

Women in Ministry Around the World

By Patricia Habada

Is it a myth or is it a fact? Are the only women in Adventist ministry serving in the North American Division? The evidence speaks for itself.

A recent report from the Inter-American Division reveals that five women hold important positions in that field.

Women serve as conference treasurers in the North Caribbean Conference, the South Caribbean Conference, and the Guadalupe Conference.

Two women hold important ministerial positions where they are the sole pastors of churches—one in Mexico City, another in the French Antilles-Guiana Union Mission on the island of Martinique.

A report from Europe indicates that several women serve as pastors. Among those known are five women in Sweden, one in Norway, one in the Netherlands, three in Germany, and one in Denmark.

Young women are preparing for ministry at Newbold College in England and at the Institut Adventiste du Saleve in Collonges

(France) where one young woman from Portugal reported that she is to be a pastor when she returns to her country.



Drene Somasundram, Crawley church pastor, British Union Conference

NAD Convention Honors Two Women Pastors



Those attending the NAD Ministries Convention, January 26-29, were (left to right, standing): Brenda Johnson—chaplain, New York; Sali Jo Hand—youth director, Potomac Conference; Marit Balk—associate pastor, Pacific Union College Church; Elizabeth Sterndale, NAD Office of Women's Ministries; Juanita Bartel—chaplain, Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Kansas; Audray Johnson—Family Ministries & Religious Liberty director, Southeastern California Conference; and Halcyon Wilson—associate pastor, La Sierra University Church. (Left to right, seated): Joyce Hanscom Lorntz—associate pastor, Hendersonville, N.C.; Hyveth Williams—senior pastor, Boston Temple; Jenny McBride—volunteer pastor, Denver, Colorado; Leslie Bumgardner—associate pastor, Walla Walla College Church; Kit Watts—assistant editor, *Adventist Review*; and Penny Shell—chaplain, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Maryland.

A dozen women pastors and chaplains were among the nearly 400 attending the NAD Ministries Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, January 26-29. Two women were featured as devotional speakers during the convention—Hyveth Williams and Halcyon Wilson.

On Thursday night, Elizabeth Sterndale, field secretary for the North American Division, met with 11 women in ministry to learn about their work and answer questions about women's issues currently under discussion in the church. (See photo.)

On Saturday night approximately 30 awards were given to honor individuals and institutions, including several women. Two of the women honored for pastoral ministry were Joyce Hanscom Lorntz and Kit Watts. The awards were presented jointly by Bill Scales, NAD ministerial director, and Sterndale, of the Of-

fice of Women's Ministries.

Lorentz, formerly a chaplain at Loma Linda University Medical Center, has been as associate pastor in Hendersonville, North Carolina, since 1991. She holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in counseling. Her ministry is both energetic and compassionate. With her husband John, has conducted evangelistic meetings overseas. She preaches, counsels, has led 12-step groups, and is a featured speaker and seminar leader.

Kit Watts, now an assistant editor of the *Adventist Review*, was cited for her work of ministering to women pastors throughout the North American Division. For several years she has collected names and addresses and maintained contact with scores of women in ministry both in the United States and in other parts of the world.

First Women's Ministries Coordinator Named for Wisconsin Conference

Kathy Freeman, a member of the Milwaukee Central Church, has been named the first women's ministries coordinator for Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She is filling the position on a volunteer basis.

Freeman says her immediate goal is to train women's ministries leaders in local churches. So far, 20 of these local leaders have been appointed—a good start for Wisconsin's 74 churches. "The women are really excited," Freeman says. "They want to see this (ministry) happen."

Though it is time consuming, Freeman says she accepted the role because she "believes so firmly" in women's ministries. A recent survey at a conference-wide women's retreat showed the respondents' two top needs to be spiritual guidance and companionship. "These needs have to be met," states Freeman, "so that women can serve in their churches and strengthen their family relationships."



