



The Adventist Woman

The Journal of the Association of Adventist Women

Center for Women Clergy at Andrews University Opens to Provide Support and Mentorship

By Wendi Rogers

Addressing the need to provide for a growing enrollment of women in seminary classes, the Center for Women Clergy opened at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan in October.

"Obtaining professional degrees is equally important to women as to men, so attending seminary is a logical next step

following college," says Dr. Patricia Mutch, vice president for academic administration at the university. "Many of these women are also professionals from other fields who have felt the call to ministry and changed careers to enter professional ministry."

Seminary student Dilys Brooks has been involved with the establishment of the center for three years. She took over after another seminary student laid the groundwork. Brooks talked with Mutch, and began developing a vision



"The center will serve more than women seminary students."

and "creating networking and support for women [who are] answering the call to ministry," Brooks says. Other female seminary students have been involved with the center's development as well.

The center helps women taking seminary classes prepare for ministry through mentoring and networking, Mutch says.

There are 95 female students in the seminary, up 20 students from two years ago. Brooks explains that, in comparison to the 500-plus enrolled in the seminary, it may not seem like much, but it's "huge for female enrollment."

"[We want to connect] women through internships and professional ministry. We want pastors to mentor them. ... We see the need to be an

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Verla Michel-Kwiram

Message from the President

Many thanks go to Stella Ramirez Greig for organizing the 22nd National AAW Conference at Andrews in October. Attendees found the sessions moving and edifying. It is reinforcing to share time with other women who see the needs of Adventist women and who respond to the challenge of change. Thank you, Stella, for the enormous amount of thought and

planning that went into each of the sessions.

Thanks also to each speaker who presented the inspiring talks and contributed to the stimulating environment we experienced. And, thanks to each musician who enriched the sessions. Our appreciation goes also to the 2004 Woman-of-the-Year Awardees for your inspiration. It was energizing, soul-satisfying, and fun to be at the Andrews Conference!

The Association of Adventist Women has accepted the challenge of empowering women in Adventism. The task is enormous—both in the first world and in the third world. It is more important now than ever, as women seek in the first world to work side by side as partners with men, enjoying unity in Christ. In the third world, subjugated and often abused women struggle for self-respect and freedom from disease, working selflessly and usually without recognition. Our task will not be complete until women collaborate in the work of the church as equal partners around the world.

As fresh volunteers in 2004, your new AAW officers had a choice of breaking barriers or maintaining the status quo. We chose to venture boldly by creating a web site and redesigning the newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*. We also produced our first DVD on the lives and witness of the 2004 Woman-of-the-Year Awardees, which we hope to distribute widely to women's dorms and Sabbath Schools.

Our mail indicates that our readers appreciate the new format of the newsletter as well as the easy-to-navigate web site. We thank you for every letter of encouragement. We also received very positive comments about the DVD, which was shown at the Andrews Conference. In addition, we are attempting to prepare our 23rd Annual Conference to be held just before General Conference in St. Louis, where we will have a booth and where we will provide materials for mass distribution.

These initiatives cannot be sustained without the continuing support of our members. The yearly dues do not cover the costs of producing our newsletter, let alone the other initiatives which we are pursuing.

We prayerfully solicit the monetary support of all friends of women in Adventism as we attempt to achieve partnership status for women in the church. Together we can do great things!

We invite you to renew your membership, give a gift subscription to *The Adventist Woman* to a friend, honor a friend's birthday with a donation, sponsor a young woman's attendance at the St. Louis conference, or write a BIG check to AAW so that we can make a difference at General Conference. Bequests are welcome.

If ever we needed your support before, we sure do need it now—now more than ever!

Best wishes in the new year!

Verla Michel-Kwiram
AAW President



Make Reservations Soon for the

The AAW 2005 National Conference will be held prior to General Conference Session, June 26-29, in St. Louis, at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Hotel reservations can be made online at or by telephone at 800-444-ADAM. (2326). Participants are urged to contact the hotel as soon as possible to ask for the special rate for AAW Conference participants.

AAW sessions will begin on Sunday evening, June 26, and continue all day June 27 and 28. The Keynote speaker will be Charles Bradford, former NAD president. The Woman-of-the-Year Awards Banquet will be held Tuesday evening, June 28. The theme for the 2005 AAW

Comments from Readers

Your website is absolutely beautiful! As a part of the La Sierra University community, I'm so proud that Verla Kwiram is the new AAW President and was very impressed by Dahlie Conferido's moving article about the Women's Resource Center.

Christine Cales

It is a pleasure to see the clarity of purpose and direction for AAW as shown in the new journal of AAW. Keep up the great work of the past, present and future leaders.

Marilyn Christian [Smith] Gearing

Great-looking web site!! And the newest issue of the newsletter looks really good too!

Kay Rosberg

Just received the new journal of AAW — it's wonderful — a much-needed improvement. The web page is great — a long over-due necessity! I would say you are off to a roaring start. Thank you for all the time you have spent.

Betty Cox

Congratulations on the snazzy new *The Adventist Woman*. I like the look, and I like the fact that you seem to be infusing new energy into an organization that seemed to be outliving its usefulness.

Jocelyn Fay

I received the new issue of *The Adventist Woman* this week. It's fantastic. Congratulations on pulling this together, as well as to Verla for assuming the leadership role for the organization.

