

From Australian government

Lindy gets financial settlement

The Australian government has announced a settlement payment of \$A1.3 million (Australian dollars) to Lindy and Michael Chamberlain, according to a report released in *Communique*, a weekly news update for employees of the General Conference office staff in Silver Spring, Maryland. The payment acknowledges the Chamberlains' wrongful convictions by Australia's Northern Territory Government.

Lindy will receive \$A900,000 and Michael is to receive \$A400,000, according to Northern Territory Attorney-General Daryl Menzies. The payments come as a recommendation of independent arbitrator, Justice Trevor Morling.

In 1982 Lindy was convicted of murdering her nine-week-old baby Azaria at Ayers Rock in Australia. She spent three years in Darwin's Berrimah prison. Michael received an 18-month suspended sentence for his conviction of being an accessory after the fact.

In July 1992 the Northern Territory Government made payments of more than \$A400,000 to the Adventist Church and the Chamberlains to compensate for legal costs and property involved in the murder trial.

Turning point?

NAD establishes women's advisory

by Rebecca Brillhart

The first meeting of the North American Division (NAD) Women's Ministries Advisory took place on March 5 in conjunction with a meeting of the NAD Women's Commission. The purpose of the advisory is to give input to the NAD Office of Women's Ministries directed by Elizabeth Sterndale and her associate, Ramona Perez Greek. Unofficial reports from participants reveal that ordination of women emerged again as a "hot" topic.

Members were led through an extensive small-group exercise to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and disadvantages the department faces in making the role of women in the Adventist Church understood and accepted.

Small groups were then asked to prioritize these items. Ordination surfaced in at least one of these groups and was referred to as "the need for a clear theological statement regarding the role of women in the church," according to one participant.

Vice-chair of the advisory, Gary Patterson, asked former General Conference President Neal C. Wilson for his counsel on ordination as women face the future. (Wilson was invited to become a member of the advisory because of his many years of experience with



Judy Aitkin:
Reaching refugees



Margo Pitrone:
Pastoral issues today



Barbara Tobias:
Cultural diversity



Ruth Komarniski:
Conflict and intimacy

10th AAW Conference will address

Global thinking for Christian women

Barbara Folkenberg will be the opening devotional speaker for AAW's 10th national conference at 2 p.m. on October 15. Mrs. Folkenberg, well known for her intense personal Bible study, is the mother of Robert S. Folkenberg, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The conference will be held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, adjacent to the Washington D.C.'s Dulles International Airport.

Nancy Marter, chair of the committee coordinating the Women of Vision Conference, has also announced other guest speakers who will be participating in the 10th anniversary celebration.

Other Speakers

Judy Aitkin, who has ministered among Cambodian refugees in Thailand, and whose work was highlighted in a special issue of the *Adventist Review* (April 2), will present the Sabbath morning mission feature. Aitkin's network of volunteers and other workers has helped more Buddhists accept Christ and join the Adventist Church than any other SDA outreach in the world. For the past four-and-a-half years she has coordinated Refugee Projects for the Adventist Frontier Missions in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

"AAW will take up a special offering

women's issues in the church.) One advisory member saw hope in his 15-20 minute statement, even calling it a possible "turning point" in resolving the ordination controversy.

Wilson stated that ordination is a key issue demanding to be dealt with but that it is unlikely that the world field will ever be able to move together in resolving it. Since women are already carrying out many of the functions of ordained male ministers in North America, Wilson feels new ways of bringing this about must be sought in friendly territory, namely in the North American Division.

This was the first meeting of the Women's Advisory, so a great deal of time was also spent in introductions and orientation activities.

—Rebecca Brillhart writes from Columbia, Maryland, where she is a homemaker and project director for TEAM.

on Sabbath morning to boost Aitkin's ministry," according to Nancy Marter.

Margo Pitrone, associate pastor of the Tierrasanta SDA church in San Diego, California, will preach for the 11:00 hour. Pitrone prepared for ministry both at the SDA Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating from the latter with an M. Div. She is widely recognized as an effective pastor, preacher, and counselor.

As announced in the previous issue of the *Adventist Woman*, the keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. Jennifer Knight, who will be flying in from Australia for the event. Knight headed the team who studied Adventist women, their relationships to their peers in the secular world, and implications for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific Division.

