



Association of Adventist Women

# Donna Lugenbeal Habenicht

— Woman of the Year —

Family Life

2001

Right after graduation from Andrews University, Donna Jeanne Lugenbeal married Herald Habenicht and the couple moved to Loma Linda, CA, where he began medical school. As soon as Herald completed his residency, the couple went to Puerto Rico as missionaries.

Habenicht soon realized that only two of the 80 Adventist churches on the island did anything special for children. In less than two months, she was giving workshops and demonstrating how to prepare compelling children's Sabbath School programs and lessons. More than 35 years later, she's still directing seminars—around the world!

Habenicht earned both M.A. and Ed.D. degrees. At Andrews University she taught and chaired the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology. She also established a private counseling practice, which she continues.

The highlight of her career was the

development of the children's materials for Net 98. She pulled together a team of teachers, drama experts, and musicians to create a program unequalled in Adventist outreach to children.

Although she enjoyed a busy career, Habenicht gave her family priority and consideration. She didn't begin graduate studies until her youngest child was 13.



Even then, she wouldn't take night classes because, she said, "Teenagers shouldn't be home alone. I might miss the one time they really wanted to talk."

Herald A. Habenicht, husband of 47 years said of Donna: "Her lifetime focus has been children, especially their spiritual development. At age 11, she was teaching a Kindergarten Sabbath School class."

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