



Barbara Folkenberg offered three guidelines to making decisions at the opening session.



Harp prepared a crowd of nearly 300 for Sabbath worship during the 10th anniversary conference.

AAW celebrates women of vision; calls for equality in church

From New York, Georgia, and California, from Virginia, Oregon, and Nebraska—from 24 states plus Canada, the Philippines, and New Zealand—more than 150 Adventist women and men streamed into the Washington, D.C. metro area to celebrate the Association of Adventist Women's 10th anniversary conference, October 15-18, in the Ramada Renaissance Hotel near Dulles International Airport.

The crowd burgeoned to 300 for the Sabbath morning worship service and to more than 250 for the Women of the Year banquet on Saturday night.

The Women of Vision conference was coordinated by Nancy Marter, AAW president from 1986-1990; her able assistant, Cindy McMillan; and the Metro Washington D.C. AAW Chapter.

Greetings from the Columbia Union

Commenting on the conference's theme, "Celebrating Women of Vision," Ron Wisbey, president of the Columbia Union, greeted attendees at the opening session Thursday afternoon.

"I know you to be women of vision," he stated. "I'm thankful for all of you who serve on the boards of our conferences, colleges, and other institutions, and for those of you who work as chaplains and pastors."

Noting that the North American Division had just completed its year-end meetings, Wisbey added, "I know you wonder when the church will open its doors fully to all members. I assure you I believe those doors are opening. Your capacities, vision, and

dreams—these are needed by the church and the world."

Quick takes

AAW's enlarging vision was evident at the conference. The program not only featured a variety of top-quality events but also brought together an particularly dynamic group of women speakers and participants. (In-depth coverage begins on page 2.)

■ Responding to a unique mission outreach that has brought more than 12,000 Buddhists to Christ as baptized Seventh-day Adventists, attendees showered Judy Aitken with a Sabbath morning offering totaling \$1,415.

Aitken, an registered nurse, is known as "Mother Judy" in the Cambodian and Laotian refugee camps where she spent seven years living out her call to ministry by preaching and teaching. Now living in Berrien Springs, Michigan, Aitken works through Adventist Frontier Missions/Refugee Projects. Her efforts support mission outposts in Thailand, which she helped establish. Like a modern Apostle Paul, Aitken also travels extensively in North America seeking funds to pay pastors and establish Adventist churches where these refugees are resettling.

■ Barbara Folkenberg, whose son, Robert, is president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, challenged attendees in her opening devotional to refresh their vision of God daily.

■ In a forum unique within the Adventist Church, leaders representing nine Adventist

See OVERVIEW, p. 3

Church votes on abortion, nods to affirmative action

Two major votes affecting Adventist women were adopted by church leaders in October. The long-awaited vote for affirmative-action is designed to improve women's participation in the church life. And guidelines on abortion provide support for women as they weigh the pros and cons of unwanted pregnancies.

As in other debates involving women in recent years, the debates leading up to these two votes were unsettling and acrimonious at times. While these attitudes and feelings among some leaders are disappointing, Adventist women believe the votes represent a significant step forward in policy.

Guidelines on abortion

After nearly four years of study, discussion, and countless revisions, the 26-member Christian View of Human Life Committee's proposed guidelines on abortion were adopted by Annual Council on October 12.

An attempt by *Ministry* editor David Newman and retired Andrews University professor Millie Youngberg to substitute their more conservative "minority report" nearly derailed the whole process. With additional revisions and support from Robert S. Folkenberg, the guidelines passed. They update the church's guidelines first issued in 1971.

The document upholds the sanctity of human life and condemns abortion for "reasons of birth control, gender selection, or convenience." But the statement also recognizes that the final decision on whether or not to terminate a pregnancy should be made by the pregnant woman after appropriate consultation aided by accurate information, bib-

lical principles, and the Holy Spirit.

The document also recognizes that women "may face exceptional circumstances that present serious moral or medical dilemmas, such as significant threats to the pregnant woman's life, serious jeopardy to her health, severe congenital defects carefully diagnosed in the fetus, and pregnancy resulting from rape or incest."

Affirmative action in North America

In the North American year-end meetings, October 12-15, two affirmative-action documents were adopted by NAD leaders. The documents were developed by Rosa Taylor Banks, director of the Office of Human Relations.

The purpose of the guidelines is to bring new people into the church's work force who have been excluded in the past—women, ethnic minorities, and those with physical handicaps. The guidelines assert that "jobs on all levels of church activity be opened to all persons on the basis of qualifications."

Ironically, the long, seven-page document applies to the NAD office only where very few people are employed. It includes a broad plan of action and implementation.

The short two-page document provides guidelines—but no specific implementation procedures—for the NAD field where hundreds of people are employed.

This discrepancy is the result of the field's strong resistance to following-up on the church's voted commitment at the 1985 General Conference session to adopt an affirmative action plan. Those who normally speak on behalf of the NAD field as documents are developed are conference and union presidents.

AAW '93—See you in Seattle!

The 11th AAW Conference will meet in the Red Lion Hotel, Sea/Tac Airport, Seattle, Washington, on October 14-17, 1993, according to Dr. Helen Ward Thompson of Walla Walla, who is coordinating the conference steering committee.

Plans include: four seminar tracks to mix or match: personal spiritual growth, physical health of women, emotional

health of women, and women in the corporate world.

Programs include: an agape supper Friday evening, drama, challenging Sabbath services and seminars, and a gala Saturday night cruise on the Sound featuring the Women of the Year Awards dinner. More details in coming issues of the *Adventist Woman*.

Speak up for Adventist women!

Do you know an Adventist woman who should be honored and recognized? Our church needs to know about these women who make a difference and whose service inspires all of us.

The Association of Adventist Women is calling for nominations for the 1993 Adventist Women of the Year awards.

The deadline is March 31, 1993.

Here's how to make your nomination:

(1) Prepare a biographical sketch of the woman you know, outlining her unique and outstanding qualities and

achievements.

(2) Secure three other letters of recommendation for her including, or in addition to, a recommendation by an Adventist pastor.

(3) By March 31, 1993, mail your nomination to the Association of Adventist Women, P.O. Box 7414, Langley Park, MD 20787.

—Selma Chaij Mastrapa, Chair
1993 Adventist Women of the
Year Awards Committee



Five early Adventist women preachers came to life in Josephine Benton's drama, "God Opened the Door." (Story on page 6.)

Spinning the kaleidoscope

by Ardis Stenbakken

Kaleidoscope. Changing colors. Changing faces. Ideas, concerns, exhibits. Women in business suits, women in slacks. Women of different sizes, different ethnic origins. Some old, some young. And for variety, an occasional man.

