

the Adventist Woman

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Two Ordinations Held in California on December 2

Now We Are Six

On December 2, a sunny and pleasantly breezy 75-degree Sabbath in the Los Angeles basin, two congregations in the Southeastern California Conference held ordinations for three Adventist women in ministry. With the three ordained at Sligo Church on September 23, the events bring the number of Adventist women so recognized to six.

Since the world church met in Utrecht last July 5 and voted by 1,481 to 673 not to allow the North American Division to authorize women's ordinations, the women being set apart received ordination certificates from their local congregations.

The Loma Linda Victoria Church, an ethnically diverse working-class congregation of about 200 members, ordained Sheryll Prinz McMillan, their sole pastor, at the 11 a.m. worship service.

M. Jerry Davis, director of chaplain services at Loma Linda University Medical Center, preached the homily based on Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose." Davis said to Prinz McMillan, "And you are called according to God's purpose."

At 4 p.m. the same day, 1,500 worshippers crowded into the La Sierra University Church in Riverside, California, to witness a much-longed-for service for Madelynn Haldeman and Halcyon Wilson. Approximately 60 ordained Adventist min-

isters had given their names in support of the service, and many attended to participate.

A program rich with music, art, flowers, Scripture, liturgy, prayer, singing and preaching carried the audience into a memorable worship service quite removed from the more-than-20 years of debate on women's ordination.

In his ordination homily, Dan Smith, pastor of the La Sierra Church, said that he hoped world church leaders and others would "just praise God that we have authorized more individuals to preach Christ." Further, he said, his staff had concluded that they must all serve as equals on the pastoral staff. Halcyon Wilson has been a pastor there for 15 years. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

As Lawrence T. Geraty, La Sierra University president, presented candidate Madelynn Haldeman for ordination, he pointed out that it was the 40th anniversary of Rosa Park's decision not to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Haldeman is near retirement and has been a member of the university religion faculty for more than 30 years. In the 1980s, she was the second woman to earn a Th.D. degree from the SDA Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Said Geraty, "Madelynn, you have served long enough on the back of the Adventist bus."

During the ordination prayer, ordained clergy and members of the congregation streamed down the aisles to participate in the laying on of hands. With the exception of Audray Johnson, a departmental leader from the Southeastern California Conference, few other conference officials were present. However, a large del-

egation from the Arizona Conference, including Conference President Herman Bauman, did attend.

The three women ordained by Sligo — Kendra Haloviak, Norma Osborn, and Penny Shell—were among the participating ministers. Sligo Church was also represented at the two California ordinations by seven pulpit banners, which were prominently displayed. The pulpit hangings were designed for a sermon series on the seven churches of Revelation. In the midst of that sermon series—on September 23, the Sabbath featuring the "sword of truth" at Sardis—Sligo ordained its

three women candidate.

As darkness fell, a reception for the three newly ordained women attracted several hundred to a program that lasted from 6:00 until nearly 8 p.m. More than 25 pastors, friends, family members, and women in ministry commented on what the day and its events meant for themselves and for the Adventist Church at large.

A video tape of the La Sierra ordination is available for \$20 from Sigma Audio/Video Associates, Box 51, Loma Linda, CA 92354. PAL tapes are available for European systems at \$30 each.



Sheryll Prinz McMillan is pastor of the Loma Linda Victoria Church in Loma Linda, California. She was ordained at 11 a.m. on December 2 after M. Jerry Davis (seated to the right of the pulpit) presented the ordination homily. Others on the platform included (from left) Pastor Craig Newborn, Raymond Blackburn (first elder), M. Jerry Davis, John Duncan, and Lillie Biddix. (A picture of the ordained women pastors is on page 4.)

Words of Hope

Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!

Luke 1:14 (NIV)

Conference Renews Hope



The conference attracted media attention.

Diversity, the 13th Annual AAW Conference took place October 19-22, 1995, at the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Southern College. Conference coordinator Sherri Craig and her husband registered 160 people.

