

the Adventist woman

Volume 6, No. 5

Publication of the Association of Adventist Women

September/October 1987

The Adventist Woman and the Caring Church

Fifth National Conference of the Association of Adventist Women
Takoma Park, Maryland
October 8-11, 1987
Program

THURSDAY

8:00 Registration - Sligo Church Atrium
8:30 Devotional - Sligo Church Atrium
9:00-11:45 Workshops - Sligo Church Atrium
2:15-5:00 Workshops - Sligo Church Atrium
6:30-9:00 Woman of the Year Banquet with Keynote Speaker, Elizabeth O'Connor - Columbia Union College Dining Room

FRIDAY

8:00 Devotional - Sligo Church Atrium
8:30 Open Forum with National AAW officers - Sligo Church Atrium - Discussion of issues concerning Adventist women
10:00 Biblical Research Institute Director George Reid discusses BRI studies on ordination of women - Sligo Church Atrium
11:00-12:15 Workshops Session I - Sligo Church Atrium
1:30-2:45 Workshops Session II - Sligo Church Atrium
3:00-4:40 Dialogue with Elder Charles Bradford, President, North American Division, and other church administrators - Sligo Church Memorial Chapel
6:00-7:15 Agape Supper - Sligo Church Atrium
7:30 Concert featuring Harpist Beverly Wesner-Hoehn - Sligo Church Sanctuary

SABBATH

9:45 Sabbath School and Church Services with Sligo Church - Sanctuary
4:00 Concert featuring Soprano Rosa Lamoreaux - Sligo Church Sanctuary*
4:30 Eve's Version - Vignettes of Women Then and Now - Sligo Church Sanctuary*
6:15 Vespers "In Him We May Soar" - multimedia presentation with Edith Gates and Karen Flowers - Sligo Church Sanctuary*
6:45 Reception honoring musicians and artists - Sligo Church Atrium
7:30 Saturday Night Live with hostesses Bonnie Hannah and Elizabeth Sternale - Sligo Church Youth Room

SUNDAY

8:00-11:00 Annual Business Meeting (Continental breakfast served)
11:30 Special Feature - Lynne Waihee, First Lady of Hawaii - Sligo Church Atrium

* Public Invited

To Register:

AAW members: \$40
Non-members: \$55
Banquet only, Thursday night, \$12
Agape supper only, Friday night, \$10
(Please make reservations by October 1: AAW Conference, 7710 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912).



Joyce Hopp of Loma Linda University has been chosen for the Work/Professional Award. (Sketch on p. 3)



Carmen Lopez Morales of California has been chosen for the Church Life Award. (Sketch on p. 3).



Alycon Ruth Fleck of Battle Ground, Washington, has been chosen for the Home/Community Award. (Sketch on p. 3).

Women of the Year awards go to health professional, Bible worker, missionary

Three outstanding Adventist women will receive AAW's "Women of the Year" awards during a banquet and opening ceremonies of the fifth annual conference in Takoma Park, Maryland, Thursday night, October 8.

Keynote speaker for the banquet is Elizabeth O'Connor, a widely published Christian author who lives in Washington, D.C.

The Women of the Year awards will go to a missionary, a Bible worker, and a health pro-

fessor, chosen by a five-member panel who screened entries received from all over the North American Division, and made the final selection.

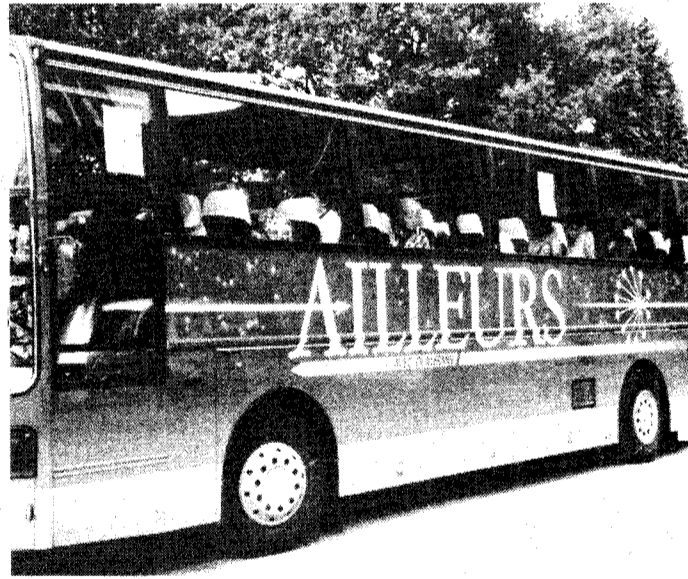
The judges were Esther Battle, an accountant with the Potomac Adventist Book Center; Viveca Black, director of Organizational Planning and Philanthropy, Inc.; Lois Covarrubias, secretary in the Office of Human Relations at the General Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists; Eugene Durand, Ph.D., assistant editor of the *Adventist Review*; and Alayne Thorpe, Ph.D., director of Adult and degree programs for Home Study International.

