

the Adventist Woman



(Left to Right): Neal C. Wilson, Charles E. Bradford, and Warren Banfield were among those from the General Conference and North American Division headquarters who met with AAW members attending the fifth annual conference in Takoma Park, Maryland, October 8-11.

5th AAW conference attracts 200; opens dialog with church leaders

From 27 states—including Hawaii and Alaska, from Canada and Mexico they came, more than 200 registrants for the fifth national AAW conference, "The Adventist Woman and the Caring Church," October 8-11.

Hosted by the Metro D.C. Chapter in the attractive, new educational wing of Sligo church adjacent to Columbia Union College and Washington Adventist Hospital, the conference was also propitiously timed. Just a mile or so down Carroll Avenue the Seventh-day Adventist Church's yearly business session, Annual Council, was meeting in the Takoma Park SDA Church.

Energy, creativity, and restraint characterized the four days of workshops, business, music, art, celebration, and worship.

It was abundantly clear that Pat Habada,

coordinator of the conference, had found creative and energetic leaders and speakers for every event. Lynne Waihee, First Lady of Hawaii, concluded the conference on a high note Sunday as she talked openly about Adventism in the political arena.

Questions about how Adventist women can engage in serious dialogue with the church were approached carefully and with restraint. Earlier AAW conferences have sought to foster dialogue with church leaders but few have responded, the notable and laudable exception being Elder Warren Banfield, director of the Office of Human Relations, North American Division. Banfield has attended four of the five AAW conferences.

See CONFERENCE OVERVIEW, p. 2

Round Three

New commission studies women's ordination

The General Conference officers have approved a list of 77 delegates to serve on the 1988 Role of Women Commission set for March 24-27 in Washington, D.C. Eighteen members are women, about 22 percent representation.

This is the third study group that the denomination has appointed to the task as it attempts to determine how to relate to women who have trained for pastoral ministry and chaplaincy.

The first group, which met at Camp Mohaven in Ohio in 1973, made recommendations that led to the church's allowing women to serve as elders in local churches, and those with theological training to be hired as "associates in pastoral care" primarily in multimember pastoral staffs.

Mohaven Papers

The Biblical Research Institute commissioned a set of papers to extend the Camp Mohaven discussions. These were completed about 1974. The consensus of scholarship was that there were no theological barriers to prevent the ordination of women to gospel ministry. The papers, however, were not re-

leased to the public until 1984, 11 years after Mohaven.

In March 1985 the General Conference appointed a second study group consisting of 65 delegates, representing all divisions. They were charged to settle the question of women's ordination "once and for all." Although about a half a dozen papers were commissioned as background information for the group, the three-day session primarily was a time for interaction and discussion. The commission recommended that further study be done, and the 1985 GC session endorsed that recommendation.

Subsequently, the Biblical Research Institute has commissioned about 30 new papers for the third group. They are expected to zero in on Pauline material and church history.

The Association of Adventist Women invites your prayers for the members of this commission and their work. Some have committed themselves to pray for these individuals daily, and to fast and pray March 24-27. Those named to the commission are:

See NEW COMMISSION, p. 8

In Affirmative Action

GC adds women to 37 standing committees

A small committee with a long name took on a big task that resulted in a major step by the General Conference committee toward involving women in its work.

On September 24, 1987, the GC Committee adopted a comprehensive recommendation from its Women's Ministries Advisory Committee, chaired by Betty Holbrook, naming women to 88 positions on 37 standing GC committees.

"At the same meeting a new standing committee was established for Constitution and Bylaws," Holbrook reports,

"and two women were among those appointed." The GC has approximately 60 standing committees at this time. Before September women were already serving on 10 of them.

"There are several reasons why there are no women representatives on the remaining committees," explained Holbrook. "In a few cases there simply are no women available that we know of who have the expertise needed; in some cases the membership of a committee is made up entirely by those who

See GC COMMITTEES, p. 3



Twenty of the 23 pastors and chaplains who attended the October 8 meeting sponsored by the North American Division are pictured here. Left to right they are: Penny Shell, chaplain, Chicago, Ill.; Margo Pitrone, MDiv student at Princeton Theological Seminary and previously an intern at LLU Church; Bronwen Watts, chaplain, LLU Medical Center; Margaret Hempe, pastor, LLU Church; Diane Forsythe, pastor, LLU Church; Margaret Turner, chaplain, Kettering, Ohio; Halcyon Wilson, pastor, Riverside, Calif.; Ginger Hanks-Harwood, chaplain, Denver, Colo.; Delores Robinson, pastor, Arden Hills Church, Calif.; Juanita Mayer, chaplain, Shady Grove Hospital, Maryland; Marsha Frost, pastor, Fairfax, Virginia; Leslie Bumgardner, pastor, Worthington, Ohio; Teresa Krueger, chaplain, nursing care facility, Maryland; Hyveth Williams, pastor, Takoma Park, Maryland; Becky Fenderson, pastor, Corona Calif.; Eva Nora Rios de Montroy, pastor, Monterrey, Mexico; Collette Crowell Pekar, pastor, Pendleton, Ore.; Viviane Hanni, former pastor, Geneva, Switzerland (now doctoral student at AU); Betty Unger, chaplain, Hinsdale, Ill.; Sheryl McMillian, pastor, Calimesa Church, Calif. Present at the meetings but not pictured: Elizabeth Sterndale, NAD coordinator of the event; Jan Daffern, former pastor, Takoma Park, Md.; Wanda Grimes Davis, chaplain, Memphis, Tenn.; and Delcy Kuhlman, and MDiv graduate, Berrien Springs, Mich.

North American Division

23 attend first meeting of chaplains, pastors

by Penny Shell

"I had to travel eight hours east to learn Margaret was two hours west." Pastor Leslie Bumgardner from Worthington, Ohio, spoke of Margaret Turner, chaplain at Kettering Medical Center.

Similarly, for many of the 23 women pastors and chaplains who met in Washington, D.C., October 8, at the invitation of the North American Division, being with others of like experience was the most important aspect of the gathering.

With about 40 Adventist women in ministry scattered through the United States, they are usually isolated from others who can understand the unique pains and privileges of

being female in these traditionally male roles.

Elder Charles E. Bradford and members of the North American Division staff warmly welcomed the participants at a brief reception the evening of October 7. "This is a historic event," Bradford said of the meeting. The next day several NAD staff members dialogued with the group during the noon hour and offered support. They also cautioned that acceptance into the ordained ministerial force of the church is not likely to come anytime soon.

Coordinated through the office of Bob Dale, former administrative assistant to the President of the North American Division,

(now secretary of the division) the meeting was facilitated by Elizabeth Sterndale, of the GC Health and Temperance Department. Sterndale has been appointed by the NAD officers to sit in their regular meetings to represent women's concerns.

In addition to getting acquainted during their one-day meeting, the group heard presentations from Pastor Hyveth Williams of Sligo church and Chaplain Juanita Mayer of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

The group voted unanimously to express their appreciation to the North American Division for sponsoring the event and requested another meeting in 1988.



Betty Holbrook



Presidential Communique

Afterglow and future talk

by Nancy Marter

I had a wonderful time at our 1987 conference! From what I've heard, so did many others. Interested in their response?

"I have come to know people who will be friends for life—I have a sense of support, a closeness of community that I have never before felt in my church."

