is a unique country. The scenery is fabulous. I remember my first visit how deeply impressed I was with the chain of huge mountains, the rocks looking like giants. They give stability, and show power. This land needs brave, strong people both physically and spiritually. And I know your nation is very committed to provide freedom, comfort and to do the best for others. You were part of the very first Baptist Women's gathering to work on reconciliation and in giving helping hands to the women in need. You are strong, carry not just your own, but also others burdens. And I know you do it with joy in your heart.

I choose these Bible verses to greet you because I wish to thank you for being the strong and committed women you are; part of the European Baptist Women's Union.

NORWAY CONFERENCE

You know well the meaning of the words like fortress, rock, refuge. You know from your personal experiences what it means to have promises from the Lord. His promises are strong and they make us strong. You have great examples from the past, wonderful sisters, who opened their mind, their heart and their will to serve the Almighty God. And their deeds are like strong rocks, and as you follow their examples in the commitment you may build on this foundation to continue the ministry in the Lord. Because you experienced what it means that your "salvation and honor depend on God".

My dear Norwegian sisters, keep on going on the path which was blessed in the past and is open for you to go ahead for the kingdom of God. As Jesus Christ said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." (John 14,6) He gives you His blessings on this way. He blessed you in the past. And keeps His promises for the future. He is not changing and you experience He is the stable and strong Rock under your steps. Go on, follow the ancestors example and be brave and strong in His hands.

Serving together for His glory,

Aniko Ujvari
EBWU president



Report of Centenary Conference of the Norwegian Baptist Women's Work, 2-4th September 2016

By Margaret Brown

This jubilee of 100 years of the Baptist Women's Union was held in **Trondheim**, Norway where in 1916 the Norwegian Baptist Union's annual meeting took place too, and where they made the decision that now it was time to form a Baptist Women's Union in Norway.

The conference was held in the Radison Royal Garden Hotel in Trondheim, over the weekend of 2-4th September 2016. The six members of the EBWU Committee were invited to attend and were so blessed by being there. Altogether 115 ladies attended, the oldest being 95 and the youngest 25; quite a few former leaders of the Norwegian Baptist Women's Union were also present; even by video! Former Norwegian Women's President Kitty Idland, mother of later President Margun Warem, was interviewed at her home and we could enjoy in this way her presence! Everyone was touched in some positive way, and there was a real sense of the Lord's presence among us. Time was spent looking back, giving thanks for the past and looking forward to the future with God.

It was wonderful and such a blessing to be able to share together and get to know one another a little, to chat, to learn, to pray together. A prayer room had been set up, just off the main hall where anyone could go and make use of, for prayer or just to sit quietly and know God's presence. The theme was taken from Acts 17:28 '*In Him we live and move and have our being.*' The two main speakers were Aase Johanne Aune and Mette Ellinor Boye. Our praise times were ably led by a group from Lillehammer, Norway.

The conference began late afternoon on Friday, with welcome and introductions of various people. In the evening Aase Aune brought her first message. She spoke of her spiritual journey as a child, often referring to older hymns which meant much to her. She learned that God is in everything – He is in our senses and in our memories, '*in Him we live and move and have our being.*' It brought laughter and smiles to us as to how children connect and think literally about the stories from the Bible and how these stories relate to their own environment and life in their world. She then moved on to ask what life was like in 1916 when the work began. It was the middle of the war, commodities were in short supply and often expensive, but these women who began the work had something greater than bread. They had a calling! They fulfilled their calling and God did what He said He would do.

Things can happen when we give out in Jesus' name. We give what we have. We can receive a calling at any time, in any place. Then we are on holy ground; life is holy, maybe not so wonderful all the time, but holy nevertheless, as we fulfil our calling. These first women listened, they saw the vision, they obeyed, and God blessed. Go into the time you are living in, the burning bush can be anywhere and God is calling your name.

Whoever you are, whenever you are obedient, that is holy ground. We have dared to believe that Jesus walks with us.

On the Saturday morning Mette Boye spoke. What do we think of ourselves? Often, we have thoughts that we are not good enough. We must learn to stand firm as a Christian woman, not to be pressed down but to sit down in the right place. The Lord has the right place for us. In Luke 15 three stories are told of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. That is the gospel, that's salvation. I can go into the holy place because of what Jesus has done.



Aase Johanne Aune



Mette Ellinor Boye

There's a longing in God's heart for His children to come home. It is not about what we have done, it's all about God's love for us. Sitting comfortably with God – that is my place. It is nothing that I do, it is because I am His daughter. When thoughts come to bring us down, God says, 'you are My daughter and I love you. You are precious to Me.' When we say we can't, God says we can. He tells us to sit down and listen to Him, He will show us. Just be with God as His daughter. Take your place, be visible. Make room for your tent; God has created us with skills, use them, we must dare to take that room, otherwise there will be an empty place where we should be (Isa.54:2).

We are different and need one another to complement each other. Don't compare, take your own place within the body (1Cor.12:14). Fill the room you have been

given. Share the vision, share the life, share generously. Encourage, bless and release. Jesus taught the disciples, sent them out, listened when they came back, counselled them and let them go again. We need spiritual mothers to nurture, encourage, protect, counsel and let go. Bless the younger women coming up encourage them, mother them. We also need to know when to let go. We don't need to disappear, but to stand in the sidelines and cheer the others on, encourage them, mentor them. Even in old age we can still bear fruit. Stand together with the younger ones. Take your space where God has placed you.

Following lunch some of our number went to Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim where an organ recital and meditation took place. It was very restful sitting in the cathedral enjoying the music and the meditation. The Cathedral dates from 1070 and is built over the tomb of St Olav, the Viking King who brought Christianity to Norway.

Later we enjoyed hearing about the various projects which the Norwegian Baptist Women support – the Karen on the Thai/Burmese border nursery for children including refugee children; the Chin in Burma clinic giving medical and dental help; in Congo with birthing huts and knitted baby jackets and hats; in Sierra Leone in Break the Silence, aimed to stop female genital mutilation and violence against women; in India with **Freeset**, a business providing work for women who have been involved in prostitution where they can now earn a living with dignity. All these very worthwhile projects involve the women reaching out with the love of God towards others.



Aase Aune then spoke, asking if there was room for tears in the kingdom of God. In society where well-being and happiness seem to be, everything anything else is rejected. Yet, there has to be room for tears and wailing. Jesus never guaranteed no storm, but He did guarantee He would be in the boat with us. Sorrow is not something that can be ended at a certain time. There are so many varieties of tears and sorrow. Look at Job and the prophets; the prophets were not sent to tell the people that everything was ok. They were sent often in sorrow and hardship to speak the truth of the Word of God.

