

# The Adventist WOMAN

THE ADVENTIST WOMAN  
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AAW Women of the Year 2001 Betty Ann Howard, Lifetime Achievement Award (left); Donna Jeanne Lugenbeal Habenicht, Family Life Award; Gwendolyn W. Foster, Community Life Award; and Joan McAllister Bova, Church Life Award, line up for photos, flowers, and congratulations at the award banquet last October. (Not present were honorees T. Grace Emori, Outstanding Achievement Award; Gladys Jeremiah, Spiritual Life Award; Merlene Ogden, Professional Life Award; and Minnie Iverson Wood, Lifetime Achievement Award.)

## Not Overwhelmed by National Tragedy

# AAW Conference Packed with Worship, Learning, Celebration

Echoes of September 11 rolled throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women in Baltimore, Maryland, October 4-7.

Disruption of travel plans kept some away. Those who flew focused on safety and planned extra airport time. The Women and

the Word pre-session included a time of silent prayer for those most affected. Friday night's Agape celebration gave voice to efforts to help New Yorkers.

Despite the dangers, attendance was around 120. Several spoke of the comfort of gathering together in that time of tragedy, of

the need to support women wherever they are oppressed, and of their satisfaction in deciding to come in spite of "9-11."

Two attending the conference were from outside of the country: Trudy Morgan-Cole from St.

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# Delegates Share News About Women in Ministry at "Women & the Word"

Serious Bible study by women scholars and news reports about women in ministry drew an enthusiastic audience to Women & the Word on October 4, 2001. More than 100 joined in the all-day seminar that preceded the Baltimore AAW Conference. The event has been organized by the Women's Resource Center at La Sierra University for the past four years.

Sizeable delegations represented the GC Ministerial Association and GC Women's Ministries Department, the *Adventist Review*, the Review & Herald Publishing Association, the Chesapeake and Potomac conferences, and Columbia Union College.

"We try to have an encouraging report for you each year. This year it will knock your socks off!" said James Cress, secretary of the GC Ministerial Association, in a special report to the seminar. "You find women pastors in the most surprising places," he added. "For example, in Latvia we found a woman who ministers to a congre-



What is the proper understanding of New Testament passages that seem to restrict women's participation in the church and its leadership? Drs. Madelynn Jones Haldeman (left) and Ginger Hanks Harwood, popular presenters at Women & the Word, focused on 1 Corinthians.

gation of 80 deaf persons. Not far away, another woman pastors a church of 400 members."

"In Papua New Guinea we were having meetings for more than 700 pastors," Cress also reported. "I learned about six or seven women pastors in the audience who wanted to be introduced as a group. I was happy to do that—and their male colleagues gave them a standing ovation. It was the first

real recognition these women had experienced in their ministry."

In China, Adventists have 2,148 pastors, Cress learned. He was told that 75 percent of the Chinese pastors are women!

Sharon Cress, associate in the GC Ministerial Association, has a special ministry to spouses of pastors—of whom about 98 percent

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# Adventist Sworn in as EEOC Chair

by LaVerne Henderson,  
Columbia Union Conference

Cari M. Dominquez was officially sworn in December 4, 2001, to chair the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in July 2001, her five-year term expires July 1, 2006. Dominquez, a member of the Olney (MD) Seventh-day Adventist Church, also served during the previous Bush administration. There she spearheaded the Labor Department's glass ceiling initiative—designed to remove workplace barriers affecting the advancement of individuals on the basis of race, gender or disability.

[Courtesy of Celeste Ryan, NAD News Update]



Adventist Cari M. Dominquez becomes chair of the EEOC in a term running to 2006.

# Pacific Union Okays Women as Top Leaders

by Kit Watts

As the Pacific Union Conference celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, delegates to the union session voted to open the door to women leaders in high places. The constituency meeting was held in Ontario, California, on Monday, August 27, 2001.

According to policy up until now, only an ordained minister could be elected as union president. Since the Seventh-day Adventist Church has declined to ordain women, the criteria for this and other leadership posts has excluded females.

Delegates from the seven Pacific Union conferences debated the proposal from the constitution and by-laws committee for less than half an hour. A hand vote showed strong support for the motion. Some observers believe that as many as 85 percent voted yes.

The new constitutional provision states that a union president must be credentialed as an ordained OR commissioned minister. Although some men are commissioned ministers, the majority are women.

The Southeastern California Conference changed its constitution several years ago to permit a commissioned credentialed minister to become president of the conference.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

**4** Read the complete text of Rebecca Brillart's sermon given at the 19<sup>th</sup> AAW Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, October 5, 2001.

**8** Make Plans Now! The 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association of Adventist Women will be held in Portland, Oregon, October 17-20, 2002.

## Women Noted Among Pacific Union Priorities

by Kit Watts

About 330 delegates attending the Pacific Union Conference constituency meeting on August 27, 2001, endorsed 11 priorities set for implementation during the next five years.

In addition to reformation and revival among members, and

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# “Women & the Word”

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Lively and polished preacher Dr. Rosa Taylor Banks urged those attending Women & the Word to take advantage of “Our Time of Great Opportunity.”

are women. “In the South Pacific Division we’ve begun a certification program that takes several months and gives wives of pastors training in public speaking, evangelism, family and children’s ministries,” she said.

The Southern Asia Division has a three-month training course for “Bible women.” Once completed, pastors’ wives are eligible for paid ministry—and this in a “very financially challenged” area of the world, she pointed out. More than 300 have completed the program so far.

### NAD Women Clergy Report

Rosa Banks, associate secretary and director of the NAD Office of Human Relations, opened Women & the Word with a stirring devotional on the woman at the well. Debra Brill, vice president for ministries, North American Division, greeted the crowd on behalf of NAD president Don Schneider.

Dúane Schoonard, associate director of the NAD Ministerial Association, now has a list of 425 Adventist clergywomen including 73 women pastors, 43 chaplains, 47 Bible instructors, 19 who are chaplains in positions outside the denomination (hospitals, industry, hospice care, prisons), 15 retired persons, 26 teachers and campus chaplains in Adventist schools, 24 looking for placement, and 39 students at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

One of Schoonard’s goals for 2001-2002 is to carefully review the NAD ministerial policies and recommend changes needed to make them more appropriate or user-friendly for women clergy.

### GC Women’s Ministries

Ardis Stenbakken, director of GC Women’s Ministries, reported that more than 100,000 baptisms in the year 2000 could be attributed to outreach work by women.