This was my first time to attend an Association of Adventist Women's conference, or any AAW meeting for that matter. I was excited and apprehensive—what would it be like? Would I like the colors and shapes, the feelings generated?

After arriving early Thursday morning, I began to look around. My first impressions were of the women themselves. I have read the *Adventist Woman* since its beginning, so many of the names were familiar. Now it was fun to put faces with those names. I was impressed that these women were at the conference because they have a Christian goal, a mission, to help women. There were no degrees listed on name tags, although many of the women have earned high degrees; there was no listing of past or present positions—these were women for equality. And yes, even a few interested, supportive men.

Welcome words

After lunch with a new friend, I was eager for the sessions to begin. What would the ideas, the atmosphere be like? Betty Howard welcomed everyone on behalf of the Washington Metro Chapter. I thought it especially appropriate that near the beginning of the conference we were asked to pray silently for peace and people.

As we were greeted by Ron Wisbey, the president of the Columbia Union Conference, I thought to myself how nice it will be some day to be welcomed by a female union president! I am not all musical but certainly enjoyed Edwina Humphrey Flynn's singing.

Barbara Folkenberg

I had never met Barbara Folkenberg and wondered what the mother of the General Conference president would have to say. It became quickly obvious that she was there in her own right. She spoke on a topic of concern to many women: How do we know what to do? How do we make decisions?

Mrs. Folkenberg offered three guides: the Bible and Bible study, impressions by the Holy Spirit, and doors of opportunity that close or open. She had personal experience to relate illustrating how in her own life God had used these avenues.

During the following break I met Margaret Turner, from Dayton, Ohio, who shared how these avenues had worked in her life—how everything she had done as a woman, a

mother, a nurse, had prepared her for ministry as a hospital chaplain.

W.A.S.H.

Peggy Harris, outgoing AAW president who was completing her two-year term of service at this conference, spoke next on "Women of Vision: Past, Present, and Future." I was particularly interested in W.A.S.H., her new program and concept for women hurt by sexual abuse and harassment. Abuse does happen in the Christian home and in our church and must be stopped if many are to have any future. W.A.S.H. stands for Women and Men Against Sexual Harassment; we should be hearing much more about this.

Congress of ministries

Sometimes it is hard to define the Association of Adventist Women, but it was obvious that AAW has spawned and nurtured many groups encompassing a variety of outreaches and goals.

In some ways AAW has been a launching pad for other ministries. And, at this meeting it provided a kind of congress of ministries for Adventist women. Representatives from nine groups were invited to report on their progress and plans. These were as diverse as reports from the General Conference and North American Division Women's Ministries by Rose Otis and Elizabeth Sterndale, to an individual outreach program in Los Angeles by Isabel Dickens.

Helen Thompson reported for the Adventist Women's Coalition (AWC); Rebecca Brillhart for Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM); Sally Streib on Shepherdess International, based in the GC Ministerial Department; Kit Watts on Mary's Place, a worship for and by women in the Metro D.C. area; Penny Miller updated us on Southeastern California Conference's Gender Inclusiveness Commission; Irish Yob spoke for the Adventist Women's Institute (AWI); and Isabel Dickens reported on the Bible Instructors' Guild in the Pacific Union.

By now my head was swimming—new faces, new ideas, new information, and the conference had barely begun. But best of all, women—all types accepting a variety of challenges. What a beautiful kaleidoscope.

Ardis Stenbakken, an educator, writes from Columbia, Maryland, where she is settling into a new home after serving with her husband, a U.S. Army chaplain, for 23 years. He was one of the men at the AAW conference. They have two grown children. Ardis has been active in many phases of church and community life.



Nancy Marter coordinated the 10th anniversary conference with Cindy McMillan (not pictured).



New AAW president Elisabeth Wear (left) thanks outgoing president Peggy Harris for her leadership.



Youngest attendee at the conference with his mom, Leslie Bumgardner, pastor of the Dublin, Ohio, SDA church.

Keynote Address, October 15

Envisioning our future

by Jocelyn Fay

"Do you have a clear sense of God's vision in your life?" asked speaker Jennifer Knight in the keynote address for AAW's 10th annual conference.

"All of us have a clear choice to live—to live by design or default," she said. "I believe God wants us to live by design."

Knight, a policy adviser to the attorney general of New South Wales in Australia, emphasized that a woman's vision should be her own, not someone else's. It should be bigger than a goal, should stretch a woman's abilities, and should reflect what God wants to accomplish through her in building the kingdom of God.

"The ultimate goal," she said, "is setting minds and hearts and actions in tune with God's desires."

For those without a clear vision, Knight counseled not trying to rush it. "It will come when it's ready," she said, perhaps as a still, small voice in an unexpected moment. Those with deep, inner hurts are unlikely to have the energy or motivation to pursue a vision. Healing must come first. Affirmation and encouragement are also essential for pursuing a dream. Women without affirming relationships should try to develop them.

Knight asked each listener to think about his or her vision from several angles: as a person, as a North American, as a profes-



Dr. Jennifer Knight, keynote speaker, came to us from Australia. She had chaired a task force for the South Pacific Division that conducted a comprehensive survey of professional Adventist women and their views of the church.

sional person, as a Seventh-day Adventist, and as a child of God.

Speaking frankly as an Australian to a group of Americans, Knight reminded those who would be voting in the upcoming presidential election to remember that America sets the pace for the world, both for developed and developing nations.

She asked her listeners to think about what values the United States should validate, and let that guide them at the polls. She also encouraged taking a world view of politics, noting that decisions that seem favorable to Americans sometimes create hardship elsewhere, such as U.S. subsidies for wheat farmers.

Knight said she has seen a number of people become frustrated with the Adventist Church, and in rejecting it, reject Christianity altogether.

"Sometimes it's better to lose the battle than to lose the war," she commented, implying that it may be necessary in some cases to leave the church in order to pursue a vision, but that the "war"—which she defined as victory over evil—should not be lost in the process.

Knight closed by encouraging her listeners to see themselves as Jesus sees them—"complete, with infinite possibilities."

"Above all," she said, "be true to your call, for as Proverbs reminds us, where there is no vision, the people perish."

Jocelyn Fay is Alumni and Public Relations Director at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.



One of the most exciting programs during the conference came when leaders of 10 ministries for Adventist women reported on their work and goals. Left to right: Isabel Dickens (Bible Instructors Guild in the Pacific Union); Dr. Penny Miller (Southeastern California Conference Gender Inclusiveness Commission); Dr. Helen Ward Thompson (Adventist Women's Coalition); Elisabeth Wear (AAW); Rebecca Brillhart (T.E.A.M.); Elizabeth Sterndale (NAD Women's Ministries); Sally Streib (Shepherdess International); Rose Otis (GC Women's Ministries); Iris Yob and Bertha Dasher (Adventist Women's Institute). Not pictured: Kit Watts (Mary's Place: Worship and the Word Through Women's Eyes).