Barbara Tobias, along with Dr. Debra Harris, will lead a general session on Friday, October 16, entitled "Treasures of Diversity." Harris and Tobias helped coordinate a women's retreat for the South Atlantic Conference, which attracted 2,000 participants last November. They will also present a workshop entitled "Diversity as Opportunity." Marter noted that the Adventist Church is unique for its rich ethnic di-

versity. "But all of us as individuals need to learn how to respect, understand, and be enriched by this diversity," she added.

Sixteen seminars set

Conferees can choose seminars from any of four strands of emphasis:

- Skill Building for the Nineties and Beyond
- Global Thinking for the Christian Woman

- Building My Local Church
- Personal Spiritual Growth

Among the workshop presenters:

Dr. Ruth C. Komarniski, marriage and family life specialist from Bothell, Washington, will offer three seminars: "Communicating in Style and Developing Awareness"; "Listening for Better Communication"; and "Conflict: Pathway to Intimacy." Komarniski is one of two women members of the General Conference Executive Committee for this quinquennium.

Rowena Rick, associate treasurer of the General Conference, will have a workshop session focused on "Women and Their Finances." William and Noeline Johnsson will team teach a seminar. Dr. Johnsson is editor of the *Adventist Review*; Mrs. Johnsson is an associate

See WOMEN OF VISION, p. 4

From Potomac Conference

Sligo pastors acquire equal credentials

by Shirley Zork

The executive committee of the Potomac Conference has granted a unanimous request made by the Sligo church pastoral staff in Takoma Park, Maryland, to issue ministerial credentials that "reflect no gender discrimination whatsoever."

Sligo's pastoral staff of three women and four men now hold the *Commissioned Minister Credential*. This credential is normally granted to people who are recognized as participating in the ministry of the church but who are not on the "ordination track." It is currently the highest credential given to Adventist women in ministry.

The move was made as a "gesture of solidarity with one another" and "to suggest equality and justice within our circle." The formal request was made in the fall of 1991 and had been in review by the conference for five months.

There are two other credentials held by Adventist ministers. The *Ministerial Credential* is held by ordained pastors and chaplains. The *Ministerial License* is granted to unordained pastors and chaplains who are looking forward to ordination. Both credentials discriminate against women in ministry.

See NEW CREDENTIALS, p. 4



Good stewardship and global mission

by Peggy Harris

God bless the babushkas. In the March 29, 1992, *Washington Post* an article appeared entitled, "Russia's Secret Weapon." What is it? Little elderly ladies who are holding their people together.

They are the ones who stand in line for their families, doing without so children and grandchildren can have better things. The world around them is falling apart but they are keeping families together and food on the table.

Many of these women are poor and sad: they talk about their loss of pride and small pensions and having to resort to begging. They have become the foragers and providers in the harsh winter. They do without many things we consider necessities.

And here in America...

Recently, an elderly American woman presented a \$15,000 check to the Potomac Conference for its project, "Cherish Czechoslovakia." Thank God for women in our church who see beyond the present, who willingly give up necessities to contribute toward God's work here on earth. With their energy, time, and means, they keep supporting the church.

We have a responsibility to see that these sacrificial offerings are used in the very best way. It is a matter of life and death. Many precious people need the loving gospel, need to hear that God in heaven is longing for them, wants to enfold them for eternity in the safety of heaven and the new earth.

For too long gifted women have been set aside in favor of men, some of whom had much less talent. What a terrible waste. Yet, I believe nothing is entirely wasted if we learn from the experiences of the past.

Although our church does not yet recognize women's call to ministry by ordination, there is work around each one of us that we can do. Each of us has her own mission field.

Those of us who have not been called to an ordained ministry can help our sisters by continually contacting our church leaders in a supportive, positive, Christian way and urge that they take action. But we also need to recognize that we are each called to a ministry.

Would that we all, women and men together, would become babushkas in the sense that we are willing to give our all so that we may assist many others to answer God's invitation to "come home." It is past time. We've been running late and all of heaven is waiting to help us! We truly do need one another. It's time to use the talents and gifts we have as women, men, and youth to accomplish a great mission—a global mission.

Learning to deal with sexual harassment

by Peggy Harris

As the woman made her way to the front of the room to make a presentation to a church administrative committee, several voices of members, including those of some conference presidents were heard. The comments included, "Great pair of legs," and "our best-looking committee member." According to a male committee member such comments were not unusual on this committee. He also noted that only the woman was singled out by this kind of verbal comments.

