

# the Adventist Woman

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## At Walla Walla College

### Finance officer hears and helps

by Morten Juberg

Student financial aid officers in my mind are steely eyed, tight-lipped, non-smiling individuals in whose veins flow super-cooled blood.

Back in the dim days of yore when I attended college, no student aid officers were around. The only means of attending college was through grants from HWAS (Hard Work and Sweat). For me, a visit to the college business office was somewhat similar to a person's making his way to the gallows.

Therefore, with great interest I wondered



Cassie Ragenovich is a friend to students at Walla Walla College, Washington State.

what kind of a reception I would get from Cassie Ragenovich, who handles Student Accounts and Employment for Walla Walla College. My schedule called for an interview with her.

First of all, she didn't fit the stereotype I had in mind. For a moment I wondered if I was in the right office. "I'm Cassie," she said, extending her hand in greeting.

When I told her she didn't fit my idea of someone who handles student finances, she retorted, "I'm just as plain and down-to-earth as they come. I'm no one special I'm Cassie Johnson Ragenovich and I grew up on a farm. I'm not highfalutin; I'm just Cassie."

That sounded good to me, and I was about to apply for a student loan when I decided to get back to reality. I discovered this gracious lady takes a personal interest in students who need help.

She told me about four students who were at the end of the line financially. Every avenue—loans and grants—had been exhausted.

"I tossed and turned at night, worrying about those students," she said. "I had just about given up and I said to myself, 'Cassie, how crazy can you be? You've worked in this office for 11 years. How many times has the Lord turned you down? Not once.'"

The next morning she prayed about the matter, saying, "Lord, I leave it in your hands. We have done everything we can."

Two hours later at work she received a call from an individual who said he was sending a substantial gift for student aid.

"Praise the Lord, that's an answer to prayer," she exclaimed, her words ringing through the office. I looked up at the light fixtures to see if they were vibrating.

One word that comes up in a conversation with the student aid officer is *compassion*, and she refers to it often.

"I've been doing a lot of reading about compassion, and it's heavy on my mind each day as I see these students walk out of my office," she stated. "Then in a moment of reflection I ask myself, 'Have they seen Christ in me?'"

This compassion translates into some practical applications in addition to student aid.

"We have purchased \$2,500 worth of food certificates at a local market to help our

See CASSIE RAGENOVIK, p. 3

## New survey shows

### 83% college Bible teachers support women's ordination

by Roger Dudley

The appropriate role for women in the various ministries of the church continues to be a relevant and much-debated issue among Seventh-day Adventists. Since we consider ourselves to be "people of the Book," an appeal to Scripture would seem the proper way to settle this question. But, as we are painfully learning, we do not all read the Bible the same way on this topic. The lack of clear-cut Biblical teachings on ministry vis-à-vis gender, the varying hermeneutics among Adventist students of the Bible, and the diverse social backgrounds with which interpreters approach the Scriptures have led to more confusion than clarity whenever the issues have been publicly discussed.

If we cannot come to theological consensus (and it is becoming increasingly apparent that we cannot), perhaps it would be helpful to consider the proportion of the

scholars who are committed to the various opposing views. That is, two Biblical position papers on an issue—say the ordination of women to the ministry—might be presented. The arguments might seem equally convincing. But if we learned that 90 percent of the Biblical scholars endorsed one paper and only 10 percent the other, that might help guide our thinking.

With this in mind the Institute of Church Ministry sent a questionnaire to each faculty member in the Department of Religion in each of 11 colleges in the North American Division and to each faculty member in the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. According to the current SDA YEARBOOK, 131 teachers met this description. Returns were anonymous, and therefore no follow-up efforts were made, but 94 individuals, or

See BIBLE TEACHERS, p. 7



(L to R) Rosa T. Banks, Irene Osborne, and Del Delker received the 1986 Women of the Year Awards on November 29 during the fourth AAW conference, University church, Loma Linda, Calif. Reading the tributes were Dr. Calvin Rock, vice president of the General Conference; Elder David Osborne of Atlantic Union College; and Elder Wayne Hooper of the Voice of Prophecy Broadcast. Peggy Harris, director of special events for AAW, coordinated the awards ceremony. Plaques of recognition were presented by Elder Warren Banfield, GC Office of Human Relations. Photo: Penny Shell

## Unheralded women of courage heard at fourth conference

by Lorna Tobler

### Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore

Keynote speaker addressing the fourth national conference of the Association of Adventist Women was Mary Elizabeth Moore, Associate Professor of Theology at Claremont School of Theology. In her opening statement on "Women's Stories in History/Bible/Church," Dr. Moore presented the conferees with the social phenomenon of forgetting or minimizing the courage of women. Using the church community as a model, she outlined eight specific problems that lead to the "quieting of courage" seen in women:

1. The problem of a different agenda that confuses the issues.
2. The problem of a tight center of authority that excludes women.
3. The issue of ordaining women to gospel

See KEYNOTE, p. 6

### Lindy Chamberlain

Attendants at the fourth annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women were looking forward to seeing Lindy Chamberlain and hearing her personally tell the story of her long ordeal of clearing herself of murder charges in the death of her infant daughter, Azaria. At the last minute, further legal inquiries prevented Lindy from coming to California, and she asked a close personal friend and Adventist pastor, George Rollo, to come and speak on her behalf.

