

## Kit Watts Accepts California Position

by Jocelyn Fay

La Sierra University has chosen an *Adventist Review* editor to be founding director of its brand-new Women's Resource Center. Kit Watts, assistant editor of the *Review* for the past 10 years, made the cross-country move from Silver Spring, Maryland, to Riverside, California, this spring and began her work on the La Sierra University campus in May.

In addition, Watts serves the Southeastern California Conference part-time as assistant to the president for communication. In that role she will provide expertise in print media and coordinate the conference's overall communication ministry.

"Having dual roles will be a challenge," Watts admitted, "but there will be advantages, too." She looks forward to working with "top-quality people" in both settings, she said, and the chance to network widely.

As the research center takes shape, it will develop a variety of projects, programs, and services, Watts said. It will provide resources for students and faculty of LSU, which recently added a new gender studies program to its curriculum. And as it grows, it undoubtedly will begin serving the wider church family and the community by collecting and sharing information, sponsoring lectures and conferences, and producing publications.

"Establishing a center like this certainly has its challenges," Watts said. "There aren't that many models to follow. Figuring out my priorities is going to be an interesting task."

"Knowing me, though," she added, "I'll probably want one of those priorities to be publishing a newsletter!"

According to Watts, La Sierra University began its search last summer for a director for the women's research center, the first on any Adventist campus. She received the invitation to be that person in October.

"We are looking forward to her leadership," said Lawrence Geraty, university president. "Over the years she has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the women in the church and has amassed a set of skills that are tailor-made for this position."



Kit Watts

Before joining the *Adventist Review* staff in 1987, Watts was assistant professor and periodicals librarian at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, for eight years. While at Andrews, she earned a Master of Arts degree in religion from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Earlier she earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Maryland.

A former woman in ministry, Watts was a member of the pastoral staff of Sligo Church, Takoma Park, Maryland, from 1973 to 1978. Since her graduation from Union College in 1966 she has also been a book editor for the *Review* and *Herald Publishing Association*, a public relations staff member at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and a junior high school teacher.

"Women's issues in the church are of particular interest to me," Watts said. While at the *Adventist Review*, she coordinated four special issues focusing on news and issues of concern to women. And she is the only woman to have served on all four of the General Conference commissions on the role of women in the church, beginning at Camp Mohaven in Ohio in 1973.

A founding member of the Association of Adventist Women and former editor of *The Adventist Woman*, Watts has attended all 14 of the AAW's national conferences. At the 1992 conference she received the Woman of the Year award for Church Life. Currently she coordinates an AAW project to locate and maintain contact with more than 150 women in ministry in North America and elsewhere.

## Eight Women to Be Honored for Work in the United States and Abroad

Diversity is a distinguishing mark of the group of eight women who will be honored as 1997 Adventist Women of the Year. Coming from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, the women have made differences in many lives, from newborns to the elderly, royalty to refugees, those in celebration and those in sorrow.

The awards are given in seven categories. Two women are being honored for their lifetime achievements.

**YOUTH LIFE:** Elsie Chan, a Chinese-American woman from Loma Linda, California, has led one of the largest Pathfinder clubs in the North American Division for 20 years. Additionally she has raised money for several Adventist educational institutions in the Southern California area, including a new elementary school with a full-size gymnasium and a 600-seat auditorium, grants for La Sierra University and Loma Linda Medical Center and continuing support of Loma Linda Academy.

**COMMUNITY LIFE:** Laura Carlson Sundin, a white woman from Loma Linda, California, has taken care of South Asian refugees for 20 years. She has helped find housing, furnishings and appliances for countless Vietnamese and Cambodians, in addition to helping them find jobs and watch over their families.

**CHURCH LIFE:** Adly Campos, an Hispanic lay evangelist from Mexico, was originally trained as a musician. But it is her dynamic preaching that has won hundreds for Christ in North America, Central America, and Southern Africa.

**FAMILY LIFE:** Mable Dunbar, a black woman from Berrien Springs, Michigan, has worked with abused women and children and homeless families. She recently has begun working with Polly's Place, an Adventist center near Andrews University that is a realization of her dream to provide shelter for Christian women and families in need.

