

# the Adventist Woman

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## New survey shows

### 1,000 women elders serve churches of all kinds, sizes

Nearly 1,000 Adventist women are serving effectively as ordained local elders in North American congregations of every size and ethnic group, according to a study released in November.

The study was commissioned by the North American Division (NAD) to examine the effect of a 1973 policy, reaffirmed in 1984, that women could be ordained as elders if congregations exercised "the greatest discretion and caution."

The study breaks new ground on several fronts.

■ It is the result of the first survey sent to every Seventh-day Adventist pastor in the division. (There were 4,444 on the final list.)

The 3,036 returns, or a response rate of 73 percent, is considered outstanding for mailed surveys of this magnitude.

■ The study goes a long way toward disproving several long-standing claims of opponents to women's ordination, including:

(1) That only a handful of women elders were in office around the country.

(2) That women elders were almost exclusively to be found in college churches.

(3) That Asians, blacks, and Hispanics would not choose women to exercise this kind of leadership.

(4) That small churches had no interest in the issue.

(5) That ordaining women as elders would result in crises in homes and churches,

because women would be overturning male authority and confounding the God-appointed roles of the sexes.

Although women were first ordained as elders in the early 1970s, opponents have kept up a drum-beat of dissension, repeatedly calling for the policy to be rescinded.

#### Success rate

According to the churches that have elected women they are highly successful elders. In 78 percent of these churches the pastors assert that women have *strengthened* the board of elders; 77 percent say women function in the same way as men elders; and 74 percent feel that women elders provide a strong ministry to other women.

In only 6 percent of these churches did a pastor indicate that "electing women elders split our church."

In 83 percent of these churches members are overwhelmingly supportive of their women elders.

#### Other high points

■ There are 960 women elders and 14,495 men elders in the surveyed churches, or out of every 15 local elders, one is female.

■ Although 55 percent of the largest churches (with 750 members or more) elect

See WOMEN ELDERS, p. 3

### French-speaking women meet 4th time

by Viviane Haenni

French-speaking Adventist women from Switzerland, Belgium, and France met for their fourth conference in Europe, September 15-18. About 80 participants gathered in Evian-les-Bains, overlooking Lake Geneva from its southeast shore. Among those attending were delegates sent by the Northern French and Belgium Conferences of the SDA Church.

The group drew their theme from Hosea 6:3, "Let us know, let us press on to know the

Lord; his going forth is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as showers, as the spring rains that water the earth." On the opening night Professor R. Badenas, from the Adventist seminary in Collonges, spoke from the theme text.

Friday morning Claudette Marquet fired the audience with joy and interest in her presentation, "Does God Speak to Women?" Pastor Marquet is a well-known theologian and TV personality who is president of the

See FRENCH WOMEN, p. 3



Dr. Rosa Banks



Shirley Burton

#### In Nairobi

### Women gain and lose top leadership jobs

Gains and losses for women in top leadership posts about cancelled each other out during the Seventh-day Adventist Church's annual council held in Nairobi, Kenya, October 4-11.

#### Gains

In historic votes, two women were elected to direct departments at the denomination's world headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Rosa Banks, vice-president of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, will become field secretary and director of the North American Division's Office of Human Relations. She replaces Warren Banfield, who is retiring. She is the first black woman ever to head a GC/NAD department.

Shirley Burton, associate director in the General Conference Communication Department, was promoted to director. She replaces Robert W. Nixon who has joined the GC Office of General Counsel.

In the Far Eastern Division headquartered in Singapore, Kathleen Kuntaraf, M.D., was elected director of the Health Department.

Only two other Adventist women have headed GC departments in the past. L. Flora

Plummer was the Sabbath school director from 1913 to 1936. M. Carol Hetzell was Communication Department director from 1975 until her untimely death in 1978.

#### Losses

On W.O. Coe's retirement as a GC vice-president, Neal C. Wilkson, in discussion with the officers, advanced the name of a woman as a candidate to replace him. This suggestion was torpedoed by division and union leaders at the Nairobi council and no replacement was made. Some observers believe NAD union presidents are "leading a charge" to reduce the size of the GC and NAD headquarters staff in favor of keeping more funds at the union, conference, and local church level.