George Rollo, retired chaplain from the Sydney Adventist Hospital, represented Lindy with warm enthusiasm. Addressing the audience crowding the Loma Linda University church, he recounted in detail the tragic drama that began in August of 1980 in Central Australia near Ayers Rock where the

See LINDY CHAMBERLAIN, p. 5



Keynote speaker Mary Elizabeth Moore pointed out eight problems that at times quiet women's courage.



Retired chaplain George Rollo represented Lindy Chamberlain and spoke with her in Australia by phone.

# She said "No way" when God said "Be a pastor"

by Joan Angelo-Adams and Kit Watts

"Oh Lord, what are you doing to me?" thought Hyveth Williams when Pastor Charles Scriven of Sligo church in Takoma Park, Maryland, asked her to join the pastoral staff this fall.

It was not the first time Hyveth had asked the Lord this pointed question. That had been while she was in the midst of a political campaign to become mayor of Hartford, Connecticut. God dramatically intervened. "I didn't really know it was God, but I sure wondered what was going on," Hyveth recalls.

Perhaps it was like Paul being unhorsed on the road to Damascus. Hyveth considered herself an atheist, secular and ambitious. Though the polls indicated her candidacy was favored, she suddenly dropped out of the race and began to seek God's will as best she could.

Born in Jamaica and raised in London, she is the first black woman to become an associate pastor in North America. Evangelism will be her focus at Sligo. Hyveth is widowed and has a son in the Marines.

She arrived in the United States in 1970 seeking her fortune, taking jobs as an actress, model, and radio talk-show host for a Sunday-morning program. Her opinions of the Hartford deputy mayor, which she broadcast on the air, were provocative enough that he called her on the spot and demanded that she try to run things better than he did for three weeks.

"Why not?" she responded. Eventually she became his executive assistant. Later she challenged him for the mayor's seat. That was when God intervened.

Her search for God's will was convoluted. She sold her home, gave away much of what she possessed and returned to relatives in London with scarcely a penny to her name. With conviction she says, "I had to learn to depend completely on God."

A chance visit with a Seventh-day Adventist young woman on her last day of work—and Hyveth's first at the same office—ended with a three-hour walk and a Bible study. The next Sabbath Hyveth attended church with her new friend. She was baptized in 1980.



Hyveth Williams

She returned to the United States and worked in Washington, D.C., as a personnel executive. She was thrilled to soon be offered the director's job. At the same time, several other organizations asked her to leave her employer and join them at very handsome salaries.

When her interview for the directorship was held on a Sabbath, she refused to attend. She resigned. She lost everything. Even those who had once wanted her to work for them shunned her. Out of work for a year she kept praying, "What shall I do, Lord?" The answer kept coming back, "Be a pastor." And she kept saying, "No way."

But unable to resist God's call longer she enrolled at Columbia Union College and majored in religion, completing a four-year B.A. degree in about two years. After working a year, she entered the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University in 1985 and began studying for her M.Div. She will return to Michigan for another quarter to complete her degree.

What is her dream for her work at Sligo? "I dream of being so involved with personal evangelism in this congregation that one of these days there will not be space enough for the people." Anyone who has met Hyveth does not doubt that if the Lord has called her to do it, she will.

### Congratulations!

Dear Editor:

I just received vol. 5, No. 5 of *The Adventist Woman*. My husband brought one of his copies home from Fresno Adventist Academy.

I am enclosing a check for a subscription. I'm glad to see such an effort on behalf of SDA Christian women and their unique outreach. God bless you.

Carole Dennis  
Fresno, California

### On mutual respect

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter printed in the August/September 1986 issue. The writer said she was disappointed by the fact that a previous issue mentioned the children and husbands of several women ordained as elders in the Berrien Springs Spanish church. The fact that they do have children is very important to me. It tells me that these women are leaders of the church who will have the spiritual needs of the adults of tomorrow in mind, where a childless man or woman might not.

I am also gratified that it mentioned that their husbands were also church elders. It tells me that these women share in a firsthand knowledge of the responsibilities they have undertaken.

Let's not nitpick our way to equality but aim for equality through mutual respect.

Name withheld by request  
Saskatchewan, Canada

women, professional, business, and laywomen who are not at all in favor of the ordination of women. I am among these women. I would urge that we waste no more time or energy on the ordination of women, but that we focus on how we can win more souls for the Kingdom of God. What a joy comes into our hearts as we recognize that our efforts have helped to bring another the joy of knowing that he or she is a redeemed person and a member of the family of God. You and your associates are on our hearts and in our prayers.

Mercedes H. Dyer  
Berrien Springs, Michigan

### CORRECTION!!

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing my letter in the October/November 1986 issue. However, there was an error in the typesetting, which resulted in Jenny Thayer and Marion Huldah Belchambers being confused in the fourth-to-last paragraph.

Jenny Thayer was secretary-treasurer of the *Atlantic Union Conference*, while Marion Huldah Belchambers was once secretary-treasurer of three unions in the *Southern Asia Division*.

Ian Green  
Trinidad & Tobago  
West Indies

## LETTERS

### Suggestion

Dear Editor:

I am renewing my subscription. I would appreciate seeing some articles in the paper for lady church elders.

