

the Adventist Woman

Volume 4, No. 5

Publication of the Association of Adventist Women

September/October 1985

Register now for discount

October AAW Conference brings top talent, workshops

by Sharon Anderson Wilson

The New England Chapter of the Association of Adventist Woman is eagerly waiting to welcome you to the Third National Conference, October 24-27, on the campus of Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Mass. A Harvard theologian, and an Adventist scholar and editor are key speakers who will articulate the conference theme, "Women's Voices, Women's Lives." Workshops, presentations, discussions, an agape supper, a vespers recital, business sessions, and the play *Out of Our Father's House* complete the conference program.

Dorothy Austin, M.D., Th.D., of Harvard University will open the conference at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, with the keynote address. She is a practicing psychologist, a theologian, an ordained minister, and a wife and mother. (See story on back page.)

Friday will be the day we roll up our sleeves and get down to business. Beverly Habada, president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter, will direct morning workshops on a variety of topics, including *On Becoming a Woman Elder* and *Getting Your Point Across to the Decision-makers*. Action groups in the afternoon will follow up on the morning discussions, focusing ideas into resolutions. The evening Agape Supper will allow us to come together to welcome the Sabbath and become better acquainted. Sue Dixon of Walla Walla College will plan the service, which will include interviews of Adventist women conducted by Stella Grieg of the Michiana Chapter.

The worship service on Sabbath morning will feature Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson as speaker. She is director of the Modern Language Department at the University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus. After completing her B.A. in Spanish and a minor in English at Loma Linda University, she received her M.A. in Spanish literature from the University of Valencia, Spain, and in 1981 her doctorate in 16th and 17th century Spanish literature from Brown University in Rhode Island. Prior to accepting her current position, Dr. Morales-Gudmundsson was a member of the AUC faculty from 1968-1979 chairing the Modern Language Department for eight of these years. In 1979 she moved to Puerto Rico where, in 1984, she organized the first Latin American chapter of AAW.

Presently she edits the Spanish periodical *El Taller Literario*. It contains poetry, short stories, critical reviews, and artwork of Spanish-American writers and artists living in Connecticut. She is also interested in music and theology.

A Sabbath afternoon forum, moderated by Betty Howard, national president of AAW, will focus on "The Adventist Church and Its Women—Past, Present and Future." A young historian, Patrick Allen, will share the results of his honors project research done this spring at Andrews University (see report in the *Adventist Woman*, Vol. 4, No. 4), which helps explain why Adventist women lost leadership roles in the church during the 1930s.



Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson

A unique Sabbath vespers will combine the talents of Sylvia Lamb, mezzo-soprano, and Carolyn Mills-Williams, harpist. Their joint recital will be in the college church.

Ms. Lamb has studied voice under Minnie Iverson Wood, Norman Roy, and Pat Watts. She received an A.S. in Theology at West Indies College and a music degree from AUC. Touring in Bermuda, she had a half-hour television program to perform music and selections from more than 400 poems she has written. In addition to being an excellent musician, Ms. Lamb is an entrepreneur.

See NEW ENGLAND, p. 2

Shepherdess meetings

Huge crowds flock to women's series

by Madeline Johnston

A clear highlight of the New Orleans GC session was the "great cloud of witnesses" who spoke of their living faith at a series of meetings for women. Planned by a Shepherdess International committee chaired by Marie Spangler, the sessions on July 2-4 in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom, were open to all women. The 3000 chairs quickly filled and many people stood in the back.

Mrs. Spangler explained that the purpose of the meetings was to deal with our own relation to the Lord, which is connected to our ultimate mission of preparing people for eternity.

Each program included two principal speakers, special music, and a midpoint "oxygen cocktail," during which Jeanne James, a member of the *Adventist Review* staff, skillfully led the audience in an exercise routine to Pachelbel's "Canon."

Elinor Wilson and Ethel Bradford, wives of GC officers, offered special greetings to the group. On the last day President Neal Wilson looked over the large crowd and observed honestly, "I do believe there are more here than on the floor at the business session over there! Maybe we should transfer them over here, seat them on the floor in the aisles, and let the women do the business of the church."