Getting down to business

by Kit Watts

Five times during the conference—late in the evening or early in the morning—from six to 25 people gathered with a woman pastor or chaplain to pray.

Healing bath

The 45-minute prayer sessions were voluntary, informal, stimulating, and spiritually rewarding. Last night we were with Pastor Lisa Smith, and this morning, Pastor Joyce Lomtz; later we'd meet with Pastor Leslie Bumgardner and Chaplain Penny Shell. These are women who know how to draw us out and, by God's grace, put us back together again.

I have come to recognize that we can quickly exhaust our spiritual energy as we work against formidable odds to bring change in the church. We become susceptible to despair and resentment unless we soak ourselves in the healing warm baths of one another's prayers.

The meaning of "being Christlike"

In the Friday morning devotional, Dr. Helen Ward Thompson led us into a Bible study the likes of which we seldom experience. Although she spoke in a quiet, modulated voice, she jolted us awake. The four stories she told from Jesus' life sounded familiar—but awful.

In her version Jesus did *not* cleanse the temple, did *not* heal the man by the pool of Bethesda, did *not* respond to the woman caught in adultery, and did *not* do anything at the wedding in Cana. Instead, we saw a Jesus who was politically sensitive; a Jesus who had His eye on future church leadership promotions; a Jesus who wouldn't push too far or wouldn't risk doing too much.

Conclusion? Said Thompson, "We become Christlike when we care enough to act."

Working Together

During a session that was too brief to allow much membership participation, we

worked at transacting annual business. Fortunately, our new AAW president Elisabeth Wear is skillful at orchestrating reports, motions, discussion, and votes.

■ Treasurer Joyce Greene showed that as usual, AAW lives on widow's mites but manages to accomplish astonishing things anyhow. (Income from memberships does not even cover the cost of publishing the newsletter; generous donations make the difference!) Shirley Zork, AAW's new chapter development director, distributed a terrific package of material to help fledgling groups blast off.

■ The complete slate of new national AAW leaders is still being rounded out. They will be published in an upcoming newsletter. So far, the list includes some veterans and several new recruits.

■ Alyce Pudewell, chair of the 1992 resolutions committee, and member Susan Sickler, outlined issues that either the church has recently dealt with or ought to think about. We gave the committee our blessing to stay up late and get up early to work on this for us. They agreed to report back to us at a special 7:30 a.m. session Sunday morning,



Dr. Deborah Harris challenged us to re-think our racial stereotypes as she interacted with the panel and audience.



In her devotional Dr. Helen Thompson retold experiences from Jesus' life as they might have occurred had He chosen to "play it safe."



The sun shone so brightly in the Renaissance Hotel's lobby that Vera Capman had to wear cap and sunglasses as she registered us.

October 18. (All voted resolutions appear on page 4)

Diversity is scary

In a mind-blowing general session Dr. Deborah Harris diplomatically prodded our prejudices and expanded our vision for inclusiveness. She was joined by an articulate, multicultural panel of women who fielded questions that made us wince one moment and laugh the next.

The panel of five included an African American, Barbara Tobias, who teaches nursing in Georgia; an Asian, Delba De Chavez, a high school teacher from the Philippines; a European, Viviane Haenni, from French speaking, Switzerland, a doctoral candidate in theology at Andrews University; a Caucasian American, Penny Miller, who teaches nursing at Loma Linda University; and a Hispanic American, Marta Teel, originally from Spain, a secondary teacher in California.



Panelists responded to such questions as "What style of worship works best in your culture?" Articulate and entertaining, the panel members were (left to right): Marta Teel, Hispanic American; Barbara Tobias, Afro-American; Penny Miller, Caucasian; Viviane Haenni, French-speaking/Swiss; Delba De Chavez, Filipino.

Deborah popped questions such as "What are some sensitive issues in your culture?" "What are standards of beauty in your culture?" and "What style of Adventist worship works best in your culture?"

In conclusion, Harris asked us to look at the poker cards she had distributed earlier. (We had hardly dared touch them!) Now, pandemonium broke out as we searched for anybody with the same card—then, quickly listed what we had in common. (Everything from having two eyes to hating to cook.)

"We've all been told poker cards are bad; we were prejudiced by looks," Harris said. "Today we've seen cards can be used another way—to unite us, to help us find what we hold in common. It's the same with people." Bravo, Deborah! It's a lesson we'll not forget.

Kit Watts is assistant editor of the Adventist Review, and lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In farewell speech president addresses women's self-worth, sexual harassment

Peggy Harris, AAW president from 1990-1992, gave her farewell speech to AAW members on October 15, 1992, during the 10th annual conference. Here are excerpts from her comments:

"Very few of us have had the courage to be ourselves as God created us. It has been the accepted thing to be good little girls, stay in our place, not to question anything, and above all, not to raise a ruckus. I spent all of my youth and a large number of my adult years doing just that. And while that is not all bad, just where has it gotten us, and the church?"

Some are afraid that if we are really ourselves, it may destroy the unity in the church. So our gifts and talents have been directed into areas that would not disturb the church hierarchy.

I believe we could have and should have been in the kingdom long ago. Instead we are here." ***

"The prophet Ezekiel once saw a great valley full of dry bones. In his vision, the dry bones heard the voice of the Lord and came to life, being joined together as powerful, useful beings.

I see in and around the church today a multitude of dry bones, members and former members, burned out, spiritually dead. We should be asking ourselves why and how they died. We might learn that they have been brow beaten, mistreated, and humiliated. They are suffering from spiritual disillusionment. For some this has occurred because they were victims or perpetrators of

sexual harassment, abuse, or incest. The only way they have been able to survive is through denial, and by becoming dead emotionally.

Three million cases of child abuse are reported each year. Seventy percent of men who are abusive were abused themselves as children.

I invite those who have experienced these kinds of abuses and who care about those who have been abused to join me in working together so we can put an end to this terrible kind of misrepresentation of God. We need a newly trained army of individuals whom I have designated as W.A.S.H.—Women (and Men) Against Sexual Harassment—to stop the continuation of this sin from generation to generation." ***

"Women in the church, unfortunately, have been set up for sexual harassment and abuse by the much-abused practice of male headship in the church. This practice dates back to paganism with all its idol worship and was adopted into early Christianity.

If our church had practiced quality of both race and gender, as we were instructed to and began doing in the late 1800s, we would have been ahead of the world in treating people fairly. . . .

I am happy to announce that your AAW president, working with North American Division (NAD) leaders Dr. Rosa Banks, Elizabeth Sterndale, and Elder Robert Dale, have developed a proposal that NAD establish a Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment.