We can walk with Jesus in darkness and in light. Do we have room for the testimony of darkness? How can we reach people to-day in pain if we are prophets of happiness? There is pain in our lives and pain in our churches. We can share the darkness with Jesus prior to the light coming. There is not a great openness to share the darkness within the church, but there is opportunity to share with those outside also. Ecclesiastes 3:15-18 speaks of judgement and justice in dark places. There is room for crying and we are to speak the truth in love. Not everything has to be made public; in small groups or even one to one we can be personal. What is the Long Term Perspective? We are urged not to be weary of doing good (Gal.6:9). It seems the greatest threat to-day is the rush to be busy all the time. There is no proper answer to this. There is a Biblical principle of relaxing and calming down, resting. Rushing around and the kingdom of God are not compatible. He does not want us to be stressed out. The tree planted by water puts roots down and does not dry out (Jer.17:7,8). We must rest to put our roots down and take in refreshment.

The olive tree can be 40 years old before it produces fruit and can live for 100 years. It can last through drought because its roots are deep. Old trees give an enormous amount of fruit and often the best comes from the trees growing in dry conditions.



Be like the olive tree, even in old age. John 15:16, *'You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.'* Remain in the Vine, be fruitful, let Jesus lead you into the light. We are dependent on God physically and spiritually.

In the evening, we enjoyed a sumptuous feast – good food, good company and good talk. Greetings were brought to the conference by a variety of people and organisations. Ruth Bråtveit the current Leader of the Norwegian Baptist Women coordinated this part of the programme.

The conference concluded with the morning worship service held in Trondheim Baptist Church. This was led by Synnøve Angen, who included a number of people taking part in the service. Dimitrina Oprenova shared the Word of God from Hebrews 12:1-3, encouraging us all to press on and persevere because the Lord Himself is with us.

An event such as this took a lot of organisation and hard work, many e-mails and telephone calls. We appreciate all that the Norwegian Baptist Women did, especially the organising group, and the translators. Everything went according to plan – the accommodation was very comfortable, the food excellent and the fellowship wonderful. Thank-you to all involved for giving of your time, your resources, talents and your selves.

It was a joy to be part of such a conference. It was a great time of reflection, encouragement and inspiration and the Lord certainly blessed us. We give Him the praise and the glory.

WE LIVE IN HIM



Speech by Aase Johanne Aune at the Centenary Norwegian Conference 2016 in Trondheim. Aase told us how she experienced God in her childhood. Aase used often in this speech songlines from old hymns and the old Bible language, leading to funny explanations by little children.

We live in Him.

God in childhood. God now.

Acts 17 : 28 “For in Him we live and move and are!”

God was moving in my childhood. God was song, joy, crying and complaining. Everything was moving. Crying and silence. All was strong. Wedding or funeral. It stuck so totally together that even the crying became music. All was harmony, all was true. True when they laughed, and true when they cried. All included, at home and in the chapel. There was no former and after; one experience continued into the next. It was flesh and spirit. Just like Jesus; man and God at the same time.

Catching fish at sea and catching fish at the chapel Betania was in the same category. It was before the preaching of the difference. As a child I knew that God and men belong together. The preaching when I grew up and went into ‘the world’ made some trouble. God was in command at the chapel and in the church – a Spectator to see all went on in a proper way in hymns and liturgy; a Judge over a ‘program’. God lived there now. Outside it was much more secular and sinful. It was a pity.

God moved as I lay in my parents arms under the northern lights on our way to the chapel Betania. On a kick sledge in snowstorm, or on a tractor with benches for passengers – on our way to the Sunday school picnic on a warm summer’s day.

I danced with God without even thinking of one step. It was absolutely perfect in a context where I belonged. My long hair fluttered, my hair decorations sang. Red rubber boots in the rain, and white cotton sneakers in the sun. The first blue bathing suit, the one with a white maritime steering wheel stitched on the front. The colourful dress, a present from aunt Nanna in Trondheim. God must have had something to do with all these blessings, but He was quite mean the summer I got Mumps and couldn’t wear my wonderful bathing suit.

God moved at Betania as the old women and men prayed with tears. As we sang hymns and songs with such strange words that my fantasy bloomed. I know; God is the creator of fantasy, even if we sometimes don’t understand the language or the mysteries.

There were roses of Sharon and deserts of Egypt before we came to the fountain. There were valleys of tears and hills of Zion, mountains of Moab and Jacob's ladder. There were rivers of Babylon, lions in caves, straw and hay was His crib bed. It was stone under the head. It was snares that broke, birds set free. It was budding seed, broken straw and even sheaves. It was fleshpots, potters and clay. Emptiness was over, streets of gold and jasper walls in high definition. It was songs that should roar gloriously, waters flowing and Jerusalem. They came from east, they came from west, from stormy seas and thorny ways. It was sounding brass and clanging cymbal (in my mind brass/malm meant ship in the city Narvik) Faith had eyes that sow; it was fantastic. The eyes were for sure as big as tin plates, as in the saga The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We sat in heaven with Christ while we went out or just sitting in the living room. The spirit lifted us high on its wings, much higher than the seagull and the eagles that were flying. We went down in deep valleys when it was for baptizing, but in a hurry we came up again, and we should follow, follow, anywhere and anytime. We are never to go alone, all was surrendered to Jesus, at His feet. It was remarkable that Jesus should have all at His feet? I liked best to have my things in my room or in my modern shoulder bag.

Zion should go and meet the King. Was the King really going to visit our meeting? The tabernacle should be raised, and we should travel, because we don't live here, we are only guests. I didn't agree; in fact we did live here! It was mourning clothes here and bridal, and very much wedding clothes in heaven. It was clouds and sea, sower and reaper, but not so many to have a potato harvest, like we did in the autumn. It was shepherds and sheep, snakes and paradise, and some were here and some were up there, at the Jordan river, wherever that might be. Paradise (a game Norwegian children played) we could at least write and jump and play on, going home from school, if the snow just disappeared and we could see the gravel path. It was sunshine kids and kids that climbed the sunshine mountain, red and warm on their cheeks. In my opinion, we hardly ever had climbed to the mountain lake with mum and dad. We went straight to the skies, but we had a resting place on the path to the top. Turn away from sin, look up to heaven, we sang, which must mean not to look down into the river valley, where a cow once fell down back in time, because it had not followed the path. To look up to heaven was difficult to avoid, as we walked vertically. It was hunted doves and wounded deer, depressed hearts that Jesus never rejected. Peter walked on the water, Paul in victory was persevering, and there was a little man who climbed up into a tree, yet in his heart there was a fire burning: I wish to see you Jesus!

It was pearly gates, doors that opened an closed. Candlesticks that were moved and love growing cold. What was lukewarm was even spat out. It was hearts on fire. It was blessings and children who should not be stopped.

And Jesus should fill all in everyone! I was wondering how there could be space/room/place for all this? It seemed very much, but space for absolute all, because in the house of God and Jesus there is room, many rooms; Jesus clearly said so. Jesus also should go away and clear the rooms in a way so there was room for us as we

came. with «all». It was nice that Jesus also had to clear rooms, as I had to do in my room.

