



Association of Adventist Women

Penny Estes Wheeler

— Woman of the Year —

Professional Life

2000

William McCall, Pastor, Willow Brook SDA Church describes Penny: “Penny is the kind of person who would rather do the work while others get the glory. Although it may surprise her to be named a Woman of the Year, she certainly deserves it.”

For a woman who never wanted to work outside the home,

Penny Estes Wheeler continues to make a significant contribution to her church through her professional life as a writer and editor.

Wheeler has written nearly a dozen books, complete issues of **These Times**, a script for Faith for Today, and a series for the Adventist reading texts, as well as half a dozen youth, junior, and earliteen Sabbath School lesson quarterlies and teachers’ helps. She also

has authored hundreds of articles and stories for denominational magazines.

In 1983, Wheeler was invited to be editor of **Guide** magazine, the first woman to hold that position. Under her direction, **Guide** began to publish stories dealing with real-life problems. Three years later, Wheeler

became the first denominational book acquisitions editor. Among other accomplishments, she encouraged the Review and Herald Publishing Association to publish books targeted to women.

In 1994, Wheeler accepted a daunting challenge—starting a major new magazine especially for women. The barriers to making **Women of Spirit** a success were



substantial, so Wheeler steered a moderate course to insure the magazine's acceptance. As editor, she continues to show the world church how natural it is for a woman to be in ministry as she features women in ministry on the cover and as authors of articles of Biblical and spiritual instruction.

Wheeler is shy about her accomplishments, yet she has touched and influenced many in the Adventist Church for more than three decades. She is a warm, caring woman, open to learning and gifted as a writer and editor.

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