Judith Thomas, owner of her own business in Smyrna, Georgia, delighted attendees with humorous stories about women and leadership styles. Thomas has made significant contributions to the La Sierra University Women’s Resource Center, which operates entirely on donations.



What were women doing in the early Christian Church? Dr. Reta Finger, a Mennonite scholar who teaches at Messiah College in Pennsylvania, focused on Acts 1-6 in her presentation.

She also announced that the fourth Sabbath of August each year has been officially designated by vote of the General Conference as Abuse Prevention Sabbath. “This gives a great opportunity to address this issue in our churches,” she noted.

### Conference Delegations

Frank Bondurant, Harold Weis, and Doug Jones introduced their delegations from the Chesapeake and Potomac conferences and Columbia Union College.

“Our conference wants to invest in its women; tremendous talent has been entrusted to us,” said Bondurant, family ministries director in Chesapeake.

“We’re happy to have faculty, administrators, and students here today,” added Doug Jones, academic vice president at Columbia Union College. “We’re proud to continue our tradition of supporting women by having added Sabine Vital as our campus chaplain this year.”

“This is a very important meeting,” said Harold Weiss, secretary of the Potomac Conference. “The concept has become more and more clear about the value of women in ministry. Our conference has long been open to recognizing and using women.”

### Big Surprise

Before Judy Thomas made her practical, insightful, and sometimes very humorous presentation on issues for women in leadership, she announced a challenge gift to the Women’s Resource Center. Thomas is president of a health-care related business in Georgia and a member of the WRC board of advisors. In addition to matching all donations made that day, Thomas added a \$15,000 gift of her own. She also presented WRC Director Kit Watts with a live tree as a symbol of the center’s ongoing ministry of healing and nurture for women in the church.



What was it like to be a woman disciple of Christ and follow him on his walking ministry in Palestine? Alicia Patterson (left) enacted the story of Joanna, who is mentioned briefly in the Gospel of Luke.



Seminar participants Roy Adams, associate editor of the *Adventist Review*, (left), Kay Rosburg, a member of the TEAM board, and Betty Howard, one the AAW Women of the Year for 2001, enjoyed lunch midway through Women & the Word.



The only magazine published exclusively for Adventist women, *Women of Spirit*, is edited by Penny Wheeler (left) and Heide Ford. During “Women & the Word” they gave brief news about coming articles and also about the AAW Conference, of which they were co-directors.



The Chesapeake Conference had one of the largest delegations at Women & the Word, including Family Ministries director Frank Bondurant (far right, back row), several editors from the Review & Herald Publishing Association, and others active as local women’s ministries leaders.



Dúane Schoonard, associate director of the NAD Ministerial Association, said that she has a list of 425 Adventist clergywomen.



Debra Brill, vice-president for ministries, NAD, voiced her support for women’s leadership role in the church.



Ardis Stenbakken, GC Women’s Ministries director, told of worldwide lay women’s success in 2000, preparing over 100,000 for baptism.



Women around the world are ministering effectively as pastors, evangelists, and conference or union departmental leaders according to James Cress, secretary of the GC ministerial association. Not pictured is Sharon Cress who described the ministry that pastors’ spouses do around the world.



Secretary of the Potomac Conference, Roger Weiss, greeted those attending Women & the Word by affirming the conference’s commitment to supporting women in ministry and leadership. “It is clear from Scripture and in [Adventists’] present experience that women have much to contribute to the church,” he said.

# AAW Resolutions 2001

## Resolutions

The Association of Adventist Women (AAW) at its business meeting at the Ramada Inn-BWI, on October 7, 2001, adopted the following resolutions:

### Recommendations to the North American Division and General Conference:

1. *Actively seek women candidates for Adventist Church leadership and administration positions.*

*Voted:* AAW believes that the gospel of Jesus Christ is revealed through the gifts of the people of God and that the gospel commission of Matthew 28 is the responsibility of all who believe in Him, "for there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus."

Therefore AAW recommends to member organizations of the North American Division and General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, that nominating committees at all levels of the Adventist Church (conference, union, division, GC), intentionally include consideration of women candidates for all positions.

AAW accepts responsibility for joining other entities in the Adventist Church (such as the GC Education Department and GC Women's Ministries) in developing lists of possible women candidates for leadership and administrative positions and will make such lists available to nominating committees requesting it.

2. *Sponsor women's ministries directors, faculty women, and students to annual conference.*

*Voted:* In past actions, the Association of Adventist Women advocated for the creation of women's ministry positions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which were subsequently acted on by church bodies around the world.

In recognition of the importance of the role of women's ministries in the church, we recommend that the North American Division and General Conference sponsor (fund) the attendance of the women's ministries directors at the annual AAW conference.

Further, in recognition of the important role that Adventist colleges and universities play in educating Adventist members, we request that these institutions in North America provide funding for at least one faculty member and one student to attend the annual AAW Conference.

3. *Full-time woman in NAD Ministerial Association.*

*Voted:* The Association of Adventist Women commends the administration of the North American Division both for its action to elect Dúane Schoonard as associate director of the North American Division Ministerial Association, and its recognition of

the need to support and encourage Adventist women clergy.

Given the growing number of women who are in pastoral ministry and the numbers of women in training (at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, and at other universities and seminaries in North America), the Association of Adventist Women recommends that the associate director (for women clergy) position become full-time rather than part-time.

4. *Hiring division, union, and conference-level women's ministries directors.*

*Voted:* AAW in past actions has advocated for the creation of women's ministry positions in the church and is gratified to see women's ministries leaders and directors being appointed at the division level of the Adventist organization.

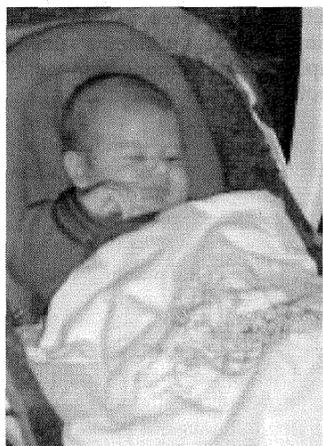
Women's ministries leaders in North America have committed themselves to the nurturing of laywomen and professional women leaders in the church. This has resulted in thousands of women attending spiritual retreats for personal growth, and many outreach activities.

Further, women's ministries directors and supporters have led major evangelism meetings in Africa, Inter-America, and other places around the world that have brought thousands to Christ.