Added to all the rooms, God had many classy names. We read them every Christmas party at Betania chapel. We could call Him Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. My favourite name was Counsellor, since I was so enamoured by Solomon. I loved him since he was so wise; when two ladies argued over who was the mother of a baby. I felt so bad for the baby, and that kind of counsellor I wanted to be!

God seemed to know what He was doing. It was a true 'fairy tale', and it was totally normal for a kid to have these sort of thoughts in my world. Life was filled with mysteries and riddles that could grow with me and in me. A kid was able to have rooms opened inside, with space for all the wonders and mysteries in life, not to forget, it was very comforting that the adults understood more than Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, the Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff.

There was room for death. It was scary and sad when Astor at the age of twenty and Kirsti aged ten died, but it was nice that there is going to be a resurrection. I did not like them to be lying there with sand in their mouths, but Jesus is going to raise them from the grave one day, so they have to stand that, if they don't get smothered while waiting? It can take some time to get where the roses never fade. One can not go to that city lying dead in a coffin, could they? I was sceptical, but trusted their words.

Women's meetings/gatherings were a true 'fairy tale'. God was smiling on those meetings, and He smelled them too. God smelled the perfume, woollen clothes, new leather shoes and snow in the winter. He smelled the sandwiches with egg and salmon, coffee, cake, - and a little sweat if I came too close. Devotion and prayer before the peak; Lottery win! I listened to the words, silent prayers, saw the tears, and knew it would end with coffee, a win and happiness at last.

They sang: Row, row against land, brothers, row, row against land.

I was convinced that they sang about my father and our fishermen at sea. I understood all was well, despite tears and crying prayers. The hymn number 199 in songbook 'Evangelisten', has imprinted itself deeply in my mind, and I share it:

Glimpse of light in darkness, brothers don't fear anymore,
Look to the morning star, saving is near,
Ship wreck is sinking, call every man,
Get in the lifeboat, we can see land.

Row against land, brothers, row against land,
Safe is the lifeboat, we can be saved,
Fight for your life, brothers, help every man,
Brake through the waves, now we see land.

Don't stay at the wreck brothers, think of your well,
Safe is the lifeboat, now save your soul,

Can you see the enemy?
Flee while you can, seek toward land.

Get down in the lifeboat, here it is leeward,
High are the billows, brothers hear the storm,
Don't fear for it, keep up and stand
At last we see the morning star, Go against land!

The skies disappear, brothers, lift up your eyes,
Morning sun shining, darkness has gone,
Safe in the lifeboat, sing every man,
Glory Hallelujah we are at land!



As a grown up I take these words and visions in a new way, understanding that it concerns my life deeply, and that it concerned their lives. It was relevant to the women. I understand that with their men at sea they liked to sing this song.

My senses came first, rational explanations later. If rational explanations came first, it would have been a disaster for my spiritual life. Speaking in tongues came before translation. A baby takes nutrition for life, beyond knowing the ingredients. Blessed is the thirst.

God is moving in 2016. Don't remove the mysterious words! Kids, youths, adults, and older folks. We are created with depths which the surface does not understand. Deep is crying to deep. Smell, taste, see, hear, and touch – all are vital. Even so with dreams. God embraces all, and speaks to us.

For in Him we live and move and have our being, says Acts 17;28.

As we mature, we are ready for translation. We notice that everything is connected. The song, smell, laughing, crying, good weather and storm. God is still moving. He is whole, makes me whole. God takes all pieces from my broken life, from my childhood until now, and cares for me. He puts threads together and has room for all. God has a multiple vocabulary, He talks clean and clear to us. It's a question of hearing and receiving. Still we see in a mirror, darkly, as in a riddle, but one day we shall see clearly and understand.

I met Him as a child. In my home, in Betania, at women's gatherings, under the northern lights at a fjord. I am not ashamed of the gospel which came to me as a child! It is Gods power to salvation.

Evert Taube says in his autobiography: 'In my 60 year old heart there still lives a five year old kid'.

I agree. And Jesus loves the little children, all the children in this world.

September 2016, Trondheim. Baptist Women's Centenary Conference.

IBC conference 2017 in The Netherlands.

*Our sister organisation from the International Baptist Convention is very dear to us. Since years we are connected and we always try to attend each other conferences. Most of the women from the IBC are wives of American militaries based in Europe, but they come from all over the world. This time I, **Wies Dijkstra**, was the lucky person to attend their conference, because it was held in my home country the Netherlands. The following report is written by **Trace Odom**.*

I thought of Psalm 86:9-10 "All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, O Lord; they will bring glory to Your name", knowing there were 225 ladies from all over the world at this Conference! Nicola Münster and her team did a wonderful job leading us in praise and worship. Jill Briscoe was the key speaker. She spoke on Psalm 71 sharing her insights and personal experiences.

Some points from Jill's teaching that were a blessing to us and maybe to you:

- ~ Pray in faith believing He will answer. Be ready to obey even if you will never see how God uses your obedience.
- ~ Don't let your pain drive you from God.
- ~ If we choose not to obey God, He will accomplish His purposes another way. He is offering us an opportunity to be blessed by participating in His work.
- ~ Courage is often what comes after obedience.
- ~ Once we are obedient, God will give us enough to sustain and empower us.
- ~ "Do not put your head on the pillow until you have put your nose in The Book."
- ~ Rather than praying, "Come quickly Jesus to save us from all of this," we should have a heart that says, "Please wait Lord, there are more who need to be saved."
- ~ It is natural to pray for deliverance from difficult circumstances but be prepared to faithfully follow Him even if He doesn't.
- ~ Remember that the lost are watching to see how you handle things to learn how faith in God makes a difference in your life.

Throughout the weekend we were blessed by the testimonies and seminars that were offered. Melissa Pontiff shared her beautiful testimony about how God has used adoption in her life story. Lauren Bethell led the seminar, "Human Trafficking 101" showing what we can do about this heartbreaking situation in our world. Denise Marshall's seminar "Know, Believe, Live" offered Godly guidance from 2 Kings regarding decision making in our lives. Siggi Levey opened our eyes to the epidemic of isolation and loneliness in our world today as she led the seminar, "Loneliness As An Opportunity." Wies Dijkstra told us about Corrie ten Boom (who helped Jews in World War II) and showed us a PowerPoint from The Hiding Place: the Corrie ten Boom House in Haarlem, The Netherlands.

Saturday afternoon we could go for some free time, for a Prayer Walk through Amsterdam or a tour of the Tulip Gardens. The Conference ended Sunday morning with a wonderful service.

*Together with Trace I agree: It was a refreshing and uplifting time together!
Thank you IBC team for organizing this Conference and inviting us!*

RUCHEEK CONFERENCE

Report of 'Colours of Autumn' Conference, Rucheek, Moscow, Russia

By Margaret Brown

This was a Russian Baptist Women's Conference, held 22/23 October 2016. Over 100 women attended from all parts of Russia and from Belarus and Uzbekistan (some had to travel for days), and although the weather was cold and crisp, there was warm fellowship amongst us as we met, talked, learned, worshipped and prayed together.

