

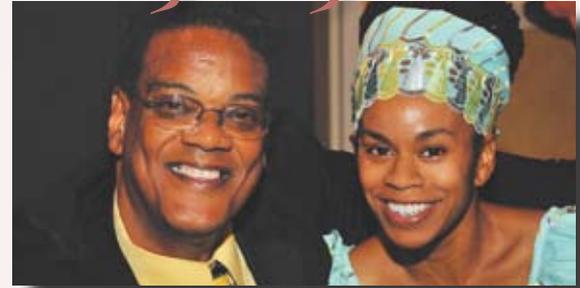


The Adventist Woman

The Journal of the Association of Adventist Women

2008 Conference Wrap-up

Seventy men and women—from faraway Kenya and Australia, nearby Bermuda, and the United States West Coast, Midwest, and East Coast—gathered in October under the sunny skies of Orlando, Florida, for the 26th annual AAW conference. A leadership conference on Thursday preceded the plenary sessions and workshops on Friday.



Ric and Sherma Clarke traveled from Bermuda to attend the conference.

Linda Becker, Vice President for Student Affairs and AAW President-elect, gave a dynamic presentation on the leadership styles of women and the need for women in church leadership. She had learned from her doctoral research the styles that correlate with effectiveness showed up most among women.

The need for leaders to maintain high ethical standards was discussed by Lilya Wagner, Director of Philanthropic Service



Plenary Session 2008

for Institutions, a department of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Fund-raising and its connection to career success were outlined by Carolyn Cales, of the Florida Hospital Foundation. Sally Hasselbrack (WOYA 2008) told of the dedication to excellence, expertise in one's field, and maintaining a professional demeanor and appearance necessary to rise in the corporate milieu. Returning in the afternoon, Lilya Wagner discussed transformational leadership within an organization. Bev Habada concluded the leadership conference on the topic of motivating women for leadership.



Agape Feast

The AAW conference began Thursday evening with a powerful keynote address by Barbara Bernier, professor of law at Florida A&M University. Dr. Bernier encouraged us to expand our horizons and embrace working together in coalitions to reach our goals.

Friday's plenary sessions were interspersed with workshops on such varied topics as Healing from Betrayal, Self Care, Living Nonviolently in a Violent World, Giving Their Voice Back to Women—Jesus and Women, Adventist Issues in Psychotherapy and Counseling, Self-Expression Through Art and Music, and Self-Expression Through Creative Writing.

The 2008 Woman-of-the-Year Awardees—Mary Ang'awa, Sally Hasselbrack, and Cheryl Saunders—discussed overcoming our fears to move forward. The Hon. Mary Ang'awa (WOYA 2008), judge in the High Court of Kenya, and Barbara Bernier keynote speaker, participated in a lively discussion about social change through legal



Mary Ang'awa and Barbara Bernier

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Message from the President

On a new quarter
century



Patricia Pearson Johnston

At such a time as this, it is good to look back and with satisfaction review what has been accomplished, but it is also very important, essential even, to look forward to what needs to be done. That is what we hope to do in this issue of *The Adventist Woman*.

AAW stands at the beginning of its second quarter century. Such occasions provide opportunity to assess,

affirm, and aspire. At the annual business meeting just concluded, those in attendance reviewed and assessed recommendations made at past meetings to various entities of the Adventist church. It was good to be able to say, "That one is accomplished." "That one is not needed any more." It was good to affirm the actions that have been taken, but we found there are still those that need to be done, things to which we, as a group, aspire, recommendations that we hope will be accomplished yet within our church, yet within our day. You will find the list of commendations and recommendations elsewhere in this newsletter (page 9). Read them carefully and think how you can help to bring them about within your sphere of influence.

The new quarter century also brings the opportunity to refine organizational structure through a set of bylaws designed to guide AAW into the future. They include statements of purpose that mirror the mission and goals of the organization, description of officers, their

responsibilities and how they are elected, expectations for the board, and safeguards for the functioning of the organization. They were approved in principle at the meeting just concluded with the proviso that they be distributed for study and comment and voted on at the next annual meeting. They are included in this newsletter. We want to hear from you. It is very important that we hear from you. Please read the bylaws and email your comments to us at <http://www.aaw.cc/feedback.aspx> with "bylaws" in the subject line.

A third opportunity is well suited to this time in the life of AAW. It is the opportunity to obtain feedback from our members on a number of questions and issues. You will also find a questionnaire included in this issue of the newsletter (page 7). It may also be found at the AAW Web site. It asks you to respond to a few questions about AAW, what you would like to see it accomplish in its next 25 years (given that we are still here and not where we would all like to be), how it should focus its energy and resources, etc. In two years, the General Conference quinquennial meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. We are planning to hold our annual meeting that year in conjunction with GC. We want to know what you feel would be important for us to showcase in our booth at that time.