Eusebia B. Messenger  
Rochester, New York

### Take caution!

Dear Editor:

With my renewal, I want to express a deep concern I have for Adventist women. I am renewing my membership because I want to know what this organization is discussing and where these discussions are leading.

I have always advocated that Adventist women should develop their potentials to the full. I believe this with all my heart. There is no limit to the good we can do if we are fully consecrated to God and let Him lead in our lives. We have a work to do, and I trust that we will not be led astray by personal ambitions for recognition and fame. Many women have done well and have been honored with recognition and sometimes with worthy and well-deserved fame. But these are the byprod-

ucts of having dedicated oneself to a worthy goal and having worked progressively toward the goal.

I have often thought of Jesus and how He must have felt just before His crucifixion, when His disciples were contending among themselves for the highest place in His kingdom. At a time when everything in the physical, moral, and spiritual world tells us that Jesus is soon to return, isn't it a tragedy that a group are trying to push for women to be ordained in the church even at the risk of weakening the efforts of the church in finishing the work of God by taking our time and attention for a divisive issue that really is not going to make any difference in the kingdom? God will pour our His spirit upon all who He sees will glorify Him. God has chosen me and women throughout the ages to do His work. They did not have to pressure the leadership to get a title in order to do the Lord's bidding. The Spirit of God in them was sufficient authority to accomplish their mandate.

I personally feel that if we would put self aside and let the Holy Spirit direct our thoughts and lives, we would find such joy in service that the issue of ordination of women would be forgotten and we would bend our efforts together with our leadership to focus on how every person could be won for Christ in our generation so that Jesus' coming world not find us wanting.

Furthermore, there are many Adventist

### From retirement to president

## Woman heads Virginia hospital

Louise Osborn has been named president of Tidewater Memorial Hospital, making her one of the few women hospital presidents in Virginia.

While not part of the Adventist Health System, the hospital is operated by VersaCare, a hospital management group made up primarily of Seventh-day Adventists. VersaCare also operates hospitals in Florida and California.

Osborn had retired after a busy career including heading a critical-care program at Methodist Hospital in Memphis; being director of nurses at Highland Hospital in Tennessee; assistant administrator at Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park, Florida; vice president of patient care at Hugueley Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, and finally as vice president for patient care in Smyrna, Georgia.

In October, 1983, Tidewater Memorial Hospital prevailed on her to come out of

retirement and serve as vice president of patient care. On January 1, 1986, she was named acting president of the hospital. On March 27 she became president. Stanley Grube, VersaCare president said, "I am most appreciative of what she has accomplished in the short time she has been in the office of president. This performance has not gone unnoticed."

When Osborn took office, the hospital was in the midst of a \$3.5-million-dollar expansion program. New services already opened this year include an alcohol and drug rehabilitation center and a dialysis center. The expansion adds 25,000 square feet to the facility.

Originally from Dyersburg, Tennessee, Osborn obtained her R.N. degree from Florida Hospital and her B.S. from Columbia Union College.



Louise Osborn

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Deadline for the next issue of *The Adventist Woman* is Tuesday, February 10.

Mail your copy at least 5 days in advance of the deadline to have it in Berrien Springs on time. The editor schedules the Friday and Sunday after the deadline to put the material together. Send regular mail to: 4686 Greenfield, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

Use an *air express service* if you mail later in the week of the deadline. Address this type of delivery to Kit Watts, c/o James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104.

## EDITORIAL STAFF

The Adventist Woman  
Volume 5, No. 6

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Penny Shell  
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Mailing..... Carol Stewart  
Vera Capman

# Partial directory of women pastors & chaplains

This directory of Adventist women in pastoral ministry and chaplaincy, or in training for these professions, is an attempt to provide a network of communication and support. Additions, changes, and corrections should be addressed to Penny Shell, 509 W. Aldine, Chicago, IL 60657.

## PASTORAL MINISTRY

Leslie Bumgardner  
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Esther Burley  
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*Associate pastor*  
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Corona, CA 91720

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*Minister*  
Fairfax SDA Church  
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Sharon Hanson  
*Associate pastor*  
Corona SDA Church  
2550 S. Main Street  
Carona, CA 91720

Duane Frey  
*Associate pastor*  
Orlando Central SDA Church  
Orlando, Florida

## CASSIE RAGENOVICH

From front page

married students who are really tight financially," she said.

Cassie told about a single mother with children who came to her office to check on her attendance the next quarter.

"She had adequate money to cover school expenses; I gave her financial clearance to attend the next quarter, and she got up to leave," she recalled. "I called her back and said, 'Don't go yet.'"

The two talked about the pressures the mother felt in attending school, and Cassie felt a strong urge to give her some food certificates.

"I generally give \$25, but I gave her \$50 for some reason. Then she told me she hadn't known where money was coming from for Christmas dinner.

"Married students come to my office, and you find out that have only one or two cans of food in their cupboard. In College Place? Who would believe it, but it's true."

I left Cassie's office with a new regard for those who deal with student finances. Her final words kept echoing through my mind:

"I don't want students to walk out of this office and say they have been treated rudely or un-Christian. If they say, 'Cassie didn't let me have what I wanted,' that's OK. My burden is that no student leaves this office saying 'I have been treated unkindly.'"

Morten Juberg is editor of the North Pacific Union Gleaner. This article is reprinted with permission from the July 21, 1986, issue.