The Women of the Year Committee members for AAW are: Peggy Harris, Chairperson; Helen Willhelm, Val Allen, Viveca Black, Alice Cox, Patricia Habada, Nancy Marter, Virginia Mendoza, and Beverly Rumble.



Among the new officers elected for French-speaking Adventist women's group in Europe are (left-to-right, front row): Joëlle Gouëll, Lisette Gilson, Pina Lagarde, and (back row, left-to-right): Eliane Hänni, Denise Bouvier, Maria Unternährer, and Elisabeth Gouëll.



More than 40 men, women, and children from Switzerland and France arrived at Newbold College in England for the European women's conference held July 30-August 2. Women from 10 countries attended. Many of the presentations were translated into English.

Marks 100th anniversary of Ellen White's visit

European women's conference attracts 125 participants

by Patricia Habada

Men, women, and children from 10 nations gathered at Newbold College, Bracknell, Berkshire, England, July 30 to August 2 for the *Convention des Femmes Adventistes Francophones*, a convocation for French-speaking Adventists that would study God's call to men and women of the church as revealed in Revelation 3:18 and also celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ellen White's first trip to Europe.

At the opening session Thursday night,

Pastor Henri Tierce, ministerial association secretary of the North France Conference, presented the theme of the conference, "Buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed. . . and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:18), a challenge to turn away from Laodicea and be true witnesses for God.

Friday morning workshops covered four topics of specific interest. "Etre belle dans ses

couleurs," dealing with personal grooming, was led by Maria Unternährer and Annie Poublan.

Denise Bouvier directed "Les atouts des couples équi-librés," which examined ideas for happy marriages. "Images féminines de Dieu," led by Viviane Hänni, considered feminine images of God as recorded in Scripture. Health factors of importance to women

See EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, p. 3



Presidential Communique

About those resolutions

By Nancy Marter

In preparation for our October 8-11 conference, "The Adventist Woman and the Caring Church," one of my self-imposed tasks has been to check through resolutions we've voted at previous conferences. They add up to many pages!

Two years ago when I was first asked to give an impromptu report of the progress made in addressing the resolutions of the year before, I was embarrassed. Much had been happening during the year. AAW leaders had done their best to respond to several crisis situations involving women within our church. But many of the individual "resolves" had not been touched. I hoped this time I would find an improvement in our performance.

I found we are getting closer to reaching our goals. Requests on a number of items have, in fact, gone to the GC Board of Higher Education, the North American Division officers, and the Church Ministries Department.

The "Urgent Request" from last November's meeting in Loma Linda, California, was sent verbatim to union presidents in North America and to NAD President Charles Bradford.

We've received letters of response, too. Opportunities have been utilized for stimulating and helpful conversations with Elder Bradford and others.

My basic evaluation? The female arm of the church is being gradually strengthened; women are being represented in ever increasing and positive ways. On church committees, in church publications, in worship, at camp meetings, women are becoming more visible and active, and this is as it should be. We are the church, too.

A study on women elders is in the works, husband/wife ministries are being encouraged in some conferences, and the acceptance of women as contributors in a variety of areas is growing. Even the issue of the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, which too often has had a polarizing effect, is increasingly being viewed as only one of a host of substantial and essential ways women are called to participate in the church's mission.

As the Lord's Spirit works, attitudes are changing. Of course, in many areas in church policy and in some particular situations or localities there are still miles to go. I'm not a Pollyanna, but I believe that, by God's grace, accentuating the positive can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy.

