

TO SERVE HUMANITY SO ALL MAY LIVE AS GOD INTENDED



*Justice.
Compassion
Love*

ADRA Europe

ADRA Belgium Training
23rd November 2025

European ADRA Offices

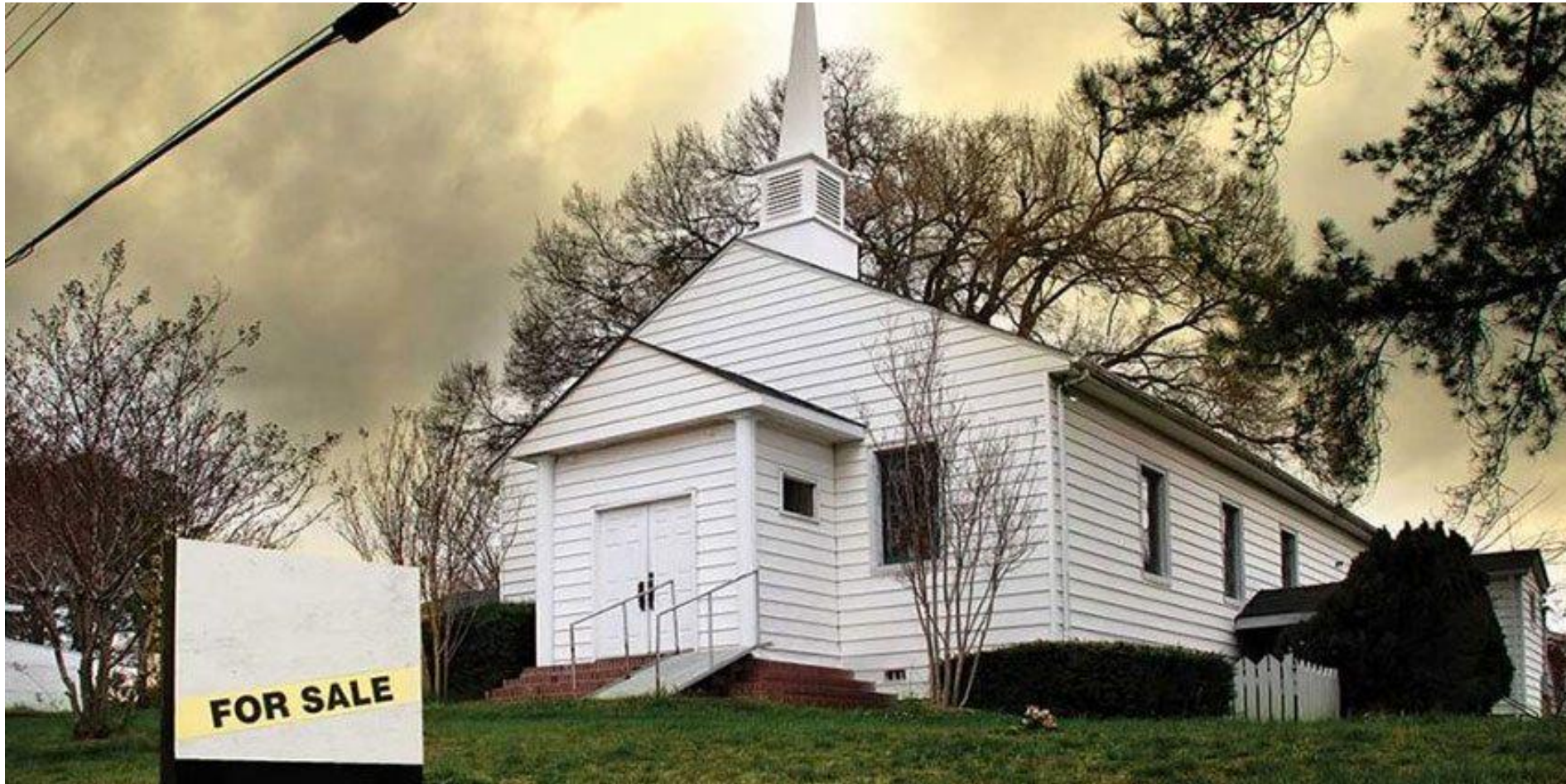
- 31 offices
 - 13 EUD
 - 18 TED
- Diverse Reality (Size, capacity, operations, church engagement, turnover)

