



Association of Adventist Women

# Ardis Dick Stenbakken

— Woman of the Year —

Distinguished Service

2005

Ardis Dick Stenbakken was raised in the Philippines and China, married a military chaplain who moved often in the line of duty, and today brings an international perspective to her church and community leadership work. She began serving in the Women's Ministries area of the General Conference in 1994. The following year, when Women's Ministries became an official Department of the General Conference, Stenbakken became Associate Director, and two years later, the Director. Through her disciplined approach, Stenbakken has sharpened the focus of the Women's Ministries Department and has made her articulate voice heard on behalf of women in many church councils. She has served

on 19 major denominational committees, from the General Conference Executive Committee to the United Nations Liaison Committee. Through the devotional book project begun under Rose Otis, Stenbakken continued to raise resources which have now funded 829 scholarships for women committed to pastoral, health, educational and publishing ministries around the world. The Women's Ministries Scholarship Program is helping to empower women through education to reach their God-given potential. In addition to providing literacy seminars in the South America, Southern Asia, West-Central Africa, Southern-Asia Pacific, and South Pacific Divisions, Stenbakken has worked with the East Central Africa



Division Ministries Director to raise the funds necessary to construct a Women's Resource Center in Tanzania in memory of the 61 women who died in a train accident while returning from a women's ministries retreat. On the world stage, Stenbakken has taken an unhesitating stand in campaigns against gender-based violence, including domestic violence, female genital mutilation, sex-selective abortions, child prostitution, human trafficking and weak laws against rape. A high priority during her leadership of the Women's Ministries department has been evangelism. Through her participation and leadership, Women's Ministries has played a role in bringing 600,000 people to Christ. Stenbakken herself is an inspired evangelist, and she has been directly involved in more than 2,500 baptisms in countries as scattered as India, Africa, Indonesia, and South America. Stenbakken believes that when a woman understands the gospel she becomes empowered by the knowledge of her value in God's sight and then desires to equip herself to pass this liberating news on to others. Stenbakken is the mother of two grown children.

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