LETTERS

Defamatory review

Dear Editor:

In your June-July issue of the *Adventist Woman* you published a review of my book *Women in the Church* by Daniel Augsburger. In view of the fact that the review contains several blatant misrepresentations, I would appreciate being given the opportunity to respond and clarify some of the issues raised.

The purpose of the present is to inquire if you would be willing to print my response. If your answer is affirmative, I will endeavor to make time to prepare this response as soon as possible. Currently, I am away most of the time speaking at camp meetings, in addition to several overseas engagements. Thus, my time is very limited.

If your answer is negative, I will respond to Augsburger's defamatory review in the new, larger edition of *Women in the Church* which will go to the press in September. I would prefer to limit the circulation of my response to the readers of *AW*, since that is where the review has appeared. In the book I have intentionally avoided making any reference to any Adventist writer, because I wanted to address the issues and not people. If at all possible, I would like to keep the new larger edition of my book still free from any reference to Adventist writers. If the permission is denied, I will have no other option than to respond in my book, not only to the review but also to your action.

Thank you immensely for your reply.

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi
Prof. of Theology and Church History
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan

It is our policy to incorporate responses from our readers in our "Letters" column. Unsolicited material is published at the discretion of the editorial staff. Given the limited space in our publication, we welcome a 1-3 page double-spaced response. A response in excess of this page limit will be screened for selective publishing.

Try the Golden Rule

Dear Editor:

Reading Daniel Augsburger's review of

Page 2—THE ADVENTIST WOMAN—September/October 1987

Women in the Church in the June-July issue makes me aware that a lot of energy is being absorbed in the issue of ordaining women. Could we actually be cooperating with the evil one by allowing this struggle to continue, thereby robbing God's work of essential funds and energy so badly needed to finish the work?

It is my strong conviction that there should be no necessity to defend any issue that is fair.

I am disturbed that in the theological debates of the Adventist Church the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) has been ignored when it should be a prominent teaching. It is my belief that if any issue is not fair it is not theologically sound. Any attempt to subvert a group of humans (be they women, blacks, Jews, or the mentally retarded—a group whom I have for years been trying to help achieve more recognition and acceptance in the church) is totally lacking in *agape* love.

It is beyond my understanding that SDA men should be so fearful of acknowledging the right of women to proclaim the gospel at a time in which it is imperative to set aside all differences, and proclaim the nearness of Christ's coming.

It seems to me that those who defend the traditional position, for whatever reason, have not grasped the liberating spirit of the gospel. I cannot believe that Heaven will tolerate exclusiveness, subordination, or any arbitrary separation of God's people.

I totally fail to see how this issue can be related in any way to Sabbathkeeping or acceptance of homosexuality. Only minds driven by fear could suggest such ridiculous possibilities.

How did the Sabbath message come to preempt a superior position in the gospel? The gospel tells us that God loved us enough to send His Son to die for us, to forgive all our sins, and to make it possible for us to share His kingdom with Him.

I believe that if we make it our primary concern to preach the gospel (which in no way denegrates the Sabbath message, but enhances it), that such questions as whether or not women should be ordained will not come up at all.

Charlottesville Minor Nowosielski
Editor of *Flock Talk*
Eugene, Oregon, SDA Church

Will the Church really listen?

Dear Editor:

According to a recent issue "The Adventist Woman and the Caring Church" is the theme for the next conference. I see that a kind of "town meeting" has been arranged with Charles Bradford, president of the North American Division of the General Conference, as well as with other union and conference leaders, and that it is to be a "frank, interesting exchange of ideas on current issues in the church."

It's a laugh! Are we women so silly and forgetful as to how we've been treated by GC and union and conference leaders that we will expect anything new or better from them until it is forced upon them by other events outside of the church structure? Remember the treatment of Merikay Silver; it was only through the action of the courts that she and thereafter, all women employees were treated more fairly than they ever would have been otherwise.

During the AAW conference in Loma Linda last November a GC man got up at the end of a meeting and told women to forget it all—that we just didn't understand the problem. . . . I think women's place will change only as we become involved in politics outside the church to force change of politics inside the church.