In light of the progress women's ministries had made, AAW recommends that every division, union, and local conference give serious consideration to employing a women's ministries director and that the position include voice and vote on the executive committee of that division or union.

5. *Recognize God's spiritual and leadership gifts to women.*

*Voted:* Realizing that God endows women along with men with gifts as spiritual leaders, and recognizing the Seventh-day Adventist Church's historic inclusion of women in pastoral, evangelistic, and church administrative roles, the Association of Adventist Women urges the General Confer-



Eleven-week-old Aaron Christopher Patterson found a comfortable back row seat with mom Alicia during the October 7 AAW business session.

ence and North American Division to recognize women's gifts for spiritual leadership by ending discrimination based on gender, and ordaining both women and men to gospel ministry.

Further, AAW calls upon the church to actively provide seminars and educational materials for Adventist men and women who are pastors, church leaders, school principals and presidents, or who have other roles of responsibility in the church, on how to become supportive partners in ministry with women clergy.

## Commendations

The Association of Adventist Women (AAW) at its business meeting on October 7, 2001, voted to commend the following individuals, groups, institutions, and organizations for their accomplishments:

### North American Division entities

1. The Pacific Union Conference is highly commended for adding the words "or commissioned minister" to the qualifications for a candidate for president of the union—at its August 2001 constituency session.

2. The Southeastern California Conference is highly commended for affirming the *ordained-commissioned* license that is issued to men and women pastors, conference officers, and to those who have successfully completed the ordination-commissioning process—at its constituency session on October 22, 2000.

3. The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is highly commended for electing Carolyn Osmond as treasurer of the conference.

4. The North American Division leaders, Vice President Debra Brill, and Associate Ministerial Association Director Dúane Schoonard, are highly commended for sponsoring and finding funding for the historic retreat for Adventist women clergy in April 2001.

5. The Arizona Conference is highly commended for ordaining-commissioning two women pastors, Jenny McBride and Pat Hart, at its 2000 camp meeting.

6. The Southeastern California Conference is highly commended for ordaining-commissioning men and women in joint ceremonies: Senior Pastor Tami McGrew with Associate Pastor Jon Mills of the Riverside Community Adventist Church, and, at its 2001 camp meeting sponsored by the Black Ministries Department, Ellie Anderson, associate pastor at the Westminster/Good Samaritan Church and Martin Howard, pastor of the Fontana Juniper Avenue



Wording of each resolution is carefully considered as Kit Watts (left) and Penny Miller (right) assist AAW president Pat Foster in the business meeting October 7.

### Church.

7. La Sierra University is commended for its leadership in creating the first Women's Resource Center in the Adventist Church in 1997 and for its ongoing support for it. The Board of Advisors and Director Kit Watts and Associate Director Penny Shell are commended for convening the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) annual Women & the Word seminar held October 4, 2001, as a pre-session to the AAW Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

### General Conference and entities of world divisions

8. The East Africa Union is highly commended for appointing Maureen Aseno as director of the Media Center for the union.

9. The Finnish Union is highly commended for electing Sabrina Kalliokoski as secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Finland, becoming the first woman in the Trans-European region of the world to hold this position, and for re-electing Anna Liisa Halonen as treasurer of the church in Finland.

10. The delegates to the Spring Meeting of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in April 2001, are commended for electing Heather Dawn Small as associate director of the GC Women's Ministries Department.

11. Ardis Stenbakken, director, and the GC Women's Ministries Department are commended for focusing on six (6) critical issues that have an impact on women internationally, including: illiteracy, abuse, poverty, health risks, workloads, and the lack of mentoring and/or leadership training.

12. James Cress, secretary, and Sharon Cress, associate secretary, and the GC Ministerial Association are commended for initiatives to support and encourage women who are spouses of clergy, and for recognizing and supporting women clergy in their work as pastors, evangelists, theology teachers, and chaplains, particularly through the publication of CONTACT.

13. The GC Ministerial Association is commended for sponsoring 11 college women theology majors in North America to attend the clergy women's retreat held in April 2001.

14. Bert Beach is commended for his successful efforts with the World Council of Churches to invite Karen Flowers of the GC Family Ministries Department and Helen Pearson of Newbold College to represent the Seventh-day Adventist Church by making presentations on domestic violence in the family at a world meeting held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2001.

### Other groups and individuals

15. TEAM (Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry) and its chairperson, Patricia Habada, are commended for providing financial assistance to women studying for Adventist ministry in every division of the world with more than \$200,000 distributed to date.

16. WASH and Peggy Harris, its leader, are commended for ongoing efforts to educate Adventist members and church leaders on the issue of abuse and harassment and the need to acknowledge these problems and act decisively to eradicate them.

17. Pat Foster, AAW president, is commended for leading the Association of Adventist Women in strategic planning to focus its mission, refine its objectives, and increase the effectiveness of the organization in 2001 and beyond.

18. Janice Wright and the Metro Ministries Project in New York City are commended for appropriate and helpful responses to the terrorist strikes in that city and for positively representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church to those in great need there.

19. The attendees of the AAW Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland, October 4-7, do hereby highly commend Penny Wheeler and Heide Ford, true "Women of Spirit," for their leadership and planning of this memorable 19<sup>th</sup> conference of the Association of Adventist Women.

## Special Feature

## "U-Turn"

by Rebecca Brillhart  
Associate Pastor,  
Sligo Adventist Church

(Full text of Pastor Brillhart's sermon at the AAW Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, October 5, 2001)

What a privilege it is to be here today. Yours is the energy that helped me mature as a woman, to be open to the possibilities God has for my life.

I started coming to AAW conferences in the late 1980s with my friend, Kay Rosburg, to take a break from the babies and rustle some quiet time. My babies are 15 and 11 now, wrestling with their own identities as young women. Hormones and laundry flying all over the place! They're great kids. I wouldn't be here this morning if they hadn't pulled my arms and legs out of the bed, thrown me in the shower, made me a hot drink, and repeated the mantra: "You can do this, Mom."

Have you ever wondered: *What am I doing here? And why am I doing this?*

I remember saying that in the seventh grade when Vicki Tiletti told me to meet her after school to settle a score. I brought my very tall Mormon friend, Laura, to be my human shield, and if that didn't work, my priest to administer last rites.

I remember wondering "Why am I doing this?" after three hours of pushing in the delivery room with my first child.