Carol Cannon presented the keynote address, *Forgive Us Our Trespasses—Boundaries as the Key to Celebrating Diversity within Christian Unity*. She is co-founder and clinical director of The Bridge, a Christian treatment center for dependency disorders. Twenty workshops were presented on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday.

A number of resolutions were voted at the business session on Friday. That night an agape feast focused on *Women at the Cross*.

On Sabbath Sali Jo Hand, youth ministries director, Potomac Conference, taught the Sabbath School lesson. Dr. Rosa Banks, associate secretary and director of the Office of Human Relations,

North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, preached. That afternoon reports from women's groups were presented. Saturday night's multi-media program, *AAW Celebrates Leadership*, focused on early contemporary women who have provided leadership to the church and the founding of AAW.

The conference concluded Sunday with a banquet honoring the *Adventist Women of the Year*. Elizabeth Wear read a tribute to each honoree, and Nancy Marter presented a plaque. The honorees were Linda L. Ammons, Ellen Brezee, Janet Fordjour, Anita Requenez-Moses, Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, and Hyveth Williams.

(Photos appear on page 2.)

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Presidential Communique

Christian Civility Needed

by Nancy Marter

In the November 29, 1995, issue of the *Washington Post*, Judith Martin, who writes the *Miss Manners* column, made the following reply to one reader's comment:

As Miss Manners understands it, you and she are in perfect agreement that there should not be a double standard that permits some people to practice racism and sexism while others may not. Your solution is to allow everyone to do so. Miss Manners' is to discourage anyone from doing so. Fairness is certainly one of her concerns, but civility is another. She has observed that trading insults prevents and substitutes for—rather than constitutes—free and open discussions of ideas.

Religious entities, historically and ironically, have been some of the poorest examples of tolerance and "Christian" charity. Unfortunately, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been and is no exception. But we should be!

As 1995, the Year of the Adventist Woman, comes to a close, I want to thank those church leaders whose words have been gracious, actions courageous, behavior inclusive. They show a largesse of spirit that is much needed in this insult-hurling world. Though many others could be named, I would especially like to thank Ed Barnett, Harold Lee, Dan Matthews,

Ernest Marter, and Al McClure. In addition, there are two men who shall remain nameless, who with the unexpected gift of a piece of "tofu-iced" cake provided me with a very therapeutic laugh at the NAD year-end meetings. May their tribe increase!

For many women as well as men the word *feminist* has come to carry such baggage that folk often hesitate to be associated with it in any way. However, *The New Webster's Dictionary* defines *feminism* as "the doctrine advocating that social and political rights of women be equal to those possessed by men; a movement to acquire such rights." A *feminist* is one who believes in such equality.

For far too long, Adventist women and men have traded insults regarding the equality and value of women. However, **GOD** has already established the value and equality of all people—including women. As Christians, **civility** should always characterize our words and behavior. Insulting, judgmental generalizations have no place in the conversations of mature, reasonable adults.

In a climate of courtesy and concern for building up the **entire** body of Christ, perhaps, at long last—maybe even in 1996—there can be a **free and open discussion of ideas**. Perhaps we can produce light, not just heat. With the grace of God, a true unity can develop among believers. Sound like heaven? I'm all for that!

The Conference Remembered



Conference attendees enjoyed more than 20 workshops.



Peggy Harris (l.) congratulated Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse.



Elizabeth Wear (l.) read a tribute while Nancy Marter presented a plaque.



Viveca Black (seated on right) received affirmation for the multi media presentation, *AAW Celebrates Leadership*.



Conference organizer Sherri Craig and husband John handled registration with a smile.

Workshops on Video!

Most of the conference workshops were videotaped. For a list and price sheet, contact Sherri Craig, AAW Collegedale Chapter, PO Box 1544, Collegedale, TN 37315. Telephone: 423-396-3244.

Conference Resolutions, 1995

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the General Conference To the North American Division

1. RESTRUCTURING THE GC COMMITTEE

Whereas the General Conference in session at Utrecht voted to restructure the General Conference Committee to include wider world representation, and

Whereas that process also included provision for laity to be involved as members of the committee, and

Whereas each division now has the opportunity to select three delegates from the laity, and

Whereas women comprise more than 60 percent of the membership of the world church,

It is hereby resolved to request that each world division select at least two women as delegates to the General Conference Committee during the 1995-2000 quinquennium.