Virginia Cason, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. H.M.S. Richards, Sr., a wife, mother,

See SHEPHERDESS MEETINGS, p. 3

Women's value recognized at AAW awards breakfast

by Patricia Mutch

"Who can find a virtuous woman?" asked the wise author of Proverbs 31, "for her worth is far beyond rubies." Several who exemplified this praise were featured guests at a celebration of Adventist womanhood in New Orleans on July 2.

The AAW Awards Breakfast, held during the week of the General Conference session, honored the achievements of three as Women of the Year and gave special recognition to Mabel Eastman Richards, wife of the late H.M.S. Richards, Sr.

An awards booklet gave details of the achievements of the Women of the Year (who were also featured in the July/August issue of *Adventist Woman*, Vol. 4, No. 4). The booklet also listed the many others who were nominated and a brief description of their accomplishments.

The lovely setting of the Clarion Hotel ballroom and a new banner featuring the AAW logo, prepared by AAW president-elect Nancy Marter, gave a celebratory atmosphere for the event. Betty Howard, AAW President, moderated. Eloy Martinez, of the General Conference Office of Human Relations, asked God's blessing on the meal, followed

by a premiere performance by Kathy Fagal Prall of a song, "Crown of Joy," written by Shirley Kinsman Johnson.

Mabel Eastman Richards was brought to the head table to receive recognition for her many years of support to Elder Richards' radio ministry. Surrounded by her family, she was presented a plaque engraved with these words:

"The A.A.W. today honors Mabel Eastman Richards for a lifetime of lovingly supportive service to the ministry of the S.D.A. Church. 'The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her . . .'"

Betty Ahnberg, better known to thousands of children as "Aunt Sue" of Your Story Hour, spoke to the group of more than 200 about the specialness of women in God's eyes. She reminisced about women in her own life who had communicated an understanding of God's love for her—her mother; her dean of women, Maybelle Vandemark Goransson (who was present at the breakfast), and Millicent Smith, an academy teacher. She challenged the group to reflect

See AWARDS BREAKFAST, p. 2



For more than 60 years Mabel Eastman Richards supported the ministry of her late husband, H.M.S. Richards, Sr., founder of the Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast. Together they raised a daughter and three sons. Family members gathered at the July 2 Awards Breakfast when Betty Howard presented her with a commemorative plaque on behalf of AAW.

Photo by Eldyn Karr, VOP

Mission Statement

“So God made man in His own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female created He them.”

Genesis 1:27

In God's sight each individual has the potential to make a valuable contribution to our world. It is the purpose of this group of Adventist women to help the individuals in our church reflect more fully the image of God in their relationships to each other in the home, the church, the work setting and in the community.

Through the means of this publication which focuses on the development, discoveries, interests and potential of Christian woman, our goals are:

1) To encourage communication, support and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations.

2) To acquaint the church community at large with Adventist women's potential and achievements.

3) To assist Adventist women in achieving fulfillment in their interpersonal relationships, personal development and relationships to God.

4) To help Adventist women to maximize their options, whatever their age and situation, that they may reflect more fully the image of God.

Presidential Communique

Where do we go from here?

by Nancy Marter

General Conference is past and so is Summer 1985. No matter, time is now. GC proved a positive experience for AAW. Thanks to persistent follow-through, permission was granted for the “Adventist Woman” display, previously used in Dallas, to be given space in the Superdome. Amazing assistance from Michigan dispatched the display from our 1984 Women of Mission conference site to New Orleans where it opened on June 27. About 4000 of our GC-issue newsletters were distributed and 400 overseas delegates received the Michiana Chapter's information portfolio on women in pastoral ministry.

The Women of the Year AAW Breakfast on July 2 warmed the hearts of the 200 guests; one of the high points was the special presentation to Mrs. H.M.S. Richards, Sr. During the session we were interviewed by Adventist World Radio. Two of us even had the privilege of a meaningful conversation with Elder Neal Wilson shortly after he was re-elected GC President.