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Loma Linda University Church  
Loma Linda, CA 92354

Sheryll McMillan  
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Calimesa, CA 92320

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Shirley Ponder  
*Associate pastor*  
Loma Linda University Church  
Loma Linda, CA 92354



(L to R) Becky Lacy Fenderson, Jan Daffern, Shirley Ponder, Peggy Hempe, Penny Shell, and Halcyon Wilson—all women in ministry—stopped for a photo together on the front lawn of the Loma Linda University church during the Women of Courage Conference. Also attending but not pictured were Esther Burley, Sheryll McMillan, and Bronwen Watts.

Delores Robinson  
*Associate pastor*  
Arden Hills SDA Church  
5801 Arden Avenue  
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Hyveth Williams  
*Associate pastor*  
Sligo SDA Church  
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Takoma Park, MD 20912

Halcyon Wilson  
*Associate pastor*  
La Sierra College Church  
Riverside, CA 92505

## CHAPLAINCY

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*Chaplain*  
St. Helena Hospital and Health Center  
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Betty Unger  
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Hinsdale Adventist Hospital  
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Bronwen Watts  
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## IN TRAINING

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Upper Columbia Academy  
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*CPE Resident/Medcenter One*  
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Linda Gage  
*CPE Resident/LLU Medical Center*  
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## OTHERS

Josephine Benton  
(Formerly pastor at  
Rockville SDA Church)  
*Associate Director*  
*Adult Evening Program*  
Columbia Union College  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Hilda Camargo  
(Formerly chaplain at  
Hialeah Hospital  
Hialeah, FL 33013)

Shari Chamberlain  
(Formerly associate  
pastor at  
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MD)

Carol Rasmussen Palmer (CPE)  
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New England Memorial Hospital)  
*Employment Specialist*  
Kettering Medical Center  
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Kettering, OH 45429

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Battle Creek Sanitarium)  
*Assoc. Dean of Women*  
Lamson Hall  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, MI 49104

Ardyce Sweem (CPE)  
(Formerly chaplain at  
Washington Adventist Hospital)

Margaret Turner (M.Div., CPE)  
1119 Oakwood Avenue  
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Helen Tyler (CPE, D.Min.)  
(Formerly chaplain at  
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*Pastoral counselor*  
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Frances Wiegand  
(Formerly associate pastor  
at Beltsville SDA Church)  
601 E. Rollins St.  
Orlando, FL 32803



Nancy Marter, homemaker from Silver Spring, Maryland, became president of AAW during the conference. She presented Betty Howard, retiring president, a plaque of recognition for her four years of service as the first AAW president.



Linda Halstead, chairman of the steering committee that organized the Women of Courage Conference, welcomed about 150 registrants to the opening session, Friday morning after Thanksgiving. She works for Loma Linda University's development office.

## Consternation, celebration

by Penny Shell

Sabbath, November 29, was a day of consternation and celebration. The consternation was clearest during Sabbath school, the worship service, and the afternoon plenary session. Often concern centered on the topic of women in ministry.

"What was I to say to the young woman in my study who told me she felt a call to ministry?" asked Pastor Louis Venden during the worship service.

"Should I say, 'You are deceived'? Or 'you can lead souls to baptism and then step aside'? Or 'the real reason you cannot perform marriage and baptism is because you were born a woman and not a man'?"

At the heart of the issue of ordination, Venden said, are the gifts and the call of God. "If we think we can solve it through our committee actions, we are dangerously close to arrogance," he added.

Inviting the congregation to be open to the winds of the Spirit as they celebrate the past, Venden then introduced Kermit Netteburg's "When God Calls." Narrated by Helen Thompson and directed by Pam Dietrich, the chancel reading moved back and forth between small groups ("That's right, a woman's place is in the home") to portrayals of pioneer Adventist women telling their own stories of work and courage.

For Sabbath school a panel of Adventist and Methodist women and men in ministry compared their experiences:

Before her call, Fran Cooper, pastor of North Oxnard United Methodist church, had decided there was no God. Investigating graduate study programs, she had said casually, "Oh God! Where am I going to study?" The very clear answer to her unintentional prayer was, "Go to seminary."

Friday—November 28

## Taking courage

by Madeline Johnston

"Women of Courage"—approximately 150 of them, along with a few courageous men—registered for the fourth annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women, hosted by the Inland Empire Chapter and the Loma Linda University church. California sunshine spilled over the church complex where registrants picked up bright blue folders, hot drinks and sweet rolls, and visited briefly until the first session convened in the youth chapel.

### Welcome and farewell

Linda Halstead, chair of the conference planning committee, and Ardyce Koobs, council member and former mayor of the city of Loma Linda, greeted the group. Betty Howard, outgoing AAW president, called the meeting to order. "Women's issues are human issues," she affirmed in her farewell speech. "We cannot be whole until we fully utilize the talents of both men and women."

Howard, who has been president during the four years of AAW's infancy, received a standing ovation at the close of her speech. Nancy Marter, who has been president-elect, presented Howard with a plaque honoring her for leadership and courage that has inspired Adventist women. Marter is a homemaker, nurse, lay leader in the Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Potomac Conference and the Columbia Union Conference Committees.

### Official greetings

Greetings to the conference were delivered from Don Jacobsen, Oregon Conference president; C. E. Bradford, North American Division president; Neal Wilson, General Conference president; William Johnson, *Adventist Review* editor; Grace Scheresky, president of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Nurses (ASDAN); and a new AAW chapter in Sydney, Australia.