**PROFESSIONAL LIFE:** Shirley Ann Munroe, a white woman from the Southwestern United States, has worked on behalf of rural small hospitals in that region for numerous years. A hospital administrator for 30 years, her leadership experience has included the vice presidency of the National Hospital Association for Rural

and Small Hospitals.

**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP:** Margaret Hempe, a white woman from Loma Linda, has served as a pastor of the University Church of Loma Linda for 30 years. She is the night on-call pastoral staff member, handling emergencies of all sorts. A leader of divorce recovery seminars, she is known as being one of the best people, across the country, to call when a person is going through a divorce. By the time of the conference, she will have been ordained.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:** Gertrude Green and Helen Sprengel are two women known for their devotion to missions in China and Thailand. The women's experiences include harrowing World War II escapes from advancing armies and friendships with Thai royalty.

Green established a school of midwifery in Bangkok that is considered the best in the country. As she celebrates her 90th birthday, the school is being named in her honor.

Sprengel raised millions of dollars for construction of an Adventist college outside of Bangkok. The college received accreditation from the Thai government — a nearly unheard-of feat for a non-Thai organization — and was nearing completion just as the Adventist college and mission compound in Singapore was seized by that country's government.

Siriporn Tantipoonwinai, the president of the Adventist college, will be in New England to help honor these women at the AAW conference.

## AAW Conference Will Highlight Women Adventist Pioneers

At the 1997 AAW Conference this fall, the emphasis will be on women in the early Adventist Church who made a difference. Taking place in New England, the October 9-12 meetings will allow Adventist women from all over to see firsthand the places where female Adventist pioneers made their mark.

Among the conference's special activities are two all-day bus tours of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. The tours will include sites in Maine where Ellen White was born and began her ministry in 1844, and the Washington, New Hampshire, church where Rachel Oakes Preston challenged the congregation to keep the Sabbath.

To make visiting the sites more memorable, Kit Watts will share special stories about these remarkable Adventist women that will provide insights on how Adventist women today can make a difference in the church. According to AAW President Alyce Pudewell, the stories can especially impact women wondering what God may be calling them to do with their talents.

The four-day event will also include the Women of the Year Banquet.

For more information, please read the Presidential Communiqué on page 2, and use the registration form on page 3.

## Polly's Place Provides Refuge for Women in Need

A new resource center for women in crisis opened June 1 near Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Called "Polly's Place," and incorporated under the name Women in Renewal, the center is designed as a place of healing for women from across Canada, the United States, and Bermuda. It is operated by an independent board.

The center, a home with cottages and spacious grounds is a gift from Polly Westman and her husband. The 15-bed home and cottages are dedicated for use by women who have experienced violence, loss of a spouse or child, as well as for pregnant teenagers. Daily counseling services are provided by the Andrews Univer-

sity department of social studies and psychology staff and students with master's degrees. The need for such a center is great; there were already 13 families waiting for aid when the center opened.

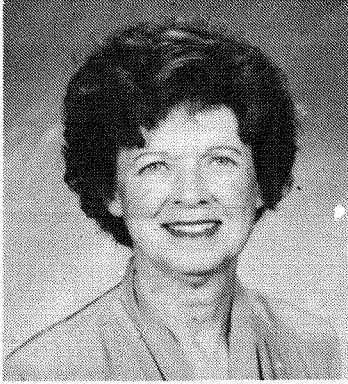
Polly's Place is the realization of a dream and countless prayers by Dr. Mable Dunbar, an Adventist woman who has worked for many years with women in crisis, and who served on a task force that studied domestic violence in Christian households.

Although Dunbar has helped numerous women over the years, until now, there was no place geared toward assisting women from an Adventist perspective, according to Cynthia Prime, the executive director of Polly's Place. As an example of the women

aided by Dunbar, Prime tells of one woman who was in an abusive marriage to a non-Adventist. Angered by his wife's Christian commitment, the husband gave her a couple of days to get out of the house and warned her not to even think about trying to determine the whereabouts of their daughter he had sneaked out of the house so he could bring her up "his way."

Knowing there are other women with similar stories, the North American Division is fully supportive of the mission of Polly's Place and is eager to see comparable places established in other parts of the division, according to Rose Otis, NAD women's ministries director.