"Now I know there are others who have suffered and hurt as I have; I know I am not alone."

"I am more convinced than ever that the Lord is calling women into ministry."

"I am walking with a full cup that is brimming over."

"I am so glad that a healthy balance has been kept, and that the services have been supportive of both women and men, and that a spirit of unity has been nurtured."

In a letter I received since the conference one woman wrote, "I am still feeling the afterglow of the convention—the spirituality and enthusiasm, the invaluable information and quality of the workshops, and most of all, the fellowship and unity of all we met."

Simultaneous with the first day of the conference the North American Division sponsored a meeting of women in ministry—both pastors and chaplains. Although it was not connected with our conference, there was considerable overlap of attendees. In this regard, I must tell you that my own attitude toward the ordination of women was broadened by listening to expressions by women in ministry as well as women who are currently in training for ministry, and why they are doing this—their "call." I believe that this should be given much more attention.

In the male candidate, the "call" is an integral part of the reason for entering the ministry, a definite validating factor. I have not heard this addressed in regard to accepting women into gospel ministry. I think that it should be.

We were blessed by the participation of these women in ministry and by all women who attended the conference. One of the main goals of the association is to encourage communication among all Adventist women, to broaden our own understanding of one another, to hear one another speak of our needs and dreams. At these conferences there is a real sense in which we walk in each other's shoes.

No, all problems are not solved. Many challenges lay ahead. But as the result of our time together I believe we are more united in spirit, and have been strengthened by God's grace to meet the demands of the future.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Continued from front page

Elizabeth Sterndale, who now sits with the North American Division officers regularly to represent women's concerns, has attended three conferences.

Proximity to Annual Council was a plus, drawing several GC and NAD personnel for brief presentations, as well as several union and conference officials.

Another bonus was the first meeting of women ministers and chaplains, an event sponsored by the NAD and coordinated by Elizabeth Sterndale, a separate event, but happily coinciding with the conference.

Twenty-three of the nearly 40 women serving in such capacities came—most of them meeting each other for the first time. When Elder Charles Bradford invited them to stand for recognition at the Thursday night banquet, they received rousing applause.

For the first time the conference included a communion service along with what has become a traditional agape meal on Friday evening. The combination of litany, introspection, music, worship, and fellowship made it a memorable event.

A day-by-day report of the conference begins on page 4.

Letters

Responding to Bacchiocchi

Dear Editor:

Your response (Sept/Oct 1987, vol. 4, No. 5) to Dr. Bacchiocchi's letter is a masterpiece.

The contrast of spirit between your response and his letter is a vivid expression of the differing emotions involved in women's issues in the church.

Your response is a powerful expression of the positiveness of your organization.

Dr. Bacchiocchi's letter—and the attitude it articulates—clearly defines your mission.

"By their fruits . . ."

Jere Wallack, President Wisconsin Conference of SDA Madison, Wisconsin

Excellent paper

Dear Editor:

May I share with you my appreciation of your excellent paper. It helps me appreciate the role our women have played through the years.

David L. Taylor Vice President for Administration Central California Conference of SDA Clovis, California

Hispanic women

Dear Editor:

For some time I have been very impressed with your publication. Especially, I was pleased to note the recognition afforded Carmen Lopez Morales of California as one of the Women of the Year in your September-October issue.

In spite of the low recognition and awareness of Hispanic SDA's within our church at large, the Hispanic SDA population is increasing rapidly, and under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit has and is making significant contributions.

Thank you for living up to your objective "to encourage, support, and widen understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations." Hispanic SDA women should achieve recognition and acceptance for their unique contributions, needs, and interests in God's work.

Ramona Perez Greek, Ph.D. Montgomery, Alabama

Bargain of the century

Dear Editor:

At the recent conference I was impressed with—

■ The diversity of the people attending.

■ The diversity and quality of seminars offered. This was amazing in view of the low registration fee. The AAW conference may have been the bargain of the century!

■ The quality of respect I perceived from high-level professional women. I did not expect to fit in because homemaking is my current career passion. It was so wonderful to be part of a group with different values, where being a child of God entitles you to full membership. Apparently AAW has tremendous potential for developing church unity.

■ The Christlike sweetness of the male participation.

■ The maturity of the organization. AAW appears to me to be on solid ground, thanks to the scope and commitment of its members and leaders; there's not much danger now of going wildly off the track in any particular direction.

■ The militancy of women over 50. For whatever reason, these women are a marvelous asset, if not the key to the success and survival of the organization.

I want to thank you very much for providing child care for the attendees (I believe this was provided through the Esther Lindsio Black Memorial Fund.) Aside from making the conference more accessible for people who otherwise might not have been able to attend, the child care was a tangible statement that (1) child rearing is a valid part of a woman's agenda, and (2) AAW not only recommends that church institutions develop child-care services for their employees, but we do the same for our own membership when circumstances are appropriate.

What could have been better about the conference? Only one thing—more aggressive "local" advertising. It was a thrill to see women from all over the country and the world, and I know informing them was expensive. I just wish I had heard the conference talked up more in the local churches.

That would be partly my responsibility, wouldn't it, as a local member? Well, I just hope all of us will now be more aggressive in talking up AAW with our friends. It should be obvious to anyone who attended the conference that AAW offers a vast array of physical, mental, social, and spiritual gifts to the benefit of any person who wants to grow in Christ.

I just want to personally thank all of you who worked so valiantly and so well for the unforgettable blessing of AAW and the 1987 annual conference.

Somehow I got the impression from the day I was baptized that the church existed to help the poor and the sick, educate the ignorant, develop preachers—in short, it was just about anyone but me. My role as a woman was to be as attractive as possible, to have a spotless home and prepare a wonderful vegetarian feast by sundown Friday night, and to present any spiritual insights I might have in three sentences or less. My place in the church, I felt on a subconscious level, was in the servants' quarters, and I didn't even belong there because I'm too tall and too bumbling and too outspoken.

The AAW conference was a real turning point for me, because I felt it was the first time a church-related organization had ever cared for me, and not the other way around. It was the first time I sat at the banqueting table and had my feet washed, so to speak. And now I understand how Christ said to Peter, "If I don't wash your feet, you have no part in Me," because after all the years of service and sacrifice and hoping God would take me with His people in the end, the AAW conference was the first time I ever felt that I was part of the church.

That's why I hope everybody will tell their friends about AAW. God has blessed the group with much love, and the willingness to nurture and support others. With God's continued blessing we can encourage each other and make for a stronger church.

Shirley Kinsman Johnson Newburg, Maryland

Apology and appeal

Dear Editor:

On Friday afternoon of the AAW conference in October, a special dialogue session occurred with Elder Charles Bradford, president of the North American Division; Elder Al McClure, president of the Southern Union Conference; Elder Ron Wisbey, president of the Columbia Union Conference; and Elder Jerry Page, president of the Pennsylvania Conference.

The charge for this session was to dialogue about ways in which women may participate in "the caring" of the Caring Church. What is needed to make and keep the Adventist Church caring? What are women's roles in creating and maintaining a caring church?

I goofed. As moderator, I did not make this clear to the women attending the session. Furthermore, I missed the mark in accepting questions that did not speak directly to this concern. And so to the session turned out differently than intended. The group lost a precious opportunity. For this I apologize.