The Association of Adventist Women has been on the cutting edge of women's concerns in the Adventist Church for the past 10 years. This association will continue to work with church leaders to bring about enabling for all—men and women—so that we can fulfill the mission God gives to each one of us to do.

"This is no time for women's groups to engage in petty rivalry. It is time to stand together. Our differences need not divide us. God has a purpose for each of these different women's organizations. For too long Satan's policy has been divide and conquer.

OVERVIEW OF 10TH AAW CONFERENCE

From front page

women's groups electrified the audience with quick reports on Thursday afternoon. Their programs meet a wide spectrum of needs for groups as varied as minister's wives, Bible workers, women pastors and chaplains, activists seeking women's equality in the church, and "regular women in the pew."

■ In its annual business session AAW members examined newly voted church policies that affect Adventist women. It also invited church leaders to more dialogue, and called on various entities to provide specific programs of affirmative action. (See page 4.)

■ Sixteen seminars focused on skills and insights women and men will need as the

It is time for us to draw together, support one another, and share our stories and experiences. It is time for us to unite as sisters to bring healing to women and men in the church and in the world around us. Nothing can stop us if we keep our eyes upon our Strength and Hope, our Redeemer and our God!"

In this regard I recall going over a recent memory verse in the children's Sabbath school lesson when one of my granddaughters asked me, "Why is the Bible only written for men?" Her perception was that *men only* were to do this and that. We quickly changed the word in the memory verse from *men* to *all people*: God is speaking to all of us!"

Seventh-day Adventist Church more clearly recognizes its global mission and the multicultural body it has become.

■ Vibrant music, much of it written by women composers, characterized the conference. Dawn Reynolds, a music teacher from Silver Spring, Maryland, orchestrated a variety of performances that featured vocal soloists, a choir, children, and two harpists.

■ Attendees also installed Elisabeth Wear as AAW's new president and gave Peggy Harris, outgoing president, a standing ovation for her enthusiastic leadership during the past two years. Wear chairs the Education Department of Columbia Union College and organized the first AAW conference in 1983.

AAW calls for equality, dialogue, inclusive policies; applauds women's ministries

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Association of Adventist Women urges the Seventh-day Adventist Church to address the following issues:

At the North American Division

1. Re: Gender inclusiveness.

Whereas the Office of Human Relations deals with employee concerns, Be it resolved to request that the North American Division Office of Human Relations take an even more active role in supporting gender inclusiveness within the church.

2. Re: NAD support for women chaplains and pastors.

Whereas, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has recognized since its very earliest days that the gifts of the Spirit are given to both women and men to nurture and build up the church, and

Whereas, the church continues to rejoice as the gifts of these women and men bear fruit as they lead persons into this community of faith, and encourage all believers to commit their lives, talents, and financial resources to God, and

Whereas, the church has educated and conferred appropriate degrees upon Adventist women who have prepared for ministry as chaplains and pastors, and

Whereas, the church has employed women as chaplains and pastors and has made official provision for them to perform essential ministerial work, and

Whereas, the world church has not yet given its full authorization to their ministry through ordination, and

Whereas, the North American Division has stated its desire to recognize women who, like their male counterparts, have demonstrated their gifts of leadership, have secured the necessary education, and who have given evidence of mature experience that would qualify them for ordination, but who often face discouraging attitudes and questions about the appropriateness of their ministry,

IT IS RESOLVED that the Association of Adventist Women urge the North American Division to give concrete evidence of its continued support for women chaplains and pastors by such means as:

(1) Establishing a network of communication among women chaplains and pastors in NAD through a regular newsletter coordinated and jointly sponsored by the NAD Ministerial Department, Office of Women's Ministries, and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.

(2) Planning a meeting every other year for all women chaplains and pastors for the purpose of interaction with appropriate NAD, union, and/or conference leaders; professional and spiritual growth; exchange of ideas and information; effective means of evangelism, etc.

(3) Finding and experienced and supportive female church leader and a supportive male church leader who are willing to be available by telephone for personal and professional counsel to women in ministry and who, as consultants, would also interface with the union, conference, or other institutions with which these women work. Funds should be sought to underwrite appropriate stipends for the two consultants and to cover telephone and related expenses.

While AAW realizes that these suggestions entail some extra expense at a time when budgets are tight, we maintain that until such a time as the church grants women chaplains and pastors full equality by ordination, they will continue to have special needs that must be addressed in a concrete way.

3. Re: Dialogue with A. C. McClure and NAD

The Association of Adventist Women RESOLVES to invite A.C. McClure, president of the North American Division, to attend the 1993 AAW Conference in 1993 and share progress made in the past 12 months and NAD plans for the following 12 months regarding:

- (1) Implementing the NAD affirmative action policy.
- (2) Affirming and supporting the ministry of women chaplains and pastors.

At the General Conference Office

4. Re: GC Office of Human Relations.

Whereas Christ's relationships with people revealed His unfailing fairness and a concern far beyond that required by His culture or His government,

The Association of Adventist Women recommends that an Office of Human Relations be established at the General Conference level to lead in preventing and in solving problems arising from being a multicultural, global church, and to serve as a model for the divisions.

5. Re: Adventist Review

A. Whereas the April 2, 1992, issue of the *Adventist Review* devoted to women's contributions was an outstanding affirmation of the value of women in the church,

The Association of Adventist Women recommends that such an issue be devoted to women on an annual basis.

B. Whereas the majority of the membership (60% or more in most places) of the Seventh-day Adventist church is made up of women,

The Association of Adventist Women recommends that the editorial staff of the *Adventist Review* more accurately represent its constituency by adding another female editor to the *Review* staff.

6. Re: Inclusive language in current books and Ellen White's writings.

Whereas Arthur S. Maxwell wrote in the language and culture of his day, and therefore used non-inclusive language, and

Whereas Ellen G. White wrote in the language of her day, therefore using non-inclusive language, and

Whereas the Scripture is now appearing in gender inclusive language, (such as the New Revised Standard Version),

A. The Association of Adventist Women requests the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Pacific Press Publishing Association, and the White Estate to monitor their publications for gender inclusive language, and

B. The Association of Adventist Women requests that as Arthur Maxwell's *Bible Stories* and the writings of Ellen G. White are reprinted they be revised for gender inclusive language and that the biblical quotations used be from a source that is gender inclusive.

COMMENDATIONS:

1. Re: Equality in ministry.

The following message was voted and faxed on October 16, 1992, to the Southeastern California Conference officers and constituents:

We deeply appreciate and strongly support the motions regarding gender inclusiveness that the constituents of the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) voted on September 20, 1992.

The action is not only important for SECC but also leads the way for the church at large to acknowledge equality in the body of Christ.

