

the Adventist Woman

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March, 1985

GC Commission to Study Ordination of Women

Members of a committee formed to recommend action to the General Conference session concerning the ordination of women are studying documents on the topic in preparation for their March 26-29 meeting in Washington, D.C.

Laywomen representing North America on the committee include Dorothy Eddlemon of Tempe, Arizona, a member of the Pacific Union Conference executive committee; Hedwig Jemison of Berrien Springs, Michigan, retired Assistant Director of the Ellen G. White Estate; Rosalee Haffner Lee of Big Rapids, Michigan, a pastor's wife and author

of recent Sabbath school lessons on Psalms; Delores Maupin of Washington, D.C., a consultant specializing in written communication skills; Torhild Rom of Pearl River, New York, a local church elder; and Delores Slikkers of Holland, Michigan, a philanthropist who served on the General Conference Role and Function Committee.

Kit Watts, a poet, writer, and editor is currently a librarian at Andrews University and has an undergraduate degree in theology.

Of the three pastors serving on the committee from the North American Division,

one is a woman: Marsha Frost, who pastors the Fairfax, Virginia, SDA church.

Beatrice Neal, a religion teacher at Union College, is one of the five NAD representatives from the academic community.

Four women from overseas divisions will serve on the commission. One of the three Australasian Division representatives is Joan Baldwin, an active layperson in the Wahroonga (Sydney) Adventist church. Shirani D'Alwis, an ordained local church elder, has been asked to be a delegate from the Southern Asia Division. Aulikki Nahkola

will be one of the representatives from Northern Europe. The Far Eastern Division is sending Dr. Nancy Bassham, an educator from Singapore, as one of their three delegates.

Among the General Conference representatives are the following women: Betty Holbrook, Director of Home and Family Service; and Charlotte Conway, Business Manager of Home Study International.

The number of women participating in this meeting comprise the largest percentage of female representation on any General Conference committee in recent church history.

Women Contribute to New SDA Hymnal

by Wayne Hooper
Executive Secretary, Church Hymnal Committee

The contribution of women poets and composers to the hymnic treasure of the world is well-known to those who look at the top of the hymn to see who did the creative work. A quick survey of the computer print-out for our soon-to-be-published *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* turns up many familiar names.

But right now I wish to honor the women of our own church who have left their mark on our new hymnal. Their spiritual ancestor is, of course, the very talented poetess, Annie R. Smith. The sister of Uriah Smith, Annie worked for a time as a proofreader at the Review and Herald, and many of her hymn poems appeared on the cover of the Review. "I saw One Weary," and "How Far From Home," have been retained in the new hymnal.

Three women served with distinction as members of the hymnal committee which did its work over the three-year period 1982-1985. Alma Blackmon, director of the Aeolians of Oakwood College and a massed choir director at the Dallas General Conference session in 1980, was a member of the tunes and organization subcommittees. Her loving demeanor, keen sense of humor, and sensitivity to people's needs helped us many times in making difficult decisions. You will see her name on the right side as arranger of several of the favorite Negro spirituals.

Rochelle La Grone represented SDA academy teachers, coming from Philadelphia Junior Academy where she is school secretary and teaches classes in French and music. For a number of years, Rochelle directed the music at Glendale Academy and was minister of music for the Vallejo Drive SDA Church. She is an organist and pianist, and her organizing ability came to the fore as she led out in the imposing task of assigning hymns to the right place in the topical index.

Our literature expert was Dr. Otilie Stafford, who for many years has taught English at Atlantic Union College. Serving on the subcommittee on texts, she always gave us

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Dr. Otilie Stafford

BULLETIN

The Andrews Society for Religious Studies,* meeting in Chicago, Illinois, this 13th day of December, 1984, hereby affirms its faith in the fundamental equality of all believers in Christ; in the desirability of developing all those gifts, talents, and abilities bestowed by our Lord upon His church; and in the Scriptural basis for the equality of men and women in service to God and to His church.

