

## Sligo Makes Historic Decision for Adventist Women in Ministry

On September 23, 1995—almost 22 years to the day after the Camp Mohaven Council on the Role of Women recommended that Seventh-day Adventists should ordain women soon—Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Maryland, conducted an ordination service for three women.

Over the past 22 years Sligo has had eight women on the pastoral staff. The first two were members of the Camp Mohaven Council.

The service was authorized by a Sligo Church business session on August 1 by a vote of 138 to 21. On August 27 the Potomac Conference declined (11 to 8) to participate in the ceremony or to recommend the candidates to the Columbia Union Conference for ordination credentials.

However, the three women candidates were recognized—by more than 25 ordained Adventist ministers from seven conferences and a crowd of 1100 supporters from across the nation—as having the training, experience, and full evidence of pastoral gifts that qualify men for ordination.

Expectation, joy, tears of gratitude, solemnity, emotional prayers, soaring music, and deep spiritual commitment marked the 90 minute afternoon service.

More than 30 women in ministry—many of whom would have been ordained years ago had they been male—came from 10 states as well as from Canada and Jamaica to attend. Marianne Scriven, who had formerly served on the Sligo pastoral staff as minister of music, coordinated the program.

Arthur R. Torres, senior pastor, presented



Penny Shell was surrounded with those who recognize her ministry as a chaplain. (Photo by B. Rumble)

an ordination homily, "Let the Future Begin," which rang with the prophetic overtones of Joel 2. At the conclusion, the congregation rose almost as one in a standing ovation.

Charles Scriven, president of Columbia Union College, presented Kendra Haloviak as a candidate. In addition to teaching religion at CUC, she has been a pastor in Ohio, Michigan, and at Sligo Church.

Lawrence Geraty, president of La Sierra University, presented Norma Osborn, his sister-in-law, who has been a Sligo pastor with responsibility for children's ministries since 1987.

Fritz Guy, professor of theology at La Sierra University, presented Penny Shell, a former student of his at the SDA Theological Seminary, who has been a chaplain in Adventist hospitals since 1984.

Lou Venden, professor of ministerial studies at Pacific Union College and former pastor of the University Church at Loma Linda, offered the ordination prayer. Scores of individuals surrounded the candidates and laid hands of blessing on them.

Esther Knott, a pastor at Sligo since 1990, chose not to participate in the service. "I support women's ordination and my colleagues who are going forward now," she explained to the church board at its September meeting. She added, "I want to keep this issue on the agenda for the Potomac Conference and Columbia Union. For me, not participating is the best way to do that."

### Why and How

The September 23 event came 80 days after delegates to the General Conference (GC) session in Utrecht debated women's ordination.

Although GC delegates had voted more than 100 years ago (in 1881) to support women's ordination, the delegates in Utrecht were in no mood for a history lesson. They denied North America's request to work out a solution within its own geographical territory by a vote of 1,481 to 673. Many who opposed were from Hispanic, Asian, and African countries.

Since 1973, when women's ordination has been formally discussed in Adventist councils, two arguments have prevailed. First, that the world church "is not ready" for this.

And, second, that since Adventist ordination is to the world church (and the world isn't ready), women can't be ordained anywhere until they can be ordained everywhere.

### Sligo's Rationale

Torres explained in church board meetings that the local church has authority to ordain deacons, deaconesses, and elders. Each is a separate ordination; each sets individuals apart for distinct responsibilities.

By ordaining individuals as ministers, he said, these women are recognized and affirmed for a more comprehensive work than that of a local elder. This ordination recognizes their pastoral gifts, which are being exercised on a full-time basis.

Torres also emphasized that the Potomac Conference and Columbia Union Conference had assured him that Sligo was fully within its rights to conduct the September 23 service. No policy prohibits a congregation from ordaining individuals to gospel ministry for that local community.

### What Does It Mean?

Penny Shell explained, "I had hoped that the world church in Utrecht would support women in ministry. When they didn't, I had hoped my division, or my union, or my conference would. When they didn't, I was grateful that at least one corner of my church—my local congregation—would take a stand and publicly declare that women's ministry is ordained of God."

