



Association of Adventist Women

Joan McCallister Bova

— Woman of the Year —

Church Life

2001

Joan McCallister Bova is a motivating and enthusiastic speaker who captivates audiences wherever she goes. She specializes in the area of disability ministry, and her humorous, optimistic presentations are breaking down barriers and raising awareness in churches across North America.

Bova contracted rheumatoid arthritis when she was twelve, and she now uses a wheelchair for mobility—but that hasn't slowed her down! Eleven years ago, Bova recruited a team in the Florida Conference to address the needs of people with disabilities. Since then the ministry has grown, and Bova has traveled throughout the United States volunteering her time

and talent. Disability Awareness Sabbaths share Bova's mission of reaching out to all persons.

Bova is the Disabilities Ministries Director for the Florida Conference and Southern Union and Assistant Disability Ministries Director for the North American Division (NAD). She is also an elder, women's ministries director, young adult Sabbath School leader, Pathfinder counselor, and church clerk.

Since her husband is unable to work because of a stroke, Bova supports her family. They have been foster parents to many children during the past eighteen years—most recently to two abused sisters. After living with



Joan and Phil for three years, a decision had to be made—to send the sisters to another foster family, or to adopt them. The couple adopted two teenagers!

Rosa Taylor Banks, Office of Human Relations, General Conference of SDA, says of Joan: “She is not disabled, she just utilizes a wheelchair.”

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