We pledge ourselves to encourage, support, and uphold the hands of the general church leadership and the Commission on the Ordination of Women. We urge the Commission to recommend to the church in its forthcoming quinquennial session that women be considered as candidates for ordination to the gospel ministry wherever it would strengthen the work of the church.

* ASRS is a professional organization of Adventist church leaders, teachers, pastors, and editors, which meets in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion.

Commission Participants

The General Conference has announced the names of those who have been selected to serve on the Commission to Study Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry, which will meet in Washington, D.C. March 26-29.

General Conference
Neal C. Wilson, Chairman
George W. Reid, Secretary
Warren S. Banfield
Lowell L. Bock
Charles E. Bradford
Lance L. Butler
Charlotte Conway*
Charles B. Hirsch
Betty Holbrook*
Alf Lohne
K. J. Mittleider
Enoch Oliveira
Calvin B. Rock
J. R. Spangler
G. Ralph Thompson
F. W. Wernick
K. H. Wood

Academic Representatives
Raoul Dederen
Gerhard Hasel
William Johnsson
W. Richard Leshner
Beatrice Neal*
V. N. Olsen

Divisions:

Africa-Indian Ocean
Joseph Ola
R. J. Kloosterhuis

Australasian
Joan Baldwin*
Arthur Ferch
W. R. L. Scragg

Eastern Africa
Bekele Heye
S. Wakabi
M. Musvosvi

Euro-Africa
J. Zurcher

Far Eastern
A. C. Segovia
W. T. Clark
Nancy Bassham*

Inter-American
George Brown
J. H. Figueroa
Angel Rodriguez
E. J. Murray

North American
Robert Carter
Jackson Doggette, Sr.
Dorothy Eddlemon*
Joseph Espinosa
Marsha Frost*
Hedwig Jemison*
Rosalee Haffner Lee*
E. E. Lutz, Jr.
Delores Maupin*
Max Martinez
A. C. McClure
E. A. Roberts
Torhild Rom*
Delores Slikkers*
Kit Watts*
J. W. Wilson
Ron Wisbey
Henry Wright

Northern Europe
Jan Paulsen
Aulikki Nahkola*
Rolf Kvinge

South American
Mario Veloso
Rubens Lessa
Joao Wolff

Southern Asia
John Willmott
Shirani D'Alwis*
Gerald Christo

* Women members of the commission.

Hymnal from page 1

excellent counsel on what constituted good poetry, and how to recognize clichés and trite, overworked phrases. When a line or a word needed to be changed to bring it into line with scripture, Otilie usually came up with just the right solution.

Many times she helped us to become aware of the male-oriented words in the hymns, and sparked our creativity in coming up with other words that would be nonoffensive or all-inclusive. After the committee had rejected the hymn, "Rise Up, O Men of God," because of its obvious sexist language, Dr. Stafford submitted to us an adaptation that we gladly accepted. The first stanza of the hymn now begins, "Rise up, O men of God"; the second opens with "Let women all rise up"; the third begins with "Rise up, courageous youth"; and the fourth concludes, "Rise up, O church of God." These revisions enabled the committee to save this strong challenging hymn.

Otilie's poetic ability will also be a blessing to us all in a new Sabbath hymn entitled, "The Sacred Anthem." Inspired by a hymn tune composed by Dr. Melvin West, she began the poem while at the meeting, and finished it a few days later at home. The words beautifully depict the first Sabbath with Adam and Eve, then contrast the problems of keeping the Sabbath in this present world with the joys of sharing this blessed experience with the Creator in the earth made new.

It is interesting that all three of the new Sabbath hymn texts that we voted were written by women. Gem Fitch, piano teacher at Kingsway College, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, submitted a poem, "Crowning Jewel of Creation," which was voted with a new tune written especially for this poem by Wayne Hooper. Regarding her poem, Gem says, "I am a joyful person who wants to share beauty with enthusiasm. This is the approach I have taken to this Sabbath hymn. There is not a shred of legalism connected to this view of the Sabbath. I feel if it is viewed in the light of being the most precious gift the Lord has bestowed on us for all time and eternity, then it will draw people to realize how gracious and loving the Lord is."