Kendra Haloviak said the event moves the entire Adventist Church toward justice and the full equality of men and women in Christ. Norma Osborn explained her views by quoting from 2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV: "For if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

The meaning of the day was the dominant note of a Saturday night reception, which attracted more than 250 persons. Dozens wanted to speak and speeches went until after midnight. One woman said, "Today we have crossed the Jordan!" Bev Beem, who had flown across country from Walla Walla College where she teaches English said, "Our joy just wouldn't stop. It went on and on."

For hundreds of Sligo members, and scores of former Adventists, inactive Adventists,



Norma Osborn (l.), Kendra Haloviak (center), and Penny Shell (r.) were the focus of a celebration of pastoral ministry. (Photo by B. Bestpitch)

and non-Adventists who attended—particularly young people—Sligo's ordination helps them believe that the larger church may one day eschew discrimination and take a moral stand on women's equality.

The event has received coverage in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Times*, the *Religious News Service*, and the *Adventist Review*. Many reports, including the *Washington Post*, quote North American leaders as discounting the ordination since it did not provide credentials that are recognized by the world church.

Video tapes of the ordination service are available for \$20 from TEAM, P.O. Box 7816, Langley Park, MD 20787.



Several times the audience signaled its approval with a standing ovation. (Photo by B. Bestpitch)

## A Statement of Commitment to Women in Gospel Ministry

*Editor's note: This letter is reprinted in full as it appeared when released on October 13, 1995, at the conclusion of the Year-end Meeting of the North American Division, which was held in Battle Creek, Michigan.*

"Because we believe that God calls both women and men to the gospel ministry, we were disappointed by the General Conference vote in Utrecht to deny ordination to women. While loyal to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we still firmly believe in the Biblical rightness of women's ordination.

"We appreciate the leadership role that Elder A. C. McClure, our North American Division President, exhibited at Utrecht as he represented our division's request that the decision to ordain women be made regionally by the various world divisions. We are pleased that Elder McClure has already taken steps to establish a Presidential Commission on Women in Ministry to find ways to validate our commitment to women in ministry.

"Therefore, in support of the work of the Presidential Commission and our desire for full equality of men and women in ministry, we ask that the following steps be taken and pledge our vigorous support:

"1. **Authorize full equality of practice in ministry:** Grant women and men full equality in the practice of ministry by eliminating all policies where ordination is a prerequisite and/or men and women ministers are treated differently, including the authority to:

"A. Hold any church office, including being a conference, union, division or General Conference president;

"B. Ordain local elders and deacons;

"C. Organize and disband churches;

"D. Perform pastoral functions outside one's own district.

"2. **Enhance the Commission Service:** We encourage enhancing the currently authorized Commissioning Service as a public affirmation of women set apart for a life of ministry.

"3. **Increase the role of women in the church:** We believe that we must take steps to increase the presence and participation of women in ministry by:

"A. Encouraging conferences to call more women into pastoral ministry.

"B. Recruiting women to greater leadership and officer roles at all levels of the church.

"4. **Clarify our theology of ordination:** We request that the General Conference initiate a study process to clarify our understanding of ordination so that it more fully reflects Biblical theology and Adventist mission. We need confidence that our practice of ministry ordination is grounded in the Word of God and not in church history. The dialogue at Utrecht regarding the ordination of women demonstrated the church's need to increase our members' understanding and application of basic Biblical hermeneutical principles.

"While we support the vote at Utrecht, we

are also committed to the goal of women's ordination. We believe that the same Holy Spirit who calls, leads, and blesses women in pastoral ministry is also calling our entire church to increased faithfulness in its affirmation and validation of women in gospel ministry. We ask all our brothers and sisters in the North American Division to actively and prayerfully join that journey. Let us be a priesthood of all believers in proclaiming together the Good News that Christ is coming soon."

NAD UNION PRESIDENTS

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# Women of the Year 1995

## Professional Life

### Linda L. Ammons

When childhood adversity threatened to bar Linda Ammons' progress, she just turned it on end, and made it a ladder for success. In that home was a strong, praying mother whom Ethel Walker describes as "the wind beneath Linda's wings." And in Linda herself was the gift of a bright mind and strong determination.

From girlhood on she captured good grades, degrees, honors, and commendations. At Mt. Vernon Academy she won an oratorical contest, and while a student at Oakwood College, she became an on-camera interviewer and news reporter for a local television station. In 1980 she earned a master's degree in communications, worked in public affairs and public relations.

