

## Report about women's work in Serbia Belfast 2018

I would like to greet you on behalf of the committee for women's work in Serbia and at the same time to remind us about Jesus' words that we can find in the Gospel of Mathew 5:13-14, where Jesus says: *"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid."* (NRSV)

It is a big privilege to be the salt and the light of the world, to shine for Jesus with our lives, but the responsibility is even bigger, not to let our salt lose its saltiness or for our light to be darkened.

We are "Chosen people: Called to proclaim" the Gospel by living it, by being the salt and the light of the world.

May God be glorified through everything we do.

I am really thankful to God that he leads us and helps us in our everyday life as well as in our work in the Church.

### **Women's meetings and national retreats /seminars**

We have our meetings or gatherings during the summer regularly, try to be involved in our local churches and contribute as much as we can. In some local churches we organize bazaar, with intention to help financially our churches and their work, or to support our national retreats/seminars. We try to be active in the church in different ways, depends on the local church and its needs. This is something that I am glad about, In spite of all difficulties we face, to meet together at least once a year and try to be active in our local churches.

The retreats/seminars are time when we have Bible studies, time to worship, time to share testimonies. So, women are encouraged, spiritually strengthened and refreshed and ready to continue with the activities in their local churches. They enjoy this time of fellowship.

Also, some of our local churches have their local meetings, once or twice a month, and their own activities, as visiting sick people or helping poor people or families. Sometimes, two or three local churches have meeting together, besides the national gathering.

Unfortunately, I can see that we are growing older and not many young persons join us. And this is something that makes me worry about. Although, besides our two younger pastors we have in our team, now we have also a few young persons in our worship team, that lead us in worship or help with technical things as well..

### **World Day of prayer**

The World Day of prayer is very important for us in Serbia, because remind us that, although we are a small church in our country, we are a part of the big family of Christians in the world. It is chance to be together as Christians, wherever we are, stand before God and pray for the other's need.

I am really thankful to God for His grace and possibility to work in His vineyard

Liljana Sjanta , President for work with women in Serbia