Gem Fitch

"Dear Lord, We Come at Set of Sun" was written by Mary Spiedel, a free-lance writer who worked as a secretary for the Coast Guard and the Federal Communications Commission before serving for 11 years in the Potomac Conference and General Conference offices. Retired now, she lives in Centerville, Ohio, and still enjoys being a teacher's aide in the local church school.

Carol Mayes, wife of the late Albert Mayes, a cofounder of the SDA Musicians Guild, was the winner of our hymn-poem search with a lovely child-dedication hymn, "We Give This Child to You." Our committee was delighted to have a special hymn for this important service when we consecrate our children to the Lord. Carol says she wrote her first poem at age six. For many years she worked as a medical-legal-public relations secretary. Now her home is in Canoga Park, California, where she coordinates a word-processing center for Rockwell International.

Blythe Owen's name is well-known around Chicago and Andrews University. Though she is now retired, her résumé includes teaching posts at Chicago Teachers

College, Northwestern University, Cosmopolitan School of Music, Roosevelt University, and Walla Walla College. As a concert pianist, she has given recitals virtually all over the world. Her list of original compositions for many mediums runs to four pages, with many of the pieces having been put out by six different publishers. The new SDA hymnal will include one of her hymn tunes with the text, "For Your Holy Book We Thank You."

Eleanor Wright, of Germantown, Ohio, is an accomplished singer, composer, pianist, and arranger. Her more than 175 songs of experience and encouragement are written in a variety of styles, including anthems, gospels songs, and songs for weddings and children. A Chapel/Bridge recording artist for 25 years, her first record was produced with the Blend-Wright trio. Her "Surely, Surely the Lord Is in This Place," will be in the Sentences and Responses section.



Eurydice Osterman

After teaching at Mount Vernon Academy and Baton Rouge Elementary School, Eurydice Osterman became assistant professor of music at Oakwood College in 1978. Under her direction as a choral conductor, the Oakwood College choir has sung at the Knoxville and New Orleans World's Fairs.

Eurydice is a pianist, organist, and arranger. Her "Alleluia" was performed on Alabama public television in 1981. When the committee sent out 25 different texts to SDA composers to be set to new tunes, she submitted one for the text, "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens," which was accepted for the hymnal. Also, her beautiful arrangement of the spiritual, "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" was chosen.

Born of missionary parents Dr. and Mrs. H. O. Swartout, in Shanghai, China, Lorayne Coombs joined the White Memorial SDA Church choir at age 13. For more than 40 years she sang in and conducted small and large choral and instrumental groups in Southern California. She earned her B.A.

Presidential Communique



by Betty Howard,
President, AAW

It is no small task to bring together a group of 66 persons from all over the world, whatever the reason. Nor is it inexpensive in terms of finance and what is often equally of value and just as hard to come by—time. We commend and applaud the efforts of the General Conference officers on behalf of women. Their decision to lengthen the meeting of the Commission to Study Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry from one day to nearly a week is a clear indication of their

concern and regard for the role of women in the future of this church.

We appreciate the work of the editors of the *Adventist Review* and *Ministry Magazine* as they have sought to fairly and objectively inform both laity and clergy.

We value the efforts of those at the Biblical Research Institute who have attempted to lay aside personal convictions in their studies and plans for the commission as they secured new papers and furnished the Mohaven papers to every commission appointee.

And we are grateful to those who have agreed to serve on the commission. It will not be easy to remain objective about this issue, which has been termed by many as "highly emotional" and "divisive."

As the commission contemplates, let us meditate. During the days of March 26-29, let us join together in prayer, let us keep a fervent appeal before our Father that the Spirit will truly lead, not to a human decision, but to His decision.

Let us keep that same prayerful spirit alive in April as attendees at the Spring Meeting review and determine what will be recommended at the General Conference session in New Orleans, June 27 to July 6.

And whatever that worldwide body recommends, let us join hands with our brothers and sisters around the world in healing and affirming the unity of the worldwide church. Let it not be said that women seek to divide the church.

