

## Marter Steps Down as President

Midway through her two-year term, Nancy Marter asked to be relieved of her duties as president of the Association of Adventist Women (AAW). Citing personal reasons and limitations, she passed the baton of leadership to Betty Howard, who had served as AAW's first president when it was founded in 1983.

When asked to reflect on the changes that have taken place over the past 13 years, Marter replied, "A great many more people have recognized that women play a great role in church and society. Women have become more visible. It is normative for women to be leaders. No longer is it the exception to credit women for their contributions."

She said that in the early 1980s there was an increasing awareness that the laity had an active role to play in the church. As the laity's role increased so did women's participation in the church.

"AAW found women involved in the church and made them visible. Looking back, one sees an enormous amount of change. Though, in the midst of the activity, it didn't seem like much progress was being made. Periodic reflection is useful."

The role of AAW was to form a connection point by bringing together news of women from around the world. AAW

provided a means for networking and pulling women together by erasing their isolation. The organization has encour-

aged and affirmed women in the church, especially through the "Woman of the Year" program.



Nancy Marter

"I felt it was important to set a tone of inclusiveness, to help women be mutually respectful and supportive, regardless of perspective. I tried to promote a sense of inclusiveness for all women's groups. In spite of differences in philosophies or styles of leadership, women need each other in order to be successful and Christian."

Marter pledged her continued participation in AAW because of compelling issues. As the turn of the century looms, women should place a high priority on mentoring their younger sisters in the church.

"We must continue also to encourage the inclusion of activities that would be of interest to women who feel isolated for various reasons," she added.

In conjunction with Marter's decision, the AAW officers have formed a strategic planning committee. Under the leadership of Dr. Elisabeth Wear, the committee is establishing criteria for evaluating and prioritizing activities.

### Words of Hope

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.  
Psalm 146:7

### AAW Presidents

Betty Howard, 1983-1987  
Nancy Marter, 1987-1991  
Peggy Harris, 1991-1993  
Elisabeth Wear, 1993-1995  
Nancy Marter, 1995  
Betty Howard, 1996

## North American Division Women's Commission Considers Increased Roles for Women

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA... [ANN] A commission to study ways to increase the participation of women in the church has been established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

The North American Division President's Commission on Women in Ministry will consider ways to recognize

the gifts God has given to women and to increase their participation in the life of the church. But the commission will not discuss the General Conference policy regarding the ordination of women, according to the terms of reference announced by the North American Division.

The commission will consider ways

to expand the role of women in pastoral ministry and ways to recognize the gifts God has given women. It also will recommend plans to increase the participation of women at the decision-making levels of the church and to increase the participation of women in the organizational and professional levels of the church. Finally, it will look for meth-

ods to affirm women in pastoral and other spiritual ministries.

Harold Baptiste, secretary of the Church's North American Division, will chair the commission. Of the 25 members of the commission, 13 are women. They include women working as officers and pastors within the church as well as businesswomen and other professional women.

### Members on the President's Commission on Women in Ministry

Baptiste, Harold, Chair  
Jacobsen, Don, Vice Chair  
Sahlin, Monte, Secretary

Banks, Rosa - NAD Director of Human Relations

Beavers, Rose - Executive committee member, Orlando, FL

Bretsch, Bob - Pastor, Portland, OR

Campbell, Peter - Pastor, Wash., D.C.

Fike, Ruthita - Health care executive, Kansas City, KS

Habada, Patricia - Curriculum specialist, Takoma Park, MD

Hotchkin, Georgia - Local elder, Loma Linda University Church

Glass, Evelyn - Women's Ministries Director, Mid-American Union

Kilcher, Doug - Chair, Church & Ministry Dept., AU Seminary

Martin, Ralph - President, Columbia Union

McMillan, Cheryl - Pastor, Southeastern California Conference

Melbourne, Bertram - Chair, Religion Dept., Columbia Union College

Mostert, Thomas J. - President, Pacific Union

Osmund, Carolyn, CFO, Canadian Union College

Pekar, Collette - Pastor, Brunswick, ME

Pooler, Terry - Pastor, Orlando, FL

Ramos, Paula - Lay leader, Leominster, MA

Sandefur, Charles - President, Mid-American Union

Scales, William C. - NAD Ministerial Secretary

Siebenlist, Joanie - Lay leader, Southwestern Union

Sorenson, Patricia - Lay leader, Hanover, PA

Sterndale, Elizabeth - NAD Field Secretary

Another two persons are yet to be named, including a hospital chaplain.