It is our position that a person's looks or anatomy should not be mentioned in any way that embarrasses or makes the person feel uncomfortable.

Perhaps the words were said without thinking, but they were offensive to at least some who heard them. In light of all the sexual harassment reports in the news today, these kind of comments should never be made by church leaders. In fact, one cannot but wonder about the spiritual quality of such leadership.

A person can be raped by words. Self-esteem can be destroyed by words. By our words we can steal another person's good character. That involves three commandments: "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," and "You shall not steal." Maybe we should also consider two other commandments: "You shall have no other gods before me" and "You shall not make for yourself an idol..." Destructive words, though spoken in jest, indicate that God is not first in a Christian's life and that other seemingly innocent things have crowded in.

Speak up

When we hear words that degrade, injure, humiliate, or destroy, we should speak up kindly, pointing out that this kind of conversation is not proper for a Christian. Each of us can help to stop this kind of harm to the gospel by being responsible for our own words and by helping to curb unchristian words said by others.

As Christians we should be ahead of the world in announcing our objections to sexual abuse and harassment, and establishing corrective policies. Corporations all around us are updating and reviewing their policies. Seventh-day Adventists should take a stand that this type of behavior is inappropriate—whether it occurs on a church board, in a local pulpit, or on an administrative committee at any level.

We appreciate the church leaders who have been made aware of the above incident and have moved to correct the situation. Unfortunately, this incident could happen anywhere. We each have a responsibility to not let it continue. Let us pray for one another and our church leaders that we may be truly representative of Jesus and the gospel.

Letters

Don't give up!

Dear Editor:

I received the newsletter for the first time today in a long time. I had begun to think your association had disbanded. I have been very interested in your association but was beginning to feel rather deflated about it and thought you had "given up" on getting fair play for women in the church.

I am rather on the sidelines but, after all, I am 86 years old. I am not up to doing very much and my income is very limited, but I did want to encourage the younger women.

I attended the annual conference last year in Santa Clara and before that the one in Portland, Oregon. I sensed a much more subdued atmosphere in the one last year. Have you given up the fight for equality and fairness in the church?

Please do not give up. There must be some plan. Please let me know what is being done now.

—Wildred E. Osgood
Cottage Grove, Oregon

cence. Consider Moses' example. Rather than use his position of favor with God to discipline the children of Israel after the unfair treatment and criticism he endured, Moses repeatedly "fell on his face before the Lord," and God took care of rebuking the people.

Can women truly trust God to supply their needs? Is the Holy Spirit still powerful enough to move hearts? I believe it is!

Merikay McLeod stated that we "create ourselves every day." Perhaps the most basic definition of that creation is the free choice we make between Christ or self as our master for that day.

—Ruth Wright
Vienna, West Virginia

Keep on keeping on

Dear Editor:

May I congratulate you on your many efforts to keep WOMANHOOD uppermost in the minds of many who wish to ignore the presence and power of women—the tremendous significance of that presence, and the service to humanity and to the church that women can provide.

I find a growing awareness of the need for women in our conferences and unions—to have annual sessions for spiritual and intellectual growth. I attended the Michigan Conference Winter Retreat for Women in Holland, Michigan, February 6-8: a delight and most helpful. Women planned this occasion for women—and it was well done in every way. The attendance was over 200. So, you see, in many ways, women are coming into their own.

—Elsie Buck
Berrien Springs, Michigan

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.

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

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

- 1. To encourage communication, sup-

port, 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 to God.

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

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.

- I am enclosing \$15 to subscribe to *The Adventist Woman*

- My tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ is also enclosed

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Mail this form with your check or money order payable in U.S. funds to:
The Adventist Woman
Box 3884
Langley Park, MD 20787

JULY 22

Copy deadline for the next issue of the *Adventist Woman* is July 22.

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.

EDITORIAL STAFF

The Adventist Woman
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Editor Beverly K. Habada
Assistant Editor Beverly Rumble

"Women, weep for yourselves"

by Darlene Schoonover

As a freshman college student, my interest in leadership opportunities and my love for numbers led me to pursue classes for a degree in business administration.