If it sounds as though the session was a “piece of cake” for AAW, it wasn't. However, overall, those of us fortunate enough to be involved were deeply pleased with the opportunities to share AAW's goals.

But time is now. Where do we go from here? Elder Wilson stated quite emphatically

to us that we must meet the challenge to “educate the brethren.” From my observations, we must not only do that but also educate wives, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, and cousins! Pastors, educators, church members, students, health-care professionals, and church administrators at every level should be made aware of the valuable contribution Adventist women have to make. Being equal partners in finishing God's work should present no threat, only much-needed help. Working together we present a balanced picture of God—a balance missing with only male or female leadership—and thereby have the potential for reaching the whole spectrum of mankind.

Your national AAW leaders have formed an Ad Hoc Plans Committee to establish priorities and help the association focus its energies for the next three critical years. Let us hear from you about how we can educate church leaders and members alike. Meanwhile, plan to attend our third national conference, October 24-27 at AUC. As active, contributing and equally able Adventists, women are here to stay. Time is now.

Nancy Marter is president-elect of the Association of Adventist Women. She coordinated the AAW Awards Breakfast in New Orleans.

From the pulpit

When there are no words

by Linda Gage

Margo's first experience of ministering to someone in grief came when she was twenty-one and a summer assistant to a hospital chaplain. A young man had died just before she entered the room. The mother sat, alone, by his side. Margo pulled up a chair next to hers.

“Oh God, tell me what to say,” she prayed silently. Nothing. Her mind was blank. “Lord, You know I've never been with a person like this before. Please, tell me what to say.” There were no words.

Finally, she reached out and took the mother's hand. Quietly, she wept with her. The mother finally spoke. “Would you pray?”

Margo prayed simply for God's presence, for His comfort. Later she couldn't remember what she had said. She felt she had failed.

A few days later she met the mother. “Thank you,” the woman said. “I'll never forget you. You helped more than anyone.”

At the Seminary, in training for the ministry, Margo will learn to refine her skills in communicating with words. But standing next to death she learned another skill—communication in silence. The second is not less important than the first.

Even experienced helpers can use too many words as they seek to comfort those who mourn. But ready-made answers, secondhand insights, or ecclesiastical interpretations of God sometimes get in the way of contact with God Himself, who is ultimately His own interpreter.

In an effort to learn how to help those in pain I sought the best teachers I could find—those who have suffered themselves. I asked forty parents who have lost a child through death, or have a terminally ill or handicapped child, two questions. What did people do that helped you in your grief? What did people do that made it more difficult? A summary of their insights follows.

When my child is handicapped, missing, very ill, or has died, I need friends who:

1. Acknowledge the reality of my pain. Ignoring it does not ease but adds to my hurt.
2. Accept me as I am, allowing me to cope with my grief in my own way.
3. Respect me and help me see myself as a survivor. Rescuing leaves me weak. Empowering strengthens me.
4. Listen much and talk little. Sense the depth of my pain enough to know there is nothing to say.
5. Avoid make-it-better statements, and prepackaged explanations, and allow me to search for my own meaning.
6. Bring food and flowers, practical help, and are willing to share time, caring and genuine love.
7. Choose to be with me, to sit in silence, to share the pain, to give themselves.
8. Remember birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, where sadness overflows. Remember my child.

Anyone can talk about God. Only those who are led by the Spirit can also act like Him, who is the Comforter.

AWARDS BREAKFAST

From front page

God's love to those we encounter on a daily basis.

Among those attending the event who were recognized verbally were Mrs. Hilah Griffin who first attended a General Conference Session in 1929. Robert Nixon represented GC President Neal C. Wilson at the breakfast. Nixon noted that his 90-year old grandmother was an inspiration to him—she had been a suffragette and a member of the WCTU in the early years of the century.

Warren Banfield, director of the GC Office of Human Relations, joined Betty Howard in presenting the Women of the Year Awards. Nancy Marter introduced Elinor Hetke, long-time missionary to India, who received the award in the Home/Community Life Category. The plaque cited her “as a compassionate, innovative caretaker of life. ‘Thou art the helper of the fatherless . . .’”