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### Presidential Communique

## Response to Change

by Betty Howard

Victorian philosopher John Stuart Mill suggests society may oppose change simply to avoid disruption. In his essay, "The Subjection of Women," Mill argued that a primary reason inequities existed between men

and women was to be found in the fact that change would result in disruption of social patterns. Since Mill's time social patterns have been disrupted. Creative responses to disruption have resulted in more justice in human relationships and better utilization of women's minds.

Creative response to disruption can reap positive results. Acts 6:1, 2 tells of disruption in the young Christian church. The Jewish tradition of caring for widows disturbed the Grecian Jews who feared that the widows in their community were not receiving the same care as the Aramaic-speaking widows. Verses 3-5 report that the church responded creatively by appointing deacons who ministered to the needs of the Grecian widows and relieved the disciples, who were attempting to guide a rapidly growing church. Order was restored, and the value of caring for one's own was retained.

Though much Jewish history and tradition points forward to the Messiah, many Jews refused to acknowledge Jesus as Messiah. Stephen, in his final speech to the

Jewish council, reminded the Jews of their history. They must have listened strongly until Stephen accused them of betraying and murdering the Messiah just as their forefathers had persecuted the prophets. By refusing to recognize that Jesus had changed the perspective of all that had gone before, the true meaning of the law and the prophets was lost. The decay of values brought disorder. Acts: 1-4 hints at the chaos caused by those who refused to accept change, and rejoices in the growth of the young that were open to change.

The Adventist Church has grown from a small group of believers in New England to a worldwide church with schools, hospitals, and other institutions on every continent. Yet a recent Gallup survey in North America indicates that many people know little about Adventists. Fully 73 per cent of survey respondents could not think of anything positive about the church. Adventist pioneers had no access to Gallup polls, modern mass media, or public-relations techniques. But times have changed. William G. Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*, in an editorial challenges the Seventh-day Adventist Church to utilize current communications techniques to tell the old, old story.

"I'm not interested in public relations simply as selling. But because I believe the Lord has raised up this movement and given us teachings and a way of life that can make people healthier and happier, as well as providing a hope for the future, I'm troubled that we are hiding our light under a bushel. I think the Lord is calling us to consecrated assertiveness born of a healthy confidence and self-respect." (*Adventist Review*, July 3, 1986, p. 5.) To be continued.

## People and Places

**Sheryll Prinz McMillan** and husband **Mike** are the proud parents of daughter **Sierra Noel**, born December 12, just ten days after Sheryll was ordained by the Loma Linda Victoria Church, where she is the pastor. Filling in for Sheryll during maternity leave is **Pastor Halcyon Wilson** of the La Sierra College Church staff.

**Dr. Ella Simmons**, Associate Dean for Student Services in the School of Education at the University of Louisville (Kentucky), is serving as a member of the NAD Children's Curriculum Taskforce, as is **Carol Cantu**, Principal of G. E. Peters School in Hyattsville, Maryland.

**Joelle Reed** is pursuing graduate work in Religion at La Sierra University.

**Yvette Weir-Gladstone (D.D.S.)**, a graduate of Howard University, Washington, D.C., has completed a mission trip to Cameroun, become a mother, and opened a solo dental practice in Rockville, MD. Congratulations, Yvette!

**Jocelyn Fay** has accepted an appointment as copy editor at the *Review* and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland.