The conference was held over two days, yet what a lot was packed into the programme for these days. It was organised by EBWU and Vera Izotova who has responsibility for the Russian Evangelical Christian Baptist women. The theme was 'Word and Life' "The Word of God is Alive and Active" (Hebrews 4:12).

Precy Caronongan, President of the Asian Baptist Women's Union, was our main speaker. This appears to be a 'first' as two continental unions come together. At



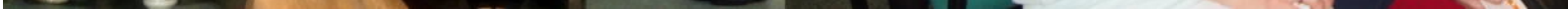
this time Asia and Europe are prayer partners. Also, Europe and Asia overlap when it comes to certain countries in Eurasia.

So it was good to have Precy come and minister to us in this conference.

It was billed as 'Colours of Autumn' conference and the hall was

tastefully decorated with autumn coloured leaves, real and artificial, obviously reflecting the time of year.

The venue was Rucheek (Streamlet), Christian base which is made up of various buildings. There were paths to walk on and places for playing games. There were trees and still some flowers in bloom, also a small stream running through the grounds. We were very well looked after and very well fed, not just at meal times but at coffee/tea breaks with all sorts of cake, biscuits, sweets and chocolate.





Poland - Women's Conference and new elected Leadership





***80 Years anniversary of the women's ministry
Cakovec, Croatia***





Albania



Lucia Tubito



Annual EBWU committee meeting and Italian Conference Day



Sofia, Bulgaria



Alexandra Anderson and Lidia Giorgi



We were warmly welcomed to the conference by Vera, and greetings were brought from the President of the Russian Evangelical Christians Baptists Union, pastor Alexei Smirnov. Aniko Ujvari, President of EBWU gave a presentation of the work carried out by EBWU.

Precy spoke at three different sessions taking as her topics, 'The Word of God is Alive and Active'; 'The Eternal value of the Word of God' and 'Woe to the People without the Word'. As Precy spoke and opened up the Scriptures to us we were encouraged to dig deep into God's Word for ourselves. We were also challenged to put the Word into practice in our daily lives and to share the good news of the Word with others so that they also will come to believe and to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

There were five seminars held by the Women's Committee members, Study the Scriptures (Leah Alieva); Bring good news of Christ's love (Yelena Boretskaya); Learning how Russia received the Bible (Vera Izotova); God's





princesses (Anastasia Zubareva); Biblical women's characters (Lidiya Konovalichik) and Creativity for the soul and for ministry (Raisa Prodknova and Tatiana Strelyanaia) – quite a range of choice. These were repeated on the second day so everyone had a choice of two.

Included in the programme was a moving drama of the Samaritan woman performed by Nadezda Filippova, also testimonies from a number of women of how they are involved in their community serving as women, bearing witness to the Lord Jesus, and beautiful songs. There was also a time of open prayer in small groups when we prayed for the needs of each other and of the ministry. Times of praise and worship were moving and meaningful.

As much as we could, because of language difficulties we shared and chatted at mealtimes and before going to bed in the evening. As guests, the EBWU committee were very grateful to the two excellent translators who enabled us to be aware of everything that was taking place in the conference.

The EBWU Committee appreciated very much all the hard work which went on to enable the conference to be held, by those people up front and those behind the scenes. A big 'thank-you' to Vera Izotova and her team of helpers. We and all those attending were looked after very well.

This conference was over far too soon, but what a wonderful time we had together. We were so blessed by God Who truly was in our midst.

Margaret Brown





From the History of Russian Women's Ministry

By Vera Izotova Kadaeva

Since the beginning of the evangelical movement in Russia, in the middle of the XIX century, the women stood together with brothers in the preaching of the Gospel and the ministry of charity. Activities of women at that time had no organized structure, but it was allowed to accumulate a rich and diverse experience of serving in the church and in the community.

Thus, Elizabeth I. Chertkova (1834-1923) after the death of her husband and son searched for comfort and listening to Gospel sermons after repentance before the Lord and she began to attend the prisons and to visit and encourage the dying. She opened sewing workshops for poor women and sacrificed a lot of money for publishing Bibles and Christian literature. At her own expense E.I. Chertkova built a House of Prayer for the evangelical assembly on Vasilyevskiy Island in Saint-Petersburg.

Among the first who believed in a time of spiritual revival in St. Petersburg was the daughter of Denis Davydov, a hero of the War of 1812, Yulia Zasetskaya.

Christian women developed the service. In 1926, in Kiev was hosted the first women's congress, which was attended by forty-eight women. The congress discussed the issues related to the preaching the Gospel and the ministry of charity: caring for orphans. During the persecutions in the 30th years this ministry was interrupted by authorities' force, and many active women alongside with men were repressed, deprived their rights, and sent in the camps and prisons.

The sisters stayed outside prayed that their families were saved, for their husbands, children, and grandchildren. Most newcomers in the churches after the World War II were those for whom prayed their mothers and grandmothers. In the spring of 1988 it became possible new forms of ministry of women in the works of charity and witness of their faith outside of the churches. Many women began to serve in hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, and visit prisons.

*Dear sisters! May God bless your
Life and Ministry to Him!*

A PRAYER STORY

A Prayer Story told by Anna Monakova, who travelled 10.000 km to the conference in Rucheek and told this story to encourage other women. Written by Wies Dijkstra

A Prayer, a Pastor and a Missionary

Up in the far North of Russia near to the border of Alaska a little girl was born, named Anna. Many children did not survive in these remote areas far from civilization. No doctors (GP's), no hospitals, and often no neighbours right next door. Large families were common, because of the risk of losing a child. But Anna grew



up and became a lively young woman who married when she was 20 years old. Not in a church, because her parents believed in everything (animism) but had no knowledge of God.

Anna followed the lifestyle of her parents and her husband Vadim. However she did not become the mother of a large family: she became the mother of one son! In the long dark winters Anna was reading a lot. Books were asked from visitors who

came to sleep overnight as there were no hotels or lodgings nearby. What people left was a large variety of reading material. Among this was also a magazine with the article "The Lord's Prayer". Somehow Anna was touched by the words; not understanding what she was reading. Nevertheless she wrote it down on paper and learned it by heart.

During the long dark period in winter, having not so much possibilities for recreation in the tundra, the family decided to get something special in town to celebrate New Year. This would be a journey of 140 kilometres, not in a comfortable warm car on a highway, but (warm) clothed on a motorski-skooter. It was very cold of course, because in this region the sun does not rise between November and February. Full of joy they started the trip, but halfway there on a mountain they got lost. The paths had disappeared due to the thick fallen snow. They just could not find the way anymore. Where would they go? It is very dangerous to be lost in that cold! Almost desperate Anna looked up at the sky, and at that very moment 'The Lord's Prayer' came into her mind. Knowing it by heart she spoke in silence the words. They continued searching for the right path and very soon they finally found the way to the town! This happened to be her first contact with God, although she was not aware of it and she forgot about it.

