



CMMALC NEWSLETTER AREA AND TRAINING SEMINAR

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EDITORIAL

Three World Officers were able to attend the Latin America Area Seminar in Sao Paulo, Brazil in April 2019. After long journeys, we could have been forgiven for being tired, but the energy and passion of the women of this Area soon re-energised us. I am sure everyone felt uplifted by the fellowship, worship and sharing of news that we experienced here as women 'Called to proclaim the greatness of God'.

Our venue was the Faculty of Theology, within the impressive Methodist University of Sao Paulo, Sao Bernado Campus. It felt very significant that this centre of learning was named after Mrs Otilia Chaves, Brazilian World President of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women 1952-56. Our hosts, the women of Brazil, led by Area President Leila Barbosa and supported by Vice-President Jessica Solar, made us so very welcome and showed us generous hospitality. Keila Guimaraes and Andrea Reilly provided much-needed translation. University students also provided support, and Rev Margarida Ribeiro, Principal of the Theology Faculty, led us in two beautiful services of Holy Communion in the closing worship for both the Weaving Together Program and the Seminar.

Three younger women addressed us during the seminar: Karen Danna and Luiza Pereira, both Helen Kim Memorial Scholars and Ester Antunes, a Global Mission Fellow. Each one is already showing great leadership potential and will have been greatly encouraged by the positive response they received here. Rev Andreia Fernandes Oliveira's bible study session deepened my understanding of the story of Dorcas in Acts 9. Later, I was affected emotionally by the accounts of oppression and violence against women in Latin America and the way women are speaking out against injustice, even at risk to themselves.

I for one, returned home with the impression that the Methodist women of Latin America are committed, courageous and faithful to the call of Jesus Christ to proclaim the greatness of God. I shall pray that their significant contribution to the life of the church is soon fully acknowledged and valued by all. I shall always be grateful for this opportunity to spend time with my sisters of the Latin America Area.

Thank you!
Every blessing,

Alison Judd





THEY WERE ARRIVING! !
!Hola! !Olá! !Hello!
¿Cómo vai? How are you?
¿Cómo están?
Good to see you!
And, well, with greetings and Hugs, they
They were arriving and were being received!
Where did they arrive? To Methodist University of São Paulo, in the city of São Bernardo do Campo!

They, the women chosen to proclaim the greatness of God!
Women from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, Uruguay, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, England and New Zealand.

Women elected, women called by God, each one by name! An army in the work of the Lord, as in that text of Isaiah:

"They raise their eyes and look towards the high places. Who created all that? He who sets in motion every star of his heavenly army, and calls everyone by his name. His power is so great and so great is his strength that none of them fails to appear!" (Isaiah 40.26)

That was the theme of the Training Seminar of the Confederation of Methodist Women of Latin America and the Caribbean! Women elected: "Called to proclaim the greatness of God!"

What an honor to be chosen! What a privilege! You and I were chosen to proclaim the greatness, the love, the mercy of the Lord! I feel happy and you?



The biblical verse chosen as the basis is that of 1 Peter 2.9 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people exclusively owned by God, whose purpose is to proclaim the great things of him who called you out of darkness to his admirable light. "

!Beautiful! Inspiring!

Well ... let's go there! Be comfortable, that already, our Area Seminar begins!

Remember that in our Seminar there were two precious moments: the first part of April 10 to 12 with the Weaving Together Program and from April 12 to 14 with the Training Seminar for all!

Read a little bit of what happened, take advantage and feel part of this narrative.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE WEAVING TOGETHER PROGRAM - WTP (in spanish: Tejiendo Juntas)

(FIRST PART OF THE SEMINAR)

The Seminar took place in two moments. The first from 10 to 12 April, with the WTP. The name of the Program means "Weaving together". And it was ministered by the Directive of the World Federation, participated the Presidents of the Units of the affiliated countries, the President of the CMMALC Leila, the Area Vice-President Jessica Area and some observers. World President Alison Judd, World Secretary Mataiva and World Treasurer Leu Pupulu worked together with the Presidents, ministering several activities.

Who observed from outside, heard laughter, prayers, saw hugs and smiles, with moments of dynamics. For the rest, the start was with a fun dynamic!



