

the Adventist Woman

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December 1985

AUC officials welcome conference; Key church groups send delegates

Amid 70-degree temperatures and under spectacular autumn skies fringed with the final glow of New England's famous Fall colors, the third annual AAU Conference convened in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, October 24-27. Both Atlantic Union College and the Campus church opened their facilities to conference registrants, and personnel from both participated in several public events.

New AUC President Lawrence Geraty joined Otilie Stafford and Sharon Wilson, conference planners, in greeting and welcoming AAW members and their guests at the opening session on Thursday night. A crowd of nearly 200 gathered in the Red Room of the Thayer Conservatory to hear Harvard theologian Dr. Dorothy Austin give the keynote address. (For details of the address and day-by-day summaries of conference events, see pages 4 and 5.)

In this stunning setting, Geraty and his wife, Gillian, paid tribute to 16 women—AUC graduates who have profoundly influenced the college and the Adventist Church at large.

Senior Pastor David Osborne of the Campus church gave over the entire Sabbath school program and 11 o'clock worship hour to women's leadership on October 26. As he introduced the day's special events he good-naturedly joked, "I am the token male on the platform!"

The General Conference, *Adventist Review*, Loma Linda University, Walla Walla College, and the Center for Human Relations based in Berrien Springs, Michigan, all sent

delegates. Among the many personal greetings sent to the conference were those by Elder Neal C. Wilson, GC president, and Mrs. Ethel Bradford, wife of NAD President C.E. Bradford. The Atlantic Union Conference contributed \$600 toward the expenses of the conference and President E.W. Amundsen attended the opening session.

In addition to the gracious facilities of the Thayer Conservatory where the opening session and Friday night agape supper were held, AUC opened its White House as headquarters for AAW registration, committees, and a cozy conversation center by the fireside. Members of the host AAW Chapter proffered their hospitality to those from out of town in the form of sweet breads, snacks, and fruits.

Many special delegates

In addition to Massachusetts AAW members, those attending came from Connecticut, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Vermont, Michigan, Illinois, California, Canada, Nebraska, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington State. Viviane Hänni had the distinction of coming the farthest—having traveled from Geneva, Switzerland, to bring a special report of the women's conference she organized last summer for 200 French-speaking participants in Europe. (See story on back page.)

Among the special delegates attending the AUC Conference were:

Betty Holbrook, of Home and Family Services and recently appointed as the GC

coordinator for Women's Ministries; Elizabeth Sterndale, NAD coordinator for Women's Ministries; Warren Banfield, director of the NAD Office of Human Relations; Beverly Rumble and Dr. Patricia Habada of the GC Education Department; and Shirley Burton, news director of the GC Communication Department.

From the *Adventist Review*—Jocelyn Fay, managing editor, and Deborah Anfensen-Vance, assistant editor. From Loma Linda University—Dr. Penny Miller, of the Graduate School nursing faculty. From Walla Walla College—Biology Professor Susan Dixon. And from the Center for Human Relations at Andrews University—Dr. Sara Terian.

Promotes gender "wholeness"

Holbrook dialogues on new role: Women's ministries coordinator

Just one week before the New England AAW Conference, the 1985 Annual Council voted to appoint Betty Holbrook as the GC coordinator of Women's Ministries. Miraculously, Mrs. Holbrook's schedule permitted her to make immediate plans to travel to AUC and dialogue on behalf of the official church with more than 80 women who came to the conference from all over the North American Division.

Betty Holbrook is well-known among Adventists for a column she wrote in the *Adventist Review* entitled "Just for Women," and more recently for her directorship of the GC Home and Family Service. Although her department became, at the 1985 GC Session, a part of the larger Church Ministries Department, she continues in her post of leadership on a full-time basis.

Additional role

What will she be doing with her new, additional role as coordinator for Women's Ministries?

"As yet, I hardly know. I've had the job only about 10 days, you know!" She did report that she'd had two lengthy conversations with Elder Neal Wilson, president of the General Conference, who urged her to accept the assignment and help carry out an education program designed for general church members.

Meet top GC officers

According to the official actions, Mrs. Holbrook has two specific assignments: (1) to meet each quarter with top General Conference officers and report on the progress in affirmative action for Adventist women in leadership, and (2) to chair a committee made up of women based at the General Conference, which has the authority to recommend to the president and officers authors and articles for denominational publications that will educate church members on roles



Harvard theologian Dorothy Austin chats with AUC President Larry Geraty at the opening session of the Women's Voices, Women's Lives Conference in the Thayer Red Room. (See story on page 4.)



Photo by Selma Chaij

Pastor Louis Leonor of the Spanish SDA Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., discussed the concept of women elders with the church nominating committee. Uncertain about the propriety of such a step, the committee urged a general church discussion. The issue was aired. The church voted 250 to 4 in favor of women elders, and referred the item back to the nominating committee. In October the church voted in (left to right) Marcia Gomez, Vita Marquez and Antonia Elenes as new elders. All three have children and their husbands are also elders.



Betty Holbrook solicited input from AAW members attending the New England conference on how women's talent might be better used in the church.

Presidential Communique

Positive steps to useful lives

by Betty Howard

Some came to the Women's Voices, Women's Lives Conference as skeptics. Most of the skeptics went home converts.

Many Seventh-day Adventists do not know that AAW exists; those who do often misunderstand our purposes and goals. Some see AAW as a private club for disgruntled and militant women.

AAW is not a private club.

We welcome Adventist sisters and brothers around the world to join us. In July more than 200 people gathered in France to discuss the needs and opportunities of Adventist women. In November, the newly-formed Australian chapter of AAW will hold its first meeting. Delegates from Switzerland, Canada, and many parts of the United States attended our 1985 annual conference.

AAW members are not disgruntled and militant women.

Of the 27 resolutions passed at the conference, 10 included commendations. We recognize the positive steps the church is taking in family-life ministries, in education benefits to Adventist families, for ministers' wives through Shepherdess International, in affirmative action for qualified Adventist women leaders. We commend the church for sending delegates to the United Nation's Women's Conference in Nairobi, for improving representation of women on some boards and committees, for establishing a Women's Ministries Advisory Committee at the General Conference, for support by some men for utilizing women in ministry, and for sending official delegates to the annual AAW Conference.

When skeptics at the conference saw that AAW is not a private club for disgruntled and militant women, but rather a world-wide association of positive and active Seventh-day Adventists, they felt comfortable with us.

But we cannot afford to become too comfortable. We have much work to do.

The 27 conference resolutions include some programs that require commitments of time, resources, and energy from AAW members.

AAW needs greater numbers of members to participate in evangelism, academic endeavors, promotion of AAW, administrative leadership, and data collection.

No matter what your calling or occupation—teacher, writer, artist, secretary, administrator, mother, full time gospel minister, Bible worker or homemaker—AAW needs you.

As our association takes positive steps to assure that all Seventh-day Adventists, regardless of gender, are able to serve and be served by their church, each AAW member must be active. Active not only as a participant in AAW programs, but also as an individual growing in Christ.

"The Lord would have woman seek constantly to improve both mind and heart, gaining intellectual and moral strength that she may lead a useful and happy life,—a blessing to the world and an honor to her Creator."—*Messages to Young People*, 357.



Gillian Geraty presented a red rose to Rochelle Kilgore and 15 other AUC women honored on the opening night of the AAW Conference. (Story on page 4.)



Betty Howard, AAW President



Otilie Stafford, with Sharon Wilson of Boston, coordinated the third AAW national conference.

Mission Statement

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

Genesis 1:27

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

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

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

2) To acquaint the church community at large with Adventist women's potential and achievements.
3) To assist Adventist women in achieving fulfillment in their interpersonal relationships, personal development and relationships to God.
4) To help Adventist women to maximize their options, whatever their age and situation, that they may reflect more fully the image of God.

