



I Will Go Reach My World

"We have different gifts according to the grace given us..." —ROMANS 12:6, NIV



NURTURE



EMPOWER



OUTREACH

A MINISTRY FOR EVERY WOMAN



2024.03 January 18, 2024

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

Remembering Heather-Dawn Small

THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION REFLECTING ON THE LIFE OF HEATHER-DAWN SMALL

Memories of Heather-Dawn Small from across the Inter-European Division



SHE LET HER LIGHT SHINE

As the Women's Ministries Department of the Inter-European Division we want to honor the memory of Heather-Dawn Small in this special News Edition. She was loved and will be greatly missed.

Hear the voices of many women whose lives have been enriched by her life and work. Indeed, she let her light shine with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We also want to thank her family for sharing her with the women of the world.



A Woman of God



HEATHER-DAWN WAS A GREAT ENCOURAGER AND SUPPORTER OF WOMEN

Heather Dawn was a woman of God, devoted in service to God and the women of the church. She was kind and loving, with a strong personality, a great sense of humour, outgoing, outspoken, and an advocate for justice, especially in the matter of violence against the vulnerable. Heather Dawn's sermons and devotions were very practical, always with a personal experience or story. That's what made her so approachable. A sister, a mother, a friend, one of us. "Joy" was the motto of her life, although she did not only experience joyful times, or perhaps precisely because of this. Many women saw themselves in her and were enriched and blessed. She shared how to maintain a personal relationship with God, especially in the busy lives of women. Her workshops in Bible journaling were legendary and always well attended. In her prayers, she often addressed God lovingly as "Abba", which made the prayers so intimate and personal. She has empowered so many women and helped them to gain a deeper understanding of God's love for them, me included. During her leadership, the women's ministries expanded and blossomed.

Heather Dawn was a great encourager and supporter who saw the potential in others and fostered it. I am very grateful for having known her and worked with her. She will be terribly missed, but we will carry her legacy on and look forward to meeting her again on the day of reunion when Jesus comes.

Dagmar Dorn, WM Director Inter-European Division

Memorial Service for Heather-Dawn Small



FEBRUARY 18, 10:00 AM EST

More information will follow as to how women around the world will be able to be part of the Memorial Service for Heather-Dawn Small digitally.

It will be on Sunday, February 18, at 10:00 AM EST (+ 6 hours for Berlin, + 7 hours for Bucarest).

Sharing Memories of Heather-Dawn Small



GOODBYE, DEAR FRIEND

With great sorrow I heard about the passing away of our loved and much appreciated friend, mentor, motivator and encourager Heather-Dawn Small.

I had the joy of travelling with her in most countries of Europe, in several states of the US, in South Africa and even in Australia. We managed many events together, we spent much professional but also private time together. I worked with her for 13 years, 5 years as leader of

WM in Switzerland and 8 years as a WM director at Inter-European Division. Heather-Dawn was for me a great role model, she was my teacher, my partner, my supporter. It was a great privilege for me to share this part of life with her. She was very important for my formation and my professional life in the Church till my retirement in 2018. I learned so much from her, she also greatly influenced my spiritual life.

I will miss her in this world, and I am very much looking forward to meeting her again in good health, with no cancer and with healthy knees, and with no pain in heaven. What will remain is her joy and gift of friendship.

Goodbye dear friend, good bye Heather-Dawn.

May the Lord give comfort to her husband and children. Life will not be the same anymore.

In precious memory

Denise Hochstrasser, former EUD WM Director

Italian Women Remember a Woman of Joy



HEATHER-DAWN WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT EDUCATING WOMEN

I met Heather-Dawn a couple of times: at the first Inter-European Women's Ministries Congress in Germany, and during a training course in Spain. I remember her as a joyful person even though even then she had health problems. She was a very prepared leader in the role she played. She had at heart the education, across the board, of the "sisters," as she liked to call us. She spent much effort in providing appropriate tools for the spiritual and

social care of Adventist women, with a special focus on the area of mental and emotional health.

Franca Zucca, former WM director in Italy.

How can you not love someone whose favorite word is "joy"? And who puts it into practice in her smile and in everything she does? I did not have the pleasure of knowing Heather-Dawn Small personally, yet her illness and passing affected me as if she were my sister, a part of my family. She was born in the same year as I was, and perhaps that is why I felt her so close as a peer. These days I asked myself, "If it happened to me, would I be as ready as she proved to be?" Then I realized how great an example of life, hope, and deep faith in the Lord she left us.