Because of our continuing interest in the action taken, we invite the President of SECC to attend the annual AAW Conference in 1993 to share the progress SECC has realized in implementing these actions.

(Joining AAW in endorsing the above commendation were TEAM (Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry); AWI (Adventist Women's Institute) and the Adventist Women's Coalition.)

2. Re: Guidelines on abortion.

Whereas the women of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are deeply concerned about abortion issues,

The Association of Adventist Women commends the Annual Council of the General Conference for its voted approval of the "Seventh-day Adventist Guidelines on Abortion," on October 12, 1992.

3. Re: Affirmative action position.

A. Whereas the women of the Seventh-day Adventist Church have been intently watching the progress of affirmative action in the church, and

Whereas the implementation of affirmative action is long overdue,

The Association of Adventist Women commends Dr. Rosa Banks for preparing and the North American Division for adopting both the Affirmative Action Position of the NAD Field and the NAD Office.

The NAD Field, document, however, fails to include explicit implementation guidelines, an omission which makes its implementation capricious.

B. Whereas most of the people affected by these documents are not in the NAD Office but in the NAD Field,

The Association of Adventist Women recommends that the Field document be revised and enlarged to become a meaningful statement of guidelines for affirmative action in the entire North American Division.

4. Re: Equality of recognition among Sligo Church pastors.

Whereas the male pastors of the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church have recognized the inequity between themselves and their female pastoral colleagues,

The Association of Adventist Women commends the male pastors for their selfless act of exchanging their ordained minister credential for the licensed, commissioned minister's credential which is held by the women pastors.

The Association of Adventist Women further expresses appreciation to:

5. Robert S. Folkenberg and the General Conference Officers for appointing Rose Otis as director of the GC Office of Women's Ministries. AAW commends her for capable leadership and her participation in the 10th annual AAW Conference.

The Africa-Indian Ocean Division Officers for appointing Thelma Nortey as coordinator for women's ministries.

The Euro-Asian Division Officers for appointing Ludmila Drushenitsky as coordinator for women's ministries.

The Far Eastern Division Officers for appointing Dr. Nancy Bassham as coordinator for women's ministries. AAW commends Dr. Bassham for her dynamic leadership in establishing the first sites for Adventist women to engage in specific projects for Global Mission.

The North American Division Officers for appointing Elizabeth Sterndale as director and Ramona Perez Greek as assistant director for women's ministries. AAW commends them for their participation in the 10th annual conference.

We further commend Rose Otis, Elizabeth Sterndale, and Ramona Perez Greek for inviting input from and maintaining communication among the many Adventist women's groups who seek to uphold the church and for using women's talents in effective ministry throughout the church.

The South Pacific Division Officers for appointing Chaplain Carole Ferch as coordinator for women's ministries.

The Trans-European Division Officers for appointing Birthe Kendal as coordinator for women's ministries.

6. The Review and Herald Publishing Association for recognizing the specific needs and challenges of Adventist women by publishing books directed to them, in particular for: *A Woman's Place: Seventh-day Adventist Women in Church Society*, and for *Among Friends: A Daily Devotional for Women by Women*.

7. The NAD Office of Human Relations, director Rosa Taylor Banks, and former director, Warren S. Banfield, for initiating, helping to fund, and seeing through production the landmark book, *A Woman's Place: Seventh-day Adventist Women in Church and Society*.

8. Dr. William G. Johnsson, Kit Watts, the editorial staff of the *Adventist Review*, and the North American Division officers, for devoting an entire issue of the general church paper in April 1992 to affirm women's contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to address issues of concern to them.

9. The Washington Metro Chapter, Betty Howard, Nancy Marter, Cindy McMillan and all who helped organize the 1992 conference for the excellent event with its outstanding and spiritually rewarding meetings. We express sincere thanks to the chapter for extending its hospitality to the national and international guests who attended.

10. Sheree Parris Nudd for outstanding leadership in securing financial sponsors for the beautiful and elegantly presented 1992 Women of the Year awards banquet and to Selma Chajj Mastrapa for her excellent leadership in organizing and coordinating the 1992 nomination process.



1992 AAW Resolution Committee Members:

Alyce Pudewell, chair; Charlotte Conway, Alice Drury (not pictured), Beverly Rumble (photographer), Susan Sickler, Ardis Stenbakken, and Helen Ward Thompson.



Recognizing cultural diversity as an issue for the 90s and for the Adventist Church in particular as it focuses on Global Mission, Barbara Tobias and Dr. Deborah Harris (right) led a seminar that their thought-provoking, humorous, and insightful discussion had begun in the Friday morning plenary session.

Friday afternoon, October 16

Seminars and celebration

by Julia L. Pearce

Friday afternoon began a series of 16 seminar choices for this AAW conference. I slipped into most of them for a few minutes, beginning with Rowena Rick, associate treasurer of the General Conference. Her outstanding seminar, "Dealing With Finances," was developed especially for women. She discussed avoiding debt, setting goals, and putting a financial plan on paper with target dates. "Finances without control spells disaster," she said.

Reducing your debts

Rick's suggestions for getting out of debt included (1) destroying your credit cards, (2) building a family budget and *staying* on it, (3) finding more income—an extra job or making something to sell, (4) consolidating debts so you have only one payment each month instead of several, (5) denying yourself all extras or non-essentials until debts are paid, (6) finding a cheaper place to live, (7) paying off the debts with the highest interest first, (8) paying off smaller debts with extra cash so you have fewer payments each month, and (9) praying for God's wisdom and help to get out of debt.

God and women

Leslie Bumgardner, pastor of the Dublin church in Ohio, led the first of four spiritual growth seminars held during the conference. Hers was titled, "God and Women: Can We Be Friends?"

In human friendship we learn the value of sharing, laughing, crying, spending time together and pouring out our hearts, offering support and encouragement. Can it also be this way with God? Three points she emphasized are (1) share openly and honestly and listen with care and concern, (2) spend much time together, and (3) say what needs to be said, even if it's hard to hear. Bumgardner emphasized that God truly invites us to be friends who share together openly, honestly, and often.



Responding to the good news that Jesus forgives sinners and offers us eternal life, some audience members rose to their feet in joyful response.

Cultural diversity

Following up on their panel discussion from Friday morning, Deborah Harris and Barbara Tobias led a seminar on intercultural communication, "Diversity as Opportunity."

They offered several goals for growth and change: (1) Learn to work efficiently with people of other backgrounds; (2) avoid offense to those different from you; (3) respect people with different values, opinions, and priorities; (4) learn to appreciate and understand different communication styles; (5) combat prejudice and injustice; and (6) put values about cultural diversity into action.

How can we do this? Here are two strategies they suggested:

Manage your mind. Understand what you think about yourself and who influences you. Understand that we all have prejudice. Turn fear into curiosity.