With her sights aimed ever higher, Linda applied to the Ohio State University College of Law. Her leadership in college was of such quality that she became the recipient of the Distinguished Affirmative Action Award, an honor received because she was instrumental in establishing a lecture series that featured major African-American leaders who discussed race and diversity issues.

Upon graduation from law school, Linda was appointed the Executive Assistant to then Governor Richard Celeste of Ohio, advising him on legal and policy matters in the areas of criminal justice, regulatory policies and laws, and administrative concerns. She was the principal person in the governor's office responsible for Ohio's battered women's clemency project, which resulted in clemencies for 28 Ohio women.

Ms. Ammons' concern for battered women led her to initiate and co-chair the American Bar Association's National Institute on Defending Battered Women in Criminal Cases. She has also been a member of the joint Ohio Supreme Court/Ohio State Bar Association's Taskforce on Gender Fairness, and the Ohio Council of Churches Criminal Taskforce. Today Linda is Commissioner with the Ohio Public Defender's Commission. She also teaches college law classes at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

A former journalist friend of hers points out, "her grasp of legal issues and her ability to focus upon what is key have resulted in her being reappointed year after year to teach Ohio judges, men and women who themselves currently are sitting on the bench."

Her long list of honors and awards, her degrees, and special assignments make the comments of Cecil R. Walker a great honor in themselves. He writes, "Even though she has reached a height where many people would be haughty, she is plain Linda, a Christ-centered person so easy to be with and talk to."

## Church Life

### Ellen Brezee

Ellen Brezee is immediately linked with Shepherdess International. But she has been no figurehead leader. In 45 years as a pastor's spouse she learned firsthand the great stresses and needs of one special group of women—minister's wives. While men were educated and mentored for their role, their partners in ministry often had little training or support for their part in the spread of the gospel. Ellen longed to see that change.

In 1982 her husband became director of the General Conference Ministerial Association, and Ellen soon joined that organization as a partner with Marie Spangler, who shared Ellen's dream of establishing a worldwide organization that would support and enhance the role of ministers' wives. When Marie retired, Ellen took hold of the reins, utilizing Marie's early research to build a case for broadening the work both found so important. Although others pioneered the Shepherdess work, Ellen lifted that banner and carried it unswervingly. Often unsung, she kept before church leaders the need to nurture and educate pastors' wives for a stronger role in ministry, and traveled worldwide to encourage those women to join



Linda L. Ammons



Ellen Brezee



Janet Fordjour



Anita Requenez-Moses



Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse



Hyveth Williams

their husbands as full partners in ministry. In some places she visited, it was the very first time wives had been invited to accompany their husbands to the meetings for ministers. At the 1989 Annual Council, Shepherdess International was officially recognized as a part of the General Conference Ministerial Association, a triumph for Ellen, Marie, and thousands of ministers' wives around the world.

The energy to that Ellen has thrown into forming networks, valuing education, and summoning financial support for women, was her trademark even in college.

"As a college monitor," remembered Marianne Johnston, "I always knew to look for 'Hen' (Ellen Hendrickson) when squeals or ripples of laughter burst forth down the hall. Ellen is the perpetual optimist, well able to mount a crusade to show administrators around the world the need to recognize the pastor's wife's gift for ministry."

Many people she worked so hard to support never knew of Ellen's physical struggles throughout those years. Shortly after she began her work with Shepherdess International, Ellen was diagnosed with cancer. Through three surgeries, radiation, and chemotherapy, suffering from disease, treatments, and difficult travels around the world, she actively pursued her mission. With characteristic optimism and determination she continued to speak, write, hold seminars, travel, whatever needed to be done. Many of her itineraries have been daunting, utterly grueling even for someone in robust health, but she has not flinched. "There is such a need," she tells those who question her relentless schedule, "my heart goes out to these women."

both young and old. She has especially endeared herself to many local elderly people with an "annual feast" held in her home, as well as moving from one to another doing errands and chores to make their lives more enjoyable. While serving as health and temperance leader, she organized cooking and exercise classes for both church and community participants, which introduced healthy attitudes and Christian values along with rewarding personal contacts.