**Pastor Lisa Smith** has transferred from California to join the pastoral staff at Dupont Park Church in Washington, D.C. She is the first woman pastor in the Allegheny East Conference.

**Dr. Rosa Banks**, Director of the NAD Office of Human Relations and Associate Secretary of the division, has contributed a chapter tentatively entitled "Black Female Mobility: Still, We Rise" to the book, *Black Adventism Faces the 21st Century*, now being edited by Dr. Calvin Rock.

The NAD Office of Human Relations recently completed a survey of more than 1,000 women volunteers in 58 conferences. This study looks at where and how women serve local churches in the division.

Congratulations to **Cindy Kurtzhals**, Director of Communication, Florida Conference, on receiving first-place standing in the annual Central Florida Press Club Awards for the Florida Conference camp meeting promotional materials which earned a prize for "Best Public Relations Campaign."

**Dr. Myrna Colon**, heretofore the

Vice President for Academic Affairs of Antillean Adventist University, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, has been appointed president of that institution. Dr. Colon becomes the second woman in the Inter-American Division to be appointed college president.

Congratulations to **Gwen Marter** of Binfield, England, who is the recipient of the *Bracknell News Community Award* medal. Thousands of children in far away countries are grateful for the work of 85 year-old Gwen, who has made more than 4,600 items of clothing for the charity Oxfam during the past 10 years.

Best wishes to **Dr. Mary Appenzeller**, the director of the newly founded Brookmont Christian Counseling Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. An Adventist nurse-counselor with degrees in Religion, and Counseling Psychology, Dr. Appenzeller offers numerous workshops as well as individual counseling.

News from **Mady Forster** in Rumlang, Switzerland, describes the work of a founding committee that is

active in promoting women's ministry in the form of prayer breakfasts and retreats. Mady writes, "Last year I preached as a lay-preacher in seven different churches. In November women of our church in Zurich organized the Week of Prayer meetings, including both Sabbaths. The number present was better than usual. We were blessed."

Our Francophone sisters are looking forward to meeting with **Rose Otis** at Collonges in May.

Congratulations to **Dr. Donna Davis Cameron** who just completed her doctorate in Health Education at the University of Maryland. Donna's studies incorporated much about women's health, a subject which she hopes to pursue in her career.

**Patricia Page**, Director of CRS Canada, was named Christian Record Services International vice-president for Canada during a recent CRS board meeting. Ms. Page will oversee and manage the affairs of the CRS Canada Corporation. CRS International and CRS Canada serve more than 50,000 blind, deaf, and hearing or visually impaired persons.

## Adventist Women Attended The Fourth UN Conference on Women

The Fourth United Nations Conference on Women which took place in Beijing, China, August 8 to September 8, 1995, was an historic opportunity for women throughout the world to work together with world governments in creating a more positive environment for addressing issues which affect women. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) along with the Women's Ministries Departments of the General Conference and North American Division sent a delegation.

The ADRA and Women's Ministries delegates participated in discussion of issues and solutions with other private voluntary organizations and government representatives. More than 30,000 women and men of varying cultures, religions and races registered for the NGO (Non Governmental Organization)

Forum.

Topics discussed included improving women's economic opportunities, strengthening families, promoting education for all, improving girls' and women's health, and protecting the human rights of women.

ADRA's interest in promoting the rights of women and representing women is part of the agency's mission statement, and one of its fundamental beliefs. ADRA's portfolio of programs includes projects specifically focused on women's issues, such as maternal and child health initiatives, literacy and education, and small enterprise development. As an agency of change, ADRA believes that by providing women access to skills and training, better health and education, the lives of women and their families will improve.