Again Anna and her husband had to move because their son had to go to school in town. After the moving Anna got ill and met in the hospital a woman Luba who led her to the Lord in a special way. However Anna and Vadim were almost at the decision of a divorce. But God interfered secretly with this situation by sending a Missionary! The man came all the way from Moldova where brothers and sisters were

convinced it was necessary to send a missionary to those regions in the far North where the Gospel was rarely brought and the need so great! And where was he hosted? You guessed...., they shared the house with the Moldovian Missionary and of course he used his ears and eyes... After a while he asked the couple if they would him allow to pray for their marriage. Both agreed. And God heard the prayer and softened both hearts. After that, things were much better between the two of them.

Due to the job of Anna's husband they had to move again. Anna had become a believer and very much missed the missionary's teaching in her new hometown. But in this town there was a church! Anna was so happy, but not her husband. He did not want to believe in God. Ok, the Missionary was a good man and after he had prayed their marriage was much better, but to say that it came from God? No, Vadim was furious that Anna went to church. But Anna continued in her faith and would not be diswayed.

As a gold-digger at this moment, Vadim had to travel for his job. So Anna packed his suitcase. She had an idea: What if... ?? And so her husband when he arrived at his destination, was digging out of his suitcase not only clothes, but also a Bible! Did he read it? No. Did he throw it away? No. He was thinking it would be as good as a talisman. But it did not protect him! In 2006 he began to suffer from heart problems. In 2007 he needed suddenly an operation because his situation worsened. Being in a very bad condition during the long way to the hospital, Anna experienced the Lord's protection for her husband. He made it to the hospital! On the day of the surgery Vadim was alone in his room and suddenly he felt the presence of the Lord! He did not know how to pray, but he started to talk to God. He calmed down for the surgery and everything went well. Back home again he wanted to go to church because finally he understood what the Lord had done for him!

However there was still more work to be done: the son! Anatoly had heard of God from his mother and father, but he was deaf to the gospel. Until one day, when he was at a farewell party with his friends after serving in the army. It almost became literally a farewell of his 22 years of life because he almost died due to a dangerous situation. His friends phoned his mother, but Anna was home, 10.000 km away!!!! What to do??? She was desperate. She looked for a Pastor in that big city to ask him to go to her son, and she called him and made her request. The Pastor found himself in a very difficult position: he had to choose between his own mother, who was going to die and a total stranger who did not believe.... It was a very hard decision! In the meantime Anna knelt down and prayed and prayed. It was the only thing she could do. The Pastor did what the Lord asked him to do: his mother died without seeing in this life her son, but Anna's son repented because of the Pastor's visit and has now a life with God and a future eternal life. Anatoly was baptized in 2017 and works now among the homeless people in Moscow. Give honor to the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**A Prayer, a Pastor and a Missionary:
God works in mysterious ways to save a whole family!**

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Report of the Annual EBWU committee meeting and Italian Conference Day.

By Margaret Brown

From 21-26 March 2017, the EBWU Committee had the privilege to spend time in Italy for the annual EBWU committee meeting. Alexandra Anderson, who lived for several years in Italy but now living in UK, asked her Italian sisters if we could be guests of the Movimento Femminile Evangelico Battista (MFEB). So we were staying at the Centro Evangelico Battista, Via Vecchia di Velletri 24, Campi d'Annibale, Rocca di Papa.



This Centre has been and still is very important for the Baptist Women in Italy. Built in 1950 and closed in 2000 - fortunately temporarily - it has hosted many holiday



camp for children and was used for all kind of conferences and meetings by the Baptist Union in Italy. With a lot of financial help from the Italian Baptist brothers and sisters and especially from a fundraising "8xmille Valdese", the Centre at Rocca di Papa was able to reopen its doors in April 2015 after being refurbished and updated in compliance with modern health and safety regulations. Gradually the activities have

been resumed and the direction of the Centre is now in the capable hands of Rev. Gabriela Lio. In fact, it represents nowadays the heart of the Baptists in Italy.

During the five days we were there we enjoyed wonderful hospitality, good food, lovely sunshine and surroundings and made a number of new friends. Most of our time was spent in seeing to our annual business, but we did manage to go to an open-air market in a nearby town and to visit the old medieval town of Nemi, famous for



fruit and flowers, and for the Lake Nemi where the Roman emperor Caligula came to sail his boat. We also visited Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence dating back many centuries.

One day was given over to meeting around thirty of the Italian Baptist women, some of whom had travelled quite some distance to attend. It was a time of praise and worship, of prayer, of teaching, and of sharing information. Hopefully the Italians were able to know more of the work of EBWU and we were able to know more of what the Italian women are doing. There are about 4,000 Baptists in Italy with around 129 Baptist Churches in Italy and only roughly 32 pastors (9 of whom are from another country) to cover them. Over half of the pastors are female.

Worship was led by Alexandra Anderson, who was interpreting as well, assisted by Concetta Aquila, a wonderful talented opera singer and her pianist Valeria Simone. Patchwork pieces were used by those in attendance to introduce themselves and where they had come from and their hope for the day.



Ioana N. Ghilvaci, pastor of two churches in Sicily, spoke from the book of Ruth about Naomi and Ruth, women of courage and perseverance, also of God's amazing compassion and provision. Difficulties can be removed; all are welcome to enter and integrate into the great company of saints and become brothers and sisters, bound together by faithfulness, communion and unity. Concetta sang 'You raise me up' in a very sensitive way and then followed a time of open prayer in response to what Ioana shared from Scripture.

Lucia Tubito, President of the Italian Baptist women, then addressed the meeting sharing some of the history of the Baptist women of Italy. Helene Ramirez, who served as a former treasurer the EBWU committee was honoured by all the work she had done in the past for the Italian women. Lidia Giorgi from the women's pastorate and a pastor in Florence, spoke of the role of women in society and in the church as pioneers, not feminists.

Our Secretary Margaret Brown brought greetings on behalf of EBWU – one for all, all for one. Our President Aniko Ujvari shared some further thoughts from the story



Alexandra Anderson and Margaret Brown

of Ruth. We can all have bitterness and struggles in our lives, but the turning point comes when we are in the presence of God and choose His way. She encouraged us to live in the love of God, to trust Him because He has promised us provision, protection, care, peace and love.

Vice President Wies Dijkstra spoke of Europe and of the News and Views maga-

zine. The topic of our EBWU treasurer, Fabienne Seguin was the finances, where they come from and what they are used for, emphasising the annual Day of Prayer and member of the committee Synnøve Angen gave a brief history of the EBWU and the importance of communication.

EBWU committee member Dimitrina Oprenova, spoke of her role as a vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance and why it is important to be open for each other to be connected with worldwide organizations. Our time together finished with the singing of 'Bind us Together'.

