

# The Adventist WOMAN

THE ADVENTIST WOMAN  
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## Orlando Women Host AAW Annual Conference

For the third time, women in the Orlando, Florida, area hosted the annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women October 7-10, 1999. Under the



Phyllis Ware, secretary-treasurer of the Central States Conference, presents an inspiring devotional to kick off the pre-session.



Under the dynamic direction of Gail Murphy, Forest Lake Academy's New Generation Singers present a spirited musical program Sabbath afternoon.

experienced leadership of Sherri Craig, conference coordinator, a committee of nine planned a varied experience for more than 100 participants.

General sessions, seminars, drama, music, group discussions, agape feast, and shared meals offered abundant opportunities to examine the theme "Women of Passion: Celebrating the Past... Creating the Future" from different perspectives.

Inside this issue are dozens of photographs of the conference, most taken by official photographer Edna Gallington, assistant director of communication for the Southeastern California Conference, which sponsored her to the conference. Three participants also share observations about

their own experiences in Orlando.

"Although I wish more women and men could have attended, there was a good feeling of 'family' with a smaller group," one conference attendee said. "The small breakout sessions, 'Among Friends,' really encouraged us to express our own opinions and share our own experiences," she added.

"We want to acknowledge and thank Sherri Craig and her committee—Michelle Ayers, Serena Gui, Jackie Lindbeck, B.J. Phillips, Karen Spruill, Joyce Webb, Beverly Wirsz, and Lisa H. Ziegele—for their tireless work on this conference," said Alyce Pudewell, outgoing AAW president. "Their hard work made this conference a great success."

## Hodgkin Announced As AAW President

Alyce Pudewell, outgoing AAW president, announced the selection of Georgia Hodgkin as the new president during the Saturday night banquet in Orlando. Unfortunately, Hodgkin could not be present for the event.

Hodgkin's participation with AAW spans more than a decade. She became involved with the organization in 1986, the year she first served as chair of the finance committee for the annual conference, a role she accepted three times. In recent years she has also been active on the board of directors.

The biggest dream Hodgkin has for AAW is an international writing contest that would team up women theology students, theology faculty at Adventist colleges, and Adventist women pastors.

"What a marvelous group of trios we could have—women students, women theologians, women pastors—working together to articulate an Adventist theology of church and of ministry,"

Hodgkin says. "I started thinking about this idea when we were studying the Sabbath School lessons on the church, and Richard Rice pointed out this lack in our theology. He said that without these two foundations we don't have a theology of ordination."

Hodgkin would like to see AAW begin the dialog with the essay contest at all 95 Adventist institutions of higher education. "I'd like AAW to be able to offer a substantial amount of money to the participants so they could do something meaningful in their area," she says. Funding is the main obstacle she sees to this dream.

Hodgkin is a fellow of the American Dietetics Association and associate professor, department of nutrition and dietetics, School of Allied Health Professions, Loma Linda University. She leads a slate of distinguished officers for the association.

SEE COMPLETE OFFICER LIST  
ON PAGE 3

## SECC Executive Committee Seeks Fairness for Women & Men in Gospel Ministry

The Southeastern California Conference (SECC) executive committee voted on October 21, 1999, to adopt, in concept, a recommendation that improves fairness in how gospel ministers are recognized in its territory. The voice vote for the measure was enthusiastic and unanimous.

Conference officers indicate that the final wording of the action and supporting documents will be developed over the next few months. The SECC serves 60,000 Seventh-day Adventists living in a five-county area south and east of Los Angeles.

The decision came after a 13-month study by the Gender Inclusiveness Commission. In September 1998, the executive committee had asked the commission to develop proposals that would improve the recognition of women pastors. Women make up about 10

percent of the conference ministers. The commission is chaired by Penny Miller, a long-time member of the conference executive committee, and includes 25 lay persons, pastors, educators, theologians, department leaders, and administrators.

In recent years four congregations in SECC have ordained pastors to a ministry focused on their own local churches. While the conference was aware of these ordinations, the executive committee came to feel that a lack of uniformity in the criteria being applied to candidates and to the ceremony itself was problematic.

During a 45-minute discussion prior to the vote, the executive committee noted that the assumptions of early Christians and of early Adventists about ordination were quite similar. The historical initiative to ordain a person origi-

nated from those who were benefiting most from the ministry—the local congregation. At the same time, the executive committee acknowledged that the Seventh-day Adventist Church currently views ordination to gospel ministry as an authorization to serve any congregation anywhere.

The SECC adheres to the decision of the 1995 General Conference session in Utrecht that refrained from authorizing women's ordination to the ministry of the world-wide church. The conference also recognizes that it does not have the authority to ordain pastors for world service without the approval of the Pacific Union Conference and the North American Division.

However, the October 21 vote emphasizes that there is both



Gordon Retzer, president of the Florida Conference, and his wife, Cheryl, visit with Kit Watts, coordinator for "Women and the Word," before the Thursday session.

### Mark Your Calendar!

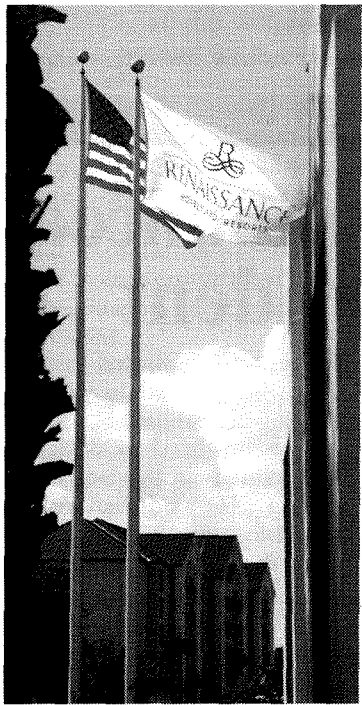
The 18th annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women will be held October 12-15, 2000, in the Sacramento, CA, area. Theme of the weekend is "One Light, Many Reflections: Women Passing the Flame."

