

News & Views
Winter / Spring Edition 2013



European Baptist Women's Union



Day of Prayer Budapest



Warsaw Conference
Ewa Gulkowska, Liliya Gouina and
Urszula Nowak former president



Day of Prayer Budapest



Participants Women's Conference Warsaw, Poland



Day of Prayer Budapest



Women's Board Poland: from left to right -
Alina Wozniak - secretary, Danuta Martenicka - add'l member,
Magdalena Czerinska - vice-president, Lija Orych - treasurer,
Klaudia Wiazowska - president



News & Views

Winter & Spring Edition 2013



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CONTENTS



Margaret Brown:

Spring is a time of cleansing and renewal. Just as the spring rains wash and refresh the earth so we need to be refreshed and

made clean.

Editorial: Page 6



Livija Godina:

When I returned from my long distance travels to Chile where World Baptist leaders met, Europe didn't seem very big at all. We are closer

to each other and depend on each other more than we often think we do!

Presidential Letter: page 8

Lyon Conference Nov. 2012

The main speaker was Ksenija Magda of Croatia. She took three sessions: 'The Courage for Godliness', 'the Power of Godliness' and 'The Hope of Godliness'. We were challenged afresh to consider our own devotion to the Lord Jesus.



By Margaret Brown - Page 12

Anita Backryd's sharing

My conviction is that God will bless our testimony and show us His important plans for our lives! God chooses to use us, and with God's grace we will all serve Him.



Page 15



Personal Impression of the Conference in Lyon, November 2012

When we got to the moment when the offering would be collected, then there came an important moment for us; it was suggested that we would not offer money, but instead each person would think about what she could bring as an offering to Jesus.

By Heidi Watson, Page 14

CONTENTS



Elisabeth Kapsreiter: Our time with Kong tay Gan

The story of Kong touched us deeply and in prayer my husband and I asked our heavenly Father what we could do for him. The answer came right away: "Give him what he needs."

Page 17

Testimony by Talvi Helde

I have believed that there is a God my whole life, so I have been able to be a part of the many works of God. I believe that God has called me to encourage and build up others.



Page 19



Letter from Luran

What is so gratifying to me is seeing the wonderful ways that God is using so many of them in ministries! Truly, it's a testimony to the beautiful "resiliency of the human spirit" with which

God created us.

Page 28

Hanover Conference May 30 - June 2 2013 Information

Page 21 - 22 - 27



Window to the World - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland , Moldova ... Page 30 - 37

DOP Reports: Wales, Ukraine, Hungaria, Poland, UK - Page 39 - 41

Book Review - I'm a Woman ... Created in the Image of God by Joyce Cope Wyatt - Page 38

Prayer Requests and Events Page 43

The Latest News: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Bible Studies - Page 45

Obituary Hanne Atoui Khalaf Lebanon Page 42



EBWU Committee Members Addresses Page 46

EDITORIAL



By Margaret Brown

Welcome to our Winter/Spring edition of News and Views!

At our church's monthly prayer breakfast this month, our church secretary, in leading the prayer time brought thoughts of springtime to our attention. Spring is a time traditionally, here in Scotland, for spring cleaning when our houses are thoroughly cleaned from top to bottom and any unwanted items are thrown out as rubbish or given away. So spring is a time for cleansing and renewal, but also for planting and for new life. Like me, I'm sure you will be looking forward to better, warmer weather. A few weeks ago we had almost two weeks of no rain, only sunshine and it was warmer, but this week the wintry weather has returned with a vengeance and it has become really cold again. However we are still looking forward to spring, even if it means work for us.

Of course spring is also the time when we celebrate the most important event in our calendar – Easter. We think of the cross and the death of our Saviour, but Hallelujah! He is risen and very much alive. What a wonderful reminder we have of new life, cleansing and planting in the Easter story.

Spring is a time of new life. We are thrilled when we see the shoots pushing through the hard ground, the buds on the trees, the little birds building their nests etc. It's exciting to watch all this new life and activity bursting forth after the hibernation of winter. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we are reminded that, *'if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God Who reconciled us to Himself through Christ.'* Our once dead souls, dead because of our sin, are now alive in Christ and evidence of this new restoration is seen in our lives. We still have to contend with our old nature but we must look upon ourselves as being new creatures in Christ and available to Him for His purposes.

Spring is a time of cleansing and renewal. Just as the spring rains wash and refresh the earth so we need to be refreshed and made clean. In the psalms one of David's best loved songs is Psalm 51 where he prays, *Cleanse me.....and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow..... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.....Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me'* (Psalm 51:7;10;12). We need to come often to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness, His cleansing, His renewal of body, mind and soul, His healing, His sustaining power in our lives. This is available to us through Jesus Christ Who gave His life for our salvation and rose from the dead to

give us the sure hope of eternal life.

Spring is a time for planting. Those of us with gardens are watching for the right time to plant seeds which will grow into beautiful flowers and bring colour and pleasure in the months to come. Jesus said, *'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds'* (John 12:24). For the seed to be productive it has to shrivel up and die, otherwise there will be no plant. Further on in John's gospel we are told, *'You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last'* (John 15:16). How can we be fruitful? By dying daily to ourselves and allowing the Lord to choose us for the works He has already prepared for us to do, we will be good seed and produce lasting fruit. Another way of being fruitful is to be obedient to our Lord's command to love one another and to be His witnesses, showing and telling others the gospel story.

In this edition of N&V you can read of women who have been made new in Christ, and who are dying to themselves so that they can live fruitful lives for their Lord and Saviour. Read their stories of love and testimony and give thanks to God for the blessing He is giving to others through their lives.

Margaret Brown



PRESIDENTIAL LETTER



By Līvija Godina

Love one another!

Jesus said: Love one another. 'You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples' John 13:34-35.

Love - fruit of the Spirit is this year's Day of Prayer (DOP) theme. We are close to Easter, where we remember the sacrifice of Christ, which showed the greatest love - the love of God to the lost, sinful world. Let this special time fill us with gratitude and

love for Jesus' sacrifice and let us give this love on to others!

At present on our side of the globe the winter is struggling with the spring – the sun is bright, but still minus 10 or minus 20 degrees, such contrasts are so rare in March, but we know that God has promised, as long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease, (Gen.8) thus we believe that the spring will soon come to our land and the seeding will start again. But above all there is the hand of God.

The time has passed away hurriedly, and a five-year phase of the European Baptist women's lives (EBWU) is about to end. Particularly I have experienced it as a president carrying the importance of the responsibility in front of God and men. Over the past five years as the president I have visited more than 30 countries in Europe and a few more outside. Each place has been special with its unique culture, living conditions and needs. And in fact, the European Baptist Women's Union is each of you in your own countries, cities, villages and churches. As one body of Christ, each of us are members which create a body. This puts on us a great responsibility, because to some extent from each of us depends the well-being or functioning of the body.

With great joy I saw many of you giving faithful service to God and I highly appreciate it. Christian women with great dedication serve in different areas of life where there is a need, teachers in schools, as well as teachers in kindergartens and orphanages, wherever there is pain and help needed, sisters respond. Sometimes in daily life and in a hurry, we forget to lift up our eyes to see the stars, to see other people near and far away, who also struggle and are in need of help. When we leave our ego, where we need everything only for ourselves, the love of Christ begins to flow through us to others, because only by giving to others we receive ourselves.