Annual Council votes on women: hold on ordination, go on education

Neal C. Wilson called to order the tenth meeting of the 1985 Annual Council at 2:35 p.m.

Opening Prayer by Aaron Brogden

175-85GNb WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH WORK

The 1985 General Conference Session took an action entitled Women's Participation in Church Work (85-1120); the fourth paragraph of which reads as follows:

4. To recognize that a great need exists to educate our people regarding the major roles that women may fill in the Lord's work without ordination, and to request that specific plans to meet this need be developed and presented to the 1985 Annual Council.

In harmony with this directive it is VOTED, 1. To utilize the *Adventist Review*, *Ministry*, *Journal of Adventist Education* and division and union papers as vehicles for educating our church members regarding the major roles that are open to women in the Lord's work without the need to be ordained to the gospel ministry.

2. To appoint a standing advisory committee to assist in implementing the publication of material referred to in paragraph 1. as follows:

MEMBERS

Betty Holbrook, Chairman (GC Coordinator for Women's Ministries)
Shirley Burton
Jocelyn Fay
Marie Spangler
Beverly Rumble
NAD Coordinator for Women's Affairs
Representatives from ethnic groups

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Select authors and articles for denominational publications which will educate the members regarding the roles open to women in the Church.
2. Encourage the preparation and publishing of informative articles, series and special issues regarding women in the Church.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Recommend to the General Conference President for consideration by the General Conference Officers.
2. Work with the editors of denominational publications wherever appropriate and desirable.

3. To make available to administrators reprints of articles and overruns of special issues to assist them in using their executive influence to open to women all aspects of ministry in the Church which do not require ordination to the gospel ministry. A pastoral letter from the General Conference president to division, union and college administrators will also be sent as the initial incentive in this special effort.

4. To appoint Betty Holbrook as Coordinator of Women's Ministries at the General Conference level, requesting that she meet once a quarter with the General Conference Officers to report and review problems and progress in connection with implementing "affirmative action" for women. To request that divisions, unions, and conferences consider appropriate timing for taking a similar step.

5. To suggest that a woman be appointed by the North American Division officers to meet once a quarter with them for a similar purpose.

6. To request the Adventist Personnel System, in providing printouts of available personnel for filling positions, to draw attention in some way to women with special qualifications for particular roles, responsibilities or offices.

7. To use as one point of reference, among others, and as an evaluating instrument a tabulation of women occupying positions at the conference, union, division and General Conference levels. This should be used annually at the time of compiling material for the *SDA Yearbook* input to evaluate progress resulting from "affirmative action" to utilize more fully the skills and strengths of women in the work of the Church. (A copy of the 1985 tabulation based on the 1985 *Yearbook* is attached to the Secretariat copy of these minutes.)

175-85GNc MINISTERIAL ORDINATION — REFORM OF PRACTICES

VOTED, To institute a reform in the Church's ordination practices for the purpose of limiting ministerial ordination only to those who perform direct pastoral,

evangelistic, ecclesiastical, or other clearly ministerial-type duties.

175-85GNd MINISTERIAL WORKER FUNCTIONS IN NAD — CLARIFICATION

1985 General Conference Session Actions

The 54th General Conference Session requested the North American Division Committee "to clarify the functions of ministerial workers who hold ministerial licenses, including how such functions relate to women who serve as pastors or associates in pastoral care, and to request that a complete proposal on roles and procedures be submitted by the North American Division to the 1985 Annual Council for consideration." (See GCS 85-1121.)

The above request was made in the context of the report of the Role of Women in the Church Committee which was also presented to the Session. That report included a recommendation accepted by the Session which reads as follows:

ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

"VOTED, 1. To take no definitive action at this time regarding the ordination of women to the gospel ministry

2. To maintain the Church's present position on this matter

3. To prepare further Biblical and other studies on the question of ordaining women by assigning specific topics to scholars and theologians for research

4. To assign discussion of the documents growing out of such research to a special representative committee which will be scheduled to meet early in 1988, its findings to be presented in a report to the 1988 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee and subsequently to the 1989 Annual Council at which time the entire issue will be reviewed."

North American Division Committee Request

The North American Division Committee met October 8 in response to the 1985 GC Session directive. There was extensive discussion regarding a new proposed policy NAD L 21, Associates in Pastoral Care —

Role and Status, which would exclude "baptizing and solemnizing marriages" from the functions of an associate in pastoral care. A proposal to delete that exclusion was presented. After the discussion, NADCOM

"VOTED, To refer to the General Conference Officers for further study and counsel the proposal that associates in pastoral care be permitted to baptize and solemnize marriages, . . ." (Several suggestions follow which accompany the request.)

GCD0UP85AC and 1985 Annual Council Counsel

The General Conference and Division Officers and Union Presidents considered the request of NADCOM for counsel. Various viewpoints were presented by the North American Division Officers and Union Presidents and by the world division presidents.

In the light of the position enunciated by the 1985 General Conference Session and the scheduled procedure established by the Session, which it is believed should in no way be preempted, it was

VOTED, To accept the following action from the 1985 Annual Council which is directed to the North American Division:

1. To adhere closely to the General Conference/North American Division *Working Policy* and the *Church Manual* in all matters of practice pertaining to ministerial functions.

2. To await the outcome of the process established by the 1985 General Conference Session before introducing any significant changes into North American Division policies affecting ministerial functions which relate to women.

3. To take immediate steps to correct any practices in the area of ministerial function which are not in harmony with the General Conference policy and the *Church Manual*.

4. To encourage women who aspire to serve in ministerial/gospel work to focus on the broad range of church activities open to them (see also agenda item on Women's Participation in Church Work), but to encourage no expectation of broadened functions in the area of gospel ministry until the church has completed its study and announced its decision.

Four to Nairobi

GC delegates to UN meetings bring home praise, challenges

As the United Nations' Decade for Women, 1975-1985, closed, more than 2,000 official delegates from 160 countries, in addition to 1,400 journalists and 600 representatives from nongovernmental organizations, met in Nairobi, Kenya, last July to assess women's progress in equality, development, and peace.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church sent four representatives—three from Kenya and one from the United States: Mrs. Sarah Muga, a biology teacher at Jamhuri High School; Mrs. Dina A. Amayo, the vice principal of Kenya High School; Pastor Elijah Njagi, SDA executive director of the Central Kenya Field; and Dr. Helen Ward Thompson, vice president for academic administration at Loma Linda University.

The four Adventists were among the nongovernment groups representing health, welfare, peace, education, and church organizations. In their report to the General Conference, the group commended the Adventist Church on four points and also made eight recommendations.

Commendations

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is to be commended:

1. for its recognition of the biblical principle that men and women are equal partners in Christ.

2. for becoming recognized as a nongovernmental organization in a consulting role to the United Nations and being sufficiently interested in women's concerns to participate in the Decade for Women Conference.

3. for its health and temperance work which is well-known and lauded in many countries of the world. This work has helped

women, and through them their families, to better nutrition, health care, family planning, and self-sufficiency through improved agricultural production.

4. for promulgation of the good news of Christ's soon return, which gives meaning to this life and hope for a life to come when sin and its ravages of humankind will be obliterated.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Church take a more active role in seeking solutions to the problems women face in today's world and adopt specific strategies for betterment within a target date of the year 1990.

These strategies should include:

1. establishing a service at the Washington, D.C., Adventist headquarters with corresponding services at the division, union, and conference levels for women's concerns so that (a) both men and women can be better educated about their equality in Christ, which has been denied through the years because of self-interest, politics, and socioeconomic concerns; (b) women can be heard at all levels of church structure on issues of special concern to them.