We had a wonderful day together and certainly knew God's blessing and presence among us. We as the EBWU Committee had a great time too in Italy and will not forget the kindness and generosity shown to us by our Italian sisters and are looking forward to meet them again and to work together in the name of the Lord.

Finnish Baptist Women's Weekend, September 2016. "Dare to be the Person you are in Christ"

By Anneli Lohikko, Finland

It was not an ordinary gathering! We were not just meeting among ourselves. We had invited the EBWU President, Aniko Ujvari from Hungary to be with us, and we looked forward with expectation to her coming. There was a special feeling of kinship between us already in advance. Although Hungary is far away from Finland, our languages form a Finno-Ugrian language family, so we felt that there must be similarities in other ways, too.

We were not disappointed. Aniko was like one of us from the very first moment. Her Bible Studies about four women in the Bible gave us courage to be, what we were meant to be in Christ. She spoke about Deborah, Esther, the Samaritan woman and Lydia. Through their lives she led us to examine our own hearts, and our relationship with God. What lessons we learned from their lives through Aniko. Her teaching inspired us, and we were truly blessed.



Marja Portaankorva

On the Saturday evening we listened to poems, most of which we had never heard before. They had never been published. Our chairwoman Marja Portaankorva had asked women to take them from their hidden cache. They were really worth listening to.



**Blessed are the feet
who proclaim
the good news!**

Our Sunday programme consisted of prayer, mission information, and the closing celebration, where Marja Portaankorva spoke about our theme. Refreshed and encouraged we returned to

our homes, our work places and our daily routines. We had met with each other, and we had also met God. What a privilege!



Opening of the Conference
by Dimitrina Oprenova

***National Annual Woman's Conference and 7th Congress of the Women's Department of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria
11-13 May 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria***

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Between the 11th and the 13th of May 2017, the Bulgarian women gathered for their National Annual Women's Conference combined with a few working sessions of a Congress. The event was held in the building of the First Baptist Church in Sofia, the capital city of the country. The Conference was attended by about forty delegates, representing about twenty of the

main churches around the country. The main cities were represented with one, two or more participants: Varna, Kazanlak, Dupnitsa, Pernik, Plovdiv, Pirdop, Sandanski, Sliven, Stara Zagora and Sofia. The women had a really blessed, encouraging and inspiring time together. There was time for sharing, teaching, worship, fellowship, prayer together and alone, time to be loud and time to be quiet, time to speak and time to listen.

Our special guest for the conference was the President of the European Baptist Women's Union - Aniko Ujvari, from Hungary. We had the opportunity to hear encouraging information about the Women's Ministries in local churches, as well as in Baptist Unions, across Europe and around the world. We also had a special prayer time for the continents: Africa,

Asia, the South West Pacific, the Caribbean, North America, Latin America and Europe. We had a great time for renewing old friendships and making new ones, time for fellowship together as sisters in Christ and time for encouraging one another.



Romania

In November 2016, EBWU President Aniko Ujvari travelled to Transylvania to Satu Mare to take part in the Day of Prayer service with the Romanian/Hungarian speaking churches, and to join in the celebration conference of their twenty-fifth anniversary.

The whole conference was very well organised with a good number attending, many of them in the younger age group (35-45 years), all serving in different areas. Some aspects of the conference took place in a very interactive way— questions were asked and then named a person who was to give the answer. It is also nice to meet former committee members at a conference: This time former EBWU treasurer Elisabeth Vekas, who is working among the Roma people.



The new President of the Romanian / Hungarian speaking women is Marta Borzasi. Her email address is: martaborzasi@yahoo.com



A PEARL IN GOD'S HAND



Visit to Belarussia 2015

by Wies Dijkstra

Pjesn' zjemtsjoezjieni - A Pearl in God's hand

For years the Dutch Baptist women have supported a summer camp for the victims of the Tsjernobyl disaster in Belarussia together with the European Baptist Women's Union. When a delegation of the EBWU committee was asked to be present at the Jubilee conference in 2015 in Minsk, I asked if it was possible for me to visit that project.

And so it happened that the two of us: EBWU President, Aniko Ujvari from Hungary and myself EBWU Vice President, Wies Dijkstra from Holland, faced another 4 hours travelling after landing in Minsk

to get to the destination, House "Zhemchuzhinka". It was cold and pitchdark when we arrived in the middle of the night, safely driven by Anastasia Filatova, who brought us all the way from the capital to the town of Kobrin at the border of Ukraine. There was even something to eat for us and the guestroom in the main



building was warm and cozy. The next morning we went on a discovery trip together with director, Pavel Mishchenko and co-worker Inna Vandich.

The name of the camp "Zhemchuzhinka" means PEARL, because all the children are treated there like precious pearls. Pearls that make it easy to edit the jewel they are destined for and pearls that make it a little more difficult to reach the final result. The team is focussed on surrounding the children with love, care and attention during the time they are spending in the summer camp. In this way they gain the trust of the children and they can tell them the Gospel, because "Zhemchuzhinka" is a Christian based organisation. Many children come from non christian backgrounds and that's the reason why much time is taken to tell them about the Lord.



The names of the children who need such a health vacation are given to the team from the hospitals. Most of those kids haven't seen a church from the inside and this is a fantastic opportunity to reach them with the Word of God. On the campus there are a doctor, a dentist and a few nurses who have their own building where all the medical treatment can be done easily without

disturbing the children's activity schedules.

In the 70's of the last century quite a large number of children came to the Netherlands from the region around Tsjernobyl to get better in a healthy environment. They stayed for a few weeks among families in various places, one of which was the town where I was born: Sneek, hosted by members of the Baptist church! And I am sure there was good care taken of them! To my big surprise it occurred that those journeys have had a very large influence. Many times Holland was mentioned in talking during my stay in Kobrin and Minsk and quite a number of the leaders now, were the children of the past! They still are in contact with their host families!

In the meanwhile one was not quiet in the home country. With help from foreign organizations one bought a piece of land with several buildings in a healthy environment. The ultimate goal has been achieved over the years: "Zhemchuzhinka" a Christian health accommodation for vulnerable children and parents and leaders, with Gospel preaching as an integral part. This has resulted in the fact that for many decades large groups of children can have a fantastic time in this summer camp, with so much attention to their physical, mental and spiritual health.



Thanks to you and many others, around 1200 children and young people could spend a health holiday in 2016. 45% had a non-Christian background, 46% came from the lower income group, 27% came from big families, 8% had physical or mental disabilities, 8% lived in an orphanage, 13% came from a single-parent family and 6 % had alcohol addicted parents.

It's always exciting wondering whether the camps can go on because the government is sharply tightening the safety regulations, trying to hamper the continuation of this camp every year - with its clear Christian background. Precisely because this camp has been for decades and is very well known - far beyond in the world - the leadership was allowed to continue while many other (Christian) camps had to stop their activities! It is therefore considered to be a great blessing by everyone involved in the fact that it appears again every year that so many children can have a great holiday.