Leila– The time of "Weaving Together" (WTP) was very special! Time of communion, relationship, sharing, receiving and much learning! What a blessing to hear from the work of the countries of our Latin America and Caribbean Area, the work of the Helen Kim and how much they are involved in the work of the Lord through working with women in their countries! The World Officers, President Alison, Secretary Mataiva and Treasurer Leu Pupulu gave us a firm form and at the same time precise how to work the various issues. Being able to tell about the work of the CMMALC was also very important, because when speaking and listening about the diverse situations of our Area, we were able to learn more and understand where and how we should act with more dedication and attention.



They involved us in a very special way through the dynamics of "KESO".





About Ketso Luiza Pereira tells us (Helen Kim):

It was very interesting to participate in a conversation round with the help of the Ketso Method. Our group had the participation of women from Brazil, Uruguay and Peru (as Observer). Ketso provided a "panoramic" look at working with women in our contexts. We were able to perceive our strengths, our greatest challenges and new possibilities that we want to see becoming a reality. It was a pleasant time, because more than looking at the difficulties, we were able to look at what is already done with gratitude and we were able to dream together.

The closing was with a Service in the cozy Chapel, where we all praise, pray and take the Holy Supper together, united in the love of the Lord!





Gratitude

So that the whole Seminar could take place, we were praying to our God, so that He would direct everything according to His Will, so that everything would happen as He wanted!

And everything was arranged!.

We have the beautiful presence of the Regional Missionary of the United Methodist Women for the development of Leadership in Latin America, Andreia Reily; from the Coordinator of the Shade and Fresh Water Project, Keila Guimarães, who were translating from English to Spanish, Portuguese and vice versa. We also had the special participation in these translations, of the young Ester Antunes, with her charming style!

We want to destacate, the help with the minimum details and the support of Reverend Margarida, who along with her team of seminarians, Yehonala, Ricardo, Ruic, Lucas, Rafaela and Denis were available at all times, with dedication, attention and joy.



A SMALL ESCAPE TO THE PAULISTA AVENUE!

As some of them arrived a little before the beginning of the Seminar, the Vice-President Claudia Lira, organized a trip with these sisters, to know a little bit about the city of São Paulo!

And, gathering here and there, calling and waking up some of them, they went to the Avenue. Paulista!

They knew some tourist spots, took pictures and smiled! And they had the challenge of looking from above!

They returned a little tired, but happy and ready to take advantage of all the good time that the Lord had prepared for this Seminar!



STARTING THE SECOND PART OF THE SEMINAR: FROM 12 TO 14 APRIL.

After the Closing Ceremony of the WTP in the Umesp Chapel, the expectation was on the rise for all to begin the Training Seminar, with all the participants. Mainly for us, those of CMMALC, who received everyone with the hope that everything would be a blessing for the sisters, source of learning, of joy, of communion!

All were received and they were given a very nice bag with all the material, ideal to place the Bible and other belongings.

The bag is beautiful! With a beautiful handkerchief of lilac color, the color that represents the woman, an offering from the Otilia Chaves Center.

We love them!

The program began with lunch and at 2pm, the Opening Service.



OPENING SERVICE

Excitement at the entrance of the Standards and Flags, a happy and colorful display of the representatives of the countries that were present! There were 13 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 01 from England, from our World President Alison Judd and 02 from New Zealand, the original country of Mataiva Robertson and Leu Pupulu, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.



The Service was directed by our President Leila de Jesus Barbosa, who greeted everyone with great affection. We count with Eloisa Altino in praise, President of the 4th Region of Brazil, who accepted our invitation for the moments of praise. A joy, a beautiful voice that God has given! Also in the Prelude, the beautiful voice of Leda Leziria of the 1st Region.



And in the Opening Service, the preaching was by Reverenda Joana D'arc Meireles, Secretary for Life and Mission of the Methodist Church of Brazil.

A blessed word, based on the biblical text of the Gospel of Luke, chapter 7, verses 36 to 50. The sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus with a precious balm very expensive, and with his hair dried the feet of Jesus. That woman, before entering the room where Jesus was, probably stood at the door, indecisive, insecure ...