Lina Ferrara, Women's Ministries Director, Italian Union

Her Messages Remain



A SHINING EXAMPLE

I am reminded of the year 2018, and our Spanish-Portuguese Women's Ministries Congress in the city of Seville. We had invited our dear sister Heather-Dawn Small. What a privilege to have her among us. She did not hesitate for a minute and her dedication and service were evident. I remember her message "The Wonders of God Will Shine Upon Me".

Her words resonated in my life, she brought home to us the importance that, if we want to shine for Jesus, we have to start by loving ourselves to love others. She experienced that in her life, and she told us how the Holy Spirit worked in her until she got it. She discovered that she was unique, different in God's eyes. Now she was able to shine for Jesus and love others because she loved herself.

Today, she has left us, but her leadership, her devotion, her service, and her messages remain in our hearts. The Lord used her for many years, making the hearts of thousands of women vibrate. We are living in the hope of that great reunion with her, when our good God "will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Amen.

Amalia Reta, Spanish Union Women's Ministries Team

My Tribute to Heather-Dawn

Although the language barrier separated us, the intensity of her love for Jesus and her interest and commitment to women, her closeness and accessibility broke all barriers and filled our hearts.

Marcedes Martinez Bou, Women's Ministries Director, Spanish Union

Swiss Women's Ministries Leaders Remember Heather-Dawn



HEATHER-DAWN WAS A SYNONYM FOR JOY

Although the photo of Heather-Dawn opening her present, a cowbell, is from Germany, it fits perfectly with the memories of Heidi from Switzerland. Her joy is displayed so vividly. Besides, many events of the German-speaking Unions were organized together. And Swiss cows have cowbells, too!

When I think of Heather, I think of joy. "Hold on to your Joy" was always on her mind and an important topic at women's conferences. She showed me how important it is to do just that every day - to hold on to joy in the Lord. She leads us to the one who holds everything in His Hands.

Heidi Albisser, former WM Director, Swiss-German Conference

A Great Role Model

I was very saddened by the news that Heather Dawn-Small had fallen asleep in Jesus. I hoped to be able to see her again in person and hug her, as I had been following her work for over 9 years via Facebook.

I met Heather-Dawn for the first time at the EUD Women's Congress in Schwäbisch Gmünd in September 2014. I still remember her heart-warming and loving embrace, but also her positive and cheerful manner.

At the workshop on depression that Heather held, I learned a little more about her life and her illness, depression. From then on, she became a great role model for me, as I too have struggled with illness and other difficulties. Above all, with this knowledge, I was able to encourage many women in positions of responsibility who have health or other problems: "Heather Dawn-Small, despite her illness, is the Director of the Women's Ministries Department at the General Conference, traveling around the world to encourage, support, teach, bring hope and experience uplifting and joyful moments with so many women."

Thus Heather-Dawn is and remains a great role model for me, be it in my position as a leader in Women's Ministries or in my spiritual and general life!

Bernadette Fogliani, WM Director for the Swiss Romande Conference

Heather-Dawn Trusted God in Everything



REMEMBERING HER BIBLE

When I read the news of the passing of Heather-Dawn Small, I was very sad. Then I remembered her own words, and how she trusted God in everything. I will always remember her Bible full of pictures. This was something I had never seen before. She had a deep relationship with God. I remember her as a calm, accepting, and encouraging person with a wonderful smile, and her faith as big as the faith of the prophet Elijah in the ancient days. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to meet her personally even for a short time.

Gabriela Kudinova, former WM director, Bulgarian Union

German Women Loved to Hear Heather-Dawn



HER AUTHENTICITY AND OPENNESS OPENED HEARTS

Hearing about the passing of Heather-Dawn Smalls made me very sad and upset. I will miss her. All the more I look back with joy on shared experiences and adventures. She was a popular speaker at events for our women in Germany. She spoke openly about personal, sometimes tragic challenges and how Jesus carried her through them. The participants experienced her as a woman at eye level. She always signaled 'I am not above you, I am one of you. I am your sister'. Heather-Dawn had the wonderful gift of picking up and leading the women to Jesus. One private memory from 2018 is an example of her attitude. We were driving through the Bavarian countryside together with Denise Hochstrasser. Heather-Dawn was amazed by the Bavarian villages with their beautifully decorated maypoles and the mountain range in the background. It was lovely with you, Heather-Dawn. See you soon.

Angeliika Pfaller, former Women's Ministries Director, North and South German Unions

A Lasting Impact

Since 2005, as Director of the Women's Ministries Department at the General Conference, she has worked tirelessly and with commitment, dedication, and creativity, to promote important issues worldwide - for example, the "enditnow - Break the Silence on Violence" initiative. Her messages, shaped by many experiences and her enthusiasm, reached and encouraged women to be positive examples for future generations. Her firm trust in a loving God - right to the end - left a lasting impact on the ministry of women for women. In the Christian hope of a reunion, our thoughts and prayers during these days are especially with her husband, Pastor Joseph Small, and her children Dalonne and Jerard."