Kathy Freeman, coordinator for women's ministries in Wisconsin Conference

SDA Chaplains Inaugurate Woman President

At the annual meeting of the SDA Healthcare Chaplains Association (SDAHCA) in St. Louis, Missouri from March 17 to 21, Penny Shell was dedicated as the association's first woman president. She is manager of Pastoral Care Services at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Maryland.

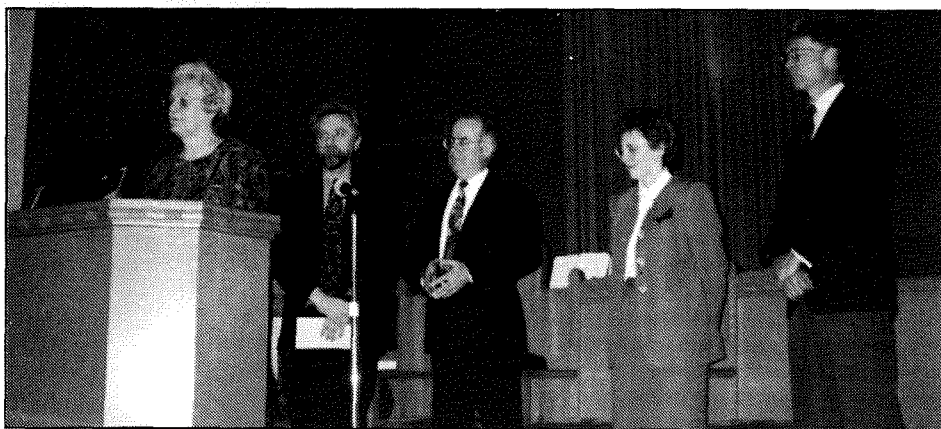
The dedication service took place at Shell's hometown church, St. Louis Central, during the church service organized by Harry Krueger, Adventist Healthcare MidAtlantic, and outgoing SDAHCA president.

Shell holds an Ed.D. in religious education, and master's degrees in religion and education. Prior to becoming a chaplain in 1984 she had taught English for 14 years at several Adventist academies, and had served both as a volunteer and regular missionary in Singapore.

Nine other women chaplains also attended this year's meeting. They were: Judith Crabb, St. Helena Hospital, California, who made a

well-received presentation on meeting Joint Commission standards and who was elected SDAHCA secretary; Juanita Bartel, Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Kansas, who led the group's Sabbath School service; Carolyn Hanley, Mercy Memorial Hospital, Michigan; Linda Farley, Kettering Medical Center, Ohio; Bonnie Long, Hinsdale Hospital, Illinois; Faye Rose, who was elected SDAHCA public-relations secretary and is chaplain at Sunbelt Healthcare Centers, Inc., Florida; Janet Richardson, Glendale Hospital, California; Gloria McClaren, chaplain, Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, Florida; and Wanda Grimes Davis, The Med, Memphis, Tennessee.

Elizabeth Sterndale, Field Secretary for the North American Division, hosted the women at a Saturday-night gathering of sharing food, experiences, laughter, tears, and prayer. The two-hour gathering stretched into almost seven hours for many of the women.



Elizabeth Sterndale, Field Secretary for the North American Division, introduces the dedicatory prayer for Penny Shell, incoming president of the Seventh-day Adventist Healthcare Chaplains Association. Outgoing president Harry Krueger and former presidents Marty Feldbush, Associate Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry; and Glenn Sackett, Littleton Adventist Hospital, stand in support.



Presidential Communique

Martha and Mary, Revisited

By Nancy Marter

As time moves quickly toward July 1995 and the General Conference session with its proposed actions of special concern to Adventist women, some interesting parallels occurred to me related to the biblical story of Mary and Martha. You will recall that they were both special friends of Jesus and provided a home where rest and rare moments of relaxation were to be found. You know the kind of place—you are welcome even if no one expects you, and no food has been prepared in advance. Old, comfortable clothes, and good conversation are the order of the day. Jesus needed and highly valued a place like that, and He found it in their home. There He found the opportunity to share valuable truths for that time as well as ours.

