

**Group: 4**

**Year: 2016**

### Personnel

#### **Germany, Kaiserswerther Verband (KWV) [www.kaiserswerther-verband.de](http://www.kaiserswerther-verband.de)**

The KWV contains over 70 motherhouses and diaconal institutions throughout Germany. The communities of deaconesses and diaconal sisters and brothers are of different size, some large ones (nearly thousand members) and some very small ones (only up to 5 members). All in one there are around 12,000 diaconal people organized in those communities.

Every year, many of the communities have new members, altogether during 2015 around 50.

**Jubilees 2015** (years): Ev. Diakonissenanstalt Augsburg (160), Stiftung Lazarus-Diakonie Berlin (150), Ev.-Luth. Diakonissenanstalt Marienstift Braunschweig (145), Frankfurter Diakonissenhaus (145), Stiftung Diakonissenhort Friedenshort (125), Ev. Luth. Diakonissenmutterhaus Henriettenstiftung Hannover (155), Ev.-luth. Diakonissenanstalt Bethanien "Pfeiffersche Stiftungen" (165), Ev.-luth. Diakonissen-Mutterhaus Rotenburg (155), Königsberger Diakonie Wetzlar (155), Diakoniewerk Ruhr Witten (125),

Besides that, the KWV is the association of the diaconal institutions that grew out of the motherhouses. Those 70 institutions run a greater part of the social work done in Germany. Every institution usually has several projects, like schools, homes for handicapped, youth or elderly, mission work and social project of all kind. Again, the size of the institutions is very divers, as is the number of employees (some have several thousand employees).

#### **Personnel News:**

- Sister Esther Selle was elected again as President of Kaiserswerth Association.
- On September 27, 2015, an era came to an end in the diaconal institution of Neuendettelsau, when director Prof. Dr. Hermann Schoenauer retired. During the more than 20 years of Schoenauers lead, Neuendettelsau became one of the leading diaconal institutions in Germany. New director is Dr. Mathias Hartmann.

#### **Austria, Evangelisches Diakoniewerk Gallneukirchen (EDG) [www.diakoniewerk.at](http://www.diakoniewerk.at)**

The EDG developed from a motherhouse in Gallneukirchen, Austria, founded more than 140 years ago. Today there are only around 15 sisters left.

But the institution EDG is a major player in social work in Austria. They concentrated on the work with handicapped, especially mentally handicapped, and elderly people. They run several hospitals and have schools for all kinds of professions in the area of diaconal work. They are present in 5 Austrian countries and have projects in Rumania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovakia.

At the meeting of the Kaiserswerth General Conference (see below), a new Executive Committee was formed. President is as before Mag. Christa Schrauf,

director of the EDG, Gallneukirchen/Austria. Just a note: Terttu Pohjolainen continues to be the representative of the Finish motherhouses, Rollaug Waaler is representing the Norwegian motherhouses.

### ***Hungary, Motherhouse Fébé***

As there are only 3 deaconesses left, the Hungarian Deaconesses ended their membership in DIAKONIA.

### ***France, Communauté des Diaconesses de Reuilly [www.diaconesses-reuilly.fr](http://www.diaconesses-reuilly.fr)***

There are still around 40 deaconesses belonging to this motherhouse. They have brought all their belongings into a foundation. When the DIAKONIA World Executive will have its meeting in Versailles, we will get to know more data.

## **Events/Celebrations**

### ***Germany, Kaiserswerther Verband (KWV)***

On January 19-20, 2015 the diaconal associations KWV, Zehlendorf Association and VEDD held their annual meeting together with the German Ev. Church (EKD) and the umbrella organisation for diakonia in Germany. Theme: *What diaconal communities add to a diaconal church.*

*Logic of diakonia* was the theme of the meeting of 30 theological directors of KWV institutions. It took place in Speyer on January 28-30, 2015. They realized that the will to help is essential and a core for every professional work.

*Together finding ones own ways* – this was the theme of the annual meeting of all leading sisters of the Kaiserswerth association May 19-21, 2015 at the motherhouse Witten. As the over 70 motherhouses and communities within the association develop in different ways, questions about opening up to employees or dividing from the institutions arise. Some communities are still functioning; others have to seek ways to hand over their inheritance.

Again, the four regional conferences of Kaiserswerth Association met under a common theme. In 2015, they met in Kassel, Stuttgart, Bremen and Berlin and discussed *rules and standards of membership within the association*. What expectations has the association towards its members – and what are the expectations of the members in return? Is it possible to bring parts of the rich motherhouse tradition into modern effective institutions? And how has the relation between single motherhouse and association to change?

### ***Austria, Evangelisches Diakoniewerk Gallneukirchen (EDG)***

The EDG hosted the 42<sup>nd</sup> Kaiserswerth General Conference from September 24.-27., 2015. Theme: *Diakonia a strong Brand ?! Between Values and Commerce.* Around 200 people attended. The Tansanian motherhouse Ushirika wa Neema was accepted as new member. All speeches and greetings of the conference are accessible on the website (English and German). I brought the greetings of

DIAKONIA and DRAE. The next Kaiserswerth General Conference will take place 2018 in Bethel/Germany

### ***France, Communauté des Diaconesses de Reuilly***

Beginning of October the “Friends of the Foundation of the Sisters of Reuilly” celebrated their annual festival. After eating many oysters, around 150 young people assembled in the chapel for evening prayer. Afterwards they had a lecture and another meal in the rooms of the parish nearby.

In October, the “Foundation of Deaconesses of Reuilly” decided to give shelter to 150 refugees within their institutions. This means not only housing, but all kind of aspects of integration.

Climax of the retreat November 3-9, 2015 was the consecration of a new sister, Caroline.

And then came the attacks of November 13. The chapel was open from dawn to dusk with candles burning all the time. Many people from the surrounding area and town came to the chapel to pray and find rest.

During the climate conference in Paris COP 21 (October 4 – December 11) our evening prayer centered around this event. Every evening two sisters prepared a service around a theme connected to this conference (e.g. thanks for creation, plea for reconciliation, intercession for all who worked for and with the conference). They realized that aiming for the results of the conference, you have to start with your own life.

### **Highlights**

The last year of the decade before the reformation jubilee 2017 is titled: reformation and the one world. It will focus on the aspects of the reformation that had impact on society (education, democracy, human rights, social work of church and diaconal institutions). It was opened with a ceremony in Strasbourg (France) on October 31, 2015.

### **Publicity**

Numerous publications and mentions in local and nationwide newspapers. See websites.

Munich, January 6, 2016

*Dc. Ulrike Hellner*