In the summer it is so busy on the premises. But it is also hard working in winter. Repairs and (the prescribed) additional measures are then carried out. The villagers from the area receive medical assistance on the premises and therefore do not have to travel to the city. This has created a huge goodwill among the ordinary people in the area. A bakery is also run on site to get income from that. And absolutely great is the care for

elderly people and people with a limitation offered in the main building. Old people who can not go anywhere else are lovingly cared for. We were allowed to look into one of the rooms where they were accommodated. A tiny room with a bed, a chair and a table. But so clean and so neat! Depending on the love of the staff to the elders, you can also measure the love given to the children in the summer. The "Zhemchuzhinka" camp in Kobrin: a PEARL in God's hand!

We were deeply impressed with all the work done here in Jesus' name! As EBWU, we continue to support this PRECIOUS work and hope that you will contribute a financial element.

Matthew 25:40 Verily I say unto you inasmuch as you have done it to one of these least brethren, so you have done me.

Gifts you may give directly through the website www.ebwu.org
Citing: Kobrin Camp.



Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/belkidscenter>

LETTER FROM LAURAN

Dear Sisters in the EBWU!

I'm always happy when I get to "hang out" with our international sister community! Earlier this month I was in Bangkok, Thailand at the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Annual Gathering. There I had the opportunity to take a group to visit "NightLight" an amazing anti-trafficking project which was founded by one of our American Baptist sisters, Annie Dieselberg. Your "sister members" of the visiting group included Moreen Sharp, the Interim BWA Women's Department Executive Director, Didi Oprenova, Co-Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sofia, Bulgaria, Lone Møller-Hansen, General Secretary of the Danish Baptists and Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.



Annie began NightLight by simply "hanging out" in a red-light district in Bangkok, meeting the women there with Jesus' unconditional love and care. God has blessed the project, and now they have a jewelry factory, coffee shop and bakery which employ many women who have left prostitution.

Annie's husband, Jeff (right front in the picture), pastors a church that was started for the women and ministers to their deepest hurts and trauma, offering them Hope and Healing in Jesus' name. The project is truly an example of following Jesus' Call into the darkest places of this earth, shining the Light of God's Love!

Annie and her team are following Jesus' example of walking into uncomfortable places and meeting people where they are. One of the greatest of Jesus' examples for our lives is his interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well. She was an "immoral woman" and no one wanted to associate with her. Everyone saw her as a woman who had had five husbands and was living with someone she wasn't married to. Her life-style was just so culturally unacceptable.

She's amazed that a Jewish man would sit down in this public place and ask her for a drink of water. Wasn't he concerned about his reputation? She begins to realize that this is someone who sees her differently—not with eyes that condemn or curse

or avoid. Jesus leads her to tell him a bit about herself by asking her to go and get her husband. She tells him part of the truth, that she has no husband, and being omniscient, Jesus lets her know that he knows her entire truth.

Oh, wouldn't we like to know why she had had so many husbands in the past, and was in a relationship with someone who she wasn't married to? What wounds in her life had prompted such a life as that? Had she been abused as a child or young adult, which had totally destroyed her ability to trust or sustain a long-term intimate relationship? And how was she able to cope with the intense loneliness she must have felt as an outcast from the community?

Jesus meets her in her common place, asking her for water as a "conversation starter", but ends up offering her healing. This healing is not a miraculous act. Her healing comes simply from the fact that she recognizes Jesus as the Messiah because he told her everything that she had ever done. He knew her in the darkest caverns of her soul where she was most wounded and rejected by everyone else. He met her at the very deep well of her soul, and offered her the water of eternal life and of peace. And then she became one of Jesus' first evangelists: "Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony "He told me everything I had ever done."

Jesus saw this woman with eyes that didn't care about his reputation, or hers. He saw her with eyes that didn't judge or condemn. He saw her with eyes of compassion and of knowing that her heart was lonely, longing for a touch of care.

Combatting human trafficking requires that we enter into uncomfortable places of physical and spiritual darkness with Jesus' eyes of caring, unconditional love and hope for a just future. Have you joined us? Please do - even if it means that you commit yourself to prayer. I'd love to hear from you if you have a desire to participate in our movement against human trafficking - or are already involved. Thank you for your faithfulness in following God's Call in your life!

God Bless You All!
Lauran Bethell



OBITUARY

Kitty Idland

Kitty Idland from Ålgård in Norway, died on October 16, 2016, 98 years old at Solåsheimen Home for the Aged. She actually lived in her own home until she was 95.

Kitty was active in church work and especially in women's groups. She served many years on the board of the Ålgård Baptist Church. She was always interested in the work of the Norwegian Baptist Women's Union where she was the leader from 1965 to 1971. In the National Baptist Union of Norway she was one of the first women who served as a Boardleader for several years.

Her work in the Women's Union in Norway has been of great importance.

I visited her a short while before she died and she let me videotape an interview I had with her. This has been shown at the 100th Anniversary in Trondheim, Norway. She told me that she had attended European women's conferences in about 10 different countries and that it was very important for her to be together with women from different countries. Even in her eighties she attended an EBWU conference in Prague and remained interested in the European Baptist Women's Union till her death.

She made a very funny comment about her first conference abroad. "I only knew two-three English words but decided to go home and learn English." She did that, and really got to use her English. Till high age she could read the News & Views magazine herself.

At the end of my interview, I asked her what her wishes were for the Norwegian Baptist Women's Union.

Her greatest wish was that the Women's Union would continue its work!!

We bless the memory of Kitty.

Many of you who read News & Views, will also know her daughter Margun Warem. She was on the board of EBWU for 10 years. She was also the leader of the Norwegian Baptist Women's Union from 1998 to 2002.

Turid Nedland, Norway



TRUST IN THE LORD AND ...

Dear European Baptist Sisters,

We send you all greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. We thank God for you all and pray that He will pour out His blessings over your work and ministry.

EBWU's motto is *Trust in God and do good* and during the years a lot of people in different countries have been blessed through common prayers and practical and economic help. At the moment we see that people in many countries are struggling economically and are also facing new challenges "in its own neighborhood". Baptist women (and men) do an invaluable job, with the means they have available, for the needy people in their area around. Recently Baptists in many countries are occupied with helping a huge number of refugees coming to Europe. May God bless your effort and give you all strength to carry on!!

EBWU has many needs that we want to cover, but unfortunately, we need funds to provide the financial assistance that we want. Therefore, we will launch a European campaign that we hope and believe will work for all, including those who are struggling financially. OneEuroCampaign. We believe that "everyone" can afford to give a Euro each ?!

We know that the generosity among the European Baptist women is great and I therefore hope that you will join this campaign.

Together we can accomplish big things!

If you do not have your own women's group, I hope you will encourage the women in your congregation to support the campaign. Perhaps you can "bring a cookie jar" to the Sunday Service and challenge their mercy? !!