Marter also acknowledged the contribution of three Adventist women whose deaths represent a tragic loss to the church during the past year; Norma Eldridge Lewis, Maureen Maxwell, and Betty Ahnberg.

Two concurrent features of the convention were pointed out to the delegates: a display of



(L to R) Dr. Helen Ward Thompson, Elizabeth Sterndale, and Helen King participated in the Friday afternoon plenary session. Thompson reported on attending the United Nations conference for women in Nairobi, Kenya, last year, where she was one of four Adventist delegates.

current books on feminist issues prepared, along with a bibliography by Carol Richardson, reference librarian at Loma Linda University; and a display of women's art, coordinated by Florence Lorenz, a graduate student in architecture at California State Polytechnic University.

### Keynote and workshops

The highlight of the day was the keynote address, "Women's Stories in History/Bible/



Mrs. Nelma Drake, owner of Heritage Retirement Centers, drove in from Idaho to enjoy the food and friendship fostered by the Women of Courage conference. She is a member of the Walla Walla College board.

Church" by Mary Elizabeth Moore, an associate professor of theology at Claremont School of Theology. A single mother with degrees in psychology, education, and theology, she was well qualified to address the topic. Her quiet demeanor coupled with her obvious ease in public speaking and command of her subject quickly established a rapport with the audience. (A full report of her address is on page 1.)

On Friday afternoon participants could attend two one-hour workshops from among four offered: a discussion on balancing personal and professional life led by Jan Hackleman, executive director, Inland Counties Family Learning Center; views of women in pastoral roles led by Madelynn Haldeman, assistant professor of New Testament, Loma Linda University; "A Model for Change," a working session applying principles for effecting change by Patricia Habada, editor-in-chief, *Life Series Readers*, General Conference; "Women Artists/Women Images" by Ellen Phelan, art consultant, San Diego City Schools.

### Nairobi report

Helen Thompson, vice president for academic affairs, LLU, opened the 3 o'clock



(L to R) international women who spoke Friday afternoon included: Ampai Aimsri (Thailand), M.P.H. student; Inherla Hernandez (Philippines) D.H.Sc. student; Kopano Mpuang (Botswana), junior medical student; Ira Ray (India), assistant professor of microbiology at LLU; Selma Tooma (Iraq), department secretary, behavioral sciences, LLU. Each commented upon women's needs in their countries, both in the church and in society at large. All conference photos by Penny Shell

plenary session. She was one of four Adventist delegates to the United Nations conference for women in Nairobi, Kenya, last year. After briefly reporting on that conference, she introduced six international women from Loma Linda University who each described the past and present status of women in their respective countries. Thompson summarized these needs as (1) health needs, (2) educational needs, (3) the need for continued aggressive action regarding employment of women, and (4) the need for intelligent and realistic recognition of women's needs as heads of households.

### Neal C. Wilson message

The plenary session concluded with Elizabeth Sterndale's report on the objectives of the GC Women's Ministries Advisory Committee, which was established at the 1985 Annual Council. Betty Holbrook, who chairs the committee, was unable to attend. Sterndale, a member of the group, shared a letter from Neal Wilson outlining the progress he felt the church had made in response to the council's work. A lively debate from the floor took place, which was to continue Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning, whenever

members were given a chance to ask questions or comment.

### Love food and stories

Friday evening's *agape* supper in the church's fellowship hall was coordinated by Marta Teel, Spanish teacher at Bloomington High School. Participants sat at round tables and enjoyed fresh fruit, bread, and cheese, and much conversation. Audray Johnson, departmental director of health, family ministries, and legislative concerns for the Southeastern California Conference, had prepared a liturgy for the occasion. Toini Shobe, associate professor of the Social Relations Department, LLU, elicited stories of personal spiritual journeys from Pat Wick, Lorene Jabola, Loma Tobler, and Betty Howard.

The first day of our conference ended in a moving rendition of "Let Us Break Bread Together," offered by soprano Cassandra Hutchins, accompanied by a simple enactment by Rosalie Branigan, director of the Claremont United Methodist Liturgical Dance Choir. It was the beginning of new friendships, feelings of solid Christian unity, and a corporate sense of identifying with women of courage.

## Mission Statement

"So God made man in His own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female created He them." Genesis 1:27

In God's sight each individual has the potential to make a valuable contribution to our world. It is the purpose of this group of Adventist women to help the individuals in our church reflect more fully the image of God in their relationships to each other in the home, the church, the work setting and in the community.

Through the means of this publication which focuses on the development, discoveries, interests and potential of Christian woman, our goals are:

1) To encourage communication, support and wider understanding among Adventist women in diverse situations.

2) To acquaint the church community at large with Adventist women's potential and achievements.

3) To assist Adventist women in achieving fulfillment in their interpersonal relationships, personal development and relationships to God.

4) To help Adventist women to maximize their options, whatever their age and situation, that they may reflect more fully the image of God.

# Future talk

by Kit Watts

A more articulate group of Adventist women probably has not met to grapple with their future in the church: homemakers, accountants, administrators, attorneys, nurses, pastors, teachers, librarians, chaplains, musicians, businesswomen, and many more. Inspired by the "Women of Courage" conference theme, they filled a large Sabbath school room in the church complex by 8:30 Sunday morning.