### ADRA and Women's Ministries Delegates to NGO Forum on Women, Huairou, China: August 30 - September 8, 1995

#### ADRA International/General Conference

\*Gail Ormsby, Senior Manager, ADRA International  
\*Amy Willsey, Assistant Technical Advisor, ADRA International  
\*Tamara Boehmke-Pleitez, Director for Public Affairs, ADRA International  
\*Elizabeth Sterndale, Director, Women's Ministries Department, NAD  
\*Karen Flowers, Associate Director, Family Ministries Department, GC  
\*Ardis Stenbakken, Program Coordinator, Women's Ministries Department, GC  
\*Shirley Pinterich, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Southwestern Adventist College

Ramona Perez Greek, Assistant Director, Women's Ministries Department, NAD

#### ADRA Regional

Lila Tidwell, Associate Director, ADRA/Vietnam  
Mami Takahashi, Intern, ADRA/Vietnam  
Kimberly Baldwin Radford, Project Coordinator, ADRA/Cambodia  
\* Also delegate to UN Conference on Women, September 4 - 15.

# Women On-Line

by Vickie Danielsen

Remember when it took five or six days and a 50 cent mailgram to get a letter of a few short paragraphs from a friend in a distant country, and often parts of the message were stuck in the glue? Remember huge phone bills for talk with kids on the other side of the state or the country? Remember those hurry-up FedEx trips to get important written words delivered the next day? Many do! Now, all those things can be done from the comfort of our homes with nothing more than a computer and a phone line. We're in the middle of a real global village, with women increasingly participating. And our participation is important!

On-line communication obscures physical characteristics. Unless you choose to disclose details, those with whom you visit have no way of knowing if you are tall or short, thin or fat, wearing your pajamas or dressed to the nth! There are no restrictions based on any limiting physical factors. Everyone has opportunity for equal voice in an on-line community. One's words are evaluated on their merit rather than on the writer's gender, church position or lack of position, economic status, education level, or any other factor.

A means is now available to diminish marginalization and silencing of women! If communication is important to us, it's time for us to take our place at the computer. The reward will be amazing.

Some women think of themselves as technically incapable and fear ridicule. Remember when women rarely drove cars? The car is expensive and it's certainly technical. If you make a mistake in a car, you can be ridiculed — and you can kill someone! Of course, despite these difficulties, women own cars and drive. Why? Cars are necessary. As enthusiastic supporters of cyber communication, it is our task to exuberantly share the joys of our tool, to persuade of its importance and to welcome more women into this exciting global community — the electronic super highway — in the same way women have been welcomed to the automobile highway.

With no more than a free local phone call from my Colorado home, I have today talked with people in Europe, Maryland, California, Washington, Oregon, and Illinois. Often, people from those and any other areas in our global community visit simultaneously together in on-line conference via computer. Amazing, you say? Yes, but true!

## Connecting

My computer connects to the phone line by modem, a device that often comes with computers or can be easily attached. A number describes the device such as 14.4 or 28.8. The higher the number, the faster the device works.

Several on-line services are available for a monthly subscription fee ranging from about \$9 to \$20 for a certain amount of time. If you exceed the basic time, you will be billed for the additional use. America Online, CompuServe, and Prodigy are the three most common providers. Any one of these allows you to utilize potential communication by electronic mail, live interactive discussions with one or several people anywhere in the world, discussion of issues by "posting" messages to or reading from an electronic "bulletin board," reading and retrieving written mate-

rials for use and sharing, and access to the amazing world of the Internet!

The first step is to get the free software for one of these services and follow the instructions for becoming a member of the service you choose. When you sign up, find out how to check your account to track the amount of time you are using each month. Here's a hint: to minimize the amount of time you are on-line (and the costs), download all your messages and the items you want to read, then sign off. Once you are off-line, you can read at your leisure.

Let's assume you wish to participate in the Adventist forum on CompuServe where Adventists and others worldwide meet to discuss issues, visit old friends and make new ones, and use a variety of materials made available for members to access. If this is the means of electronic communication you choose, sign up with CompuServe using a special SDA packet. When you've connected — usually by calling a local phone number — and are on-line, use the "Go" menu selection and type "SDA" to enter an area of CompuServe available only to members of the SDA forum.