Martha Nelson
Loma Linda, California

Hope springs eternal! The Gospel of Matthew (19:15-17) offers an important model. When followers of Jesus disagree (and perhaps the existence of this text tells us we should not be surprised when this happens but be prepared to deal with it) the first recourse is dialogue. Only after dialogue has been exhausted, in the company of several witnesses or the whole church, should our disagreements move into larger arenas.

We are committed to the Biblical model and pray that discussions will lead to better understanding of and more genuine responsiveness to Adventist women.

Corrections & Additions

Dear Editor:

I was glad to see the list of Adventist women educators in the May issue. **Erma Lee**, associate director of education for the North Pacific Union should have been included. **Elizabeth Hudak**, superintendent in Florida, has been retired a year. **Lee Berti** is associate superintendent in the Central California Conference. Next year, **Lisa Bissell** will be principal of San Gabriel Academy in the Southern California Conference.

Alyce Pudewell
Associate Director of Education
Pacific Union Conference
Westlake Village, California

Whoops! Our apologies!

Dear Editor:

I thoroughly enjoy the inspiring possibilities exemplified by the issues and the work of women as portrayed in the *Adventist Woman*. Thank you for increasing our awareness of opportunities and responsibilities

ties facing us.

I'd like to correct an error in the August 1987 issue in the list of women graduates of the SDA Theological Seminary. Rene Quispe (MDiv '71) is a man, not a woman. He is married to Alvy Quispe, listed in the same issue on page 2 as one of the women leaders in the Texas Conference.

The two of them work together as a team, codirecting family-life ministries in that conference. They are an excellent example of how the Lord can enhance and expand our service when we recognize the value of husbands and wives working together. My congratulations to Rene and Alvy Quispe on the good work that the Lord is finishing through them.

Selma A. Chajj, Ph.D.
Assoc. Professor of Counseling Psychology
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
and President, Michiana AAW

Promise kept

Dear Editor:

I was especially cheered by the photo on page 4 of the June-July issue showing four women recently promoted in editorial positions at the General Conference. I experienced the sting of prejudice at the General Conference in the late 1960's when a department head told me that I would never be more than an assistant editor because, "Everyone in the department wants a man; the men in the field want a man, and the people in the churches want a man."

I left the General Conference to work with Kenneth Wood at the *Review and Herald* because he promised to work to promote women in editorial positions on that journal. Even before the titles came, he worked to see that the editorial secretaries on his staff were paid more than other secretaries because the work they did was much greater than these titles suggested. Although I left Takoma Park before I received a new title, I always felt he kept the promise made to me when Aileen Andres Sox and Jocelyn Fay were made assistant editors.

What a joy it is now to see four women—almost a group!—being promoted in editorial work.

While I'm on the topic of editorial work, I must ask where were our women editors on this women's newsletter when they let pass the following line in the article about Betty Ashlock? "His filthy language . . . and his murdering of the King's English were obnoxious to her." Since 1952 murderers of the language have done it to the *queen's* English. Secondly, a capital K—or Q for that matter—is uncalled for.

Rosemary Bradley Watts
Richland, Washington

Our faces are appropriately red, Rosie. As for the promotions, the deserved titles—and increased pay—were long overdue. Most in the group have been carrying substantially the same responsibilities before the promotion as after. Vikki Montgomery Fields had been with *Listen* for two years; Loleta Thomas with *Liberty* for five years; Noelene Johnsson has edited *Mission* for seven years; and Beverly Rumble had been with the *Journal of Adventist Education* as an editorial assistant for 15 years!

MISSION STATEMENT

"So God made man in His own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them."

Genesis 1:27

In God's sight each individual has the potential to make a valuable contribution to our world. It is the purpose of this group of Adventist women to help the individuals in our church reflect more fully the image of God in their relationships to each other in the home, the church, the work setting and in the community.

Through the means of this publication which focuses on the development, discoveries, interests, and potential of Christian

women, our goals are:

- 1) To encourage communication, support and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations.
- 2) To acquaint the church community at large with Adventist women's potential and achievements.
- 3) To assist Adventist women in achieving fulfillment in their interpersonal relationships, personal development, and relationships to God.
- 4) To help Adventist women to maximize their options, whatever their age and situation, that they may reflect more fully the image of God.