1985 Adventist Woman of the Year Award

The Association of Adventist Women seeks international nominations of women who deserve recognition for their contributions to the Adventist Church and community. The association is looking for exceptional women who are utilizing their talents and spiritual gifts as well as women who have achieved in spite of difficulty or obstacles.

A Woman of the Year Award will be presented to three Adventist women for outstanding performance in the categories of Home/Community Life, Work/Professional Life, and Church Life. The three women will be selected by a panel of judges and will be honored in New Orleans at the time of the 1985 General Conference session.

The purpose of the Women of the Year Awards is to provide recognition and inspiration to all Adventist women and to encourage women to reach their highest potential for service while providing role models for other women.

The following information must be submitted regarding each nominee:

1. Nominee's name, address, area code, and phone number. (Include a 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 inch black-and-white glossy print of nominee.)
2. A one-page statement as to why the individual is being nominated. (Please be specific. Provide supporting material where available.)
3. Nominator's name, address, area code, and phone number.
4. Three letters of reference, including name, address, area code, and phone number of each referent. (One letter must be from nominee's pastor or local elder.)

Please send copies of documents and photos. We cannot return items. Send nominations to The Association of Adventist Women, P.O. Box 3884, Langley Park, MD 20787. Attention: Peggy Harris.

All entries must be received by April 15, 1985.



Dr. Blythe Owen composes at the keyboard

Letters to the Editor

The communication that follows is in response to the editor's call for letters on the subject of ordination of women. Iris Yob, an Australian, is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University.

Why All the Fuss?

by Iris Yob

Why are some people in the Adventist Church making so much fuss about the ordination of women? Can't they see how divisive this issue and how it diverts our administrators and others from the more important issues of gospel work and church management? Don't they realize that all this ado is for just a handful of women?—at last count less than one percent of the seminarian students were women! The church cannot afford to employ all the ministers it would like to now—why add to the oversupply by putting women into the job market as well? Don't they know that a woman in the pulpit strikes most church members as inappropriate, immodest, insubordinate, and clearly un-Biblical, as well as distracting to the male members of the congregation? Can't they see that this kind of self-seeking is merely aping the world with its women's lib, disregard for the sanctity of the home, and improper role reversal between the sexes? Furthermore, a woman can serve God just as well without being ordained, so why the fuss?

These questions are disturbing. They make us rethink our motivations and our objectives in pursuing this matter through committees and councils and General Conference sessions. Sometimes they hurt—they seem to arise out of prejudice and misogyny and an unexamined male-dominated tradition. And yet they deserve to be answered, simply because they persist.

With these questions ringing in my ears, I have tried to reassess my own reasons for urging a positive decision in this matter as it comes up for discussion this year. In sharing this with you, I do not expect to present an exhaustive case. I am simply setting out what are for me the prevailing considerations as I personally come to my own decision that women should be included in the ordained ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. May God help us all to think through this clearly, to be open to alternatives, to be committed to seeing the work of God move forward, and to be submissive to divine guidance.

The great Biblical theme is that women as well as men are objects of God's love. . . are called to be and to do what God intends.

For me, the first and most significant consideration is the Word of God to the people. The great Biblical theme is that women as well as men are objects of God's love; women as well as men have the freedom and responsibility to respond to that love; women as well as men are called to be and to do what God intends.

God created man and woman in equality, harmony, and mutuality. As the Persons of the Godhead together created our first parents, so those two became humanity. It is in the mutuality of male and female that the image of God consists.

Sin, however, brought a distrust and alienation between creature and Creator, between humanity and the natural world, and between men and women. Despite these disrupted relationships, God's purposes were never totally eradicated. Along with the Abrahams, Moseses, and Davids, there have been the Miriams, Deborahs, and Esthers cooperating in the work of God.