"Janet is a silent worker and does not seek rewards," her friend Rachel Welton describes her. This does not stop many awards from being given her, however, including one of particular meaning from the Memphis City Council. She is described as a "blessing and gift to us all."

She is also a master at making people feel "at home" whether for one of her regular Sabbath dinners or an incapacitated neighbor in need of care during recuperation. House guests from far and near frequently share the Fordjour home. One, an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, tells how soon after moving to this country, Janet took him, his wife, and their new baby into her home and cared for them until they were able to get on their feet.

"The boundaries of her love know no ethnicity, age, color, social status, or religious background," he noted. "She is warm and open hearted to everybody."

## Community Life

### Anita Requenez-Moses

Drawing on a lifetime of demanding and varied experience, Anita Requenez-Moses has become a dynamic example of how unique life combinations can produce unique capacities to bless others.

As the eldest child in a Hispanic minister's family, Anita began early to relate well to people from different cultures as a young Christian earnestly seeking their good. Later, with her husband, Keith Moses, and two daughters, Maria and Deborah, she served for nearly 14 years in Peru, South American, Ethiopia and then Kenya, East Africa. In each place, needs arose which called for her care and leadership. Whether director of feeding and care for hundreds of women and children a day at the Mother and Child Care Center in Peru, giving counsel and guidance as dean of women at Inca Union University and later Ethiopian Adventist College, director of the Voice of Prophecy Spanish Bible School, administering cultural and educational exchange programs through USIS, or directing an orphanage in Ethiopia, this committed woman was learning to lean on her Lord as she applied her skills to the task at hand.

Since her permanent return to the United States in 1984, she has combined employment, active involvement in church and community, and the pursuit of academic degrees, culminating in the Masters of Social Work (social welfare of family and children) degree she is currently pursuing.

Equally at home in English or Spanish, she has developed highly successful Seventh-day Adventist women's retreats especially geared for Hispanic women. In addition, she has developed a uniquely organized and innovative prayer ministry, resulting in a "dynamic connection to heaven" and wonderful results. Also, as a skilled bilingual speaker, Anita is a frequent and very effective presenter and interpreter for women's retreats and conference "Day of Prayer" events.

She presently holds public office as an appointed board member for the Ventura County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board, and works full time for the County of Ventura, California, PSSA/Children's Protective Services as an investigator and crisis intervention counselor, pitting her skills against neglect and other forms of child abuse. According to those who know her best, to really know Anita Moses you need to see her in action—perhaps placing a child in protective custody and then "with Jesus' love

(Continued on next page)

## Family Life

### Janet Fordjour

Although originally from Ghana and educated as a nurse in England, her community celebrates the way Janet Fordjour has sunk her roots into Memphis, Tennessee. Even as she shares a full family life with her husband, Dr. Isaac Fordjour, her three sons and her niece whom she has raised as a daughter, Janet serves both her church and her community in quiet, but life-changing ways. Her pastor, Samuel Hutchins, calls her "an effective community force, a spiritual influence in our church, and a rich source of consultation and comfort for many."

Even as she acts as surgical assistant in her husband's oral and maxillofacial surgery practice, Janet is constantly in touch with the needs of people in her church, neighborhood, and beyond. Currently, Janet serves her local church in the capacity of family ministries coordinator (along with her husband), home and school society leader, and member of hospitality ministries.

She gives of herself unstintingly. Whether she is arranging a formal hotel banquet which has become an annual occasion for young people who choose not to attend the traditional high school prom, adopting the daughter of a relative who died, or planning a baby shower, Janet's warm embrace blesses

(Continued from previous page)

showing through" giving counsel to the hurting parents.

**Outstanding Achievement  
Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse**

Even as a child, Virginia-Gene Shankel Rittenhouse exhibited the exceptional musical gifts that would lead others in later years to describe her as a "Renaissance woman." The words *violinist*, *composer*, and *conductor* come readily to mind, but this is only a small part of her story. As a professional musician, Dr. Rittenhouse has lived her life with two particular goals in mind: to "uplift Christ and His church through the medium of music," and to provide opportunities for young people to develop their musical gifts to the fullest extent and do so within a Christian environment. In these goals she has succeeded admirably.