The council also determined not to replace Betty Holbrook in the GC Church Ministries Department. Holbrook retired in March 1988. Before the Church Ministries Department was created at the 1985 GC session in New Orleans, Holbrook headed the GC Home and Family Service. The lost position also appears to be a casualty of cuts in the GC staff.

#### For women pastors

### Newbold Bible teachers pledge support

Religion professors at Newbold College in England have officially joined the majority of North American Adventist Bible teachers by supporting women who enter theological study and pastoral ministry.

On November 1 they released this statement:

#### Statement of the Role of Women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

We believe that in the 1980s the church is moving forward from purely male leadership to one composed of men and women in partnership, with full equality in all responsibilities and on all levels of ministerial duties and administration. The consequences of such changes will be that the pastoral role will be broadened and more flexible as women bring into the ministry a variety of fresh ideas and

new perspectives. There will be a new emphasis on community and nurture in the church, and the participation of women in ministry will strengthen the trend toward more lay involvement.

With these developments in mind, we commit ourselves as teachers of academic and applied theology, to encourage prospective women in ministry and to promote the participation of women at all levels of church activity. We acknowledge that an important function of the department is to provide professional, personal and academic support for the women studying in our department. We undertake to serve as advocates for women in the church in general and on campus in particular. We commit ourselves to encourage women to prepare for whatever form of ministry for which they are gifted and called. We are prepared to make whatever adjustments are necessary to enable women to achieve full participation in Christian service.



Elaine Haenni welcomes more than 80 participants to the fourth annual conference sponsored for French-speaking Adventist Women. Next year they plan to meet in Paris June 29-July 1.



## Presidential Communique

# Looking back, thinking ahead

by Nancy Marter

### A puzzling letter

"I am writing to inform you of the decision our chapter voted . . . The board felt that because of the negative reaction the women in this area have to the National AAW, our only choice was to dissolve our association with the national group."

Growing puzzlement replaced my initial disappointment as I read and reread this recent letter. Over and over again questions circled in my head.

Like these: What's negative about a group of Adventist women? When and why did we begin the association? Has our emphasis changed? Have we been responsive to women's needs? What has been happening for women in the church during this same time frame?

Is a women's organization worth the effort? Does it further the cause of Christ in the earth? Is there room for various Adventist women's groups—all hoping to enhance church life?

As I look at these questions again in early morning light, I realize answering them could take far more space than we have in this publication. But perhaps a few observations will start you thinking. I solicit your written replies, too, for they can enlarge our collective understanding.

### How we came to be

The dream of having a paper for Adventist women was held by several individuals. The culminating idea was helped along by the Association of Adventist Forums and encouraged by Elder Neal C. Wilson, with the suggestion of preparing something in time to present to those attending the 1979 Annual Council. The fledgling paper came out twice under the title, *The Adventist Women's Update*.

The charter issue of *The Adventist Woman*, published in 1980, contained statements addressing the hopes and intentions of these women. Viveca Black stated, "As we enter this new decade, women in North America continue to face diverse options, greater opportunities for service, new responsibilities, and the ensuing practical dilemmas. This bi-monthly newsletter, published by, for, and about Adventist women, is a response to these challenging times and new needs."

Margaret McFarland added, "In my view, the newsletter's function is to improve our connections. The newsletter should strengthen our connection to God . . . and provide connections to other church women; from career woman to home manager, from single to divorced, from young to old, from black to white and all the variations in between." And so the paper began.

### The birthing

As time passed organizational needs grew. On June 13, 1982, the record shows that AAW, though spawned by the Association of Adventist Forums (AAF), was expected to become independent. According to the record AAF "voted to set up the Committee on Women to create a separate tax-exempt organization for the publishing of the newsletter and such other activities as such organization might undertake on the behalf of the community of Adventist women."

As a result an organizational meeting took place. Jan Daffern, associate pastor at Sligo Church, had a

devotional. Elder Warren Banfield, director of the North American Division's Office of Human Relations (OHR), offered some practical suggestions. The group discussed the cost of a newsletter. And Judith Nembhard, who chaired a nominating committee, brought in recommendations for officers. A constitution and by-laws were drawn up and articles of incorporation adopted. The group took a name: the Association of Adventist Women.