"We want to emphasize women of many generations—try to get as many students and young women involved as possible," says Nancy Lecourt, conference organizer, who teaches at nearby Pacific Union College.

Watch this newsletter for further information and registration details.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# “Women and the Word” Balances Bible Study With Lively Panel, News of Women’s Success



The Renaissance Hotel-Airport in Orlando hosted the 17th annual conference for the Association of Adventist Women.

by Kit Watts, Director, Women’s Resource Center

Nearly 60 women and men participated in the second “Women and the Word” seminar sponsored by the La Sierra University Women’s Resource Center on October 7 as a pre-session to the Orlando AAW conference.

Women in ministry came from as far away as England, the Caribbean, California, Michigan, Washington State, Maryland, and Nebraska to focus on Scripture and discover new dimensions in the stories of Bible women.

Gordon Retzer, president of the Florida Conference, brought the largest delegation to the seminar—16 women, many of whom hold administrative positions in the Florida Conference, including Patricia Shanko, director of women’s ministries.

Two other men joined Retzer—Noel Shanko, ministerial director, and Jorge Mayer, vice-president for Spanish ministries. Retzer greeted the conference, “We welcome you to our Conference and

thank you for inviting us to be with you today.”

Sessions requiring careful Bible study and analysis were interspersed with question-and-answer periods, news reports, spontaneous interviews with people in the audience, and a lively, even poignant panel discussion.

### Eyewitness News

• *Sharon Cress*, associate director of the GC Ministerial Association, reported on women pastors she has recently met in other parts of the world. Regardless of what title they are given—or not given—Cress pointed out that these remarkable women are carrying pastoral, evangelistic, and leadership responsibilities in surprising places—Fiji, Papua New Guinea, India, and Indonesia.

• *Duane Schoonard*, newly appointed associate director of the NAD Ministerial Association, described her split job as an associate pastor on the campus of Southern Adventist University, and her new assignment as a networker with NAD women in ministry. NAD pays her to perform this

work in a period of three hours each week. “The division admits this is an experiment,” Schoonard said. “There are three men who are also staying in their congregations but trying to do a national ministry at the same time.” Schoonard has worked both as a pastor and a hospital chaplain, most recently in Florida.

### Personal and Professional Views

For many, a highlight of the day was a fascinating panel discussion on “Issues for Adventist Women in Leadership,” chaired by *Adeny Schmidt*, vice-president for academic administration at La Sierra University.

Each of the six panel members told personal stories of the challenges and obstacles they have faced in their profession as “the first” or as “a token” woman. Other issues that surfaced were: late-in-life career changes, juggling motherhood and jobs, lack of encouragement for going into leadership, the need for models and mentors, and getting the same education and training as men receive.

Panel members included *Monica Reed*, physician living in Alabama; *Phyllis Ware*, secretary-treasurer of the Central States Conference; *Carmen Ibanez*, Hispanic pastor; *Halcyon Wilson*, assistant to the president of the Southeastern California Conference for women in ministry; *Penny Shell*, hospital chaplain and department director; and *Adeny Schmidt*.

• *The Caananite woman—who cleverly and courageously surmounts barriers to gain Jesus’ help.* *Phyllis Ware* opened the conference with a powerful devotional that focused on the encounter of Jesus and the Caananite woman. “This woman, who so much wanted her daughter to be healed, faced almost insurmountable barriers,” Ware pointed out. “Not only did she face the gender and culture barrier as a woman and a non-Jew, but she also faced the color barrier (being a woman of color) and a religious barrier, for she was a despised heathen. Nobody wanted to talk to her! The disciples were determined that she wouldn’t get near Jesus.”



Sharon Cress, associate director of the ministerial association of the GC, shares stories of women carrying pastoral and evangelistic responsibilities in places such as Fiji, Indonesia, and India.



Beatrice Neall, retired professor of religion at Union College, reads a theological paper on the divine model of male-female relationships.



Jean Sheldon, assistant professor of religion at Pacific Union College, discusses Judges 19-21 in her Scripture study.



Merikay McLeod, professional writer, shares literary insights into the Judah-Tamar story of Genesis 38.



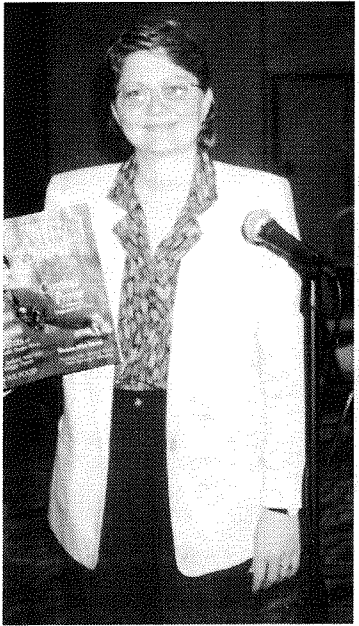
Duane Schoonard, associate pastor of the campus church at Southern Adventist University, reports on her new parttime duties as associate director of the NAD ministerial association.



Leadership issues is the topic for an engaging panel featuring Penny Shell, Halcyon Wilson, Carmen Ibanez, Adeny Schmidt (chair), Phyllis Ware, Monica Parisee Reed, and Kit Watts (at podium).



Drene Somasundram, who has pastored in England for more than 11 years, traveled to the United States especially to attend "Women and the Word" and the AAW conference.



Heide Ford, associate editor of *Women of Spirit*, shares news about the denomination's only magazine focused exclusively on women.