Born in Africa to missionary parents, her mother was her only teacher until she reached high school age. But even as a toddler, she would awaken her parents in the night and sing them tunes that she had "heard in her sleep." She performed in her first concert at the age of 10 on a network broadcast, playing her own piano compositions. A famous critic hearing her rehearsal stated, "I don't know why all the fuss about a child prodigy; however, she can certainly play Bach." Actually, he had been listening to Virginia-Gene's compositions.

She started violin lessons at eight. Serious

studies on the violin began at 12 years of age when a master violinist declared her a "born violinist." She has studied at the Juilliard School of Music, Boston University, and the Peabody Conservatory of Music where she completed a Ph.D. in Musical Arts in Performance. She has been a recitalist as well as an orchestra soloist, and the recipient of numerous awards.

In the 25 years since she organized a group of four string students meeting in her living room in to what has become the New England Youth Ensemble, the group has expanded to 40 members and has played throughout the world to critical acclaim. The prestigious Carnegie Hall of New York City has been the site of the ensemble's performances a remarkable 25 times.

Throughout her teaching and performing career she has inspired high levels of enthusiasm, enabling her to raise the funds necessary for the ensemble's goodwill journeys to China, the Middle East, Australia; and countries of eastern and western Europe. Her Christian commitment has blessed the lives of audiences, colleagues, and students alike. Using the medium of music, this remarkable woman has opened doors for the gospel message throughout the world.

**Pastor/Chaplain  
Hyveth Williams**

The first black female senior pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hyveth Williams is a native Jamaican raised in London, England, and a citizen of the United

States. Pastor Williams began her ministry almost a decade ago as a student intern at Pennsylvania Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church. After three years as Associate Pastor of Evangelism at Sligo Church, Takoma Park, Maryland, Pastor Williams came to the Boston Temple in Massachusetts where she holds the distinction of being the first female pastor in the Atlantic Union and Southern New England Conference.

Following a dramatic conversion in 1977 and baptism into the Adventist Church shortly thereafter, Pastor Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology at Columbia Union College in 1983 and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University Theological Seminary in 1989. She is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree at Boston University School of Theology.

As a woman of God, Pastor Williams brings to her work something too rarely seen—a high level of creative vision combined with a zeal for uplifting her Christ. Since coming to the Boston Temple in 1989, she has been instrumental in the revitalization of its church life and the restoration of this beautiful, but sadly rundown, historic Boston landmark.

With innovative programs for young and old alike, Pastor Williams has provided an opportunity for the Spirit of God to perform a work of revival in many members who had strayed, and of conversion in many persons who had never before committed their lives to Christ. Church attendance has grown

from about 30 to upwards of 300, including many college and graduate students attending colleges and universities in the area. Prior to becoming a pastor, she enjoyed a "long and successful career in a variety of fields," all related to the service of others. This experience, much of it in city government, has been utilized in building bridges of mutual helpfulness between the Boston Temple and the greater Boston community surrounding her church.

Much in demand as a speaker, she "approaches the preaching event as a sacred opportunity and her role as a spokesperson for God as a trust." This commitment has produced an effectiveness that reaches even the "gospel hardened" and turn lives around. In the words of her former senior pastor, Charles Scriven, "Her pioneering Christian leadership is remarkable—as a pastor who is neither white nor male, she has set her jaw in defiance of convention, and done it all with a twinkle in her eye."

**Words of Hope:**

*The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.*  
Isaiah 58:11

**Presidential Communique**

**Let the Future Begin**



by Nancy Marter

This past Sabbath, two different ministers spoke with deep sincerity and eloquence of the gospel in Jesus Christ breaking down **all barriers**: barriers between nationalities, races, rich and poor, men and women—**all barriers**. The barriers were not simply alluded to, but were each mentioned in turn. Each man spoke of the importance of the body of believers moving together in fellowship in order to validate and effectively share the good news of Christ's saving life, death and resurrection to all in need around us. It was beautiful and exciting to imagine the possibilities of such a society of Christians, all practicing unconditional agape love.

Then each minister interjected short and,

for me, jarring comments about a local church acting contrary to church policy and threatening **fellowship**; a local conference or union acting unilaterally and contrary to voted church policy, which could threaten church unity.

For myself and many others, this conceptual juxtaposition poses a severe dilemma which we are struggling to resolve. It seems to me that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has "officially voted policies" which **keep those barriers in place**.