In His ministry, Jesus affirmed the role and destiny of women in a society that had come to rank them at the level of mere goods and chattels. He taught the Torah to Mary; He made disciples and gospel workers of the woman of Samaria, the Syro-Phoenician woman, and other women followers; and He entrusted the first witness of His resurrection

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to women. At times, women were closest to Him and best understood His mission. We see this in the mothers who brought their children to be blessed, the woman at Simon's feast who anointed Him for kingship and burial while others failed to discern His mission and His impending ordeal less than a week away; and in the women who remained by the cross without betraying or denying Him.

The mission and nurture of the early Christian church was often in the hands of women. They are seen in the New Testament account making their homes into church centers, fellowshipping as equals around the communion table, travelling as missionaries, preaching to unbelievers, and contributing to the development of Christian belief and practice. The church was established on the principle that the antipathy between Jew and Greek, bond and free, male and female was overcome by the gospel. The image of God was to be restored.

When churches make their decisions on this issue they are giving their clearest statement about their attitudes to the women members as a whole. They are taking a stand either for or against the equality both Creation

The church is what it is today because a woman—a homemaker, wife, and mother—even while shrinking from the call still accepted it.

and re-creation confer. As long as anyone within the church community is denied access to any of its privileges on the grounds of race, class, or gender, the entire subgroup to which he or she belongs is being denied the fullness of the gospel.

My second consideration is an historical one. When God called Ellen Harmon to be His messenger, we see His purposes to be unchanging. The church is what it is today because a woman—a homemaker, wife, and mother—even while shrinking from the call of God still accepted it. In focusing on her prophetic ministry, let us not forget that she was indeed a woman. How can we underestimate what women can do for God while she remains alive in our memory? And her work was accompanied and reproduced by the talents and efforts of many early Adventist women. They were educators, college founders, writers, preachers, evangelists, missionaries, administrators, and health workers. It was not until we were well into the twentieth century that Adventist women found themselves being confined to the home and restricted to serving their immediate families. However, as we recall Ellen White and those Adventist pioneer women, we know God is still no respecter of persons. He saves, calls, endows, and holds accountable all who profess to be His followers.

My third consideration concerns the mission of the church. Today, ministry to the widows and fatherless, the sick and the imprisoned takes on new meanings. Unhappily, both within as well as without the church community, pastoral care must meet the needs of the divorced, the deserted, the unwed mother and her babe, the beaten wife, and the abused child. It must encompass

God is still no respecter or persons.

cancer patients and their families, accident victims, the drug dependent, and runaways. The woman pastor may be a most appropriate minister and in some instances the only acceptable minister to those in need.

Then too, I think of the preaching of the gospel message. As Adventists we have heard the Word of God preached to us out of the male experience and from the male point of view. Women's spirituality, women's experience, women's understanding, women's fears and struggles and hopes have been unvoiced. This is particularly difficult to understand in a church where more than half of the members are women. We want our message to be enriched by its inclusiveness.

Women pastors among us cannot work as effectively without ordination as we might assume. Chaplains find it difficult to get appointments to hospitals without this credential. Women on the pastoral staff of a local church are limited in what they can do. They may not marry, bury, or baptize their own people. Lacking the full blessing of the church, they must look on as their male counterpart takes over their work at the most significant moments of the believer's life.

The fourth, but less tangible, consideration, one which will not appear on the agenda of any committee that sets out to discuss the ordination question, is nevertheless one of the most irresistible and irrefutable of all. I am speaking of the call to ministry that some women among us have heard. To speak to

How can we confirm the call only in the men among us when God calls whomsoever He will?

these women, to witness their work, to see the fruits of their labors, to catch something of the fire that burns within them, is to be persuaded that God is on their side. I consider myself privileged to have met and talked with

a few of them: Pastor Jan Daffern of the Sligo Church, Pastor Vivienne Haenni of the Geneva, Switzerland Church, Collette Crowell and Becky Lacy in training at the Adventist seminary. I am deeply impressed with these women. I am touched by the simple power with which the call of God has endowed them. I am inspired by their message. The commitment of their lives is an argument that is not easily refuted. They make a difference in the life of the church. Their endeavor should be recognized by the church they serve by the laying on of the hands of ordination. What is ordination after all? Isn't it the church's recognition that some among its members have particular gifts for service? Isn't it the public affirmation of these gifts? Doesn't it tell the gifted, the church, and the world at large that this person has a work to do for God? How can we confirm the call only in the men among us when we see with our own eyes that God calls whomsoever He will?