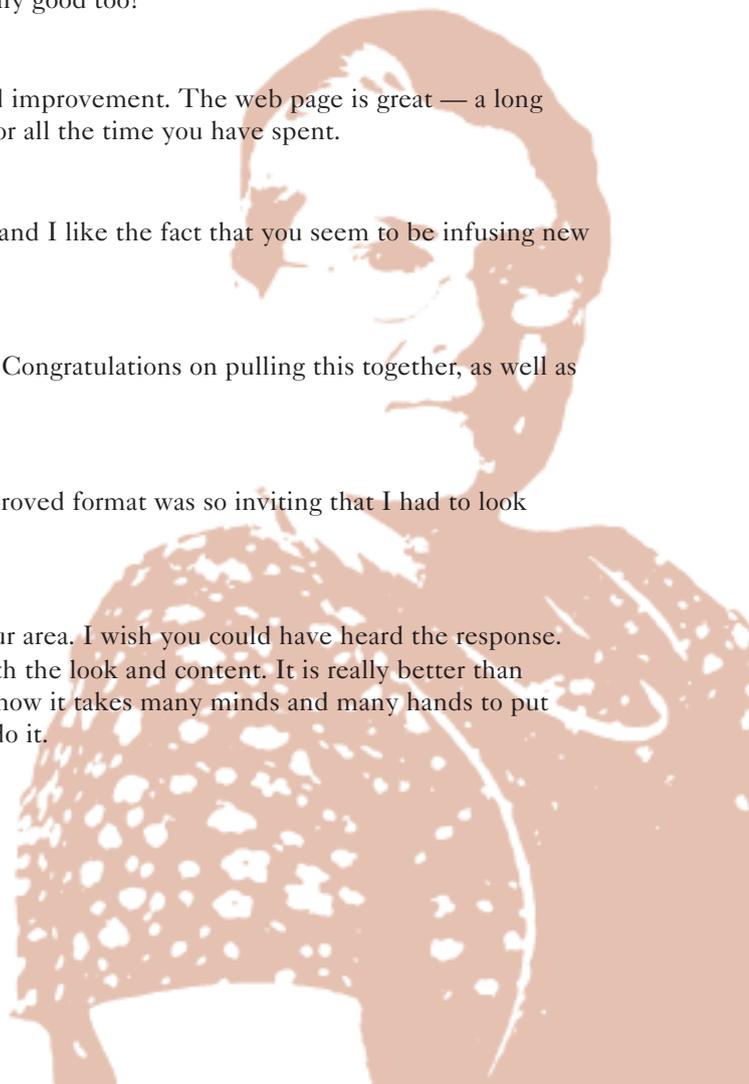
Juli Miller

The Adventist Woman arrived in my mail box yesterday. The new and improved format was so inviting that I had to look through it before I even started supper!

Christa Ellis

We recently received the first issue of the new *The Adventist Woman* in our area. I wish you could have heard the response. People are really enthusiastic! It's professional, and we are so proud of both the look and content. It is really better than anything we have had in the past. Congratulations on work well done. I know it takes many minds and many hands to put together such a publication. We are grateful that so many care enough to do it.

Helen Thompson Zolber



2005 AAW Conference June 26-29 in St Louis

Conference is "Love Enables Unity in Diversity: Include Me Please."

On Wednesday morning, June 29, you are invited to participate in a very special Prayer Breakfast. The General Conference has declared Wednesday, the day before the GC Session begins, a day of Spiritual Emphasis. Please join us in praying for those making policy decisions regarding women. For further details or to register for the Prayer Breakfast, visit our website at www.aaw.cc.

If you are planning to stay through the General Conference Session (June 30-July 9), you may keep your hotel room at the conference rate. For further information on scheduling for the GC Session, go to their website at www.gcsession.org.

The Woman Next to Me

The 22nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Adventist Women took place at Andrews University (AU) in October where members were warmly welcomed by the university's president, Dr. Niels-Erik Andreasen. The conference's theme was "The Woman Next to Me: Different Paths, Common Journey," and included several plenary sessions and workshops.

Plenary Sessions

Thursday Evening, Oct. 14 In her opening address, "The Woman Next to Me Laid the Foundation," Dr. Meredith Jones Gray, professor of English at AU, focused on several pioneering Adventist women whose crucial roles in establishing Adventist institutions of higher education set a high standard of professionalism and service to the church. Among these women were Sallie Brailliar Sutherland, who along with her husband helped start Walla Walla College; Bessie DeGraw, who was instrumental in establishing Emmanuel Missionary College which later became Andrews University; Dr. Maria Loughborough Edwards, who was one of the first Adventist women to do post-graduate work in science and teach biology; Nellie Rankin Druillard, who helped found Solusi Mission. These and other women developed their talents to serve the church and the world at large with a passion which they passed on to their students and is still evident among church women today. They laid a foundation of leadership and service.

Friday Morning, Oct. 15 Friday's plenary was titled "The Woman Next to Me Is a Muslim." Sometimes the woman next to us is following a path not well known to us. Friday morning's speaker, Karen Danielson, was such a woman. She is the vice-chair of the public education and outreach department of the Muslim American Society in Chicago. Besides presenting on the five pillars of Islam,



Karen shared her journey into Islam. Born into a Catholic home, as a teenager Karen became a Baptist and later attended a Bible college. While there, she began reading the Koran and eventually converted to the religion. She, her Muslim husband and five children live in Chicago. Her presentation was followed by a lively question and answer period. The topics ranged from the treatment of women in Islam, the Muslim view of the devil, women's dress requirements, God's grace, to the possibility of democracy in Islamic countries.

Friday Afternoon, Oct. 15 Dr. Monique Pittman, assistant professor of English at AU, moderated a panel of undergraduate and graduate women students called "The Woman Next to Me Is the Future of the Church." Vanessa Corredera, Kimberly Hucks, Carin Reinsch, and Claudette Prieto discussed the ways the church has nurtured them, how they serve the church, and how the church can empower its young women. Providing a sense of community and a cultural sense of belonging; fostering ideas, fellowship and leadership are some of the ways the church has nurtured them. Areas where the church could improve are adults giving more opportunities to young people, not limiting women to only certain roles in the church not having double standard on sexuality, holding both genders accountable; and having the leadership in the church reflect the diversity of its constituency. Some of the greatest challenges for our church in the next 20 years include how to maintain our identity while still being accepting of others and not being overly judgmental, and what to do about young people leaving the church.