## Presidential Communique



### Discovering the Church's Herstory

by Alyce Pudewell

HIS STORY is what we are accustomed to seeing and hearing. We call it HISTORY. As a woman, do you do what I do? Just assume that it includes you and me? And assuming that, do you notice that you find yourself hunting for her stories and wondering where they are?

Somehow, you have to keep assuming that HISTORY includes the stories of female, even when you can't find them. The stories must be there, somewhere. Half of the population is female, give or take a few, so the stories must be there, somewhere. Where are the women heroes in his/herstory? Were there female heroes in the Adventist Church?

And today, does God give us talents? Does He need us? Can we learn from women's stories of the past what we can expect for our role in the Adventist Church today? Why did God choose a woman prophet? Does that have implications for today?

These are issues of concern for our young women in the church. They are asking, What is our role in the church? What does God expect of us today? Does He intend for us to be leaders, heroes? Are the talents He has given us intended to help the Adventist Church in the last Great Commission? Or should we take our talents elsewhere?

This October, we will have the opportunity to talk to one another about these issues at our 15th annual conference in Massachusetts.

If you haven't heard the women's stories in early Advent his/herstory, come with us on a great adventure against a backdrop of brilliant autumn leaves in the lush mountains and valleys of New England. We will be led by that eminent collector of women's stories, Kit Watts. Those of you in attendance at last year's conference received a small taste of these wonderful stories. We are thrilled she has consented to lead us on a wonderful adventure to find those invisible women and bring them back to our HERSTORY.

If you know a young woman whom you vision as being an asset to and are concerned about her role in the church, please consider sponsoring her attendance at the conference. She will be inspired and reassured. She will find community and lasting friendship, as will you.

If you haven't sent in your registration yet, please use the form in this issue. A few errors have been corrected.

*You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.... You must do the thing you think you cannot do.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Clip 'n Do

#### HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

The Adventist Woman is published by the Association of Adventist Women six times per year.

- I am enclosing \$15 (\$22 outside the U.S.) to subscribe to *The Adventist Woman*.  
 My tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is also enclosed

name

address

city, state, zip

Mail this form with your check or money order payable in U.S. funds to:  
*The Adventist Woman*  
 P.O. Box 7414  
 Langley Park, MD 20787

**July 30**

**Deadline for receiving copy to be included in the next issue: July 30.**

#### Editorial Staff

**The Adventist Woman**  
**Volume 16, No. 2**

Guest Editor: Laura Beaven  
 Contributing Editor: Kit Watts  
 Copy Editor: Bev Rumble  
 Circulation: Kate Morgan

Submissions are welcome (preferably on computer diskette in WP5.1. Mail to: *The Adventist Woman*, Box 7414, Langley Park, MD 20787.

## Be-ing at the Crossroads: Facing Ourselves in Light of the Coming Millennium

by Lorene M. Jabola

From the work of Divine Love, arriving through our mother's and father's union, we started out on our journeys lovely, precious, beautiful. What has become of us since our births? Where have our journeys taken us? Surely we have "traveled a thousand roads, seen many faces, always on the way to something new" regardless of what age we might be.

Did you know that Adventist women are at the crossroads? What makes for one being at the crossroads?

First, the very nature of coming together from different life journeys in a meeting place creates crossroads. Webster defines crossroads as (1) "a road that crosses a main road or runs cross-country between main roads," and (2) "the place of intersection of two or more roads; a small community located at such a crossroads; a central meeting place."

Second, we must decide consciously or unconsciously what to do with our experience. Another definition of crossroads is a crucial point, especially where a decision must be made. But how do we make a decision or decisions? Which road to we take from here? The same road we traveled getting here or some other road? It all depends on where you want to go, what you are hoping to find at the end of the road, how fit or equipped you are to travel, how much of a risk you want to take, and how much you know about other roads.

In essence, be-ing (the verb or act) at the crossroads begins with my being (my existence or state). Who am I? Who am I as a woman? Who am I as a Seventh-day Adventist person? Who am I as an individual in relationship to others?