Dany Canedo, WM Director, German Unions

Remembering an Inspiring Woman

Heather-Dawn was a great woman tirelessly on the road for the Lord. Many others would have given up their job a long time ago. Nobody who knew about her health problems would have blamed her.

For me, she was an inspiration from the moment I met her for the first time. She opened her heart and told us about the worst moments in the life of a mother when her four-year-old son was bitten by a dog and died. This testimony has always been a reason for me not to give up on God but to keep on trusting Him. And in this situation, God called her to his service! I think of the congress when we wanted to honor our Women's Ministries Union director. When she heard about our plans, she decided to come and be there to present her the award as a Woman of Distinguished Service. Her knee was hurting all the time and I would bring her a bag of ice from the kitchen to soothe the pain.

She brought us so much joy whenever we met at special events, and I am looking forward to the joy of seeing her at the great celebration in the New Jerusalem when we can be together again, never more to part.

Nancy Duske, Women's Ministries, Hanse Conference, Germany

Reflections by Austrian Women



WHILE IN SALZBURG, HEATHER-DAWN TOOK THE SOUND OF MUSIC TOUR

Heather-Dawn had the gift of being a friend. Did you ever go shopping with her? I went shopping with her in the rain in a wheelchair (her knee had just been operated on) through the streets of Salzburg. We had a lot of fun together! Her stamina to go on trips despite the pain and to inspire us with the joy of the Lord left a lasting impression.

Thank you for the privilege of knowing you!

Gerd-Laila Walter, Former WM Director, Austrian Union

I did not have the opportunity to personally meet Heather Dawn Small, but while serving in Women's Ministries in Romania and Austria, I heard enthusiastic testimonies of her work and crossed paths with the traces of the inspiring footsteps she left wherever she went. She remains an inspiring example for us and I am looking forward to meeting her in heaven and hearing all the experiences she has witnessed.

Elida Oncea, Women's Ministries Director, Austrian Union

Franco-Belgian Union Memories



HEATHER-DAWN LOVED HER WORK FOR WOMEN

I had the privilege of getting to know Heather personally at the Interdepartmental Congress in Lignano Sabbadioro, Italy, in September 2019. As director of Women's Ministries at the General Conference, she taught us about the methods of working with women and the opportunities to

help them.

Her manner and knowledge were a true source of inspiration. Always available, despite her busy schedule, she responded to every request. Her guest appearance at our zoom meeting in January 2021 was a balm to our hearts.

"God knows my name," she would say, and her faith in Him was strong. She left behind a beautiful mark.

Our grief at her loss is great, sadness overcomes us, but her will was to move forward and keep the spirit of joy of the near coming of our Lord."

Corina Timofte, former Women's Ministries Director, Franco-Belgian Union

Romanian Women Remember Heather-Dawn Small



A WOMAN WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

For us, the women in Romania, Heather-Dawn Small has been a joy and a delight. She was a true sister, encouraging, comforting, helping, and hugging. She prayed. She lavished love. She made time for everyone and showed appreciation for every soul. I cherished her and loved her dearly. When we heard the news of her passing, our souls grieved greatly, but we took hold

with confidence in the Savior and the promise that He would return to take us home and we would meet again in a world without pain and tears. I share some thoughts expressed by the sisters:

"She had tremendous power in her words. She spoke with the power of the Holy Spirit in all presentations. She was blessed with great gifts and used the gifts she received. Now her struggle is over! We pray for her family and may the Lord help us, too, to be able to meet again in heaven." **Alina Lupu**, Director of Women's Ministries Department, Moldova Conference, Romania

"The pain of losing a mother in Israel, such as Heather was, fights in my soul with admiration for the example she left us: determined, steadfast, a fighter, emanating inspiration and joy even in the most fierce circumstances! May God help us to follow her example!"

Viorica Avrămiea, Singles coordinator, Romanian Union

"My dear sister, you have been a model of life and prayer for me in the mission and you have impressed me very much with your special Bible. Farewell, our dear Heather-Dawn, until the day of resurrection in the Kingdom with Jesus Christ."

Anna Nădășan, Director of Women's Ministries, Southern Transylvania Conference

"I am so sorry! May God comfort and strengthen your loved ones, we pray for them!"