However, I didn't want to become yet another yuppie bent on success, power, and the material things that a salary in this field can provide. So I decided to spend my sophomore year off-campus as a student missionary (SM) in Micronesia on the little island of Pohnpei. I felt the SM experience would help me gain a Christian perspective in the materialistic world we live in and in the business world that I would someday enter.

Beyond my decision for Christ, it was the most important decision I could have made. Much was expected from me. I was challenged as I was asked to put every talent and gift I had to work on behalf of my 30 third graders and the larger church family. Even talents I didn't have were pressed into service.

Untapped talent

But one talent I felt I had remained untapped: public speaking. I do not think of public speaking in the way some people do—as a Number One Terror. I enjoy it. During my high school years I had several opportunities to speak in public, including the honor of giving one of three messages during a Sabbath morning worship service at my 1,000-member home church in Kettering, Ohio.

At one of the first staff meetings of the school year, someone asked for volunteers to preach at one of the Pohnpei churches. I raised my hand high. As I looked around at the other 16 SM's, I saw only two others raise their hands; both were young men.

At the time, the gender make-up of the volunteers didn't faze me. But seven months later, I realized I still hadn't been asked to preach, although my fellow volunteers had already had their share of pulpit appointments.

One day toward the end of March we were on the downhill side of the school year. A young man came to me and asked if I "still wanted to preach"? I said yes, and asked which church needed a speaker.

"Well," he said, "I'm trying to see if they will let you speak at Kitti



Darlene Schoonover (center) enjoys friends Judy, Rency, and Elise Santos at the Kitti church.

[pronounced kitchee]," a new church at the other end of Pohnpei.

What does he mean, "let" me speak, I wondered. Then it dawned on me that being a woman had kept me from preaching during the past seven months. I decided not to let this get to me, and waited to see what would come of the tentative invitation.

New ideas welcome

About a week later the same young man told me he had spoken to the head elder at Kitti. The church had decided that since they were a new church they wanted to be up and coming. They liked the idea of having a woman present the Sabbath message. I would preach at Kitti in two weeks.

The trip to Kitti included a 40-minute trek in the back of an old pickup on a dirt road. It should have been enough to shake the butterflies out of anyone's stomach, but somehow a few managed to stick with me—enough to keep me humble.

At the 11:00 hour I stepped forward to the podium and greeted the members in my limited Pohnpeia saying, "Kaselhita melnko Sabbath mwau." The

head leader translated for the congregation, "Welcome to all of you and Happy Sabbath."

Having regular pauses during the intervals for translating gave me time to better organize the message. I really felt the Holy Spirit was present as members responded with "Amen" at different places in the sermon.

As I greeted people after church I didn't expect the kind of comments that I had heard back in my home church. Pohnpeians would be very shy in this situation, especially since I was young, female, and not a regular member of their church. In addition, Kitti was in a remote area of Pohnpei where people were less familiar with English, making conversational exchanges limited. But I found their smiles and handshakes affirmation enough.

When I went back to the platform to get my Bible I was greeted by Daccio, one of the members. He expressed his thanks for my willingness to come and told me how much it meant to them.

Then he caught me by the arm and asked, "Could you see them?" See who? I thought.

He asked again, "Did you see the women?"

"Yes, I saw the women," I said, remembering one in particular who had a big smile on her face the whole time; I had looked to her when I needed an extra push to keep going.

But still he asked, "Did you see the women? They were crying."

He explained that never before had these women seen another woman behind the pulpit in a position of high esteem. It was a milestone for them.

Are my preaching days over?

Back at Columbia Union College I shared this story with my campus ministries director. In high school, I told him, I had entertained thoughts of entering gospel ministry. But I had concluded I must put aside such thoughts because of my church's attitude and policy toward [not] ordaining women. I said I considered the Sabbath at Kitti to be the highlight, and probably the end of my preaching days.

He stared at me in disbelief, even excitement. Then he explained that one of the strongest arguments against the ordination of women in our church was the cultural barrier against accepting women in ministry. That was perhaps the final argument that killed the vote for the ordination of women at the 1990 General Conference session.

All of that, including the 1989 debate at Annual Council, had occurred during the months that I was overseas. I was ignorant of what the women's tears at Kitti really meant.