Mary and Martha both loved Jesus and valued His friendship deeply. But their love was exhibited in quite different ways, varied according to their personalities, life-long habit patterns and unique gifts. The way they looked at situations was not the same. Both approaches had merit, but in Luke 10:38-42, we find that Jesus, while commending Martha for her concern on His behalf and attention to detail, made it clear that Mary's desire to sit at His feet and hang on every word was the better choice. It was, in present-day parlance, the higher ground.

Recent Adventist publications have carried several articles outlining the participation of women within the church from the beginning days of the Advent movement. I found it stunning that while women were active participants in the church from its very beginnings, there were always those whose resistance undercut women's effectiveness and

their official acceptance. Why? Today many brothers and sisters who question the full acceptance of women as ministers by the same official ordination process as their brothers in ministry describe women's ordination as a modern movement that is aggressive and quite un-Christian in its nature. Yet more than a hundred years ago, godly women in the Adventist Church were recognized as ministers and utilized effectively to evangelize and build up churches in many parts of the world. Actions in favor of women being ordained to the gospel ministry were brought and discussed at church business sessions, but were passed on to other bodies where the actions disappeared. This, then, is not something new and modern. But strangely, while women ministers then were as committed and dedicated as any man and were unquestioningly accepted and used by God, their worth and value remained in question by many hu-

man beings. Sadly, this has not changed. How can this be?

Perhaps, just perhaps, imperfect though well-meaning human beings view things through different eyes as did Martha and Mary. Fiscal responsibility and attention to detail (often called church policy) certainly have importance and were not disregarded by Jesus as unimportant. I expect He enjoyed a comfortable chair and a well-cooked meal as much as any of us. But **loving commitment** He wisely saw to be the thing of overriding value—something to be desired, encouraged, and validated wherever found.

"And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (KJV).

Surely **God's equal-opportunity calling system** can still be trusted.

Celebration of Diversity: Thirteenth Annual AAW Conference

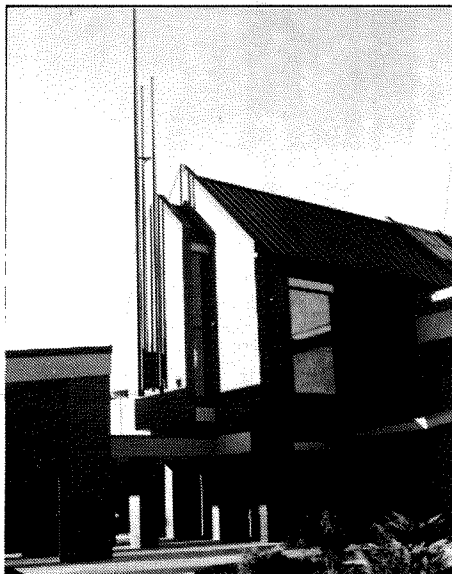
"Celebration of Diversity" is the theme of the 13th Annual AAW Conference, to be held October 19-22, 1995. The conference will be hosted by the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church, on the campus of Southern College.

Rosa Banks, Director of the NAD Office of Human Relations, will preach the Sabbath sermon. Dwan Frey-Schoonard, chaplain of the Florida Hospital, will coordinate the Friday night Agape Supper.

A variety of workshops are planned. "Awareness and Sensitivity to Racism," will be addressed by Terri Ruff, professor of social work at Southern College. A panel of women executives will discuss "Managing People." "Motherhood: The Pleasures and Stresses" will be explored by a diverse group of young parents. Donna Haerich will present biblical studies on women. Lorna Tobler will give a special session, "An Introduction to Women's Issues." Tobler and Vickie Danielson will discuss Lorna and Merikay's case, relating it to the present in "Dealing With Burnout in the Long Struggle."

The Women of the Year Banquet, "AAW Celebrates 15 Years," and many other events promise to make this conference a memorable one.