Knowing ourselves is foundational to making a decision and implementing that decision at the crossroads. We must ask the questions: What is it that I know about myself? Who/what has informed me this far on my journey? What do I know about God? Life? The world? How have I lived out the information that had formed me throughout my journey on the many roads I've taken? Am I more authentic? Compassionate? Do I know others as I have known by God?

As Seventh-day Adventist women, our identity has been shaped by familiar, socio-cultural, educational, and religious factors. Yes, we have eaten of the fruit. We know good and evil. We have been celebrated, loved, lusted after, violated, rejected. We have been labeled many things: Harlot/Enticer/Bad Girl to Virgin/Enticed/Good Girl. The force of much of the information we have received has moved us to travel different roads, pave new ones, and abandon some.

The workshops at the AAW conference last fall highlighted several ways to better understand our be-ing at the crossroads.

1. Cognitively/Intellectually. We are truly Wisdom's daughters! We are educated, brilliant, witty, and wise. Consequently, we are accomplished women in many areas of life. Along with our intelligence is a curiosity that is alive and well, wanting to know more, willing to challenge what we know, critiquing what we have been told. And for many, the result of being curious and challenging has led to much frustration, anger, and pain. Be-ing at the crossroads means facing some difficult realities and choices.

2. Affectively/Emotionally. There is excitement, joy, passion, fire among the women here. There is much care, love, and nurturing. There is also anger from realizing that we have been failed/wounded by those we have looked up to, trusted, believed. Fidelity to the truth of be-ing one in

Christ has been tramped upon, ripped apart. There is deep pain under the anger. Many of us have either lost our precious true selves or have had our souls caged in. And in an effort to re-vision and reclaim our selves, we kick and scream and dare to name that which has bound us. And in some small, yet significant way, we gather together and wear our ashes upon our heads. There is fear among us, for we only know what we've known. The roads ahead are covered by the fog of misconceptions, untruths, and doubts. Be-ing at the crossroads means being tossed to and fro in a sea of emotions, longing for wholeness, healing, acceptance, and the embodied/incarnate grace from one another.

3. Behaviorally. We are task oriented as well as relational oriented. We are Marthas and Marys. We identify a need, conceptualize a plan, and act. We are abled women. Strong, healthy, energetic, and empowered by one another. Be-ing at the crossroads means holding, uplifting, blessing one another in concrete, tangible ways.

4. Spiritually. We are yearning for oneness with our true selves, the selves God created and meant for us to be. We yearn for oneness and a deeper connection with the Source of our being. We thirst for loving, authentic relatedness with each other — women with other women, women with men, mothers with daughters, daughters with mothers, mothers and sons, sons and mothers and so on.

We certainly have much that we have brought to the crossroads. Given all that we are, what ought we to do from where we stand? What do we do with the difficult realities/choices/questions we face? What do we do with the moral dilemmas we find ourselves in? How are we to make moral decisions?

Arthur Holmes, in his 1991 book *Shaping Character*, describes a good process. Begin by describing the facts in the case, and analyzing the values involved. Introduce relevant rules, principles, and control beliefs. Develop alternate game plans and prioritize. Test against others' advice and the facts in the case. Then decide and implement.

Holmes goes on to state: "Principle moral decisions require a formed conscience with value-sensitivities which should have developed long before the case in question arose; and responsible decisions require a high degree of care and personal disinterestedness - in a word, moral character" (p. 52).

So, what is all the "stuff" that we keep carting from one place to the next on our different journeys? What has all we've known and become done for us? Our relationship with God? With others? Do we really need to go on with all that we have? What do we really need at the crossroads? What do we need to move us toward wholeness/fullness/the abundant life of salvation?

Paul says that when he was a child, he talked and thought as a child; but when he became a man, he put away his childish ways (1 Cor. 13:11). What will our wisdom, witness, and worship be in the coming millennium?

We have traveled a thousand roads since our births. We have seen many faces and places. Interestingly, all our roads have brought us back to the crossroads where we must face ourselves and our Creator. Be-ing at the crossroads, the Spirit beckons us to choose the road Christ pointed us to: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:4-14).

This article was adapted from the keynote address at the 14th annual AAW conference in Riverside, California, in November 1996.

# Gwen Foster: Wired for Success

by Vikki Montgomery Fields

"Health and music are my passions!" says Gwendolyn Winston Foster, who serves as Health Ministries and Music Director of the Allegheny East Conference.