## Discipleship Class—the U-turn

I remember asking "Why am I doing this?" eight years ago, when my neighbor Ellen convinced me that I should join her in a nine-month course in discipleship at our neighborhood Methodist church. This was on Monday mornings at 9:30, no less! With small kids, a traveling husband and work, I called it "crazy". But today I call it my U-turn.

U-turns can be risky. A few years ago, I went to visit a friend in her new home. Directionally impaired, I turned down a lovely long drive to what I thought was a residential area, toying with the idea that I may be going the wrong way. I decided to make a sweep-

ing turn at the end of the long drive, but imagine my surprise when I saw men and women in uniform, weapons poised and ready to fire!

You see, I'd landed at the suburban headquarters of the George Bush Central Intelligence Agency—the CIA—and hadn't heard the yells of the guards to stop because my windows were rolled up and the music was cranked. With U-turns, you don't always know what you're headed for.

Sometimes we get stuck going in one direction until something unexpected puts a whole new set of possibilities in place. That's what happened to me with my discipleship class. Since that experience, God has taken me on a wild journey of unexpected twists and turns as I discover and celebrate the gifts given me. That class led to a pastoral position and M.Div. studies at Wesley Theological Seminary.

I am now clear that I am serving exactly where God wants me to be. But that was not always the case.

## I Wanted to Be Somebody

I think it was Lily Tomlin who said, "I have always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific." Well, I, too, always wanted to be somebody, and I was specific. From the time I was able

to say "egocentric narcissist," I've wanted to be Somebody Important. My mom will tell you that I've always had a map for the way-it-is-supposed-to-be. I planned to be successful and in charge of my life, perhaps win a Pulitzer Prize—at least the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes. I had an acceptance speech ready for such an occasion:

*"I am both humbled and honored to receive this award. I want to thank the academy, my mom and dad for putting up with me; my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Bauman, for putting my poem up on the bulletin board*

*even when she didn't believe I really wrote it; Dr. Otilie Stafford for not flunking me in her 18<sup>th</sup> Century and Restoration Literature class my senior year of college when I was dating instead of studying; Dave and the girls for their tireless devotion and support; and God for making me who and what I am today."*

I'd wanted to be somebody who inspired the masses and captured the hearts of the multitude—to have the compassion of Mother Teresa, the appeal of Oprah Winfrey, the wardrobe of Princess Diana. I wanted my life to have purpose and meaning. So I prayed, "Lord, give me a grand purpose in my life." Then I sat back and waited to be called into the limelight. Instead God handed me two babies, a stay-at-home business and a neighbor who wanted to study the Bible. "Do it," he said. And for some reason, I did.

Where am I going with this? As we think about what it means to consecrate and celebrate our gifts this weekend, I want to share how this seemingly average U-turn experience radically transformed my understanding of how God prepares us for ministry by endowing spiritual gifts. I want to talk about saying yes to God.

## Way Beyond Our Natural Abilities

We often focus on identifying specialized interests, talents and even personality types for the purpose of sending people down just the right ministry avenue. But since my own U-turn in life, I believe this approach interprets the Bible's teaching too narrowly. It limits the impact we can have on the world around us.

Much teaching on spiritual gifts is based on 1 Corinthians 12 where Paul tells us "You are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Cor. 12:27). Furthermore, God has given each part of the body unique qualities to fill unique roles (vs. 18). What

better way to discover an individual's ministry than by looking at how God has endowed her naturally? One woman is a great cook, so, we conclude, she should be part of hospitality ministry. Another is caring and compassionate, so she should be the parish nurse. Another is good with numbers, so she should be the church treasurer.

This interpretation has some validity, but my own experience and observations in my role as discipler convince me that it may be too narrow. We can also be gifted to serve in new ways.

Consider the Scripture's broader context. Paul begins his discussion of gifts by writing: "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (vs. 7). This verse reveals two fundamental truths about gifts.

1. Gifts are the "manifestation of the Spirit," not just a matter of inherited abilities.

2. God calls forth gifts "for the common good." Gifts exist to meet needs, within the church and without. They don't flourish in isolation.

In contrast to Paul's teaching, we often encourage people to look inside themselves to find the basis for ministry. What are you good at doing? In doing so we communicate that *personal fulfillment*, rather than meeting needs, is the touchstone of ministry involvement. This perspective, I believe, grows out of a modern culture obsessed with self-fulfillment. But the Bible teaches a very different view. Jesus told his disciples: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it" (Luke 9:23, 24).

Don't get me wrong; God often uses our natural abilities in his service. It's hard to imagine an effective musician who lacks musical ability and the training to use it. And while training and experience don't confer gifts such as preaching or administration, they are certainly needed to exercise them.

## When the Spirit Drafts You

No question about it: specialization is an important principle in the harmonious functioning of the Body. But it's not the *only* principle. Another one, often overlooked, is *compensation*.

We've all heard about people who have overcome physical disabilities by compensating with their unimpaired faculties. I went to high school with a boy born with no arms or hands at all. Yet he was an award-winning paper artist at 18! He constructed the most incredible three-dimensional pieces using only his mouth and feet! When one part of the boy failed to do its job, the whole body suffers but was not necessarily helpless. Other body parts compensate and become stronger with use. The same is true of Christ's body—the Church.

Here's where we women come in, especially in the North Ameri-



"Rather than ask 'What are my abilities,' we should ask, 'What are the needs around me?'" exhorted Associate Pastor Rebecca Brillhart, Sligo Adventist Church, in her plenary presentation on Friday morning.

can Church. We can focus on where we or others think we should be serving and how we should be serving—and also be open to the Spirit's leading in any way imaginable, meeting people's tremendous needs. We move then from *can I do this*, to *I must do this*. With God leading, the Spirit will always give us whatever we need for the time we need it. Sometimes that's the ability to simply persevere and stand tall when others would not affirm us or would not involve us in a ministry God is calling us to.

So it is possible to redeploy our gifts to areas where we don't feel gifted, and God will compensate for our weakness. As a bonus, God may even add richness to our areas of giftedness! That's where my U-turn fits in again. I moved from fretting about keeping my foot in the door of a fund-raising career to something much more fluid and freeing—trusting God to help me see new ways to connect with those around me. Instead of doing a prescribed ministry, God gave me my own.

## For Each Other

Paul presents specialization of gifts on a foundation of *interdependence*. He tells us that the "body is a unit; though it is made up of many parts...we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body (vss. 12, 13). Furthermore, "its parts should have equal concern for each other" (vs. 25). We can't know and celebrate our gifts in isolation; but only in relationship with others. How others see me and interact with me helps me discover how God can and is using me.