Manage your words. Use names carefully. Respect personal names and titles. Use humor appropriately and laugh together. Think about the differences that affect us because of nationality, ethnicity, geography, region, organizational affiliations, and beliefs.

Update on women's ministries

Both Elizabeth Sterndale, North American Division (NAD) Women's Ministries director, and Rose Otis from the General Conference (GC) Women's Ministries, were invited to present seminars that would update us on these department, which opened at our world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, just two years ago.

When I stepped in, Sterndale was sharing a copy of the newly adopted mission statement for the NAD department.

Rose Otis spoke of "The Global Adventist Woman" and how world social changes are mirrored in the SDA Church. As materialism, the search for an easy life, the rise in the divorce rates occur, etc., people often come to the church looking for spiritual food and emotional support. Otis believes the church



The 10th AAW Conference continued a tradition of a Friday night agape feast. "Mantle," a folk group that often performs at Sligo church, provided music throughout the evening worship event. The group's vocal soloist is Candice Varmer (center).

should assume a larger role in ministering to these kinds of needs. She sees women as gifted nurturers whom the church has often counted on to perform this service. But women themselves, she said, need a listening ear!

Sitting on God's lap

Penny Shell, a chaplain at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Maryland, shared thoughts on creative Bible study and meditation. She reminded us of God's welcome—knowing that we are wanted, as in "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10, KJV), and "Come to me, ... and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, RSV), and "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3, RSV). She likened personal Bible study to the way a child's confides in a parent: we can sit on God's lap and find comfort and counsel.

Shell also reflected on "opening to the Spirit," breathing a simple request, thinking, listening, journal writing, and *being with* God. She encouraged us to sit with the Scripture, to "walk around" in a text, and find our daily bread.

Agape feast

Friday evening we sat by candlelight at large round tables and had a special time to share our names, something about our homes, and stories of favorite women in Scripture.

Music by "Mantle," a folk music group, included the "Sabbath Song" with guitar, violin, voice, and piano. I discovered women at my table were from Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, California, Washington State, Beijing, Australia, and Alberta, Canada.

Kendra Haloviak, associate pastor at Sligo church, Takoma Park, Maryland, spoke of the women Jesus welcomed, focusing particularly the stories told by Luke of Jesus in table fellowship. At our tables we were encouraged to serve one another from the bread and grape juice and pray together.

The benediction, "Lord of the Dance," was sung by Candice Varmer and reminded us of Jesus' inclusive behavior—how He reached out easily to men, women, and children. In the song the dance becomes a metaphor for the joy of new life in Christ and an expression of faith in His coming kingdom.

There was a spontaneous response by three women at the back of the banquet hall who joined hands in a circle and began a dance typical of the Hebrew or Mideastern way. They were joined by many others in a circle that continually enlarged and moved around many of the tables in a spirit of love and celebration.

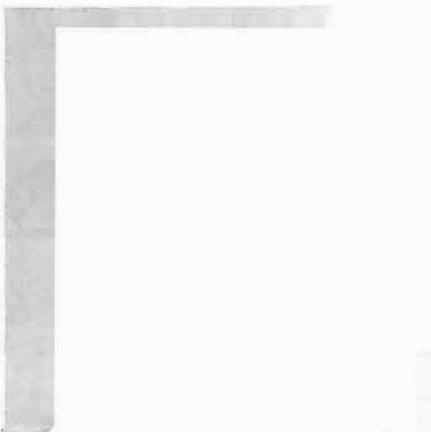
Julia L. Pearce, R.N., Ph.D., writes from Deer Park, California.



Chaplain Penny Shell (center) offered suggestions for creative Bible study. Pastor Lisa Smith (right) later preached for a mini Mary's Place worship for women.



Rowena Rick, the only woman associate treasurer of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, led a very practical seminar on women and finances.



Kendra Haloviak, associate pastor of Sligo church, spoke of the stories of Jesus' table fellowship as recorded in the Gospel of Luke.



Elizabeth Sterndale, director of NAD Women's Ministries, shared the department's inclusive goals embodied in a new mission statement.

A great family reunion

by Deborah Burstion-Wade

This was my first opportunity to attend a conference for Adventist women. I had heard so much about AAW and had read its publications. Living in Germantown, Maryland, I had to drive down to the Dulles Airport area where the meetings were being held—and I was running a little late.

My feet had barely crossed the threshold of the hotel lobby before a kind woman appeared and gently shepherded me and other stragglers to the right place. I knew from that moment on that these were not just women—they were sisters whom I was meeting for the first time, and I was now a part of this blessed family reunion.

Throughout the busy day there was worship, talking, music, and story telling; there were lessons to be learned from elders and contemporaries; female branches and leaves were added to the Adventist family tree and outstanding sisters were honored by proud family members. Photos and videos were shared and even the children got a chance to display their musical talents.

As each page was added to the family memory book, those gathered were admonished to respect ourselves and most importantly, to respect each other's calling, be it motherhood or medicine, for we were "neither Jew nor Greek . . . neither male nor female, [but] all are one in Christ Jesus."

Careers and motherhood

The passage from Galatians 3:28 should be the church's motto, said Pastor Margo Pitrone during her sermon, "Career Women vs. Motherhood: Do We Need to Fight?"

Pitrone, associate pastor of the Tierrasanta SDA church in San Diego, California, spoke of the continuing problems, "that worthless tug-of-war" that women face over the their choice of homemaking, career, or job, and how they view the value of that choice. The views are conflicting, confusing, and contradictory, in and outside of the church, she said. Pitrone explained how she herself was caught by surprise when a good friend, a traditional homemaker, finally told her, "Please respect my calling as much as I respect yours."

Pitrone said the church must be a place of growth and should challenge traditional stereotypes of race, class, and gender. Ideally, it must be a place where every woman is encouraged to seek her calling from God, not from other women or men.

Refugee ministry

Sabbath morning's service began with Judy Aitken's description of her ministry among Cambodian refugees in Thailand. "A world wide crisis is facing us today" because of the ending of the Cold War, she said. The human casualties resulting from warfare and ruthless regimes that she once witnessed among Cambodian and Laotian refugees are now being repeated in areas such as Yugoslavia. Since returning from the Far East, Aitken has coordinated refugee projects in cooperation with the Adventist Frontier Missions in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Aitken held the audience spellbound with countless stories of how she and others helped fill stomachs with food and filled hearts and minds with knowledge and love of God. Aitken delighted the audience with photos and testimonies. Her network of volunteers and other workers has helped more Buddhists accept Christ and join the SDA Church than any other single effort in the world. The audience gladly donated more than \$1,400 to boost her work.

The authors speak

The Sabbath lesson was taught by husband and wife team Ron and Karen Flowers, associate directors in the Department of Church Ministries of the General Conference, and the main contributors to this quarter's lessons.