2. INVOLVING MORE WOMEN AT GC LEVEL

Whereas women comprise 60 percent or more of church membership worldwide, and Whereas the new General Conference Committee structure voted at Utrecht clearly does not reflect this in the allocation of its membership, and

Whereas the role of women in the church could and should be expanded considerably, It is hereby resolved to request Elder Folkenberg and the General Conference Administrative Committee to identify and implement ways in which the General Conference will lead the world church in involving more women as representatives and participants in the decision-making process of the world church.

It is further requested that regular progress reports of such implementation be published in the *Adventist Review* as a means of encouraging women and also to encourage the world divisions to include more women in the decision-making processes in their fields.

3. WOMEN'S ROLE AT GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Whereas women actively participated in every aspect of the General Conference session in Utrecht, including preaching, presenting workshops and seminars, and leading in various other activities, and

Whereas the General Conference administration made a genuine effort to include more women in various ways throughout the session, including support for the Year of the Adventist Woman series of meetings sponsored by the Office of Women's Ministries,

It is hereby resolved to express thanks to Elder Robert Folkenberg and the GC administration for the obvious increase in the number of women speakers and presenters during the session, and to request that this practice continue at all future General Conference functions, including Annual Councils, Spring Meetings, Weeks of Prayer, and Colloquiums.

4. DELETIONS OF BENEFITS FOR HOURLY WORKERS

Whereas hourly workers are mainly women, some of whom are single mothers, and Whereas church workers are expected to put their children in Adventist schools, and the workers want their children to attend Adventist schools, and

Whereas the lowest paid church workers have the most difficult time affording church school tuition for their children,

It is hereby resolved to recommend to the General Conference and North American Division that any proposal under consideration that would deny tuition subsidies to hourly workers be reconsidered; instead, a strategy for making budget cuts be developed which does not target any one group or any one benefit, such as tuition assistance, but which adjusts the benefits package of everyone a certain percentage or finds other ways of making budget cuts in order to control costs.

5. ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Whereas the church needs to use all of its resources in the spreading of the gospel, and Whereas hundreds of women throughout all of the divisions are being trained for evangelism, and

Whereas thousands of converts have recently been brought into the church by these women, and

Whereas the dedication and competence of women evangelists, pastors, chaplains, and other women in ministry such as Bible teachers has been amply demonstrated during the entire history of the Adventist Church, and

Whereas there has been a spontaneous recent growth in the numbers of women active in evangelism in the Adventist Church around the world,

It is again resolved to request that the North American Division and the General Conference vote to allow for the ordination of women to the ministry.

6. REQUEST TO ADVENTIST REVIEW AND MINISTRY MAGAZINE

Whereas the union presidents of the North American Division have recently released a joint statement supporting and affirming Adventist women in ministry, and

Whereas administrators in the world church need to know of this support and concern of the NAD union presidents for women in ministry,

It is hereby resolved to request the editors of *Ministry* magazine and the *Adventist Review* to publish the NAD union presidents' statement as early as possible.

7. NAD PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT OF WOMEN

Whereas NAD president A. C. McClure demonstrated courage and integrity at Utrecht in presenting NAD's request to the world church, and

Whereas Elder McClure has expressed his intention to give greater support and a wider role to women in Adventism as exhibited by his attempt to place a woman vice-president on the division administrative staff during the October 1995 year-end meeting in Battle Creek, and

Whereas he has announced plans to establish a presidential commission to study ways to encourage and affirm Adventist women in ministry, and

Whereas the division will sponsor a day of prayer in February 1996 to encourage and support young people, both women and men, as they seek to fulfill their call to ministry,

It is hereby resolved to thank Elder McClure for his support and actions, and to encourage him to continue to support women and women's roles in the church by continuing the search for a woman vice-president, by aggressively seeking to place women in other leadership positions, by rewriting and revising policies to provide for a wider role of women in administration and ministry, and by affirming those women presently serving in administration and ministry. We confidently anticipate the implementation of these commitments by NAD year-end meeting of 1996.