Collaboration SDA Church and ADRA in Europe

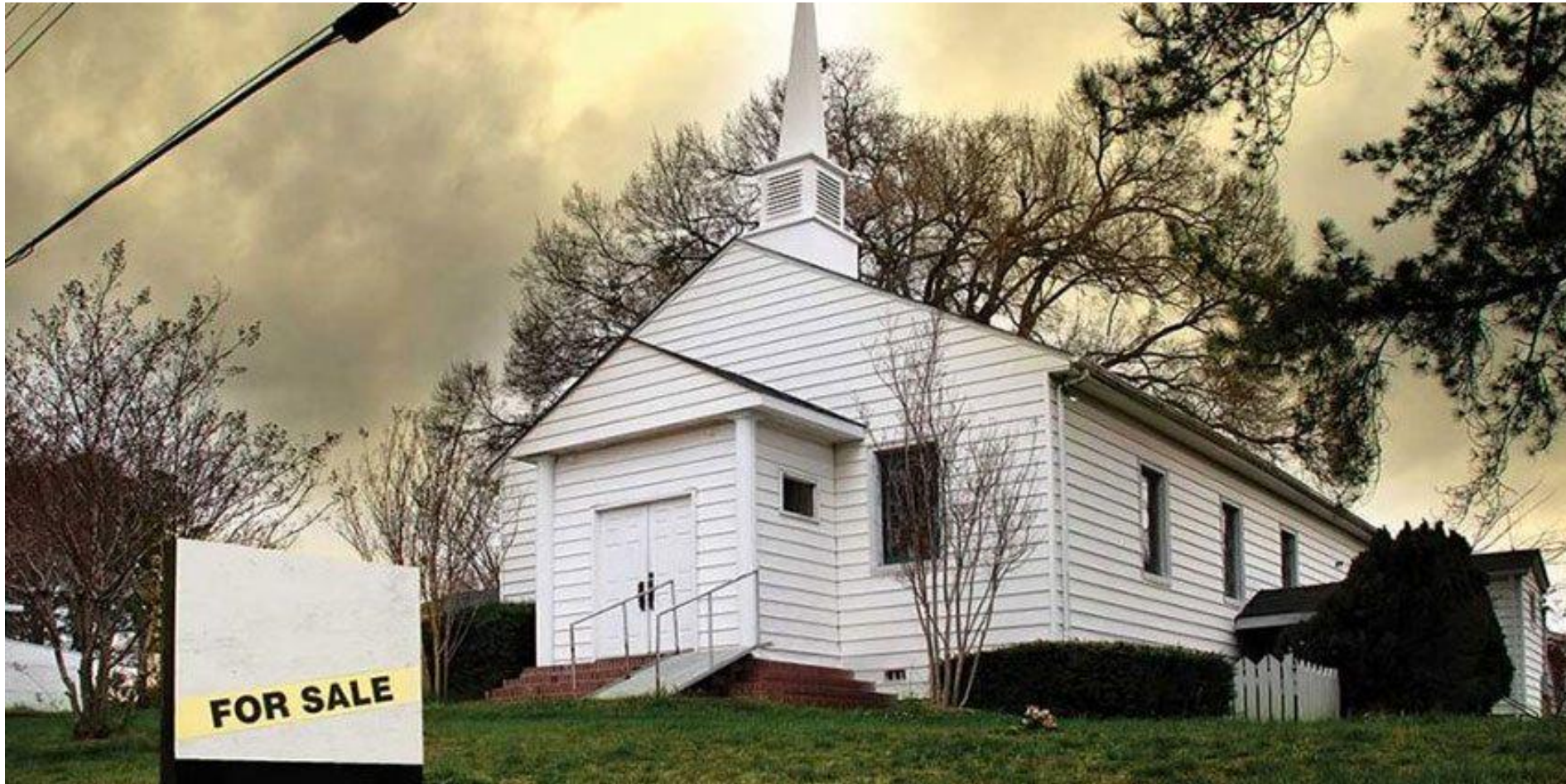


- Agenda
 - Biblical Ground
 - A Need for the Church
 - How to Engage
 - Inspiring Practices

Will anyone in the community notice if your church closes today?



Will your church notice if your community disappears today?





I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and **you will be a blessing.**

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to
proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom
for the prisoners and recovery of
sight for the blind, to set the
oppressed free, to proclaim the year
of the Lord's favour."

Luke 4:17-18



Is my church being a blessing?