Friday Evening, Oct. 15 The Agape Supper was a feast of international food, music, and spiritual



A Report on the 2004 AAW Conference

By Stella Greig



journeys. Arlyn Kim Drew, MD, MDiv and mother of six young children, spoke on “Redeemed, Reclaimed and Respected: The Spiritual Journey of the Woman Next to Me.” In her homily, Arlyn spoke movingly about the very different spiritual journeys of Ruth, Esther and Miriam, as well as her own. Taking the attendees through the details of each journey, she challenged and expanded the view

of God and His work of salvation. Following the homily, two other speakers (Demetra Andreasen and Marilyn Youngblood) recounted their spiritual journeys, and then the attendees were asked to pair up with someone at their table and take turns sharing some aspect of their spiritual journeys with one another.

Sunday Morning, Oct. 17 In the final plenary session, “The Woman Next to Me Is a Missionary,” Ann Cooper Hamel and Ruth DePaiva shared their separate, yet interwoven inspiring stories about being missionaries. Though they did not meet one another until much later, the similarities of their early adult lives was striking. Both began mission service shortly after their marriages: Ruth in the Amazon; Ann in Burundi and then Rwanda.



Woman-of-the-Year Banquet

Early on Sabbath evening, women and men gathered at candle-lit tables in Chan Shun lobby to celebrate the lives and work of seven diverse and very special women: Georgia Carter, Dr. Jasmine Jacob, Dr. Lynette Carrington Cox, Dr. Patricia Foster, Dr. Andrea Luxton, Dr. Marilyn Savedra, and Rhonda Whitney. The program was coordinated by Melody Bennett-Gayle. It was inspiring to watch the interview of each honoree and see them receive a personal tribute and award. **AW**

To view more images from the conference go to www.aaw.cc

Conference Workshops

The Woman Next to Me is My Pastor Leslie Bumgardner, associate pastor of the Walla Walla College Church discussed her dissertation research on eleven Adventist women pastors with significant length of service, focusing on the reasons they remain in pastoral ministry. Leslie noted that each of these women pastors have church members who reinforce their ministry, a strong identity as pastors (I have no choice, if I left ministry I would be disobeying God), and supportive families.

The Woman Next to Me Is a Care-giver and Care-needer Karen Alford, recently bereaved care-giver; Linda Fearnow, community information manager for a local Agency on Aging; and Jan Wrenn, professor of social work at AU, talked about the basics and practice of care-giving, including the needs of the care-giver.

The Woman Next to Me: Feeding the Inner Self Delcy Kuhlman, adjunct faculty at AU’s Seminary, focused on spiritual retreats in her presentation, “God’s Call to Time with Him.” Iris Landa, director of academic advising and orientation at La Sierra University, presented “Journey of Joy: Creating a Sacred Space and a Happy Room.”

The Woman Next to Me Is an Artist Musicians Blythe Owen, Carla Trynchuk, Julia Lindsay, Kyla Marden-Steinkraus, Meredith Jones Gray, Terri Fivash, Valerie Boger, Karen Hopkins, and Madeline Johnston all shared their personal artistic journeys through a discussion of the creative process and personal fulfillment, as well as performances, reading, and viewing of their artistic creations.

The Woman Next to Me Deserves to be Honored Kit Watts, director of communication for the Southeastern California Conference, and Stella Greig, chair of the department of English at AU, discussed the “Why?” and “How to” of planning public events to honor women.

The Woman Next to Me: Take Control of Your Financial Life Ann Gibson, dean of the school of business at AU, discussed practical issues regarding personal finance that every woman needs to know.

News Notes: Women in the News

Southeastern California Conference Holds Historic Election and Elects First Female Officer

At the Southeastern California Conference's (SECC) constituency session 770 delegates elected the conference's first female officer, executive secretary, Sandra Roberts. Roberts is also the first female officer ever to be elected in the Pacific Union. Since 2000 she has been associate youth director in the SECC, and before that was co-pastor/associate pastor at the Corona Adventist Church for five years. Roberts has many years of experience in youth and summer camp ministry, beginning when she was a student in the 1970's.

During the same election, the delegates also elected the conference's first black president, Gerald D. Penick, Sr.

—Source: The Pacific Union



Dr. Linda Hyder Ferry

Linda Hyder Ferry Helps Develop New Stop-Smoking Booklet

Dr. Linda Hyder Ferry, M.P.H., Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine at Loma Linda University, has helped develop a new stop-smoking booklet with Pacific Press® called *Tobacco: You Can Be Free* that is being used by hospitals and churches alike. Over

30,000 booklets have been distributed so far.

Tobacco: You Can Be Free is a 16-page, full-color booklet that combines the latest clinical research with a detailed plan for successful recovery from nicotine addiction. Ferry was the primary consultant for the booklet. She has 25 years of treating tobacco and other addictions to her credit. Her pivotal research led to the approval in 1997 of bupropion, the first FDA-approved, non-nicotine, pharmacological treatment for tobacco dependence. Dr. Mickey Ask, an addiction specialist, and Dr. Douglas Plata, M.P.H., and Dr. Joon Rhee, M.P.H., specialists in preventive medicine, also contributed to the booklet's development.

Tobacco: You Can Be Free provides a strategy that really works for people who feel defeated by tobacco addiction, says

Dale Galusha, vice president of ministries and sales at Pacific Press®. "It is perfect for use in stop-smoking programs, and is inexpensive enough to give away in mass quantities. And of course, every Adventist medical professional should make it available to their patients," says Galusha.

Tobacco: You Can Be Free is available at your local Adventist Book Center® or online at www.AdventistBookCenter.com. The booklet retails for \$.99 each. Quantity pricing is available.

10th Anniversary of GC Women's Ministries Scholarship Program

The General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Women's Ministries Department is celebrating 10 years of their scholarship program that provides tuition funds to help Adventist women around the world attain their educational goals by attending an Adventist college or university. So far, 829 scholarships totaling US\$323,418 have been presented to women in approximately 90 countries. The first scholarship was awarded in 1994.

Most of the funds for the scholarship program come from the profits of a devotional book produced each year by the GC Women's Ministries Department. The department allocates \$3,000 to each division of the church. In some divisions the money doesn't stretch very far; but in others, as little as US\$330 can pay tuition, room, and board for a semester.