Helen Ward Thompson, vice president of Loma Linda University for academic administration, introduced Dr. Kathleen Zolber, nutritionist and scholar, who was awarded in the Professional Life Category. The plaque cited her “for exemplary excellence in her

field, ‘A worker that needeth not be ashamed.’”

Rosa Lee Jones, recipient of the Church Life award, was introduced by her pastor, Leon Cox, of the Ephesus Church in New York City. As a Bible worker and musician she has won more than 1000 to Christ. Her plaque cited her “Christ-centered, many-faceted service, ‘Rightly dividing the Word of truth.’”

In conclusion Betty Howard expressed appreciation to Warren Banfield for his unswerving support during the past quinquennium. Banfield complimented AAW for its excellent work and the potential that it represents in promoting the work of women in the church. H.M.S. Richards, Jr., offered the benediction.

Reflecting on the women who received special recognition, and the long lists of names of others who were nominated and their achievements recorded in the Women of the Year booklet, I was struck by the diverse and multiple talents of Adventist women. In celebrating some of these achievements AAW has highlighted those whose value to the church and the world is surely “beyond rubies.”



Carolyn Mills-Williams



Sylvia Lamb

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE TO HAVE MUSIC, ART

From front page

neur. She operates a Bed & Breakfast in a historic Victorian mansion in South Lancaster.

Ms. Mills-Williams began studying music and performing in her hometown of Memphis, Tennessee; she played in youth orchestras and won numerous awards and competitions. Later, while attending AUC, she studied with Lucille Lawrence, harpist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Mills-Williams has recently completed her M.A. at Boston University in music performance. While living in the Northeast she has appeared with the New England Youth Ensemble, been a member of the Thayer Conservatory Orchestra, Symphony Pro Musica, and for three summers has performed at Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She is currently a free-lance musician in the Boston area.

Saturday night the entertainment will be twofold. The play *Out of Our Father's House* will be presented by the Lancaster Repertory Company, directed by Joelle Andre. Based on Eve Merriam's “Growing Up Female in America,” it draws from the diaries of six outstanding American women of the 19th century and reveals that we face many of the same questions, emotions, and challenges in our contemporary society as they did 100 years ago.

An art exhibit will open immediately following the play featuring the work of Lotus Doe who has a collection of more than 100 works on women. A reception will conclude the evening.

AAW formal business will be conducted Sunday morning under the leadership of Betty Howard, president.

How to register

To register for the conference write to Dr. Ann Parrish, AAW, P.O. Box 266, South Lancaster, MA 01561. The fee is \$25 for

AAW members who register by October 15, and \$35 for nonmembers. The fee includes the agape supper and the play. After October 15 all fees go up \$10.

If you would like accommodations in the college residence halls or in the L.E. Smart home, we will make reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. Meals are available in the college cafeteria and area restaurants. Information on transportation from the airport, train, or bus station can be supplied upon request, or we can arrange to pick you up if you contact us before October 15.

Sharon Anderson Wilson is president of the Greater Boston AAW Chapter and director of the upcoming third national AAW conference.

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The Association of Adventist Women is a national organization that sponsors local chapters. Its newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*, is published six times per year.

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Ordination on hold, but

GC affirms study group's goals

by Josephine Benton

The opening of the fifty-fourth General Conference session representing God's work being carried on in 184 countries was an exciting event, to be sure. That progress is occurring for women in the church is indicated simply by Elder Neal Wilson's addressing those present on opening night as "my brothers and sisters" and "my fellow delegates" rather than the "dear brethren" into which women workers in the church have often needed to fit themselves in the past. Sensitivity to the need for using inclusive language is growing.