Later that same day, I had the privilege of attending an ordination service in the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, a service in which a local church set apart three women to the gospel ministry. Men and women attended from congregations around the country. It proved a richly spiritual experience, one which touched the heart, the mind and the spirit. Senior Pastor Rudy Torres, in his homily, spoke of the work of prophets and the prophet Joel in particular. He reminded us that prophets have always lived solidly in the here and now—"terra firma" was the phrase he used—but have seen into the future.

Seventh-day Adventists, of course, believe strongly in the prophetic ministry and in fact base many doctrinal beliefs on prophetic messages found in Scripture. **But it is one thing to espouse the authenticity of future prophecies and quite another to see them as arriving.** This is especially true if these prophecies arrive in conflict with cherished traditional beliefs and "officially voted policies" already firmly in place. We talk repeatedly about and say we desire the outpouring of the Holy Spirit but simultaneously box-in that Spirit with policies which paralyze administrative leaders. Everyone is afraid to act against ill-voted policy for fear of giving others license to also act contrary to policy, thus bringing our house of cards, our precious hierarchy, tumbling down around us.

What is blinding us? Are we God's people or not? Does He have no say in whom He chooses to use? Can't we see that God desires to use ALL His children? Although WE might consider some to be unlikely

choices, HE chooses whom to anoint and does so without regard for color or gender. Why is this truth so hard to understand for a people longing for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the Second Coming of our precious Jesus? Surely we live in the age of the Holy Spirit. To deny that Presence is a sacrilege. **And with that Spirit comes power to live not deny the reality that the prophet Joel predicted: "Even on my servants,**

**both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."**

On September 23, 1995, three women were "called to minister wherever you are needed." It is time we allowed the Spirit, not "officially voted policies," to move us. It is time we believed that the Spirit is at work among us. It is time we let the Spirit work freely among us. It is time to *Let the Future Begin!*

**Clip & Do**

**How to Help Women Daily**

1. Encourage women to check their breasts and get a regular mammogram. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.
2. Get and give a calendar that celebrates women.
3. Send a note of encouragement to a female student in pastoral training.
4. Make a donation to a woman's shelter. Diapers, toys, and clothes are typical needs. Call for specific needs.
5. Register for literacy training. More information is available at the NAD Women Ministries Dept.
6. Expand a girl's definition of entrepreneurship. Find a way to help a teen earn money and learn skills that will make her more employable. Ideas include desktop publishing, computer software such as a basic checkbook accounting program, time management, and communications skills such as writing.

Send your ideas for this feature to: The Editor, The Adventist Woman, PO Box 7414, Langley Park, MD 20787

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# Scholarships Skyrocket for Women Ministers

In August, 22 women received scholarships worth \$22,000 from Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM), a lay organization advocating biblical equality. The awards represent an increase of 37 percent above the \$16,000 given in scholarships last year.

Responding to a lack of support from the world church to ordain qualified female ministers, more than 100 Adventists provided contributions to encourage these women to continue pursuing their goals to become pastors and chaplains. Scholarships ranged from \$200 to \$2,500. They were awarded based on financial need and merit to women representing the Inter-American, Trans-European, Eastern Africa, and North American divisions.

In accepting these scholarships, each woman agreed to support the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in her ministry and to encourage fellow students regardless of their gender, race, citizenship, age, or marital status. However, each was free from any obligation to personally adopt TEAM's mission.

"These generous contributions represent the growing concern members have regarding

the discriminatory practices of the church," explains Rebecca Brillhart, project coordinator of TEAM. "People tell us they are thirsty for the contributions women in ministry can and already have made. And these women need to know there will be a place for them upon graduation—that they are needed and wanted in the Adventist Church."

Eleven awardees are studying at Andrews University and were featured during the SDA Theological Seminary's October 10 chapel presentation. Five recipients attend the Adventist Seminary of Cuba, where women at present aspire to be Bible workers because "pastor" is a designation used to describe male graduates only. One begins a master's degree in religion at La Sierra University. The remaining five scholarships were awarded to women attending non-Adventist institutions.