2. Because of the need for women to become more aware of their potential and to communicate internationally, establishing an international publication for Adventist women (perhaps using the Association of Adventist Women and its publication, helping it to become international). Such communication will (a) help to keep SDA women informed on issues affecting them and (b) provide an opportunity for networking on common concerns.

3. broadening its good work in health education, increasing its programs in nutrition, water purification, agriculture, in-

oculations, family planning, and general health care, thus increasing both the length and quality of life. It will also help the agricultural villages of the world to become self-sufficient rather than to abrogate their family structures and reduce the wives and children to starvation.

4. stressing and increasing its education by working actively to recruit women students, thus reducing illiteracy, helping women to become more effective family and church members, and enabling them to qualify for employment, better wages, and eventually leadership roles.

5. actively supporting the concept of just, proportionate participation of women in the decision-making processes at all levels of SDA church administration. Since women are well over half of the SDA world church

membership and many are well educated and competent professionally, the church should use their talents for the furthering of the Lord's work.

6. filling positions in the church with whoever is best qualified regardless of sex.

7. taking an active role in helping women become aware of their own potential for service and making room for them in leadership roles.

8. at international conferences such as this in Nairobi, including delegates from areas such as Health and Temperance, and Education, along with delegates particularly knowledgeable about women's concerns so as to be actively involved in conference affairs, thus building on the current recognition by many countries of the work of the Adventist church.

Different for women?

LLU vice-president interviewed about academic leadership role

by Carole Richardson

Since July 1, 1984, Dr. Helen Ward Thompson, a graduate of Stanford University, has served as Vice-president for Academic Administration of Loma Linda University. Dr. Thompson comes to Loma Linda with a varied and distinguished career. For 10 years she was chairman of the Department of English at Walla Walla College. Before coming to Loma Linda she was Academic Dean of Southwestern Adventist College. She has also been active in the Association of Adventist Women.

Carole Richardson conducted the interview that follows.

CR: What do you feel are your special strengths as an administrator?

HT: I have a background of academia, a background of academic experiences. I was on the board of Loma Linda University for three years, so I have an overview that has been helpful to me. I enjoy committee work, which is the format within which I do much of my day-to-day work, and I feel a great urgency to see Loma Linda University strengthen its roles as a

together effectively to do the Lord's work in this place. And I believe it's possible for men and women to work together for the common goal at any level.

CR: Is it usually a man who is uncomfortable dealing with a woman administrator? Or is it a woman sometimes?

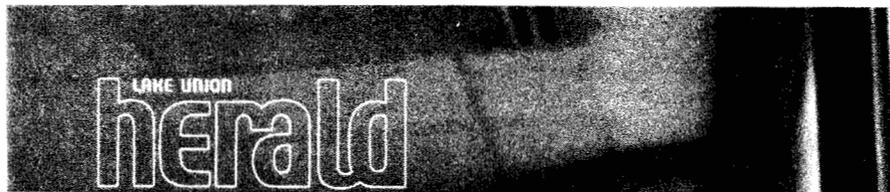
HT: Sometimes it's a woman, but more often, in my experience, it's a man.

CR: Do you think of yourself as a pioneer or an example?

HT: I haven't had time to think about it, to be truthful. I am just working so hard to do such necessary and vital work that I really haven't had much time to think about whether I'm an example. I'm aware, however, because women tell me that they're glad that I'm in this position . . . I'm aware, but I think that's really secondary. The important thing is to do the best job I can.

CR: And I suspect that in doing that, that is the example. You don't want it to be forever pointed out that you are doing this and you are a woman?

HT: No, I don't want to be pointed out that way.



Thursday: Keynote address

by Rodney Vance

"We now know as women we must study our lives. We must have a life story to tell and a community in which to tell it." With these words Dr. Dorothy Austin of Harvard University began the keynote address of the Third National Conference of the Association of Adventist Women. She titled her address, "On Becoming a Theologian: Lessons from the Ordinary Life," which spoke to the conference theme of Women's Voices, Women's Lives.

Using Erik Erikson's stages of moral development as a guide, Dr. Austin discussed our maturing attitudes toward an understanding of God. At each stage, she pointed out, ordinary experiences turn us toward God or away from God.

As children we learn to give up control of our lives and cross into another state of existence as we fall asleep. Rituals help us do this. For example, the ritual prayer: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." In daily experience we learn the value of ritual.

But sometimes experience changes and distorts the ritual. When the speaker was a child she remembers her father changed the wording of the bedtime prayer to, "Now I lay me down to sleep, a bag of peanuts at my feet. If I die before I wake, please give them to my brother Jake." Such a ritual distortion was not chosen by the child but by the father. Nevertheless, such events become part of our experience and affect our view of God. As Austin added, "One cannot usually choose one's heresies."

A characteristic of adolescent development is the search for integrity of speech. We want to "say what we mean and mean what we say." There is a danger here of falling into the trap of literalism. But we also come to realize that control over our language becomes a control over our own life—through the arts of persuasion, lucid self-expression, etc. An outgrowth of this is our attempt to spread literacy. This is the goal of the church in Central America, for literacy is the way of liberation. Literacy becomes an act of social gospel. "Eloquent speech is God's gift to human creatures."

Stories are theology

Literacy also opens our minds to the power of symbols, particularly those used in the form of a story. Dr. Austin's grandmother taught her the value of storytelling by telling and retelling stories from the family past.

Austin added, "It was just as hard for me to understand how my grandmother was in the world when I was not, as it is for me to understand how I am in the world and my grandmother is not. Such common mystery of time and place is the stuff of which theology is made. . . . Bringing order to these everyday images is the task of the theologian. And to the mother. And the artist."

Dr. Austin's grandmother taught order through an ordered household. "It was important to my grandmother that time be taken to make things beautiful," Austin said. In the order of things there was a time for work, and a time for holiday, and a time for

making peanut brittle. It is in the order of such ritual celebration that we get our understanding of God. As Austin put it, "The artist learns order and knows where to put the 'Kyrie' in a mass. So too, the rudiments of our collective religious life are to be found in the rituals of daily life. . . . Ultimate reality must be experienced in earthly events if it to be experienced at all."

Dr. Austin's story, the Christian story, the human story, my story, are inseparable. It is the story of life. And the theologian is the storyteller.

Lover's quarrel

Following the address Dr. Austin responded to a question on women's desire to articulate their voices and their lives within a sometimes restrictive church structure. Austin reminded those present that to struggle for change in a community of faith is a "lover's quarrel" because the church is as much a part of us as we are a part of the church. In our anger at injustice we must not forget to mourn—because when we are angry at the church we are angry at a part of ourselves.

The opening session of the conference was chaired by Dr. Sharlene Tessler, dean of Continuing Education at Atlantic Union College. Additional remarks were made by Betty Howard, AAW national president; Sharon Wilson, president, New England Chapter of AAW; and Gillian Geraty, AUC's first lady.

AUC honors 16 women

Dr. Lawrence Geraty, new president of AUC, honored 16 women who have made contributions to the quality of education at AUC, and thus have had a positive impact on the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Honorees were: Rochelle Kilgore, Ottilie F. Stafford, Ann Parrish, Sharlene Tessler, Ronna Archbold, Florence Young, Mary Lou Seger, Mary Lou Kidder, Mardnal Adler Baker, Rose Marie Knott, Margarita Merriman, Virginia Gene Rittenhouse, Susan Willoughby, Glennis Hamilton, Natelkka Burrell, and Edith Davis. Geraty read a statement about each honoree that had been prepared by a colleague or friend; Mrs. Geraty presented a red rose to each woman.



Shirley McClean



Juanita Kretschmar



Beverly Rumble (left) role-played the mayor who was evaluating the lobbying efforts of several neighborhood women led by Debbie Anfinsen-Vance, Judith Nembhard, Stella Greig, and Gail Manning.