World Baptist Women's Day of Prayer is a special time that expands our sights and

makes us look at other places. It's a wonderful feeling when in other parts of the world the day begins with a prayer and continues throughout the day, when in different countries the day starts at a different time.

This year marks 65 years since in Europe from a few women began this Day of Prayer, which has now turned into a movement. In the preparation of this year's Day of Prayer program participated the European Committee and a few other sisters. I invite you to read these materials, Bible studies and to use them now throughout the year in your meetings. www.bwawd.org



I thank each and every person for donations with which we have been able to support a variety of projects in both Europe and the world, half of the Day of Prayer donations we give to BWA Women's Department, which seeks to meet other continents' needs as well. This has changed many lives of women and children, providing assistance in the most complex situations.

This year marks the 65 years since the European Baptist Women Union (EBWU) was founded. Interestingly, at that first meeting, the women started praying and then there was established the organization. In many countries in Europe first was celebrated the Day of Prayer and then later formed the women's union. For example, in Moldova the Day of Prayer was celebrated many years before organizing

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

women's ministry. Also in Latvia in congregations women's work began with a prayer and then were organized other things and works. Dear sisters, let us remember also today that all starts with a prayer. If we are looking for new ways and places of ministry, first let's ask for God to open the right door! We are grateful to those who started the work.

The first president was from Denmark - Marie Norgaard, secretary from Italy and vice-president from Germany, Auguste Meister. The first Committee was for two years and it attempted to be formed from different language groups.



I thank you all for the support, hospitality and prayer, that I have received over the past few years, meeting with you in different places. The greatest pleasure that I have seen is that there is a reconciliation, forgiveness, then love can freely start working to fulfill the command that Jesus gave us:

‘You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples’ John 13:34-35.

I recently read a story. The author of the story is Ulrich Zwingli, who was a leader of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland in the beginning of 16th century. He and

Martin Luther, the Reformation pioneer, had a serious argument and Zwingli was desperate, trying to find a way to resolve this conflict. He found a solution one morning, looking at the mountain slope. He saw two goats coming towards each other in the narrow mountain trails - one went up and the other down. Noticing the approaching danger, they stopped and bowed their heads. It seemed that they were ready to gore. But instead the goat, who climbed up the hill lay down. Consequently, the goat, who climbed down the hill, could step over the back of the other goat, and the two were able to continue their way unharmed. If they had gored each other, one would have been able to win. However, the outcome could have been sad for both of them. Therefore, one bent down in front of the other, as though lowering itself, but as a result it climbed up.



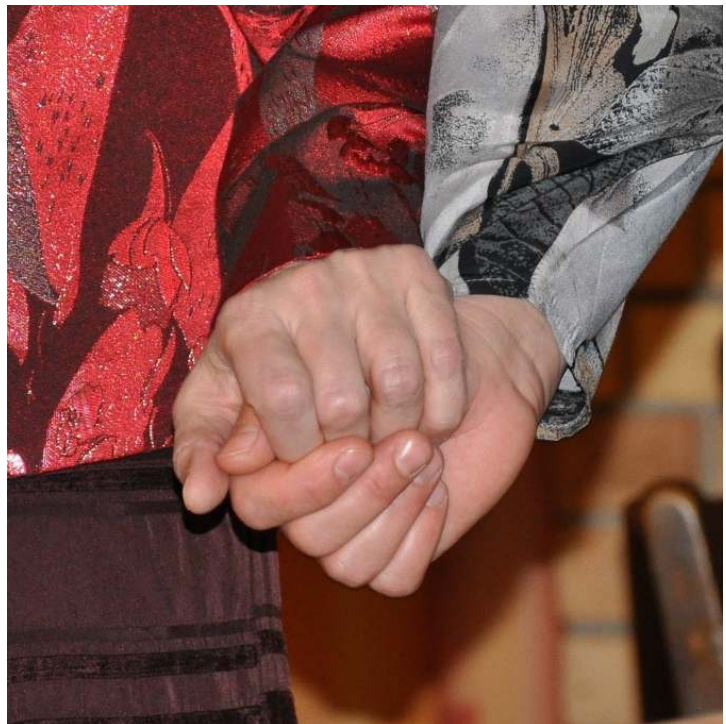
How often in our lives, we can see people who are focused on their goals, their own self-interest, determined not to let anything stand in their way? When they encounter resistance, they choose to gore, leading to a bitter, sometimes acrimonious outcome. One of the goats for a moment yielded to the other, and this led to a "win-win" situation for both. Would it not be useful to act this way in order to prevent conflict? Sometimes we sort of stand for our truth. But God is the truth, our view and mind is limited. Let's be gentle with each other.

God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble. James 4

As the world changes, so change conditions in Europe, so it is particularly important for you to continue the ministry that God has put in your hearts, to support and pray specifically for those, who are not allowed to do it loudly because of a variety of restrictions.

Let God's blessing and wisdom be for each of us, and especially for EBWU new committee that will start their five-year service this summer!

Livija Godina



LYON CONFERENCE



Report of the EBWU Conference in Lyon, France

By Margaret Brown

November 15th-18th was the date of this small but nonetheless blessed time in Lyon. Thirty-one ladies attended from as far north as Norway and as far south as Sicily, as far west as Scotland and as far east as Israel; altogether

fourteen countries were represented. The conference was held in Domaine Lyon Saint Joseph where we also stayed. It was a very comfortable hotel in beautiful surroundings and the weather was kind to us also. Because it was a small conference we were able to have conversations with most of the participants, getting to know them and sharing with them.

The theme of the conference was 'Train Yourself to be Godly' (1 Timothy 4:7). Marc Deroeux, the French Baptist General Secretary welcomed us all on the Thursday evening by bringing greetings from the French Baptists and informed us of the situation among Baptists in France. He also led devotions on how we should live as children of God, to be reactive in prayer and meditation, and to train every day.

We were permitted to use the beautiful small chapel in the building where we were staying. It was styled in a modern way with golden colours. Morning devotions were conducted in this small chapel and one morning, Angela from Italy, a professional opera singer, sang a worship song in such a beautiful way that it touched our



hearts. The main speaker was Ksenija Magda of Croatia. She took three sessions: 'The Courage for Godliness', 'the Power of Godliness' and 'The Hope of Godliness'. We were challenged afresh to consider our own devotion to the Lord Jesus. Included in the programme were times of sharing with a representative from each country telling of the women's work in their own land, as well as sharing and praying in small groups. We again celebrated the Baptist Day of Prayer, in a visual display. Each continent's requests were prayed for and also personal prayer was brought before God, in a very meaningful way.

On Saturday afternoon we enjoyed a walking sight-seeing tour of the old city of Lyon, learning a little about its history and architecture. We also fitted in a visit to Lyon Baptist Church, where we



attended a short guitar concert and afterwards we were served tea and cake by the local women's group and some youngsters. Due to a demonstration in the town transport was affected, causing us to be delayed in returning to the hotel. However we still enjoyed the concert arranged for us by Manu Richerd of the Lyon BC who sang and played his guitar for us; most enjoyable.