Perhaps one day our male leaders in the world divisions will realize that there are many others—like the members of the church in Kitti, 10,000 miles from the GC headquarters—who are waiting for the day when the Seventh-day Adventist Church will allow women the right to be ordained as their pastors.

I wonder if the "cultural barriers" holding the church back from ordaining women to the gospel ministry are of our own construction, barriers built with the bricks of tradition and the mortar of male privilege.

Perhaps the women of Kitti weep, not only for themselves, but also for all Adventist women who are waiting to minister and to be ministered unto.



The first women's retreat for GC women employees and spouses of GC and NAD leaders was held in February. Rose Otis and Elizabeth Sterndale organized the event attended by approximately 250. Hyveth Williams, pastor of the Boston Temple, was one of the featured speakers.



Dozens of women came forward for prayer at the conclusion of the Sabbath sermon while Edwina Humphrey-Flynn sang.



Rowena Rick, associate treasurer of the General Conference, presented a seminar on Sunday entitled "Women and Their Finances."

People and Places



Sheree Parris Nudd



Jeanne Sanders

Women hold key administrative posts

Sheree Parris Nudd has been named a vice president at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Maryland. Her responsibilities include overseeing the hospital development, public relations and volunteer functions. Most recently she was executive director of the Porter Memorial Hospital Foundation in Denver, Colorado.

Both Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and its sister institution, Washington Adventist Hospital, have established a record of appointing women to key executive positions. Currently at the two hospitals, one-third of the executive-level positions (vice president and up)

are women. This has been a consistent pattern since the mid-eighties.

Jeanne Sanders, senior vice president for patient care services at Shady Grove states, "The primary reason the percentage is so impressive is that Bryan Breckenridge, president and CEO of the Hospital and of Adventist HealthCare Mid-Atlantic, has made it a priority to seek out qualified women and to offer growth opportunities for them at these two hospitals."

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital continues to enlarge the circle. It was the first hospital in the Greater Washington Area to institute a multicultural taskforce.

R&H publishes books by, about women

The Review and Herald Publishing Association has announced the publication of two books focusing on Adventist women.

Among Friends: A Daily Devotional by and for Women, a 400-page book compiled by Rose Otis, has 170 contributors. According to Otis these women include housewives and physicians, denominational employees and laywomen, college students and retirees who write from many countries, cultures, and ethnic groups.

Otis, director of the General Conference Office of Women's Ministries, says royalties from the project will go to a scholarship program for Adventist women that is being established by her office.

A Woman's Place: Seventh-day Adventist Women in Church and Society is unique since it is the first book by, for, and about women published in the Ad-

ventist Church. Prepared with the assistance of the North American Office of Human Relations (OHR), the book looks at the changing relationships between the church as an institution and women members over more than 100 years.

Rosa Banks, OHR director and editor of the book, says, "Women are being nurtured and mobilized as never before. Felt needs are being addressed, and mighty works are continuing to be wrought by women who are in touch with themselves and each other and in partnership with Christ."

Contributors to the book include Kit Watts, Ramona Perez Greek, Beatrice Neall, Bertha Dasher, Patricia Habada, Beverly Rumble, Kay Kuzma, Madelynn Haldeman, Deborah Harris, Penny Shell, Iris M. Yob, Rosa Banks, and Elizabeth Sterndale.

Both books should be available in Adventist Books Centers by late summer.

New magazine ready for parents

The first issue of a new family publication, *Family Times*, has been produced by Family Matters, Inc., from the ministry's new location in Cleveland, Tennessee. According to Kay Kuzma, president of Family Matters, the purpose of the new publication is to provide concise, timely articles that focus on the needs and concerns of families today.

"Many families are hurting from broken relationships, neglect, or abuse and want to learn how to communicate love more effectively," Kuzma says. "I believe it's possible for parents to meet their own needs without sacrificing their family. That's why we're offering *Family*

Times free of charge as a resource for parents."

Family Times will be published quarterly. It is also available in quantity for local churches to use as a community outreach tool. Dave Gemmell, managing editor of the new magazine, is a former pastor. "As a pastor I dreamed of my church reaching the community with something more than just an occasional handbill. With *Family Times* this dream has come true."

For information write to Family Matters, Inc., P. O. Box 7000, Cleveland, TN 37320 or call (615) 339-1144.