8. NAD PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

Whereas NAD President A. C. McClure has announced plans to establish a presidential commission to study ways to affirm and support women in ministry, and

Whereas several women's organizations share in this concern about women in ministry and are working diligently to affirm and support them, and

Whereas a number of women in these organizations have given time, talent, and money to support various projects presently underway and others planned for the immediate future,

It is hereby resolved that Elder McClure be encouraged to include representatives from these organizations* on that commission, and

It is further resolved that those organizations involved in planning and implementing projects be encouraged to share that information with the president's commission in a show of consolidation and support, and an attempt to avoid duplicating effort and finances.

*The organizations are:

AWC—Adventist Women's Coalition, Dr. Helen Thompson, chairperson

AWI—Adventist Women's Institute, Vickie Danielsen and Lorna Tobler, co-chairpersons

AAW—The Association of Adventist Women, Nancy Marter, president

Shepherdess International, Sharon Cress, director

TEAM—Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry, Dr. Patricia Habada, chairperson

WASH—Women and Men Against Sexual Harassment, Peggy Harris, president

Southeastern California Conference Gender Inclusiveness Commission—Dr. Penny Miller, chairperson

9. NAD UNION PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Whereas the union presidents of the North American Division have recently released a joint open letter to their constituencies in which they express their disappointment in the world church action at Utrecht that denied North America the opportunity to ordain women to the gospel ministry, and

Whereas that letter also expressed strong and firm support for women in ministry and suggested innovative and positive ways of demonstrating that support, and

Whereas no definite plans are outlined for implementing those suggestions,

It is hereby resolved to thank the NAD union presidents for their show of solidarity with women in ministry, and

It is further resolved to request that the union presidents follow through by publishing this letter in all union papers and in a NAD edition of the *Adventist Review* by April 1996; by establishing a definite plan, including a time line; and by implementing that plan as outlined within the time line.

It is further resolved to encourage Adventist women throughout the division to communicate to the NAD union presidents their thanks and appreciation for this effort by making personal contacts with their own union president as soon as possible.

10. DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY TEXTBOOK

Whereas the denominational history book used as a textbook in many colleges is being revised and updated, and

Whereas the present edition omits much of the data concerning the role of women in the development and continuation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,

It is hereby resolved to ask those individuals who are involved in this project to review the role of women throughout the history of the church and include pertinent data in the revision of *Lightbearers to the Remnant*.

EXPRESS CONDOLENCES

Whereas two dedicated women in ministry have died during the past year, and

Whereas both were making a strong contribution to Adventism and to Adventist women as well as men, and

Whereas they are sorely missed by their colleagues and peers, their families, and friends,

It is hereby resolved to express our appreciation for their contributions to the church and to Adventist women and men, and to offer our condolences to the families of Gayle Saxby and Risë Colson.

COMMENDATIONS

1. APPRECIATION TO DAN MATTHEWS

Whereas Dan Matthews of the television program *Lifestyle Magazine* personally encountered the presenter against ordination of women at Utrecht and expressed his disappointment and shock at the poor quality of exegesis and the interpretation of Scripture, and

Whereas Elder Matthews spoke eloquently to that man against that presenter's position, and

Whereas he spoke for many women who had no opportunity to do so,

It is hereby resolved to commend Elder Matthews for his integrity and valiant support for women in ministry, and for his willingness to confront that individual and others who oppose the ordination of women and the wider role for women in the church.

2. COMMEND SLIGO CHURCH

Whereas the members of Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland, voted in a duly called business meeting to proceed to ordain women who serve that church and community, and

Whereas the planning committee appointed by the church prepared a truly sacred and beautiful service at which three women were ordained, and

Whereas a number of ordained ministers participated in the service, and

(See CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, p.4)



Left to right: Madelynn Jones Haldeman, Sheryll Prinz McMillan, Halcyon Westphal Wilson, Norma Osborn, Kendra Haloviak, and Penny Shell. The banners behind them are from Sligo Church, illustrating the seven churches of Revelation.