Ware admitted that the words Jesus used in addressing this woman were harsh. He used the typical terminology that Jews applied to Caananites, referring to her as a "dog." At the same time, Ware emphasized, Jesus put Himself in a place where He could meet this woman and hear her case. He listened sympathetically. He clearly admired her clever response to His put-down. And He granted her request. More than that, Jesus commended her determination to overcome barriers and commended what lay beneath it—faith.

• *The Levite and his concubine—a woman whose innocent suffering and death prefigures Christ.* The terrifying story of the Levite and his concubine in Judges 19 is a Bible passage many people never read and, if they do, they try to forget it. It is a story of abandonment, betrayal, rape, mutilation, battle, war, and deceit upon deceit.

Jean Sheldon, assistant professor of religion at Pacific Union College and an Old Testament scholar, did nothing in her presentation to lessen the story's darkness. Sheldon argued persuasively that this "tragic story finds its place in Scripture only to prepare the readers to recognize the human need for redemption." She also pointed out that several elements in the concubine's terrible mistreatment and death prefigure Jesus' innocence in the midst of evil persecutors, and His death on the cross.

**Old Testament Story**

• *The Judah-Tamar story—a woman's story prefigures Joseph's losses and successes.* Looking at Genesis 38 from a literary viewpoint, Merikay McLeod, a professional writer living in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, presented a paper suggesting that Tamar's dramatic losses and surprising final triumph foreshadow the outcome of Joseph's life story.

Some scholars see the Judah-Tamar story as an "interruption"

of the lengthy Joseph narrative, she said. Others are willing to call it an "enhancement." McLeod sees Tamar's story as having startling—and meaningful—parallels with Joseph's. Step by step she reminded the audience that both Tamar and Joseph experienced banishment, deception, achievement, threats to life, triumph, and rescue.

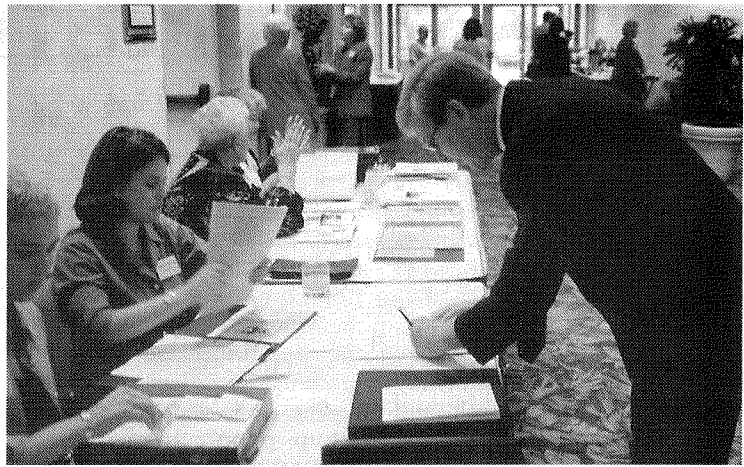
In addition, McLeod said, Judah is forced to admit that Tamar is righteous, a designation that many people even today don't give her. She also argued that Tamar, a woman without legal power or standing, so dramatically challenged Judah's callousness and rigidity that he experienced a character change. Without this amazing change, we could not explain his consideration for his father and for Benjamin in Genesis 44.

**God and Male-Female Relationships**

Thousands of books and articles have been written attempting to demonstrate from the Bible how men and women should behave. Beatrice Neall, retired professor of religion from Union College, avoided the usual "proof texts" and instead looked for a model in the relationships of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Neall said that the Bible indicates that the Godhead works jointly and equally. "Leadership roles are fluid," she said, "and members find fulfillment in doing the will of each other." Neall believes that the Godhead has headship with the Father as CEO, but she added that "the nature of headship is radically different from common human practice."

Based on these observations about God, Neall urged that men and women should follow this model in their own relationships, including marriage. For example, "Roles can be fluid, depending on individual expertise. And both men and women should participate in the decision-making process."



Jorge Mayer, Florida Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries, registers with the assistance of Jessica Kim (far left) and Maritza Duran Meza, student assistants for the Women's Resource Center at La Sierra University.



Lourdes Silva and Penny Miller traveled from California to Florida to attend.



Iris Yob challenges listeners during her keynote address Thursday night.



Clarrissa Worley presents the Friday morning devotional.

**Seeking Fairness for Ministerial Workers**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

great value in and a biblical precedent for a local congregation's initiative to ordain its pastor. The SECC decision is designed to standardize what has been taking place in local churches. The conference will affirm only the ordinations of those who have met conference requirements. These standards will be applied equally to male and female candidates, and each will receive the same credential.

The executive committee reiterated its commitment to support the ongoing mission of the eleven-million-member Seventh-day Adventist Church. "We recognize that Adventists represent many

cultures," said Lynn Mallery, SECC president. "Church members also come from a variety of backgrounds and may view the issue differently.

"We respect our fellow believers elsewhere. We hope that our fellow believers will also respect our moral conviction that men and women in this conference who are equally qualified and have had fruitful ministries should be treated in the same way."

The executive committee concluded its discussion by asking the Gender Inclusiveness Commission and conference officials to further develop the concepts voted on October 21 by preparing documents that spell out the new guidelines and procedures.

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# AAW Conference Highlights

by Maritza Duran-Meza, Student, La Sierra University

Attending "Women and the Word," sponsored by La Sierra University's Women's Resource Center (WRC), and the 17th annual Association of Adventist Women (AAW) Conference at Orlando, FL, was a thought-provoking experience. For me, three remarkable women—Merikay McLeod, Jackie Lindbeck, and Brenda Blackmon Wood—brought to light important messages for young women and men.