The Flowers have authored and edited more than 12 instruction manuals and books dealing with marriage, parenting, and family spiritual growth.

During their discussion, the Flowers examined the constant invitations between Solomon and his bride Shulamith and outlined the scriptural basis of the co-equality of men and women. They also discussed the issue of women developing desires to belong to men as a means of self-worth because of societies have a system of reward and punishment. They argued that self-worth is rightly based on one's relationship with God.

Early Adventist women

What would it be like if you could eavesdrop on the conversations of five noted Adventist women from history who got together in the parlor and chatted about their lives and their call to ministry?

It would be eye-opening, entertaining, and fantastic! That's how Sabbath afternoon began, with "God Opened the Door," monologues from *Called by God*, a book documenting the lives of Seventh-day Adventist women ministers by Josephine Benton, an author, educator, and pastor.

The setting was imaginary but the stories were real. Each woman recounted her life and what she had to overcome to fulfill her calling. The women portrayed were Minnie Day Sype (1869-1956), a farmer's wife who became an evangelist; Helen Stanton Williams (1868-1940), a licensed minister; Anna Knight (1874-1972), an innovative administrator and the first black female missionary to India; Mary Walsh (1892), Bible worker and evangelist; and Jessie Weiss Curtis (1881-1972), an evangelist and teacher of ministers.

In their own words they discussed the prejudice, inequities, and obstacles they faced as much from the members of the church as from the public they sought to reach. But they also spoke of joy in sharing the gospel.

They were portrayed, respectively, by Ardyce Griswold, media specialist; Sandra Elias, educator; Edwina Neely, day care director; Ardis Stenbakken, educator; and Shirley Zork, a nursing education specialist.

New video

Another highlight of the afternoon meeting was "Soul Stories," a video being produced under the guidance of Elizabeth Sterndale, director of the North American Division Office of Women's Ministries. This professional film gives glimpses of four contemporary Adventist women who are living



Attendees heard Karen and Ron Flowers, authors of the Sabbath school lessons on the Song of Songs, share their insights.



Pastor Margo Pitrone of the Tierrasanta Church in San Diego, California, inspired us with her sermon at the 11 o'clock hour.



Dawn Reynolds of Silver Spring, Maryland, attracted outstanding musical talent for the entire conference, often focusing on material by women composers. Sabbath morning she directed this choir organized especially for the 10th anniversary worship service.

out their faith in exciting ways and is scheduled for release in early 1993.

Women of the year banquet

Sabbath closed with the presentation of five Women of the Year awards. Chosen from 60 finalists were:

B. Lyn Behrens: Professional Life.

Dr. Behrens had been the president of Loma Linda University since 1990, and is the first woman to head an Adventist university. During the past three years she has successfully led the university through a critical period that involved separating the Loma Linda and La Sierra campuses and winning renewed accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Behrens said she was always interested in medicine because she grew up wanting to go

to African for mission work. Her vocation, she said, was "following God's calling." Originally from Australia, she and her husband, Dave Basaraba, have four children.

Ramona Perez Greek: Outstanding Achievement.

The assistant director of NAD's Office of Women's Ministries and the recipient of several degrees, Ramona Perez Greek was the first in her family to attend college. Yet, as the daughter of migrant farm workers in California's central valley, she didn't grow up with college as a goal. "I'm uncertain if my parents [with their limited education] even had a concept of what college was," she said, until she began attending academy. Perez Greek credits much of her academic success to life-changing support from Adventist educators.

Learning is still a fascinating experience, she said. "My greatest joy is continually learning from the Lord." She is married to



In the drama, "God Opened the Door," Shirley Zork (left) represented Jessie Weiss Curtis and displayed the charts she developed and used in her very successful evangelistic crusades in Pennsylvania. Ardis Stenbakken (center), played Mary Walsh, and Ardyce Griswold played Minnie Day Sype. A video recording of the historic portrayal is available (see coupon at right).

UNIQUE VIDEO FOR SALE

Five early Adventist women preachers share their stories in "God Opened the Door," a dramatized personal account scripted and directed by Dr. Josephine Benton and performed for the 10th AAW Conference, Washington, D.C., October 1992.

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The 1992 Adventist Women of the Year (left to right): Kit Watts, Ramona Perez Greek, Wilma Hepker, Elline Holland, and B. Lyn Behrens.



Filling the air with music, rhythm, and excitement, the Metropolitan Steel Orchestra, whose home base is the Metropolitan SDA church in downtown Washington, D.C., gave a memorable concert for the awards banquet.

conference president and pastor Jim Greek and travels widely, speaking and making presentations to church committees.

Wilma Hepker: Community Life.

Chair of the Department of Social Work and Sociology at Walla Walla College, Hepker established the first Master of Social Work program on an Adventist campus and has developed programs to bring resources from the community, college, and churches to the aid of abused children and adults.

Speaking of the large amount of pain in the Seventh-day Adventist family, Hepker said her goal was to have a family service center in every church. She and her husband, Dale, have raised four children and opened their home to numerous persons in need, international students, disadvantaged young people, and persons at risk.

Elline Holland: Home Life. A homemaker from Indianapolis, Indiana, Holland and her husband, Burks, raised and educated 16 children at the Capitol Avenue SDA Elementary School, Pine Forge Academy, and Oakwood College. In 1989 the Hollands were discovered by a survey conducted by the Johnson Publishing Company and honored by *Jet* Magazine for having educated the second largest number of children in institutions of higher education in the United States at that time. Mrs. Holland worked seven years with high school dropouts in an effort to redirect their lives. She lost her husband, Burks, in 1990 after 57 years of marriage. Fourteen of the 16 children were present

to honor their mother at this banquet. Their professions ranged from biologists to teachers. Mrs. Holland's advice to today's parents was simple: "Just raise them in the Lord."

Kit Watts: Church Life. For nearly 25 years Watts, now assistant editor of the *Adventist Review*, has been a tireless worker for Adventist women, as a journalist, communicator/pastor, librarian, teacher, and editor. A strong proponent of women's ordination, Watts has also been in the forefront of equal pay for women and for fair, progressive, and inclusive policies in the church. She is the only woman to have served on all four of the church's major commissions (in 1973, 1985, 1988, and 1989), dealing with women's role in the church. In 1992 she worked with more than 100 women and men to produce a 40-page issue of the *Review* devoted to recognizing and empowering Adventist women.

Though obviously moved by the honor, Watts said she wasn't special, just "one of the links in the chain" of those who have cared about Adventist women and their future. Watts also called AAW "one of the church's best congregations," a place where she had consistently found shelter and encouragement.