Foster has been the catalyst in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's plan to appeal to unreached population groups in North America via health promotion. The plan called "Toward the Year 2000 Fit and Free" involves certifying church members as lifestyle counselors. They then use health principles as an entering wedge to the gospel. Since 1994, the city of Philadelphia has been the scene of the pilot project.

The training program Foster has developed is the basis for the Lifestyle Certification Program being introduced by the NAD Health and Temperance Department in 1997 for the Year of Health and Healing (YHH). Foster co-chaired the YHH planning committee with Mardian Blair, president of Adventist Health System Sunbelt, and Richard Hart, dean of the Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

Foster is particularly concerned about the health of African-Americans who die of lifestyle diseases at a rate several times higher than the general population. In 1978, she founded the Fitness for Life Health Conditioning Camp located on the campus of Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, to address the problem.

A two-week health and fitness camp run by an all-volunteer staff, the program involves a simple water fast, a strict vegetarian diet, daily walks, and a strong spiritual component. Participants who have come to the camp depressed, overweight, sick, and heavily medicated have left feeling upbeat, pounds lighter, inches thinner, healthier, and medication-free.

Foster's work has been so successful that it attracted the attention of researchers from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. They were working with black churches to achieve the same results — but failed. After observing the camp program last summer, they asked Foster to help them reframe their research proposal.

For the past year Foster has hosted a weekly talk show also called "Fitness for Life" on radio station WHAT 1340 AM in Philadelphia. During the three-hour

program on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., she and her occasional co-host-childhood friend, health advocate, and Philadelphia City Council president John Street interview guests as well as answer questions from callers. One result of the radio program was that 75 percent of the 1996 Fitness for Life campers were non-Adventists.

Foster graduated from Antioch University with a degree in education and earned her master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University. She also pursued graduate studies at the University of Maryland. Foster is a certified health-education specialist and a Seven Habits facilitator (based on the best-selling book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*).

For her innovation and dedication to healthy living, Foster was named Alumna of the Year by the Loma Linda University School of Public Health in 1987. A third-term member of the Loma Linda University Board of Trustees, she was also invited to speak at School of Allied Health commencement exercises.

As for her passion for music, Foster says, "I have always directed a choir." She recalls directing adult choir members as a teenager at Ebenezer Adventist Church in Philadelphia. She also tells of joining the chorus of the Philadelphia Choral Arts Society to learn how to sing correctly and to teach others.

Foster and her husband, Allen, a Philadelphia school district administrator, have worked as a team for years developing choral groups at Ebenezer, Penn Memorial Baptist Church (where Allen is also minister of music) and Allegheny East camp meetings as well as at Pine Forge Academy and Lincoln University. Gwen, as she is affectionately called, sings. And Allen — also a concert organist — plays. They both direct. Foster forms a choir in whatever group she is a part. She is known for her Fitness for Life choir that performs the last Sabbath of every camp. The Fosters have two adult children, Joya and Angela, and are the proud grandparents of Maurice; their son, Allen, Jr., is deceased.

Much of Foster's success in motivating people is due to her obvious love for them. A letter from a former camper describes Foster in a nutshell: "I have never had the opportunity to talk to someone that I could actually see and feel understood the way I'm 'wired.' Continue to simply be the way you are: vibrant, encouraging, knowledgeable, and Christlike with everyone. You never know how many lives you touch not only healthwise but in many other ways."

## Adventist Women Involved in Thousands of Ministry Efforts

The Women's Ministries Department at the General Conference reports the following statistics on women's ministries activities around the world in 1996. The numbers, reported by division women's ministries leaders to the GC in late February, are believed to be somewhat incomplete.

Number of Retreats/Conferences	5,020
SDA women attending	327,343
Non-SDA women attending	28,692
Reclaimed	10,573
Training seminars	6,293
Evangelistic meetings	22,156
Other meetings	28,156
Baptisms	29,021

## Knott Is First Female Pastor at PMC

Esther Knott recently became the first female staff member at Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) on the Campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She preached her first sermon at the church June 14, and began her duties as associate pastor for pastoral care shortly thereafter. PMC is the second-largest congregation in the North American Division.