It is very important that we hear from each of you. At the end of the questionnaire you will find a question asking for your age group. We need to know how women of different ages think about AAW and what it should do. Please respond as soon as you receive the questionnaire.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of AAW. I look forward to hearing from you on any topic that you feel is important for AAW to consider. **AW**

Pat Johnston
pjohnston@frontiernet.net

Renew Your AAW Membership

Renewing your membership helps keep AAW alive. The preferred method is to go to the Web site at www.aaw.cc, and register for another year. Because you will be entering your information personally, this will result in more accurate data.

If you do not have access to the Internet*, send your name, address, and phone number along with the membership dues (\$30/yr) to the following address:

AAW
PO Box 25025
Seattle, WA 98165-1925

*Correspondence by e-mail saves the AAW money.

Comments from Readers

Send your comments concerning *The Adventist Woman* to PO Box 25025, Seattle, WA 98165-1925. Or e-mail our editor, Carolyn Lacy, at carolynlacy137@verizon.net.



Hi Verla,

I am not usually a responder, and certainly not about a church that I have not attended for years. I do remember you from the Sabbath afternoon Forum meetings at Harvard and our Boston days with good feelings, hence this reply.

I attended Boston University School of Theology and received a D.Min. years ago. Naturally, there was no call to ministry for a woman in the SDA system. I was told, "You may have a ministry but you will never be a minister in the SDA Church." Eventually, I responded to the United Methodist invitation for ordination and have been able to live out my call in both Presbyterian and Methodist churches. It has been a rewarding experience to be invited, received, and valued for service all these years.

My sadness surfaced once again as I read the latest "Adventist Woman" and noted that you are defining goals. I have been an entire career as an ordained woman minister and served alongside of unnumbered ordained clergy women while the women of the SDA Church are still exactly in the same place as when I left.

True, women have made some substantial contributions and some limited progress, but it is still the same. Men have the power and women are still allowing it. Inclusiveness is simply not practiced. Please quit deluding yourselves that things are different. They are not. The dynamic is quite similar to that of an abused wife who suffers emotionally or physically yet stays in the marriage trying to believe that it will get better.

One of the classic books on change has a wonderful drawing which makes the point poignantly. Two people are rowing a boat. They change sides and begin to row again. They have made a change, but nothing is different. Real change happens when the boat is turned around and goes in a new direction.

My prayers are that the women of the SDA denomination will have the courage to study what real change would look like and make it happen.

Respectfully,
Rev. Dr. Helen Tyler
St. Andrew United Methodist Church
Highlands Ranch, Colorado



Jodeene Wagner

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW VICE PRESIDENT

A Walla Walla University graduate has been named vice president for marketing and enrollment services.

Jodeene Wagner will lead the university's strategic marketing initiatives in recruiting,

enrollment, public relations, and other programs.

"We are indebted to a diligent search committee and a thorough process for identifying an exceptionally well-qualified and gifted candidate," says John McVay, WWU president. "I am certain that Vice President Wagner will provide excellent leadership and bring a new level of strategic marketing to Walla Walla University."

A start date is yet to be determined in order to assure a smooth transition for Wagner's current clients, staff, and management team, according to McVay.

"For 16 years I've been blessed to do what I love every day at an industry-leading healthcare communications company," says Wagner. "There's no question that my experience at Walla Walla University led to these

opportunities. Now I'm honored to serve my alma mater as we prepare students for exciting and meaningful lives."

Wagner is currently serving as Director of Client Planning and Strategy Services at Coffey Communications in Walla Walla, Washington, a position she has held since 1998. Wagner provides marketing consultation services to the company's many healthcare clients. She also develops educational resources for clients, including editing a professional magazine and organizing national conferences and on-site workshops. In the healthcare marketing field, she has also shared her expertise as a presenter at professional conferences.

She joined the healthcare communications company in 1992, working first as a copy editor and then as a client services representative before assuming her current role.

Wagner is a member of the American Marketing Association and the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development/American Hospital Association.

Graduating from WWU in 1992, Wagner majored in mass communications and completed concentrated studies in business and English. In addition to her academic studies, Wagner participated in a wide range of student activities, including serving as a yearbook editor and a student senator.

Wagner resides in Walla Walla with her husband, Jeffrey, and their three children, Katie, Jenna, and Nickolas. **AW**

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRESIDENT OF AAW



Patricia Pearson Johnston, the tenth president of the Association of Adventist Women, is a retired nutritionist and university school administrator.

She was married for 51 years to the late Edward Johnston, DDS, and has a daughter, son, and two grandsons. She has been active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church her entire life, serving as teacher, elder, and chair of the school board. She has provided leadership in mission statement development and given many

sermons. She has also been active in her community, sharing numerous community nutrition education lectures and writing for the lay public. The latter included five years as senior editor for *Vibrant Life* and an additional seven years as editor-in-chief of the *LLU Vegetarian Nutrition & Health Newsletter*.