AAW banquet will honor Hopp, Morales, Fleck



Sharon Hanson

Women GLOW with guidance of Corona pastor

Believing that women are the Christianizing influence in a family, the Corona SDA church has developed a women's ministry to strengthen families, according to an article in the April 6 issue of the *Pacific Union Recorder*.

GLOW began in January 1986 and stands for God's Love Outpoured Through Women. More than 70 women participate each week.

"That means that more than 70 families are being touched and influenced by God's Spirit," says Sharon Hanson, associate in pastoral care at Corona and GLOW's Bible study instructor.

More than a quarter of the women who attend GLOW are not Seventh-day Adventists, but women from the community and friends of church members. Since GLOW began, 16 women have accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Many more have rededicated their lives to serving Jesus in their homes and at work.

GLOW meets twice every Wednesday. Day GLOW begins at 9 a.m. with a Continental breakfast, and Night GLOW begins at 7 p.m. with light refreshments.

The GLOW format includes a humorous "ice breaking" at the beginning, followed by various approaches aimed at relaxing the women and making them feel loved and cared for. An inspirational Bible study takes up the last 15 to 20 minutes of the meeting. In April the group was studying the Gospel of John.

Twenty-five women serve on the GLOW staff, greeting each attendee warmly, hostessing at tables, preparing and serving food.

GLOW's prayer groups meet each week and a prayer chain can be put into action at any time there is a special need. GLOW sponsors banquets, seminars, workshops, and other activities for families.

Elective classes after the weekly Bible studies include such topics as weight control, time and priority management, advanced Bible study, dealing with divorce, marriage enrichment, child raising, aerobics, and single parenting. GLOW coordinates its program to match the school year, including breaks for the summer, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

"It's not easy for busy women to come together each week," says Hanson. "But I have head over and over again that they find it a special time of laughter, meeting new friends and drawing closer to the Lord. Most say they can hardly wait for Wednesday to roll around the next week. The constant and growing attendance proves this is so."

Joyce W. Hopp Work/Professional Award

"Her résumé reads like the accomplishments of a dozen men or women," wrote an obviously impressed reporter assigned to do a profile of Joyce W. Hopp for the *San Bernardino Sun*.

Joyce Hopp has had a major impact on health education both within the church and without. Currently Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions and Professor of Health Education at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California, Dr. Hopp is also a prolific writer and traveler.

She serves on countless organizations and boards—from national and international health organizations to her local public school advisory board on family-life education and the General Conference health-science textbook committee.

Among the many "firsts" credited to Joyce Hopp are establishing the first instructor training program for nutrition education in the SDA Church, initiating Health and Welfare training programs for union conferences, and preparing the church's first unit on AIDS for students in grades 5-12.

Dr. Hopp and her husband, an attorney, have raised two children. Their son, Harold, is an attorney; their daughter, Helen, is a doctoral student in social psychology.

Joyce Hopp has served her church as a teacher, writer, and speaker for more than 35 years. She is not too busy with her professional life to assist her local church as superintendent of senior or children's divisions, health secretary, or local elder.

Beyond all the degrees and accomplishments is the enthusiasm she radiates for Christian education and healthful living.

Carmen Lopez Morales Church Life Award

The inspiration of this dedicated woman's life has won not only her own family to the Advent message, but also a host of other people who have become pastors, Bible workers, and committed church members.

The eldest child of the first Seventh-day Adventist colporteur in Puerto Rico, Carmen Lopez Morales was deeply impressed by her father's life and untimely death as the first martyr for the Advent cause in the Inter-American Division.

In the difficult period following her father's death, Carmen and her family suffered financial hardships and stopped attending church. They moved to New York City when she was 15. At first Carmen worked in a factory, but later was converted and dedicated her life to serving God as a Bible worker. She sold the Spanish *Signs of the Times* by the hundred on street corners, cared for the sick, helped newly arrived families get settled and find work. She also directed the church choir, organized and directed the youth society, wrote religious plays, and preached on the street corners of the city.

Largely because of her witnessing, there are now 35 Spanish SDA churches in New York City.

After she and her husband raised four children, she returned to school—at age 60—to finish her high school diploma. After graduating, she went on to complete two years of college.

For a number of years she has studied the Bible with migrant workers in Hemet, California, where, as the result of her labors, more than 60 people have given their hearts to Christ and a church has been established.