Women mentioned

Absent from Wilson's address were the strong, broad statements that he made five years ago about including women in various aspects of the work of the church. Included were specific examples of women's participation. He referred to a first-ever event in San Juan in the East Puerto Rico Conference in the Inter-American Division. Nearly 400 women were delegates to a Feminine Lay Council. "They were motivated toward a deeper participation in preaching the everlasting gospel," said Wilson, "and are now ready to begin meetings in halls, churches and schools." He also stated that the East African Union has held several such gatherings for women with excellent results. (*Adventist Review*, June 27, 1985, p. 6.)

Of the 2128 Delegates to the session, 150 were women. The General Conference itself as an organization had 258 delegates to the session, of whom nine were women. The proportions probably will not change much until women are ordained clergy.

The 1000 Days of Reaping reports on the first Sabbath brought thrilling moments, especially when Elder Kulakov reported 4,000 baptisms in the U.S.S.R. On June 30 the General Conference session voted to adopt Harvest '90 as its new mission. Specifically, the action calls for doubling the number of baptisms in each field that were achieved during the 1000 Days of Reaping. In light of this goal, it seems desirable to involve all members fully in this task, men and women.

One woman conducted a devotional for the GC session. On July 3, Irene McCary, who runs a fast-food restaurant in Needles, California, shared with the delighted audience her experiences as a soulwinner. She passes out texts, poems, literature, and her loving spirit along with sandwiches, ice cream, and cold drinks.

Ordaining deaconesses

Ordaining women as deaconesses was a provision made in a business session during the 1975 General Conference in Vienna. Elder Francis Wernick introduced and moved a recommendation that the *Church Manual* be reworded to reflect this change. "Here we simply wish to make provision for it in harmony with current practice and the action taken ten years ago," Wernick explained.

Despite this simple mandate, the proposed

updating of the *Church Manual* never took place. Mrs. Hedwig Jemison argued that an Ellen White quote used in the recommendation was used out of context. She added, "Since we have no Bible model for ordaining deaconesses, I would like to move that, to preserve harmony among church women, we return to the plan in the *Church Manual* that has served the church so well for over 100 years [non-ordination of deaconesses]. Elder Robert Olson of the White Estate office then moved that the matter be referred back to committee. His motion took precedence, and was voted.

Wernick clarified the situation, however, noting that "what has been referred is the placing of this statement in the *Church Manual*. This action does not nullify the action of Annual Council that granted permission for those organizations which wish to do so to ordain deaconesses." (*Adventist Review*, July 4, 1985, p. 8; and July 5, 1985, pp. 23, 24.)

OHR report

In the report of the Office of Human Relations, Director Warren Banfield called attention to the establishment of a Women's Commission. The nine members are to provide information, to voice needs, and attempt to improve management awareness relative to the concerns of women in the church. Banfield also spoke of the ever-increasing number of women who are graduating from institutions of higher learning. He sees this pool of talent as a resource to be better utilized by the church.

Women in ministry

During the final business session, the report of the Commission on the Ordination of Women was presented. President Wilson reviewed the history leading up to the present situation. First, he said, about 1977, the door was opened for women who had completed ministerial/seminary training to join conferences as licensed ministers (but not to be ordained ministers). These women were ordained as local elders.

Other actions by the Annual Councils of 1976, 1977, and 1978 encouraged women to join in the evangelistic outreach of the church. As employees they were designated "associates in pastoral care" and received missionary credentials.

As a result, Wilson noted, several young ladies completed their seminary work just as the young men did. "It became a little bit difficult to justify the difference between the credentials given to the young women and those given to young men, all things else being equal. This was a rather difficult and embarrassing situation for the church." (*Adventist Review*, July 11, 1985, pp. 14, 15.)

Consequently the Columbia Union Conference asked the GC and the North American Division to look into the problem and find a resolution. At that point the 1984 Annual Council authorized setting up a commission.

Various world divisions reported to the Commission that there was not strong support throughout the world for ordaining women. The Commission recommended further study, with reports to be reviewed by a special group prior to the 1988 Spring Meeting, and the whole matter to be taken up again at the 1989 Annual Council. This recommendation was accepted and voted by the New Orleans delegates.