### What we've been doing

AAW has slowly evolved as volunteer, need-responsive organizations do. Take stock of the work since 1982:

- The newsletter has continued to the present, including the copy you are now reading.
- Six national conferences have been held and 17 awards given to outstanding Adventist women.
- AAW has encouraged and rejoiced in the establishment of a Women's Commission at OHR with women representatives from each union in North America. That effort has sparked the creation of women's commissions in several of the individual unions, who draw their members from constituent conferences.
- Several AAW chapters now thrive across North America and overseas.

### Elsewhere in the church

While AAW has developed under the guidance of lay leadership, the church itself seems to have grown in awareness and respect for what Adventist women can contribute. For example: ■ **Shepherdess International**, an organization for minister's wives, has broadened and strengthened its ministry.

■ In 1985 the General Conference established a new standing committee, the **Women's Ministries Advisory Council (WMAC)**. Nine women employed at GC/NAD headquarters in Washington, D.C., serve on the committee.

Two of WMAC's major accomplishments have been to (1) encourage denominational editors to publish more news and reports about Adventist women, and (2) recommend qualified women to serve on scores of GC and NAD committees.

■ At the church's annual council that met in Nairobi last October, two women were elected as departmental directors—Shirley Burton (Communication), and Dr. Rosa Banks (OHR).

■ Several local conferences now encourage family life and women's ministries. Other lay groups have also sprung up, each devoted to particular needs they perceive among Adventist women.

■ French-speaking Adventist women held their fourth annual conference and retreat last summer.

■ A motivated group of nondenominationally employed women organized the **Adventist Women's Institute (AWI)** in 1987.

■ In several states Adventist women have organized a successful retreat ministries.

■ **TEAM**, a group of Adventist men and women with the motto "**Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry**" (ordination for all Adventist pastors and chaplains, male and female), has begun sponsoring seminars and publications.

### Vital connections

So here's my bottom line. Surely there are "miles to go" for Adventist women. But life, even church life, cannot be static.

I see the Association of Adventist Women as a catalyst for healthy growth. I believe that *connections*, as Margaret McFarland suggested in 1982, are vital. They make for lively, good-spirited discussion and keep us growing as Christians, human beings, and especially as women. . .

*What do you think? Please share your views.*

## Members vote nine resolutions at Portland AAW conference

### RESOLUTIONS

On Monday, September 5, in Portland, Oregon, AAW adopted the following nine resolutions during the annual business session. One resolution dealing with child preachers was tabled.

#### Women's Leadership Conferences

Because a balance of women and men in decision-making and the work of the church is counseled by Ellen G. White in the book *Evangelism*, and

Because the Seventh-day Adventist Church has begun to move toward such a balance in the ranks of leaders within churches, conferences, and other denominational organizations, as well as in the ranks of supporting staffs,

*We resolve* to organize and schedule women's leadership conferences, beginning with a pilot program, offering professional consultation, training, and exchange of information on the development of leadership skills for women.

#### Network for Battered Families

Because of the increasing awareness of the incidence of violence and abuse in Adventist families, and because the Association of Adventist Women has a special interest in reaching out to women who feel isolated,

*We resolve* to create a telephone network providing a referral service to threatened spouses and children who need temporary shelter.

*We further resolve* to set January 1989 as a target date for implementing this service, and to publish the telephone numbers in *The Adventist Woman* and other periodicals on an ongoing basis.

#### Books in Adventist Book Centers

Because many excellent books by both women and men are available on topics promoting the development of women, as well as biographies of women who have made important contributions, and because relatively few such books are available through the Adventist Book Centers,

*We resolve* to initiate contacts with ABC managers and provide them bibliographies, book reviews and/or complimentary copies of books recommended by AAW.

*We further resolve* to recommend to AAW chapters and members that they order these books from their local ABC.

#### Inclusive Language

Because language, the words we use and the way we use them, not only describes the world but also shapes the world, and

Because it is important to the self-esteem of women, their perception of themselves, and also the perception that men have of women, and

Because much current language, especially in denominational circles, trivializes women and/or makes them invisible,

*We resolve* to use inclusive, gender-free language in all publications of the Association of Adventist Women, to encourage the use of inclusive, gender-free language by AAW speakers, and to promote the use of inclusive, gender-free language by publishing a brochure giving examples and suggestions for its use.

#### Minority Women Members and Officers

Because of the obvious lack of participation by many minority women (Hispanic, Black, Asian, etc.), as well as handicapped persons in the Association of Adventist Women, and

Because we both want and need their expertise and friendship,

*We resolve* to undertake an aggressive public-relations program toward reaching these women, and

*We further resolve* to seek out more minority women members for official positions within our organization.