Alycon Ruth Fleck Home/Community Award

Missionary, best-selling author, founder of homes for homeless, starving children, Alycon Fleck typifies the best of Christian womanhood. Her faith in God's leading and protection has led her to minister to underprivileged children in the midst of guerrilla warfare and political strife.

As cofounder and vice-president of International Children's Care, Inc., Alycon Fleck of Battle Ground, Washington, has worked tirelessly to establish and maintain four centers in Inter-America for children that have been all but forgotten by society. As the result of her efforts and those of her staff, nearly 300 children are now established in the orphanage-homes in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia. In addition, 60 children have been adopted into loving Christian families.

Mrs. Fleck spent a number of years with her husband as a missionary in five countries of Inter-America. Out of these experiences grew her best-selling book, *A Brand From the Burning*, as well as two more manuscripts currently in progress. A prolific writer for Adventist magazines, she is also the mother of four grown children, all of whom are bilingual.

Her humanitarian activities will be spotlighted by Christian Lifestyle Television later this year.

Not one to slow down just because society says she is retirement age, Alycon Fleck travels three to five months each year actively attending to the program dearest to her heart, the care of homeless children. She is much beloved by a host of youngsters who know her affectionately as "Mommie Fleck."

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

From front page

were discussed during "Prévention et santé," under the direction of Nicole Janichon.

Dr. Pierre Winandy, director of the White Estate Center at Newbold College, discussed Ellen White's messages pertaining to women's role in the early days of Adventism and also led a tour of the center. Winandy emphasized the need "to prepare the way for God to establish the restoration here on earth" and called for a return to pre-Fall conditions.

Winandy noted: "Adam and Eve were equal partners and one of the most dramatic consequences of sin is the tension between men and women. One of the works of the gospel is to bring us back, side by side. . . To be ready for heaven, we must be ready on earth."

17 women theology students

Winandy noted that 17 women were enrolled in theology studies at Newbold College last year and asked, "Where will the women be placed? What will they do? Will they be employed in a way that will use their developed talents?"

At sundown Friday evening, Viviane Hänni and Joëlle Gouël led the group in mediation, prayer, and holy communion.

"Solomon's Journalist" was the title of the message from the Newbold College pulpit Sabbath morning as Helen Pearson, director of public relations and alumni affairs at Newbold College, discussed the great power

Solomon received from God. "Solomon focused on the consequences of success and power. The more power he had, the less real strength he displayed. . . Solomon sacrificed wisdom on the altar of power."

"What do you want for women in the Adventist Church?" was the question considered in an open forum Sabbath afternoon. Women from Holland, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, Germany, France, England, Italy, and the United States entered into a lively discussion of "Dieu et les femmes" chaired by Helen Pearson.

What do women want?

From Belgium: "The right to speak in church."

From France: "The opportunity to accept and fulfill responsibility in my church." "Personal education for women, consciousness raising as to gifts women have to offer." "Equality of tasks and duties for women who serve as pastors." One delegate spoke of the woman pastor in her church who is responsible for administration. . . "which means she is the church secretary."

From Finland: A woman pastor noted the long tradition of women in the pulpit in her country and indicated a need to "build on the resources we have. . . to inspire youth to believe that the church is open to both men and women in all ways. . ."

From Sweden: A woman pastor called for the elimination of "competition between men and women in the church. Let's work together."

From Norway: "The church in Norway is open. If women are able and willing, they can fill any post open."

From England: "Of 80 students in Newbold's theology program in 1987-1988, 20 are women. Where will we go? Where can we serve? Who will call us?"

From Holland: "In theory the church is open and every minister voted in favor of ordination, but they will not practice it. The greatest need is to develop awareness of what women have to offer."

Play features Ellen White

An inspiring vespers included a play written and directed by Eliane Hänni of Switzer-

land. "Ellen White the Prophetess" reminded the audience of the vital role Mrs. White played in establishing the Seventh-day Adventist Church as well as her efforts on behalf of Adventism in Europe.

Next conference: Holland

At a Sunday morning business meeting the group voted to (1) move ahead to develop a constitution and establish an organizational structure, (2) locate the next European conference in Holland, (3) approve the financial statement, and (4) elect new officers.