It is in the mutuality of male and female that the image of God consists.

I learn from Scripture that God determines full equality of life and service for both His sons and daughters. I remember that both the Christian community and the Adventist community early established the full participation of both men and women in its ministry and outreach. I must recognize that the task of the church demands the talents and commitment of all its members if it is to meet the challenges of the world we live in today. I acknowledge that there are women in the church right now, trained, experienced, and productive in soul-winning. I must declare my support for the proposal to ordain them and those who will follow them. I am compelled to affirm and strengthen them for the tasks God has laid upon them. This issues involved are worth making a fuss about.

Women of the Year Nominees

Here is a partial list of the more-than-60 nominees whose names were submitted for 1984 AAW Woman of the Year. Each is an outstanding person in her own right.

Delores B. Lopez Sylmar, California

While caring for her five children alone, Delores earned a college degree. She successfully combines her roles as Christian, mother, teacher, church officer, and devoted daughter. She is the only woman on her church building committee, and gives unstintingly of her time in organizing the women to help in the building program.

Phyllis MacLafferty National City, California

"Mother Mac" was a devoted school teacher and pastor's wife for many years, but her accomplishments didn't stop when she retired. First she and her husband helped to build a small church in Arkansas. Then after her husband died she taught English for seven years at Northeast Brazil College. She continues to be an active retiree, spending hours volunteering for local church and school.

Shirley Maxwell Los Angeles, California

"Perfect Peace" as she is known to her radio audience, Shirley Maxwell's five minute broadcasts on two southern California radio stations reach a potential audience of seven million. Shirley's radio ministry is the latest contribution in her twenty years of Christ-centered outreach.

Carol Mayes Woodland Hills, California

A professional writer, an accomplished musician, and a poetess who contributed a poem to be set to music for the new SDA Hymnal, Carol was nominated for her role as

homemaker and mother who lovingly cared for her husband through 27 surgeries and an adult son with a severe disability.

Denise Altman McGhee Loma Linda, California

Simultaneously a missionary, teacher, recording artist, poet and homemaker, Denise has served with her husband in Pakistan. In 1981 she recorded "Three Echo Praise," performing as a vocalist, flutist, and bass guitarist. With her RN she has worked in hospitals and has a continuing interest in public health nursing. Her latest poem, "As a Woman" is a theologically stimulating woman's interpretation of God's love.

Joyce Miller Warrenton, Oregon

Noted for her dedication, Joyce serves as the head elder of her church. She also conducts Five-day Plans, Stress Control clinics, and other classes and is active in junior work and in the Dorcas Society. A group gathers in her home weekly for Bible study. Writes her pastor, "I don't know of many people who are as dedicated in their work and to their church as Joyce."

Florence Morris Lansing, Michigan

Originally she was a teacher, but Florence gave up her career for her husband's when she married Elder L. W. Light in 1926. After assisting her husband in his pastoring for 22 years, Florence resumed teaching when he passed away. She married R.C. Morris in 1950 and continued her career until her retirement after 42 years of service in 1966.

(Continued on page 4)

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.

Chapter News

Michiana Chapter

On February 23 Dr. Russell Staples and Dr. Selma Chaij moderated a panel discussion entitled "Women in Ministry?" Panelists included participants from Argentina, West Indies, Germany, Ghana, Singapore, Finland, and the U.S.

"Herstory: Women and Political Issues" was presented by Brian Strayer, assistant professor at Andrews University, on March 4. He addressed the current concern about including women in the historical record.

Future events planned by the chapter include "Belle of Amherst," a play about Emily Dickinson; a prayer session on behalf of the members of the Commission on the Ordination of Women; and a report on Spring Council recommendations regarding ordination.