Now, an appeal. Constructive results may still occur! If each woman reader will ask herself a question and ask church administrators at any level the same question—and then take action—the outcome will be widespread for our church and for our neighbors.

The question to ask has two parts: What does the Caring Church need to do to keep its promise of caring? And what is my role in making that happen?

The fruits are with each individual. Each Seventh-day Adventist woman doing her part can and will make a difference.

Let the following be your personal pledge to action: "It must start with me!"

Elizabeth Sterndale, Coordinator Women's Ministries' Advisory Committee North American Division

THE ADVENTIST WOMAN AND THE CARING CHURCH Fifth AAW Conference October 8-11, 1987 Cassette Tapes for Sale. Special Offer: Complete set for \$25 including postage, a savings of \$8. Includes a table of tape titles, quantities, and costs.

GC committees: women voting members on 37 out of 60

Continued from front page

hold specific positions; and there are a few other committees on which our advisory committee needs to do more work."

The September vote helps fulfill an objective Elder Neal Wilson presented to the 1980 General Conference session when he urged the church to make full use of women's talents. Again, in 1985 the GC session voted to bring about affirmative action to involve women in more significant church leadership.

Most of the women added to committees are already members of the headquarters staff, but a few are from other institutions in the D.C. area or are from out-of-town. Although some hold elective posts at the GC, many are on the appointed staff or are experienced secretaries or administrative assistants. Some ethnic mix characterizes the list.

The standing committees on which women serve are listed alphabetically below. Any women who were serving on these committees prior to September 24 are listed in parentheses, along with the total number of individuals who regularly serve on these committees:

Accounting Procedures (9 members)

Irene Coon, GC auditor
Ellen Nixon, Columbia Union, auditor

Adventist Approach to Contemporary Culture (24)

(Eunice Diaz)
Patricia Mutch, Andrews University
Otilie Stafford, Atlantic Union College
(Helen Thompson, Loma Linda University)

Administrative Committee (18)

Karen Flowers, GC
(Eunice Rozema)
(Fay Welter)

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (23)

Penny Shell, Chicago, Ill.
Margaret Turner, Kettering, Ohio

Allowances and Adjustments (23)

Muriel Christiansen, GC
LaVerne Korff, GC
Ena Pillgreen, GC

Authorized Meetings (8 plus union presidents)

Betty Pierson, GC
Elizabeth Sterndale

Aviation (19)

Norma Collins, GC
Elizabeth Sterndale, GC

Calendar for Special Days and Offerings (12)

Dorothy Bascom, Home Study International
(Shirley Burton)
Noelene Johnsson, GC
(Kit Watts)

Constitution and By-Laws (11)

(New standing committee established in a separate action on September 24)
Nancy Marter, Silver Spring, Maryland
Julietta Rasi, GC

Church Manual (30)

(Shirley Burton)
Rowena Olson, GC
(Iris Stober)
Hyveth Williams, Takoma Park, Md.

Council on Interchurch Relations (23)

Shirley Burton, GC
Elaine Robinson, GC

Credentials and Licenses (23)

Ethel Bradford, GC
(Betty Holbrook)
Virginia Pelton, GC
(Elizabeth Sterndale)

Eastern Asia (16)

Irene Gilbert, GC
Sylvia Giang

Finance (26)

Aline Campbell, Home Study International
Laurell Peterson, GC
Carolyn Sibley, GC

Financial Audit Review (16)

(A qualified woman in each region where the committee meets will be invited by the committee chairman.)

GC Headquarters Relocation and Building (12)

Carla Battle, GC
Bette Bertochini, GC
(Shirley Burton)
Jennie Stevenson, GC

GC Officers (Invitee) (23 members + 7 invitees)

Coordinator, Women's Ministries Advisory Committee

GC Session Central Planning and Program (25)

Ellen Brese, GC
Shirley Burton, GC

Noelene Johnsson, GC

(Irene Larkin)
(Dian Lawrence)

GCS Physical Arrangements (22)

Helen Craig, GC
Patti Hare, GC
Jodi Onoffrey, GC
Eunice Rozema, GC

Information System Services (15)

Sylvia Dennis, GC
Mary Haloviak, GC
Fely Ann Rugless, GC

Investments and Securities (21)

Sylvia Budd, GC
Rosamund Wood, GC

Legislation and Religious Liberty (Legal)(24)

Loleta Thomas, GC

Library (12)

Annabel Kendall, GC
Joyce Linford, GC
Gay Mack, GC
Lygia-de Olivera, GC
Bonnie Perkins, Home Study International
Nancy Poist, GC
Elaine Robinson, GC
(Lorraine Sweetland)
Kit Watts, GC

Music Committee (18)

Beverly Botten
(Karen Flowers)
(Gwendolyn Foster)
Marianne Scriven, Takoma Park, Md.
(Dolly Weber)

Office Services (11)

Dirci Seidl, ADRA
Dolly Weber, GC
Dolores Wisbey, GC

Plans Screening (Annual Council)

Coordinator—Women's Ministries Advisory

Protocol (7)

Shirley Burton, GC
Elaine Robinson, GC
Angie Waring, GC

Publishing House Expansion (14)

Hepsiba Singh, R&H, Hagerstown, Md.

Remuneration Scale (21)

Aline Campbell, Home Study International
Rowena Moore, GC
Coordinator—Women's Ministries Advisory

Retirement Plan (21)

Marion Hartlein, GC
Doris Roth, GC
Coordinator—Women's Ministries Advisory

Sabbath School Lessons—Adult (In house) (31)

(Lyndelle Chiomenti)
(Jocelyn Fay)
(Charlotte Ishkanian)
(Laurell Peterson)
Alayne Thorpe, Home Study International
Debbie Anfenson-Vance, GC
Kit Watts, GC

Sabbath School—Adult (Reading Committee) (44)

(Lyndelle Chiomenti)
(Jocelyn Fay)
(Charlotte Ishkanian)
(Laurell Peterson)
Beatrice Neall, Union College
Leona Running, Andrews University

Sabbath School Lessons—Earliteen (Reading Committee) (9)

(Roxy Hoehn)
Jeanette Johnson, R&H, Hagerstown, Md.
(Eunice Morton)
(Penny Wheeler)

Southern Africa Affairs (12)

Elizabeth Bediako, GC
Jean Thomas, GC

Spirit of Prophecy (17)

Norma Collins, GC
Karen Flowers, GC
Mary Haloviak, GC

Trust Services Management

Marjorie Felder, GC

Week of Prayer Readings (14)

(Karen Flowers)
Beverly Rumble, GC
Debbie Anfenson-Vance, GC
Kit Watts, GC

Women's Ministries Advisory (10)

(Ellen Bresee)
(Shirley Burton)
Jocelyn Fay, corresponding member,
Southeastern California Conference
(Marjorie Felder)
(Raquel Haylock)
(Betty Holbrook)
(Beverly Rumble)
(Elizabeth Sterndale)
(Hepsiba Singh)
(Kit Watts)



Beverly Rumble

Karen Flowers (center) led one of 14 workshops held on October 8, the first day of the AAW Conference devoted to "Adventist Women and the Caring Church." Flowers, a specialist in family ministries for the General Conference Church Ministries department, led a small-group discussion about enhancing self-worth for the Christian woman for her workshop entitled, "Created For More."