#### Men in Support of Women in Ministry

Because husbands of women in ministry have expressed the need for communication and mutual support with each other, and

Because these husbands and other men are seeking concrete ways to articulate their support for all of AAW's goals,

*We resolve* to establish and recognize a section of the Association of Adventist Women specifically for men to exchange information on and explore avenues of support for the goals of AAW, including but not limited to a regular letter column in *The Adventist Woman*.

#### Resource Materials for Discussion of Women's Ministries

Because the church is the community of believers and one of its primary responsibilities is to provide a hospitable climate for spiritual growth, both for individual members and for the church as a community, and

Because change is intrinsic in the meaning of growth, and it is not achieved without effort and will, and because growth depends on information and enlightenment,

*We resolve* to prepare materials for use by individual members and chapters of the Association of Adventist Women on how to expand and redefine the role of women in the church, including the ordained ministry. These materials may include but are not limited to brochures, tapes, bibliographies, books, book reviews, and speakers' bureaus. They should include practical suggestions for immediate use and encourage discussion of the issues.

*We further resolve* that a committee be appointed at this 1988 business meeting to implement this resolution and to publish in *The Adventist Woman* notice of this material as it becomes available on an ongoing basis.

#### Ordained Ministers for Women in Military Services and Prisons

Because of specific requests for ordained Adventist women ministers to serve as chaplains in the military services, and

Because of the great need for ordained Adventist women ministers in prison systems, and because in some maximum security prison systems lay people are not allowed to minister to women prisoners, but only ordained ministers may do so, and

Because the Association of Adventist Women has resolved to minister to all women in all circumstances and we find we are unable to minister to women prisoners and women in the military services because of the ordination requirement,

*We resolve* to urgently request once again that the General Conference committee take a clear position at the 1990 General Conference Session in support of the ordaining and employing of Adventist women who have received the calling and education for pastoral ministry, and

*We further resolve* that if nothing is done toward this need by the General Conference committee we explore other means toward this end.

#### Denominational Employment Standards

Because Adventists as a people subscribe to high standards of personal and business ethics, and because employment standards today require full disclosure and accountability in all employment transactions and practices, and

Because Adventist denominational institutions are supported by and are the responsibility of the Adventist people as a whole and by their practices they announce their principles,

*We therefore resolve* to urge all denominational employing organizations throughout the world to institute and/or maintain the following employment practices:

1. Women and men with similar qualifications and experience receive the same pay and benefits without reference to ordination; ordination is not a factor for remuneration or benefits.
2. Service records and complete information on eligibility for benefits and/or advancement are automatically provided to all employees on an annual basis.
3. Complete information on printed form is provided to all employees explaining the denominational retirement benefit system, including the changes instituted in 1981.
4. The working policy of the respective employing organizations is provided automatically to all employees.
5. Part-time workers, because of their special importance in denominational organizations, and because they are frequently parents devoted to good child care, receive pay and other benefits on a pro rata basis.
6. Working parents receive recognition of their family obligations by the provision of facilities or benefits for child care and/or of other dependents.
7. Pastoral team ministries receive recognition by the establishment of job descriptions and pay scales for pastoral services performed by spouses of pastors, including the optional use by congregations of a courtesy payroll through the conference.
8. The medical benefits include the cost of reconstructive surgery in cases of breast cancer surgery.
9. All committees controlling personnel placement, remuneration, benefits, working conditions, and other personnel policies be composed of at least 30 percent women.

**Chapter News**

**Metro: Drama, women's worship**

**Sojourner Truth appears**

Sojourner Truth came to life as she gave her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech for a Sabbath afternoon audience at the Takoma Park Church, on November 5. Charmaine Crowell's performance of her one-woman play was sponsored by the Metro AAW Chapter.

The drama offers the audience an intimate view of the ex-slave who traveled widely through New England and the Midwest bearing a banner emblazoned with the words, "Proclaim Liberty." Crowell captures the iron will, humor, and unswerving dedication to the cause of abolition and the betterment of slaves and women that made Sojourner Truth such a powerful influence on 19th-century America.