The scholarship program has had its challenges—the biggest one being the department's inability to supply scholarship funds to all the applicants. Because of limited funds, only about half of the applicants receive financial help. In 2003, Women's Ministries leaders developed a new fund-raising program called "Scholarshipping Our Sisters," or SOS, through which an additional US\$17,000 has been raised.





Women's Ministries plans to continue to find ways to increase the sales of its devotional book, and to develop new fund-raising programs so more women can receive the financial help they need to pursue their educational goals.

For more information about the scholarship program, e-mail womensministries@gc.adventist.org.

3,000 Adventist Women Gather For International Congress in West Africa

More than 3,000 women from countries in West and Central Africa gathered in Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast, for a first-ever international congress of Seventh-day Adventist women from the region. The event was held August 8 to 15.

Approximately 30 tents were set up in the city stadium but still couldn't house all of the women who came to Grand Bassam to take part. Fasting, prayer and a communion service were the essence of the first day's events. "I have never seen such a great number of people participating in the Lord's Supper since I started my ministry" declared Pastor Danforth Francis, a 35-year veteran of church service who attended the event.

Grand Bassam's mayor, Jean Michel Moulod led the group of dignitaries participating in welcoming ceremonies for delegates. He was joined by Victorine Wodie, president of the national congress and human rights minister; and Madi Marie Victoire, representative of the nation's first lady. Each expressed their satisfaction at the event taking place in their nation, and said they appreciated the work done by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in their country.

"We are here for the first International Congress of Women to consolidate unity, fellowship, personal and collective growth and to acquire the appropriate tools for an effective leadership," said Ardis Stenbakken, director of women's ministries for the world church. "We should be women God can use. God is using millions of women from our church all over the world. Let it be the same for the women of West and Central Africa."

Metonou Priscile, director of women's ministries in the West-Central Africa church region, said, "The theme of the congress, 'Women United in fellowship with Christ' was chosen because when there is unity there is strength, success, comfort, and the feeling of belonging to a community. We talk a lot about unity, but any unity without Christ cannot last long."

The weeklong series of meetings included leadership training, seminars, workshops and concerts from participants throughout the region. A special Sabbath worship service was held August 14 as the capstone of this memorable event.

—Source: Adventist News Network

Adventist Woman Conducts Soul-Winning Meetings in Miami

Every night for three weeks, Nicolle Brise, Southeastern Conference Women's Ministries director, preached for evangelistic meetings sponsored by Women's Ministries and supported by nine Haitian churches in the Miami area. More than 235 attended the nightly meetings.

Men and women assisted with various aspects such as greeting, telephones, prayer, transportation, security, health, technology, and secretarial. A children's evangelism series was held simultaneously. Thirty-five adults and four children were baptized.

Following Brise's final message on the New Jerusalem, there was a candle-lighting ceremony, a baptismal service, and a communion service with the new members, pastors, and members of the various churches who participated in the crusade.

—Source: *Southeastern Tidings*

AW

Center for Women Clergy, continued from page 1

advocate, a listening ear," Brooks says. The center is working on providing a system where "any woman, anywhere, who feels a call to ministry should know there's someone she can call." This also means that after graduation, women have someone in the ministry they can connect with, "someone who can mentor."

Brooks, who describes the seminary as the "most amazing experience of my life," says female seminary students she's talked to have felt a compelling call to ministry. They come from all over the globe, including Africa, Korea, Mexico, North America and Europe, and range in age from early 20s to 60s.

"The center will serve more than women seminary students," Mutch says. "The number of undergraduate women students who are religion and theology majors is increasing at Andrews, as well as at other Adventist schools. The center hopes to include these undergraduate students in its networking."

After graduation from the seminary, Mutch explains, women go on to be involved in a variety of ministries, including pastoring in churches, youth ministry and chaplaincy. "Women who are spouses of seminary students also take courses to prepare them for team ministry."

The center is reaching out to other Adventist institutions, letting them "know we're here and what our purpose is," Brooks says. AW

Wendi Rogers is a reporter for the Adventist News Network (ANN).



“Here is your sister.”

“Here is your mo

AIDS

“He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the broken hearted, preach deliverance

AIDS: A Woman’s Disease? Interview with Jenniffer Mabuka Maroa

By Verla Michel-Kwiram

Jenniffer Mabuka Maroa has seen first hand what the AIDS epidemic has done to the people in her home town of Kisii, Kenya. And she wants to help her people—that is why she is here in the United States working as a Fogarty Fellow in Seattle at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. She is working for Dr. Julie Overbaugh, sponsored by the

National Institutes of Health (NIH). Verla Kwiram recently sat down with Jenniffer to discuss what she is doing to help stop the spread of AIDS in her country.

Tell us a little about Kisii and what people do there.

Many people in Kisii survive as subsistence farmers on very small plots of ground—1.5 hectares or about 4 acres. Our average income per capita is less than \$100 a year. Many people live in houses made of posts and plaster (soil), and we rely on wood or biogas for fuel. Kisii is a tea and coffee processing region.

Tell us about your own family.

I was born and raised in a Catholic family. I became an Adventist in 2000.

Getting an education is difficult in my country, especially for girls. My mother only finished three years of schooling, but my father was able to finish elementary school. He was later encouraged by a white employer to go on for further studies and was trained in artificial insemination of animals.