Pat, as she likes to be called, began her career at Loma Linda University School of Public Health as an instructor in the Department of Nutrition prior to receiving her doctoral degree. Some years later she was invited to become chairman of that Department and,

within hours, was also asked to serve as associate dean of the school. She served in both capacities for six years, resigning from the chair position to focus on the school administrative responsibilities, which she carried for another five years until she was asked to serve as dean of the school.

Having graduated from the first off-campus program offered by the LLU School of Public Health, subsequently teaching in the program, and finally administering it, Pat has been a strong supporter of off-campus programs, particularly in international settings.

During Pat's three-year tenure

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Thank You and

Welcome

In other places they call it changing the guard; here we say thank you and welcome.

Thank you to each of the persons who so ably served AAW in the past few years as officers and members of the Board. A special thank you to Verla for the incredible amount of energy and commitment she has given to this organization. And to each of you who served on the board: Phetsile Dlamini, Trisha Famisaran, Michelle Hill, Ifeome Kwesi, Carolyn Lacy, Felisa Meier, Helen Pearson, Deanna Pitchford, Sandra Schultz, Carmen Seibold, Shelley Stokstad, Sharon Williams, and Helen Zolber, a most hearty thank you!

And now, a special welcome and thank you to those agreeing to serve as officers and members of the Board of AAW: Linda Becker as president-elect, Verla Kwiram, as immediate past-president and director of Woman-of-the-Year Awardees, Carolyn Lacy as treasurer and editor of the newsletter, Sherri Craig as coordinator for annual meeting organization, Helen Zolber as senior advisor, and Jaci Cress Perrin as student representative.

We are in the active process of seeking additional members for the board including secretary, communications and public relations director, development director, director for membership, and an assistant editor of the newsletter. In addition to these members of the Board, we are also seeking regional directors for membership and communications. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or have questions about them, please let me know. Conversations are on-going, and we would welcome suggestions from any of you.

We are also in the process of establishing a new international board of advisors. We hope to establish a method of regular communication among our friends and members in far-flung places so we can all have a better understanding of what is happening with women's issues and concerns around the world. We will have more news for you about this next time.

Pat Johnston, President
pjohnston@frontiernet.net AW



John Watts

Patriarchy, Leadership, and the "Happy Churchwife Heroine"

Delegates to the annual South Pacific Division's Women and the Word conference passed a motion to ensure that every Seventh-day Adventist woman

throughout the South Pacific is given the opportunity to read a paper by Avondale College lecturer John Watts on the patriarchal system of the global Christian church.

Educator John Watts presented his paper, entitled "Patriarchy, Leadership and the 'Happy Churchwife Heroine': What We Are Not Told and What We Do Not Hear," at the conference, held at Sydney Adventist Hospital on May 31.

"Women from the older generation know about the 'glass' ceiling that existed both in society and the church, but not so much the young women of today," says Christine Bates, member

of the Kellyville Adventist Church who proposed the motion. "If they read [Dr. Watt's] paper, they will see how life is and that it should not be that way. Younger women have more courage to try to change things for the future."

The paper argues if the church continues to practice discrimination, it will self-implode into an even worse male mediocrity and female subservience, though it may continue to survive as a Spiritless post-Christian social institution.

"I am struggling to come to terms with a range of feelings," says Dr. Watts. "Satisfaction the research-based points presented were 'on target,' shame that our church continues to treat women from an entrenched patriarchal standpoint; but probably most of all, a profound respect for women, and some men, for that matter, who continue to

focus on serving the Lord in spite of the stark disparities and inequities within the church."

According to Joy Butler, former director of Adventist Women's Ministries in the South Pacific, more women need to be working within the Adventist Church system. She states, "Our church began on the basis of gender equality, but these are things we don't hear much about these days. It's good to be reminded of it."

An abstract of "Patriarchy, Leadership, and the 'Happy Churchwife Heroine': A Contemporary Challenge to Christian Church Identity," is available on the AAW Web site, http://www.aaw.cc/GetInformed/TheoPP_Articles.html. The full paper is available on request to the author, Dr John Watts, Avondale College, Office Phone: 0249802183, Email: john.watts@avondale.edu.au. AW

KEEP GIRLS SAFE

By Joy Butler



Dear Friends:

The KEEP GIRLS SAFE (KGS) project is well alive and progressing to even greater things.

Brendon Irvine and his team are the capable ADRA leaders in Thailand who monitor and direct this project very well.

This year has been a year of study of 'best practice' and quality research. They have looked carefully at ways to upgrade and improve the project. After much investigation, they have decided to build, and they have sourced funding from Norway to build a permanent house/shelter for girls at risk. For the past few years they have rented a house in Chiang Rai, but they hope to have the land and start building by the end of the year, hoping to be ready when the new school year starts in May 2009. Please can you pray for this new development and pray for the right land to be found soon.