If you would like to schedule the play for your church or AAW Chapter, contact Charmaine Crowell Presents, 6212 Meadowburn Drive, Richmond, VA 23234. (804) 743-7889.

—Beverly Rumble



Charmaine Crowell reenacts significant events from the life of Sojourner Truth.

**Preaching, praising, pursuing**

From churches all around Washington, D.C., men and women gathered for a unique Adventist Women's Convocation on September 22 at the Capital Memorial Church.

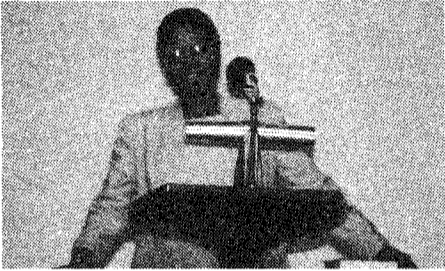
The program included preaching, studying, and a communion service. The sermon was presented by Wanda Grimes Davis, a hospital chaplain in Memphis, Tennessee, who holds an M.A. in Religion from Andrews University. Barbara Robinson conducted a combined SDA choir.

During the afternoon program the men and women attending could choose to attend two seminars on subjects as diverse as marriage transitions, spouse abuse, home child care, spiritual gifts, life cycles, aging, child sexual abuse, equality and the Bible, and a Prepare our Youth presentation.

Marsha Frost, pastor of the Fairfax, Virginia, SDA church, and Bruce Flynn, pastor of the Pisgah and Friendship SDA churches, presided at the communion service.

Costs of the program were underwritten by offerings, gifts from the Columbia Union Conference Women's Commission members, and the Metro AAW Chapter.

—Beverly Rumble



Wanda Grimes Davis, a hospital chaplain in Tennessee, presented the sermon.



Elaine Benko (left) asks Dr. Ronaele Whittington more about the workshop on marriage transitions.

**FRENCH SPEAKING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

Continued from front page

communication department of the Protestant churches in France.

**Workshops**

Participants had to choose among seven workshops on Friday afternoon.

■ Claudette Marquet led a study of three Bible women—Deborah the judge, Anna the prophetess, and Phoebe, the "diakonos."

■ Joelle Gouel focused on knowing God through worship and music, explaining how the musical experiences described in the Bible can still inform our worship today.

■ Viviane Haenni, doctoral student at Andrews University, presented a paper unfolding four theological and historical reasons why Adventists should become involved in liturgical reform.

■ Gilberte Halna, a retired Bible worker, shared her experience of knowing God through daily Bible study.

■ Myriam Rase attracted many young mothers with their babies to her discussion group on how to stimulate children to know God for themselves.

■ Nicole Mignot, a professor of nursing, disclosed her passion for the book of Revelation.

■ Gerda Ferrari, a leader in the Women's Center in Geneva, invited the women to write creatively, exploring particularly the kind of identity God wanted them to have by looking at biblical feminine role models such as Sarah, Hagar, Lydia, and Mary.

**Welcome, Sabbath**

Highlighting artistic expression, the Friday evening program opened Sabbath in a creative mode. Elisabeth Gouel and Annie Pouban adapted Karne Flowers' script (from the 1987 AAW Conference in Washington, D.C.) for a beautiful multimedia presentation on women's spiritual journey.

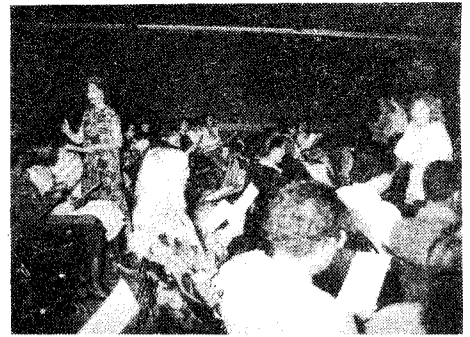
One man attending the service commented, "I have just realized through seeing your tears and hearing your applause for this program how much it meant to you, but to be honest, how little it meant to me. I am just now realizing that you have specific needs as women which cannot be met when a male is teaching or presenting his understanding of spirituality."

Other Sabbath programs included:

■ A Sabbath morning liturgy prepared by Joelle Gouel, and a sermon by Magali Figols, a fourth-year theology student at Collonges.

■ Martine Pernet's children's choir, which sang several of Pernet's own compositions.