### Critical mass

"You may have achieved a critical mass that will start a chain reaction," observed Warren Banfield, director of the Office of Human Relations. Banfield has been an official NAD representative to the last three AAW conferences and has worked to bridge the gap between women and the official church.

Of the 150 registrants, more than 80 partook of a quick continental breakfast that included fresh-squeezed orange juice, and then resolutely addressed the business at hand. Unable to predict the fervor that would gain momentum through the weekend, conference planners had provided only an hour and a half for the business meeting. Six hours would have been none too many.

When the group broke at 10:25 a.m. in order to take their reserved front seats in the University church for the Lindy Chamberlain story, they had unanimously called to extend the session as soon as possible, even though President Nancy Marter had to leave to catch her plane. Betty Howard, immediate past president, was pressed into service for the extra meeting, which met without a break for lunch until nearly 3 p.m.

### AAW expands goals

Future talk filled the air. Of nine motions voted, six addressed goals and plans for the immediate future of Adventist women at large or the association members themselves.

Resolutions came from the floor, formulated on the spot, since no formal resolutions

committee had been appointed. The two most comprehensive ones dealt with women and ordination. A third called for AAW to focus on five specific goals.

Three votes established ad hoc committees; another called upon AAW to develop materials to support women serving as local church elders, and another accepted Delight Clapp's treasurer's report.

Helen Thompson, LLU vice president for academic affairs, offered five goals to focus AAW's work in the immediate future:

1. Employment at all levels of the church to be open to the best-qualified persons regardless of gender, including the ordained ministry.
2. Equal pay for equal work. ("In theory we have it, in practice many don't," Dr. Thompson noted.)
3. Equal representation of men and women on the decision-making bodies of the church at all levels.
4. Establishment of women's commissions in each union conference.
5. An active thrust to educate the church on women's potential.

Each goal was debated separately, and ultimately the "how to" concerns were deferred in order that the goals themselves could be set. The resolution passed with overwhelming approval.

### May only men study ordination?

With about a dozen women serving as pastors and chaplains in the Pacific Union territory, and many within the Southeastern California Conference, their future in the church was a major concern. Two resolutions, each thoroughly discussed and amended here and there, passed.

The first took up a question Dr. Thompson had raised on Friday: Who in the church has been authorized to study women's ordination? Elizabeth Sterndale reported that the topic is exclusively the province of the Biblical Research Institute, primarily made up of

See FUTURE TALK, p. 6

"I felt like I went to audition, was called onto stage, and somebody threw away the script," she remembers. She has now been ordained more than 11 years.

Although she was pulled toward ministry from her youth, Jan Daffern, associate pastor, Sligo SDA church, said her experience was not "a pleasant, smooth road." "People were irritated that I should have a call."

Fred Coots, senior pastor, St. Matthew's United Methodist church, and Dan Goddard, ministerial secretary, Potomac Conference of SDA, said they came to have confidence that women were also called to ministry after they worked with women and observed their gifts in action.

Although Goddard pointed out that strongest opposition to ordaining women comes from women, Cooper said her strongest support has come from older women who tell her, "Good for you! I felt that call and couldn't respond. Go for it!" Daffern agreed that what keeps her going in spite of problems are "older women and little girls," who encourage her and who see her as role model.

"How is it," Coots asked Venden, "that you are so slow to ordain women—wasn't your church founded by a woman?"

"Didn't I tell you not to ask that?" Venden smiled.

### Should the earth be round?

The Plenary Session began Sabbath afternoon with presentations by Joyce Hopp, Dean, LLU School of Allied Health Professions; and Danielle Wuchenich, attorney.

The church should open its door to its daughters, Hopp said, because (1) a male ministry is only half a ministry, (2) some needs of the church can be better met by women, (3) women have demonstrated their competence and ability, (4) the church claims to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, (5) the church should bring its practice into harmony with its profession, (6) women carrying out work need the protection of professional recognition, (7) the church needs to prevent the increasing exodus of our young people, and (8) the time is right.

"To say, 'Should we ordain women?' is like asking, 'Should the earth be round?'" Wuchenich added. If darkness, weeping, and gnashing of teeth are the punishment for those who don't use their talents what will be the punishment of those who stopped them? "Talents are not testosterone related."

Fritz Guy, associate pastor of the University church, moderated a panel responding to the presentations: panel members were Alyce Pudewell, associate director of education, Pacific Union Conference; Penny Miller, associate professor, LLU School of Nursing; Dan Goddard, ministerial secretary, Potomac Conference, and Ruth Burke, chair, LLU Department of Modern Languages.

## LINDY CHAMBERLAIN

From front page

Chamberlain family went for a holiday. Four days after pitching camp, one evening at dusk two month-old Azaria Chamberlain disappeared from the tent. Her body was never found, and no explanation or clues to her disappearance were ever discovered. Only a dingo, an Australian wild dog, was seen leaving the vicinity with something in its mouth. Since that day this Australian Adventist family has lived in tragedy.

Initially cleared of any suspicion, the Chamberlains were submitted to a second inquest late in 1981 by a new coroner. The second inquest found sufficient evidence for a prima facie case against both parents and they were tried the following year. In October of 1982 Lindy Chamberlain was found guilty and given a life sentence. Michael, an Adventist pastor, was also found guilty, but sentenced only to 18 months and released on bond. The verdict was appealed, but upheld by the Federal Court in 1983.