The project has three components:

- shelter/house for at-risk girls where they live and go to school each day
- education for hill-tribe people in teaching about sex trafficking and dangers of girls being sent away
- providing scholarships for hill-tribe girls still living at home

The good news now is that training for communities and schools in five districts has been conducted recently; more than 100 men and women have learned about sex trafficking, 110 girls have opportunity to access appropriate education—formal, non-formal, and vocational—and 31 girls live in the safe KGS house. The full quarterly report is available by request: joymariebutler@gmail.com or butlerj@ecd.adventist.org.

This year in April, right on the day I turned 60, I was privileged to visit the KGS project in Chiang Rai. It was a humbling experience to visit the young women and girls in that safe house. They were so grateful for all assistance the donors are able to give, and quietly sang me a song with their new

donated guitars. They are gentle and sweet girls who need to know love and protection. There are thousands more like them in the world; as followers of Jesus, we are called to support and find ways to provide for our sisters.

Right now I am living in Kenya, Africa, and am aware of the great needs in this continent. Women and girls everywhere are at great risk, and we must continue to be vigilant to do our part to help make them safe. I will continue to support KGS and even to see it grow in other countries. Please support this very worthwhile and well-conducted project.

Right now we need a significant support network in Australia for KGS. KGS needs people:

- Who will pray for the project
- Who will donate money
- Who will talk/visit ADRA Thailand
- Who will promote the project—writing, speaking, shows
- Who will keep the vision alive—through writing, speaking, emailing
- Who will raise awareness wherever possible at markets, shows, events, Women's Ministry retreats
- Who will put time into discussion
- Who want to see it expand to other countries
- With expertise in fund-raising
- Who will raise funds
- Who will network with other KGS type projects

If you are one of these, we would love to hear from you. If you wish to donate, send to Matthew Siliga, Donor Relations Officer, ADRA Australia. Make sure you mark clearly all correspondence, cheques, etc., for KGS, msiliga@adra.org.au, phone: 02 9473 9519.

Blessings and thanks to you, the supporters of beautiful people who deserve much more.

Joy Butler is Fundraiser for Keep Girls Safe—ADRA Thailand and Former Director of Women's Ministries, South Pacific Division. AW

Questions for AAW as it begins its second 25 years

1. Is this organization still needed, still relevant?
2. Why? And if not, how can it become so?
3. What, if anything, is different about the world, our world, today compared to 25 years ago, that is important to AAW?
4. What should we focus our energies on in the beginning of the next 25 years?
5. Do young SDA women not in hopes of pastoral ministry see the Association as helpful to them? Do they even know it exists?
6. What would/could/should AAW do for me –
 - a. If I were 20 and at an Adventist university in the U. S. or abroad?
 - b. If I were 35 and in a career path?
 - c. If I were a woman in Africa/India/other developing countries?
7. What should we focus on in relation to the GC meeting in 2010?
8. What would you like AAW to look like in five years (membership, projects, awareness of social issues within and outside the church)? How do we achieve that goal?

Please check your age group. We need to know what different generations are thinking in response to these questions.

20-25

26-30

31-35

36-40

41-45

46-50

51-55

56-60

61-65

66-70

71-75

75+

Adventist Women and the Earth: A Response to Ecofeminism

Young Women and the Word '09

La Sierra University Church, Riverside, California

April 24-26, 2009

Hosted by the Women's Resource Center and co-sponsored by La Sierra University

This conference aims to address our responsibility to the earth/environment and to explore connections with gender justice. Ecofeminists have demonstrated how throughout history women have been treated similarly to the earth. We hope to show how young Adventist women care about the abuse of the earth and women, and challenge others not only to recognize this problem but to actively create and practice solutions that respect the dignity and value of God's creations. The keynote speaker is Rosemary Radford Ruether, a leading feminist theologian and ecofeminist.

Also featuring: John B. Cobb, Jr., Jared Wright, Maritza Duran, Ginger Hanks-Harwood, Somer Penington, and others.

This conference is free and open to the public.

For more information, call (951) 785-2470, or visit www.adventistwomenscenter.org.

2008 Conference Wrap-up

Continued from page 1



Victory Christian Center Dance Team at Agape Feast

featuring harpist Linda Van Niekerk, the Victory Christian Center Dance Team, and *Presence*, a film by Stacey Sausa.



Linda Becker and Pat Johnston visit with Heide Ford.

action—shaping society through law—comparing systems in Kenya and the United States.

The pace changed with the beginning of the Sabbath and a beautiful Agape Feast and Communion service Friday evening,

Sandra Entermann, Australian soprano, provided a musical feast in Sabbath School, followed by Bev Habada's tribute to Nancy Eastman Marter, one of AAW's former presidents. In her sermon, Pastor Sabine Vatel

exhorted us to "Don't Ask for Just a Few."

A lovely banquet Saturday evening, arranged by conference coordinator Sherri Craig, was the highlight of the conference, with the annual presentation of the Woman-of-the-Year awards to the three awardees who were present. Because of illness, 2008 WOYA Gabriele Stangl, pastor at Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin, was unable to make the trip from Germany to receive her award, and we missed hearing her presentation on "Babyklappe," a program for mothers of unwanted newborns to leave their babies at the hospital and receive counseling (if desired), she instituted at Waldfriede.