On Thursday afternoon, during the pre-conference session "Women and the Word," McLeod presented an essay on the Judah-Tamar story of Genesis 38. McLeod began by reading this empowering story of Tamar's strength and courage. McLeod argued that the breakaway passage of the Judah-Tamar story is used by the writer of the Joseph narrative to bring hope to its readers. The story does this through portraying a strong female figure who uses the resources available to her to survive. McLeod's refreshing new look at this passage challenged listeners to examine the Bible closer for strong characters to whom they can look.

Friday afternoon during the conference Jackie Lindbeck presented an eye-opening seminar called "Homosexuality—Is Choice or Change Possible?" Lindbeck demonstrated respect and sensitivity while approaching a delicate issue within the Seventh-day Adventist community. She provided the audience with an immense amount of information.

Lindbeck's main point, however, was a call for compassion and understanding. She challenged everyone in the room to open her heart and to be inclusive. Ultimately it doesn't matter whether homosexuality is a choice—people are not to judge one another but rather to provide love. Lindbeck challenged her listeners to put aside prejudices and live as Jesus gave the example—providing "family" for everyone, even outcasts of society.

Sunday morning Blackmon Wood brought the conference to a close with an inspiring message. Blackmon Wood is part of a new local church in the Atlanta area, which wants to be part of both the White and Black Seventh-day Adventist conferences. The moti-

vation and goal of the church are to open its doors and "let people out" instead of opening its doors to "let people in." Blackmon Wood explained that Christians should not expect people to look for them, but should go out and share the special message of love and grace that Jesus has given.

She explained that a diverse group—people from different backgrounds, ages, races, classes, and gender—are needed to touch a diverse society. In order to share a message, that message must be relevant to people's needs. People sharing the message should be able to identify with and connect with a diverse population.

Blackmon Wood's message was challenging for women and men because it asks them to work together to spread God's love and grace. She mentioned that members shouldn't occupy themselves with frivolous issues—such as jewelry or what should be worn to church—but rather focus on the bigger picture and allow people to decide some issues through their

own relationship with Christ.

McLeod, Lindbeck, and Blackmon Wood presented refreshing and challenging messages for women and men of diverse backgrounds. "Women of Passion: Celebrating the Past...Creating the Future" was a thought-provoking conference.

Speakers presented a variety of perspectives and viewpoints. However, it lacked an ingredient necessary for complete success—real diversity. As one of the five student attendees, I wished more young people—both women and men—could have participated. Furthermore, as a minority, I would have liked the conference to discuss issues of race and class and to be available to a more diverse audience.

The conference was a growing experience for me. I realized there is more work ahead of us than I had imagined! It can be accomplished, however, if we keep Christ as our ultimate role model and work together as the diverse community we are.



Longtime friend Bernie Beck (right) introduced Sabbath afternoon speaker Ifeoma Kwesi, pastor of the Palo Alto, CA, church. Here they relax together after the service.



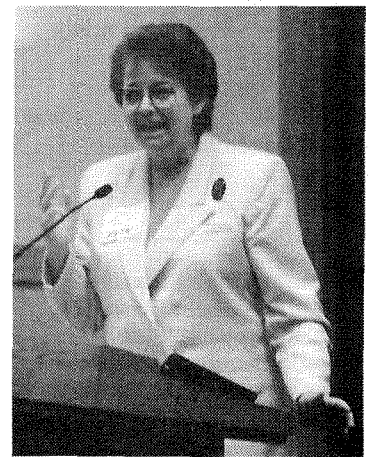
Karen Spruill leads a Sunday morning panel on mentoring: Cherie Smith, Sandra Randolph, and Clarissa Worley.



President Alyce Pudewell thanks conference organizer Sherri Craig and her Orlando-area committee: Karen Spruill, Joyce Webb, and Serena Gui.



Following major presentations, breakout groups give participants opportunity to discuss the topic "Among Friends."



Felicia Phillips, Women's Ministries Director of the Central American Union, engages the audience with her mission presentation.



Glenda Joliffe of Walla Walla, WA, outlines major steps in the ongoing struggle for ordination of Adventist women pastors.



Worshippers fill the ballroom for the Sabbath morning worship service. Karin Lundburg from Sweden, now a student at the SDA Theological Seminary, preaches on "Mother of Passion."

A not-so-youthful radical discovers Adventist women still have experiences to share

## Stories of Passion

by Rosemary Watts, Walla Walla, WA

Thirty years ago I sat in a room with some angry friends, all of us dedicated in our church membership and new in our Adventist employment (which happened to be at the General Conference/Review and Herald complex in Takoma Park, MD).

We were angry specifically about the way the corporate church treated its women and, generally, about its treatment of anyone who questioned the way it conducted business. I remember someone in our small group asking, "How long do you think we will fight? Is this just a youthful passion? Do you think we will give this up and behave like the women down the hall?"

This fall I attended the AAW conference, which boldly billed itself as "Women of Passion." I heard stories that I never would have heard 30 years ago. It was exhilarating to hear passionate Adventist women tell stories regarding Christian issues—in addition to the mission stories, which women have always been expected to tell.

### "Prayer in the Sanctuary"

And leave it to a woman to make the sanctuary doctrine easily understood. On Friday night, suffering from jet lag, I watched a thoughtful presentation in which Joyce Webb stepped through the symbols of the wilderness sanctuary. She moved to the candlestick and acknowledged that Jesus was the Light of the world and asked that she could show that light to those around her. She stopped by the table of shewbread and prayed that she could eat the Bread of Life and willingly share it with others. At the altar of incense she prayed that her life would be sweet to others because of what Jesus had done for her. I wondered why it all had to be so complicated, when she made it all so simple.