Puerto Rican Chapter

A new chapter has been formed at Antillan College in Mayaguez. A committee, headed by Dr. Lourdes Gudmundsson, prepared a constitution, which has been translated and submitted to the Association of Adventist Women for action.

Officers of the chapter are Mildred Rivera, President; Gloria Melendez, Vice-president; Alicia Heyde, Secretary. Other officers include Miriam Salcedo and Milagros Tomei.

Metro Chapter

The Metro Chapter (Washington, D.C.) recently held a well-attended Sunday brunch meeting on insurance and the financial needs

of women. Peggy Harris, an insurance agent and a chapter member, reported on topics ranging from how to invest wisely to how much and what kind of insurance women should carry, based on their special needs.

On March 25 Wintley Phipps will present a benefit concert for the chapter, the proceeds of which will provide a scholarship for a deserving young female student at Columbia Union College who has demonstrated leadership and scholarship, and who is in need of financial assistance.

The buffet dinner following the concert will have as invited guests the members of the Commission on the Ordination of Women, who will be meeting at the General Conference at that time.

Massachusetts Chapter

The Massachusetts Chapter participated in an afternoon panel discussion during a weekend session on "Women in the Church" sponsored by the Boston Temple SDA Church. Members of the panel were Helen Tyler, moderator, Betty Howard, Jan Daffern; and Iris Yob.

This chapter recently sponsored an all-day workshop at the New England Memorial Church where they put on the play "When God Called" by Kermit Netteburg, directed by Otilie Stafford. A series of workshops included such topics as "Mary and Martha: Women and Careers," "Women in the Bible," and "Human Potential." Approximately 75 persons attended.

Seventh-day Adventist young people with their educational expenses—more often than not without a word as to who their benefactress was.

Adele Platner Grants Pass, Oregon

Dorcas Federation President Adele Platner believes in volunteer service. A busy wife and mother of four, Adele has volunteered thirty years of service to Pathfinder groups, Sabbath School and Dorcas associations, and is presently involved with the Maranatha organization.

Lois Raymond Natchitoches, Louisiana

One of the first single, black, female, missionaries in the Seventh-day Adventist church, Lois Raymond devoted 19 years of mission service in West Africa. She taught in secondary schools in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Ghana from 1960 until returning because of her father's death in 1979.

Orpha Riise Oakdale, California

Elected "Citizen of the Year" by community leaders in her home town, Orpha Riise has served her neighbors as founder of the "Community Sharing Services," a city-wide interchurch organization. Now retired and a homemaker, mother, and professional nurse, Orpha contributed to the welfare of all the town's children as school nurse for the Oakdale Public Schools.

Elizabeth Rineer South Lancaster, Massachusetts

As a church school teacher for more than 25 years, Elizabeth Rineer influenced many lives. Since retiring at age 70, she continues to spread her influence with children, teaching piano lessons and helping with Sabbath School.

Crisilda Robinson Santa Maria, California

Mrs. Robinson, a model Christian mother, raised eight children for the Lord. Today, five children have served as missionaries, and all hold leadership positions in churches in this country and abroad.

Vinnie Ruffo San Jose, California

An author of seven books and many articles, Vinnie is also a teacher on both the elementary and adult levels, a Sabbath School and church worker, Vacation Bible School director, and a successful mother. She is the recipient of the Lefoli Award, which honored her for excellence as a teacher of creative writing.

Marion S. Simmons Hendersonville, North Carolina

Her life work in teaching and the field of education has led Marion Simmons from California, where she served as Conference Educational Secretary in several conferences, to Sri Lanka and Singapore (where she pastored a church). She is nominated because "her life has influenced so many as an example of a Christian . . ."

Jean Venden Smith St. Helena, California

A veteran missionary who spent seventeen years in Thailand and raised four sons (two ministers, a teacher, an editor), Grandmother Jean Smith still serves the denomination today as church secretary, Sabbath School division leader, and busy pastor's wife who frequently gives Bible studies.