How many times we stayed at the door, without courage, with doubts, hesitating? Should we enter or not? I do or do not do? That woman has overcome the barriers, entered and found freedom, peace, at the feet of Jesus.

That woman is not mentioned her name, she remained anonymous, so that each one of us could put our name. I am that woman who stands at the door and let prostrate at the feet of the Lord!

What word! What a wonderful word!

REGARDS

After the Opening Service, it was a special moment that all of them were greeted warmly by the President of the Methodist Women's Confederation of Brazil, Ivana Maria Aguiar Garcia, by the Reverend Margarida of the Otília Chaves Center, by Rev. Amélia Tavares, Editor of the "Voz Missionária" Magazine.

Be all welcome! Receive our hugs!, Our welcome!

On the 13th, we also had the greeting of the President of the Federation of Men of the Third Region, Mario Sergio.

CONFERENCE AND GROUPS

On this first day of the seminar, on April 12, we had the privilege of listening to two very special Pastors. Reverend Andreia Fernandes and Reverend Andrea Reily!

In the first place, we heard and participated with Reverend Andreia Fernandes, National Coordinator of the Department of the Sunday School of the Methodist Church in Brazil, a motivating Conference that called us to a great reflection, starting from the biblical text that tells about Dorcas (Acts 9.36 -43). The participants divided into groups, reflected on several questions, one of them: who are we? And, we came to the conclusion that we need to think about ourselves, have a time for ourselves, learn to say NO. Know our limits, objectives and needs! We have been chosen to proclaim life, the greatness of God, but we need to be well!



After that enlightening and motivating word, with a break for dinner, it was the turn of staying in a great round of conversation, right there in the dining room, a place of communion, where we first enjoyed a delicious meal!

We separated the chairs, we stayed on one side and the Reverend Andrea Reily, Regional Missionary of the United Methodist Women for the development of Leadership in Latin America, started a very enlightening talk about the situation of women.

This time began with the reading of the biblical text in Numbers 37.1-11, which was read by two sisters, one in Portuguese and one in Spanish.

Who did this text talk about? Ah!, the daughters of Zelophehad. Have you heard about them?

Their father died and he had no children, only these 5 daughters. Because they were women, they had no right to inheritance. So, they let that inheritance pass ... Was that so? NO!

They did not accept that, they took courage and went to look for Moses. There was nothing to lose. They were not afraid to make that inquiry. Moses heard their argument and went to consult God. And God accepted. They were right. God changed the Law, so that they too would receive the inheritance. A change was necessary.

Women, we have to know the laws, be empowered, have knowledge, arguments, union of thoughts to reach the authorities.

And, with this reflection, Reverend Andrea launched the following question:

What is it like to be a woman in your country? What are the challenges in your country?

And several sisters, stood up, one at a time, and were telling a little of their realities ... There was a lot of emotion ... tears ... how much pain! Injustices, lack of love, judgments, violence ... Realities of suffering, of pain, of oppression, of machismo. Different lands, but we could see that being a woman, anywhere, is being a warrior, a brave woman, a fighter! How much content on this first day of Seminar! It was intense, rich in teachings, exchange of experiences, motivating!



THURSDAYS IN BLACK

Of course, in this Seminar, on the 11th, on a Thursday, we could not stop being in Campaign!

All day, all the participants, we use black! Not violence against women!

All united, with their pins and T-shirts, walking through the Methodist University, in a silent protest!



There were also moments for photos, with a banner!

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENT ALISON JUDD

We started on the 13th, waiting for the arrival of the sisters who were going to participate only on this day, since the Seminary would be open for all those who wanted to participate.

Eloisa summoned the women to praise and "go down to the pottery room". Starting the day with that cheerful praise, where everyone had to "move"! Bolivia, Colombia, Argentina, everything! Until England and New Zealand, they had to "go to God's pottery room". Oh my God! What women of God, happy, praising with joy! Sensational!

Praise is a way of proclaiming!

Yes, it was one of the things we learned from the Alison Judd Conference, which was immediately after the praise.

"Calls to proclaim through adoration and relationships".