EDITORIAL STAFF

The Adventist Woman
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Editor **Beverly K. Habada**
Assistant Editors **Beverly Rumble**
Penny Shell
Circulation **Vera Capman**
Mailing **Carol Stewart**
Vera Capman

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Copy deadline for the next issue of *The Adventist Woman* are Feb. 2, April 13.

Mail copy at least 5 days in advance of the deadline. The editor schedules the Friday and Sunday afterward to put material together.

Send to **Beverly K. Habada, Editor, The Adventist Woman, Box 3884, Langley Park, MD 20787.**

AAW Board of Directors 1986-1988

President, Nancy Marter, 407 Quaint Acres Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904 (301) 622-2356

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Secretary, Delores Maupin, 7516 Dundalk Rd., Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 588-4297

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International Development, Iris Yob, 1633 Dorchester Dr., Bloomington, IN 47401

GC Liason, Viveca Black, 531 12th St., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003 (202) 546-0479

Pastor, Jan Daffern, 5388 Beulah Dr. Ijamsville, MD 21754 (301) 831-6659

Atlantic Union Director, Nora Valentine Atlantic Union College S. Lancaster, MA 01561

Columbia Union Director, Shirley Zork 9606 Riggs Rd., Adelphi, MD 20783 (301) 445-4347

Lake Union Director, Karen Harrison 547 Oak St., Niles, MI 49120 (616) 684-7177

Mid-America Union Director, Ruthita Fike AHS/EMA 8800 West 75th St. Shawnee Mission, KS 66204 (913) 677-8000

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Pacific Union Director, Alyce Pudewell 12168 Mt. Vernon Ave., #58 Grand Terrace, CA 92324 (714) 824-2339

Southern Union Director, Sherri Craig 1048 Blackwood St., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701 (305) 339-0477

Southwestern Union Director, Judy Foll-Miles Business Administration Dept., Southwestern Adventist College Keene, TX 76709 (817) 641-4564



Vera Capman (left) and Eva Lynne Herman were among those on the registration team who welcomed incoming AAW members at the conference site, throughout the weekend.



Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, greeted the 300 persons attending the banquet on Thursday night, October 8.



Elizabeth O'Connor, well-known Christian author from the Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C., presented the keynote address.

Thursday—Food for body, mind, soul

by Madeline S. Johnston

From the warm reception at the registration table until the end of the book sale following the banquet, Thursday was packed with nourishment for mind, body, and soul—and thus a foretaste of the days to follow when the fifth national AAW conference convened in Takoma Park, Maryland, October 8-11. More than 180 individuals were on hand on the first day and registrations continued to climb during the weekend.

Following an opening devotional by Kendra Haloviak, an English/theology major at Columbia Union College, a profusion of workshops confronted our decision-making skills. We could attend several short ones or one or two longer ones. Here is a rundown:

Workshops galore

Don Reynolds' "Conflict Resolution" seminar continued through the whole day; each participant received a binder full of materials saw a movie, engaged in some small-group exercises and learned basic principles for resolving any type of interpersonal conflict.

Other morning workshops included "Mission to the City," by Juanita Krestchmar on how to begin a city van ministry such as she has successfully led in New York City; "Stress Defense Identification," Miriam Wilson's presentation on recognizing the body's signs of stress; and "How to Have a Successful Marriage," tips from Lynn Schwindt on managing successfully in a two-income family.

"Spiritual Renewal Through Meditation," by Mary Cosby, offered a tangible approach to drawing closer to Christ, while "The Lonely Believer" workshop by Hyveth Williams suggested ways of ministering to an unbelieving spouse.

Hepsi Ohal offered thoughts on intercessory prayer in "What Happens When Women Pray?" Viveca Black presented a plan for supporting incarcerated mothers, "Reaching Out to Women in Prison."

One of the most popular sessions was James Cox's "A Look at *Women in the Church*," a response to the issues Samuele Bacchiocchi raises in his recent book.

"Created for More," led by Karen Flowers and Sallie Fredericks, was a seminar designed to enhance the Christian woman's self-worth. Linda Case presented "HOPE Ministry," a creative plan devised by the Beltsville, Maryland, church to ensure that all visitors and new members experience the ministry of Christian hospitality.

"Women in Church Leadership," which explored options and opportunities for women to be active at various levels of the church, was coordinated by Nancy Marter, president of AAW.

Two practical workshops were "Spiritual Renewal Through Journal Writing" by Ursula Daniels and "Tender Loving Care," Edwina Neely's guide from her own experience for beginning a Christian daycare ministry in one's home.

These meetings were held on the three floors of the educational wing of Sligo church. A table downstairs continually offered hot-drink options for those who wished refreshment. Hallways, classrooms, and the beautiful central atrium, with its display of women's art on one level and overhanging plants framing the setting from the level above, provided an ideal place for fellowship.

GC President Greets Group

General Conference President Neal C. Wilson was among several who greeted the crowd of nearly 300 who attended the awards banquet in the Columbia Union College cafeteria. Though in the midst of a busy Annual Council session, Wilson said he wished to speak personally to the group rather than send a written message as he has done on the occasion of earlier AAW conferences.

Others greeting the group included Charles E. Bradford, president of the North American Division; the mayor of Takoma Park, Stephen Del Giudice; and Metro AAW Chapter President Norma Osborn.

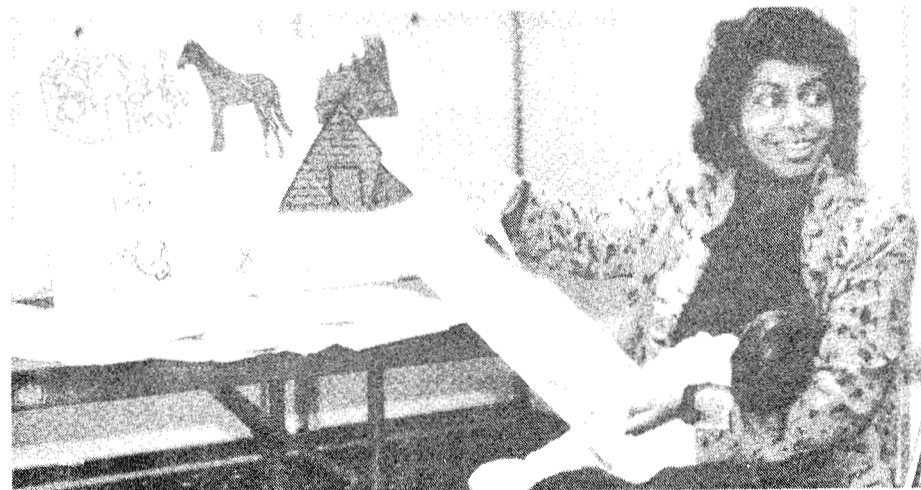
Women of the Year

The evening banquet provided a beautiful setting for presenting the three Women of the Year Awards. We literally gasped as Superwoman appeared before us three times, yet looking perfectly human and normal.

Awards went to Alcyon Ruth Fleck (Home/Community) whose orphanages in Central America now care for nearly 300 children; to Joyce Wilson Hopp (Work/Professional), dean of Loma Linda University's School of Allied Health Professions; and to Carmen Lopez Morales (Church Life), whose efforts as a Bible worker led to the establishment of more than 35 Spanish churches in New York City.