Daniela Petreacă, Director of the Women's Ministries, Oltenia Conference

"A new proof to understand how fragile life is! May God comfort her family! Respect for all her work! She remains in our hearts and minds an excellent model of mission."

Simona Anca, Director of Women's Ministries, Northern Transylvania Conference

"She impressed me so much at Women's Ministries! She was a role model for everyone. She was unique! I made it my goal to work even harder so that Satan could be defeated."

Bianca Timșă-Stoicescu

"She was a true servant, a worthy example to follow, a pearl in the Savior's crown. From today on, Women's Ministries is poorer!" **Gertrude Radu**

"May the Lord soothe and comfort the suffering of her loved ones and motivate them to desire to see their dear one again! May the Lord help us to understand how vulnerable and fleeting we each are, being part of a fierce battle in which Satan seeks to bring us down and even lose hope. May the Lord be our strength and victory!"

Ibi Mărgerușanu

"Our hope in Jesus Christ!" **Irina Nădășan**

Heather-Dawn was an ambassador of Heaven among earthlings, herself an earthling among earthlings of all cultures. God has blessed us with her ministry and helped us learn to do mission, to save people. She was not afraid, she was not discouraged, she was strong, and had an unshakable faith in the Almighty. She was a role model for us and a blessing. Her heart has stopped beating, but until the resurrection of the righteous, it is only a moment. Farewell, our dear sister, Heather-Dawn, until we meet the Lord! And we know it is very near!

Reflections gathered by **Liliana Radu**, Director of Women's Ministries Department, Romanian Union

Memories of Heather-Dawn Small



ALWAYS A FRIEND

I first met Heather-Dawn Small in the summer of 2002 when she came to Germany with Ardis Stenbakken for a Women's Ministries advisory for the German-speaking countries. At that time the department had developed the concept of continuing education courses for women. They presented the material and held some of the seminars.

Then, a couple of years later, Heather-Dawn was invited as the speaker to a large women's retreat in Burg Wernfels, a castle in southern Germany. The topic was "Don't let anyone steal your joy!" It was the most memorable retreat I have ever attended, with the women soaking up her message like a sponge, laughing and crying with her as she related her life's story. Her authenticity and openness, vulnerability, and heart-felt love helped us understand how she could cling to her motto of Joy despite all the difficulties she had met in her life. We were encouraged to hold fast to joy in our lives as well.

At the opening of this retreat, we wanted to welcome Heather-Dawn with a special gesture. I had sewed a large flag of Trinidad & Tobago and as the national anthem was playing, the open flag was carried from the back of the hall to the front by several women. As soon as the first tones of the anthem started, Heather-Dawn stood up from her seat and watched the approaching flag with her right hand on her heart. The flag was then draped on the grand piano for the whole retreat. She never forgot this gesture and for us, it was a special pleasure to honor her home country. She may still have kept the flag as a souvenir.

Considering that Heather-Dawn traveled around the world for more than 20 years, meeting so many women everywhere, I was always astonished at how she would remember so many people. She made everybody feel special. We were her friends and sisters. It was always a joy to meet her. It was a great surprise when she wrote to me that I would be one of the recipients of the Women of the Year Award for 2019. I appreciated the gesture, taking it as an acknowledgment of the work of the many women who, like me, work for the Church as volunteers.

I am so glad that I had the opportunity to see her in October 2023 at the Adventist Women in History Conference in Washington. She was radiant, as ever. Her big smile and hug and the conversations we had will remain with me as a fond memory of a dear friend. She graciously accepted to do a short impromptu video interview. Thinking of all the women we

had heard about at the conference, she closed with the words: “It is amazing how God has led us women through the history of our church. Not only in Women’s Ministries, but in the many ways women have served our church. Those ladies who are serving now in leadership positions in Women’s Ministries, you are also making a way for the other younger women who would come behind you. One day soon, we will be history if Jesus doesn’t come. But let us make sure that the history we leave is history that points to Jesus.” The conference closed with a keynote address stressing the legacy that women leave to others. Heather-Dawns legacy is huge.

Others will analyze the impact Heather-Dawn had in developing the initiatives of the Women’s Ministries Department that she led for almost 20 years. I am proud of the foundation based on the Declaration of Human Rights and in accordance with the Beijing Declaration of Women’s Rights. Acknowledging the challenges that women face, she directed the projects and initiatives to benefit the lives of women around the world. She always had the big picture in mind. Ever since receiving the news of her passing, I have been thinking of this great woman with gratitude, sadness, and yes, the joy that was so important to her. The joy of having known her as a friend, and looking forward to a joyful reunion when all things are made new.

Hannele Ottschofski, EUD WM News Editor

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