When I moved into a need at my Sligo Church to lead Disciple classes, I knew God was strengthening me—giving me something new. In fact, I soon realized that I was even ministering with renewed vigor and clearer vision to children and their parents in another setting—Sabbath school.

Serving in new ways kindles interests we never knew we could have.



The women and men attending each Women & the Word and AAW session found much to enjoy.

Soon, our room was overflowing with people who came to hear our early morning program for 2-3 year olds. Some were spiritual seekers. My call to ministry began to take shape.

**Comfort Isn't the Best Guide**

Now, some people in my church were initially uncomfortable with my teaching because I had little training and was using non-Adventist materials. How would I know what to include or not to include in my teaching, they thought? But God provided. Through the years, my teaching was affirmed many times, and now I feel confident in that role. I am humbled to have seen more than 375 persons graduate from this ministry through the leadership of someone without the specialized gift. This doesn't come only from just tapping into my talent, but from my being open to new possibilities with God.

Too often, we encourage people to stay within their comfort zones when they think of using gifts for God. We say serve only in areas where you have confidence and well-developed skills, and never venture beyond them. But doing that limits others' ability to learn and grow because they don't explore new things. Serving in new ways kindles interests we never knew we could have. God gives us grace despite our limitations to minister in areas of need. In fact, he often places us in ministries where we are weak so we rely on his strength rather than on our own.

Just when I began to feel comfortable with my work at church, another challenge came my way in this U-turn experience. Two years ago, I decided to do a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Never in a million years did I understand how stretched and pulled and gifted-to-serve God would make me.

I am *not* a hospital person. I've kicked off dentists and doctors brandishing needles. I was terrified of pain and sickness.

So nothing prepared me for the incredible experiences God gave me in ministering to hospital patients. And he chose the things that I considered my weaknesses to show me he could use me in this way. Believe it or not, my heart is still there—with all the weird smells, tubes, and wires. God has taught me that I can be love in the most undesirable places, and what I have learned is the privilege of being with people when they are most vulnerable and apt to be themselves. I celebrate that gift. It's precious stuff.

**Moses Demurred**

Remember when God spoke to Moses in the desert of Midian, telling him to return to Egypt to lead Israel out of captivity? Moses

protested his lack of ability. "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

God responded: "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say" (Ex. 4:11-12).

**Even Paul Felt Unqualified**

Paul acknowledged to the Corinthian Church, "I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words" (1 Cor. 1:3-4). But Paul paradoxically viewed his weakness as an advantage. Though he couldn't speak out of personal strength and confidence, he spoke "with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so

that your faith may rest on human wisdom, but on God's power" (vss. 4, 5).

Later in his life, Paul struggled with a debilitating problem that hampered his ministry. He asked for healing, but God said to him, "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Paul himself concluded, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (vs. 10).

**Lessons—People First**

I learned important lessons in those first years of leading discipling classes. Everyone needs to feel loved and secure, one training manual said. I didn't need a special course for that. Each week I welcomed each person individually, spent time, shared and talked about the week gone by, and gave encouragement. Little by little, the classes began to make an impact on the life of our church.

If I had been more skilled in Bible teaching and small-group leadership, I might have focused more on the tasks than on the people. Had that happened, I think the impact of the discipling

ministry at Sligo Church would have been lessened.

That doesn't mean that the less skill or preparation one has for ministry the better. But when we follow God's leading to serve in an area where we lack obvious talent or training, we can count on him to provide what we need to be effective. This is what *spiritual* gifts are all about! This is really what we come together to celebrate and consecrate this weekend, isn't it?

God's blessing on the untrained does not mean that God wants to confine us to mundane tasks. At the end of 1 Cor. 12, Paul encourages us to "desire the greater gifts" (v. 31). But Paul doesn't stop there; he goes on to say: "And now I will show you the most excellent way." This introduces 1 Corinthians 13, the famous chapter on love.

**Qualified to Love?**

Ultimately *love*, not talent, is the key to ministry. That is what we are being called to consecrate and celebrate. Our response to God's love and grace is to love others in *any* way we can. Talents and specialty areas are important. Using them in ministry is good and necessary, but we can also serve in areas where we aren't talented just as we can donate money generously even when we're not rich.

In fact, when we serve others in a way that doesn't use our perceived abilities, we powerfully affirm *their* personal worth. We may communicate love in a way that serving in an area where we excel never could. We not only help, but we also bless in this way.

Before his death, Jesus was explaining love-based service to his disciples. They had not understood his desire to wash their feet. What an act of love for Jesus to do this, even though there were others who could have done the job for him! It had a different meaning when *he* performed the service. After explaining its importance, Peter cried: "then Lord, not just my feet, but my hands and head, as well!" (John 13:9).

**What Are the Needs?**

We need, then, a different approach toward spiritual gifts and our doings for God. Rather than ask, "What are my abilities?" we should ask, "What are the needs

around me?" And as we learn about needs in the church, community, and around the world, we should *act*. We can say yes to God and let the Spirit give us all we need to get the job *done*. That's the best way we, as women and men, can celebrate and consecrate the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us.

To discover whether you are gifted for a particular form of service, serve there! We're not limited to serving only in areas where we have obvious abilities and credentials.

Four years ago, my friend Garrett Caldwell, one of Sligo's pastors at the time, called me into his office to discuss a proposal issued by the entire staff and the Potomac Conference. He asked me to come on board for a six-month, full-time commitment in the area of discipleship. You could have knocked me over with a feather!

After so much involvement supporting women in ministry with TEAM over that past 10 years, I was now finding new ways to serve. But joining the pastoral staff was not the direction I was headed, and I told him so. He persisted, told me the staff had prayed about it, and they wanted me to pray about it, too. What could I lose? With the reaction that it was a nice idea and affirming to have been asked, I gave it to God.

When the idea of joining the pastors would not go away, I began to panic a little. What could I do with my kids? What could I do with the work I was doing to help women in ministry? How could I serve our congregation without the "appropriate" degree in ministry? With TEAM I had been working so hard to provide women scholarship assistance for seminary. How could I just put on the brakes and turn my life around like that?

I didn't know the answers. But I said yes. And I've never looked back.

God has provided for me every step of the way—the first baptism, the first funeral. I thought I was going to die while preparing my first sermon! I spent my birthday on the floor of my study sobbing because I did not know how to put my thoughts together. The next day, I confided in my friend, Kendra Haloviak, and she gave me wonderful advice: Don't do this to

be good at it, do it to give God glory. Let him use you. And when I gave it to God, the sermon came. Just like that!