The Chattanooga area offer many opportunities for sightseeing and vacationing. Ruby Falls, Rock City, and the Chattanooga ChooChoo are famous local attractions. The Tennessee Aquarium is a state-of-the-art facility with fish and aquatic animals from around the world. A new Children's Creative Discov-



The Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church, host church for the 13th annual AAW Conference, features stained-glass windows by Conley, the Anton Heiller Memorial organ, and a variety of sculptures and paintings.

ery Museum will be opening before the conference begins.

Fall colors should be at their peak, and the Smoky Mountains National Park is only a two-hour drive away. Nashville and Opryland are a scenic two-hour drive west, while Gatlinburg and Dollywood are only two hours northeast. Plan an extra week to see the sights!

Commissioning Service Held for Pastor of Carson Church

Lisa W. Smith was commissioned as a minister during a service held at the annual Black Convocation May 28 in Los Angeles.

Born in Chicago, Smith earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Oakwood College in 1985 and a master of divinity degree from Andrews University in 1988. She entered the ministry in 1988 in the Southern California Conference as associate director in the youth ministries department.

Smith spent three years as associate pastor of the Normandie Avenue Church in Los Angeles. She became pastor of the Carson Church in 1992.

In recommending her for commissioning, the Southern California Conference Committee on the Pastorate issued this statement:

"We recognize that denominational policy has not yet approved the ordination of women to pastoral ministry. Our action is intended as an affirmation of Lisa Smith's qualifications and a statement that at the point when our denomination does open the way for this that she be



Lisa W. Smith, Pastor, Carson, California Church.

considered approved for ordination."

Reprinted with permission from the Pacific Union Recorder, November 7, 1994.

A Review of Gilbert Bilezikian's Beyond Sex Roles: What the Bible Says About a Woman's Place in Church and Family

New Testament Women Ministers: A Mere Tip of the Iceberg

by Bert Haloviak

This profound work by a major theologian, published by Baker Book House in 1985, originated from a practical need. The author helped found a church for the secular, unchurched suburban population in Chicago. The church grew so rapidly that leadership positions couldn't all be filled by the males. Would it be biblically legitimate for women to become elders? The church members became involved in a close study of Scripture on that question and after three years of intense study concluded that Scripture demanded it. That original study, which encompassed all the known literature available, became the nucleus for this work by a professor of biblical studies at Wheaton College.

Adventists are used to being driven to Scripture to resolve practical questions, but for some reason the questions addressed in this work have taken us somewhat longer to resolve. This reviewer believes, however, that a reading of Bilezikian's work would advance us a long way toward settling the issue. Here's why:

1. It embraces a thorough love of Scripture that takes the text very seriously. It does not frame its arguments around the cultural climate of the time.

2. It does not deprecate Paul, but shows him as one fostering the New Testament "community of reconciliation." Its careful look at the text shows Paul in a light not usually seen on this subject.

3. It has just the right amount of humor to help us males see the folly of some of our unbelievable prejudiced and unscriptural argu-

ments.

4. It deals with all of the so-called problem texts/issues. Its focus upon scriptural content and context leads to resolution.

5. It establishes a foundational model that shows the original Creation equality, the satanic inequality resulting from the fall, and the restored community established through the Cross.

6. Its close look at Scripture provides valuable insight not solely relating to the roles of women within the church community but also offers valuable perspective of the organizational structure of the New Testament church.

7. It looks at what the Scriptures say about "mutual submission" provides insights that would advance every family unit.

"Since the writings of the New Testament were action documents produced in a patriarchal setting, the number of references to women they contain was normally affected by this factor. The positive evidence available in the New Testament for male/female integration may, like the proverbial tip of the iceberg, represent only a fraction of the radical changes effected in the practice of the new community under the impact of the ministry of Jesus. However, as relatively sparse as it may be, the evidence is conclusive. The apostolic church conformed its practices to its teaching: 'There is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:28)."

Mr. Haloviak is Assistant Director for Archives and Research at the General Conference.