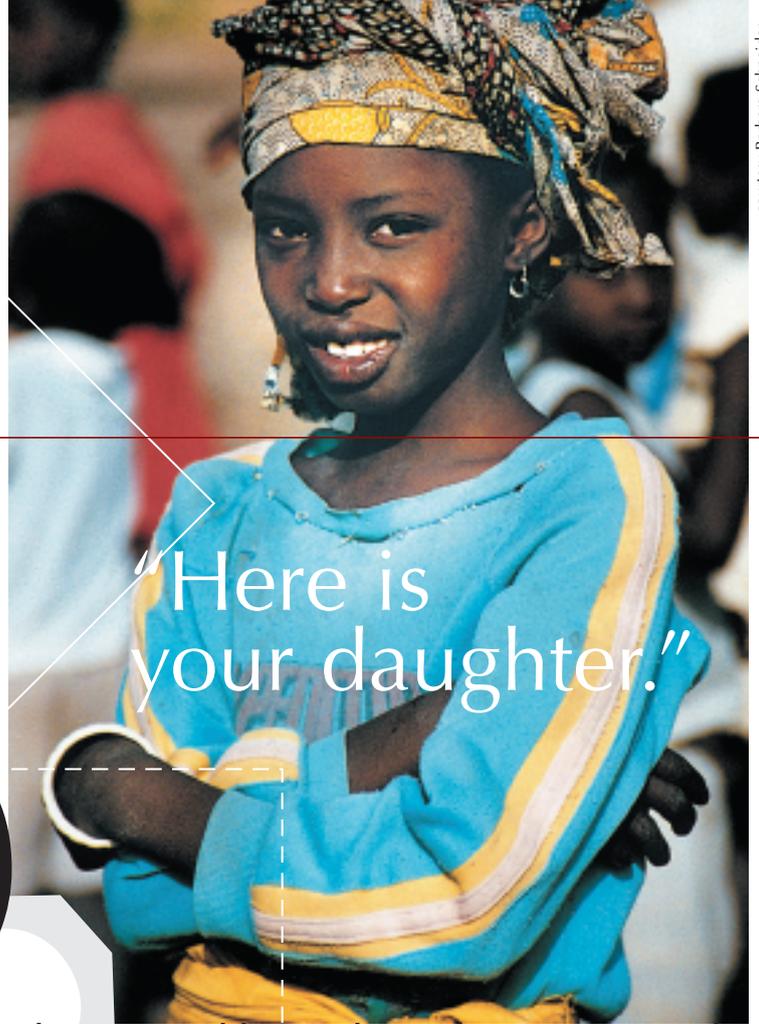


Jenniffer Mabuka Maroa

“Women have very little negotiating power in their marriages or with men in general in our culture.”

other." John 19:27 NIV

courtesy mexikids a.k.a tim & annette



courtesy Barbara Schneider

DS

"Here is your daughter."

...nce to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised..."

Luke 4:18 KJV

My father was progressive and worked hard to pay the fees so that I, along with some of my brothers and sisters, could go to school. Primary school was not yet free, as it is today. Even today secondary school is not free.

I attended primary school, and because I performed well on my primary level exams, I was able to attend a provincial secondary school. After finishing high school, I qualified to attend a public university in Nairobi. At that time, I had only one male relative who had been to university.

Let's talk about your university experience.

Because I have always been interested in science, I enrolled in Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. The college, where only science and engineering are taught, had a small population of 3,500 students; only 1,000 were female.

I graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in Biological Sciences in 1998. While I was in college I became interested in immunology. It's fascinating,

and it offers a chance to manipulate the activities of the immune system outside of the human body to better understand the host-pathogen relationship in diseases such as HIV-AIDS.

After graduating I became a technician in the laboratory of scientists from the University of Washington who are doing their research in Kenya.

Is it usual for young women to get a university education in your part of the world? And what percentage of the students in science is women?

In general, women are about 30-40% of the entire population in a university setting. One in four or 25% of the students in sciences are women.

What has been your university experience outside of Kenya? What were you sent to learn?

In the summer of 2002, I was sent to Oxford for two months to learn the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technique. This technique enables us to

identify specific mutations in pregnant women infected with HIV and establish the effect these mutations have on HIV transmission to unborn babies.

In September 2004 I arrived in Seattle to work in Dr. Julie Overbaugh's lab. Julie is a molecular and cellular biologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

Currently Dr. Overbaugh and her co-workers are studying three retro viruses that cause AIDS-like diseases in their hosts. These viruses cause damaging mutations in the hosts' T lymphocytes. Dr. Overbaugh and her co-workers are trying to determine why some variants are more damaging to the virus fighting mechanisms of the body than others and why they are therefore causing disease or death of the host. I am in Seattle to learn a PCR technique that is used to quantify viral loads in HIV infected persons.

Why is learning about these issues so important to you?

I am concerned about the spread of HIV-AIDS in Kenya because it is an epidemic which affects women

“I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you

in particular—in fact, **AIDS is a WOMAN’S disease.**

Please give us some idea of the work and position of women in Kenyan society? What do women do?

The better question is, “What does she NOT do?” The typical work of uneducated African women who are subsistence farmers covers everything that sustains life, from the caring for children to maintaining the home; which includes cooking, cleaning, caring for the livestock, harvesting food for the family and animals, and carrying the heavy loads.

This sounds pretty comprehensive to me. And is a religious justification given for her doing so much of the work?

A professor at East African University (an Adventist university) describes the position of women very succinctly: “In the book of Genesis, it is stated clearly that God created man from the dust of the earth. He took out his rib and made him a wife. Adam called his wife Eve and God said she was Adam’s helper. The woman will continue to be man’s helper until Jesus comes. *She will never be equal to her husband.* Many problems have come to our homes because women don’t know their positions in their homes and in the church of God.”

What status do women have under these circumstances, and how does this contribute to the spread of AIDS?

Because women are not thought to be equal to men, they often are given very little education. Therefore, they do not have economic independence. Women have very little negotiating power in their marriages or with men in general. They marry early and have several children.

Women are taught to be obedient to their husbands—or to any other male for that matter, or be physically punished. They are NOT taught to use their own judgment, even when it is in their best interests or the interests of their children.

Any male in the family may demand sexual favors from a woman. Since his wish is her command, she is expected to accept sex without condoms, even when

she can tell he is infected. This situation contributes to the spread of HIV in Kenya among women. For women of the subsistence farmer class, these issues are life-threatening. And even for well-educated women, these problems are severe. In the areas where HIV-AIDS is rampant, grandmothers raise their own families, bury their children and then raise their grandchildren.

What do uneducated men generally do?