Friday: Work and warmth

by Penny Shell

Friday was a time for recognizing women's strengths. It was a day of workshops and action groups looking at how we may increase recognition and use of women's skills within the church. It was an evening of celebrating Christ's love—as spoken by women's voices and expressed in women's lives. The agape supper will be remembered by many as the highlight of the conference.

Spelling out the biblical story of the incredibly strong Bible prophet Huldah, AUC's Dean of Women Dr. Florence Young's devotional set the pace for the day.

Morning workshops stressed effectiveness in bringing about change, and responsibly handling local church leadership as women elders.

In an exercise developed at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Patricia Habada, General Conference Department of Education textbook editor, twice led groups through "A Model for Change." Using hypothetical situations involving Adventist women, participants worked their way from identifying problems to a comprehensive action plan in ten steps.

Beverly Habada brought her expertise as assistant city administrator of the city of Takoma Park, Maryland, into her workshop "Effecting Change: Getting Your Point Across." Using the example of mothers who wanted to have a four-way stop sign installed at a dangerous neighborhood intersection, she led her group through planning strategies and a role-play of meeting with the mayor (played by Beverly Rumble from the *Journal of Adventist Education*). Administrator Habada emphasized the importance of being able to answer three main questions: (1) What should be the strategy to reach one's goal? (2) Who should be the target of group lobbying? and (3) What research needs to be done on the issue or problem?

Peggy Harris, an insurance agent from the Washington, D.C., area, facilitated a group discussing the dynamics of being a woman elder. By sharing experiences, the group discovered differences in the types of responsibilities carried by women who are elders. In some churches their work is identical with men elders, but in other churches women are limited in certain areas, such as whether or not they are permitted to participate in serving communion.

Betty Holbrook listens

Friday afternoon Betty Holbrook, recently appointed to coordinate Women's Ministries at the General Conference, invited input on ways to help church members and leaders effectively use women's talents. Among the points raised were that women's involvement in major church positions has generally declined since 1915; a recommendation that women be included in camp meeting circuits with major presentations; a suggestion that Kermit Netteburg's play about pioneer Adventist women, "When God Calls," be shared at GC worship and throughout the church; and that a "Mission Spotlight" type of slide show on women's present-day contributions to the church be prepared for use in church.

If the day's activities reflected AAW's growing desire for change in the church's recognition and use of women's talents, the evening was a foretaste of what such a time might be like.

The very surroundings suggested the difference: In contrast to the utilitarian lower level of the Campus church used during the day, the evening agape supper was served in Thayer Conservatory's elegant Red Room. Cheese, grape juice, chollah bread, and a small colorful mountain of fresh fruit decorated the tables.

A communion liturgy stressing Jesus' love and respect for women was presented by Susan Dixon, biology professor at Walla Walla College, and Bertha Dasher, a dental hygienist from Battle Ground, Washington. Dr. Estelle Jorgensen, Australian music professor teaching at McGill University in Canada, added a piano improvisation of "Amazing Grace," and Sharon Wilson, Wendy Ripley, and Cherie Asgierson offered a flute trio, "Brother James Air."

Four fantastic women

Nowhere during the conference was the theme—Women's Voices, Women's Lives—more eloquently spoken than in the four interviews of women arranged by Dr. Stella Greig, professor of English as a Second Language at Andrews University. Dr. Sara Terian and Chaplain Penny Shell assisted Dr. Greig in the interviews.

Dr. Shirley McClean, originally from Jamaica and now director of the Office of Professional Development in the Massachusetts Department of Education, shared the pain of facing a divorce, nurturing her young children, and maintaining ties with a church that looked at her askance. Edith Davis, now retired in Berrien Springs, unfolded her paradoxical story of not wanting to become an Adventist as a college student but, after her conversion, of becoming a Bible worker, pastor, missionary to the Middle East, and long-time teacher at Andrews Academy. Though always single she has found a place to contribute her talents and has consistently opened her home to married and single friends alike.

Juanita Kretschmar directs the Health and Temperance and Communication departments in the Greater New York Conference where her husband is president. She told of her "van" ministry for the street people of New York City, which has grown to include health screening, correspondence courses, a TV program, and gifts of food and clothing to many of the very poor. It is entirely a faith ministry supported by freewill gifts.

Betty Bell Gibb, journalist and co-editor of *Christian Abstracts*, was described by one listener as the "Adventist Erma Bombeck." Down-to-earth and full of good humor, she shared the experience of raising four daughters. She concluded, "I want my girls to remain Adventists. I want to know my church cares about them. My husband and I will be spending \$28,000 this year for Christian education. I want our schools to help them identify and nurture their talents. I want them to have good Adventist women as role models in a variety of careers. And I hope that somewhere out there, some families have been raising four sensitive, sensible, and spiritual young men."

We walked out into the cool autumn night warmed by the intimate sharing of these four women. We were challenged and encouraged to use our voices and live our lives—and buoyed with the affirmation that God would bless them.

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Mark your calendar

January 17 is the deadline for the first issue of the Adventist Woman in 1986.

Ellen White Reinterprets Paul

In her Sabbath-morning sermon during the Third Annual AAW Conference, Dr. Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson looked at how Ellen White uses some Pauline texts that are often quoted to limit women's roles.

I Corinthians 11:7

"Paul is giving a presumable tenable argument to explain why a man need not cover his head while a woman should. 'For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of men.'" (Emphasis added.)

"Ellen White seems unimpressed with what she discerns as a culturally defined line of thinking, and goes on to extract the Christian principle when she quotes the text in *Education*, pg. 20. 'Created to be "the image and glory of God" 1 Corinthians 11:7, Adam and Eve had received endowments not unworthy of their high destiny.'" (Emphasis added.) "Thus, in contrast to Paul, Mrs. White sees both man and woman are the image and glory of God."

Hebrews 2:7

Again Mrs. White has no qualms about applying to both male and female what the Bible seems to suggest is only the male prerogative. Hebrews 2:7, which in turn is a quotation of Psalms 8:4-6, says,

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels and hast crowned him with glory and honour and thou didst set him over the works of thy hands."

"Notwithstanding the male-oriented mind-set that characterized this passage and the Messianic implications of it, Ellen White applies the intent of the passage to both male and female as the image of God—as lords over the natural world. In *Education*, p. 20, Ellen White writes, 'Endowed with high mental and spiritual powers, Adam and Eve were made but "a little lower than the angels."'" (Emphasis added.)

Sabbath: Spiritual collage

by Jocelyn Fay

"As a church of reform which stands upon the threshold of eternity we are called to restore God's image in man and womankind through the healing, redemptive process of education." This, in a sentence, was the theme of Dr. Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson's sermon on Sabbath morning, October 26, at the Atlantic Union College church.

Morales-Gudmundsson is director of the modern-language program on the Stamford Campus of the University of Connecticut. In her sermon, "The Apocalypse of Restoration or Eden Revisited," she quoted Ellen White's statement from *Education*, p. 22, that the school in Eden "was a representation of what God desired the whole earth to become."

Adventists, she noted, have always taught that man and woman were created together in the physical and moral likeness of the Creator. If men and women had remembered their noble beginnings no one would be crying out today for justice or freedom from abuse.

In spite of the Fall, all was not lost. Emmanuel intervened in history. As "God with us" He taught that human beings should set their eyes on Eden as a model. The restoration of its privileges and responsibilities should be our goal even while we are on earth.

Of particular significance was the speaker's fresh study of how Ellen White uses and quotes Paul's statements, which are often used to limit women's roles. She observed that Mrs. White consistently reinterprets Paul to be more open and inclusive than the text might at first suggest. (See box.)