### A Tale of Two Finches

On Sabbath morning Cherie Smith described God's call to be a chaplain with her own ministry at Southern Adventist University. Then she slowed down her husband's career advance to the presidency of Union College while seeking God's will for her life. Was this call to Nebraska to be the end of her ministry, when God had so clearly placed her where she was? How selfish was it to ask God for her own call so she and her husband both could know what the future was? Did her role as wife preclude expecting anything ahead of time—just follow your husband and then take what you get?

During this struggle, Cherie's husband, David, was reporting seeing a male purple finch on their bird feeder—a somewhat rare sight. Cherie petulantly responded that she would go when

she saw the female feeding together with the male. Through the difficult days David kept seeing the single bird. Finally one day he reported to Cherie that both male and female were feeding together earlier in the day.

"Yes, but I didn't see them." Her questioning continued until the day she got the call to be associate pastor of the college church at Lincoln. That day she saw the two purple finches feeding together.

### "And Still I Rise"

Ifeoma Qwesi, pastor of the Palo Alto, CA, church, used the phrase, "and still I rise," repeatedly in her narrative. She described integrating an academy in one of the southern states back in 1962. She was only 13 and a freshman. Her parents bought wood to nail over holes in the attic that was to be her dorm room. She told of teachers demanding pelvic examinations of the black girls and of finding feces smeared in her bed.

Her wise and loving parents helped and encouraged her to stay the year. ("And still I rise.") That academy no longer exists.

More recently Ifeoma and Karen Spruill saw a serious need for a support group for Andrews University young women who had been abused. They asked the university only for the space in which to meet. They were denied space with the comment that there was no need for such a meeting. The group found space off campus. ("And still I rise.")

But her narratives, passionate though they were, were not an end in themselves. She defined equality from Scripture—"Love your neighbor as yourself"—and preached on peacemaking, developing the anagram PEACEMAKERS.

Pray  
Exercise  
Act immediately—an attitude  
"Carefront" (Confront)  
Encourage  
Master your pride  
Awaken your principles  
Kill complacency  
Examine the Bible  
Resolve  
Sensitize all involved

### Reunion With Merikay

Having lived through the time when Merikay McLeod sued the Pacific Press for equal pay, I was surprised that so many Adventist women haven't heard about that bit of church history. I was thrilled to see Merikay at the conference, because I believe I would not be hearing Cherie or Karen or Ifeoma speaking so eloquently had not Merikay taken a stand on financial equality in the early 70s.

### Inequality Creates Questions

During the closing plenary session, I was startled to learn from Brenda Blackmon Wood that in



Merikay McLeod shares her "Personal Memories and Lessons for the Future: The Pacific Press Case" in a well attended Friday morning seminar.

some parts of the United States a racially mixed congregation must choose to align with either a Black or White conference. A congregation can't just become a member of the "sisterhood of churches."

Perhaps the women of the church can still be passionate about equality. Inequality allows for many questions of the corporate church.

Why do we have in the United States different colors of conferences? And if they are such a good idea, why don't we also have Hispanic and Oriental conferences? Why are women still not equal in Adventist gospel ministry? Why are women now held to certain wage scales by the titles they are not allowed to carry? Why are so many of the women placed in "women's ministry" positions op-

posed to the equality of women in pastoral ministry?

I loved seeing that my friends and many others were still pas-

sionate, even though not still youthful. The concerns of 30 years ago have changed and broadened, but the vision is as bright as it was.



Conference planners B.J. Phillips and Serena Gui staff the registration table.

## Creating a Forum Where Women Connect

by Jessica Kim, Student, La Sierra University

Perhaps the most important aspect of the 1999 AAW Conference was the forum it created for Adventist women from across the country to draw together and connect. For Adventist women—traditionally discouraged from taking active church leadership roles—the conference offered a unique and fulfilling opportunity to express their frustrations and desires. The programs, which included presentations by a diverse and accomplished group of women, provided conference participants with a spiritually uplifting, academically insightful, and personally fulfilling experience.

As a young Adventist woman, I found the conference an engaging and informative experience. It was wonderful to encounter so many supportive, active, intellectual, sympathetic women. The conference presentations, homilies, panels, testimonies, and discussions exposed me to the issues and concerns faced by contemporary women in Adventism. Although all the presentations were insightful and well planned, the weekend held several highlights for me.

"Women and the Word" provided an academically rigorous and stimulating program. In particular, I enjoyed Jean Sheldon's presentation, "Reading the Bad in Our Story: A Pre-Requisite to Re-

demption." In her paper, Sheldon, an assistant professor of religion at Pacific Union College, drew an interesting comparison between the story of the murdered concubine in Judges and the redemptive figure of Christ. According to Sheldon, "Indeed not a few elements of the story align themselves to the events of crucifixion. It is the difference between the Levite's concubine and the Jesus hanging from the cross that speaks of our redemption."

I also enjoyed Merikay McLeod's presentation on Genesis 38. Applying literary analysis to the Judah-Tamar story, McLeod drew a fascinating parallel between the experiences of Tamar and the larger Joseph narrative. Both of these papers provided an academic and scholarly analysis and interpretation of the stories of Old Testament women.

Jackie Lindbeck's presentation on homosexuality was also exceptional. Approaching the controversial issue, Lindbeck presented an overwhelming amount of information about factors contributing to homosexuality (genetic and environmental), the church's position on homosexuality, and homophobia in general. Her presentation clearly criticized the conservative stance of the church, repudiating it with scientific data and the inclusive message of Jesus Christ.

The conference included a variety of engaging presentations. The participants included women with diverse backgrounds from across the country. However, while I appreciated listening to and interacting with these women, the conference seemed to lack a meaningful discussion of contemporary social issues.