Aniko led us in a 'share your talent' service on the Sunday morning in which a number of the ladies participated in testimony, song, stories, short messages, prayer etc. with Aniko bringing the service and the conference to a close by encouraging us to use the talents God has given us, to shine as His light which is not for us but for Jesus.





Personal Impression of the Conference in Lyon, November 2012

Re-celebrating the day of Prayer 2012 in Lyon, during the conference with the theme, *'Train Yourself to be Godly'* (1Timothy 4:7) left a lasting impression on me.

When we got to the moment when the offering would be collected, then there came an important moment for us; it was suggested that we would not offer money, but instead each person would think about what she could bring as an offering to Jesus. There were some individually decorated cards on which we could write our 'offering' so that we would remember what we offered.

At home this worked well for me the first day, but already on the second day I missed doing as I had decided. I was about to get upset with myself when a single word popped up in my mind: "TRAINING". What a comfort and an encouragement this was! I do not have to be perfect, neither in my decisions nor my daily life. I have not reached the goal yet, I am in the process of training myself. TRAINING as in trying again, as failure can be expected because I am human, TRAINING as in focussing on the goal and on Jesus, not on the missed step. Strangely enough, the next few days were so much easier as I did relax and did as well as I could.

To me, encouragement to train myself, was the greatest souvenir I brought back from the conference and the wonderful women I met there.

I am training, I probably will not win the next 'Olympic Games' but I am on my way with determination, with my eyes aligned on Jesus, and with an uplifting smile when I or others miss it.

Heidi Watson, Switzerland.

EBWU LYON

Anita Backryd's sharing

I heard the testimony of a young Swedish pastor. He had worked hard and he was very tired. He went to Spain for a holiday; he needed a time of rest and he asked himself: "Can I go on, and serve the Lord?"

He said to God: "What's Your will for my life? Give me a sign O Lord! I give my life to You, do you want to use me again? I am tired and I need Your power in my ministry. Give me a sign, O Lord! Give me a sign!"

Next morning as the pastor walked along the wonderful beach, suddenly the waves of the sea brought something up in front of his feet. It was a black stone with a white cross! He immediately took it up, and the Lord spoke to him in his heart! He remembered the text from 1 Corinthians 1:18 "The message of the cross is foolish-



ness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God." And the second Bible verse which came to his heart was: "If you keep quiet, the stones will cry out" (Luke 19:40).

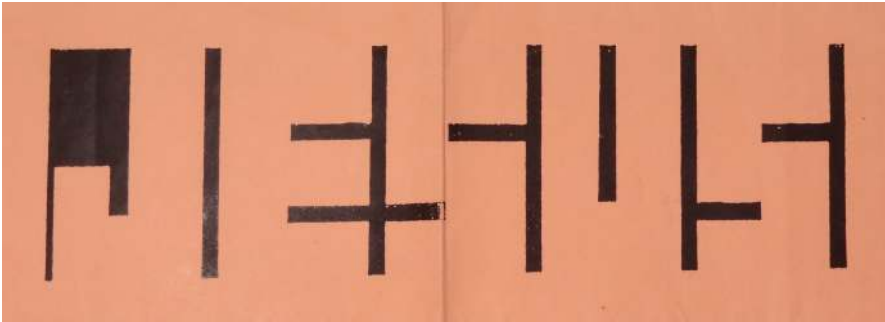
The pastor returned to his country and became a wonderful blessing; he was used by God for the salvation of many people.

My conviction is that God will bless our testimony

and show us His important plans for our lives! God chooses to use us, and with God's grace we will all serve Him.



Aniko Ujvari and Anita Backryd

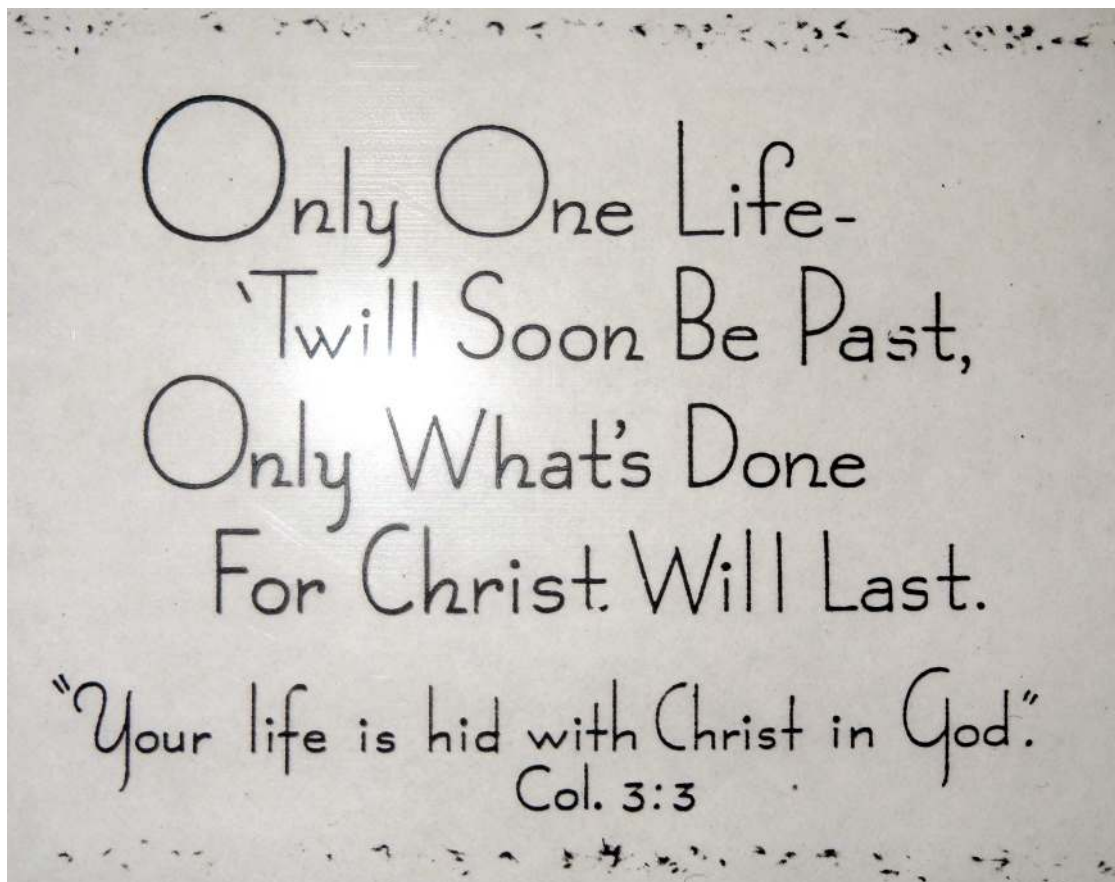


BUT.... some of us only see all the problems and difficulties in our lives and in our ministry, as the black lines on my picture. Do you see Jesus through the

black lines? You have to fix your eyes between the black lines and you can see Jesus. He is mighty and wonderful. He can change your situation. Only Jesus! Look at Jesus. Trust in Jesus, He will give victory in our lives and in our churches. Hebrews 12:2 states "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus," and 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" are good texts to memorize and hold on to.