General Conference Women's Meetings

The General Conference Office of Women's Ministries is planning a full slate of special women's meetings Sunday through Thursday at the General Conference Session in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Morning meetings will feature health talks by Carla Gober and Marik Balk from Loma Linda University, personal testimonies from Chun Ok Im, of Korea, and Ullanda Innocent, from North America. Daily devotionals will focus on "Living God's Love." Devotionals will be presented by Irene Elisenberg from the Trans-European Division, Jerusha Muga from the Eastern Africa Division, Sharon Cress, director of the GC Shepherdess International, Carole Ferch-Johnson from Australia, and Rose Otis of the GC Office of Women's Ministries. There will also be a variety of special musical presentations from many parts of the world. Meetings will take place near the main hall.

Afternoons, Sunday through Wednesday,

there will be a wide variety of seminars. Topics will range from how to start a Women's Ministries work to using CompuServe, from sexual ethics to questions you would like to ask your lawyer—free.

On Tuesday, July 4, women are invited to lunch with GC president Robert Folkenberg and his wife. Tickets will be available at the GC session.

Mohaven Papers Available

The Mohaven Papers are now available under the title *Role of Women in the Church*. They have been reproduced by the Pacific Press and can be purchased for under \$10 from your local Adventist Book Center. Call and request your copy of this historic study document, unavailable for many years.

"Adventist Women's Voices": An Invitation to Supper at Utrecht

Are you looking forward to meeting old and new friends at the General Conference in Utrecht? Present them with a token of your friendship by purchasing your friends a ticket to Adventist Women's Voices—a supper event for Adventist women and men interested in the role of women in the church. If you're not going to be in Utrecht, think of those who will be attending.

"Adventist Women's Voices," Thursday, July 6th at 5 o'clock, will be held at the Jaarbeurs Center in Utrecht. You will have the opportunity to meet women and men from around the world and hear what

today's Adventist women think.

"We want to understand whether we are really grafted into the parent Vine. If we are, we may have different manners, different tones, different voices." (Ellen White: MS 14, 1894 in *Mind, Character and Personality*, p. 54).

"Adventist Women's Voices" is sponsored by the Association of Adventist Women. Tickets (\$15.00-\$20.00 each) may be purchased in advance from AAW, Box 7414, Langley Park, MD 20708, U.S.A.

Johnsson Appointed NAD Director

Noelene Johnsson is the director of the Department of Children's Ministries for the North American Division. While Noelene has headed up children's ministries for the division since 1988, the department has only recently received official status, having previously been part of the division's Church Ministries Department.

Noelene, an Australian by birth, came to Children's Ministries from an educational background. She taught third grade in Berrien Springs, Michigan, prior to joining the General Conference as editor of *Mission*, when her husband William joined the staff of the *Adventist Review*. The experience as an editor/writer and teacher together with Noelene's 11 years' experience as a Cradle Roll leader stand her in good stead in her present work. Much of her time is spent developing materials for use in Children's Ministries.

Noelene's goal for Children's Ministries is that it will assist parents and volunteers in families and churches to lead children to a



Noelene Johnsson

knowledge of Jesus as Savior and Friend, and that the children of today will grow up with a strong assurance of their salvation and a place in heaven.

The Association of Adventist Women

Invites Church Women
Attending the General Conference Session
in
Utrecht, Netherlands

to
Adventist Women's Voices
a light supper and time of
fellowship with
sisters from around
the world

Thursday, July 6, 1995
5 pm - 7 pm
Convention Center

For reservations send \$15.00 to
AAW- GC Supper
Box 7414, Langley Park, MD 20787

If you have friends from other countries,
get a ticket for them too.
See you there!

Men welcome too.

Pacific Union Women's Ministries Conference

The beautiful Sheraton San Marcos Hotel in Chandler Arizona will be the site of the Pacific Union Women's Ministries Conference, May 19 to 21, 1995. The conference will be a time to strengthen, encourage, and equip Christian women who desire to make a difference in their world for Christ.