Keynote speaker Elizabeth O'Connor valiantly undertook her address about 9:30 p.m. after the extended greetings and tributes to the Women of the Year. Within moments her quiet sincerity and substantive Christian insights captivated the audience. Miss O'Connor is a well-known author and a member of a dynamic ecumenical congregation in Washington, D.C., the Church of the Saviour. Many of the books—*Journey Inward*, *Journey Outward*, *Eighth Day of Creation*, and her newest, *Cry Pain, Cry Hope*, were available after the banquet. We had had a long day but we felt good.

Madeline S. Johnston writes from Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Edwina Neely, who works with her pastor husband in the Brotherhood church, Washington, D.C., described how to begin a Christian daycare ministry in the home during her workshop, "Tender Loving Care."



Juanita Krestchmar, who has successfully initiated a city van ministry in New York City, discussed "Mission to the City."



AAW President Nancy Marter read the inscription on the commemorative plaque for Carmen Lopez Morales, winner of the Woman of the Year Church Life award.



Hepsi Ohal led a workshop entitled "What Happens When Women Pray," a ministry of intercessory prayer.



Dr. James J.C. Cox investigated Samuele Bacchiocchi's arguments against women's ordination in the book *Women in the Church*.



Penny Shell

Dr. George Reid, director of the GC's Biblical Research Institute, outlined his views on the coming Role of Women Commission set to meet March 24-27, 1988.



Penny Shell

Four church leaders responded to an invitation to dialogue formally with conferees on Friday, October 9, in an hour-and-a-half session of questions-and-answers. Members of the panel were Ron Wisbey, president, Columbia Union; Al McClure, president, Southern Union; Charles Bradford, president, North American Division; and Jerry Page, president, Pennsylvania Conference.



Penny Shell

Elizabeth Sterndale of the GC Health and Temperance department sits by invitation with the North American Division officers to represent women's concerns.



Beverly Rumble

cert to conclude events on Friday. She teaches at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Friday—Ministry, music, and meditation

by Stella Greig

Friday was a day filled with ministry, music, and meditation.

The highlight of Friday was its sunset. Conference participants gathered in the atrium area of Sligo church around candle-lit tables for an agape supper. In the middle were several tables arranged in the shape of the cross. On them were trays of bread, baskets of fresh fruit, and flickering candles.

Penny Shell, hospital chaplain in Chicago, had begun our day with worship, introducing two women who recounted part of their journeys into ministry.

Leslie Bumgartner, a pastor in the Worthington SDA church in Ohio, spoke of the death of her dream to become a pastor only to have it resurrected again. She recalled how at the tomb of Lazarus, Christ had declared, "Unbind him and let him go" (John 11:44). She had felt that unbinding, that freedom which living in Christ brings, when her dream was given life again.

Margaret Turner, chaplain at Kettering Hospital in Kettering, Ohio, said she had not begun her journey to chaplaincy knowingly. "But as I look back over my life, I can discern the hand of God," she said quietly. She shared a few experiences that led to her studying for an M.Div. degree, completing the intense training of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and taking up her present responsibilities.

Next, Bonnie Hannah, president-elect of the national AAW, led an open forum for conferees. One of the main topics of discussion was the need to clarify AAW's goals and work for the church at large. Several suggestions emerged from the floor: use of newsletters, articles for church papers, setting up booths at camp meetings, and cooperation with Shepherdess International leaders in local conferences.

The open forum was cut short in order to hear a report from Dr. George Reid, head of

the Biblical Research Institute (BRI). BRI has commissioned a third set of scholarly papers on women and the church, especially in relation to ordaining women to the pastoral ministry.

The first set were written about 1974 as a result of the Camp Mohaven Conference. A second, smaller set were the basis for discussion of a 1985 Commission on the Role of Women, which had 65 members from all parts of the world church.

According to Reid, the earlier papers, while scholarly and well-done, had left some areas untouched. The new set—which will be distributed to about 75 members of a commission that meets in March 1988—is to include some "additional topics."

George Reid on BRI Papers

In choosing the scholars, Reid indicated that some effort had been made to select individuals known to be "pro" and some known to be "con" on women's ordination. However, he said, the view of some were not known at the time of their selection.

Reid estimates that the new papers will total about 750 pages. He assured the packed session that BRI and he himself are determined to "be as fair as fair could be" on this issue.

"The persons to whom I am responsible are the officers of the General Conference," Reid said, "and I try to do a work that will be pleasing to them." Although the ordination of women might be an important issue to some, Reid said that he hoped the church would focus on really important tasks, such as the gospel commission.

In response, several conferees commented that as the gospel commission was given to both men and women, women wanted to heed its call, and that they hoped the church would recognize and use the gifts the Holy Spirit had given to both sexes.

One of the women pastors pled that in its deliberations the 1988 commission would hear personal experiences of women like herself. "We need to study the Bible texts," she agreed, but added her hope that the commission would also investigate the leading of the Holy Spirit in individuals to lives.

Since the commission's work is to recommend action to upcoming Annual Councils and ultimately to the 1990 GC session, a concern was voiced about how BRI and GC leaders would educate those delegates. The suggestion was made that the BRI papers themselves would be an excellent basis for delegates' study and prayer.

After lively give-and-take, the session concluded and four workshops commenced—a panel discussion on "The Church as Your Employer;" "Feminine Images of God," by Iris Yob; "Conducting Hospitality Seminars," by Patricia Mutch; and a panel discussion on "What Does a Woman Elder Do?" A common thread running through the last three workshops was the gift of nurturance that female members bring to the church.

During the lunch break, Susan Vanko, an Adventist from Hungary who has begun a Bible school to train pastors, spoke to interested individuals about Adventist work in that country. She reported the recent conversion of a well-known composer in Hungary.

Dialogue with NAD Leaders

A long-awaited dialogue with North American church leaders began after lunch. NAD President, Charles E. Bradford, led a panel that included Ron Wisbey, president of the Columbia Union; Al McClure, president of the Southern Union; and Jerry Page, president of the Pennsylvania Conference. Elizabeth Sterndale, from the GC Health and Temperance Department, moderated the session. She is a member of the GC Women's Ministries Advisory Committee and sits regularly with the NAD officers to represent women's concerns.

"We are a pilgrim community and should not be stationary," Bradford said in his opening remarks. "We should not be threatened by change. New wine stretches and breaks old bottles. The church must be open and accessible to the Holy Spirit."

The panel responded to written questions that ranged from financial remuneration for pastors' widows, the personnel data bank, and women ministers. Concerning the latter, Jerry Page commented that we ought to encourage the gifts of the Spirit in everyone. Ron Wisbey added that "the gift of ministry should be nurtured wherever you find it."

After the agape supper, the day ended with meditation and music featuring harpist Beverly Wesner-Hoehn from Bloomington, Indiana.



Kit Watts

Dr. Penny Shell, chaplain at Thorek Hospital in Chicago, organized the Friday morning devotional which included Pastor Leslie Bumgartner and Chaplain Margaret Turner.



Beverly Rumble

A popular and practical workshop focused on "What Does a Woman Elder Do?" Members of the panel were all members and elders in Sligo Church. (Left to Right): Donna Weigle, Jan Daffern, Joan Hatt, and Carol Stewart.



Kit Watts

Many conference events took place in the versatile and lovely atrium at Sligo Church, including the Friday evening candlelight agape supper which featured a communion service led by Jan Daffern.