■ Colletes Chartres, M.D., who suggested in her devotional that the knowledge of God is not so much ours, as His. He is the one who



Participants learned parts of the theme song composed by Joelle Gouel (standing, left).

knows and leads us through inner changes in order to acknowledge Him in a completely remodeled life.

■ A sunset boat trip across Lake Geneva from Evian to Yvoire.

**Next year, Paris**

At a Sunday business session the group ratified its existence as a French-speaking SDA Association for Women. Opportunity was given to comment on the goals of the association, which are quite similar to AAW's.

The group decided to meet next year in Paris for a fifth convention, June 29-July 1, 1989.

The coordinating committee for this year's conference included Elaine Haenni, Maria Untermahrer, Elisabeth Gouel, Pina Lagarde, Gilberte Halna, Joelle Gouel, Lisette Gilson, and Annie Pouban.

**WOMEN ELDERS**

Continued from front page

women elders, 6 percent of the very smallest churches (50 members or less) also do.

■ Churches of every major ethnic group have ordained women as elders. The percentage of women to men elders in these churches is as follows: Asian—2.1%, "other races"—3.8%, Hispanic—5.2%, Black—6.3%, Caucasian—6.4%, multicultural churches—12.6%.

■ The unions with the largest percent of female elders to total number of elders are Columbia—10%, Pacific—9%, Lake—7.5%, and Atlantic—7.2%.

By far the fewest number of women elders are elected in the Southwest Union (1.6%). The other four unions hover between 3.7 to 5.3% each.

The North American Division officers commissioned the Institute of Church Ministry at Andrews University to carry out the survey. Carole Kilcher and Gan-Theow Ng authored the study summary. To order a copy of the study, send your check for \$4 to T.E.A.M.; PO Box 3702; Langley Park, MD 20787.

**CASSETTE TAPE ORDER FORM**  
Sixth Annual AAW Conference  
The Adventist Woman and Health:  
A Search for Balance  
September 2-5, 1988, Portland, Oregon

The following audio tapes are now available. We regret that the tapes are not professional quality and that not all of the presentations made are available. Postage and handling are included in the prices listed below.

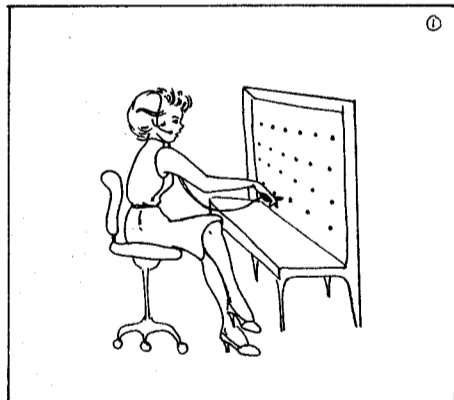
Make checks payable to the AAW—Conference Tapes. Mail to Nancy Marter, P.O. Box 3884, Langley Park, MD 20787

- Sabbath Worship Services** \$4.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Side 1—Fay Blix, Sabbath school, 30 min.  
Side 2—Dr. Beatrice Neal, sermon, 30 min.
- "Self-esteem, Dependency, Guilt"** \$7.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Workshop: Wilma Hepker, Ph.D., 120 min.
- "Caring for the Caregiver"** \$4.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Workshop: Chaplain Beulah Stevens, 60 min.
- "Helping the Abused Child"** \$7.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Workshop: A panel discussion, 120 min.
- "What Shall We Tell Our Daughters?"** \$7.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Workshop: Lani Longshore, 120 min.
- Closing Conference Address** \$4.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Lomtz, 30 min.