Results of the Sunday business meeting can be found throughout this issue. AAW President Pat Johnson presented bylaws for consideration, and we formulated commendations and recommendations. **AW**



Sherri Craig thanks Verla Kwiram for her leadership of AAW.



2008 Woman-of-the-Year awardees Sally Hasselbrack, Mary Ang'awa, and Cheryl Saunders

as dean, the school achieved its first full seven-year accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. She named the first associate dean for public health practice, the first director of development, supported the establishment of the GIS laboratory in a central campus location, established a new off-campus program in Peru, and initiated plans for an off-campus program in Russia, for which she obtained partial funding. She promoted research through policies for rewarding faculty for research activities and expectations for new faculty regarding research endeavors.

Dr. Johnston's professional life has been dedicated to advancing

knowledge and understanding in the area of vegetarian nutrition. To this end, she served as co-chair of the First International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition and co-editor of its proceedings. Subsequently, she was chair of the second and third congresses and editor of their proceedings. She was invited to write the first chapter on vegetarian nutrition for the highly respected and prestigious *Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease* as well as other informative articles and book chapters. In the limited time available, her research activities focused on issues related to vegetarian dietary practices.

Her academic and professional achievements have been recognized

through various awards including Honored Student Award, Gladys Emerson Award, Excellence in Education Award, Researcher of the Year, School of Public Health Alumnus of the Year, LLU Alumnus of the Year, and General Conference Department of Health Ministry Medal of Distinction, and she is among the less than five percent of the nation's teachers recognized by their students in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and the less than two percent who are recognized more than once. She is a member of the Omicron Nu National Honor Society and the Delta Omega National Public Health Honor Society. **AW**

Deaconess Book

Peggy Curtice Harris' most recent book is *Deaconess Ministry*, a guide to serving in one of the most important and varied roles in church life. The role of a deaconess involves important and sometimes challenging responsibilities in nurturing a church family.



Peggy Curtice Harris

No deaconess should be without this important resource. Whether you're a seasoned deaconess or new to the position, find tips you can start using today in your ministry.

Through Peggy Harris's extensive experience, you'll learn about:

- Getting started
- Delegating responsibilities
- Helping baptisms run smoothly
- Ordinations
- Memorable communion services
- Funeral preparation
- Deaconess of the month
- Extending hospitality
- Telephone and in-person visitation
- Spiritual gifts and deaconess ministry
- Ideas for service
- Revitalizing your church's greeter ministry
- Welcoming new members

To order, contact Advent Source, <http://www.adventsource.org> or 1-800-328-0525. *Deaconess Ministry* is catalog number 416229 and retails for \$8.95.

Peggy Curtis Harris is chair of WASH (Women and Men Against Sexual Harassment and Other Abuses and past president of AAW (1990-1992).

2008 Conference Commendations and Recommendations

Commendation 1

To Waldfriede Hospital
Berlin, Germany

- For the establishment of "Babyklappe" and support for women through counseling.

Commendation 2

To Jan Paulsen, President

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

- For the appoint of a woman vice president.
- For his inclusive spirit and active pursuit of discussion through the "Let's Talk" conversations with young people, women, and church pastors.

Commendation 3

To President Ondieki

South Nyanza Conference, Kenya

- For the appointment of a woman treasurer and two women as church pastors.

Recommendation 1

- To encourage the appointment of women to decision- and policy-making groups at all levels within the church organization.

Recommendation 2

To The North American Division

- Encourage all local and union conferences to celebrate the contributions of women to the church during women's history month annually during the month of March.

Recommendation 3

To The Union and Local Conferences

- To encourage equalizing the credentials of all pastors.

Recommendation 4

To The General Conference

- A request that the Church officially apologize to Merikay (Silver) McLeod and Lorna Clevenger Tobler.

Recommendation 5

To Local Conference

- To begin correcting the great disproportion of women pastors by sponsoring women to the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Recommendation 6

To Local Conference Officers

- To encourage congregations to increase the opportunities for women pastors.

The Association of Adventist Women

BYLAWS

Article I. Name and Organization

- Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Association of Adventist Women, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated May 24, 1982, in Prince Georges County, Maryland, and operating since September 28, 2004, as a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Washington.
- Section 2. The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

Article II. Purposes

- Section 1. The Association shall be dedicated to issues of the human rights of women, which include access to opportunities within society and their full participation and leadership within the church.
- Section 2. The Association shall seek to create significant opportunities for women to be full partners at all levels of church life.
- Section 3. The Association shall promote leadership skills among Adventist women of all ages and backgrounds.
- Section 4. The Association shall highlight Adventist women's opportunities, contributions, and achievements using print, electronic, and personal communications.
- Section 5. The Association shall establish a network of Adventist women leaders who can inspire and mentor other women.
- Section 6. The Association shall demonstrate open and collaborative models by working in complementary ways with other church organizations.
- Section 7. The Association shall foster awareness among Adventist women of social issues demanding the attention and action of thoughtful, compassionate women.
- Section 8. The Association shall help Adventist women achieve excellence in their interpersonal relationships, personal development, and relationship to God.
- Section 9. The Association shall encourage communication, support, and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations.
- Section 10. The Association is incorporated for educational and charitable purposes.