New officers for 1987-1988 include
President: Eliane Hänni
Vice-President: Maria Untermährer
Secretary: Elisabeth Gouël
Treasurer: Pina Lagarde
Public Relations: Denise Bouvier, Lisette Gilson, Annie Poublan
Members-at-large: Joëlle Gouël, Gilberta Halna

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

The Association of Adventist Women is a national organization that sponsors local chapters. Its newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*, is published six times per year.

I am enclosing \$10 in the U.S., \$12 elsewhere, to subscribe to *The Adventist Woman*.

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The Adventist Woman
Volume 6, No. 5

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Copy deadline for the next issue of *The Adventist Woman* is November 3.

Mail copy at least 5 days in advance of the deadline. The editor schedules the Friday and Sunday afterward to put material together.

Send to Beverly K. Habada, Editor, *The Adventist Woman*, Box 3884, Langley Park, MD 20787.

People and Places



On Friday night, October 9, Beverly Wesner-Hoehn will perform in a concert jointly sponsored by AAW and Sligo Church for the 5th Annual AAW Conference, Takoma Park, MD. She teaches harp at Indiana University in Bloomington and is pursuing a doctoral degree.



On Sunday, October 11, Lynne Waihee will speak on "Adventist Women and Politics," the concluding event in the 5th Annual AAW Conference, Takoma Park, MD. She is the First Lady of Hawaii, where her husband was recently elected governor of the state.

A caring Adventist Woman

Millie Ragon breaks known records: 50 years service in one hospital

by Jane Marie Allen

When she was a little girl, Millie Ragon would leaf through the pages of mail-order catalogs until she'd find pictures of nurses' uniforms and caps. "Someday, when I grow up, I'm going to be a nurse," she'd say to herself.

She never lost sight of that dream as she grew up on a farm in Greene County, Tennessee, where she still lives today. Milking cows and putting up hay were a way of life for young Millie, the second of six children. Fifty years ago, in 1937, she went to work at Takoma Adventist Hospital to help pay her father's hospital bill. She started in the kitchen and two years later was one of three young women selected for a nurse's aide class.

Millie passed the Tennessee State Board examination and became a licensed practical nurse in 1952. She has worked in most nursing areas of the hospital and loves it as much as she'd ever dreamed she would. It's no secret that bedside nursing is her favorite work, and her patients appreciate it.

In great demand

"Often when patients come to the hospital they specifically ask to be on the floor where Miss Ragon will be their nurse," says J.R. McKinney, M.D., who has worked with her for many years.

"The most rewarding thing about nursing is being able to make my patients comfortable and see them get well," says Millie, who celebrated her 70th birthday this year and continues to work full time.

Has she seen a lot of changes in nursing over the years?

"Well, we used to work 12 hours a day and six days a week," she says. "We used to have time to do more things for our patients than we do today. Sometimes I'd wash my patients' clothes and do other things to be helpful."

Millie says the biggest changes have been in the technology of health care. Caring for patients, her favorite work, has not changed dramatically from when she started working at the hospital 50 years ago.

Those who know her and have worked with her have seen many examples of her dedication to her profession and loyalty to the hospital. She never wants to miss her shift. In fact, when a snowstorm is predicted, she's been known to sleep overnight at the hospital to be sure she's on time for work the next morning.

Jane Marie Allen is Director of Corporate Communications for AHS/Sunbelt, Orlando, Florida.

Did Millie ever consider working anyplace else?

Not seriously, she says. She once had an opportunity to be buyer for the kitchen of another hospital, which would have meant an increase in salary. But Millie chose to stay at Takoma and do what she likes best.

"She has devoted her life to caring for people," says Jerri Fillers, also a Greene County native who has worked at the hospital more than 20 years. Millie was her nurses' aide instructor in 1954. She also was the "big sister" in the housing complex where Jerri and five other young women lived.

"She was a good role model for us, and a lot of fun," says Jerri. "I remember that she used to go to Cades Cove in the Great Smokey Mountains every year with the student nurses. She enjoyed hiking and being outdoors." An avid gardener, she still grows most of her vegetables on the farm where she grew up and now shares with a brother and his family.