At the beginning of the Conference, President Alison mentioned the biblical text in 1 Peter 2.9, which is the theme verse, to be worked in these 5 years by the World Federation.

We are called to proclaim! And we can do it in several ways: through actions and relationships.

May we be inspired and recognize that we are chosen to proclaim!

Praise! Hymns are an expression of our faith, and we can proclaim the greatness of God through praise!

Think about your favorite Hymn! Does it tell the story of Jesus and talk about salvation?



Proclaim through experiences, prayer, meetings in the Service. It is very important to have a call to prayer!

In Bulgaria, the Government was creating a new law and the Church could not stay in the country. The sisters united in prayer for this cause. The Government has already decided not to create this new law. Glory to the Lord!

PRAY! In the church, in hospitals and clinics, in houses. Go out on Saturdays to pray. Prayer is part of the spiritual life! There are many ways to proclaim the faith! For what we use, for the banners, for the pamphlets and even for the social networks themselves.

Through relationships, we teach our children, grandchildren, family.

We are chosen people to proclaim the truth, the love of God and give glory to God!

Ah!, how was this word uplifting! Simple actions, which can make a difference!

THE YOUNG MISSIONARY ESTER

Ester Antunes! It is the name of that young Brazilian missionary, who is participating in the Global Mission Fellows! Today she is working in Uruguay.

We hear with attention about the Program, how it works and about her experiences in this mission.

The challenges are many, check the need of localities, AIDS, Human Rights, work of young people.

How much experience this young woman already has. She has gone through tense moments, of fear, she has witnessed hunger, pain, deaths, but she also obtains her gratitude for all the help she can provide to the little ones, to those they need.

She left us excited, and touched our hearts with her willingness to work, to help, to be in the mission, with all the difficulties and desires.



And she left us the following verse: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

WORD OF THE WORLD EXECUTIVE

A very pleasant moment was where the World Directory, with President Alison Judd, Secretary Mataiva and Treasurer Leu Pupulu, told us a little about the World Federation.

In a leisurely way, the President spoke about the World Assembly that takes place every 5 years, she informed us where the next one will be held, in Sweden ..

She presented photos of some Seminars, Emerit President Ann and her love relationship with young people!

She asked that we pray for the Assembly, for the members, for the necessary planning.

Alison Judd reported on the topics worked by each Area, which seek what is relevant to their area. She noted for example that in 2019 England and Ireland work for Gender Equality. The President also spoke of the importance of praying and reading the Bible, to listen to God! We were chosen to proclaim and give glory to God forever!



We also had the privilege of listening to Secretary Mataiva, who told a little about her life, that she was born on the island of Samoa and how she wanted to leave that place, but her father did not allow it. And she prayed and the Holy Spirit touched her father's heart and she received the blessing from him. Today her father is a great supporter of women's rights. The Federation has a great significance for her.

Leu Pupulu, also gave us a little of the history of her life, also living on the island of Samoa. She looked unintelligent, with difficulties at school. We were excited telling her testimony,

how she won and learned.

And today she is the Treasurer of the World Federation.

HELEN KIM PROGRAM

In the afternoon on the 13th, we had the honor of listening to Secretary Mataiva, talking a little about the Helen Kim Scholarship Program for young people!

She introduced us to Helen Kim, her concern with the girls and how the beginning of this program was. Important information, that has clarified us a lot.

This Program is a tribute to Helen Kim, a young Korean woman who had a noble vision and inspired by Christ of a worldwide brotherhood. She dreamed of a time when women would work together to promote peace and have better conditions throughout the world.

Then, the current Helen Kim Scholars of this quinquennium were also introduced to us. The gracefuls Luiza Pereira from Brazil, and Karen Quispe from Peru. Each of them spoke a little about their lives, their work as Helen Kim.

We emphasize that in our Seminar, it was exciting and rewarding to meet these three young women, committed to the mission: Ester, Luiza and Karen!

It was good to listen, to know the work of these young people, to know that they are on this path! It was very motivating to hear them!



Congratulations, girls! May the Lord bless you every day!

PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK TRACKS AND FACES...

The Seminar was chosen by Reverend Margarida, to present her book that has the title of "Traces and faces of Brazilian Protestantism: a historiography of Methodist women".