Morales-Gudmundsson also suggested that just as Adventists have proclaimed the sanctity of the seventh-day Sabbath and have vigorously promoted health reform, so they should now be proclaimers of women's high callings.

Other Sabbath events

Other Sabbath activities provided a festival of events for conference attendees and community friends.

During Sabbath school, Viviane Hänni, formerly an assistant pastor of the Adventist church in Geneva, Switzerland, reported on a conference for women conducted in Collonges-sous-Saleve, France, this past year. (See story on back page.)

College Sabbath school members and AAW guests were given their choice of attending regular classes or joining ones taught by Bertha Dasher on "Jesus' Inclusive Language," Iris Yob on "Images of Jesus," or Kit Watts on "Ruth and Naomi: Redeem-

ing Their Society." Sabbath school superintendents Rondi Aastrup and Laurie Redmer both teach at South Lancaster Academy.

Afternoon events included a slide presentation, "I Am an Adventist Woman," by Iris Yob, a doctoral student at Harvard University, and three presentations by national AAW officers. Betty Howard, president, spoke about women's roles in the church, past and present. Judith Nembhard, AAW director of chapter development, reported on her study of the role of black women in the church. She cited well-known women such as Sojourner Truth and Anna Knight as well as many lesser-known contributors. Peggy Harris, an insurance agent who is director of AAW special events, spoke about two hospitality ministries with which she has become involved: Sacred Circle Seminars and the HOPE ministry at the Beltsville, Maryland, church.

Sunday: Business decisions

by Judith Nembhard

When AAW President Betty Howard called to order the 10 o'clock business session of the Third Annual Association of Adventist Women Conference, some conference participants had already departed for distant destinations. Yet a sizable number remained for the Sunday morning meetings. Those present took advantage of the opportunity to comment on the association's goals, to share information about the needs and concerns of women in the church, to counsel AAW officers on the direction the association should take, and to voice optimism for the future of women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The major portion of the session was devoted to the discussion of conference resolutions. Dr. Patricia Habada, who chaired the resolutions committee and had worked far into Saturday night organizing and refining them, presented them for discussion.

Twenty-seven resolutions were adopted in all. (See page 6 for full text.) Of these at least 10 expressed appreciation to church leaders, organizations, or groups that have shown support for Adventist women. Six requested new or modified GC policies or programs. Four suggested ways to help educate the church on women's talent and potential. Another four gave focus to AAW's own goals and their expression in the *Adventist Woman* or other means of outreach. Two suggested means by which Adventist women can contribute directly to HARVEST '90 objectives.

Annual Council report

Warren S. Banfield, director of the North American Division Office of Human Relations, gave a firsthand account of actions taken at the 1985 Annual Council concerning the licensing of women ministers. He stated that the Council voted to study the matter further but has prohibited women ministers from performing baptisms and marriage ceremonies. Banfield noted that unordained licensed male ministers do, in North America, continue to have the authority to baptize and to perform marriages.

In a lighter vein, the group had an opportunity to send a tape-recorded greeting to women in Sydney, Australia, who would be holding their first AAW meeting on November 3. Dr. Otilie Stafford expressed good wishes and words of support on behalf of the entire group.

At an earlier session Elder Banfield had disclosed plans for the production of a book, tentatively titled *Women in the Church and Society*, under the guidance of Dr. Roger Dudley and Dr. Sara Terian, both from the Center for Human Relations at Andrews University. In response to his request for an AAW representative to serve on the editorial committee, seven names were presented to conference attendees from which they were to choose three candidates. After Viveca Black

To bring the Sabbath to a close, mezzo-soprano Sylvia Lamb and harpist Carolyn Mills-Williams presented a vesper concert in the AUC church.

The play, "Out of Our Father's House," intertwined the memories and experiences of six historical American women who lived during the nineteenth century—Eliza Southgate, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Maria Mitchell, "Mother" Mary Jones, Anna Howard Shaw, and Gertrude Stern. Lively, entertaining, and often poignant, the play is based on Eve Merriam's *Growing Up Female in America*, and was presented in Machlan Auditorium by the Lancaster Repertory Company. Karen Lewis, Andrea Arroyo, and Trina Schnedier each played two of the six characters. The play was directed by Joelle Andre.

The evening activities ended at the Bartlett Art Gallery, where AUC Art Department faculty members served hot spiced New England apple cider and invited visitors to view selected works of Lotus Do, a Seventh-day Adventist artist from Boston.



Shirley Burton, GC News Director, addressed suggestions to the AAW business session.

explained the process and gave sketches of each person's qualifications, the votes were cast and tallied. Those recommended were Betty Bell Gibb, Otilie Stafford, and Judith Nembhard.

During the time given for questions and comments, an unscheduled but welcome moment in the meeting occurred when an attendee from Vermont shared with the group the special burden of her personal pain. Many responded with words of comfort, support, and affirmation.

A number of brief reports and routine business matters were dealt with early in the meeting. New England Chapter President Sharon Wilson thanked chapter members for the support in planning and executing a successful conference. Kit Watts, *Adventist Woman* editor, outlined plans for coming issues. Judith Nembhard explained how to organize a chapter and the kinds of material available to those interested in doing so. At this time she also introduced the new *AAW Speakers' Directory*, a listing of capable women available to speak on a variety of issues.

Future AAW conferences

Future sites for AAW conferences were chosen. In 1986 AAW will go to the West Coast for its fourth national meeting. Maryan Stirling, Inland Empire Chapter president, extended an invitation to us to plan our Thanksgiving vacations for Loma Linda, California, and to take in the next conference.

In 1987 the meeting will return to home base in Takoma Park; in 1988, a site will be chosen somewhere in the Pacific Northwest, and in 1989, the Southeast, perhaps Florida.

Early in the business session Shirley Burton, news director for the GC Communication Department, made an important observation, "The image of this organization is not as positive as I have found you to be."

During the coming year, in keeping with Ms. Burton's comment, AAW will undertake public-relations efforts to acquaint the church membership with the positive goals and accomplishments of the organization.

AAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1984-1986

President, Betty Howard, The Adventist Woman, P.O. Box 3884, Langley Park, MD 20787 (301) 891-4179.

President-Elect, Nancy Marter, 407 Quaint Acres Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (301) 622-4592.

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Chapter Development, Judith Nembhard, 1400 Cricket Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (301) 636-7749 H (301) 384-2537.

Special Events, Peggy Harris, 3537 Spencerville Road, Burtonsville, MD 20866 O (301) 384-3727 H (301) 262-0296.

General Conference Liaison, Delores Maupin, 7516 Dundalk Road, Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 558-4297.

Development, Viveca Black, 216-A Fifth Street NE, Washington, DC 20002 (202) 462-4438.

Legal Counsel, Margaret McFarland, 806 Maplewood Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Historian, Josephine Benton, 8507 Hood Street, Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 439-8261.

Atlantic Union; Director, Otilie Stafford, English Department, Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, MA 01561.

Columbia Union; Director, Shirley Zork, 8020 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707.

Southern Union; Director, Cheryl Craig, 1048 Blackwood Street, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

Lake Union; Director, Thesba Johnston, Andrews University, 156 Bell Hall, Berrien Springs, MI 49104.

Mid-America Union; Director, Ruthita Fike, 6116 Fleetwood Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516.

Southwestern Union; Director, Judy Foll-Miles, Business Administration, Southwestern Adventist College, Keene, TX 76059.

Pacific Union (North); Director, Winona Winkler Wendth, English Department, Pacific Union College, Angwin, CA 94508.

Pacific Union (South); Alyce Pudewell, 58 Mount Vernon Avenue, Grand Terrace, CA 92324.