Before accepting the call to Michigan, Knott served for seven and a half years on the pastoral staff of Sligo SDA Church in Takoma Park, Maryland. Her work at Sligo included organizing training events and coordinating a small group ministry.

Both Knott and her husband Ron have worked at Andrews before.



It's new. It's unique. An AAW conference on wheels! Haven't you always wanted to see the fall colors in New England and see and hear what early Adventist women experienced? You will stand at the sites. You will feel their culture.

Hotel space is at a premium during the peak of autumn colors but we have already reserved a block of rooms (double occupancy).

Only 100 spaces are available. Reserve now.

Commuters from the Lancaster, Massachusetts area who will not need hotel rooms may use the ITEM-BY-ITEM reservation form. If there is space available on the bus, you are welcome.

### 1997 AAW Conference honors pioneer women

#### PACKAGE PRICE

AAW Tour & Conference—October 9-12, 1997

Call 1-800-732-7587 for Registration

Three days, all expenses paid \$300

What the package price includes:

- Three nights, double occupancy in a hotel near Atlantic Union College (\$180 value)
- Two all-day bus tours in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire (\$60 value)
- All meals, including the Saturday night Women of the Year Awards Banquet (\$72 value covers meals, tax, and tips)
- Pick up and return to Logan Airport in Boston and transportation to the hotel (\$60 value). (See reservation form below.)
- Airfare is NOT included in the package price.
- Space is limited! Reserve as soon as possible.
- The \$300 package deal includes a 1-year AAW membership for those who are not current members, and a 1-year extended membership for those who are members.

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, Oct. 9** — Those flying to Boston arrive at Logan Airport Thursday afternoon.

**Thursday night, Oct. 9** — Orientation and key note address at hotel.

**Friday, Oct. 10** — All-day bus tour includes sites in Maine where Ellen White was born and began her ministry in 1844. An agape supper will be celebrated Friday evening.

**Sabbath, Oct. 11** — All-day bus tour includes the Washington, New Hampshire SDA Church where Rachel Oakes Preston challenged the congregation to keep the Sabbath.

**Saturday night, Oct. 11** — Women of the Year Banquet.

**Sunday, Oct. 12** — Breakfast and annual AAW business session at the hotel followed by a brief tour of the AUC campus, and return to Logan Airport.

#### RESERVATION FORM

**15th Annual AAW Conference, Oct. 9-12, 1997. Your registration may involve one or both of the following two steps:**

- I. Everyone attending the conference must register for the bus tour, or for separate itemized events, using the Washington State address or phone number below.
- II. Those who also plan to fly to Boston must make air reservations and air ticket purchases through AROUND THE EARTH TRAVEL.

#### I. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

To register for the 15th annual AAW Conference either  
 (a) Call 1-800-732-7587 or 1-800-SDA PLUS and use your credit card for payment  
 (b) Or mail your check made payable to the Association of Adventist Women with this registration form to: AAW 20119 44th Ave. NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155.  
 (c) To qualify for transportation from Boston's Logan Airport to the AAW hotel on Oct. 9 and 12, you must book your airline reservation through **AROUND THE EARTH TRAVEL. 1-552-796-9020** or **1-800-883-9020**. The cost of your air travel is separate from the \$300 package bus tours and conference registration.

- I am registering for the 3-day AAW Conference and Bus Tour package, Oct. 9-12.
- The roommate I want is \_\_\_\_\_  
Roommate's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