Stella Greig teaches English at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.



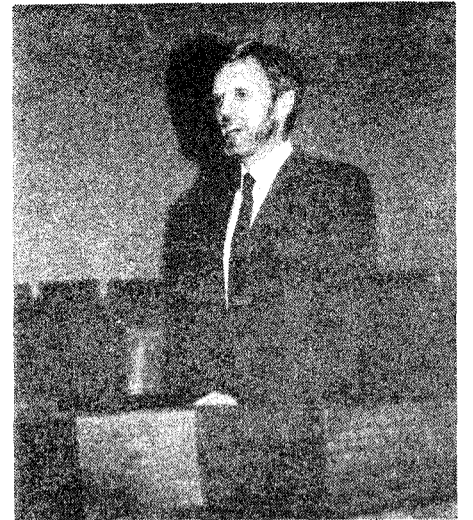
Photos: Penny Shell

Norma Osborn (far right at microphone), president of the Metro DC Chapter, focused the conclusion of the Sabbath vespers program on the future of the church—its young people—and how we must nurture their hopes and dreams now.



Penny Shell

Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano, receives a bouquet for her from Dr. Marianne Scriven who organized music for the entire conference.



Penny Shell

Dr. Charles Scriven, Sligo pastor, preached to a capacity audience on October 10 with his sermon entitled, "How to Ordain Women."



Penny Shell

"Saturday Night Live" brought laughter and recreation to conference participants who got to provide instant entertainment for each other.



Beverly Rumble

Shirley Kinsman Johnson, a homemaker from Virginia, added her musical talent to the Sabbath afternoon program.

Sabbath—Affirmation, testimonies, and recreation

by Beverly Rumble

"How do you ordain women? Just read the instructions. And then follow them," began Dr. Charles Scriven's stirring Sabbath-morning sermon to the Sligo church congregation augmented by more than 200 AAW conferees and many guests attending the church's Annual Council, a yearly business session that attracts delegates from its 10 world divisions.

Pastor Scriven's moving affirmation of women's ministry to the church was only one event in a busy and exhilarating series of Sabbath programs. During Sabbath school, with Noelene Johnsson as superintendent, a number of women participated in the program, including Collette Crowell Pekar, a pastor from Pendleton, Oregon, who taught the lesson study on Ruth.

In the afternoon, the public was invited to visit the exhibit of women's art in the Sligo church atrium, and Elisabeth Wear showed videotapes of the 1986 AAW Conference in Loma Linda, California.

Highlights of the afternoon included a sacred concert by Rosa Lamoreaux, soloist, and a multimedia vesper program called, "In Him We May Soar," produced by Edith Gates and Karen Flowers.

The audience alternately laughed or became quiet and thoughtful during "Eve's Version," a collage of music, poems, and personal stories. Participants included Shari

Morris, Helen Bradford, Shirley Zork, Margaret Hemp, Deborah Anfenson-Vance, Edith Davis, Rhona Cooper, and Shirley Johnson.

One of the surprises of the conference was the appearance of an Adventist woman pastor from Mexico, Eva Nora Rios de Monroy. Her friendly, buoyant personality quickly superceded the language barrier, as her testimony of God's blessing on her ministry was eloquently translated by Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson.

Norma Osborn, Metro D.C. Chapter president, provided a hopeful outlook for the church's future as she called nearly a dozen elementary, academy, and college-age young women to join her on the stage to conclude the vespers event.

The day concluded with "Saturday Night Live," an informal and unrehearsed feature which offered storytelling, pantomimes, singing, and fun for everyone led by Elizabeth Sterndale and Bonnie Hannah. The women—and men—who participated together felt a sense of camaraderie and pleasure at the opportunity to enjoy old friends and make new ones.

Beverly Rumble is assistant editor of The Journal of Adventist Education, at General Conference Headquarters.



Penny Shell

Helen Bradford made the audience laugh and cry as she recounted raising her children and earning their tuition in Adventist schools.

Sunday—The overflowing cup

by Judith Nembhard

Before the end of the third day, one woman attending the Fifth Annual AAW conference confided to President Nancy Marter, "I am walking around with a full cup."

It must have come as a surprise to her that Sunday's meeting brought with it the capacity to cause the cup to overflow. By day four of most four-day conferences, attendance thins out and participants begin to show signs of fatigue. Not so with this conference. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. and down to the last hour the momentum remained, even though the business session!

The continental breakfast out of the way, the group paused for spiritual insights by former Sligo church Associate Pastor Jerry Daffern. She spoke of the correspondence between Mary, the mother of Jesus, and today's women "in the fullness of time" for whom there is no ready place to bear the good news. "Our stories will be told sometime," she said reassuringly, since we were gathered really "to help each other to be delivered of the good news."

The conference theme, "The Adventist Woman and the Caring Church," became quite evident in the business session. Delight Clapp's treasurer's report generated much

discussion when it appeared that AAW was in the red financially. Junell Vance, Atlantic Union Women's Commission member and others spoke to the issue passionately, demonstrating that they cared deeply about the organization and the effectiveness of its work in the church.

Mentors Boost AAW

To help improve the organization's financial strength, Viveca Black, AAW church leadership liaison, introduced the mentor's program, whereby individuals can commit themselves to yearly sums for special projects and the organization's own stability.

The caring church theme emerged strongly when Pat Habada brought to the floor an appeal on behalf of a Kenyan woman who travels throughout her country to educate and liberate Adventist African women. Although her division approves her work, it is unable to fund it. Could AAW help? Enthusiastic debate ensued, but a motion was passed to refer the matter to the AAW executive board for very careful study.

Paying Pastors' Wives

From Friday's workshop in "The Church

as Employer," several resolutions emerged and were presented and debated. The most spirited exchange came with a resolution "that the church begin paying pastors' wives." After animated discussion, it was decided to accept the resolutions in spirit but that a committee would be delegated the responsibility of reshaping them.

Compared with previous years, the list of resolutions turned in by the Committee on Resolutions was quite short. The five items were amply discussed, members basically in accord with them.

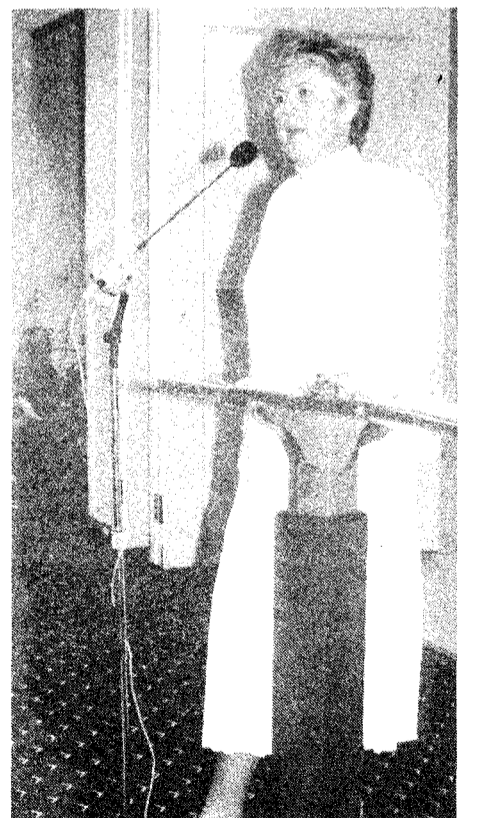
After this stimulating session of shared interests and creative ideas, could we still take in more?