“It is customary to blame secular science and anti-religious philosophy for the eclipse of religion in modern society. It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid. When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendor of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion—its message becomes meaningless”

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *God in Search of Man*

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1976), 3

The Ministry of Justice and Compassion is a need for the church



- Social involvement is a relevant part of the Christian lifestyle according to the example of Jesus;
- The disinterested example of Jesus when mixing with people and looking after their needs is a motivation for us;
- In our prophetic call is included the response to the needs of people;

The Ministry of Justice and Compassion is a need for the church

- As a church we are called to look at the rights of people, because we were created at the image of God;
- In the European context a practical action in favour of others is more likely to be effective in reaching out to others;
- The church members need to be united and involved in the practice of socially responsible actions;



The Ministry of Justice and Compassion is a need for the church



- Opportunity for the church to be more connected to the society and the real problems of people;
- The church is to contribute for the well-being of people, regardless the social, political or religious background.
- Possibility to attract resources from outside the church;
- It is also an opportunity a better image of the church.

Is my church being a blessing?

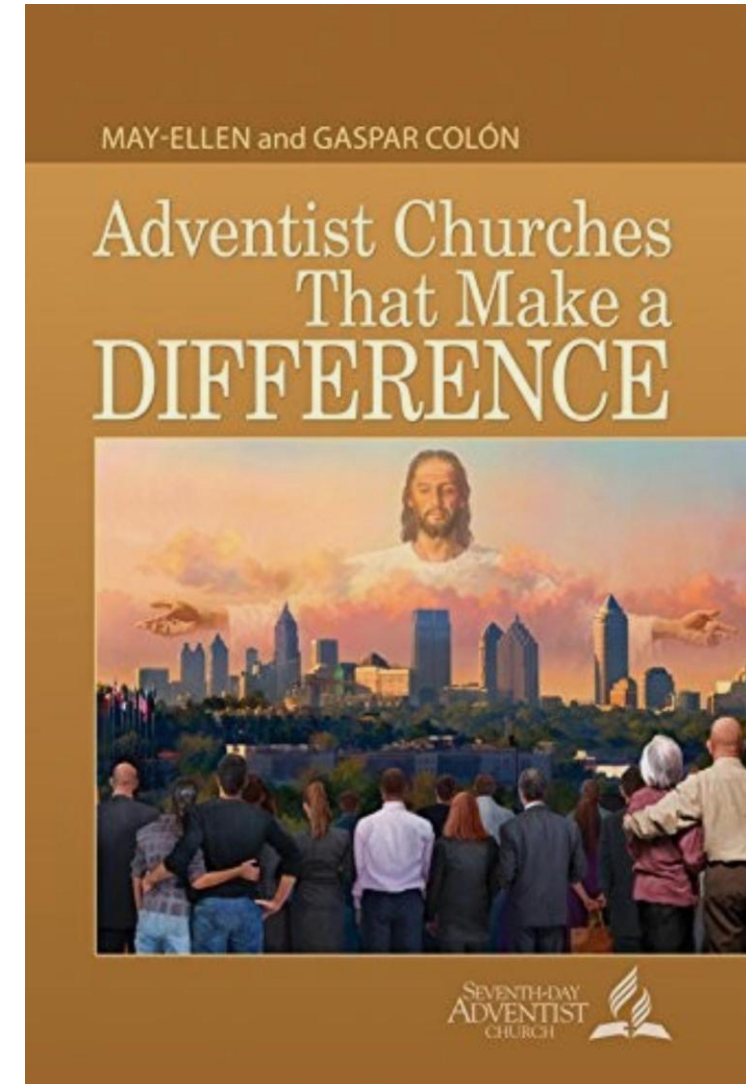
“We need to come close to the people by personal effort. If we would give less time to sermonizing and more time to personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.”

Ellen White

The Ministry of Health and Healing, p. 28

How to Engage?

1. Pray for a spirit of love, care and respect. Study Christ's Method and how can it be applied in your community. Preach about it;
2. Assess your resources: Volunteers (church members), church space open during the week, gifts in kind, financial potential, vehicles, etc.;
3. Organize a core social action team that can help the church making a difference;



How to Engage?

4. Choose a territory of intervention according to the church capacities;
5. Develop a Community Assessment by study the demographics, visiting and knowing the place, understand the needs and engage local leaders;
6. Grow the social capital by participating in community boards, other associations, town councils, other church leaders, businesspeople, etc.



How to Engage?

7. Choose fields of work according to the needs and the resources. Ex: poverty, loneliness, psychological support, ludic activities, etc.;
8. Develop a church strategic ministry plan using the good ministries of the church not only for the inside, but for the society as a whole;
9. Look for partnerships with other organizations (government, NGOs, food banks, companies, etc.);



How to Engage?

10. Follow the progress of the activities, monitor and adjust objectives as needed;
11. Develop a learning system where evaluation is welcomed and progress pursued. Not only assistance, but community development and advocacy;
12. Find opportunities and ways to share the gospel of salvation and invite people to follow Jesus.