Always, always, God has given me what I've needed to do my job. It has been so exciting! When our church went through a hellish period, God gave me the stamina and calm to endure incredible pressures that tempted me to leave my ministry. This fall, God provided me a way to finish my education.

My U-turn helped me to be open and alert to exploring new areas of ministry as God brings people's needs to my attention. As I serve in a new setting, awkward as it may feel, I gain an sense of where I can be fruitful. And when God blesses my new work, I prayerfully consider a further commitment.

**Stumbling and Yearning**

Being new at formal ministry, I sometimes stumble but still I sense a yearning to serve further, and God says stick with it. Paul teaches clearly that a gift can be sought (1 Cor. 12:31, 14:12). Whether our gifts are old talents or new grace for the moment, we must *use* them to say something for God. Each of us is responsible to make the most of every opportunity, because—as we learned September 11 [2001], "the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). It is as you and I serve that we'll find our opportunities are limitless.

I wanted to be somebody important. Instead of climbing the corporate ladder, I ended up serving my congregation full-time. It's not what I envisioned for my life, but it's what I was created to do. And over the past four years, I've come to embrace the new gifts that God has given me and not doubt this assignment anymore. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to help you and not to hurt you, plans to give you a hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

**And You?**

I don't know why God does what he does, but I do know that he has called me and gifted me to serve the church at this time in history, in the lives of these people, for his purpose. It's not lofty, but it's heavenly. This was my U-turn. Have you thought about yours?

*Ultimately love, not talent, is the key to ministry.*



Musician Dawn Renyolds turned the keyboard into an instrument of praise at AAW worships.



Rockville Full Life Fellowship Choir added energy to the AAW Opening Session worship time.

# AAW Conference Packed with Worship, Learning, Celebration



LaKisha, Nicole, Priska, and Edwina Neely combined their talents to lead a worship on the final day of the AAW Conference.



Sabine Vatel, Columbia Union College chaplain, promoted dialog between generations with the help of CUC students Wendy Acevedo-Lopez, Joy Cole, Laura Chenault, and Leilani Humphrey.



Finding much to discuss between meetings are Bille Burdick (left), Pat Habada, Lisa Beardsly, and Toini Harrison.



Sharing her research, Associate Pastor Debbie Eisele invites discussion on "The Stages of Faith—Growing to the Next Level."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

John's, Newfoundland in Canada and Sally Lam-Phoon from Singapore. More than half of those attending were from states outside of Maryland. They drove from Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and New York. They traveled from North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Arkansas, and Alabama. They journeyed from Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana. And they flew from Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and—over 50!—from California. Altogether those from outside of Maryland were three-fifths of those attending.

Attendance increased at the Saturday night Women of the Year Awards Banquet, coordinated by Toini Harrison. Four of the eight celebrated women of the year attended the conference (photo on page 1). Stories about and comments from the honorees radiated courage, dedication, wisdom, spunk, and humor. Women of the Year stories appear in *The Adventist Women*, Summer 2001, pp. 2-4.

### The Yesterday Show

Opening Session, Thursday night, used the idea of television's The Today Show, to present, live, The Yesterday Show. Co-anchors Lori Peckham and Michelle Sturm

interviewed women important to Adventist and secular history past and present action—Ellen White (Alyssa Truman), Anna Knight (Marilyce Gibson), Jane Addams (Vicki Macomber), Eleanor Roosevelt (Jeannette Johnson), Rosa Parks (Carol Barron), and Kit Watts (Kit Watts).

Each of three plenary sessions began with praise and worship. The visual impact of Debbie Eisele's worships Friday morning and afternoon reached mind and heart. Eisele is pastor for worship, Sligo Adventist Church. The family of Pastor Bill (Edwina, Lakisha, Priska, and Nicole Neely) and church members of his Rockville Adventist Church, enriched worships with sound, motion, and visual arts.

Plenary speakers were Rebecca Brillhart, pastor for nurture, Sligo Adventist Church; Heather Ripley, seminary student sponsored by the Texas Conference; and Cynthia Prime, Christian businesswoman and motivational speaker. The complete text of Brillhart's plenary presentation, "U-Turn," is in the center of this issue. Ripley spoke from the imagined thought of "Jael—That Woman with a Hammer." In subdued light of Sunday morning's meeting room, Prime encouraged women to "Light Your World."



Both a workshop presenter for Purpose, Passion, and Career Possibilities, and a plenary speaker (Light Your World), Cynthia Prime, co-founder of Parfums Llewelyn, evoked confidence and trust in God.



Two church planters and worship leaders Liz Whitworth (pictured) and Jane McDonald, shared workshop ideas for "Transforming Your Church Service into True Worship."



One of the first Seventh-day Adventist men to courageously call for women's full equality in the church, Elder Warren Banfield was the only General Conference representative to attend the second AAW Conference in 1984. Now retired, he and his wife reminisced with Kit Watts (left), who co-directed the 1984 conference at Andrews University.



Sharing insights on "Jael—that lady with a hammer" is Lynn Ripley, pastor, and seminary student at Andrews University.



A panel diverse in age, ethnic origin, and personal experiences engaged in a stimulating dialogue about the definition of feminism and current issues for women in the church. Will the church do better by women in the future? The panel agreed that education is essential but not enough. Men (and women) who have been wounded must find healing. Without that, they will continue to act in hurtful, restrictive ways. From left to right the participants are: Ingrid Jones, Myrna Walters, Maritza Duran, Kendra Haloviak, Sally Lam-Phoon, Lisa Beardsly, and chair Kit Watts.



Debbie Eisele, a member of the Sligo Church pastoral staff in Maryland, led several worship events during the AAW Conference, October 4-7. Here she displays hand-made quilts as a visual image of how women cooperate with God to create beauty, warmth, and comfort.



Elsie Chan, who accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of Minnie Iverson Wood, enjoyed the banquet with her granddaughter Cherisse (Mei-yan) and her daughter Noreen Chan Tompkins.



At the AAW agape supper Friday night Columbia Union College students Silvia Garcia, Wendy Acevedo-Lopez and Jennifer Sutton enacted the struggles Christ faced.



Brenda Billingsy urges the congregation to stir up their gifts at Sligo's 11 a.m. service.

**So Many Workshops, So Little Time**

The multitude of workshops made participants groan with the difficulty of deciding which to attend. From learning more about Ellen White to looking at feminism in the church, the topics covered were widespread.