Later, however, new evidence surfaced that threw strong suspicion on "the Crown's" conviction, which in fact had been reached in the absence of any witnesses, any motive, any body, or any weapon. Especially dramatic was the discovery of Azaria's cardigan,



Recalling Peter's astonishment and dismay at seeing the Holy Spirit fall upon the Gentiles, Lou Venden, senior minister at the Loma Linda University church, called upon his congregation and conference delegates to be open to the use of women's gifts, including pastoral ministry.



(L to R) Danny Lau, Tonya Murdoch, and Heather Crane gave voices to women in Adventist history during their reading of "When God Calls" during both worship services at the University church on November 29. The cast of 14 was directed by Pam Dietrich.

Celebration was clearest in the afternoon awards ceremony and during vespers. Rosa Banks, Del Delker, and Irene Osborne were honored as Women of the Year for their contributions to professional, church, and home/community life, respectively (see the September/October issue of THE ADVENTIST WOMAN).

Peggy Harris, special events director, said the three were honored to "encourage many other women and men in their lives."

Vespers celebrated the lives of several women in Scripture through song, word, and enactment by the Claremont United Methodist Church Liturgical Dance Choir, directed by Rosalie Branigan.

which Lindy said she had been wearing and which destroyed the Crown's theory of how the murder was carried out. This finally resulted in reopening the case. Further hearings were in progress at the very time of the AAW conference in Loma Linda.

### Live telephone visit

A dramatic moment in the presentation came when Pastor Rollo was interrupted by a conference telephone call from Lindy in Australia. The audience shared their conversation on the prospects of the forthcoming hearing, and joined prayers across the Pacific for a favorable outcome and relief from their ordeal. Waves of applause from the audience brought a choked response from Lindy and a feeling of solidarity from the audience with this family in distress.

George Rollo then presented the documentary film of the Chamberlain family that had been aired on Australian television, and which had influenced many Australians to call for a reopening of the case. In addition to the new evidence that was presented in this documentary, the film itself showed a warm, intelligent, likeable young woman, one who eminently deserves to be heard, supported, and honored for her courage in refusing to bend the truth as she knows it, and her amazing strength for herself and her family in the face of awesome adversaries.



"Methodist Witness/Adventist Testimony" was moderated by Lou Venden (center) with guests (L to R) Fred Coots, pastor of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church; Jan Daffern, associate pastor at Sligo church; Fran Cooper, pastor of North Oxnard United Methodist church; and Dan Goddard, ministerial secretary, Potomac Conference.



(L to R) Elders Warren Banfield and Eloy Martinez of the North American Division Office of Human Relations shared their agape meal on Friday night with Helen Register, nutritionist and retired teacher from the Loma Linda School of Health.

All conference photos by Penny Shell

# Constituents vote to end discrimination

In a move to end discrimination against unordained women in pastoral ministry, the constituency of the Southeastern California Conference voted on September 28, 1986, "to give to unordained women and men the same rights and privileges in regard to officiating at baptisms and weddings in our conference." Since the conference currently authorizes unordained men to officiate at baptisms and weddings, the effect of the constituency action is to authorize unordained women to do the same.

According to Conference President Steven Gifford, who discussed the situation with the board of the University church in Loma Linda on November 28, although the women who are associates in pastoral care clearly have the right to conduct baptisms and weddings, in the interest of church unity they have been

asked not to exercise that right. Elder Gifford said, however, that if a woman has a personal conviction that she should function in that way, the conference will support her right to do so.

In the constituency meeting, which convened in the La Sierra Collegiate church, it was argued that the practice of not allowing unordained women to officiate at baptisms and weddings while allowing unordained men to do so has no theological or pragmatic basis, and therefore constitutes morally unacceptable discrimination. It was further argued that since this discrimination is a moral issue, it is a matter of conscience and not merely a matter of procedure, and that it is therefore the right and responsibility of the conference to end the discrimination even though the present policies of the Pacific

Union Conference and the North American Division allow it. There was some opposition to the proposed change, but the motion had broad support and passed easily.

Since the constituency meeting, criticism of the Southeastern California Conference action has centered on the fact that the conference did not wait for the rest of the church to address the problem. There has been little if any objection to the substance of the action.

The difference in function between unordained women and men in the North American Division was established at the time of the General Conference Annual Council of 1985, when it was decided that the three women ministers of the Potomac Conference who had been conducting baptisms should not continue to do so. At that time it was also decided that the whole subject of the role of

women in ministry, including the question of ordination, should be studied further and resolved at the General Conference session in Indianapolis in 1990.

In the meantime, there is some indication that the question of the function of all unordained ministers, men as well as women, in relation to baptisms and weddings will be discussed at the 1987 Year End Meeting of the North American Division.

Until 1974, unordained ministers in North America did not ordinarily conduct baptisms and weddings. The change was instituted in that year in order to preserve the "self-employed" status of unordained ministers, without which the employing organizations would be required to pay Social Security taxes on their wages and they would lose tax benefits. Now, however, new regulations from the Internal Revenue Service do not require that unordained ministers perform the same functions as ordained ministers in order to be regarded as "self-employed."