North Pacific Union; Director, Bertha Dasher, 18404 NE 109th Avenue, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Looking down the road

Resolutions spell out thanks, hopes, concerns

To evaluate progress of Adventist women over the past year and to suggest goals for the future, a 17-member Resolutions Committee was brought together under the chairmanship of Dr. Patricia Habada. The group worked together on Friday afternoon and late into Saturday night. The 27 resolutions were considered, modified, and voted by the AAW members in business session on Sunday morning, October 27. The complete text of the resolutions follows.

Members of the committee were:

Judith Nembhard, Ph.D., assistant professor of English at Howard University in Washington, D.C.; **Elizabeth Sterndale**, newly appointed coordinator for Women's Ministries in the North American Division and associate director of the GC Health and Temperance Department; **Joyce Minton**, an R.N. from Houston, Texas; **Penny Miller**, R.N./Ph.D., associate professor and coordinator of continuing education for nurs-

ing at Loma Linda University; **Shari Craig**, social worker from Orlando, Florida; **Eleanor Crofoot**, retired, from Florida; **Maryan Stirling**, president of the Inland Empire AAW Chapter in Loma Linda, California; **Sara Terian**, Ph.D., assistant director of the Center for Human Relations in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and a sociologist in the Behavioral Science and Architecture departments at Andrews University; **Warren S. Banfield**, director of the Office of Human Relations, North American Division; **Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson**, Ph.D., director of the modern-language program at the Stamford Campus of the University of Connecticut; **Lawrence Geraty**, Ph.D., president of Atlantic Union College; **Rodney Vance**, father and playwright living in Takoma Park, Maryland; **Deborah Anfinsen-Vance**, assistant editor of the *Adventist Review*; **Stella Greig**, sociolinguist and professor of English at Andrews University; and **Penny Shell**, Ed. D., chaplain of Thorek Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Special commendations

UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

WHEREAS the Seventh-day Adventist Church sent four delegates to the United National Conference on Women held in Nairobi, Kenya, in the summer of 1985, and

WHEREAS those who participated wrote four commendations and eight recommendations and strategies,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the officers of AAW should express our appreciation to Elder N.C. Wilson and Dr. Bert B. Beach for sending those delegates, and

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that we affirm the commendations and fully support the implementation of the recommended strategies.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE THAT Elder N.C. Wilson and Dr. Bert Beach should be asked by the officers of AAW to submit the report from the participants with its commendations and recommendations for publication in the *Adventist Review*.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the AAW officers should request the General Conference officers to follow through with the implementation of the recommendations during this quinquennium.

COMMENDATION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

WHEREAS the General Conference is seeking affirmative action in its employment practices, and

WHEREAS some church entities are actively seeking women for leadership positions,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request AAW members to alert the president of AAW whenever they learn of such efforts and that the AAW officers should alert chapter presidents in the area involved so chapter presidents may also respond, and

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the AAW president should write a letter of commendation to Elder N.C. Wilson and to the church entities involved.

SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL

WHEREAS, to give attention to the needs of ministers' and workers' wives, the General Conference Ministerial Department has adopted a program known as Shepherdess International, and

WHEREAS pastors' and workers' wives have been and continue to be an important part of the ministry of the church, and

WHEREAS Shepherdess International made a major impact through its very successful series of meetings for women at the 1985 General Conference Session in New Orleans,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the officers of AAW write a letter to Elder N.C. Wilson expressing commendation for and appreciation of Marie Spangler and Ellen Breeze's work with Shepherdess International.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to ask the AAW officers to request a meeting with the General Conference Church Ministries Department to exchange information on how women might participate in "HARVEST '90."

CHURCH MINISTRIES ADVISORY

WHEREAS at the 1985 Annual Council it was voted to establish a Women's Ministries Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS we fully support this action,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that

1. A report on the new Women's Ministries Advisory Committee be presented in *The Adventist Woman*.
2. A letter of thanks be sent to the General Conference for setting up the Women's Ministries Advisory Committee.
3. A letter of thanks be sent from the AAW to Elder Neal C. Wilson expressing appreciation for his efforts in taking the initiative in establishing a process to educate the world field concerning women in ministry.

COMMEND MEN FOR THEIR SUPPORT

WHEREAS some men in the Adventist Church have supported the full development, use, and affirmation of Adventist women in church positions at risk of their own popularity and/or job security,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request that the AAW officers, on an ongoing basis, send letters of appreciation and support to as many of such men as are known to them.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION COMMISSION ON WOMEN

WHEREAS the Commission on Women of the North American Division Office of Human Relations is in a position to accomplish much for women in the church, and

WHEREAS women need to work together to open up opportunities for all, and

WHEREAS this commission offers one of the few opportunities for women to give input to church administrators,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the AAW officers should write a letter to Elder C.E. Bradford expressing our support and encouragement to the members of this commission and our desire that the commission continue to function.

A WORD OF SPECIAL THANKS

The conference attendees express appreciation to:

Dr. Lawrence Geraty, present of Atlantic Union College, for his visible support and participation,

The *Adventist Review* for sponsoring Jocelyn Fay and Deborah Anfinsen-Vance,

The General Conference for sponsoring Betty Holbrook and Shirley Burton,

The North American Division officers for sponsoring Warren Banfield and Elizabeth Sterndale as their representatives,

Ottile Stafford, Sharon Wilson, and the committee of the New England Chapter for organizing and directing the conference,

Loma Linda University for sending Penny Miller,

Walla Walla College for sending Sue Dixon,

The Center for Human Relations at Andrews University and Dr. Roger Dudley for sending Sara Terian,

The Atlantic Union Conference and Elder E.W. Amundson for encouragement, both financial and personal, of this conference,

Elder David Osborne and the College Church for their support and the use of excellent facilities.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

WHEREAS the pressures of modern society put stress on Adventist families, and

WHEREAS the General Conference and many union and local conferences and churches have family-life ministries,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request the AAW officers to express our appreciation and commendation to the General Conference, unions, conferences, and churches for these services via an open letter to be printed in official church publications.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

WHEREAS Seventh-day Adventists believe in Christian education, and

WHEREAS the costs of such education increase annually, and

WHEREAS not all Adventist institutions give their employees educational benefits for their children,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request that the officers of AAW, insofar as possible, identify and commend those institutions that offer such benefits to their employees, by writing letters of appreciation.

Policy recommendations

INCREASE WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

WHEREAS women comprise more than half the membership of the church, and comprise a significant portion of the denominational work force, and should be included in church policy deliberations in a church with a representative form of government, particularly when such deliberations might specifically affect them, and

WHEREAS positions that do not require ministerial ordination now exist,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request Elder C.E. Bradford and the officers of the North American Division to express our appreciation to those organizations and institutions that have increased the number of women on appointed committees and boards, and as delegates to constituency meetings, including the General Conference session.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to ask Elder Bradford and the Officers of the North American Division to encourage organizations and institutions to increase the number of women on appointed committees and boards at all levels to a minimum of 10 to 15 percent of the committee or board roster during this quinquennium.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the AAW officers should request that the North American Division present a workshop on the role of women in church and society at their 1986 or 1987 complete administrators' seminar.

WOMEN LOCAL CHURCH ELDERS

WHEREAS the number of women church elders in the denomination is increasing and their role is expanding, and

WHEREAS there are those who do not realize the impact on the church of the many who serve in this position,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that

1. The Office of Human Relations at the General Conference be asked to survey the conferences in North America regarding the number of women serving as associate pastors and local elders.
2. The AAW provide the Office of Human Relations with ideas for the kind of information to be collected in the survey.
3. The form be simple in design and the method of returning the completed survey form be made as easy as possible.

Educational goals

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

WHEREAS the General Conference in session during the 1985 Annual Council indicated a desire to increase the number of women in leadership positions in the church,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request that the North American Division officers widely publish all openings for all leadership positions except those in the ministry and that they welcome, solicit, consider, and evaluate résumés.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to request that the North American Division consider establishing a policy that women and men be employed by the church based on their qualifications of education and experience rather than on gender or marital status.