When I was about 20 years old an old lady in my church gave me a little picture. The text was in English and this little picture has been in front of me on my office desk all my life. Life goes so quickly, but the text is sure:

ONLY ONE LIFE – 'Twill SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.



Testimony by Elisabeth Kapsreiter, President of Frauenwerk in Germany.

Our time with Kong tay Gan

As a young family we lived 10 years in Mannheim, Germany. Our three children were born in this city. We lived in an old 4 room apartment and twice a week it was filled with about 20-30 young people of the Christian Students Organization “The Navigators”.

Besides a little reception room, the master bedroom and a children’s bedroom we had a little study room, which was occasionally used as a guest room.

When I was heavily pregnant with our third child, there came this student to us with his story. He was an Indonesian of Chinese descent and that was the reason that he was not allowed to study in his homeland. An uncle was supporting him with his financial assets for a preliminary study in Germany. Now the money was gone, but there were still two more study years to go. Very sad he told us that there was no way then go back to his homeland.

The story of Kong touched us deeply and in prayer my husband and I asked our heavenly Father what we could do for him. The answer came right away: “Give him what he needs.”

God had spoken so loud and clear to our hearts that we made a leap of faith: we adopted Kong into our family.

We did not have much money and we did not have a big house, but there he was.

Just four weeks before the birth of our youngest child he moved into our little study/guest room with his suitcase and his bookcase. An exciting time followed.

During the following two years we lived together on a very small area where Western European and Asian cultures sometimes stood in much opposition to each other!





Kong graduated with a very good result and is now a successful businessman and father of a family in Indonesia.

About his time in Germany he has published a book.

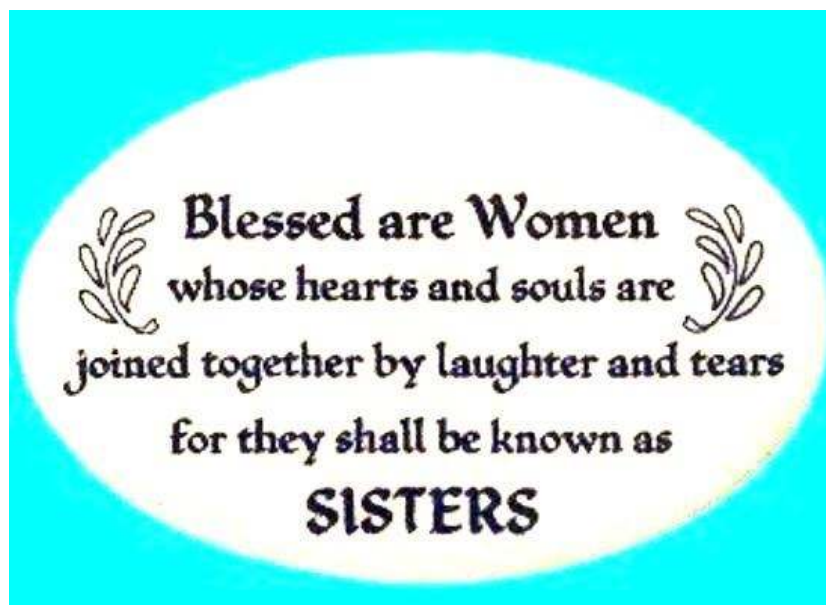
We have remained in good contact and are informed by him of the increasingly oppressive situation for Christians up to date.

Since China has become a global economic power, the history of discrimination has weakened for Indonesians with Chinese descent, so that residents with this background can study today in their own country.

For all of us it has been an intensive period of our life, but we have experienced despite all restrictions, also a great enrichment and we were surprised how creatively and wonderfully God answered so many of our prayers.

Elisabeth Kapsreiter

The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' Matth.25:40



TESTIMONY

By Talvi Helde

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

Philippians 3:12.

I am from a family where many generations have already served the living God. My personal story of getting saved happened when I was just a little girl. I have believed that there is a God my whole life, so I have been able to be a part of the many works of God. I believe that God has called me to encourage and build up others.



This year my husband Allan and I celebrate 23 years of a happy marriage. Allan is also a servant of the Lord. We have 3 adorable children in our family: 21 year old Joonas, who has just become engaged to Roosi, 17 year old Koit-Siimeon and 11 year old Eliisabet. Through the grace of God all of our family members are believers.

I have a degree in midwifery and have recently studied to be a school nurse and through this I have had the opportunity to share God's love and care in the school. I am also a first-aid teacher at the Red Cross of Estonia. As a health care giver I want to emphasise the way of living a healthy life to the women I encounter. I want them to keep everything they have, their spirit, soul and body healthy. 2 Timothy 5:23, *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Psychotherapists say that the most known complaint they have is the one of loneliness. It's not unusual to hear people say: 'I feel so lonely.....nobody understands me.....' There are people in our community and family who all need attention and support! Being born into the family of God means being made a new person, our spiritual part becomes alive and our thoughts and actions are changed through studying the Bible. Past experience shows that what has been destroyed in our lives as unbelievers need lots of cleansing and healing.

Some years ago, when I was serving the Rapla Free Church with a pastor's wife, I felt in the summer of 2008 that I couldn't carry the burdens of the women of the church on my own. While praying, I gave my burdens to Jesus and I received a message for the women: ***"You are not alone!"*** God's desire is that no-one would feel that they are deserted or on their own. That message was also for me, but most of all I felt the need to share this message with the other churches. So I feel that it is important to share and teach this to all other women! This message means surrendering to God, sharing the workload, noticing people around us and loving with the gifts and resources that God has given us.

The society around us is losing more and more of its morality. The numbers of broken people are growing. People come to church with different health issues, relationship problems, our children are being led into a self-destructing lifestyle. We need wisdom and knowledge to lead other women. *"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children."* (Titus 2:3-4). People are dealing with very delicate and difficult situations, for example, perverse sexual orientation, domestic violence, addiction problems, psychological problems and marriage crises which women need to be warned and taught about; for that to happen we need reliable Christian teachers. The hidden carriers of the burdens of the church (pastors' wives and loyal helpers) also need to be served with love, encouragement and given their worth.

Only God knows if our vision and the goal we are headed for will be fulfilled. Our work and service in the women's work is all done by voluntary work. The women I do this work with do it aside from their everyday lives so it's no wonder we can't achieve as much as we would like. The need for love is endless.

Trusting in God's grace and your continued prayers,
With love,
Talvi Helde.

Talvi Helde is the new leader of the Estonian Women's Union.

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴ Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children . Titus 2:3-4

HANOVER CONFERENCE

5 Annual Election Conference Hanover, Germany 30 May - 2 June, 2013

Information about the next big EBWU gathering. In every five year we hold our big conference with the election of the new officers. The last time it was in the Netherlands. The new officers' election is prepared by the Nomination Committee. Please, contact Ewa Gutkowska ewagut2@wp.pl if you need more information about the election or the nominations.