Deborah Burstion-Wade is the Executive Assistant/Chief of Staff in the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. She is a member of the Rockville SDA church and lives in Germantown, Maryland.

Sunday morning, October 18

Ideas and innovations

by Leona G. Running

There were four workshops in each of two sessions on Sunday morning and I tried to look in on most of them.

Communicating in style

In Dr. Ruth Christensen Komarnisk's on "Communicating in Style: Developing Awareness," she used overhead transparencies to illustrate her presentation of a four-style framework of communication. She mentioned small talk, control talk, straight talk, and search talk. In the second session, where her topic was "Coping With Abuse," her people divided into pairs for more intimate, confidential talk.

12-step Bible study

Pastor Joyce Lomtz, of the Fletcher, North Carolina, SDA church, discussed the value of group Bible study using the 12-step model with adaptations from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. She says found herself overwhelmed with requests for personal counseling as the first woman pastor on the staff. The 12-step groups help her extend her ministry by giving more people a safe place to express their needs and a group of caring people who will support them in their personal and spiritual growth.

Johnsson & Johnsson

William G. Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*, and Noeline Johnsson, a very creative person who is children's ministries specialist from the North American Division, led a larger group with the topic, "Making Committees Work for You."

Noeline gave good suggestions on how women can be effective on committees where the "old boys' network" accomplishes much deal-making in the men's room! Women should base their power on experience and knowledge, do more newspaper reading, demand and get good information in advance of the meeting, and should spread their material out in front of them (not a purse!), and take up their fair share of space.

When new they should listen much, earn their right to speak—then speak, keep on even if interrupted, and learn to jump in more quickly, using well the best times to speak (at beginning or end of a subject).

Dress is important—not a uniform for success, but tailored, to be taken seriously. It is a good idea to sit on the right of the person you wish to convince, and close to the chairperson. If you are the token woman, don't accept the job of secretary!

Deborah Harris, Ph.D., of the University of South Florida, and Barbara Tobias, R.N., M.S.N., of Georgia College repeated their

engaging, well-attended seminar, "Diversity as Opportunity."

Women's church

In "Why Women Worship Together—Mary's Place, a Corporate Model," Penny Shell, Beverly Habada, and Kit Watts explained their two-year experiment. "We have women pastors in our congregation but they do not preach very often," Watts said. "At Mary's Place, you will always hear a woman speak." They interview Adventist women about their unique ministries and report on an Adventist woman pastor or chaplain and pray for her.

Today they interviewed Marta Teel, member of a Southeastern California group that began a women's church after hearing about Mary's Place last year at AAW. Lisa Smith, an Oakwood graduate who holds an M.Div. from Andrews University and is senior pastor at Carson, California, preached powerfully about "Certain Women," the only ones who stayed next to Jesus at His death and gave witness to His resurrection.

Adventist women in Australia

Jennifer Knight, Ph.D., policy advisor, Office of the Minister for Health and Community Services, New South Wales, Australia, explained the comprehensive study that she and a taskforce conducted at the request of the South Pacific Division.

Based on a thorough survey it is entitled, "The Adventist Women in the Secular World: Her Ministry and Her Church." With bar graphs on transparencies she explained their findings.

For example, 50 percent of the 220 women respondents felt they had no opportunity to use their gifts in the church. Most often they were asked to contribute in Sabbath school and youth work. Even though these women did much public speaking in their secular employment, they had no opportunity to use these gifts within the church. Almost 40 percent of them had seriously considered leaving the church—not for theological reasons as much as negative attitudes and boring worship styles. The taskforce, realizing their report might be weakened or ignored, eventually copyrighted and published it themselves.

To say the least, visiting these seminars proved to be a rich worship experience.

Leona G. Running, Ph.D., is a retired professor at the SDA Theological Seminary, Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Tips for women who sit on committees with men, a Sunday morning seminar, was held by Bill Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*, and Noeline Johnsson, director of NAD children's ministries.



Pastor Joyce Lomtz (right), of Fletcher, N.C., led one of the four spiritual growth seminars. Participants pictured (left to right): Giny Lonser, Bernie Beck, and Leona Glidden Running.



By 3 p.m. on Sunday many conference attendees had to meet travel appointments to return home, but more than 80 persons stayed by for the presentation of the President's Awards and for the group photo marking the conclusion of the 10th anniversary conference.



Violinist Candy Carson performed and spoke at the closing session. Her husband is noted author and surgeon Ben Carson.

Sunday morning, October 18

10 years, 10 women, 10 awards

by Geri Ann Fuller

Boarding a flight out of Baltimore-Washington International airport recently, I watched gray skies all around. They hug heavily overhead, darkly pregnant the way the sky can be this time of year when a snowstorm is imminent. As we took off, as far as I could see there was only gray, gray, and more gray. After a few minutes, however, the grayness took on a quality of light, then of silk, and then we were above the clouds.

I was thinking about my deadline for

this article and my thoughts about vision, and the closing session of the 10th AAW Conference.

The message, "To See or Not to See," had been delivered by Candy Carson. Ten Adventist women of vision had received awards in recognition for their work on behalf of other women in the church. Valerie Taylor Hobson and Virgie Bletch had signed the song, "Love in Any Language." And women from the far corners of the continent (plus New Zealand, and Canada, and the

Philippines), embraced, taking parting photographs, and wishing one another Godspeed.

I realized what I had just experienced in the airplane was a metaphor for the experience shared by the women who attended the conference, and why it was important.

On the ground my vision had been limited to darkness and fog. From above, however, I experienced something very different. I could then see in the distance things which had been there all along.

In my life, I have been fortunate to realize many dreams. But before they became reality, I had to be able to dream them, had to be able to rise above the present to see things not as they were but as I hoped for them to be. The dream for what Adventist women can be is not yet real. But the women who have been willing to dream the dream and share their energies to make it real have my thanks. And yours, too, I hope.

For their vision and their energy we honored:

Viveca Black, for founding the *Adventist Woman*; Vera Capman and Delight Clapp, for their work in building AAW in a thousand ways behind the scenes; Dr. Betty Howard, for being the first AAW president; Dr. Josephine Benton, for chairing a committee first spawned by the Association of Adventist Forums, which developed guidelines for the Association of Adventist Women;

Dr. Judith Nembhard, for sponsoring the formation of AAW chapters; Dr. Thesba Johnson, for establishing the first AAW Chapter, in Berrien Springs, Michigan; Viviane Haenni, for organizing the first Adventist women's conference outside the United States; Ellen Bresee, for her work on behalf of Shepherdess International; Lorna Tobler, for, in the early 1970s, preceding us all by calling the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be true to its heritage and accord women dignity and full equality.

Gerri Ann Fuller is a professional journalist living in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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.

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Copy deadline for the next issue of *The Adventist Woman* is January 31.

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

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