Opportunities to Serve



“You can find Calcutta anywhere in the world. You only need two eyes to see. Everywhere in the world there are people that are not loved, people that are not wanted nor desired, people that no one will help, people that are pushed away or forgotten. And this is the greatest poverty.”

Mother Theresa



Disaster Ready Churches





Disaster Ready Churches

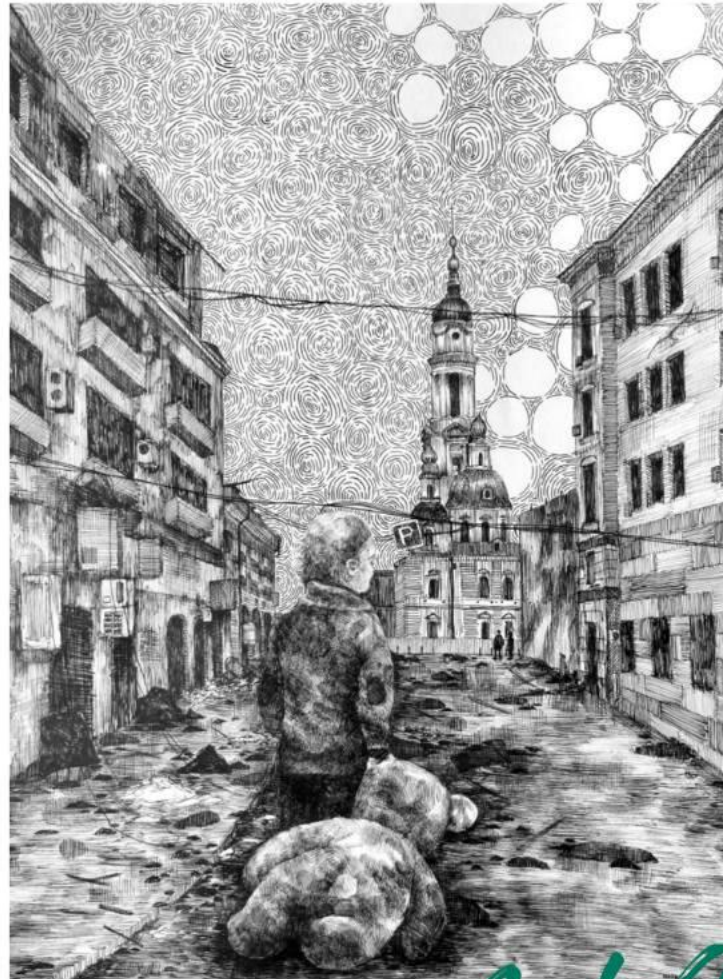
1. Hot meals for families, volunteers, and first responders in natural disasters and emergencies. Isaiah 58:7.
2. Church building and premises as a shelter for families affected by war. Clothing, blankets, bedding, hygiene kits, water, etc. Isaiah 58:7; Matthew 25:35-36.
3. Church building as a warehouse for humanitarian aid supplies. These humanitarian supplies will be distributed to the people affected by the disaster. Genesis 41: 33 - 36.
4. Peace component: Churches as centers for peace and reconciliation. Training people affected by war about becoming an agent of peace in their community. Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.
5. School support for children affected by disasters. After school activities. Mark 9: 36-37.
6. Fundraising for emergencies. 2 Corinthians 8:7-15.

Advocacy Campaign

- 1,3 M signatures
- Seminars
- Political influence
- Social Media
- Learning Labs
- Art Contest
- Postcards campaign



**EVERY CHILD.
EVERYWHERE.
IN SCHOOL.**



Art Contest

World Refugee Sabbath





ao senhor Pedro Silva Pereira.

Meu nome é Gabriel e tenho 77 anos.
Sou de Portugal, mas vivo na Bélgica.

Eu posso ir à escola quando quiser.

As milhões de crianças não podem.