Register now for a very special and blessed meeting with women from all over Europe. So many great meetings, talking, singing, Bible message, new and old friendships are waiting you in this conference.



Adress: Kirchröder Strasse 44, 30625 Hanover, Germany

The cost of registration and staying is for women from Western European countries 295 Euro, and for women from Eastern European countries 250 Euro. If you chose to stay in a single room, the total cost of the Conference is 350 Euro.

Day guests including coffee, lunch, Thursday – Saturday € 100 Day guests only Friday € 50 Participating National Evening on Saturday night and attending Sunday morning service: free.

Please register before 15th of April 2013 - if you register after 15th of April, there will be an additional fee of 80 Euro.

The fee can be paid at the conference or may be transferred to the following bank account:

Spar-und Kreditbank, Postfach 1262, D-61282 Bad Homburg v.d.H., Germany

BLZ: 500 921 00

IBAN: DE45 5009 2100 0000 2727 28

BIC: GENODE51BH2

Please do not forget to mention that the payment is for EBWU Hanover Election Conference, and the name of the participant, you are paying for.

Conference Program with the theme: **Stand up and Live** (*1 Samuel 1*)

Raquel Contreras, Chili (BWA WD president) will lead Bible Studies in the following topics:

Peninnah – Hannah (depressed women, tired women, frustrated women, women who don't feel valued. In God's eyes the women are valued.)

Hannah and Elkanah's relationship

My own way with only God (she went to church without the husband's permission)

Special guest **Patsy Davis**, USA (BWA WD director) will talk about the women's life in different continents.

Saturday morning the election of the new EBWU leadership.

Saturday afternoon sightseeing tours with different options.

Sunday – special service in the historical church with Lord Supper

Hans Guderian the EBF president will lead us,

Regina Claas, General Secretary of the German Baptists will preach.

Workshops : There will be two workshop sessions at the conference. Please specify on the registration form on the website what workshop would you like to attend.

Workshop 1 – Diaconic ministry in Hanover - Michael Borkowski

The needy person comes first!

Diaconic ministry in the spirit of the gospel is a ministry for people whose needs are not recognised in a society. How do we realize which people are in need of support? What kind of help can a diaconic ministry provide? How can our churches support such a ministry?



Workshop 2 – My life dream - Irmgard Neese

What moves us deeply we can communicate by using creative means. We become acquainted with a participative method of working with a mixed (language, age, level of education...) group of women.



Workshop 3 - With all my soul, body and spirit - Claudia Sokolis (left) and Tuula Bockemül-Simon



EBWU Conference in Lyon -
France 15-18 November 2012



EBWU Conference in Lyon - France - 15-18 November 2012



EBWU Conference in Lyon - France - 15-18 November 2012



EBWU Conference in Lyon -
France - 15-18 November 2012

To praise God with our body, and to show our joy by dancing – in this workshop we will discover new ways of expressing our faith. A workshop for people who like to be in motion. It would be good to bring a pair of warm socks.

Workshop 4 - – Fair trade, Micah challenge and more – how Christians can help to fight poverty - Nicole Witzemann (left) and Heike Heider

1.4 Billion people are suffering from extreme poverty – they have less than 1,25 US dollars per day. One reason for world wide poverty is the injustice in trade structures.

Heike Heider and Nicole Witzemann will introduce the “Micah Challenge” and the fair trade initiative and will show up ways how Christians can help to fight injustice and poverty.



Workshop 5 - How Hannah learned to stand up and live! Margaret Lincoln

– A bibliodrama Workshop

Bibliodrama offers a wholistic approach to a biblical text. With the help of body exercises and movement, role play and creative work, we will begin to experience Hanna's wonderful process of "Standing Up" with all our senses and feelings. We will learn to bring our own story and Hannah's story together, to rediscover the moments in our own life where we may encounter God and begin to stand up again and live.

**Workshop 6 – When God Laughs with Us - Lina Andronoviene
Spirituality and the Gift of Humour**

Humour is rarely seen as a significant part of our spirituality. Many of us can appreciate a good joke, but rarely do we think about any deeper meaning and function of humour in our Christian discipleship. In this session, we will consider humour as a gift and as a tool in opposing injustice and bringing changes in our own lives and the lives of others.



LETTER FROM LAURAN



Dear EBWU Sisters,

I'm writing this to you from sunny Chiang Mai, Thailand, where I'm having a fabulous time with friends and former residents of the New Life Center! You may recall that I lived in Chiang Mai for 14 years (until 2001) and was the first Director of the Center. The New Life Center was established in 1987 to prevent young women from having to do work which exploited them. Over 1000 young women were helped at the Center during the years that I was there — so I have lots of “daughters”! What is so gratifying to me is seeing the wonderful ways that God is using so many of them in ministries! Truly, it's a testimony to the beautiful “resiliency of the human spirit” with which God created us. While in Bangkok, I got to visit dear “May” who was orphaned and then kidnapped into a brothel. Fortunately, she was rescued by the police, and sent to us when she was just 12 years old. She grabbed on to the opportunity to receive an education and was so excited to know that Jesus could live in her heart—and she would never have to be lonely anymore. She graduated from Bible School, is the mother of 2 great sons, and now serves with her husband in a large Baptist church. She is working on a Master's Degree in Counseling and prays that her new skills will be able to help others who are sad, lonely and desperate to know that there is restoration and Hope through Jesus Christ — just like she experienced. You can imagine how proud I am of her!

Recently, I've heard so many stories in Europe of girls who end up in situations of human trafficking and are desperate to find good choices for their lives. Some are kept against their will, and others are free to move around — but feel they have no choices because of the demanding needs of their families and the lack of opportunity in their home countries. **In Europe, we all see the flood of immigrants from East to West, South to North — many of them into situations of exploitation and abuse. Most do not find their way into the sanctuary of our churches. Can we change that? Can we “take church” to them? Do we know how to do that? Do we understand their cultures and the reasons behind their “choices”? How can we offer the vulnerable people, the exploited and abused people the unconditional love of Christ and nurture them into a life of Faith and Hope in Jesus?**

If you've ever asked any of these questions, then you should join us April 5-7, 2013 in Barcelona, Spain for the European Baptist Federation Anti-Trafficking Network Conference! The theme is: *Co-laborers in Christ: Baptists Working Together – East-West-North-South.*

There, we are going to learn from those in Eastern and Southern Europe about the forces driving people into situations of human trafficking in Western and Northern



Europe — and together, work and pray toward creative ways to minister with them in Christ's Name to meet their most pressing needs.

For more information go to the EBF Anti-Trafficking Network's web-site for registration information. <www.ebf-atwg.org/events> Contact me if you have further questions! You are ALL welcome and *encouraged* to come!!!

With Love,

Lauran Bethell

lauran@pobox.com

Face Book friend me! (Lauran Bethell)



"May" and her husband with me in Bangkok, Thailand

Rev. Lauran Bethell serves as Global Consultant, helping Christians to minister in Christ's name to victims of human trafficking and prostitution.

She is a missionary with International Ministries ABC/USA, and is based in The Netherlands.