TEAM's Women in Ministry Scholarship Fund (WMSF) is supported by those who believe the fulfillment of the gospel commission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church requires the spiritual gifts of women in ministry. Since the program began in 1991, 40 women have benefited from

scholarships in the amount of \$45,000. Matching incentives for anonymous challenge grants and major gifts have provided the necessary momentum to keep the program moving forward.

For more information about the scholarship program or 1996 applications, write to TEAM, P.O. Box 7816, Langley Park, MD 20787-7816, or contact Rebecca Brillhart at 301-445-3340.

**Andrews University:**  
 Sook-Young Kim, Ph.D.; pastor, teacher  
 Maureen Okundi, M.Div.; pastor for youth in Kenya's national schools  
 Alicia Patterson, M.A.; pastor/team ministry with spouse  
 Lisa Lynn Poole, M.Div.; pastor/team ministry with spouse  
 Lolita Reed, M.Div.; prison chaplain  
 Teresa L. Reeve, M.Div.; pastor, child and family  
 Valda Reke, M.A.; pastor/teacher, children's ministries in the Baltic Union  
 Vanessa Thames, M.Div.; pastor  
 Wanda Vaz, M.Div.; hospital chaplain  
 Alicia Anne Worley, M.Div.; pastor, teacher  
 Clarissa M. Worley, M.Div.; youth/young adult pastor

**Adventist Seminary of Cuba:**  
 Daiseidelys Buergo Calvo  
 Iliana Gomez Hernandez

Maria Luisa Perez Lopez (children's ministries director of Cuba, previously received an MA in religion from Montomorelos University, Mexico)  
 Evelyn Lunar  
 Laneisty Lastre Macias  
**La Sierra University:**  
 Susan Marie Ross, M.A.; youth pastor, hospital chaplain

**Other institutions:**  
 Anne Freed, Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary; pastor/teacher, leadership and ethics  
 Kendra Haloviak, Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union, University of California at Berkeley; pastor/teacher  
 Sheryll Prinz-McMillan, Ph.D.; Claremont Graduate School; pastor/teacher  
 Denise A. Ropka, M.A.; Fuller Theological Seminary; pastor/family life  
 Mitzi Jane Smith, M.Div.; Howard University School of Divinity; pastor/teacher



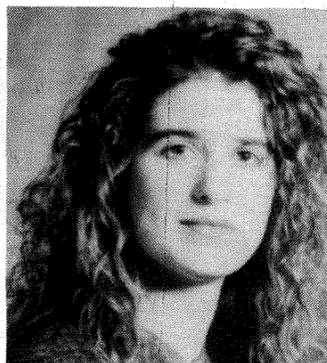
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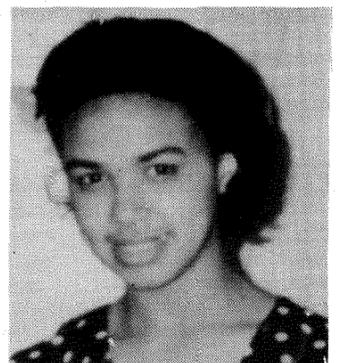
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Wanda Vaz, M.Div.



Kendra Haloviak, Ph.D.



Lisa Lynn Poole, M.Div.



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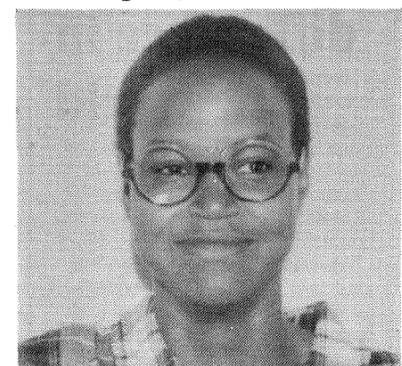
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Denise A. Ropka, M.A.



Vanessa Thames, M.Div.



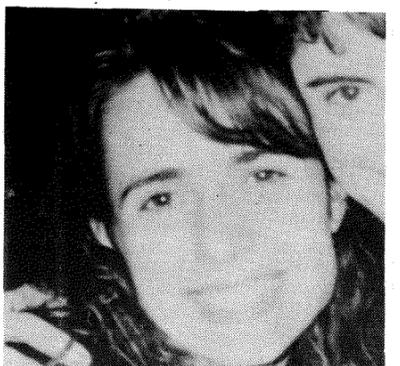
Maureen Okundi, M.Div.



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