Article III. Membership

- Section 1. Membership in the Association of Adventist Women shall be open to all women members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Section 2. Each member shall have equal privileges with all other members in her voice upon any issue presented for discussion or decision at any meeting of the membership.
- Section 3. The annual membership dues, set by the Board of Directors, shall be paid to the Treasurer annually.
- Section 4. Annual membership dues shall be set by the board at the annual meeting, with consideration given to college/university students and international members.
- Section 5. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by individuals or entities in support of the purposes of the Association.

Article IV. Officers

- Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, President-elect, immediate Past President, Director for Development, Director for Membership, Director for Communication and Public Relations, Director for Annual Meeting Organization, Director for Woman-of-the-Year Awardees (WOYA), Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor.
- Section 2. The officers shall be elected by majority vote of the membership attending the Annual Meeting held in even years and shall hold office for the succeeding two years, or until their successors are elected. They shall take office at the time of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.
- Section 3. Officers shall be nominated by a committee of five members selected at the annual meeting held in odd years.
- Section 4. Any officer vacancy shall be filled by the Board.
- Section 5. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Board and shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, with power to call and attend committee meetings.
- Section 6. The president-elect shall assist the president and act in her place if needed; she will succeed to that office at the next scheduled election.
- Section 7. The directors shall function as follows:
- Development – Seek funding to support the charitable activities of the Association, the Annual Meeting,

newsletter production and mailing, Web-site and other expenses associated with WOYA.

- Membership – promote membership in the Association with the assistance of regional directors.
- Communication and Public Relations – Develop a network of regional directors to bring newsworthy information to the newsletter editor and communicate with local/regional church news organizations regarding achievements of Adventist women; work with the Web designer to maintain the Web site.
- Annual Meeting Organization – Oversee and/or assist in development of the program and arrangements for the venue for the Annual Meeting in conjunction with the local arrangements person/s.
- WOYA – Identify and arrange for interviews, transportation, and presentations for Woman-of-the-Year Awardees.

- Section 8. The secretary shall record and maintain official minutes of meetings of the Board and of the Annual Meeting, maintain membership file and official communication; she may request the assistance of a recording secretary to record meeting minutes.
- Section 9. The treasurer shall collect dues and other funds and disburse Association funds, maintain fiscal records, render financial statements as requested for Board and Annual meetings, and assist in development of the Association budget.
- Section 10. The newsletter editor shall oversee production of *The Adventist Woman*, write articles using information submitted by the Director for Communication and Public Relations as well as the International Board of Advisors and others; she shall be assisted by an assistant newsletter editor appointed by the Board to assist in all aspects of newsletter production and participate on the Board when the editor is unable to be present.
- Section 11. As the Association is able, an executive director shall be hired by the Board to conduct the business of the Association.

Article V. Board

- Section 1. The Board shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president, and the senior advisor, plus two members-at-large selected by the Board from among the students in attendance at the annual meeting.
- Section 2. The Board shall manage all affairs of the of Association.
- Section 3. All members of the AAW Board shall be aware of potential conflicts of interest when agreeing to serve on the AAW Board.

Article VI. Liaisons

- Section 1. Liaisons shall be named by the Board to other organizations as appropriate, with similar liaisons from other organizations to AAW.

Article VII. International Board of Advisors

- Section 1. An International Board of Advisors shall be formed to facilitate communication among women in international settings and with the Association.
- Section 2. The International Board of Advisors shall consist of a chair who shall maintain communication with assistants from the various major areas of the world (Europe, Africa, Asia, South Pacific, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America).
- Section 3. The purpose of this Board is to facilitate information exchange via *The Adventist Woman* and within the broader church context.

Article VIII. Meetings

- Section 1. The Association shall hold an annual meeting at the time and place determined by the Board.
- Section 2. Notice of such meeting shall be delivered ordinarily to members via *The Adventist Woman* and shall be delivered to members who have submitted an electronic address via email three months in advance.
- Section 3. Board meetings shall be held by conference call on a monthly basis, taking into consideration the various time zones in which Board members are located.
- Section 4. Actions at Annual Meetings shall be passed by a majority vote of those in attendance. A quorum of the Board shall be deemed to exist when three or more members are present, in addition to the president.

Article IX. Association Affairs and Business

- Section 1. Any payment by the treasurer of an amount due greater than \$3000 shall require an email approval and confirmation by the president prior to payment.
- Section 2. All contracts shall be read by two officers prior to signing.