The money can be given through our webpage www.ebwu.org using the tab "Donate" or

using our bank account:

Spar-und Kreditbank Bad
Homburg

Bank account number : 272728

IBAN: DE45 5009 2100 0000
2727 28

BIC: GENODE51BH2



There is so many great projects that EBWU would love to support financially, such as summer camps for children in need, orphanages, rehabilitation centers for women and more.

Due to lack in means, we need your help to make it happen!

What if we gave one Euro each?

ONE EURO FROM EACH
OF US CAN MEAN A LOT
- TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



You and your group can give
your donations through our
website

Now may the God of peace who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood that sealed and ratified the eternal covenant, equip you with every good thing to carry out His will and strengthen you, accomplishing in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Greetings from EBWU Committee



TURKEY AND AZERBAIJAN

Our contacts in **Turkey**, the family Marlene and Ertan and daughter Hürrem Cevik, are very hard-working caring for refugees coming from Syria.

The EBF focus is on Turkey as a special place to be supported with the refugee issue. Near Adana there are a tremendous number of refugees in great need.

There is a need for clothes, shoes, food, hygienic items, washing powder and shampoo. Many women have lost their husbands and as they have children with no means of supporting either themselves or their children, they are destitute.

Marlene and Hürrem are grateful for any donations received, mostly they supply food and clothes.

The work is hard, the need is great and love shown in Jesus' name is ongoing.



Marlene and Ertan Cevik organizing food for refugees

Please pray for Marlene and Hürrem, and for the many, many refugees seeking help.

Azerbaijan

This is a nominal Muslim country. Sister Tarana is responsible for the Baptist women's work in Azerbaijan. She is director of WRC Hope House where women who have emotional, psychological and spiritual problems are ministered to and encouraged to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the women who come to the centre also have medical and social needs. Tarana has a team of four other women working (voluntarily) with her in this ministry which has been going for around five years. They have seen many women come to faith in the Lord Jesus and these women are disciples and supported as they continue to trust in the Lord. Hope House depends on financial support to keep going. Up until last October 101 came to faith, 21 of whom were baptised. Sometimes the women have children with them and occasionally



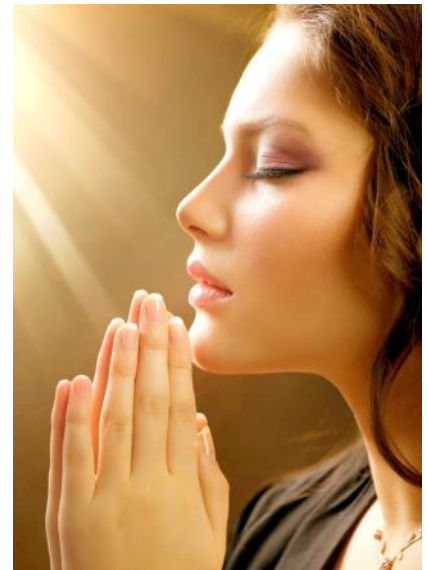
spend the night in the centre. A few have received social care. Often there is real need. This work also includes visiting the elderly, the lonely, the divorced, women bringing up children on their own and meeting with new Christians to encourage them. Tarana has asked prayer for medical help for some of the women; spiritual growth; finance to provide clothes and toiletries for those in need; finance to provide presents at Christmas and Easter; reliability of the car. If you can help: donate through our website www.ebwu.org

Citing: Azerbaijan.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests 2017

- For the thousands of refugees travelling through Europe and their caretakers in all countries.
- For the leadership of the home countries of the refugees and world leaders to make good decisions.
- For the House of Hope in Azerbaijan and For the Cevik family helping people in need in Turkey.
- For the **One Euro Campaign** to support the EB-WU Projects.
- For the family of Kitty Idland, Mother of Margun Warem, who passed away in Oct. 2016
- For the family of Karla Roman, daughter-in-law of Wies Dijkstra, who died in an accident in febr. 2017
- For the EBWU committee: all members have faced severe personal situations this last year.
- For the Summer camps 2017 in Kobrin.
- For the new Women leaders in: **Albania:** General Secretary Hajrije Hamiti; Gjystina Gollosi; Shqipe Mita; Olta Manelli. **Bulgaria:** Gergina Kiriakova, President; Steffi Georgieva **Croatia:** Vesna Brezovic, President **Lebanon:** Mirna Ghazal, President; Siham Haddad, Vice-President; Saousan Haddad, Secretary; Lina Geryafy, Treasurer; Lina Sawaan, Counsellor **Poland:** Magda Czerwinska, President; Ania Wakula; Alina Wozniak. **Romania:** Marta Borzasi, President (Hungarian Romanian)
- For the Women's leadership in all European countries.



Events:

- Pray for the preparation of the EBWU Arabic Women's Conference in Cyprus 6-8 October 2017 (see website for more information)
- Pray for our **most important day of the year:** the DAY OF PRAYER 2017 on November 6. Arise and Shine, because when we rise up, He shines through Transformation and communities will be transformed! Translate the programme from the website www.ebwu.org and urge the women in your country to pray! The world needs PRAYER. And pray that everyone will give a financial offer to support the women's work!
- Pray for the preparation of the EBWU 5 YEARS Conference in West part of Ukraine, 20-23 Sept. 2018 Theme Love in Lvov (Lviv)

Give Thanks

- For the 80 years ministry in Croatia and for the 100 years ministry in Norway.
- For saving the life of Darren, Margaret Brown's son- in- law, who had a severe accident in 2016.
- For the newborn children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren (congratulations Vera Tikhon)

The European Baptist Women come together for the five years conference on 20-23. September 2018 in Lviv (Lvov), West part of Ukraine.

We invite you and your friends, join us, let us celebrate together our unity in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

We will have the election for the new leadership of our organization.

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, serving together in Him!





European Baptist Women's Union

Executive Committee Members
and positions



Aniko Ujvari, President
Budapest, Hungary
president.ebwu@gmail.com

Wies Dijkstra, Vice President
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Margaret Brown, Secretary
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Fabienne Seguin, Treasurer
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Dimitrina Oprenova, Member
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Synnøve Angen, Member
Trondheim, Norway
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100 th anniversary 2016

Ruth Bråtveit
2015 -

Turid Nedland
2008 - 2014

Synnøve Gåsvær Angen
2002 - 2008

Margun Warem
1998 - 2002

Berit Rydland
1995 - 1998

Liv Rise
1986 - 1991

Margrethe Dybvik
1991 - 1995

Ingrid Engelsen
1979 - 1981
1983 - 1986

Jorun Blix Olsen
1981 - 1983

Andrea Mathisen
1971 - 1976

Nora Karlsen
1976 - 1979

Rachel Iversen
1952 - 1958

Klara Mørk
1958 - 1960

Borghild Wang
1960 - 1965

Kitty Idland
1965 - 1971

Anna Kallestad
1935 - 1948

Nellie Øhrn
1916 - 1931
1932 - 1935

Gurli Øhrn Prøymmer
1948 - 1952

Trust in the Lord
and do good...!

Norway