Maryan Stirling, president of the host Inland Empire Chapter of AAW, rose to speak persuasively in the early Sunday morning business session. Seated in front of her are (L to R) Elizabeth Sterndale of the GC Women's Advisory Council; Jocelyn Fay, *Adventist Review* managing editor; Betty Howard, past president of AAW; Linda Halstead, chairman of the conference steering committee.



The business session reconvened after the Lindy Chamberlain story on Sunday morning which had attracted hundreds. Dr. Helen Thompson offered five goals to focus AAW's work in the immediate future including a call for equal representation of men and women on decision-making bodies of the church at all levels.

All conference photos by Penny Shell

## FUTURE TALK FROM PAGE 5

men. The two women's groups—the GC Women's Ministries Advisory Committee and the NAD Women's Commission sponsored by the Office of Human Relations—have been expressly forbidden to put ordination on their agendas.

Dr. Thompson had responded to this information saying, "I find that very strange."

### Urgent request

Information discussions with church leaders at the conference brought to light the fact that the newly commissioned BRI papers may be destined for debate at the 1988 Annual Council, which meets in Africa. The North American Division, for whom the issue is critical, is likely to have extremely weak representation at the meeting—and few if any women among its delegates.

An "urgent request" to the North American Division leadership was offered in the form of a resolution by Charles Teel, asking NAD to act in favor of ordaining women pastors and chaplains and to initiate broad educational programs. A second part of this resolution suggested methods AAW might use to communicate the urgency of the item.

Another resolution appealed to GC officers to publish the names of scholars who are participating in the new BRI study. It also recommended that an objective chairman be chosen to guide the committee's work.

### New committees

Three ad hoc committees were set up to (1) better involve and meet the needs of homemakers, (2) study the AAW dues structure and fundraising needs so that all financial obligations can be met. (A current project needing support is the one-year subscription to *Adventist Woman* being given to 1000 church leaders.) And (3) a committee to

follow-up with appropriate GC officers their own voted decision to develop affirmative-action programs to bring qualified women into church leadership roles.

Weary and hungry, but bonded by their exertion toward common objectives, about 50 delegates heard the final gavel fall. California sun smiled on them as they disbanded. The sense of focused goals and newly strengthened friendships made the future definitely seem brighter.



Emily Murdoch, daughter of Jean and Bill Murdoch, was one of the youngest at the Sunday business session which she blissfully ignored as Junell Vance, a member of the North American Division Women's Commission from New York, busily took notes. The commission met for two days following the conference.

## KEYNOTE FROM FRONT PAGE

ministry, which addresses the problem of breaking into the tight center.

4. The problem of excluding lay members from the tight center.

5. The problem of using masculine language for humanity and God.

6. The problem of unexamined prejudice.

7. The problem of rigid leadership styles that blinds leaders to creative new approaches women offer.

8. The complexity of all these elements inextricably bound up in the silencing of women's real strength and courage.

Dr. Moore illustrated how this phenomenon operates in the lives of widows, generally thought of as vulnerable and disadvantaged. Drawing on the story of the widow of Zarephath as told in 1 Kings 17, she cited commentators who conclude that the widow was enabled by Elijah to act in faith, rather than by God, and that the story thus demonstrates the prophet's authority. Such a reading of the text ignores the statement that it was God who commanded the widow, and it was the widow herself who acted in faith upon God's word and so became God's channel of grace to Elijah. "The irony is that

she was mediating God's gifts to Elijah, and Elijah is being given all the credit . . . Elijah's sustenance came from God and the widow-woman. His greatness was not his own. The great cover-up denies that fact. The cover-up is our own blindness that ignores the witness to God offered by women and the poor."

In contrast to the usual reading of this story, Dr. Moore urged the audience to remember that it tells of a strong woman. It also portrays the vulnerability of Elijah as a person in need. The widow's story contrasts with that of Elijah and Ahab in their power play, and shows that God chooses to work quietly through the witness of a poor widow-woman—outside the "proper" institution, the "proper" nation, and the "proper" sex.

Strangely enough, Dr. Moore concluded, deciding who can consecrate, who can serve, and who can receive, even now is often a way by which one church excludes another, one group demonstrates its higher rank to others. "And yet, God served the holy meal to Elijah from the hands of a poor foreign widow. The widow of Zarephath simply took what she had and served it. She was a strong woman."

### How to encourage courage

In her discussion with conferees on ways of addressing various aspects of the problems that silence women's courage, Dr. Moore emphasized the importance of listening to one another and hearing how others define the issues. She urged seeking wide inclusion and participation in decision-making. Especially important is seeing women as channels of God's power and grace and of bringing God's word to congregations. We should not be bound by the limitations placed by others, but should ask, "What is my calling?" and follow it fearlessly. Dr. Moore urged conferees to articulate these problems in sessions of their own congregations, to look for ways of empowering others, and pray for a vision of a larger community.

• Elenor Spoor-Zumwalt, newly appointed Pacific Union College Alumni Association executive secretary, is spearheading organization of new alumni chapters in addition to other alumni duties. She brings to her assignment more than 20 years of forming friendships with hundreds of PUC graduates. She has served as an academy dean, college public relations officer, and associate dean of students at PUC. In 1970 she launched a fully staffed counseling center at PUC. She earned a doctoral degree from the University of Southern California in 1973.