Resolutions voted

The GC delegates also voted resolutions to:

- (1) use qualified women in leadership positions that do not require ordination;
- (2) accord proper recognition to Bible workers, both men and women;
- (3) find ways to train and pay spouses of pastors who wish to enter into team ministry;
- (4) educate church members on the major leadership roles that women may fill without ordination and present specific plans for this education to the 1985 Annual Council;

(5) reform the church's present ordination practices, limiting ordination to those individuals who perform clearly ministerial-type duties;

(6) ask the North American Division to present to the 1985 Annual Council clarification on the function of those who receive ministerial licenses and how this affects women pastors.

Josephine Benton holds a Ph.D. in Speech and teaches at Montgomery Community College, Gaithersburg Campus, Maryland

SHEPHERDESS MEETINGS

From front page

and author, presented the first address on Tuesday morning. Commenting that she herself had not really met Jesus until age 43 she urged her hearers to grow in grace by growing in the knowledge of Christ. Norma Crabtree, the other Tuesday speaker, worked many years in the New Hebrides and Fiji Islands with her husband. A nurse and mother of six, Norma also developed a strong ministry for women prisoners in Fiji.

Dr. Petra Sukau, a health consultant and counselor for the Tidewater Memorial Hospital in Tappahannock, Virginia, opened the Wednesday session, reminding us that Ellen White claims we attempt little because we place a low estimate on ourselves. Dr. Sukau explained the physiology of thought and habit patterns and urged us to change from negative to positive thinking. For this she outlined a program of prayer and positive image-building in the mind.

Also on Wednesday, Phyllis Bryan Paytee suggested four advantages the Christian woman has in the pursuit of intellectual excellence.

Dr. Nancy Vyhmeister, who with her husband is a newly appointed missionary to the SDA Theological Seminary in the Philippines, spoke on Thursday morning. She reported on a study of Adventist women in leadership which she first presented to the 1984 Women of Mission Conference at Andrews University. With a new questionnaire this year she sought additional information from the world field.

Dr. Vyhmeister also interviewed three women serving the Lord in unique ways. One, in the Chilean Union, helps coordinate pastors' work, prepares programs for pastors'



Irene McCary spoke for the July 3 devotional period during the General Conference session. She is a laywoman who runs a fast-food restaurant in Needles, California, and witnesses to her customers.

wives, and visits in ministers' homes to encourage them.

Another directs the Sopas Adventist Hospital in New Guinea, is the only doctor for 128,000 people, and is the mother of two children who have no school to attend. The third, from Spain, conducts seminars to train Bible instructors, family educators, and others. Adventist women, though virtually invisible in the church structure, can be found multiplying loaves and fishes for the Lord the world over.

Rhona Howlett Cooper, research assistant in the GC Health and Temperance Department and wife of Victor Cooper of the GC Department of Communication, gave the final message. She pleaded with the audience to emulate the Syro-Phoenician woman who left a sick child in order to see Jesus—and then refused to be satisfied with mere crumbs. Crumbs are no substitute for the spiritual power Jesus will give us, if we ask.

Among the many others who participated were Miriam Wood who spoke briefly but delightfully about the ministry she enjoys through her column in the *Adventist Review*, and Laura Gonzalez, lay preacher from Trinidad. Ms. Gonzalez graduated from the ministerial course at Caribbean Union College. In her subsequent 14 crusades about 1300 people have been baptized. In a dynamic preaching style she pointed out, "Christ preached to the Samaritan woman, but it was the woman who brought in the whole city. Women must preach." Later she commented, "It is said that women have led men to sin. It is time we lead them back to the Lord."

Madeline Johnston is a free-lance writer, mother, and a secretary in the Department of Mission, SDA Theological Seminary, Berrien Springs, Mich.

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The Adventist Woman
Vol. 4, No. 5

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Mark your calendar

November 8 is the deadline for the final issue of *Adventist Woman* in 1985. Reports from Annual Council and the Third Annual AAW Conference with the theme "Women's Voices, Women's Lives," will be featured.