Topics were Ellen and Elizabeth—The Lifelong Bond of Ellen White and Her Twin (Norma Collins),

How and Why to Feature Sacred Dance in Worship (Sherry Hostetler),

For Women Clergy—A Time for Fellowship and Stories of Success in the Challenges (Chris Oberg and Penny Shell),

The Stages of Faith—Growing to the Next Level (Debbie Eisele), Women Elders—Purpose and Pitfalls (Ardis Stenbakken),

The Many Faces of Feminism and Current Issues in the Church (a panel led by Kit Watts),

Reaching the Secular Mind (Myrna Tetz),

Transforming Your Church Service into True Worship (Liz Whitworth and Jane McDonald),

How to Interpret Scripture with Insight and Integrity: An exegetical Study of 1 Timothy (Madelynn Jones Haldeman and Ginger Hanks Harwood),

Strategies to Break through the Gender Gap in Leadership (Debra Brill),

Celebrating the Single Years without Falling in the Desperate Trap (Terrie Ruff),

and Purpose, Passion, and Career Possibilities (Cynthia Prime).

**A Sligo Sabbath**

Sabbath workshops, the worship hour, and the Sabbath afternoon panel were hosted at Sligo Adventist Church and Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland. Pastor Brenda Billingsy, associate pastor of the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington, D.C., was Sligo's 11 a.m. speaker. Her sermon, "Stir up Your Gifts" reflected the conference theme, "Consecrating and Celebrating Women's Gifts." Sabine Vatel, Columbia Union College chaplain, moderated a panel Sabbath afternoon that provided dialogue between experienced women and college-age women, sharing views across generational lines.

Led by Pat Foster, president of the Association of Adventist Women, business sessions Friday afternoon and Sunday morning explored the new mission document and formed a list of commendations, recommendations, and resolutions (see p. 3).

**Behind It All**

Penny Estes Wheeler and Heide Ford who led the 2001 AAW Conference Committee of Jocelyn Fay, Kay Rosburg, Debbie Eisele, Rebecca Brillhart, Lori Peckham, and Michelle Sturm are no strangers to issues that interest women. As editors of the *Woman of Spirit* magazine, they have wide contacts and solid organizational abilities. Together they kept their own magazine on track and produced a tremendous conference.



"Celebrating the Single Years without Falling in the Desperate Trap" is possible according to workshop leader Terrie Ruff, social worker, Alexian Brothers Community Services; adjunct professor of social work, Southern Adventist University.



New friends Delores Stuart (left) from Oregon and Ingrid Jones from Maryland enjoy the Agape Meal together.

# Nominate the Next Woman of the Year

The Association of Adventist Women (AAW) is soliciting nominations for its 2002 Women of the Year awards, which will be presented during the annual AAW convention to be held in Portland, Oregon, October 17-20, 2002.

"Too often the enormous contributions of Seventh-day Adventist women are overlooked," says Toini Harrison, coordinator of the Women of the Year program. "These prestigious awards are designed to help us all realize anew how women uphold, support and work in all phases of the Adventist church and its outreach."

Nominees should be Adventist women who have made outstanding and unique contributions to home, community, and/or professional life. The nomination process involves several steps, including preparing a biographical sketch which describes her accomplishments and contributions in the area for which she is being nominated, two recommendations from colleagues, and a letter from her current church pastor. The deadline for submitting applications is May 20, 2002.

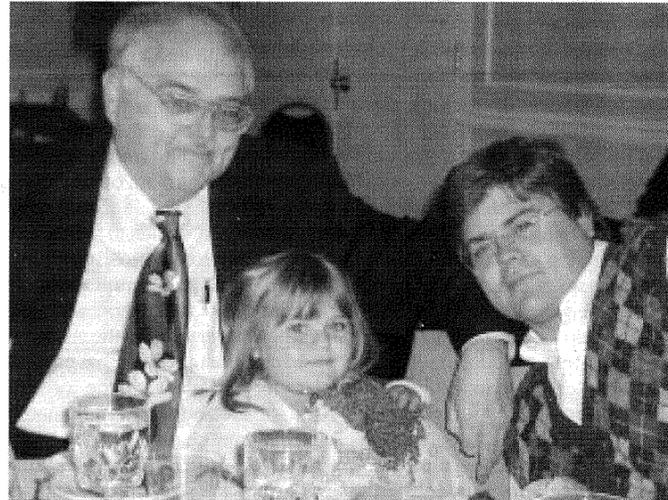
Information on submitting will

be sent with each application. To request an application packet, contact:

Toini Harrison,  
Women of the Year Coordinator  
11171 Oakwood Drive, B105  
Loma Linda, CA 92354  
Phone: (909) 799-5448  
E-mail: aharrison@cs.com



Toini Harrison, coordinator of the process that selects AAW Women of the Year and the banquet that celebrates them, watches over the awards process.



McKenna Wear with grandpa Doug Wear, and dad Trevin Wear may well be a Woman of the Year herself someday, like Betty Howard whose celebration she attended.

## Women Noted Among Pacific Union Priorities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reaching out to others through evangelistic efforts, two priorities call for affirmation of women.

Item number six focuses on church leadership and pastoral ministry. It reads: "Encourage equality of function in ministry at all levels of church organization throughout the Pacific Union. Affirm and actively support women currently employed in ministry; increase opportunities for employment of women in all church and conference level positions."

Item number seven states: "Actively recruit and mentor both men and women for pastoral and

educational ministry. Provide for a needed pool of qualified Adventist ministers and educators."

Sandy Roberts, formerly a pastor at the Corona Church and now an associate youth director in the Southeastern California Conference, was among those on the union committee who developed the slate of priorities for the delegates' consideration.

The list of 11 priorities, under the title of "Vision for the Future: Pacific Union Conference Goals to Be Achieved During the Years 2001-2006," was published on the back page of the *Pacific Union Recorder* in August 2001.

### Presidential Communiqué

# Define Leadership With Your Life

by Patricia J. Foster  
AAW President

AAW's newly revised *Mission and Goal Statement* clearly focuses on the role of AAW in promoting the participation of women in leadership roles within the Adventist Church. AAW is pleased that a senior denominational administrator said last month that "... it is important to keep both genders in leadership and ministry roles, both as pastors and administrative leaders as well as in laity leadership for local churches."

What do we mean by the term "leadership"?