Ask people around Takoma Adventist Hospital about Millie, and you'll hear the same comments: "Excellent." "Compassionate." "Dedicated." And, "shy."

She may have set an employment record in Adventist hospitals, and perhaps for all Seventh-day Adventist organizations, when she celebrated 50 years of full-time service at



Millie Ragon began working for the Takoma Adventist Hospital in Tennessee in 1937 and continued there until early 1987, a record-breaking total of 50 years' service.

Ladies' Crusade

More than 50 Adventist women in Manado, East Indonesia, organized and held 134 cottage meetings during July and August. In the one-week follow-up "ladies' crusade." With Dr. Nancy Bassham and Mrs. Jeane Zachary as speakers from the Far Eastern Division office, 141 people were led to baptism on August 16.

Mrs. Netty Rantung, a Church Ministries Associate for Family Life in the East Indonesia Union Mission, led in organizing the cottage meetings. Various women took turns giving inspiring lectures on home and family and on Bible topics. Prior to the cottage meetings, several cooking classes, Vacation Bible Schools and health classes had been held.

During the public meetings, August 7-15,

Ministry Magazine reports

Global support voiced for women's ordination

The August issue of *Ministry Magazine* carries a four-page article reporting on "Religion Teachers' Opinions on the Role of Women" by Roger L. Dudley of Andrews University.

Dudley notes that "Denominational journals have been the forum for a vigorous debate by means of articles and letters from readers."

He adds, "The issues have been particularly perplexing to leaders and members because of the failure to arrive at a consensus as to what the Scriptures warrant."

To complicate the matter, Dudley says, discussions on the topic both in print and at roundtables, have tended to "balance" the contributions, giving roughly equal time or space to the pro and con views. "This," he says, "appeals to our sense of fairness and has the additional advantage of allowing the reader or listener to explore all sides of the

the same institution. However, the church's employment records do not go back far enough to verify that fact.

"Occasionally we hear of someone with 40 or 45 years, but I don't recall anyone with 50 years in one organization," said a spokesman for the General Conference retirement office.

"Code Gold"

On the anniversary date of Millie's 50th year at the hospital earlier this year, employees had a surprise party for her. At a predetermined time, a Code Gold was announced over the hospital's public-address system.

"I'd never heard of Code Gold," said Millie. "I thought maybe someone had made a mistake and it was a fire alarm, so I started closing doors."

Bassham spoke on topics such as marriage, self-worth, discipline, and communication. She is the Church Ministries Associate for Family Life in the Far Eastern Division. Zachary concluded the evening with a sermon on spiritual topics. She is a secretary in the FED office.

Meeting Muslims and Buddhists

On August 11 about 200 members of the Muslim and Buddhist Dedicated Women's Society of the North Sulawesi Province in East Indonesia gathered to hear Dr. Nancy Bassham speak. Most of them are wives of high ranking officials in the province. Bassham spoke on "Communication in the Family." According to reports the group was very responsive and several requested time for personal counseling after the presentation.

topic. But it also implies that our most knowledgeable students of religion are split right down the middle on these questions."

Such doesn't prove to be the case when a scientific study of religion teachers is conducted. Dudley's article gives details about the questionnaire and the method of conducting the survey.

"Overall," he reports, "these scholars give evidence of overwhelming support for women in ministry. Their agreement with various test items ranges from 62 to 97 percent." The study includes Bible teachers both from North America and overseas.

On the question of ordaining women to gospel ministry the North American Bible teachers support it by 83 to 13 percent and overseas scholars 57 to 33 percent. In all, 94 teachers in North America responded to the survey, and 99 Bible teachers from other parts of the world.

Within minutes, more than 50 hospital employees and physicians were gathered around her nursing station with a decorated cake, punch, and a bouquet of red roses.

"As a nurse, she is many things," says Gladys Duran, hospital president, who calls Millie one of Takoma's most cherished citizens. "She is kindness to the lonely and discouraged, knowledge with her fingers on the pulse of life, a cool hand on a fevered brow."

Millie was honored as employee of the month in October 1985 and employee of the year in 1986. At the awards banquet earlier this year where she was recognized for her 50 years of service with gifts and an engraved plaque, she also received two ceramic figurines selected especially for her: one was a nurse, and the other a girl milking a cow.

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