On October 24

Harvard theologian to keynote

by Iris M. Yob

The keynote speaker for the opening session of the third national conference for the Association of Adventist Women will be Dr. Dorothy Austin. Focusing on the theme "Women's Voice, Women's Lives," Dr. Austin will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, at Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Mass.

Dr. Austin is a professor, practicing psychologist, theologian, ordained minister, youth worker, counselor, writer, researcher, and above all, a Christian woman pursuing her calling and touching the lives of others for good.

Apart from lecturing in the department of religious studies at Harvard, Dr. Austin holds several other responsible posts. She is director for the Clinical Program in Psychology and Religion in the Harvard Medical School. This program involves scholars, healers, religious professionals, policy-makers, and community leaders who wish to better understand human meaning and value using

combined insights of religion and psychology.

In addition, Dr. Austin also directs the Erikson Center, named after the renowned psychologists, her mentors and friends, Joan and Erik Erikson. Those interested in the psychological stages of our life cycle find opportunities there for research, training, and teaching. Finally, she is executive director of the Nuclear Psychology Program, which is concerned with the psychological impact of nuclear weapons on the lives of people today.

She has studied and received degrees from the University of Bridgeport, Union Theological Seminary, and Andover Newton Theological School. She was an Ed.D. candidate in Counseling and Consulting Psychology and completed the Doctor of Theology degree in Religion and Psychology in 1981 at Harvard University.

But she has not spent all her time at study. Nor has she limited herself to teaching and research. In her church ministry she has orga-

nized a coffee house for teenagers, an intergenerational Free School, religious dramas, alternative housing for runaway teenagers, drug counseling programs, and a public housing program.

Before I knew all this about Dorothy I happened upon her class this past term, "The Dynamics of Psychology and Religion: The Self as Symbolizer." Week by week I was inspired as she led us through the major writings of psychologists and theologians in search of our personal meaning-making. Her knowledge, her insights, her sincerity, her sense of priorities in the whirl of university life, and her sharing of her own personal journey touched us all. In the many years I have sat in university classes on two continents, I have never before witnessed a class applauding the professor in sheer appreciation after every lecture until I sat in Dorothy's class.

One of her concerns, which may emerge in her keynote address, is that in religious matters we must research for "an integrity of

speech" and "come of age as a language self." By this she means we must recognize that the fundamental need to speak and to be heard is like eating, looking, and moving about. It is absolutely essential if we are to live. The power to use our own words with authority, drawn from our own experience of spiritual things, is the power of determination over our own lives. Our voice can then be an act of the gospel.

Iris M. Yob formerly chaired the Department of Education at Avondale College, Australia. She is a doctoral student at Harvard University.

Oakwood audience listens to women

by Jannith Lewis

Seven women presented a panel discussion at the Oakwood College Church on May 11, 1985, to inform members of the current issues concerning the roles of women in the Adventist Church. On the panel were faculty members, homemakers, church leaders, and a young woman who recently graduated from Oakwood with a major in religion. Participants were Dr. Jannith Lewis, moderator; Dr. Frances Bliss, Dr. Sylvia Barnes, Mrs. Barbara Rice, Mrs. Sadie Jacobs, Mrs. Henrietta Hudson, and Ms. Kim Smith.

After the panel discussion Elder Eric Ward, pastor of the Oakwood College Church, and Dr. Benjamin Reaves, chairman of the religion and theology department, coordinated a question and answer period.

Drawing from the AAW Information Portfolio on women, Dr. Lewis noted the contribution of women to Adventist Church leadership both in the past and present. Dr. Bliss, associate professor of education, interviewed four panelists who represented women of various ages who currently lead out in various ways in the church. Dr. Barnes, associate professor of English, discussed ordination of women to the ministry.

Those attending gave a very positive response to the information, and the program has contributed to a better understanding of current issues that could change and improve women's roles in the church on all levels of administration.

To conclude the program, special recognition was given to Mrs. Ruth Stafford, a retired faculty member of Oakwood College, for her more than forty years of service to the church as a nursing educator and administrator.

Jannith Lewis directs the Eva B. Dykes Library at Oakwood College. She was elected vice-president of the Association of Adventist Librarians (ASDAL) this summer.