Window to the World

Riga Conference, Latvia

This event took place in January 2013 when the Office Bearers, Livija, Aniko, Elisabeth and Margun all shared.

This Day Conference was mainly for leaders where the goal was to learn more about Europe, the member countries, and to share ministry and personal testimony. Everyone taking part did an excellent job. You can see from the pictures how happy the women were. For some time the women's work have been seeking God's will for a new person to lead the work. At this conference one woman was prompted by the Lord to consider this position; she has leadership qualities, evident in her life, and had been approached previously to consider this task but had declined. Now she is giving the matter some serious thought.

Praise God for His desire to work through women and to bless others through their work.



Footnote: we have since received information confirming that Solvita has agreed to be the new Leader of women's work in Latvia. Thank-you Lord, for answered prayer.

EBWU president Livija Godina's visit to Lithuania

Livija carried out her visit to Lithuania in December 2012. It was a challenging time for her. There are not many Baptists and so few Baptist churches there. Also occasionally there can be friction between the traditional and contemporary styles of ministry. Please pray that there would be the unity that we have together as the Body of Jesus Christ. Therefore it was very good for the women to come together. It was a small Conference, but very meaningful and encouraging for the women who did manage to attend; some of whom had come from small villages. It was beneficial for them to receive teaching, to talk together, to share together, and to pray together. As the women ministered to each other they were indeed tools in the Master's hands and experienced much blessing. God, in His merciful way, was present and the Holy Spirit ensured we met in a warm, welcoming atmosphere and as you can see from the pictures there were 'angels' hovering over the proceedings. How could it not have been a blessed time!



EBF Council Meeting, September 2012

Livija and Aniko both attend the EBF Council Meetings. The latest one took place in September last year in Elstal, Germany. It is good for EBWU to be represented and to participate in the wider Baptist fellowship across Europe – to have a voice and to be a valued member of that group. Many representatives from countries across Europe attended and it was enjoyable to have conversations with many of these people, from CIS countries, Belgium, Albania, Austria, Armenia, Finland and many more.



One of the most moving moments of that time was when the Irish Baptist Network became affiliated to the EBF.

During Livija and Aniko's time in Elstal they were able to speak with the General Secretary of Albania, the outcome of which is that the EBWU are holding their next annual committee meetings in Albania and also taking part in a women's conference there.

Behind the Scenes for Hanover



As the next five-yearly election conference is to take place in Hanover, Germany it was important for EBWU representatives to meet with some of our German sisters to make preparations and plans for this large gathering. Since the EBF

council meeting was in Elstal and some of our EBWU committee members had to attend, they decided this was a good opportunity to meet our German sisters in Elstal as well in between the EBF meetings.

Livija, Aniko, Elisabeth and Margun met with the German ladies, one of whom, Lina with four month old baby travelled all day by train to be at the meeting. You will see from the pictures that there were four from Germany and four from EBWU. Lots of discussion, thought and prayer took place before any decisions were made but now most of the planning has been done.

And the baby.... agreed with everything!



Congratulations!

Well done, Aniko! We wish to record that Aniko Ujvari, having studied theology for some time, sat her examinations and passed in the autumn of last year. We congratulate her on her hard work of study and effort, as well as carrying on her other responsibilities, being Secretary of the EBWU and Chairperson of EBF Nomination Committee, not forgetting that she is a busy pastor's wife and mother to three. We want to say 'thank-you' to all of you who have prayed for Aniko over these years of study. May the Lord reward your faithfulness. We praise God for what He has accomplished in Aniko's life and trust that her knowledge will be used to further the Kingdom of God and His purposes. Aniko, may you find fulfilment as you continue to serve the Lord.



Aniko Ujvari



Estonian Board - Old and New

In with the new – we offer our sincere congratulations to Talvi Helde who has become the President of the women's work in Estonia. We pray that God will be pleased to use her to encourage, motivate and bless the women she leads, and that she will find fulfilment as she give herself to the Lord and to this new task.

Every blessing, Talvi!

Out with the old – not really, for there is no retirement or redundancy in the kingdom of God. However we want to express our heartfelt thanks and gratefulness to Karin Raja of Estonia as she has stepped down from being President of

the women's work in Estonia, although she continues to serve on the women's board.



From left side: Pilvi Preisfreund, Annely Veevo, Janice Viinalass, Katri Tammsaar
From right side: Karin Raja, Helina-Diana Helmdorf, Haldi Leinus, Talvi Helde

To quote from Karin, *'I have considered it to be the right time to pass on the torch to a younger person, whose heart is also burning with the desire to serve women.'* Oh, that all our hearts would burn like this! We pray God's blessing on Karin asking God to reward her for the years of service she has given, and that she will continue to know God's guidance in her life.

Every blessing Karin!

Email addresses:

talvi.helde@gmail.com

Janice Viinalass is the new contactperson for Estonia: viinalass@gmail.com



President Livija Godina's Visit to Poland

In early September EBWU president Livija Godina was able to go to Warsaw, Poland where she participated in the Women's Conference there. It was a very encouraging time for her. Around 100 women attended including many younger women and of course Ewa Gutkowska, a former EBWU President, was present and it was good for Livija to renew friendship with her again. Ewa also sends her greetings to all in EBWU.

At this conference an election took place for new Women's Board members. The new women are younger and busy with life, having different experiences positive and negative, yet all desiring to give of themselves to serve the Lord. The new Leader is Klaudia Wiazowska who is a busy wife and mother to two teenage daughters. Livija asks for prayer for Klaudia and the new Board.



The theme of the conference was *'I can do all things in the One who strengthens me'* (Philippians 4:13).



Ewa Gutkowska
and Livija Godina

Livija spoke on this topic – Paul went through difficulties and hardships of varying degrees in many different circumstances, but he had learned the secret of trusting in the God Who strengthened him for the tasks He had given him to do. Paul was strong because of Christ.

My first women's conference

My name is Cornelia. I am 21 years old and I live in Poland.

This year, for the first time I participated in the National Baptist women's Conference.

The theme of our meeting was a verse from the Letter to the Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things in him who strengthens me in Christ."

Merely by accident I took part in this meeting.

My mom, who regularly participated in the women's conferences had broken her arm. Because she wanted to go, and the arm was immobilized in a cast, I decided to help her and we went together.

I was pleasantly surprised by the warm atmosphere, the content of the lectures and workshops and close relationships between all participants of the conference. I always thought, that such meetings are addressed to older women, but I found out how much of the contents and truths discussed at the conference are represented in my life as well.

I also learned by the President's of the EBWU Livija Godina report, how many sisters around the world are engaged in the service of women, which rely on mutual support. I thank God for the opportunity to participate in this event and I will encourage other sisters at my age to participate in the future conferences of women.



Cornelia Zuk

Women's work Moldova

Last April the leaders of the women's work in Moldova organised a national conference for women to celebrate their 20th anniversary. (See for a comprehensive report with pictures in our last edition Summer 2012). Among their guests were Livija Godina, the EBWU President and Patsy Davis, BAWD Executive Director. This was a very successful conference and much blessing was experienced by those who attended.

