



FEDERAZIONE FEMMINILE EVANGELICA
VALDESE METODISTA



ITALY UNIT

Proclaiming through worship

The National Council, completely renewed three years ago, had a hard time learning to work together without imposing their own thoughts on each other making difficult to work with joy, but the Lord gave us a hand to complete his work.

It is our habit to organize the meetings including visits to various communities. We have always found sisters very much involved in church activities, but as a part of the whole community, without any interest for a particular women's group.

The situation for the groups on the national level has not changed over the past years. They show signs of lack of energy and new ideas. The difficulty in involving younger sisters is chronic.

Despite that the sisters are always ready to get together for Bible studies and social commitments. Reading the Bible together and studying the texts is the most important part of our meetings.

On the local level the groups are a fundamental activity in community life. The ladies, through their various activities, make a substantial economic contribution to the churches and are always ready to prepare refreshments and meals for church gatherings.

In Italy we have some ethnic women's groups, mostly from Ghana. They are very active and full of joy and thankful to the Lord for everything they receive. The fact that they speak only their dialect makes it difficult to worship together. They can certainly be an example for all of us.

Proclaiming through social action

We are small churches and to have a better response in society Methodist women are part of the association that includes all the protestant Women's Federations in Italy, the *FDEI* (Federation of Protestant Women in Italy).

The most important issues we were involved in during this year were three:

- “the occupied Chair”;
a petition against violence to women submitted to the Italian Parliament;
a booklet with Bible studies for 16 days.

Arrivals of immigrants, solutions such as “humanitarian corridors”, welcoming strangers and assisting the homeless are involving our churches from Sicily to the most northern parts of our country. First aid, distribution of clothing, food, spiritual help are the most important issues where the sisters in our churches are involved.

Lidia Ribet

Unit President of Italy