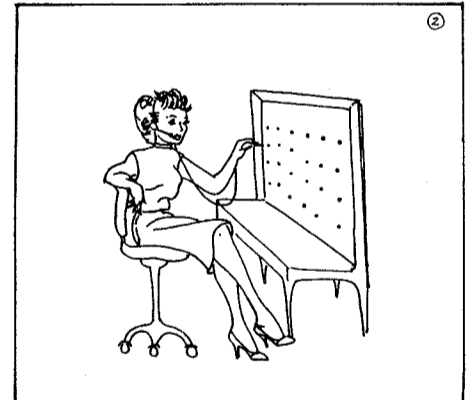
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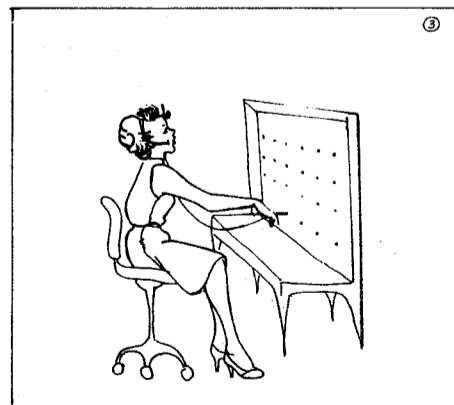
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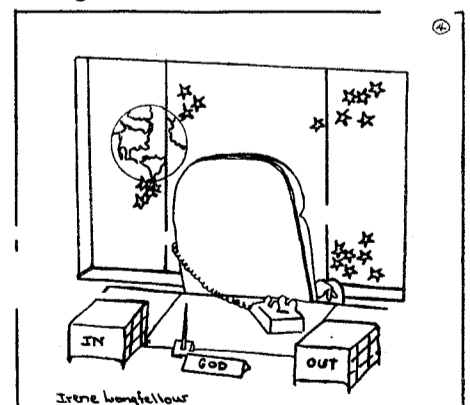
General Conference switchboard.



"Elder Dionne Foresight? No, we have no Elder Foresight here."



"Elder Nan Lauffern, Elder Jenny Shull, Elder Skyveth Willings, Elder Sondra Klimes Davies? No, I'm sorry..."



"That's strange. I called these women years ago!"

## People and Places

### Successful fund raiser

After raising \$6.1 million as chief development officer at Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Texas, Sheree Parris Nudd has accepted a position at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver.

Nudd came to Huguley as a General Conference communication intern in 1977, just two months after the new hospital opened. Two years later she was appointed director of development and public relations. In recent years she also carried the responsibility of marketing director.

She was the first young woman selected to be a General Conference communication intern, and also the first Adventist woman to be director of development of major Seventh-day Adventist institution.

Among other honors and accomplishments, Nudd was selected Outstanding Fund Raiser in Fort Worth in 1983, and she received the Trailblazer in Philanthropy award in 1984 from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She was also named alumna of the year of Southwestern Adventist College in 1984. She is a fellow in the National Association for Hospital Development and has been on the faculty of the Fund Raising School of San Rafael, California.



### New treasurer

South Africa's Trans-Orange Conference reports that Mrs. Beauty Wakaba was appointed conference treasurer beginning February 1.

According to the Southern Union newsletter, *Maranatha*, Wakaba is the first woman to hold this position in the conference. She brings "with her a rich experience gathered in the Cape Field and Trans-Orange Field where she served as accountant, and in the

Southern Union where she kept the financial records of the Adventist Book Centre." Wakaba holds a B.A. degree in business administration from Andrews University.

The conference communication director, L.A. Seleseng, comments that "although many are shocked that a female should administer the finances of as big a conference as the TOC, she [Wakaba] maintains that God has been leading her throughout her life and in various occupations. Therefore, she is confident that God will be with her as she meets the challenges of her new appointment. We wish her God's blessings."

The Trans-Orange Conference has 278 churches with a membership of 34,569, according to the 1988 *SDA Yearbook*.

### Special service award

Tomasia Leatherwood was presented the Secretary's Special Service Award from the Department of Health and Human Services. She received a plaque in recognition for her exemplary service for the Child Support Enforcement agency where she works in Dallas, Texas.



Leatherwood developed a system to streamline the process of answering the many inquiries about the child-support program. She also initiated a monthly report which did away with any backlog in the Southwestern area.

She has been in government work for 16 years and has worked in the Civil Rights and Social and Rehabilitation Service offices. She is a graduate of Southwestern Adventist College and a member of the Dallas First Church.

### Women's scholarships

Women students seeking English degrees at Southwestern Adventist College (SAC) may be considered for scholarships made possible through donations by Dr. Lessie



Joyce Rideout (center) received the first Irma Marshall Leech award for outstanding teaching in the Minnesota Conference. She is shown here with Beverly Lamon (left), conference superintendent, and Dr. Geraldine Dickinson, who established the award.

### Top-notch teacher in Minnesota

Because of her outstanding teaching skills, consistent Christian example, and love for children, Joyce Rideout received the first Irma Marshall Leech award in a surprise ceremony at the Brainerd, Minnesota, church. She is a career teacher with 20 years of experience. The presentation included a \$300 cash award.