While in the forum, you'll be able to see a list of the names of others who are also on-line. If you wish to "talk" live with any of those people, you select the name from the list of names and type your message to the person. As soon as you press "return" or "enter" (depending on type of computer), the other person — also connected on-line by a phone line which is local for her — will see your message. When he or she responds by keying a message to you and pressing "return" or "enter," you'll see the answer! Thus, at no charge for long distance, you can visit with a friend whether she or he is across town or on the other side of the world. (Remember that the amount of time you are connected on-line will be tallied up each month. The monthly subscription fee covers a certain amount of time. After that is used, you will be billed.)

If you choose to communicate by "letter" rather than in live visits or if you wish to set up a time when you'll both be in the forum so you can visit live, you can do that, too, by electronic mail (or e-mail). Using a simple menu option for creating mail, type your message, address it to the recipient's electronic address and select the "send mail" command. Within a minute or so, the message will be waiting in the recipient's electronic mailbox.

## Mailing to Another On-Line Service

You may also wish to communicate with someone with an electronic address on a different service from yours. It's simple to do by using the worldwide interconnection of computers called the Internet.

When you key in the recipient's address or an e-mail message, add the word *Internet* followed by a colon in front of his or her regular address and change any comma to a period. My CompuServe address, 74617,353, when sent from another service, would appear as follows: *Internet:74617.353@compuserve.com*

Notice the comma in the address was replaced with a period (or, in computer terminology, a dot) and no spaces appear anywhere in the address.

## Beyond the Basics: The Internet

In addition to simple on-line communication with e-mail and group "bulletin board" sites, the recent explosion of information via the interconnection of computers called the Internet provides us with capabilities only beginning to be imagined. Daily, network television stations and various programs offer their Internet World Wide Web address (Uniform Resource Locator or URL). Individuals are creating their own Web sites or are hiring others to create for them to dispense whatever information they deem appropriate and important. Imagine the potential! Imagination is the only limitation.

If you know the URL for a particular site, you can type in the URL address, press "return" and your computer software will take



you to that site. If you do not know the particular Internet Web address, you can select one of many available search programs, key in the topic of interest to you and the software will provide you with an array of available choices.

Without a doubt, more information than any of us can imagine or use in a lifetime is available. A few such women-related topics include art, biography, calendars and conferences, collections of women's resources, film, gender issues, health, history, legal, literature, music, organizations, parenting, pregnancy, publications, reproductive rights, science and technology, sexuality, sports, support, women's colleges, women's studies programs.

## Internet Sites of Interest

The following list gives you an idea of just a few of the specific materials that may be interesting to you. To easily go to any of the sites mentioned below, I've included "links" in the *Ponderings* Web page (a button for you to click), which will take you to any of these sites. Specific addresses are also included in this *scratch-the-surface* bibliography:

## ADVENTIST WOMEN ON-LINE

Recently, *Ponderings*, the journal of **Adventist Women's Institute** has been made available on-line as a Web site. Women worldwide may now download materials and current information on Adventist women's issues.—<http://home.netone.com/~winsen/Ponderings.html>

## ORGANIZATIONS FOR WOMEN

- **NOW** (The National Organization for Women) — <http://now.org/now/home.html>
- **Global Fund for Women** — <http://www.igc.apc.org/gfw>
- **FINWeb** — Financial information for women. <http://riskweb.bus.utexas.edu/finweb.htm>
- **Women's Health Gopher**—[gopher://dag.cc.columbia.edu:71/11/publications/women](http://dag.cc.columbia.edu:71/11/publications/women)
- **Maternal and Children's Health Gopher**— [gopher://mchnet.ichp.ufl.edu/](http://mchnet.ichp.ufl.edu/)

## COMPUTERS AND OFFICE WORK

**Professional Secretaries International** has a web page that offers membership information and general facts about the secretarial profession. Search using *Professional Secretaries*.