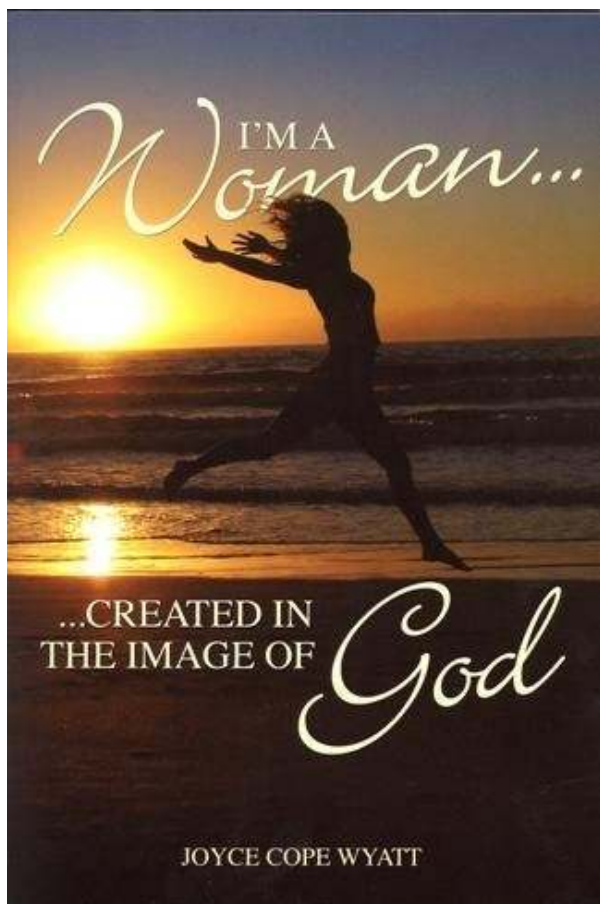
Over 2012 the Moldovan women have been blessed by God and they organised and ran a national conference for women; a conference for girls; regional conferences for spiritual growth in nine communities; seminars for the purpose of equipping the young generation, for equipping girls for serving; three regional meetings for widows and eleven meetings in different villages around the country. They have also conducted evangelical and charitable programmes. For all those they give God praise. The women also give God thanks for times of grace, various service opportunities, men and women who answered God's call, guests who came to serve the people of Moldova and the resources supplied for the Women's Department.

For this coming year the women ask prayer for raising a new generation of servants; serving according to the needs of the women; arranging national conferences for women, girls, for pastor's wives; arranging seminars for the purpose of equipping the young people; arranging various charitable events for widows, orphans and poor families, organising evangelistic programmes for women and for the finance needed for all these events.

'Thanks be to God Who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere' (2 Corinthians 2:14). Adapted from Eugenia Podoleanu, Moldova.



BOOKREVIEW



Amazing that God does bless those who need to hear His message of love and affirmation.

Bookreview

I'm a Woman ... Created in the Image of God

by Joyce Cope Wyatt

joycewyatt60@gmail.com

This book will be launched in its re-translation into Russian at the 5 annual EB-WU conference in Hanover 30 May – 2 June 2013. The writer will be present.

This is a book for women in all stages of life. Based on the firm foundation of being created in God's image, it decries the myth of women's inferiority and incapacity to excel in the multiple tasks and roles of

modern life.

Originally published in Spanish, this book enables women to use the Bible as well as aids from the social sciences and psychology to learn the importance of relationships as developed in the four major themes: Relationship with God, the opposite sex, family, and the world. Aids for study and reflection are included both for private and group use. Reading this book will expand the world of its reader and be seen as "good news" now and in the future.

Available in Spanish, English, Russian and on tape for the deaf and hearing impaired and as E Book at Amazon, Apple and Barnes and Noble and of course at BWA.

We have a website!

*Welcome to
the homepage*



www.ebwu.org

DAY OF PRAYER REPORTS

Day of Prayer Report from West Wales

The ladies in the west of Wales met together to celebrate and to pray. Numbers were smaller than in previous years but the women were glad to be together and some significant conversations were held.

As the theme for the day on Prayer 2012 was 'JOY' they used one verse from an old hymn by George Mathe-son as a basis for their thoughts:

*"O Joy that seekest me through pain;
I cannot close my heart to Thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be."*

A beautiful, colourful sunshade from Burundi was used as a visual aid for the prayer time. Each of seven tables represented the seven continental unions, and each table was decorated with appropriate symbols. The women prayed in their continental groups and then attached their prayers, written on raindrop/ teardrop shaped papers and then attached to the sunshade.

It was good to be part of the fellowship of Baptist women around the world and to join with them in prayer.

DOP report Ukraine

There is a small town in Odessa region called Yuzhniy ("Southern"). Our sisters here gathered for the Day of Prayer in a nicely decorated room. It was a great joy to feel the presence of the Spirit of the Lord. The sisters had a wonderful time together, praying and praising the Lord. Many of them witnessed how they experienced a special joy coming



from the Lord. We prayed for the sisters in the whole world and their needs. It was a very special time when we felt unity with them and with our dear Lord. Praise Him!

Svitlana Svishchova

Hungarian Day of Prayer 2012

In Budapest the Hungarian women from different churches came together in the evening of Sunday 4th November to celebrate the Day of Prayer which was organised by EBWU Secretary Aniko. You can see from the pictures that the venue was bright and decorated with articles appropriate to Asia which was the continental union that prepared the programme for 2012 with the theme of JOY. The new president, Aniko Varga spoke on the theme, and time was given to sharing, listening to music played beautifully by young women, and of course to prayer. It was a most meaningful and blessed time as the ladies thought and prayed for the needs of the world, specially with regard to women and families.

The most meaningful time for Aniko, however was that she had so much wanted for



an Asian woman to be present at the meeting and was unable to arrange this. But God is good and the day before the event the Hungarian Baptist Union President called to ask whether Aniko and her husband (who is a pastor) could give accommodation to an Indian couple who had been unable to enter Romania because they lacked the necessary

visa. Wasn't that an answer to Aniko's desire? Aniko opened her home to the couple and invited her to join the women the following evening.

The Indian lady was so happy to do this and there is a picture of her addressing the meeting. This lady is a medical doctor who serves with her husband in home mission in India. So the Lord gifted these Hungarian ladies with a guest from Asia!

Day of Prayer in Exmouth, Devon - England

In Exmouth, Devon, England, a group of forty women met for the Day of Prayer. An encouraging greeting from the EBWU committee was shared and we already felt connected. The service was delightful as we shared in our prayer time and felt close to our sisters around the world. Jacqui Keenan shared from the verse in 1 Thessalonians 3:9, 'How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?' In a creative way, to bless one another, we gave each woman a packet of tissues with the writing 'Bless You' on each tissue. They were then asked to pass the packet on to someone with a word of encouragement and prayer. It was a very meaningful moment in our service. It was joy for us to give away the tissues, and joy for those who received them hopefully.