Seminar topics include Woman in Leadership, Witnessing in the Marketplace, Love and Marriage, Domestic Violence, and Intercessory Prayer. Christian counselors will be available throughout the weekend to offer spiritual and emotional support. And a wide variety of ministry tools will be available to make women more effective at home and in the workplace. Guest speakers will include Valerie Young, Rosa Banks, Halcyon Wilson, and Susan Harvey.

For more information write to the Women's Ministries Director, Arizona Conference, 13405 N. Scottsdale Road, P.O. Box 12340, Scottsdale, AZ 85267.

AAW Beginnings: Interview with Attorney Glenn Coe

by Lourdes E. Morales-Gudmundsson



Attorney Glenn Coe



Lourdes E. Morales-Gudmundsson

The beginnings of the Association of Adventist Women go back to the early 1970s and the launching of the Association of Adventist Forums (AAF). During his 10-year tenure as president of the AAF, Glenn Coe was instrumental in the founding of AAW.

LMG: How did the idea of an Adventist women's association first come up?

GC: I think that Viveca Black really deserves a lot of the credit for the creation of a women's organization. When her mother, Esther Black, passed away, it was Viveca's idea to have monetary gifts made in her mother's memory. With those gifts, we set up the Esther Black Memorial Fund for the purpose of addressing the needs and concerns of Adventist women. Viveca was the initiator; I was only a facilitator.

LMG: As I understand it, an initial effort was made to reach out to Adventist women with those funds.

GC: Yes, as I recall, a newsletter started going out, but it was short-lived.

LMG: Even though it seemed that the project was getting off to a false start, you didn't give up.

GC: None of us at the AAF at the time felt that we could simply drop this. We decided to try to find a woman who could take the leadership in creating an association. I contacted Betty Howard, who at the time was dean of women at Columbia Union College. In subsequent conversations, it seemed that she might be interested in spearheading this project.

LMG: And you offered her a proposal?

GC: Eventually, yes. Betty gathered a group of women to begin the organization process. Dr. Josephine Benton chaired the committee to begin the process of incorporation. We simply told them that the decision was theirs: if they wanted to function under

the AAF umbrella, we would be happy to have them on board. If they wanted to be an independent group, we would place the fund under their organization. Ultimately, the women decided to go on their own and we gave them the Esther Black Memorial Fund.

LMG: Did this pose any difficulties?

GC: AAF felt that it was important for Adventist women to have their own voice. The forum has always been interested in having women in the church be on an equal plane with men. Some did feel that the money should be kept in the forum, but there was never any strong opposition. Our biggest difficulty was finding a woman to assume the responsibility of such an organization.

LMG: What motivated you personally to support this idea?

GC: I felt that women didn't have enough prominence and visibility. This has always been a patriarchal church. I felt strongly that Adventist women needed to have an organization that would speak on their behalf and advocate their interests with the church leadership. The AAF has historically carried a certain amount of "baggage" because of the church's discomfort with its approach to church-related issues. It was important for women to have an independent organization with its own views and agenda. We felt they would be more effective not being an extension of AAF and, for that reason, we supported that plan.

LMG: There is no doubt that Adventist women are indebted to Viveca Black, Betty Howard, Josephine Benton, Glenn Coe, and other pioneers of AAW for their vision and commitment to giving us our own voice. Neither is there doubt that the hand of Providence brought together the right people at the right time in the right place to bring honor to His cause through the work of AAW.

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On Tuesday, July 4, women are invited to lunch with GC president Robert Folkenberg and his wife. Tickets will be available at the GC session.

Madera Woman Raises Funds for Russia Effort



Wilma Ray

When *It Is Written* made an appeal for Bibles for people in Russia, Wilma Ray, of the Madera Adventist Church in California, decided to help in this project.

Ray thought, "How can I help in such a worthwhile project?" After praying about the matter, an idea was born. Why not make boxes with love messages on them?

