



General Conference  
Department of  
Women's Ministries

# Touch a Heart, Tell the World

Fundraising for Women's Ministries projects around the world

Issue 6  
June 2009

The life-changing ministries you will read about in this issue of *Touch a Heart, Tell the World* newsletter will inspire you in a special way. You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone.



These are stories about ordinary women, doing extraordinary things for God—a young woman named Antoaneta Benova who is giving her time, talents and money to bring light to a Gipsy community in Bulgaria through a Literacy Program; a group of women in Bangladesh who decided to reach out to their community by opening the church and teaching the women how to use a sewing machine.

You cannot  
live a perfect day  
without doing  
something for  
someone.

Each project is unique, but they share similar challenges: lack of funds and lack of resources.

These women need our help. We have the opportunity to catch their vision, to support our sisters on the front line who are transforming lives. We can each embrace one of these projects and help them grow.

Be inspired by a few minutes with this issue. Be encouraged by what YOU, Women's Ministries, and our sisters are doing to show God's love to women most of us could never reach. Together we can change lives.

*Heather Dawn Small*

Heather-Dawn Small, Director  
General Conference Women's Ministries



## Sewing Machine Project

**Bangladesh:** Providing women with literacy and sewing machine skills means a better life for them and strengthens their families, their church, and their community.

TOUCH A  
HEART, TELL  
THE WORLD



## Literacy Program

**Bulgaria:** The Literacy Program is helping the gypsy community to know Jesus through the Bible. This is a challenge and an opportunity to make a difference.

The purpose of this newsletter is to fundraise for Women's Ministries projects around the world. All monies raised for these ventures will go directly to the projects. Follow up articles on these projects will be printed to show how funds are used to improve the quality of life of others while at the same time showing Christ to the world.

### Our Motto:

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"— *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

CARING IS THE ART  
OF SHARING.  
SHARING IS THE ART  
OF LIVING.  
LIVING IS THE ART  
OF LOVING.  
LOVING IS THE ART  
OF CARING.

## Bulgaria – Sharing the Light Literacy Project



### Need

A new church building

A Gypsy community of more than 2,000 sits just outside the small town of Rosino, Bulgaria, which has a population of about 5,500 people.

Antoaneta Benova saw this as a challenge and opportunity to make a difference. Rosino has a small Seventh-day Adventist church where 28 faithful members attend services and help more than 60 visitors every weekend. People come looking for hope, looking for a better future.

“The literacy program started last year. “Classes quickly filled, to my surprise, with many young people whom I never suspected were illiterate. A 20-year-old girl told me she had never gone to school because she had to care for her small sister. A beautiful, clever girl with a childlike faith in God, she could not read and nurture herself spiritually.

“After the literacy classes, I stay to speak with married women about topics such as” How to avoid getting pregnant” since they have many children and are often forced to abort. “I also talk with women

about domestic violence since many Gypsy women are victims of abuse. They are often controlled and mistreated by their drunken husbands. Their faces reveal fear, worry, and weariness.

“For more than a year **I have prayed for a larger building** to hold more people; a place where we can all gather for worship services to grow in Christ. Winter is most difficult because people must stand outside, waiting for a seat.

“I am following my calling. God is the light. If we stay in His light, we will shine for Him wherever we are. Thank you for helping us light the way for Rosino’s Gypsy neighbors.”

*Report from Antoaneta Benova,  
Leader of the Gypsy Literacy Program  
in Rosino, Bulgaria*

## Bangladesh – Give a gift: Change a Life

In Bangladesh, the seventh most populous nation in the world, most people are subsistence farmers. Health problems abound, and according to the *World Factbook*, only 41 percent of Bangladesh’s women over the age of 15 can read and write, compared to 54 percent of the men.

Providing women with literacy and sewing machine skills means a better life for them and strengthens their families, their church, and their community.

According to Lucena Chambugong, Bangladesh Union Women’s Ministries Director, more than 60 women have received the sewing machine training, allowing them to start small businesses and provide food for their families.

Your gift can empower women in Bangladesh to become “somebody” in a society where they are “nobody.” But your greatest gift is the tangible evidence that someone cares. You can give them a way to feed and educate their children, and even more—a vital ingredient for life: HOPE.



### Need

Budget for ONE YEAR:

- \$882 for staff
- \$706 for 8 sewing machines
- \$235 for 4 cloth cutting tables
- \$1,412 for 4 training centers

Ask

### How to Give?

Mail check made payable  
to GC Women’s Ministries

To pay with Credit Card:  
Call 301-680-6608

E-mail us at  
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gc.adventist.org



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