## WOMEN ON-LINE:

- **Web Weavers: Women on the Web.** A great page linking you to many other fabulous women's sites. <http://www2.best.com/~tyrtle/women.html>
- **Women's Books Online.** A cooperative book review. Reviews of women's books by women around the world. <http://www.cybergrrl.com/review/>
- **FeMiNa.** This is one of the best directories available of women's resources on the web, compiled by Internet marketing consultant Aliza Sherman. <http://www.femina.com/femina/>
- **Pleiades Network** is a new, still-growing clearinghouse of women's information on the Web. It includes a directory of women-owned businesses and women's organizations, plus forums on topics like sports and health. <http://www.pleiades-net.com/>
- **Domestic Violence.** Domestic violence involves the systematic use of force, threats and intimidation by one partner upon another partner to have control over the victim. Domestic violence crosses all cultures, races and socioeconomic levels. <http://www.en.com/users/allison/dvpage.html>
- **Webgrrls** is an international networking group of women involved in the Worldwide Web, CD-ROMs and other electronic media. <http://www.amy.com/webgrrls/>
- **Women's Resources on the Web.** This site is a directory of on-line women's resources maintained by Amy Goodloe. Goodloe also runs several women-focused mailing lists, including the *Women Online* list for women working in Internet-related jobs. Search using *Goodloe*.
- **Women's Wire** is an on-line magazine focusing on women. Their web page includes daily UPI news stories focused on women, profiles of prominent women, and a list of web resources. *Women's Wire* also runs forums on CompuServe and the Microsoft Network. <http://www.women.com/>
- **Voices of Women.** An online journal and resource guide for women. <http://www.voiceofwomen.com/>
- **Cybermom.** This site bills itself as "a home on the net for moms with modems." Designed in the format of a house — with a playroom, kitchen, etc. — it offers information and discussion about all aspects of being a mother. <http://www.thecybermom.com/>

Vickie Danielsen is a computer consultant and desktop publisher living in Englewood, Colorado. As a part of her business, she prepares and maintains Web sites for individuals and businesses.

## West African Woman Initiates Programs

Since 1992, women's ministries, under the direction of **Adiaokuk Ekongo Tetteh**, has been making steady progress in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Gambia. Acting on the suggestion of Rose Otis, General Conference Director of Women's Ministries, and with the approval of her union leadership, Adiaokuk Tetteh has generated a wide variety of activities for West African church women. Among these are training programs in evangelism, literacy, how to start a variety of small businesses, and how to utilize recently

enacted laws benefiting widows and their children.

At meetings, including a recent Women's Ministries Congress, activities have included teaching skills for use in evangelism and sharing the underlying concept that God has given talents to each human being, to be used to glorify His name. With this affirmation, each attending woman returned home to share the good news of salvation and to encourage ever-increasing participation by church women.



Adiaokuk Ekongo Tetteh at General Conference Session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in 1995. She is shown standing by a wall hanging designed by Maryland artist Marquita Halstead. It depicts women's activities world-wide.



# Woman Evangelist Draws Crowds in South Africa

by Martinus Pretorius

The Cape Conference in South Africa bravely took a risk when they called Adly Campos to run an evangelistic campaign in Cape Town. Even after reading in the *Adventist Review* that in the two and a half years that she had been active in evangelism more than 847 people had been baptized as a result of her work, some of the members, administrators, and pastors were still doubtful. After all, people in the traditional Methodist and Anglican churches in South Africa cannot be compared with the Hispanic communities in North America and in the Inter-American Division where she has had so much success. On top of this, Adly Campos is a woman evangelist who speaks English with a Mexican accent!