Article X. Amendments

- Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting after being distributed to the membership for comment for a period not less than six months during the prior year. They shall be effective upon affirmative vote of the majority of the members present at said meeting.

WIDOWHOOD:

By **ZANDILE NHLENGETWA**

Editor's Note: Zandile Nhlengetwa is director of Harambe Women's Forum for survivors of violence, in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, one of AAW's projects. She writes about the workshop held May 29-June 1, 2008, in Koinonia, Bothshill, South Africa, attended by 35 widow survivors of violence.

These statements were shared by women during the widowhood workshop seminar. There is no group more affected by the sin of omission than widows. Widows are painfully absent from statistics and rarely mentioned in many reports on poverty, health, and human rights violations. They are women who are either invisible, secluded, or excluded. Many organizations, including churches, do very little for widows.

Thirty-five widows, between the ages of 25 and 70, attended the workshop seminar. The situation of widows needs urgent and special attention because they suffer in silence and are neglected by people, including organizations that help women.

Many of these widows are still rearing children or looking after grandchildren because the parents of these grandchildren have died of AIDS-related diseases. Many are widows because their husbands died during political violence in this province. Many suffer abuse and exploitation at the hands of family members. Some widows left their homes because they declined to marry the brother of their deceased husband, as custom requires. If they refuse to marry either a relative of the husband or brother, they cannot marry anyone. They live with the stigma of being a widow and all its disadvantages. They also forfeit the rights to inheritance.

All came from poverty-stricken area areas and have had limited opportunities in seeking employment. Six of the young widows were HIV-positive (which they have not disclosed publicly).

Some of the widows said they were respected as a widow only when they agreed to participate in traditional practices. Participation will give them permission to remain in their homes and have rights to cultivate the land. Customs have been used to exploit and oppress these women. The poverty and violence they experience is due from discrimination in the inheritance custom and the patriarchal nature of the society in which they live. The poverty situation in which they find themselves has caused their children, especially girls, to be withdrawn from school. Extended families can help to finance and pay school fees for a boy child, but girl children are neglected because of the notion that they will fall pregnant soon or they will be taken away to get married.

Many of these women find jobs in the informal sector, where they are exploited economically. Most of the ladies said through God's intervention they were able to get out of the pit of despondency and are determined to face the tragedy head on. They gained courage to move on and better their lives. In their own communities, they were able to join forces and start entrepreneurial initiatives; with such joint ventures, they were able to support their children and take their girl children back to school.

During the workshop, the widows said poverty is much more than having an income to buy food and other material goods needed to support themselves and their families. To them, poverty is the lack of:

- Both material and psychological needs fulfilled
- Well-being, which is peace of

We are seen as bringing bad luck to community and family, hence we are not invited to community events because of the circumstances we found ourselves in.

(56-yr-old woman, Umzinto Community)

I am accused by members of my husband's family as a witch who killed her husband.

(43-yr-old woman, Tongaat Community)

I do not have a house anymore; everything was taken by my husband's family. My children do not even go to school now.

(39-yr-old woman, Siyanda Community)

My husband died of AIDS and slept with many women. I am now dying, but his family blames me for his death.

(32-yr-old woman, Mbumbulu Community)

As soon as my husband had died, they [husband's family] took everything away, even the pots, blankets, and food that was in the house. My children and I were left with nothing.

50-yr-old woman, Inanda Community)

WOMEN INVISIBLE, SECLUDED, AND EXCLUDED

mind

- Good health
- Belonging to a community
- Safety
- Freedom of choice and action
- A steady source of income and food

The situation of widows is made worse because of illiteracy and lack of education and training. In addition to all this, they are expected to go through a long period of mourning where they have limited access to the public where they can start earn a living. Again, cultural taboos, traditions, and burdens of raising small children for younger widows prevent them to look for jobs outside their communities or in the nearby towns or cities. What was cited greatly in this workshop seminar was that widow's poverty is related to the following factors:

- Lack of access to economic resources
- Land ownership
- Loss of inheritance
- Lack of access to education and support services
- Being excluded as decision makers

ARMED CONFLICT

Most of the older widows who attended and participated in the workshop were widows because their husbands died during political violence in this province. Often all of their informal support systems vanished through death of their husbands. Most of the older widows were now caring for their grandchildren because their sons also died during the violence. They stated they were respected as a widow only if their husband died belonging to the "correct" political party, as defined by that community.

LACK OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

It is difficult for widows to support their households if they are illiterate or lack education and training. They stated their biggest need was educational training programs that will enable them to take up the role of being bread-

winner for the family. They share the common problem of seeing their children taken out of school because of lack of funds to pay for schooling needs for their children. It is common that girl children are affected by this. Most of these young girls, once they leave school to assist family with income, become child-minders of other families. They end up being raped or pregnant.