For example, there was little discussion of issues of class and even gender. These categories appear, to me, the most important factors influencing our selves and our lives. Despite their significance, however, we failed to address them in meaningful discourse. I was excited about the group of women that gathered, interested in the presentations, but disappointed by the lack of meaningful discussion.

I was also disappointed by the lack of young women present at the conference. In the interest of accomplishing the explicit goal of the conference, "Celebrating the Past...Creating the Future," it seems imperative to have more young participants. As one of the few young women at the conference, I feel that it is vitally important to the future of AAW and the Adventist church to incorporate the voices of a younger generation to ensure a future for both the church and the organization.

# An Elegant Night to Remember: Women-of-the-Year Banquet Honors Seven



Women of the Year honorees are (left to right): Phyllis M. Ware, Jocelyn Fay, Carolina Castillo Rose, Arlene McFarland, Beulah F. Stevens, and Elisabeth Ann Wear. Thesba N. Johnston was unable to attend because she was teaching English in China.



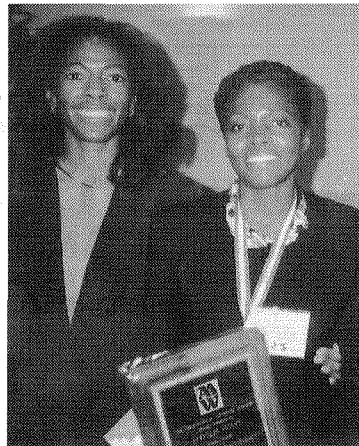
The Forest Lake Academy String Ensemble, directed by Rhonda Burnham, provides classical dinner entertainment.



In Jocelyn Fay's acceptance speech for Woman of the Year Church Life Award, she said that now that her parents have both died, her "family" is her friends. Here Jocey (front row, center) is surrounded by her "family." Front row: Ann Gibson, left, and Merikay McLeod. Back row: Jane Allen, Penny Shell, Rosemary Watts, and Pat Benton.



Beth Wear, Woman of the Year for Family Life, enjoys the moment with Betty Howard, longtime friend and first AAW president.



Patricia Mosley traveled from Chicago to share the special evening with her sister, Phyllis M. Ware, Woman of the Year, Outstanding Achievement Award.



Round tables at the Women of the Year banquet encourage circles of friendship.



Penny and Don Miller, faithful attendees at AAW conferences, both teach at Loma Linda University and are co-chairs of the board of advisors for the Women's Resource Center.



Beulah Stevens, Woman of the Year for Spiritual Life, also gave the devotional Sunday morning.



Diners help themselves at the bountiful buffet.



L. J. Hughes of Vallejo, CA, comments on the recommendation being discussed during the Sunday morning business meeting.

## Recommendations

*To the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:*

1. Voted: To recommend that several women be included among those speaking for devotionals and features at General Conference sessions, beginning with the year 2000.

*To the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists:*

1. Voted: To recommend that the Sabbath School Department be sensitive to the gender diversity of church members by using inclusive language in all its publications and to refrain from publishing quarterly lessons with titles such as "The Nature of Man."

2. Voted: To urge the NAD Ministerial Association to facilitate the appointment of women to positions in ministry and church leadership by providing to conference officers throughout the NAD information about qualified women currently employed or seeking ministerial positions.

3. Voted: To urge the NAD Women's Ministries Department to compile a list of resources, including speakers, that would be available to Women's Ministries coordinators at the local and conference levels.

4. Voted: To recommend that the officers of NAD consider ways to support and encourage the ordination of qualified women as gospel ministers.

5. Voted: To urge the NAD Women's Ministries Department that the contributions Adventist women are making to the church be documented by collecting data on the number of women who hold positions as decision-makers in local churches (for example, as elders), conferences (on executive committees or as conference leaders), and unions (on such committees as the executive board, and boards of academies and colleges).

6. Voted: To urge the NAD union presidents to reaffirm and implement their statement "Commitment to Women in Gospel Ministry" as voted by the NAD union presidents on October 13, 1995, and to set up a plan to educate the laity about this issue.

*To the Association of Adventist Women:*

1. Voted: To recommend that the Association cooperate with the North American Division and the General Conference Women's Ministries Department to achieve their mutual goals of

- a. Promoting Biblical equality;
- b. Supporting women in leadership.

2. Voted: To recommend that AAW

locate women who are on all types of academy and college boards, or who hold executive positions and leadership roles in conferences and unions, for the purpose of inviting these women to become members of the Association and to insure that they receive a sample copy of the newsletter.

3. Voted: To recommend that AAW have available at the next annual conference in 2000 literature packets containing documents such as those prepared by the Gender Inclusive Committee of Southeastern California Conference and by the Adventist Women's Coalition of Walla Walla, with masters of the publications for reproduction by interested attendees.

*To Loma Linda University:*

Voted: To recommend that the university reconsider its motto "To make man whole," in light of its gender-biased language, and choose a similar but gender inclusive motto for use in representing its mission.

*To Adventist Colleges and Universities in North America:*

Voted: To request that each college and university sponsor at least one female student to the annual AAW conference.

## Commendations

*To the Seventh-day Adventist Health Care Chaplain's Association:*

Voted: To express appreciation to the Seventh-day Adventist Health Care Chaplains' Association for its vote, repeated for many years, to affirm the full partnership of women and men in ministry, including ordination of women to gospel ministry.

And especially to thank them for voting during their meeting in Kansas City in March 1999 to donate \$1,000 to TEAM, to "put their money where their mouth is" in supporting the publication and distribution of the book *The Welcome Table*.

*To the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists:*

1. Voted: To commend the NAD for hiring Duane Schoonard as part-time as-

sociate director of the Ministerial Association and request that her position be made full-time in the new quinquennium.