Por isso quero pedir - Para Financiar

uma Educação de qualidade a todas

as crianças do mundo pelo menos até

aos 78 anos. Muito obrigado por usarem

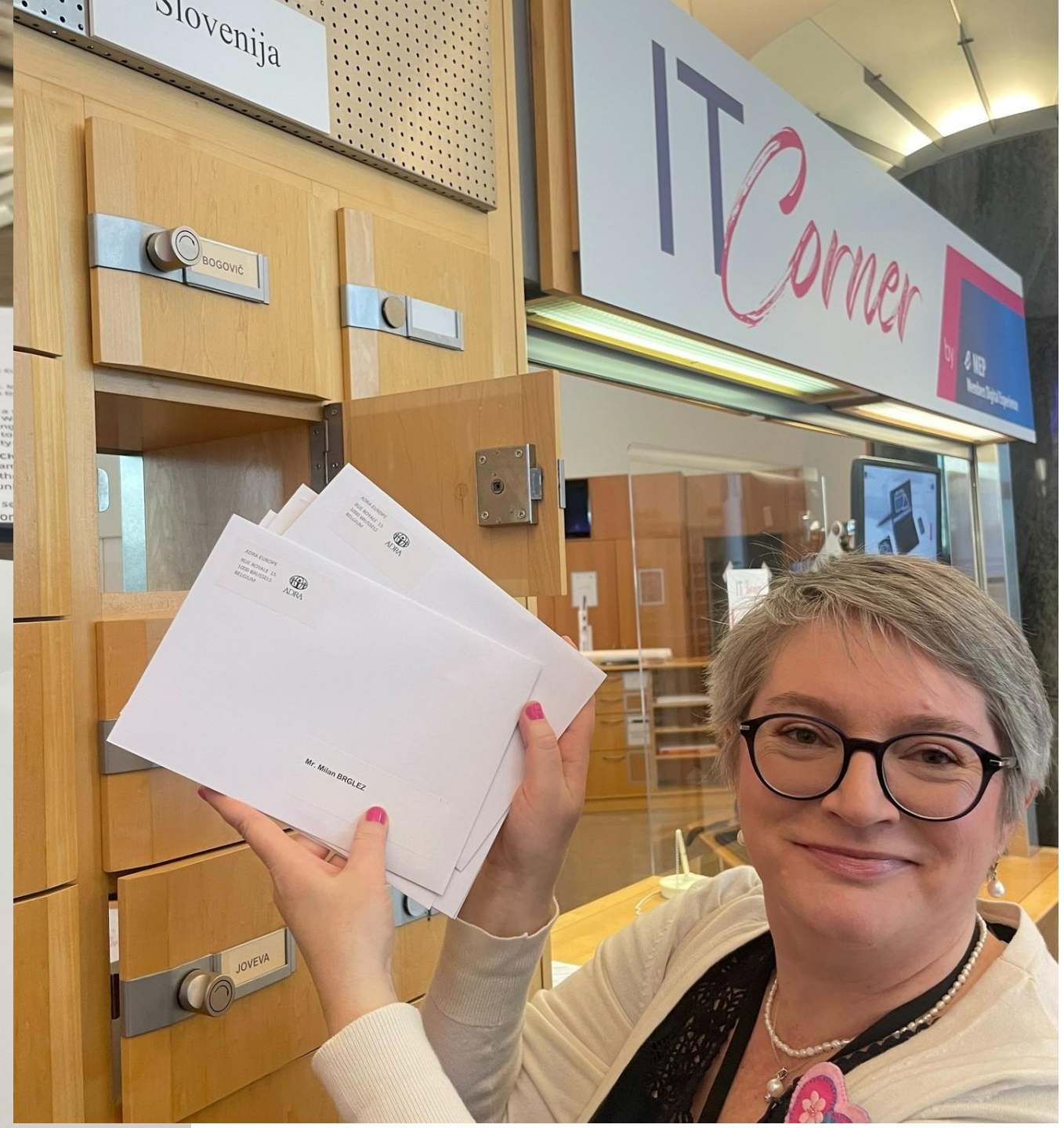
a Vossa influência e poder Promoverem

um futuro melhor às crianças. Com a melhores cumprimentos,

Pedro Silva Pereira



Daria Bashkirova, Portugal: War can't take love away
Words are worth a thousand words. ADRA's Art Contest "Hear me. See me. Walk with me." encourages children and young people to use their creativity to
understand, and support people forced to flee their country.





Milan Brglez

20 February at 14:49 · 🌐

...

As a member and co-chair of the European Parliament Intergroup for Children's Rights, I support the appeal created by children and young people from different backgrounds as part of the program [ADRA Europe](#) which warns decision-makers about the power of education and the need to provide access to quality education to all children.

⚙️ · [See original](#) · [Rate this translation](#)



Local Church ADRA Branches

- Organised, trained, licensed and supported by the Country Office
- Locally led and with autonomy for the activities
- Self-sustainable with local funds
- Emphasis on partnerships, reporting, and accountability









Youth Mission Trips

- Partnership with the Youth Department
- In Belgium, Europe or other places
- Possibility of having them with the EUD







“The reason why God’s people are not more spiritually minded, and have not more faith, I have been shown, is because they are narrowed up with selfishness. It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but the right doing, doing the right thing and at the right time. It is to be less self-caring and more benevolent. Our souls must expand. Then God will make them like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.”

Ellen White - Welfare Service, p. 28

What's God calling our churches to do?