HEALTH

Poverty brings ill-health. Widows, through lack of access to health care, suffer not only with physical health but also psychologically through stress. Younger widows are seen as sexually active and hence are susceptible to rape. In the context of HIV/AIDS, widows are constantly vulnerable. In some families, they may not be informed of the cause of their husband's death. To some families, mourning rites might mean sexual relations with male relatives. They are forced into a second marriage. At times they are forced to have sex with an infected brother-in-law. Sex with a male relative may be the only means of securing money or food for themselves or their families.

In some cases a widow may have spent all the family savings on health care and funeral expenses for her dying husband; as a result, there are no savings left to pay for healthcare needs for herself in case she has also contracted the disease.

VIOLENCE

Widows of all ages are exposed to violence of different forms. This is because widows live alone and become an easy target to whoever wants to cause harm to their lives. Many widows have suffered abuse because they have been accused of killing their husbands through witchcraft. When a man dies in HIV/AIDS-related disease, this is often labeled as witchcraft, was caused by the widow. Hence, all inheritance is taken away from her because she is seen as the person responsible for the death of her husband. One lady in the workshop cited that her children were taken away because she was seen as a witch who

was now going to destroy the next generation of her husband's family. In polygamous marriages, the older widow will suffer beatings from the children of the co-widow. In some areas, widows told that in some villages widows are forced to have sex with designated individuals as a cleansing ceremony since the husband died from an unknown disease.

CONCLUSION

The lessons learned in this workshop seminar include:

- Widows support group or forums to be formed in different villages.
- To request training from NGOs that are operating in different communities.
- Follow-up workshop seminar to look at issues of support and income generation.
- Prayer retreat to be organized to look into issues of spirituality.
- We hope to publish their stories in the near future so as to make public the plight and situation of widows.
- Some widows requested to be taught how to read and write.

Widows need support because they suffer in silence. Their issues are never discussed, even with church or government sector.

This was a powerful workshop. The Harambe Women's Project thanks the Association of Adventist Women for the support and funding given to the project and, in particular, this workshop seminar, which was a huge success. We hope in the near future to look at the issues raised during the seminar. **AW**



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AAW Projects

AAW invites donations to AAW and its projects. Your generous gifts keep the dream of a more equitable future alive for Adventist women around the globe. Complete the form on the following page to donate to the AAW and/or to specific projects. All donations are 100 percent tax-deductible.

ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN: SUSTAIN THE VISION

Provides the basic budget and sustains the on-going work of AAW

ADVENTIST AIDS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY (AAIM) / EUGENIA GIORDANO

Provides women with AIDS medications and skills to help them gain self-sufficiency

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Assistance in providing physical relief for seriously injured women

CUBA ADVENTIST SEMINARY / ESTHER DIAZ DE GUERRERO

Scholarships for women students studying to be ministers and Bible workers

MBUKWANE SDA SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS/ PHETSILE DLAMINI

Scholarships to keep Swaziland children in school

EDEN VALLEY ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIPS / HELEN HALL

Scholarships for Christian education of Karen refugee youth in Thailand

HARAMBE WOMEN'S FORUM FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE / ZANDILE NHLENGETWA

Assists women victims of violence in South Africa

KAJIADO ADVENTIST EDUCATIONAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for support of Kenyan girls fleeing circumcision and premature marriage

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Secondary school scholarships for orphaned SDA girls

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A resource for clergy women

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Association of Adventist Women

Mission Statement

The Association of Adventist Women seeks to develop and promote women as leaders in Seventh-day Adventist organizations, congregations, and communities.

Goals

The image of God, as embodied in the skills and insights of women, will be more fully reflected in our churches and communities as we achieve our goals:

To create significant opportunities for women to be full partners at all levels of church life.

To promote leadership skills among Adventist women of all ages and backgrounds.

To highlight Adventist women's opportunities, contributions, and achievements using print, electronic, and personal communications.

To establish a network of Adventist women leaders who can inspire and mentor other women.

To demonstrate open and collaborative models by working in complementary ways with other church organizations.

Revised 10/17/04

Email news, article, and photo* submissions to Carolyn Lacy, Editor, at carolynlacy137@verizon.net.

*Photos must have a resolution of at least 350 dpi. If you are unsure of the resolution or dpi of your image, you can view its dpi setting in the image's properties. When scanning your images, set your image size to 350 dpi. When taking a photo with a digital camera, be sure to set the image quality indicator to the highest quality setting. If you are mailing a photo print or CD-ROM, send it with a return address to Carolyn Lacy, *The Adventist Woman*, 13406 S. Echo Lake Rd., Snohomish, WA 98296-5419.

The Adventist Woman

The Adventist Woman is the official newsletter of the Association of Adventist Women and is published four times a year. Members of the association receive the newsletter as a benefit of membership. To join the association, go to the Web site at www.aaw.cc. Or write to the AAW at PO Box 25025, Seattle, WA 98165-1925. If questions remain, e-mail Pat Johnston at pjohnston@frontiernet.net.

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