Conference Resolutions, 1995, (Continued from p. 3)

Whereas the pastoral staff has endured much criticism for their role in supporting the membership in this decision and for participating in the service,

It is hereby resolved to express appreciation to Sligo Church members for their strong support for women in ministry, to thank the planning committee for an inspiring sacred service, and to express our encouragement and support to the Sligo pastoral staff, the ordained ministers who participated, and to the three women who were ordained.

3. COMMEND A. C. MCCLURE

Whereas the North American Division has taken the lead in supporting ordination of women, and

Whereas Elder A. C. McClure, NAD president, has demonstrated strong support and leadership in taking this issue before the world church both at Annual Council 1994 and the 1995 General Conference session in Utrecht, and

Whereas Elder McClure's personal commitment has led him to stand firm for this issue in the face of great opposition from his colleagues in the world church, and

Whereas his commitment has led to action in establishing a commission to seek creative ways to support women in ministry and to encourage their full and active participation in all church matters, and

Whereas Elder McClure has encouraged the role of women as administrators at the division level where women have served as general field secretary, associate secretary, and department head,

It is hereby resolved to commend and express appreciation to Elder McClure for his leadership and continued efforts on behalf of women in general and women in ministry in particular.

4. AAW EXHIBIT AT GC SESSION

Whereas for the first time AAW was able to exhibit at a General Conference session, and

Whereas women and men from several organizations participated in furnishing supplies, staffing the booth, and entering into discussion on women's issues with people from all over the world, and

Whereas women of the Capital Memorial Church in Washington, D.C., spent many hours preparing felt sets to be given away daily to women from around the world, and

Whereas the Australian Chapter of AAW prepared a lovely wall hanging to enhance the appearance of the exhibit area, and

Whereas these volunteers received no remuneration for their time, talent, and energy,

It is hereby resolved to express thanks and appreciation to those women from Capital Memorial Church; to the Australian AAW for their contribution to the exhibit; to representatives of AAW, WASH, TEAM, the Francophone AAW, and to the men and women of Southeastern California Conference Gender Inclusiveness Commission for their tireless efforts and support in staffing the booth during the session.

5. WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER AT LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

Whereas La Sierra University has expended considerable time, energy, and funds to establish a Women's Resource Center on their campus, and

Whereas seed money was given to this project in memory of Wildred Osgood, and

Whereas such a center will encourage women, and encourage broader support for women, and

Whereas that center will focus on educating student and leaders to greater understanding of the wider role possible for Adventist women,

It is hereby resolved to express appreciation for the establishment of this center and to offer our particular thanks to University President Lawrence Geraty for encouraging and supporting such activity on the university campus, and to those who have planned, contributed funds, and worked diligently to make the center a reality.

Clip & Do



How to Help Women Daily

1. Give your friends *The Adventist Woman*, now entering its 15th year of publication.
2. Organize a small group to pray together on February 3 when the North American Division celebrates the call to ministry.

Send your ideas for this feature to: The Editor, *The Adventist Woman*, PO Box 7414, Langley Park, MD 20787

Women in Ministry

This partial list of women pastors, chaplains, pastoral counselors, and religion teachers in North America by unions was compiled by Kit Watts. Note: In addition to those who are full-time denominational employees, some of those listed are in conference administration, in study programs, or are working part-time for stipends provided by their local church. In some cases, the individuals work in clergy positions at non-SDA institutions or are self-employed.

Atlantic Union

Hyveth Williams, pastor
Collette Crowell Pekar, associate pastor

Canadian Union

Marilyn J. Banford Ammon, pastor
Liisa Hawes, pastor on study leave
Gloria Joshua, hospital chaplain

Columbia Union

Josephine Benton, nursing home chaplain
Adly Campos, evangelist
Sharon Cress, former pastor, now director of Shepherdess International
Linda Farley, hospital chaplain
Kendra Haloviak, religion teacher on study leave
Sali Jo Hand, conference youth director
Esther Knott, associate pastor
Teresa Krueger, home health chaplain
Norma Osborn, associate pastor
Alice Rich, associate pastor
Penny Shell, hospital chaplain
Bonita Shields, associate pastor