African men try to distance themselves from what they think of as women’s work—hard work. Poverty and idleness rule their lives. If they earn any money, they spend virtually all of it on alcohol (on local cheap millet beer). Even if they have only one wife, as is increasingly true, they take multiple sexual partners. Some of them engage in predatory sexual practices against their wives and other women and girls in the family.

What beliefs and practices lead to the high incidence of AIDS in eastern Africa?

There are lower inhibitions among men about having multiple sexual partners. Rape and predatory male behavior is a frequent occurrence. Rape is an instrument of war. For example, in Rwanda, where women were systematically raped during the war, those lucky enough to survive are now suffering from full blown AIDS.

Some specific traditions, such as “wife inheritance,” worsen the rate of infection. For example, when a woman’s husband dies of AIDS, she has usually been infected. It is a tradition for the husband’s nearest male relative to come to take responsibility for the new widow. He sleeps with her; then he becomes infected, and he in turn infects whatever other female sexual partners he maintains.

What does the Church have to say about the AIDS epidemic? Is it addressing the issue at a meaningful level?

As far as members of the church can tell, the church has been largely silent on this issue. In 2003, they introduced HIV-AIDS committees in churches. But with

no proper guidelines and little funding, nothing much is accomplished.

What is the situation as the result of the silence of the Church and the government?

The situation in Kenya, inside the church and outside, is devastating. Young women 15 to 29 years of age, and their children, are dying.

You have a long-held dream. Share with us about it and why it matters so much to you?

My dream is to provide **education for women—education which gives them economic, social and cultural empowerment.** Women need to know the facts about HIV-AIDS transmission. They must learn the importance of having protected sex and how to prevent mother-to-child transmission. They also need to learn about nutrition so that they can maintain their strength as long as possible. If they are HIV-negative, they need to learn how to stay that way. And it is important for them to learn how to care for the sick and how to deal with the stigma of AIDS.

In a culture that subordinates women, domestic violence is a big issue. Women need information on family planning so that they have a chance to support their children.

Many children are infected along with their parents. Sometimes they outlive their parents and are left as infected orphans, often with no one to care for them. Uninfected orphans may also be homeless. They need access to education.

Young girls have many problems which could be reduced by education. When they reach puberty, they are circumcised, because it is believed that they will be promiscuous and undesirable as wives if they are not ‘cut.’ They are often traded for dowry payments at very early ages to much older men.

What can be done to help these women?

Although there are many issues to address, we **MUST** take a first step. I believe that a good beginning would be to start a school and a home for orphaned children, as well as a women’s resource center. **AW**

invited me in, I was exploited and you rescued me.” Matthew 25:35 NIV (paraphrase)

Is the Church Doing Enough to Help Women in Africa?

By Harvey A. Elder, M.D.

For over 21 years I have traveled the world caring for people infected with HIV. And in my research, one thing became obvious to me very early on. If the AIDS epidemic were limited to gay men and injection drug users, it would be a small epidemic. But, it is not. Instead, it is spreading throughout the world and will exceed the size and destruction of the Black Plague—a plague that destroyed one third of the European population.



People often ask me what does and doesn't slow the spread of AIDS. At this time abstinence and faithfulness in marriage are the only documented effective means to control the spread of HIV. Not even condoms (other than in Thailand when used by commercial sex workers) have made a significant dent in spread of AIDS. Vaccines are only a dream. And until recently there hasn't been significant documentation that antiretroviral therapy decreases transmission.

In much of Africa, girls are infected at a younger age than boys. By the age of 19 infection in girls is four to ten times higher than boys. Why do girls get infected at a younger age than boys? Simple—girls have no control over their own bodies. They are taught to submit to any male who wants to have sex with them. The men do not consider rape a crime. When talking to several hundred sixth grade students in South Africa, I

asked them what they feared most. The first answer from every girl was rape.

Wives cannot say “no” to their husbands, and in many tribal areas, to their husband’s male family members either. She may see evidence that the male is infected with a sexually transmitted disease or even AIDS, yet she cannot say “no” without the risk of being killed. And as the women are infected, their male partners become infected, and then 25-40 percent of their children are infected.

As Christians we should object to the exploitation of women. It is a violation of Biblical teachings. When populations within a culture or a nation demean and despise women, instead of treating them as humans made in the image of God, these populations sin against God as well as against women. It is wrong to reduce women to a subservient status and treat them as objects meant only for men’s pleasure. Biblically, all humans are equal in God’s sight. *To mistreat a woman is to mangle one of God’s children.*

Christian churches make the excuse that they are helpless to intervene because people are merely following their

their families. They are not to be slaves to male passions. Forced sex, whether by husband, lover, acquaintance or stranger is morally derelict. If there is any justice in this universe, and I believe there is, God will hold churches responsible for what they should have taught, but refused to teach.

If the Seventh-day Adventist Church wants to do something significant about the spread of HIV, they should ordain women. By calling attention to the God ordained equal status of women, they could confront the pervasive lie that women should be subservient. Then the churches could practice their priestly function mediating God’s love and mercy to millions of hurting women who need to know that they too are made in God’s image—equal to men, loved by God, and precious in His sight. By calling men to reject their fake façade and accept women as equals, they call men to more clearly reflect the life and activities of our Savior. **AW**

Harvey Elder, M.D., is a professor of internal medicine and infectious diseases at Loma Linda University. To contact him, e-mail haelder@earthlink.net.

“As Christians we should object to the exploitation of women. It is a violation of Biblical teachings.”

cultural practices. This spineless response is absurd. Christianity has addressed many cultural practices. When Christianity entered areas where cannibalism was practiced, Christians worked against this tradition. Should the Churches have been silent? No. Churches also spoke up about slavery, polygamy, child labor, and unsanitary conditions. These examples document that Christians know they are obligated to confront cultural practices that hurt any of God’s creation.