2. Voted: To commend the NAD for electing Debra Brill as Vice President for Ministries and as Director of the Church Resources Consortium, and for electing Mary Maxson as director of the Women's Ministries Department.

*To the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:*

Voted: To commend the General Conference for including women as devotional speakers at the 1995 General Conference Session in Utrecht.

*To the Pacific Union Conference:*

Voted: To commend the Pacific Union Conference for officially "receiving" the complete list of women recommended for ordination by the Southeastern California Conference between 1989 and 1999.

*To the Central States Conference:*

Voted: To commend the Central States Conference for appointing Phyllis Ware as secretary-treasurer and for the confidence they placed in her when she served as acting president.

*To the Southeastern California Conference:*

1. Voted: To commend the Southeastern California Conference for appointing Halycon Wilson as assistant to the president for women in ministry.

2. Voted: To commend the Southeastern California Conference for providing Nancy Vyhmeister's book *Women in Ministry* to all pastors, administrators, academy Bible teachers, conference executive committee members and other interested parties in the conference (buying a total of 400 copies).

*To Florida Hospital:*

Voted: To commend and express appreciation to Florida Hospital for its generous \$3,000 donation to support the 1999 conference of the Association of Adventist Women.

*To the Florida Conference:*

Voted: To commend the Florida Conference for sending 17 employees to participate on Thursday, October 7, in the

pre-session Women and the Word, and to President Gordon Retzer, Ministerial Director Noel Shanko, and Vice President for Spanish Ministries Jorge Mayer for supporting the event by their presence.

*To La Sierra University:*

Voted: To commend La Sierra University for its continuing support for the Women's Resource Center, including its commitment to provide larger, more centrally located space for the center.

*To Andrews University:*

Voted: To commend Andrews University for selecting six women administrators:

Pat Mutch, Vice President for Academic Administration

Linda Thorman, Graduate Dean and Associate Vice President for Administration

Karen Graham, Dean of the School of Education

Ann Gibson, Dean of the School of Business

Merlene Ogden, Dean of Affiliations and Extensions

Linda Wysong, Director of Human Relations

*To Other Universities and Colleges of the Seventh-day Adventist Church:*

1. Voted: To commend the board of trustees for Loma Linda University for selecting Lisa Beardsley as Vice President for Academic Affairs.

2. Voted: To commend Newbold College for selecting Andrea Luxton as principal.

3. Voted: To commend Antillean Adventist University for selecting Myrna Contreras as president and Myrna Costa as Vice President for Development, Alumni, and Public Relations.

4. Voted: To commend Taiwan Adventist College for selecting Alice Magarang as Vice President for Development.

5. Voted: To commend Southwestern Adventist University for selecting Marie Redwine as Vice President for Academic Administration.

6. Voted: To commend Southern Adventist University for appointing Katie Lamb as Associate Vice President for Academic Administration.



Penny Miller of Colton, CA, awaits her turn at the microphone while Bille Burdick of Ooltewah, TN, speaks at the business meeting.

# Adventist Women Pastors Meet in Oslo, Norway

Eighteen Adventist women pastors in the Trans-European Division (TED) met September 24-26, 1999, at the Sundøya Fjordhotel, Norway, for a weekend of professional development and fellowship. The first of its kind in the TED, the meeting was organized by Pastors Terje Bjerka, East Norway Conference president, and Peter Roennfeldt, TED ministerial association secretary. Women from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Great Britain attended.

The meeting was received positively by both the attendees and the main Christian newspaper in Norway, *Vaart Land*, which featured a front-page picture of guest speaker, Hyveth Williams, senior pastor of the Campus Hill Church

in Loma Linda, CA. A full-page article featured additional pictures and interviews.

Williams reflected on the fact that there are almost 20,000 pastors for the 10 million Adventists and only 200 female pastors. "We are 10 years behind other churches in this aspect," she said. She also said that as a black female pastor in her 1,500-member church she has not met any resistance because of her race or gender.

Astrid Hovden, female pastor of the Fredrikstad Adventist church in Norway, said, "I am thankful to God for the ministry He has given me. In practical ministry, ordination usually doesn't make any difference, but it certainly would be a great encourage-

ment if women were also ordained. The present situation is an artificial wall of separation between men and women."

Like Williams, Hovden has not met any resistance towards female pastors in her church. She even considers it an advantage being a woman pastor because the members seem to relate more naturally to her, "forgetting" that she is formally a pastor.

Williams and Hovden agree that the September meeting was historic and will have long-lasting effects in the worldwide church. Bjerka and Roennfeldt say that the pastors themselves set the agenda for the meeting, addressing issues that may be given little attention by male pastors.

## A Tribute to Alyce Pudewell

# Catalyst for Change

by Elisabeth Wear, Past President

Since its inception, Alyce Pudewell has been an integral part of the Association of Adventist Women. The first national conference—held in Takoma Park, MD, in 1983—featured Alyce as the keynote speaker. Her title, "Two Sides of the Coin: Ensuring the Future," pointed out that while the church must include female leadership, women must acquire the education and mindset necessary to fill those positions. She challenged the organization to facilitate making the church family culture more open to change.

Sixteen years later, she herself has been a role model and a catalyst for change. At its conference in Orlando, Alyce stepped down as president of the Association of Adventist Women, a position she held from 1996 to 1999, leaving the organization stronger for her leadership.

Alyce is no stranger to hard work. When she retired from the Pacific Union Conference September 1996, where she served as Associate Director for Curriculum and Instruction in the Education Department, some on the board had the idea she might have more time for the job of president of AAW. In fact, her pace only increased; within three months of retirement, Alyce was not only a full-time graduate student, she had also secured a full-time teaching position.

Since becoming president, Alyce has completed her credentials in Special Education as a

Resource Specialist for children with mild to moderate learning disabilities, and continues to teach for the Fontana Unified Public School District in Southern California.