DEVELOP A NETWORK SYSTEM

WHEREAS there is a need for Adventist women to be able to communicate more fully, to be helped in professional and personal growth, to be encouraged to engage in caring and sharing activities, and to be made more aware of resources available to them,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the NAD Commission on Women be asked to develop a networking system, utilizing existing systems and expanding them to include women in all roles.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the NAD Commission on Women be asked to promote this network through Adventist periodicals.

MALE PARTICIPATION IN SABBATH SCHOOL

WHEREAS children living in single-parent families need contact and association with adults and role models of both male and female genders, and

WHEREAS many men might enjoy working with children and would do so if offered the opportunity,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the officers of AAW request the General Conference Church Ministries Department to encourage more male participation in the Cradle Roll, Kindergarten, and Primary sections of the Sabbath school.

WOMEN IN EVANGELISM

WHEREAS the call to evangelism weighs equally on the women as it does on the men of the Adventist Church, and

WHEREAS the perceived means of evangelism such as evangelistic meetings, Sabbath sermons, Revelation seminars, etc. presumably are open to any member, female or male, of the church, and

WHEREAS women have a unique ministry to fulfill in the ongoing evangelistic outreach of the church as preachers, teachers, counselors, Bible workers, etc., and

WHEREAS that image is only partly represented to the world when evangelism is almost exclusively in the hands of male members of the church,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the General Conference Coordinator of Women's Ministries be asked to cooperate with an AAW officer of Women's Ministries in raising female consciousness of women's roles in the forefront of one of the church's most highly valued activities—evangelism—by

1. Sponsoring union- or conference-wide seminars on women and evangelism, to help women find their roles in the evangelistic outreach of the church as it is now organized and to receive input from the women of the church regarding unique evangelistic ministries.
2. Preparing materials on the topic of women and evangelism that can be made available to the local church Sabbath schools through the conference Church Ministries office.
3. Preparing brochures that explain the various outreach ministries of the church and how women can become active in evangelism.
4. Organizing conference-wide awareness seminars for pastors and administrators.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

WHEREAS, according to a Home and Family Leadership Seminar presented by the General Conference, 80% of men, in general, are satisfied with their marriages, and 71% of women are not satisfied with their marriages, and

WHEREAS these and other statistics reveal that the Adventist home is in difficulty,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request the North American Division Church Ministries Department to give careful consideration to promoting the following: In each conference in North America a trained marriage and family counselor should be hired to travel to the smaller churches and that a marriage and family counselor/psychologist be hired and located at local conference headquarters.



Photo by Penny Shell

The play "Out of Our Father's House" used three actresses to portray six historical American women. Though the women never met in real life, words from their writings are arranged in a hypothetical conversation. Left to Right—Andrea Arroyo played Elizabeth Cady Stanton and "Mother" Mary Jones; Trina Schmedler played Maria Mitchell and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw; and Karen Lewis played Elia Southgate and Gertrude Stern.

MEN AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY

WHEREAS there is a need in the Adventist Church to better understand the socialization of women and the factors that lead to increased or decreased roles of women in the church,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to recommend that the Board of Higher Education of the North American Division present to college presidents the need for college-level courses on men and women in society.

CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

WHEREAS recent surveys indicate that a low percentage of women hold responsible positions at the local, union, and division levels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and

WHEREAS there is an apparent need to help women become aware of and to develop leadership potential, and

WHEREAS the President of the General Conference, Neal C. Wilson, in his keynote address to the General Conference Session in Dallas, Texas, April 17, 1980, urged "that women be represented in the administrative structure of the church" and that the church "harness the energies and talents of all women so as to better accomplish the task of finishing the work assigned by our Lord," and,

WHEREAS this message was affirmed in his 1985 keynote address at New Orleans, and

WHEREAS there is an apparent need to acquaint church leaders with the leadership capabilities of women,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request the North American Division Board of Higher Education to establish a Center(s) for Women's Studies at a selected institution(s) of higher education within the next quinquennium. The center would:

1. provide a facility for conducting research related to women.
2. develop curriculum materials to be made available to all Seventh-day Adventist institutions of higher education and other interested groups.
3. publish monographs, curriculum materials, book reviews, and other resource materials.
4. sponsor workshops and other conferences.
5. develop a core library of materials.
6. disseminate information through the publication of a newsletter.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to request the North American Board of Higher Education to begin implementation steps by July 1, 1986.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to recommend that the Board of Higher Education place our request before the college and university presidents, that a Commission on Women be established on each college and university campus, that one of the functions of these commissions would be to encourage the development of courses in women's studies and to establish a center of materials.

PUBLISHING RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS thinking people in the contemporary world are increasingly becoming concerned about human dignity and equality, and

WHEREAS some laymembers and church employees in the Seventh-day Adventist Church believe that biblical and theological reasons exist for barring women from some positions in the mission and ministries of the church that are open to men, while others believe that such reasons do not exist, and

WHEREAS these issues can be ultimately resolved only by a careful study and discussion of the evidence pertaining to them, and

WHEREAS vigorous and informed discussion is a sign of health and not of weakness in a church body,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the AAW officers should ask Jocelyn Fay, Shirley Burton, and the General Conference Women's Ministries Advisory Committee to communicate with the editors of the *Adventist Review*, *The Ministry*, and the various union papers to encourage them to feature articles on the role of women in the Adventist Church.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the AAW request the Review and Herald Publishing Association to reprint the book *Notable Women of Spirit* by John Beach.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the AAW

1. Commission a series of monographs on women
2. Set up a mailing lending library on women and women's issues to be made available to women in the local churches, and
3. Send complimentary copies of tapes selected from the "Women's Voices, Women's Lives" Conference to key male and female Seventh-day Adventist administrators.

AAW actions, projects

AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTION

WHEREAS many women and men in the Adventist Church do not have access to personal acquaintance with the life and work of women in ministry, and

WHEREAS acquaintance with these women is one way to eliminate prejudice and create sympathy and understanding,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request AAW to arrange for the production, promotion, and distribution of an audio-visual presentation such as *Mission Spotlight*, featuring women in ministry to be made available to administrators and local church and school groups as part of an educational process.

REACH MORE ADVENTISTS

WHEREAS to reach the goals of the AAW, more Adventist women and men need to become involved, and

WHEREAS the majority of Adventists are not yet aware of this organization,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the AAW Executive Board adopt as a primary goal for the next two years various means of reaching more Adventists, including professionals and nonprofessionals, students, and cultural and racial minorities.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to ask local chapters near colleges to promote and support active student participation.

GREETINGS TO AUSTRALIA

WHEREAS a group of women in Australia have joined together to organize a chapter of AAW, and

WHEREAS that group will have its first meeting in November,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to ask the National AAW President to send our greetings and good wishes to them; and express our prayerful support for them as they endeavor to work together on behalf of Adventist women.

See RESOLUTIONS, p. 8

E T E 85

Convention Francophone
Adventiste

"FEMME, JE T'APPELLE"

DU 4 AU 7 JUILLET



Ps. 68:11 (J.N. Darby)

"Le Seigneur donna la parole: grande fut la
foule des femmes qui répandirent la bonne
nouvelle."

La mission de la femme dans l'église

COLLONGES - sous-SALEVE

INTERVIEW, from page 3

CR: Do you believe that your appointment here will make it easier for other women who aspire to positions either in administration or in other positions of authority?