Biblically, the Church of Christ is to be both Prophet and Priest. It needs to call society from its sins—in this case sins against women. The church needs to proclaim that it is the obligation of women to protect their bodies from all harm so they can live wholly and care for

Empowering Women is Jesus’ Truth

by Verla Michel-Kwiram

Adventists have long been preoccupied with “the truth,” identifying it with a set of Biblical teachings and interpretations. But Jesus defined truth as spirit and attitude when He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” We have “the truth” when we are imbued with Jesus’ spirit. Throughout His life, Jesus demonstrated “the truth” through unconditional love. | *continued on page 13*



Ellen Park

Young Women in Action

Interview with Ellen Park
by Laura Milleson

AAW's mission is to foster the participation of women in varied leadership roles within Seventh-day Adventist organizations, congregations, and communities. One of the ways we realize the expression of this mission

statement is to actively participate in an open dialogue with one another. Such a dialogue encourages an atmosphere where we can learn from each other and grow toward the ideal model of love and inclusion that God has for our church.

In this edition of *The Adventist Woman* we are featuring an interview with a young and vibrant Adventist pastor—her struggles, dreams, and vision. And maybe even a little bit of prophecy. Ellen Park has been pastoring in California since the summer of 2003. She is the associate pastor at the Sonora Seventh-day Adventist Church. Perhaps the best words to describe Park come from Alden Thompson, one of her professors at Walla Walla College: “Ellen is passionate about her mission to the Adventist Church and the world, driven by a vision of what the church could be if we were fully open to following our Lord. She is intense, energetic, and alert to the needs of each individual who comes in contact with her.”

As a new pastor, how have you been received by your new church community?

Warmly! There are beautiful people in the Sonora Church. As I am new to ministry, I am grateful to be in a church that is so forgiving.

Do you think men and women have different or complimentary qualities in ministry? Do you think women bring something unique?

Yes. This past year I have seen the different qualities of men and women in ministry with more clarity. I am also beginning to catch glimpses of the synergistic, Kingdom potential that could be achieved as men and women come together to serve. Also, as a woman I simply live out a different picture of God. My paradigm, my approach, and my communication style differ from a man's. I'm just starting the journey to discover my own “voice,” especially when it comes to teaching and preaching. My role models in this area have predominantly been men, so I find myself naturally following their example. When preaching, I'm trying different methods and beyond that, trying to keep my ear open to Heaven to hear how God may be leading me to preach, as well as lead in the way He has uniquely called me to.

Are you enjoying yourself?

Everyday, whether or not the day “ranks” in the top ten. I live in awe. A reverent and whispered ‘wow,’ when I think about

the life I get to live. I am reminded daily of the awesome honor it is to serve God and His Church. Leadership roles must be taken seriously. But to serve Christ and His Church as a “pastor,” and of all things, get paid for it, blows me out of the water.

Did you notice a gender gap in College? If so or not, how has your workplace been similar or different?

Yes. It's very similar. The main difference is that now, there is a gender gap and a generational one.

In your eyes, is Adventism progressing in regard to women in ministry? And in what direction is it moving?

Yes. The fact that I am a woman serving in the capacity that I am is a constant reminder to me that our Church is moving forward.

Did you have encouragement while growing up to pursue ministry? And was it by a man or woman, or both? Would you have gone into ministry without those influences?

I received encouragement from both men and women. However, most of my encouragement and discouragement in this pursuit has come from men. I could not begin to picture how I ever would have followed this pursuit of ministry without the influences of the people God has led into my life. My mentors, as well as spiritual influences, have played a significant role in leading me where I am today.

How do you prepare yourself to be a minister of God?

Surrender. I desire to live a life of constant surrender. The picture that comes to mind is one with my hands open, as if to receive, with my palms facing up. It is God who cultivates a heart of surrender in me. Ministry is simply an overflow, a natural or supernatural product of what He is already doing in me.

What is your daily ritual to prepare yourself to minister to people?

A daily ritual is to dwell in God. A part of this “dwelling” is to spend time with Him. And of course spiritual disciplines like time in the Word, solitude, and prayer are vital to me. My mentor quoted his colleague on a recent phone call with me by describing that time as a time to “tame the soul.”

What has given you this huge passion for ministry?

God's grace. He has given me a love for Him and His people that comes together to make the local Church my deepest passion. I love it! There is nothing in the world I would rather do than to devote my life to His Bride. One pastor says that “The local church is the hope of the world.” I believe it. There is nothing more exciting to me than giving my life to this hope.



Is ministry everything you thought it would be?

Ministry has introduced challenges into my life I never knew existed. My threshold of pain along with available temptation in my life has seemed only to increase. In short, I recognize the reality of spiritual warfare more than ever. With all this in mind, I must say that my encounter with God has gone to levels of intimacy that have fueled and satisfied my soul. My experience in ministry has strengthened my faith. I really believe that “He is faithful.” There was no way ministry would be “everything I thought it would be.” His ways really are above my own.

What would you tell young women who are preparing to go into ministry?

Let God love you—for real! And then, let yourself fall in love with Him...

How can the Association of Adventist Women be helpful to you? Our goal is to mentor young women in ministry; have you felt this support?

The Association of Adventist Women has been helpful to me just by existing. I see it as a movement of God that’s gaining momentum. It seems to grow only stronger each year. I appreciate how AAW functions with a high standard of excellence, professionalism, and integrity. This well-led organization has inspired me to aspire toward the same standards. Also, I have appreciated the newsletter and interactions with the volunteers and staff.

In fact, my senior year at Walla Walla College the administration sponsored a groups of students to attend a AAW Conference. Wow! The experience from that weekend really made an impact on me. It gave me a unique foundation of inspiration, encouragement, fellowship, and knowledge that is with me today. It really made me acknowledge the challenges facing women in ministry for the first time. Prior to the conference, I thought the whole idea that these challenges existed was a fallacy—at most, something in the past. I was idealistic enough to believe I would not need to struggle with ‘those issues.’ The conference also gave me a deep sense of appreciation for the women and men who have paved the way to make my current role a possibility.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years I see myself in or just about completing seminary. But beyond that, what I really hope for is to have remained faithful—passionately faithful, to be the child of God I am created to be. **AW**

Laura Milleison serves as the collegiate representative for AAW.