DOP report from New Zealand

Here in Auckland, New Zealand, we had a “Day of Prayer afternoon tea” at the church last Saturday, November 3. A small number came, but it was a lovely occasion. We gave each woman a paper with Scripture verses on the subject of joy, from the Psalms. Then in turn each of those present read a verse aloud to the whole group. By the time we had read all the verses out we were almost shouting for joy ourselves! Three of our women, dressed in appropriate costumes, presented the testimonies of the Asian women who were being highlighted. For each place setting we provided cookies with the word “JOY” iced on them. We also showed some power points of the prayer projects. Although our program was just two hours long, we allowed 30 minutes for prayer, and of course we remembered you all in Europe. It is wonderful to know that Baptist sisters around the world are supporting one another in this great way.



Julie Belding, *President Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific.*
www.bwuswp.com

OBITUARY



Hanne Atoui Khalaf

Hanne was born on March 10, 1944, and went to be with the Lord on the September 27, 2012.

Her father Habib Atoui was a teacher and preacher. Hanne got married to Pastor Ghassan Khalaf on October 31, 1970. They have only one daughter, Smyrna.

Hanne accepted the Lord as her savior when she was 18 years old.

Since then, she committed herself to serving the Lord.

At 20, she started teaching at public schools in the suburbs of Beirut. She was very active in her church, teaching in Sunday school, leading young ladies groups.

For 43 years, Hanne supported her husband in his ministry as a Pastor of Hadath Baptist church and as President of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut.

For more than two decades, Hanne served among the women in the Baptists churches in Lebanon. She was elected president of the Baptist Women Union for two terms. She represented the Lebanese Union in Norway, Germany, and the USA.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5 : 1 and 8

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for Estonia's new leader Talvi Helde.
- Pray for Poland's new leader Klaudia Wiazowska.
- For the Women's ministries in Georgia and the possibility of someone to come to Hanover.
- For safety for Livija, travelling and encouraging unions in countries where there is no religious freedom.
- For Christians in Syria, who are suffering from the circumstances there
- For Lebanon overwhelmed with Syrian refugees. Churches are taking care with food, clothes etc. but Lebanon also has a lack of everything, and is much stretched affected by the poor economy and unemployment, by their history and present global crisis. Pray for more believers to help with the refugees.
- For EBF president Hans Guderian, who is suffering from heart problems.
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide www.csw.org.uk calls for international action to pressure the Burmese Government to stop attacks in Kachin State. The Burmese Army has been conducting a military offensive against the Kachin since June 2011, breaking a ceasefire that had lasted for 17 years. Over 100,000 civilians have been internally displaced since the war began, and the Burmese Army has been accused of grave human rights violations, including rape, torture, destruction of villages, looting and desecration of churches, and killing civilians.
- For our sister Blooming Night as she is in Burma helping to work on the peace process. www.womenofburma.org
- For Mai – Britt Vehkaoja from Finland, who has been forced to resign from exercising her role within the women's work because of serious health problems at the moment. mb.vehkaoja@netikka.fi
- For the new contact person for the Swedish speaking Baptist women in Finland: Ulla-May Sjöblom, Rävatan 6 FI-65350 Vasa Finland. ulla-may.sjoblom@netikka.fi
- For the Middle East countries and all our brothers and sisters, for peace and encouragement in very difficult circumstances.
- For the Children's Health Care Center, "Zhemchuzhinka" (Tsjernobyl camps), Kobrin, Belarus, for summer camps in 2013.
- For the children's work, Diamond Centre in Poland.
- For the relatives of the former president of the Lebanese Baptist Women: sister Hannah Khalef, Lebanon who passed away in October 2012.
- For Latvia's Baptist President, Peteris Sprogis, his wife and two daughters 6 and 1 years old. This family lost their middle daughter and sister 4 year old in a choking accident in August 2012.
- For all who are preparing the 5 year annual Election EBWU Conference in Hanover, Germany.



Give Thanks

- For the hard work of the French sisters who prepared so well the Conference in Lyon, November 2012
- For Estonia's former leader Karin Raja who served so faithfully.
- For Mai – Britt Vehkaoja from Finland, who has served so long in the women's ministry in her country.
- For Patsy Davis, whose surgery in September 2012 went very well as has been her recovery. Patsy sent some words: 'I know that is due to all the love and prayers that have been sent my way. Thank you so very much for praying for me, the doctor, my brother and all those involved in my surgery and recovery. The doctor told me before the surgery that it was going to be difficult and probably take two surgeries to correct and stabilize my spine. I told him the day of surgery that many women around the world were praying for him, and he responded saying he needed those prayers. God performed a miracle through your prayers and not only did the surgery go well, but I will not need a second surgery'.
- For the hard work of all committee members of all the national Baptist Women's Boards in Europe.
- For our International Seminary IBTS in Prague Czech Republic moving to the Netherlands.

Events

- **Moldova** February 2013, start of seminars for women with the theme of "Fellowship".
- **Spain**, near Barcelona, 5-7 April, 2013 Anti Trafficking Network Conference. www.ebf.org
- **Moldova** April 12-13, 2013, National Conference.
- **Prague, Czech Republic** April 12-13, 2013, Executive meeting. Livija and Aniko attend.
- **Netherlands** April 26-28, 2013 Conference International Baptist Convention. Theme "Restore my Heart." www.ibc-churches.org/women.
- **Hanover, Germany 30 May – 2 June** 5 year annual Election EBWU Conference Theme "Stand up and Live." www.ebwu.org



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BAUTISTA DE AMÉRICA
LATINA (UFBAL)



THE LATEST NEWS

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Bible Studies

There is a popular song that goes like this:

*“He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He’s got the sun and the rain in His hands,
He’s got everybody here in His hands.”*

He has us in His hands but how have we handled His world?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide a framework for the entire international community to work together towards a common end, making sure that human development reaches everyone, everywhere. If these goals are achieved, world poverty will be cut by half, tens of millions of lives will be saved, and billions more people will have the opportunity to benefit from the global economy.

It is important for us to consider what God’s word says about these

matters and how we should respond to the needs around us. John Stott in his book *Radical Disciple* makes the following statement: “But because Jesus is Lord, we have no right to pick and choose the areas in which we will submit to his authority.” As Christ followers our basis for action is not in response to the call from earthly leaders but a response to God’s Word and the spirit’s leading. Let’s come before the Lord and examine our heart and His Word and respond accordingly.

One of the BWA Women's Department strategic objectives is to encourage and promote personal and group prayer and Bible study, and a short term goal is to place Bible studies related to the MDGs on the website. Each of the eight goals was assigned to one of the Continental Unions and Women's Department.

See for MDG’s Bible studies related to these goals www.bwawd.org

The 8 MDGs Goals are:

	GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger		GOAL 5: Improve maternal <u>health</u>
	GOAL 2: Achieve universal primary education		GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
	GOAL 3: Promote gender equality and empower women		GOAL 7: Ensure environmental <u>sustainability</u>
	GOAL 4: Reduce child <u>mortality</u>		GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership



European Baptist Women's Union

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and positions



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Lithuania Conference



Day of Prayer West Wales



Yona Pusey
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Lithuania Conference



Day of Prayer Ukraine



Day of Prayer Ukraine



Day of Prayer Ukraine



Day of Prayer Ukraine



Day of Prayer Ukraine



Day of Prayer Ukraine