She did not have the book in hand, because this second edition was not ready in good time, but Reverenda Margarida told us a little about the content.

We are very curious and with an immense will to read!

In the book, she tells the story of 40 women who made a difference, who are part of the history of the church.

Pastor Margarida took advantage and also spoke a little about the Otilia Chaves Center, and who she was. Her dedication to Living to Serve, Otilia was the only Brazilian to be President of the World Federation.

Pretty, isn't true? Example for all: dedication, attitude, love to the Lord!



CLOSING SERVICE

These Seminary days passed very quickly!
And the time for the Closing Service came!

And, with the direction of our President Leila and Vice President of Area, Jessica, we had the beginning of the service. In adoration, in confession, in praise, singing together, each in their own language, the hymn "You are faithful, Lord" ...

A very special moment as CMMALC was the reception of the country of El Salvador as a member of our Confederation. El Salvador was represented by its President Adela Samayoa and Fátima Yohana Asensio de Peña. What joy! What a blessing to receive these sisters who were consecrated with the presence of the entire Board and of World President Alison Judd. Blessing this country through the sisters, the Revda Andréa Reily Regional Missionary of the United Nations Women for Latin America and the Caribbean praying.

The preaching was in charge of President Alison, who emphasized!



in Transformation ... like the butterflies. The various phases, larva, cocoon and finally, the flight!

The communion was a special moment, with the ministrations for the Reverends present: Andrea, Margarida, Amelia, Giovanna.

Walking between two we went to the bread and the cup, a bread to share with our sister.

What beautiful symbolism!! moved by the Spirit Holy God.

All of us together taking the Communion ... I write and I go feeling again that incredible climate that only who lived, feels ... the presence of the Father, of the Holy Spirit ... What a blessing! ... The comforting embrace of the sister ...

It already gave me sadness, I miss each one .

Leila did the sending ... Each of us as a star called by our name, to carry the good news of the Lord, wherever we go.

Bring light, where there is darkness. Commitment assumed, in the words of the prayer we made together. "ALL: Lord our God and our Father, we hear Your Word and Your call, the Lord calls each of us by our names.

And here we confirm our love for you and the commitment to serve you, wherever we go, bringing your light. Reflecting on us, as stars, the brightness of your love. Amen! "

And so, we finished the Service dedicated to the Lord, with gratitude for all that we lived, shared and learned.



BUT IT DID NOT FINISH!

There is still a little more to tell you!

After dinner, right there in the dining room, we had a very pleasant moment, under the direction of the beloved Helen Kim, Luiza and Karen.

Very funny moment, a dynamic with lots of laughter and imitation of animal voices!

But in order to come together in groups, to share and also pray for each other.

It could not have been better, girls! A great blessing! we end up like this, praying together to the Lord. And, still, many hugs, affection and gifts!

Word that defines: THANKS!

SERVICE IN THE METHODIST CATHEDRAL OF SÃO PAULO

On 4th, after breakfast, the opportunity was offered for the World Directory and several sisters to participate in the Sunday Service in the Methodist Cathedral.

It was Palm Sunday and with joy, all of us participated and knew the church.

The Reverend Miguel Ángel Fiorini, welcomed everyone, with affection. We saw the joy of the children, celebrating Palm Sunday and also the Pastor Day.

We headed forward, and Lei-la and Alison were able to direct a few words. And, most importantly, a prayer was raised for our lives and work.



GOODBYE

And, finally we finished our Seminar, a rainy Sunday in São Paulo ...

Rain? Yes, Rain! Rain of joy, rain of blessings, rain of communion, rain of gratitude!

Some left before, others later, others still stayed a little longer.

But I have in my mind, that each one carried a great legacy in the heart. A legacy to be shared when you get home, to your church, when you are with the sisters of your Society.

Moments, teachings, joy, new experiences, new friendships that we add in the What-sapp and in the heart!

May the Lord bless all of us, that we may meet soon!





COMMITMENT



LEADERSHIP



PARTICIPATION



HAPPINESS / JOY

GRATITUDE



SHARE AND
SOLIDARITY



DETACHMENT



FRIENDSHIP

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