Whom did Jesus love? Jesus’ accepted every type of person; healing alienation everywhere he went. Jesus’ inclusiveness is at the heart of the gospel. As we adopt Jesus’ truth, we attempt to create a church environment free of barriers, free of distinctions of status, and free of exploitation. To follow Jesus’ teaching requires a community where the ideas and gifts of *all* members are fully utilized, regardless of race, sex, class or age.

Unfortunately, we face an uphill struggle to free the Adventist Church of all hierarchical and patriarchal distinctions and practices. The subordination of women in Adventism is entrenched in both First World and Third World nations, a fact widely recognized by other Christians. In its discussion of contemporary issues in Adventism, Beliefnet.com explains it this way: “Gender equality and women’s rights are promoted [in Adventism], but women are not permitted at the highest levels of the church hierarchy and are generally regarded as subordinate to men.” Subordination is not to be found in Jesus’ attitude or practice.

The suppression of women’s spiritual leadership in First World nations such as the United States is serious enough. But when the church acquiesces to the spiritual *and* physical subordination of women in the Third World—in African society, for example—it is even more serious.

When males are dominant, when the privileges of education and economic self-sufficiency are given mostly to boys, when women lack control over their own bodies and are powerless, disaster results. In many African cultures it is acceptable for men to exploit and abuse women by demanding child-like obedience and sexual gratification without regard to the well-being of the female. Women’s lives are at stake and the welfare of their children is being compromised in Africa as women are expected to bend to the desires of men for unprotected sex.

By not confronting the subordination of women, the Adventist Church becomes implicated in the deaths of women and children throughout Africa, as the AIDS epidemic “disproportionately singles out women.” Feeding on the “low economic and social status of women” and women’s powerlessness, AIDS wipes out substantial parts of the population—disproportionately women and their children.

Whole generations of women and men are disappearing, leaving large numbers of orphans, many of whom are also infected. In sub-Saharan Africa 800,000 AIDS babies were born in 2003 alone. The AIDS crisis is cataclysmic. It is worse than the Black Death or Bubonic Plague that first terrorized Europe in the 14th century. HIV-AIDS is described as “the greatest humanitarian emergency in the history of the human family.”

The consequences of AIDS does not stop with death. Ripples of terror spread throughout the community. “Sickness leads to death, death leads to destitution, destitution worsens a host of social ills, from illiteracy to prostitution to abandoned babies.”

It is imperative that the Adventist Church speak out forcefully against the subordination of women, against the physical and sexual abuse of women, and against structural violence and deprivation of women. Empowering women with education for self-sufficiency and leadership, as well as encouraging the Church to recognize and utilize women’s gifts, is very much in keeping with our understanding of the spirit that Jesus manifested in his life. When we say that we have “the truth,” we can only mean that we revere and are empowered by Jesus’ barrier-free, healing love.

Verla Michel-Kwiram is the president of AAW. **AW**

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For more information and to register go to the AAW web site: www.aaw.cc

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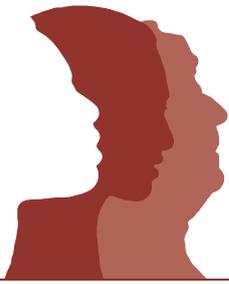
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Association of Adventist Women

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 Nicole Batten, Editor, at nicbat@pacificpress.com.

*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 Nicole Batten, *The Adventist Woman*, 17965 Monarch Way, Nampa, ID 83687.

The Adventist Woman

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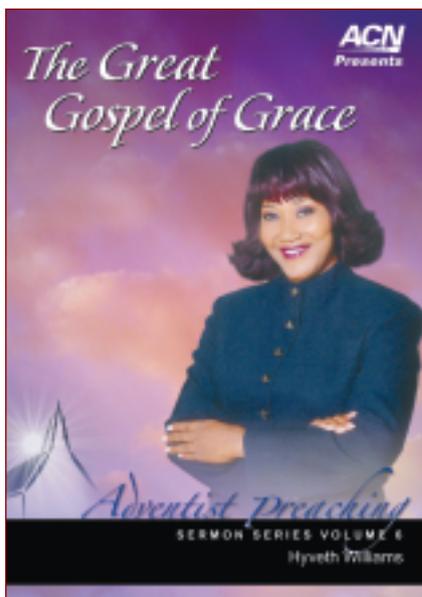
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ACN Adds First Female Pastor to Their DVD Adventist Preaching Series

A DVD collection of sermons by Dr. Hyveth Williams, the first female senior pastor and also the first Black female pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is being distributed as part of the *Adventist Preaching* collection from the Adventist Communications Network (ACN), a communications arm of the North American Division.

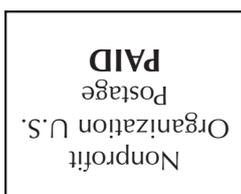
Williams' DVD is the sixth volume in the *ACN Adventist Preaching* collection. The DVDs in this collection, each a sermon series by a renowned Adventist preacher, are produced quarterly by ACN to provide sermons for churches without speakers and to give members the opportunity to build a DVD library of favorite Adventist preachers. Other preachers in the series include Don Schneider, Randy Roberts, Dwight Nelson, Barry Black, Terry Pooler, Richard Stenbakken, and Morris and Lee Venden.

Titled *The Great Gospel of Grace*, Williams' sermon series was presented and recorded at the HMS Richards Lectureship on Biblical Preaching at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. The DVD is the first one in the *ACN Adventist Preaching* collection from a female pastor.

Currently, Williams is the senior pastor of the Campus Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in Loma Linda, California, and is an adjunct professor of religion at Loma Linda University. Williams is also the author of three books, including *Will I Ever Learn: One Woman's Life of Miracles* and

Ministry, Anticipation: Waiting on Tiptoes for the Lord, and *Secrets of a Happy Heart: A Fresh Look at the Sermon on the Mount*.

To order a copy of the sermon series by Williams, call 800-ACN-1119 or visit www.acn.info. The two-DVD set is \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. AW



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