At 11:30 a musical interlude was provided by the New England Youth Ensemble's newly formed baroque ensemble. Under the direction of Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, the group gave a first-caliber minirecital.

First Lady of Hawaii

The size of the audience grew considerably for the final event of the conference, a speech by Lynne Waihee, wife of the governor of

See OVERFLOWING CUP, p. 7



Penny Shell

Nancy Marter, a homemaker from Silver Spring and president of AAW, called the Sunday morning business session to order.



The New England Youth Ensemble, directed by Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, provided a taste of baroque music on Sunday morning as the conference was concluding.



Lynne Waihee, whose husband was recently elected Governor of Hawaii, shared her Adventist perspective on public life.



Photos: Beverly Rumble

Before the business session on Sunday morning, October 11, conferees enjoyed a buffet breakfast and home-made goodies.

OVERFLOWING CUP

Continued from page 6

Hawaii. Gary Ross, General Conference Capitol Hill liaison, introduced her, noting her background as a teacher at Hawaiian Mission Academy. He said of her, "She practices Seventh-day Adventism without even the thought of compromise."

"I am proud to be part of God's family," declared the soft-spoken Hawaiian first lady. Although her husband is not a practicing Adventist, she said, she knew that "the Lord has a place for me."

Hers is a life of pluses and minuses as she outlined it. She lives in a 17-room house that was the residence of the last queen of Hawaii, and she gets to meet some of the world's most famous and important people. But here is the drawback of having to contend with lack of privacy "You don't know how great jeans are until you are not allowed to wear

them in public anymore," she said with a wistful smile.

Lynne Waihee sees her Adventist affiliation as a positive factor both for herself and her children. And she said she considered the time spent at the AAW conference as "a time of spiritual renewal and growth."

The conference ended on an upbeat note. While the AAW officers prepared for a scheduled afternoon evaluation session, conference participants fanned out to different parts of the country. They left with the benediction of heaven sought by Swiss Pastor Vivianne Hanni. They must have walked away gently for they carried overflowing cups.

Judith Nembhard is an educator living in Silver Spring, Maryland

1987 Conference Resolutions:

IMPROVING AAW IMAGE

Whereas delegates and attendees to the 1987 national conference of the Association of Adventist Women expressed serious concerns about the apparent negative image of the AAW as perceived by a significant number of persons, and

Whereas the AAW is committed to encouraging women to use their God-given talents as effectively as possible,

We therefore resolve to request the AAW board, regional directors, and local AAW chapters to institute an aggressive campaign of advertising and education which will promote a more accurate and positive perception of the organization.

We recommend the adoption of these specific goals for 1987-1988:

1. Seek funding through fundraising, grants, contributions and donations to underwrite the enormous expense connected with advertising and education efforts.
2. Prepare and disseminate appropriate materials which portray accurately the goals and work of the AAW (i.e., AAW conference tapes and videotapes; AAW commemorative posters; articles to Adventist journals and newsletters; inserts in church bulletins which announce local and national AAW activities; letters of information to conference officials, church pastors, etc.)
3. Send complimentary copies of AAW newsletters, brochures and pertinent information to women pastors.
4. Welcome and encourage the membership and support of male constituents.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Whereas statistics reveal that the Adventist home is in difficulty, and

Whereas we note specific difficulties encountered by pastors and their families when counseling is needed,

We therefore resolve to request that the North American Division Church Ministries Department encourage each conference in North America to provide a professionally trained and licensed marriage and family therapist/psychologist who is able to provide high quality, confidential counseling to all members, be they church members or pastors and their families.

SUPPORT FOR AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY

We resolve to request the General Conference Committee to recognize the calling of women to the gospel ministry by sponsoring and encouraging more women to enter theological training programs and encouraging conferences to extend calls to these women for pastoral posts.

We further resolve to request that the General Conference Committee grant women presently in pastoral ministry, and those currently in training, full support and encouragement in their calling.

STUDY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Whereas the General Conference administration is seeking information regarding ordination of women for consideration by the 1990 GC session, and has requested the Biblical Research Institute to study the issues involved,

We therefore resolve to request the General Conference Officer Committee to ask women currently in pastoral ministry to personally testify before the commission appointed to study the ordination of women as to the nature of their call.

We further resolve to request that the 1988 Spring Council and 1989 Annual Council also solicit the testimony of women called to pastoral ministry before action is taken on the matter.

We further resolve that, in order to add increased credibility to the work of the Biblical Research Institute, we request the GC President and Officers to re-examine the composition of the group assigned to prepare papers on the issues surrounding the ordination of women and add the names of a substantial number of women scholars, and that a concerted effort be made to obtain papers written by these women.

We further resolve to request the Biblical Research Institute to obtain abstracts from each

author commissioned to write a paper, and to distribute the abstracts to all members of the General Conference Committee before the 1988 Spring Council, and to all delegates to the General Conference Session before its 1990 meeting, including in each case information as to how complete texts of the papers may be obtained.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Whereas the General Conference since its 1985 session has indicated a desire to increase the number of women in leadership positions within the church,

We therefore resolve to request that the North American Division officers widely publish all openings for all leadership positions. Recognizing the potential value of the General Conference Data Bank, we will request some refinements in the process as stated for placing and keeping the names of qualified persons in the bank by:

- (1) Requesting the presence of at least one voting woman on the GC Committee overseeing the Data Bank, and
- (2) Appointing an AAW liaison to this committee.

We further resolve to request that the North American Division establish a policy that women and men be employed by denominational organizations based on their qualifications of education and experience and not on race or gender, married or single, except for purposes of implementing affirmative action to bring balance to the work force.

We further resolve to request the General Conference committee to take a clear position at the 1990 GC Session in support of employing and ordaining women who have received the calling and education for pastoral ministry.

We further resolve to request that the AAW president and president-elect obtain a copy of the General Conference Affirmative Action Plan and progress report on the plan since its inception, for report at the 1988 AAW national meeting.



Miriam Wilson, (standing at microphone) from West Virginia, introduced a question on some of the conference resolutions which were thoroughly debated before being voted by the group, giving direction to AAW for the coming year.

Penny Shell

SPECIAL THANKS

We hereby request the executive board of the Association of Adventist Women to express appreciation to:

- Participants at the fifth national conference of the Association of Adventist Women.
- Women pastors and chaplains serving in various capacities.
- Women serving on boards and committees.
- Men who support AAW.
- Women studying for the ministry.
- Charles Scriven, senior pastor, Sligo Church, for inspiring leadership.
- Charles and Marta Teel for making possible the attendance of Eva Nora Rios de Monroy, pastor from Mexico.
- The General Conference Officers for bringing together the Women in Ministry in official meeting.
- Elizabeth O'Connor for her wonderful presentation.
- The 1987 conference steering committee.
- President Neal Wilson, Elder C. E. Bradford and other GC officers.
- All seminar participants.
- Participants in the Sabbath afternoon program.
- The producers of the multi-media presentation.
- The Metro Chapter for hosting the conference.
- Sligo Church, Columbia Union College, the Columbia Union, and related organizations for support and use of their facilities.
- All the many other people who made the conference a success.