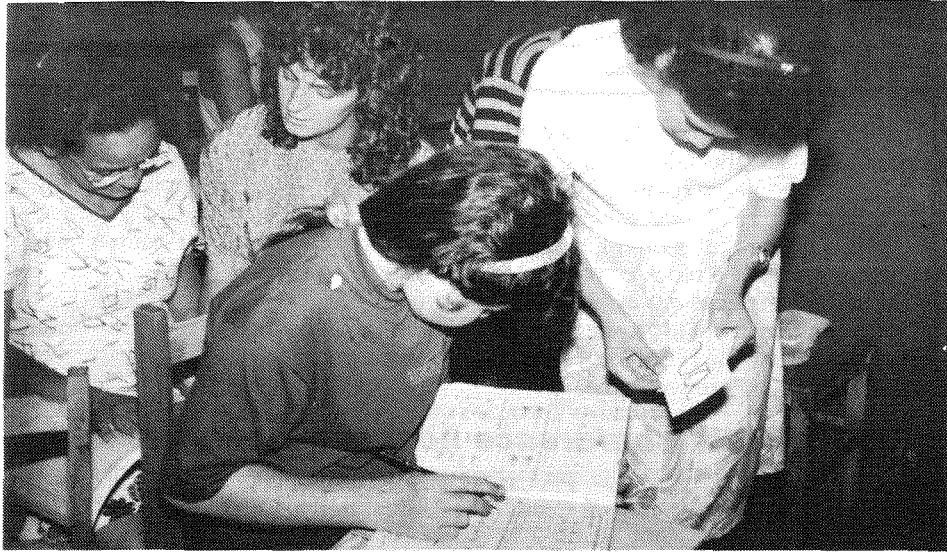
- I am NOT currently an AAW member.
- I AM an AAW member.
- I am enclosing \$300 for the AAW conference and bus tour. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### ITEM-BY-ITEM RESERVATIONS

- I am NOT opting for the AAW Conference Package Plan. Please register me for the following separate events.  
Full payment for item-by-item reservations should be made as soon as possible.
- Item by item reservations can be made either by calling 1-800-SDA PLUS and using your credit card, or by mailing this form and check to AAW, 20119 44th Ave. NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155.
- Thursday night keynote (Oct. 9) tickets are \$3 apiece. For \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$3 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Friday all-day bus tour (bring your own lunch) is \$30. For \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Friday night Agape meal (Oct. 10) tickets are \$12 apiece.  
For \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$12 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sabbath all-day bus tour (bring your own lunch) is \$30. For \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Banquet-only tickets (for Sat. night, Oct. 11) are \$25 apiece.  
For \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday morning breakfast, annual AAW business meeting tickets (for Oct. 12) and 1 year AAW membership is \$25.  
For \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## Women Encourage Literacy in Africa and South America



The joint literacy project between ADRA and women's ministries in South Africa has entered its second phase. It is swamped with 350-plus people wanting training as tutors. In Kuils River, the classes are going well, with more than 100 learners.



Glenda Langford tutors one of the students in the literacy project. In Sao Paulo, Brazil, 166 pupils in five classrooms are participating in this women's ministries literacy program in Engenheiro Coelho City.

### New Effort to Reach Women Who Have Left the Church

The North American Division women's ministries department is launching a seven-step plan to invite back women who no longer feel connected to the Adventist Church. The program includes personal visits, female-oriented Bible study guides and encouragement to attend Net '98 evangelistic meetings.

The goal is to show women, especially those who may have disassociated themselves from the church during a time of crisis, that the church is beginning to address the specific needs of women, according to Rose Otis, NAD women's ministries director. "Hopefully, they will discover that it is no longer necessary to go outside the church to find healing for emotional pain and brokenness," she said in a recent

article announcing the program.

The first step of the program is a gift subscription to *Women of Spirit* magazine, the church's outreach magazine aimed at women. The subscription information will be supplied to local women's ministries leaders by church members. Local, conference, and division leaders will work together to contact the remembered women.

Follow-up steps include a handwritten note or phone call, a personal visit, a gift set of Bible study guides for women, an invitation to a "Women of Spirit" tea, and encouragement from a spiritual mentor to attend Net '98. The culmination of the plan is a renewed commitment and, in some cases, rebaptism.

### PALS Program Helps Reach Former Members

The Women's Ministries Department at the General Conference has developed a program for parents and others who are concerned about adult children who have left the church. The program is called PALS, which stands for Prayer and Love Saves. Written by Dorothy Eaton Watts, it is a seminar program with complete and easy-to-follow instructions for 11 presentations.

Carol Ann Retzer, women's ministries director for the Northern California Conference, reports that the program has proven to be a real blessing. One of the churches there uses the program's book for a study group once a month after potluck lunch. Retzer says the book seems to touch so many people dealing with pain that it is "almost not safe to mention."

Although intended as a seminar, many want to have the book for their own. Retzer has distributed more than 350 copies in her conference alone.