Rideout was one of 10 teachers nominated for the honor by members of local church school operating committees. A committee of

the conference's K-12 Board of Education created guidelines for recipients, screened nominations, and made a final recommendation to the board.

The award is funded by Dr. Geraldine Dickinson, who proposed the idea in 1987 as a means for recognizing outstanding teachers in the Minnesota Conference. It is named for her mother, Irma Marshall Leech. Mrs. Leech spent all but one year of her teaching career in Adventist church schools. She retired as principal of the second in Pasadena, California.

Culpepper Hagen. Hagen made an initial gift of \$10,000 to SAC in 1979 and has continued to add \$500 to \$1,000 per year to the fund. Recipients will be known as Hagen Scholars, according to a report in the *Southwestern Union Record*, August 26, 1988.



A native Texas, Dr. Hagen retired from the University of Denver in 1972. She had also taught at Broadview Academy, Atlantic Union College, and Union College.

She credits her teacher's creed to Miss Laura Patterson, her own English instructor at Southwestern Junior College in the late 1920s: For teachers "Time to talk and time to listen rank along with time to instruct." Hagen added, "Years ago Miss Patterson saw a nonpromising freshman and gave her time."

While teaching at the University of Denver, Hagen held evening classes for the armed forces and received a citation for teaching excellence. After retirement, she taught five more years at the Center for Experimental Studies at Metropolitan State College, Denver, she estimates that altogether she had studied with 10,000 young people.

In 1988 she published a book for national support groups of Alzheimer families. She is also completing a history of the 1914 *Founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Community* near Jefferson, Texas.

### Devotional speakers

Marking a first among Hispanic Adventists, two women were invited to present devotionals to the Hispanic Adventist Evangelistic Council of the North American Division. The council met at the LaSierra Campus of Loma Linda University, August 7-14.

Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson is a professor at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Morales-Gudmundsson reminded the group that as spiritual leaders we need a clear picture of our priorities. "Even as we are conscious of our roles in evangelism," she said, "we ought not to forget the importance of love reflected by the fruits of the Spirit."

Ramona Perez Greek, assistant professor of nursing at Auburn University, presented a devotional entitled, "Educational Evangelism." Recalling her own mother's determination to send all seven of her children to Adventist schools in spite of overwhelming obstacles, Dr. Greek challenged Hispanic pastors and their wives to promote Adventist education in their churches.

Both Morales-Gudmundsson and Greek are members of the NAD advisory board for Hispanics and education. Greek is also the Gulf States Conference Women's Commission representative.



## AAW publishes four-color note card

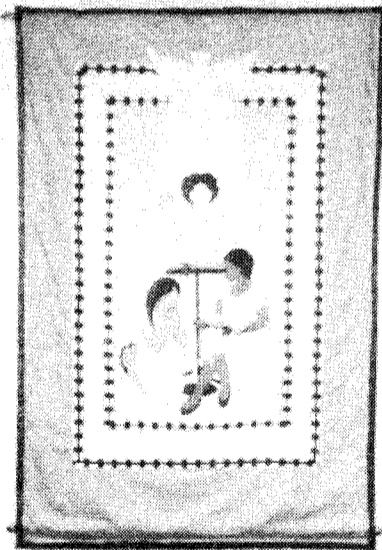
AAW has published a beautiful four-color, all-occasion card that portrays women as an integral part of the church.

It reproduces the fabric wall-hanging at the 1988 AAW Conference in Portland, Oregon. This commissioned work was designed and produced by Marquita Fowler, an Adventist artist living in Takoma Park, Maryland. It depicts women of God carrying out the work to which the Spirit calls them. Inside, the card is blank.

The artist received her Bachelor's Degree in Art from Pacific Union College and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in painting from George Washington University. She has taught art on both the high school and college level. She does free-lance illustrations and works on a commission basis in several mediums including oil, her personal favorite, and fabric.

The cards come in packets of 10 for \$6.50 each, which includes postage and handling.

Why not give packets of these cards for gifts? And use them yourself as you write to friends, family, and church leaders. It's a way to share a positive view of Adventist women.



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*The Adventist Woman*  
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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Copy deadline for the next issue of *The Adventist Woman* is February 8.

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.

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