The concept of leadership has been studied by many researchers and described by countless authors who sometimes come to conflicting conclusions. There are, however, some consistently recurring themes suggesting that leadership is primarily a relationship that focuses on the well being and growth of others.

Kouzes and Posner (2000) examined leadership behaviors for more than two decades, at all organizational levels in public and private organizations. They concluded that the most important behaviors common to achieving successful leadership include these essential elements:

1. Seeking and accepting challenges,
2. Inspiring a shared vision,
3. Enabling others to act,
4. Setting an example, and
5. Encouraging others.

Kouzes and Posner assert that leadership is not reserved for a few innately gifted persons, but that leadership can be learned. An important responsibility of current leaders is to help others become leaders themselves.

Good leaders are identified as being knowledgeable, approachable, open, concerned, and hav-

ing a sense of humor. They are seen as being reasonable and fair in their dealings with others. They listen. They have vision and are able to lead people and organizations to make a difference. (Drucker, Senge, and Hesselbein, 2000).

"We as a community of Christian women who love God can both demonstrate and teach the essential skills for leadership. We can contribute our unique ways of knowing, caring, and building bridges. We can bring, both in and out of the church structure, our compassion and our collaborative ways of relating to others. Conway (2001) points out that women need to emphasize their intellectual as well as their empathetic skills. Becker (2002) suggests that when "women strive to achieve a healthy balance between their... compassionate and assertive selves, the balance will foster personal growth."

We can promote our critical thinking skills, which are essential to making the most accurately informed leadership decisions, by actively participating in discussions that are both challenging and supportive. We can discuss ideas without making anyone feel "put down" or "less than." We can look for evidence and evaluate its validity before making decisions. Most of all we can look at our tentative solutions from others' point of view. We can demonstrate our objectivity, tolerance to new ideas, and intellectual curiosity.

All of us are simultaneously leaders and followers, with the emphasis varying on the situation and circumstances of that particular time and place. In the "orchestra" of life, our role and "instruments" may change, but we should be ever improving our skills. These skills are our gifts from God. We consecrate them to the service of our "Conductor." We are



Pat Foster, president of the Association of Adventist Women, greeted Women & the Word attendees, welcomed AAW attendees, and conducted each business session of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual AAW Conference in Baltimore last October.

God's instruments for helping to make the church (and the larger society) more harmonious and reflective of divine love.

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- Kouzes, James M. and Posner, Barry Z., 2001, *The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership*, Jossey Bass.

## Missing Names

If you know the address of any of these people listed with their former location, please send that information to:

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Kathleen Armster, San Jacinto, CA  
Peronica Rogers, Baltimore, MD  
Wendy Wohlers, Seattle, WA  
Christine King, Detroit, MI  
Maria Bastien  
Martha Willis, Lanham, MD  
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Bob Caywood, Garden Grove, CA  
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### Make Plans Now

# International Meeting of the Association of Adventist Women, October 17-20, 2002

by Bev Beem

"Weavers of Wisdom: Women's Voices, Women's Lives" is the theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> international meeting of the Association of Adventist Women to be held October 17-20, 2002. The meeting will take place in the riverside setting of the DoubleTree Hotel-Columbia River, Portland, Oregon.

The seminars feature such topics as the stages of life, developing friendships, spiritual storytelling, and other topics in women's health, life-planning, and history in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A special track coordinated by Leslie Bumgardner, a pastor in the Upper Columbia Conference, is planned for women in ministry to address professional issues.

Noted speakers include a keynote address by Joan Coggin, MD, a vice-president at Loma Linda University; a worship service by Ardis Stenbakken, director of the General Conference Women's Ministries Department; and a report from James

Cress from the General Conference Ministerial Association on the worldwide work of Adventist women.

Other features of the conference are Sabbath lunch served during a boat ride on the Columbia River; dramatic performances; special music, including the Ring of Fire Bell Ringers; worship services; prayer groups; book displays; and a hospitality suite. Childcare will be available.

The convention fee of \$110 includes all seminars, the boat ride, and the Woman-of-the-Year banquet. To make your reservations, send the convention fee to Janice Dopp, Treasurer, Walla Walla Valley Chapter of the AAW, 552 Snider Dr., Walla Walla, WA 99362.

Reservations for lodging at the DoubleTree Hotel can be made at the special AAW convention rate of \$95 for a room with two queen beds (two to four persons) by calling the hotel directly at 1-503-283-2111. For further information, contact the local chapter at AAWNW2002@w3dzine.net.

## Letters to AAW

• The Campus Hill church Administrative Board voted unanimously to convey a message of congratulations to be read on the occasion of Dr. Betty Howard's Life Time Achievement Award.

Dr. Howard has been an outstanding member of our church and a very active participant on our Board. We could not think of anyone more deserving of this award and are delighted to be recipients of her graciousness, dedication to God, and commitment to His service. She is not only an admired co-laborer in ministry, but also a well-loved member of our congregation whom we are eager to welcome home after this important award.

*Hyveth Williams, D. Min.*  
Senior Pastor

• Thank you for your kind letter from The Association of Adventist Women commending us for the selection of Carolyn Osmond as treasurer of the Alberta Conference. We are most fortunate to have Carolyn as our treasurer! She brought to the position a wealth of skills, talents and knowledge that, in part, are shaping the future of our conference.

You will also be happy to know that Frances Chant was selected as the Trust Services Director for the Alberta Conference. She was

formerly Vice-President for Development at Canadian University College. She began October 8, 2001. Again, we are most fortunate!

Thank you for sending to me the Mission Statement and Goals of AAW. They look tremendous! May the Lord bless you richly as you and your organization serve His church in this way.

*Frank Tochtermann, President*  
Alberta Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists

• I am impressed with, and fully supportive of, your mission statement, and pray that all of your noble goals will be fully realized... I can't imagine how much longer it will take for us to realize that the example Jesus set in relating to women and considering them of great value is the example we in our church need to follow.

*Herman Bauman, President*  
Arizona Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists

## Correction

Sandra Johnson should have been listed as vice president of business development for Adventist Health System, not just at Florida Hospital East Orlando, in the last issue of *The Adventist Woman*.

## Subscription / Change of Address

Your \$20 lets you predict and review activities for women-women who are alert to issues, women who want to grow personally and professionally, women who stand for the right though the heavens fall. If this issue reached you "by grace," won't you renew your subscription today?

Mail this form with your check or money order payable in US funds to: Association of Adventist Women - Subscriptions  
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