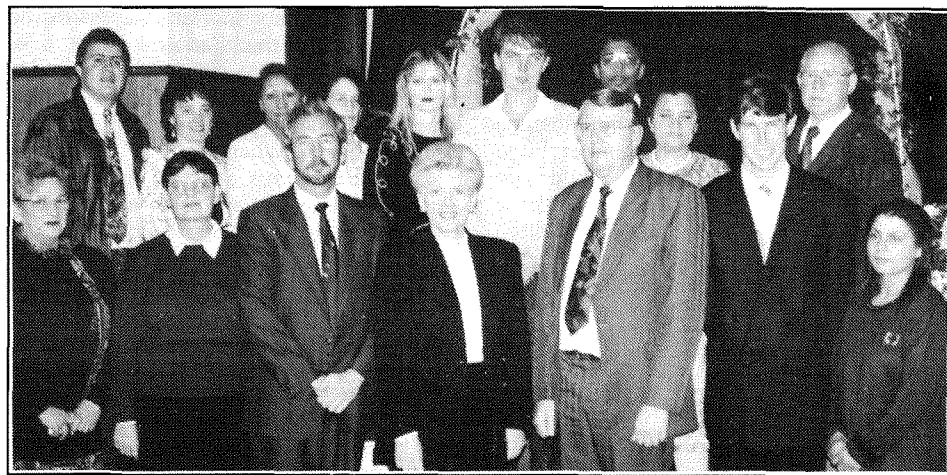
Opening night was not well attended. But when we all saw her, and heard her preach and sing, we started inviting others. They came, they saw, they heard, and they stayed to listen to her dynamic presentation—in a beautiful Mexican-American accent—of the Three Angels' Message clothed in a beautiful garment of family well-being.

During the evangelistic meeting many couples made a recommitment of being the kind of Christian husbands and wives and families that God intended them to be. Many came to Adly for counseling. They left, challenged to tackle life's problems with the Holy Spirit as their Guide and Counselor.

During the series of meetings, 125 people graduated from the course. Two baptisms united 25 precious people with Jesus, and 58 couples renewed their wedding vows. More than 20 more individuals are presently preparing for baptism.

God touched the lives of many people through His servant Adly Campos. The Cape Town church members and their pastors, Anton van Wyk and Martinus Pretorius, wish to express their appreciation to her for coming, and to the Cape Conference for having the vision to invest in a new way of sharing this message.

Following her work in South Africa, Mrs. Campos was the main speaker for a youth congress in Veracruz, Mexico, which was attended by 2,000 young people. She also addressed pastors and



Pastor A. van Wyk (left), Adly Campos, Evangelist of Family Well Being (center), and Pastor M. Pretorius (right) with some of the 25 people baptized in Cape Town, S. Africa.

wives at a workers' meeting. From there she traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, where she held an evangelistic series in Spanish.

Because of the favorable response in South Africa, Mrs. Campos was invited to

return in January to present another campaign. Now completed, it also was a successful venture for Christ.

Martinus Pretorius is a pastor in Cape Town, South Africa.

## Ordination From Another Perspective

by Victoria Oliver

My husband was ordained into the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church the other day. It was a day we had long looked forward to. To have his giftings and calling affirmed was wonderful. It was a beautiful service. Our families flew in from out of state; close friends and non-Adventist colleagues came. The church was full of those to whom we have sought to minister. Throughout the service, the conference president continually referred to our team ministry—those things that we do together to fulfill our mandate. We, as a team, felt affirmed. Then we were asked to stand and come forward. We stood, side by side, but as ministers gathered around, I was politely asked to stand aside so a circle could be made around my husband for his ordination.

I stepped back. I was separated from my husband at this most precious moment

in his career. But more than that, I was excluded from receiving the blessing being pronounced on him—a blessing that I am convinced God intended for us both.

For all the talk of our team ministry, when the crunch came, it was I who was asked to step aside.

Several ministers gathered around my husband as the prayer was said. None made any attempt to include me. I didn't expect anyone to lay a hand on my head, but I thought at least one might have touched my arm or shoulder. There was no attempt to draw me in. I felt alone and left out—not only physically isolated, but spiritually and emotionally excluded as well.

I am not a feminist. I have not entered into the debate over the ordination of women. I am content to work with my husband and support him in my own quiet way. But something happened that moment when I was asked to step aside. I suddenly

realized what this whole debate is all about, for finally it had impacted upon me. It was my calling and my ministry which the church I love and willingly serve was denying. I was overcome with sadness; the joy of the occasion was clouded.