FURTHER RESOLUTIONS TO BE DEVELOPED:

In discussion during the October 11 business session of the association, several persons expressed concerns about present denominational employment practices and suggested the need for resolutions to cover:

- (1) day care provisions for women employees/denominational families.
- (2) GC policies on retirement credit for volunteer service, particularly for ministers' wives who do not presently receive remuneration for work done along with their husbands.
- (3) GC policies on pay scale for pastor's wife when the wife is a salaried employee.

A motion was made to table the discussion of new/additional resolutions on employment practices at this time and refer these issues to the executive board for study of suggestions and comments. Voted to accept the motion.



Dr. Borge Schantz (center of front row) offers his personal support as head of the Theology Department at Newbold College in England for women theology students. The 26 women, 17 of whom are pictured here, comprise 25 percent of the theology students. (Statistics collected in the North American Colleges show that only Atlantic Union College surpasses them with 24 women theology majors out of a class of 58, or about 45 percent.)

Newbold attracts students from several European countries. Those in the photo are: (Front row, left to right): Drene Somasundram, Britain; Mai-Britt Kendel, Norway; Dr. Borge Schantz; Hilde Thorkildsen, Norway; Jeanetta Francis, Britain.

(Middle row, left to right): Marjut Hakkinen, Finland; Heidi Kamal, Norway; Elisabeth Duer, Denmark; Jaana Ritsila, Finland; Berit Klausen, Norway; Karin Lundberg, Sweden.

(Back row, left to right): Joyce Samuel, Britain; Kamini Mahendran, Britain; Kari Bernhardsen, Norway; Ann-Christian Ostling, Sweden; Anita Olsen, Norway; Mildred Nilsen, Norway.

According to Helen Pearson, public relations director for Newbold College, the theology faculty have pledged themselves "to encourage prospective women church leaders and promote their participation in all levels of church activity."



Penny Shell

Hyveth Williams, associate pastor at Sligo Church, led a Thursday workshop at the conference for "The Lonely Believer," ministering to an unbelieving spouse.

Ron Wisbey, President, Columbia Union Conference, 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045

R. L. Woodfork, NAD Associate Secretary, 6840 Eastern Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012

South American Division

Caixa Postal 12-2600
70279 Brasilia, DF, Brazil

Jose Justiniano, Ministerial Asso. Secy.

Mario Veloso, Secretary

Joao Wolff, President

Mrs. Claudio Belz, c/o South Brazil Union Conference, Caixa Postal 7116, 80021 Curitiba, PR, Brazil

South Pacific Division

148 Fox Valley Road
Wahroonga, N.S.W. 2076
Australia

Joan Baldwin

David Curry, Ministerial Assoc. Secy.

Arthur Ferch, Field Secretary

W. R. L. Scragg, President

Southern Asia Division

Post Box 15
Poona 411001, India

Gerald Christo, President

Gordon Christo, Spicer Memorial College, Aundh Road, Ganeshkhind Post, Poona 411007, India

Juanita Singh, 4987 Sierra Vista Ave. Apt. #1, Riverside, CA 92505

Trans-European Division

119 St. Peter's Street
St. Albans, Herts.
AL1 3EY, England

Jan Paulsen, President, TED

Rolf Kvinge, President, West Nordic Union, Holmenkollveien 31, 0376 Oslo 3, Norway

Aulikki Nahkola, Dean of Women, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 5AN, England

Ronald Surridge, President, North British Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperly Park, Nottingham, NG3 5BZ, England

New commission on ordination meets in Washington D.C. March 24-27

Continued from front page

General Conference Personnel:
6840 Eastern Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20012

Neal C. Wilson, Chairman
George Reid, Secretary

Lowell Bock

Floyd Bresee

C.D. Brooks

Shirley Burton

W.O. Coe

Don Gilbert

R. J. Kloosterhuis

Richard Leshner, President, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Kenneth J. Mittleider

Enoch Oliveria

Robert Olson

Calvin Rock

Marie Spangler

Fred Thomas

G. Ralph Thompson

Kit Watts

Theologians and Selected Resource Persons:

Laurel Damsteegt, 3832 Prince William Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031

Raoul Dederen, SDA Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Elly Economu, Religion Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Gerhard Hasel, SDA Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Raymond Holmes, SDA Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

William G. Johnsson, *Adventist Review*, 6840 Eastern Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012

Miroslav Kis, SDA Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Richard Lehmann, Collonges-sous-Salève, 74160 Saint Julien en Genevois, France

Kenneth Vine, Religion Department, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350

Steve Wallace, 141 Hillcrest, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Divisions:

Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Cidex 03 C 84

Rivera 1

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

West Africa

Jacob Nortey, President

Ted N. C. Wilson, Secretary

Division Ministerial Assoc. Secy.

Emilienne Rasamoely, Boite Postale 670, 101

Antananarivo, Madagascar

Eastern Africa Division

P.O. Box H.G. 100

Highlands, Harare

Zimbabwe, Africa

Bekele Heye, President

Division Ministerial Assoc. Secy.

Mrs. Eunice Wangai, East African Union Mission, P.O. Box 42276, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa

Euro-Africa Division

Schoshaldenstrasse 17

300 Berne 32

Switzerland

Edwin Ludescher, President

Johann Mager, Ministerial Assoc. Secy.

Far Eastern Division

800 Thompson Road

Singapore 1129

Republic of Singapore

Nancy Bassham, Church Ministries Dept.

Ottis C. Edwards, President

J. H. Zachary, Ministerial Assoc. Secy.

Inter-American Division

P.O. Box 140760

Miami, Florida 33114-0760 USA

George Brown, President

Salim Japas, Ministerial Assoc. Secy.

Silburn Reid, President, West Indies Union, P.O.

Box 22, Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies

North American Division

Pastor Eradio Alonso, 5294 Siera Vista Avenue, Riverside, CA 92505

Pastor Gordon Bietz, Collegedale SDA Church, Southern College, Collegedale, TN 37315

C. E. Bradford, NAD President, 6840 Eastern Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012

Joe Espinosa, Secretary for NAD Missions, 6840 Eastern Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012

Pastor Marsha Frost, 5735 Wooden Spoon Court, Burke, VA 22015

Thesba Johnston, School of Education, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Erma Lee, Department of Education, North Pacific Union, 10225 East Burnside Street, Portland, OR 97216

John Loor, President, Indiana Conference, P.O. Box 1950, Carmel, IN 46032

Patricia Mutch, Director, Institute of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Luther Palmer, President, Lake Region Conference, 8517 South State Street, Chicago, IL 60619

Gary B. Patterson, Asst. to NAD President, 6840 Eastern Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012

Benjamin Reaves, President, Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL 35896

W. C. Scales, Jr., NAD Ministerial Association, 6840 Eastern Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012

Clifford Sorenson, President, British Columbia Conference, P.O. Box 1000, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada V2S 4P5

Elizabeth Sterndale, Health and Temperance Dept, 6840 Eastern Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20012

Helen Thompson, Vice President, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92354

Pastor Louis Venden, University SDA Church, Campus Drive, Loma Linda, CA 92354



Many new friends were made during the conference. Viviane Hanni (left), who has pastored a church in Geneva, Switzerland, first met Eva Nora Rios de Monroy, an energetic Adventist pastor from Monterrey, Mexico.

Photo: Penny Shell

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

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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