Alyce is also not afraid of innovative ideas. After chairing the 1996 AAW conference held in Riverside, CA, at the Mission Inn, it was announced at the final session that she would be the next AAW president. Some of us held our breath when Alyce presented one of her dreams—that the next AAW conference be a tour on wheels.

Next fall the AAW conference was a journey into history. The historic bus tour of early Adventist sites commemorated the key contribution women made to establishing and building up the Adventist Church. More than 50 women and men enjoyed a spectacular New England fall tour envisioned by Alyce Pudewell and coordinated by Kit Watts.

The second major challenge facing Alyce in her presidency was that of chairing a monthly meeting of the AAW national board with all of the members of the board—except Alyce—residing on the East Coast. Getting reports e-mailed and faxed ahead of time, coordinating schedules across three time zones, and even hearing each other on multiple speaker phones proved difficult. Ultimately it led to the third and most challenging aspect of Alyce's administration—moving the headquarters of the national office from Maryland to California.



For some time the national board had felt that a more global emphasis could be facilitated if the board could be located in Loma Linda. During the fall of 1997 the AAW moved from Takoma Park to La Sierra, CA. Alyce found people and created systems to keep the organization functioning during its transition period.

Alyce has long felt that AAW has been a catalyst for many positive changes in the church. Our heartfelt thanks go to Alyce for the many positive changes she herself has helped to facilitate. Her effective leadership has moved the organization forward. Her insightful communiqués have reminded us of our mission. Her energetic and capable chairing of board meetings, national resolutions committees, and national conventions will long be remembered.

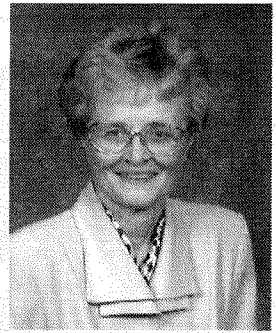
### Past AAW Presidents

Betty Howard	1983-1987
Nancy Marter	1987-1991
Peggy Harris	1991-1993
Elisabeth Wear	1993-1995
Nancy Marter	1995
Betty Howard	1995-1996
Alyce Pudewell	1996-1999

## Presidential Communiqué

# In One Generation

by Georgia Hodgkin, AAW President



With all the Y2K excitement, have you asked what your grandparents were doing when Y2K Minus 100 dawned? They most likely were there, as were mine. John (1884-1967) would have been 16 in Iowa and Inez (1886-1965) would have been 14 in the same county; both the children of recent immigrants from Norway and England. On Mother's side, at 8 years and 6 years, Einar and Myrtle might not have had such clear memories of the turn of the century. On January 1, 1900, a North Dakota winter day would have been similar to the Sweden and Norway their parents had left not too long ago.

Incredible changes occurred in the lifetimes of these four. Edison invented the phonograph just seven years before John was born, and Edison's light bulb finally worked—after 10,000 tries—five years before John's birth. Yet electricity did not come to the prairie until 1946. When Einar was 4, Henry T. Ford introduced his first automobile in 1896. Olds, too, came on the market in 1896; Einar supported his family of 10 as a mechanic at the Olds dealership in Drake until his death in 1938.

By 1914 John and Inez Willey had homesteaded two quarters and bought two more 10 miles south of the Canada/North Dakota border. Horses and threshing machines were replaced by tractors in the 1940s, although all-purpose tractors were designed by 1920. The grandsons now farm those acres with tractors equipped with air-conditioning, televisions, and CD players.

Fertilizers have boosted the yield from rejoicing over 15-20 bushels of wheat to the acre to 40-50 of durum.

Television came to the farm in the 1950s. Sputnik revamped the high school math and science curricula after Russia launched the first space ship in 1957. John, Inez, and Myrtle watched Alan Shephard and Gus Grissom rocket into space in 1961. Their televisions brought John Glenn

into their living rooms in 1962 as the first American orbited the earth not once but three times. Only Myrtle saw Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, Jr. walk on the moon in 1969. Grandmother Nelson got a few letters from my computer before her death at 96 years of age in 1989, or was she 95? The Halls of Records had not been built across the country by the time she was born.

G'ma Willey and G'ma Nelson lived lives typical of the times. Each devoted her energy to raising six and eight children respectively. It was a full-time task with wood-burning stoves and hand pumps for water. In time electricity lightened the load as they acquired vacuum cleaners, wringer and then automatic washers, dryers, and electric stoves. They lived during a time of monumental change.

What would they do with the issues of today? Would they be pleased with their granddaughter's opportunities? They urged their seven daughters to get an education, and between them had a nurse, three elementary teachers, and two university-trained secretaries. Their daughter's daughters have become educators, nurses, education psychologists, and entrepreneurs in media and business. In just two generations, how we've been blessed.

The Association of Adventist Women is in the business of supporting change, as women's gifts to the Church are enhanced and recognized. G'pa Willey, who was known for his integrity, spoke of ten of conscience. In my mind I can still hear him saying, "My conscience!" his form of emphasis.

Let conscience be our guide to action. May we use our time, talents, and energies collectively to lead to justice and equality for everyone. That is the change that I hope our granddaughters see substantially sooner than Y2K plus 100.

Brenda Blackmon Wood, TV anchorwoman from Atlanta, GA, signs autographs with her mother, legendary Adventist musician Alma Blackmon.



## We're Looking for a Few Good Women

Several organizations representing Adventist women are joining hands to staff a booth at the General Conference Session in Toronto this summer. Do you enjoy meeting the public and sharing why you believe in equality for all within the Adventist Church? If so, consider volunteering!

If you'd like more information about volunteering, please contact either AAW or TEAM. Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation and lodging costs.