My sister is the feminist of the family. For years she has pushed for an increased recognition of the role of women, including ordination. She wanted to be with us, but couldn't. The day before the ordination service, she sent me a fax assuring me that, if she could be present, she would lay hands on me despite church policy. The thing that saved me during those moments of isolation was the assurance that someone did acknowledge my gifting—my calling—and that someone was, at least figuratively, standing by me and laying on hands. I made my imagination work overtime during the prayer and sought to envisage her hands on me and

the blessing being pronounced on me, too—on us both.

After the service we were surrounded by our congregation and friends. Those women and children I felt particularly called to minister to were there. While they could not imagine my pain, by their very presence they assured me of my calling. The cards, gifts, and flowers spoke volumes. These were my people. I was ministering to them. I had always thought that that was enough, but now I am not so sure.

*Editor's note: Understanding the pain expressed by women like Victoria Oliver, some conference presidents are now having both husband and wife kneel together for the laying on of hands. Let us encourage more sensitivity on this matter.*

Victoria Oliver is a pseudonym.

## Letters to the Editor

I noted in the December, 1995, issue of the *Adventist Woman* that you . . . have a listing of Women in Ministry. I read this list with interest, and also noted some individuals that were not included. Allow me to share some of them with you.

Debra Brill, a departmental associate at Pacific Union Conference

June Silva, Health and Temperance Director, Southern California Conference

Lisa Smith, now pastoring at Dupont Park Church in Allegheny East Conference, formerly pastored here in Southern California

Eunice Winston, Legal Affairs Director, Southern California Conference. This position is a combination of the Association and Trust Departments in our conference.

While some of these individuals are not in direct pastoral type ministry, they are comparable to others on your list.

Bjarne (Bj) Christensen, President  
Southern California Conference  
CompuServe # 74617,14

### In Memorium

Mary Onnino, Connie Johnson, and Daphne Moore contributed to the Association of Adventist Women in honor of Wildred E. Osgood.

Just read the *Adventist Woman*. We have a woman pastor in this conference also. Brenda Johnson serves as pastor for the Kingston, NY, Church. Brenda is on our payroll. She and her husband pastor two churches in the Livingston District, about three hours north of New York City. They are a tremendous couple. Just passing this along for your information.

Charles Griffin, President  
Greater New York Conference  
CompuServe # 74617,2276

*Editor's note: Thank you both for bringing us up-to-date. We hope other conference presidents will check their records and do the same.*

## Publication for African American Mothers Launched

The Mama Kenda Network recently launched its quarterly newsletter, *Mama O: The Journal for African American Mothers of Faith*. It is the only publication dedicated exclusively to the needs of African American mothers, particularly those who have interrupted, postponed, or slowed down their careers to raise their children. The O in the title *Mama O* stands for *okukwe* [oh KOO kway] which is the word for *faith* in the Ibo language of Nigeria. In English it is translated "mother of faith."

"We believe that African American mothers can raise healthy, well-rounded children only through faith in God and by having Him as their primary parenting partner," says Adventist woman Vikki Montgomery Fields, Mama Kenda Network founder and the editor of *Mama O*. Fields was given the name "Mama Kenda" or "mother of Kenda" by a Nigerian friend after the birth of her first child.

"I originally conceived the Mama Kenda Network as just that—a network of homebased mothers who would connect with each other and then reach out to single and work-force moms. *Mama O* extends the network further. It reaches mothers we can't reach in person. It's one way of breaking the isolation many women may feel in their child-rearing years. We're trying to create a sense of community. We want to let moms know that there are other women out there

who think and feel as they do," says Fields.

The Mama Kenda Network was founded in 1992. It is a support system that includes group meetings and other gatherings, information seminars, and a prayer network.

The introductory subscription price to *Mama O* which includes membership in the Network is \$10. Sample copies are available for \$1 and a SASE. Address correspondence to: The Mama Kenda Network, P.O. Box 298, Germantown, MD 20875-0298.

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