Helen J. Sprengel, Ph. D. Fresno, California

A woman of many talents, Helen directs the music for the Central California campmeeting. She and her physician husband served in Thailand and they now give Bible studies together. She has taught at a number of medical institutions and is active in presenting workshops for overseas nurses. Her community activities are numerous, and she has received several awards in recognition of her contributions.

Eleanor Steward, MD Big Pine, Florida

Eleanor has put her Doctor of Medicine degree to good use for the church. As an active retiree, she donates her time to blood pressure clinics in the local shopping centers where she resides with her husband. She has helped with the construction of the Marathan Seventh-day Adventist Church not only financially, but physically as well. Her father was a member of Battle Creek's Dime Tabernacle, and he also worked under the direction of Dr. J. H. Kellogg.

Von Stimpson Newbury Park, California

Von is described by a friend as "the best pastor's wife I've known". And as such, she has developed her own ministry to include visiting with her husband and conducting bread-making classes. As an R.N., her horizons expand to the South Seas, where for 2 years she served as the only medical help on the tiny Pitcairn Island. At one point of her service there, Von made all the arrangements for a resident of the island to travel to the U.S. for cataract surgery. Von presently helps at the V.O.P. by calling and writing letters in answer to the many questions from those taking the Bible lessons.

Alma Tachenko Grassy Butte, North Dakota

If the biblical Dorcas were alive today, she might be like Alma Tachenko. A devoted mother, grandmother, and friend to everyone, Alma is loved for her service to her community. Whenever there is a disaster, whenever someone is needy, whenever tragedy strikes, Alma is the first to help.

Gladys King Taylor Loma Linda, California

Gladys Taylor has taught school periodically since she was fifteen. Later, married to Dr. George B. Taylor, she and her husband served as missionaries in Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. The author of two books, Gladys is also the proud mother of two sons, with seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Sharlene Tessler, Ph.D. Atlantic Union College, Massachusetts

Currently dean of Continuing Education at Atlantic Union College, Dr. Tessler was nominated "because of accomplishments in her field and because of the excellent way in which she has taken over her position here".

Carrie Tichenor Coulterville, California

At 80 years of age Carrie enjoys giving Bible studies to the non-Adventists who take care of her in a nursing home. Carrie's tradition of sharing the gospel officially began at the age of 18 when she began teaching for the Southern California Conference in a 12-student church school near Redlands. Her desire to be a Bible worker led her to work for several large evangelistic efforts and eventually to a 10 year directorship of the training of Bible workers at Pacific Union College. Her class in the art of giving Bible studies was always well filled with both men and women and was highly appreciated.

Helen Ward Thompson, Ph.D. Loma Linda, California

Currently Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Loma Linda University, Dr. Thompson was nominated "because of her outstanding contribution to the denomination in her leadership ability and because of outstanding personal contributions."

Anna May Vaughan Dayton, Ohio

She started as a young nurse at Malamulo Mission, Malawi, and today is a vice president at Kettering Medical Center. Anna May Vaughan has devoted her life to service through the medical profession, and the seeds of that service include the College of Medical Arts at Kettering, which she was instrumental in initiating.

To be concluded in the next issue.

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The Association of Adventist Women is a national organization that sponsors local chapters. Its newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*, is published six times per year.

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GC Session Meeting of AAW

Three women from the world field will be honored as International Women of the Year at a breakfast meeting of the Association of Adventist Women July 2, 1985, during the General Conference session in New Orleans. There will be a special guest speaker for this event. Advance price tickets will be available prior to the session. Further details will be announced in the next issue of *The Adventist Woman*.

Nominees

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Joyce A. Morse Southern California

Associate Superintendent of Education for the Southern California Conference, Joyce was nominated because she "is a people person who is interested in and shows love to all—little people, pre-teenagers, teenagers, youth and all adults."

Mary Paulson Springfield, Oregon

Mary serves as president of the Northwest chapter of ASI. Her business acumen is further displayed in her management of a nursing home chain which she inherited from her late husband "Al". Her service includes the local church right through to the G.C. Executive Committee. She has also assisted many