HT: I think the appointment of women to key administrative positions is almost entirely dependent on the attitude of the administrator who is responsible and of the board. I would hesitate to think that my one job is so important that it would negate or advocate the advisability of hiring a woman. One swallow does not a summer make. I would hope, however, that if women who are in administrative positions do their work well, hesitancy on the part of administration would be less used. Gradually confidence could be built that women are able, that both men and women would work as well with a woman administrator. I think we need to overcome the gender resentment and learn to work together for a common goal.

CR: What special contributions do you hope to make as academic vice-president?

HT: I hope to work with other people to help them develop their personal goals and their professional goals, at the same time relating to the goals of the university. We need ever strengthening academic programs and increasing strength of university structure, while granting each school its unique role.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

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

I am enclosing \$10 in the U.S., \$12 elsewhere, to subscribe to *The Adventist Woman*.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

My tax-deductible contribution of _____ is enclosed.

Mail this form along with a check or money order payable in U.S. funds to

THE ADVENTIST WOMAN
Box 3884
Langley Park, MD 20787



Women of Destiny

A weekend conference sponsored by
Hinsdale S.D.A. Church
201 N. Oak Street

September 20-22, 1985



Viviane Hänni

RESOLUTIONS from page 7

DATA BANK

WHEREAS the General Conference has determined to establish a data bank that will provide denominational organizations with information about qualified candidates for openings within those organizations, and

WHEREAS much discussion has been generated at this conference expressing concern for establishing a data bank to supply information about women qualified for leadership positions, and a roster of women currently serving on committees,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request that the AAW officers immediately establish such a data bank, and compile a roster of women currently serving on major committees at the General Conference and North American Division and union conference levels.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

WHEREAS the General Conference in session at the 1985 Annual Council voted "... To encourage women who aspire to serve in ministerial/gospel work to focus on the broad range of church activities open to them, ... but to encourage no expectations of broadened functions in the area of the gospel ministry until the church has completed its study and announced its decision," and

WHEREAS during that same Annual Council some church administrators suggested that they will no longer encourage women to enter the gospel ministry, and

WHEREAS to take such a position is to deny the call of God to whomsoever He chooses,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to ask Betty Holbrook and Elizabeth Sterndale on behalf of the attendees at this conference to express to the General Conference and North American Division officers our concern, our pain, and our disappointment in such a position, and our conviction that women must be free to respond to the call of God to enter the gospel ministry and be welcomed by their brothers in Christ as colleagues and co-workers.

LETTERS OF AFFIRMATION

WHEREAS recent high-level decisions on the roles of women in ministry have been disappointing to our sisters who might have been hoping for a broadened ministry and for the affirmation of their calling that would have come through ordination,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to ask the officers of the AAW, the General Conference, and the North American Division to send letters of loving affirmation and encouragement to all women in ministry.

PROMOTION OF AAW

WHEREAS misconceptions persist about the AAW, and

WHEREAS many people have not been exposed to the positive work that the AAW is doing,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the AAW officers should initiate public relations activities such as news reports and articles in the *Adventist Review* and the union papers presenting the positive things that AAW is doing.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the AAW newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*, be sent to targeted Adventist thought leaders.

1984 "Women of Mission" seeds two 1985 conferences

by Penny Shell

Two conferences for Adventist women sprang out of one, illustrating the popular poster message, "The flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today."

Viviane Hänni and Shari Chamberlain each had contact with the Women of Mission Conference last summer, the second annual AAW conference. Inspired, each returned home and did likewise.

France: "Woman, I Call You"

Viviane Hänni, who has been an associate pastor in the Geneva, Switzerland, Adventist church, met with 12 friends who helped her plan a conference for French-speaking women in Europe. On July 4, 1985, their convention opened at the SDA Seminary at Collonges, France, with the theme, "Woman, I Call You . . ." More than 200 participated in a variety of workshops, worship experiences, concerts, and discussions.

Kermit Netteburg's play, "When God Calls" was transplanted from Michigan and translated into French. A second program that tied the French group to their sisters who attended the 1984 AAW conference was guest speaker Dr. Dorothy Irvin. This soft-spoken Roman Catholic scholar who wore a simple cotton dress had electrified her audience with her research into archaeological evidences showing women taking leadership in the early Christian Church and on into the medieval period.

Unique art, musical compositions, and liturgy revealed the creative talent of the European conference planners. For example, Joelle Gouel composed the theme song, which expressed in haunting melody the message "Happy is the woman called by God."

Among the topics covered in workshops were elocution and communication, dietetics, sexuality and sanctification, beauty and fashion, and biblical studies.

Illinois: "Women of Destiny"

Shari Chamberlain sparked the "Women of Destiny" weekend at the Hinsdale Adventist church in Illinois, where she has been a Bible worker on the pastoral staff. The

event, held September 20-22, was a parting gift to the congregation just before she left to become an associate pastor at the Beltsville Adventist church in Maryland.

Having experienced personal affirmation and growth during the Women of Mission Conference, Shari hoped to share the opportunity with women in Hinsdale. A hardworking planning group spent months organizing the details.

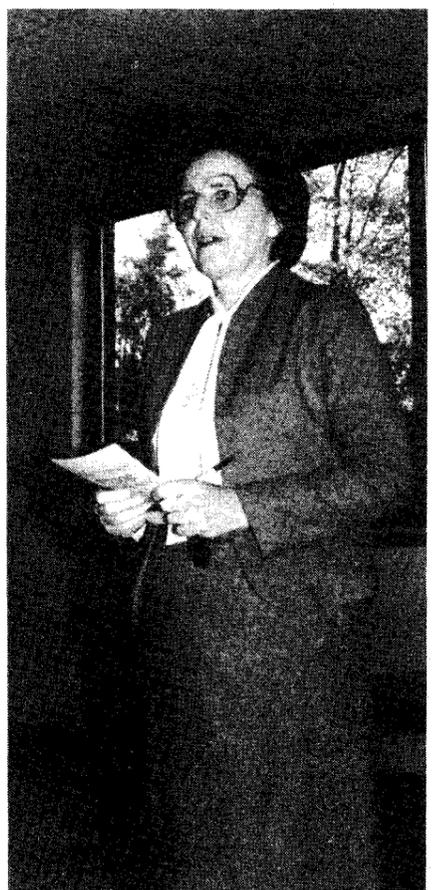
Kit Watts, one of the co-directors of the 1984 conference, preached on Sabbath morning. Entitled "The Listener," her sermon stressed a picture of Jesus relating positively to women and others in need of compassion as recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

The nationally known Christian author and speaker, Emilie Barnes of Riverside, California, conducted a five-hour workshop on Sunday. Called "From Total Mess to Total Rest" her workshop emphasized practical ways to organize your household.

Borrowing some ideas from the 1984 AAW conference, the Hinsdale group invited several Adventist women to present their specific life situations during the Friday night program, "I Am an Adventist Woman." Among these were a full-time-at-home mother, a pastor's wife, a hospital chaplain, and an administrator. Kermit Netteburg's delightful play, "When God Calls" was repeated, again showing the surprising strength of early Adventist women leaders.

The weekend festival also included a discussion on devotional life, a film about Fanny Crosby, and a display of arts and crafts created by local women. Throughout the weekend Rolene Hanson coordinated a wealth of music performed by women—choral works, ensembles, and a bell choir to name only a few.

Sharing leadership with Shari in the conference were Susan Astleford, Shirley Christian, Yvonne Brown, Susan Heiss, Rolene Hanson, Rose Hill, Judy Mayor, Joyce Milliken, Gayle Moore, Cherry Habenicht, Barbara Karas, Dorothy Neufeld, Susan Sands, Marjorie Behner-Sands, Connie Ramikisson, Grace Scheresky, and Roberta Ross.



Photos by Penny Shell

AUC Dean of Women Dr. Florence Young opened the Friday session with a devotional on Huldah, a forceful woman in Old Testament history. (See story on page 4.)