Ray has sold about 7,000 love boxes, raising almost \$7,000 for her Bibles to Russia project. She has received letters of appreciation from *It Is Written*, but her greatest joy is knowing that seeds have been planted in many lives she has contacted as she shared her love for the Lord.

Adapted with permission from the Pacific Union Recorder, March 6, 1995 from a story by Jolly Peterson.

Women's Ministries in the North of England

In the north of England, the idea of women's ministries has been enthusiastically promoted in the area's 97 churches by the director of women's ministries, Mrs. Heather Haworth.

"Last year there were six women's ministries coordinators in north British churches," states Haworth. "The growth of women's ministries work clarifies in my mind the great

need for this office in the church. I believe that the church will prosper through recognizing and supporting the majority of its members."

Haworth has organized retreats and prayer groups for the north British women as well as a newsletter to help women keep in touch with one another.

New Book for Men and Women

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH: THE FEMININE PERSPECTIVE

Lourdes E. Morales-Gudmundsson, Editor

Women and the Church: The Feminine Perspective is a book about the experience and perceptions of Adventist women in relation to Scripture, the Christian religion, and Adventism. The book deals with a number of theological, ecclesiological, and religious-sociological topics from the perspective of Adventist women who have given careful and in-depth study to their respective subjects. Topics addressed in the book include the feminine traits of the Godhead and how they illuminate our understanding of God; the Trinity as a model for human relations; the contributions of women as musical composers and performers; ordination as an ecclesiological issue; Ellen White and the 19th century women's rights movement; abortion and the church; the

Black woman as member and pastor; women, poverty, and the church; machismo and a new gender paradigm; and a reinterpretation of discipleship. In this book there is an attempt to capture not only the views of one cultural group of women. Writers from a diversity of backgrounds speak to important issues facing an increasingly intentional and global church. The reader will find a rich assortment of helpful concepts to understand Scripture (both as a source of doctrine and devotion) and male-female relations within the church and in society. There are well-documented classifications of popular misconceptions concerning women within Scripture, the writings of Ellen White, and the Adventist Church. Writers include pastors, professors, and professionals.

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Information Services Bldg., Suite 213
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1700

Association of Adventist Women
P.O. Box 3884
Langley Park, MD 20787

TEAM
P.O. Box 3702
Langley Park, MD 20787-0702

Adventist Women's Institute
P.O. Box 25794
Santa Ana, CA 92799-5794

OR

Contact your local Adventist Book Center to order your copy.

United Kingdom Hosts Women's Conferences



Janette Guilleford: Seminar - Assertiveness: An Essential Tool for the Christian Woman

Both men and women attended the conference "Christian Women in Church and Community," held at Newbold College, March 3 and 4. The celebration began on Friday Evening with a "Liturgy of Bread"—a combination prayer meeting and an agape feast. The supper was provided by Finnish women's ministry leader, Anna Syvasalmi, a student who attends Newbold College. Sabbath morning sermons were given by Andrea Luxton, BUC women's ministries director, and Crawley church pastor, Drene Somasundram.

Sabbath afternoon more than 80 women and men (with some from the local Anglican church) attended the seven workshops on various aspects of women's personal and professional lives.

"The conference was wonderful kaleidoscope of talented women with something to share that they had learned from personal experience, not from textbooks," stated one participant.

On March 11 the Women's Ministries Committee of the South England Conference hosted a women's conference at the Advent Centre in London for about 30 women. The afternoon consisted of a welcoming session where women had the chance to meet other women from other south England churches. Mary McFarlane, social services coordinator and wife of Pastor Don McFarlane, South England Conference president, outlined the reasons for the



Suzanne Jergensen: Seminar - How To Cope With Depression

establishment of the Women's Ministries Department.

"Women's ministries," she said, "is about addressing the needs and concerns of women both inside and outside the church."

The afternoon continued with workshops on vocation and evangelism, and concluded with an open forum session during which the London women agreed that they would meet once a month at the Advent Centre.