The Review and Herald Publishing Association will publish the program as a book. There are plans to translate it into several languages.

Women's ministries directors also each have a large prayer book that contains room for hundreds of names. As they visit various areas, they invite people to write the names of loved ones in the book. These names are then prayed for in each area. The PALS program is being used in many churches and conferences as a training program for people interested in reclaiming former members.

### New Twists on Familiar Programs Aid Spiritual Journey

A Secret Sister program, where women anonymously provide small gifts and words of encouragement to another female church member whose name they have chosen, can help to build friendship, especially when the secret identities are revealed. It can help to fulfill the counsel, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as we see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:24, 25).

However, many women get discouraged with that type of program because they never find out who their sister is or never receive anything from her. A variation on the theme, though, can work.

In Louisville, Kentucky, women have developed a program called Secret Sister/Angel. Those who want to be involved choose a woman from their congregation for whom they pray and remember in small ways for six months. One person volunteers to keep a master list to prevent duplication. A computer-generated letter is sent to each recipient introducing her to her Secret Angel in an anonymous way.

Debbie Rose, a participant, says that the program has been in place since 1990, and it is fun to watch the interest generated form week to week as small surprises, gift

bags, cards, and flowers show up on a special table in the church foyer.

At the end of the period, a letter is mailed to each recipient, inviting her to a special fellowship dinner where the Secret Angel is revealed. Many recipients then become Secret Angels, too, for the next period.

In the South Orlando, Florida, church, women have participated in a program called Spiritual Sisters. The leader, Joan Bova, says, "The program helps our ladies become closer through friendship and spiritual support." It grew out of a survey conducted by women's ministries leaders that discovered women felt getting to know one another better was a top need.

Women are matched with their Spiritual Sister by drawing matching numbers. Prayer is held before the drawing to ask the Lord to lead. The sisters then try to spend time together calling each other, remembering special occasions and praying together. Bova reports that it is common to see women giving one another a hug at church and announcing, "This is my sister!"

Every six months, the sisters meet for a banquet and then draw numbers and names of a new Spiritual Sister. Usually, the original sister is retained, as the women have grown close to one another.

### Magazine Adds Women's Perspective to Bible Studies

by Cassandra Nesmith

Women of Spirit magazine launches a new Bible study feature in its July/August issue. The column, tentatively called "Digging Deeper," seeks to draw women into a closer relationship with God through Scripture-focused articles written in a conversational style.

Assistant editor Heide Ford says the inclusion of a Bible study in *Women of Spirit* came from a desire to deepen women's understanding of the Word. "Often women read books and articles about spiritual topics, yet shy away from delving deep into the Bible itself," she explains. "We want to foster a love for the Word and demonstrate how to study and personalize Scripture."

She adds that most commentaries and study guides are not written from a feminine perspective. Having women write Bible studies will give a wholeness to the understanding of a Scripture passage, just as it takes both male and female to express the image of God.

The debut "Digging Deeper" column, authored by Leslie Bumgardner, explores a passage in the Beatitudes. For future articles, *Women of Spirit* editors plan to keep expanding their network of Adventist women who can present fresh, deep, and relevant insights from the Bible.

Women in ministry who have already written for *Women of Spirit* include Hyveth Williams, Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson, Jo Ann Davidson, and Teresa Reeve. Topics have ranged from Bible women and witnessing to divorce and parenting.

The editors welcome ideas and feedback about *Women of Spirit*. To submit your suggestions for articles or ideas for the Bible study feature, please write Penny Wheeler or Heide Ford at *Women of Spirit*, 55 W. Oak Ridge Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21740 or send E-mail to [WomenofSpirit@rhpa.org](mailto:WomenofSpirit@rhpa.org). To benefit from the special outreach rate of \$12 each for three or more subscriptions to *Women of Spirit*, call 1-800-765-6955.

#### AAW MISSION STATEMENT

**"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Genesis 1:27 (RSV)**

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 Adventists to help individuals in our church reflect more fully the image of God in their relationships to others in the home, the church, the workplace, and the community.

This association, which focuses on the development, discoveries, interests, and potentials of Adventist women, has these goals:

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 personal development, interpersonal relationships with others, and their relationship with God.

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