



Association of Adventist Women

Rose Niesen Otis

— Woman of the Year —

Church Life

2003

Known as an international visionary leader, Rose Otis became the first woman to serve as a division vice president in the Adventist Church when she was elected Vice President of the North American Division. Responsible for overseeing a staff of thirteen ministries, she dedicated herself to improving policies of all people in positions of leadership to become more actively involved in the Gospel commission. In 1998 she continued this important work as Vice President of the Texas Conference.

During 1986-1990, as representatives of the General Conference, Rose, along with her husband, Harold, made twenty-two trips to the former Soviet Union to work with the Adventist

Church. Their work in the USSR involved negotiating with government officials, overseeing various projects, and raising funds to build churches and the first Protestant seminary and church-owned publishing house in the USSR in seventy years.



In 1990 Rose left her Soviet Affairs post to accept the challenge of developing a ministry for and by women in the world church. Under her impressive leadership as the first Director of the Office of Women's Ministries, Rose laid the infrastructure to obtain women directors and conduct leadership training in each of the twelve divisions of the Church. Likewise, she

formulated a task force to determine how women can be enabled to be more fully involved in the varied aspects of the Church, including public evangelism. Thus, at present, thousands of women around the world are involved, not merely as greeters and registrars, but as organizers and lay-preachers, which has resulted in 500,556 baptisms since 1992. Also, Rose initiated and edited the first six editions of the **Women's Devotional Book** series. To date the royalties have created 708 scholarships for enhancing the careers of young women in varied areas of spiritual leadership.

A unique composite of quixotic ideas, organizational skills, and a dreamer of dreams. Rose is truly a world leader who creates opportunities and occasions for women of every age, culture, and language to minister for God.

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