TEAM Book Supports Women's Ordination

An Interview with Rebecca Brillhart

In April, Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM), a lay organization headquartered in Langley Park, Maryland that supports women in ministry published *The Welcome Table*. In it, 14 prominent Adventist historians, theologians, and professionals share their views on the biblical principles in support of ordination for women (and men) in ministry. Rebecca Brillhart partnered with TEAM chair Patricia Habada to produce and edit the compilation. *The Adventist Woman* reports on what TEAM hopes to accomplish with its new book and just how it came to be.

AW: Rebecca, there are already books on the Christian market that focus on formally recognizing a woman's call to minister and serve the church with the same blessing men already have the privilege to receive. What makes *The Welcome Table* different?

RB: Its Adventist perspective. In addition to exploring the basic biblical principles for ordaining women, we have included some important historical information that has never before been published in one volume. This gives the reader a better understanding of the role women have had and are making for themselves in the Adventist Church.

AW: How did the book come about?

RB: This book has been on the minds of TEAM board members for several years, especially after the vote against women's ordination at the 1990 General Conference Session in Indianapolis. There was no real bal-

ance of information being circulated to grassroots Adventists and delegates to help them make informed decisions. Administrators of the church asked the official presses to be silent on the issue, while some preached unrestrained around the globe against women's ordination. TEAM wanted to make certain that one more GC Session did not go by without the benefit of another perspective.

AW: What are some of the principles discussed in *The Welcome Table*?

RB: The authors take a careful look at Creation, partnership, the Fall, redemption, discipleship, headship, spiritual gifts, ministry, ordination, and mission where women are concerned. A chapter on reliable biblical interpretation serves as a preface to that section.

AW: What are the other sections in the book?

RB: There is an excellent section on the history of women in the Adventist Church, with chapters by Bert Haloviak, associate in the General Conference Office of Archives and Statistics; and Kit Watts, associate editor of *The Adventist Review*. The principles of equality are beautifully pulled together in a summary by Iris Yob, president of Living Words in Bloomington, Indiana. Perhaps as important as the principles are the items in the extensive appendix: a bibliography, historical documents, a list of scholarly papers for further study, and other items that authenticate what has been written.

AW: You've mentioned a few of the

Ordination
could set
Adventist
women
back 150
years...

... BACK TO A TIME when the church's founders were eager to tap every person's spiritual gifts, welcoming all to the table, including one woman whose call to ministry remains a driving force behind the present mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Just off the press, *The Welcome Table* confirms what many Seventh-day Adventists have privately concluded in their own Bible studies on the issue of women's ordination: scripture, taken as a whole, liberates women and men to full participation in the life and mission of the church.

Ask for a copy at your local Adventist Bookstore, or contact TEAM Press, P.O. Box 7816, Langley Park, MD 20787-7816. (\$9.95 plus shipping and handling)



contributors. Who are the other authors?

RB: Carole Kilcher, Donna Haerich, David Larson, Fritz Guy, Ed Zackrisson, Halcyon Wilson, Sheryll Prinz-McMillan, Joyce Lorntz, V. Norkov Olsen, Ralph Neall, and Ginger Harwood. I hope I haven't left anyone out! Others have worked hard to pull together some of the rich appendix.

AW: Why call this book *The Welcome Table*?

RB: We liked the nurturing imagery of women and men sitting down in a friendly, affirming atmosphere to break spiritual bread together—the imagery of being in a place where all are expected to partake and serve as

integral players in the mission of the church. TEAM was definitely thinking back to a time when the church's founders were eager to tap everyone's spiritual gifts, welcoming all to the table, including one woman who remains a driving force behind the present mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Rebecca Brillhart also serves as the project director and corporate secretary of TEAM. Ask for *The Welcome Table* at your local Adventist Book Center or contact TEAM Press, P.O. Box 7816, Langley Park, MD, 20787-7816. (Paperback, \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.)