Mrs. Roger A. Wilcox, whose husband is a former South American Division president, played her trumpet during the division report at GC.



Photos by David Sherwin, Maylan Thoresen
Courtesy ADVENTIST REVIEW

Translation for the deaf was available at most meetings during the New Orleans GC session, including—as shown here—the meetings sponsored by Shepherdess International. (For a report on these meetings for women, see front page.)

Five NAD unions sent no women

Women's voice slightly weaker at New Orleans GC session

by Patricia Mutch

Delegates for the General Conference Session are intended to constitute the voice of the church at the quinquennial sessions. An analysis of the delegate lists, as printed in the GC session bulletins, permits an estimate of how much voice women may have in votes and public statements. Such an analysis for the delegations of 1980 and 1985 are reported here, with actual numbers appearing in the accompanying tables.

In 1980, 195 or 9.8 percent of the total delegation were women. In 1985 the number dwindled to 180 women delegates, or 8.4 percent. This decline in representation is a matter of concern. However, there were women represented from nearly all divisions of the world field. The only overseas area with no women included was the Middle East Union.

Only four unions in the North American Division sent women to the 1985 session. Five NAD unions did not send a single woman as delegate—Canadian, Lake, Mid-American, North Pacific, and Southern. By comparison, in 1980 only three unions had no women as delegates—Canadian, Central and Northern.

Some encouragement may be taken from the fact that there was an increase in female representation in both the General Conference/Delegates-at-Large group,

General and Institutional Delegates. The percentage of women in the GC delegation rose from 3.6 to 5.6 percent. GC institutions showed an increase from 11.1 to 12.3 percent.

An analysis of certain committees operating at the Session is also informative. Table 1 presents the data for the Nominating Committee, which is elected by caucus, and the Constitution/Bylaws and the Plans Committees, which are appointed. The number of women on the Nominating Committee, which is perhaps the most powerful group at the Session, has remained essentially unchanged, at a minuscule 2.5 percent in 1985. Some improvement appears on the appointed committees, but more would be desirable, especially in the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The nominating committee will continue to reflect the predominance of top administrative leadership in its membership, and until more women are employed in such leadership, caucuses are unlikely to elect them as their representatives.

One can observe that the church membership is not proportionately represented by gender in the delegations since more than half the church membership is female. Cultural patterns are evident in the distributions among divisions but this only partially explains the weak representation of women in

NAD, the GC Institutions, and GC Delegates-at-Large. Here the weighting of delegations is toward church administrators, most of whom hold positions via ordination.

Women are hindered from having a proportional voice in decision-making due to two factors: (a) the predominance of church administrators in these roles, and (b) the barrier posed by the policy of "no ordination for women." This inequity might be remedied by a constitutional revision that would mandate greater proportions of laity and more sensitivity to having delegates represent the reality of the church population.

Patricia Mutch is Professor of Home Economics and Director of the Institute of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency at Andrews University.

Table 1

Women on General Conference Session Committees	1980	1985
Nominating (elected)	2.7%	2.5%
Constitution/Bylaws (appointed)	0	8.5%
Plans (appointed)	4.8%	6.5%

Table 2

Women Delegates at General Conference Sessions

	1980	1985
Delegation number	1,981	2,150
General Conference	3.6%	5.6%
GC Institutions	11.1%	12.3%
Africa-Indian Ocean		10.2%
Afro-Mideast	16.7%	
Australasia	7.7%	6.4
Eastern Africa		9.9%
Euro-Africa	1.7%	1.8%
Far East	17.9%	18.2%
Inter-America	7.4%	6.9%
North America	5.6%	5.0%
Northern Europe-West Africa	7.5%	
Trans-Europe		7.8%
South America	2.0%	3.6%
Southern Asia	2.6%	4.4%
Trans Africa	33.8%	
USSR	0	14.3%
Attached Unions:		
Middle East		0
South African		10.0%
Southern Union		6.7%
TOTALS (averaged)	9.8%	8.4%