Lake Union

Bernadine Archer, prison chaplain
Marsha Tuttle Collins, hospice chaplain
Elly Economou, religion teacher
Cherry B. Habenicht, academy religion teacher
Delcey Kuhlman, clergy retreat director
Bonnie Long, hospital chaplain
Leona G. Running, religion teacher
Carolyn J. Hanley Strzykowski, hospital chaplain
Nancy Weber Vyhmeister, religion teacher

Mid-America Union

Juanita Mayer Bartel, hospital chaplain
Pat Hart, pastor

North Pacific Union

Leslie Bumgardner, associate pastor
Beverly Bretsch, associate pastor
Nancy Snyder Canwell, pastor on leave
Wanda Grimes Davis, hospital chaplain
Linda Gage, pastoral counselor
Viviane Haenni, religion teacher
Ginger Harwood, religion teacher
Cindy Tutsch, conference youth director

Pacific Union

Esther Burley Ames, local church children's center director

Marit S. Balk, associate pastor
Shari Chamberlain, hospital chaplain
Judith Crabb, hospital chaplain
Jennifer Lea Ferrel, associate pastor
Anne Freed, religion teacher
Lynaia Shackno Freund, hospital chaplain
Madelynn Haldeman, religion teacher
Margaret Hempe, associate pastor
Carmen Ibanez, associate pastor
Audray Johnson, conference departmental leader

Ifeoma Kwesi, pastor
Elizabeth Anderson Ledon, associate pastor
Tami Losey, associate pastor
Sheryll Prinz McMillan, pastor
Patricia Maxwell, associate pastor
Margo Pitrone, associate pastor
Shirley Ponder, associate pastor
Jacquie Zytkoskee Randall, pastoral counselor
Janet Richardson, hospital chaplain
Sandra Roberts, academy chaplain
L. Jean Sheldon, religion teacher
Lang Van, pastor to Cambodian refugees
Beth Ann Vaughn, associate pastor
Dottie Versteeg, associate pastor
Halcyon Wilson, associate pastor

Southern Union

Gail Skilton Enikeev, retirement center chaplain
Lorabel Hersch, associate pastor
Marti Jones, hospital coordinator of spiritual nurture
Joyce Hanscom Lorntz, associate pastor
Barbara McCoy, associate pastor
Gloria McLaren, hospice chaplain
Erin Miller, associate pastor
Faye Rose, hospital chaplain
Julie Schafer, hospital chaplain
Duane Schoonard, hospital chaplain
Joyce Evans Webb, hospital chaplain

Southwestern Union

Retired Individuals

Nellie Carter, former pastor
Edith C. Davis, former pastor and missionary
Geneva Fisher, former hospital chaplain
Maybelle Vandermark Goranson, former pastor, departmental leader
Lucile Knapp, former religion teacher
Beatrice S. Neall, former religion teacher
Margaret Turner, former hospital chaplain
Elizabeth Unger Young, former hospital chaplain

Clarification

In the November issue of *The Adventist Woman*, vol. 14, no. 5, photo captions for the TEAM scholarships story reflected the degrees for which the grant recipients are studying. They have not achieved those degrees yet.

People & Places

Adly Campos conducted evangelism meetings in Cape Town, South Africa, during September 1995. From there she traveled to Veracruz, Mexico, where she was the main speaker for a youth congress attended by 7,000 young people. Then she held another evangelistic series in Indianapolis.

From England, **Helen Pearson** reports that she presented six weekly talks about Bible women on the BBC.

Dr. Pat Mutch has been named Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Andrews University.

Larry Williams, Associate Professor of Social Work at Southern College, is doing his doctoral dissertation on the role of women in the Adventist Church. He is seeking documents, books, etc., that might be of help in his research. He is also interested in doing personal interviews for experience stories.

Concerning **Gayle Saxby**, condolences

may be sent to her parents at the following address: Doyle and Lorelei Saxby, 849 S. Sentry Drive, College Place, WA 99324.

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