Women seize global mission goals

Rose Otis, director of the GC Office of Women's Ministries, is calling on Adventist women to seize a unique opportunity to support a global mission project that is being planned and carried out completely by women. If funds come in, the project will kick off on June 1, 1992.

Stepping out in faith that Adventist women would back the project, Otis visited two sites in Indonesia last October. Inspecting a site with Nancy Bassham, director of women's ministries for the Far Eastern Division, and other FED and GC officials, Otis authorized the purchase of a building destined to become a church on Java. It is located in an entirely Muslim population segment where there is no other Adventist presence.

Otis comments that, "Although we don't normally purchase a church before we have the first Adventist, our leaders felt that God was leading us to do so in this case. We don't have a single Adventist home in the city in which to meet."

The building has been a warehouse and needs renovation. Once completed,

a host of programs will be offered by women including nutrition seminars, cooking schools, and maternal/child health-care training.

The cost of refurbishing the building is \$15,000, which includes furnishings to seat 160 persons. The total cost for the project (which includes outreach at another site, materials, etc.), is \$71,000.

"We have well-organized, enthusiastic women who are eager to raise up a whole new congregation of Adventists in this city," says Otis. "They're counting on us to provide the funding that they simply do not have. They are willing to give long hours of manual labor, and to lead the evangelistic efforts if we can provide the necessary funding."

If the groundwork can be laid now, reaping meetings will be held in 1993 led by Otis, Bassham, and Anita Folkenberg, wife of the General Conference president.

Direct contributions can be made to the Women's Ministries Project in Indonesia, c/o Global Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Donations are tax deductible.

PUC prayer breakfast attracts many

More than 60 women—including college students and retirees—attended the first women's prayer breakfast held in several years at the Pacific Union College Church in Angwin, California. Women of all ages and nationalities were included in the two-hour program on April 26.

Because only 30 had pre-registered, the planning committee was uncertain how many would come—and 60 exceeded their greatest expectations. Extra tables were quickly set up and filled in the conference room of the college cafeteria.

The program featured new ideas and borrowed ideas. "Bread for the Journey," was adapted from a similar breakfast presented several years ago at Florida Hospital. Different women held up various kinds of breads and told the kinds of women the breads represented—including unleavened bread (refugee women), tortillas (women

caught in the conflicts in Latin America), cornbread (Native American women), saltines (elderly women), and gingerbread (those women who have given spice to our lives and heightened our taste for living).

Ginger Hanks-Harwood repeated her "Prayer for Women" that she wrote for the national AAW Conference in 1991. Keynote speaker Virginia Cason drew examples from the ministry of her father, H. M. S. Richards, in her talk, "Thoughts on Knowing God's Will." Senior music major Andi Flores played two numbers on her flute. PUC freshman Rochelle Holman sang.

The event was planned by the PUC Church Women's Ministry Committee, chaired by Julie Pearce. Committee members include Marit Balk of the pastoral staff, Susi Mundy, Marilyn McIntosh, Pat Benton, and Ginger Hanks-Harwood.

—Pat Benton

WOMEN OF VISION

From front page

director of the North American Church Ministries Department with emphasis on children's ministries. Both have gained much experience on committees during more than 10 years of service at the GC and NAD headquarters.

Elizabeth Sterndale, director of the NAD Office of Women's Ministries, will present a seminar called, "Women's Ministries, Alive!"

The topics being emphasized at this year's conference focus on skills that will be increasingly in demand as Adventist women advance into the nineties. Says Marter. "I think the skills we can hone at this conference will add us to the growing ranks of Women of Vision."

NEW CREDENTIALS

From front page

The Sligo staff suggested two possible courses of action to the conference leadership: issue Sligo's female pastors the credentials they would receive if they were men, or issue their male pastors credentials granted to women who would be ordained but for the fact that they are not men. The conference committee voted the latter on a temporary basis. The minutes note that the pastors' request was made to express dissatisfaction with the policy of the

North American Division regarding the ordination of women.

The new credential granted Sligo male pastors and still held by its female pastors limits their authority to perform ministerial functions such as baptisms and weddings. To perform these *outside* of Sligo church will require the permission of the local conference president. While the change in status does not affect the prior ordination of the male pastors or their pay scale and benefits, it symbolizes their commitment to "struggle toward God's ideal" of equality.

Shirley Zork is a member of the Sligo Gender Justice Committee.