



The Adventist Woman

The Journal of the Association of Adventist Women

You are invited 25th Anniversary Conference

Mark the date of October 24-28, 2007, on your calendar and plan to attend the Association of Adventist Women's annual conference at its place of beginning—Silver Spring, Maryland—at the Hilton Hotel.

This is a special year for AAW—25 years since its founding by courageous women who sought ordination and leadership roles for women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During this celebratory conference, we'll review the history, goals, and accomplishments of AAW and dream of an expanding vision for SDA women around the world.

One of the best decisions the AAW made in 1983-1984 was to honor outstanding Adventist women leaders at its yearly conferences. At that time, the term “women leaders” sounded like an oxymoron to many. Women were helpers, not leaders—volunteers, not professionals. No matter how much their leadership skills contributed to the success of the enterprise, someone else often received much of the credit.

The AAW sought to bring attention to the contributions of women, and it has enjoyed surprising successes. As of the 2007 conference, the AAW will have honored 134 outstanding women—creative women leaders whose substantial accomplishments speak volumes about the capacities of women. A special dinner acknowledging past Woman-of-the-Year Award recipients will be held at the Hilton Hotel on Thursday evening, October 25, 2007, and a DVD featuring these women will be shown.

Friday evening we will gather for the traditional Agape Feast. We will join with the Sligo Church congregation for the Sabbath worship service, where Dorothy Watts will present the Mission Spotlight and Chris Oberg, pastor of the Calimesa (California) Church, will preach. Sabbath afternoon we will refresh ourselves with a visit to the monuments of some of America's inspirational leaders.

This year's Woman-of-the-Year Award recipients will be honored at the banquet Saturday evening, and a DVD featuring their work will be shown. Grammy Award-winning operatic soprano Faith Esham will present a short recital prior to the awards.

During the conference, there will be reports from organizations—TEAM, Women's Resource Center, Women's Ministries, Adventist Women's Institute—with their roots in AAW; Beverly Beem and Ginger Hanks Harwood will present the second report of their research through the *Review & Herald* archives; and Sylvia Nosworthy will give an illustrated talk on her exploration of Catherine Byington's diaries. Experts will moderate four break-out sessions. Several Adventist women authors will discuss their books. And each of the Woman-of-the-Year Awardees will talk about their passions. Participants are coming from many parts of the world—China, India, Afghanistan, Australia, Kenya, Sweden, Germany, England, France, and many parts of the US and Canada—ensuring tremendous energy and stimulation. Join us! Come and be inspired.



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Association of Adventist Women

Mission Statement

The Association of Adventist Women seeks to develop and promote women as leaders in Seventh-day Adventist organizations, congregations, and communities.

Goals

The image of God, as embodied in the skills and insights of women, will be more fully reflected in our churches and communities as we achieve our goals:

To create significant opportunities for women to be full partners at all levels of church life.

To promote leadership skills among Adventist women of all ages and backgrounds.

To highlight Adventist women's opportunities, contributions, and achievements using print, electronic, and personal communications.

To establish a network of Adventist women leaders who can inspire and mentor other women.

To demonstrate open and collaborative models by working in complementary ways with other church organizations.

Revised 10/17/04

E-mail news, article, and photo* submissions to Carolyn Lacy, Editor, at carolynlacy137@verizon.net.

*Photos must have a resolution of at least 350 dpi. If you are unsure of the resolution or dpi of your image, you can view its dpi setting in the image's properties. When scanning your images, set your image size to 350 dpi. When taking a photo with a digital camera, be sure to set the image quality indicator to the highest quality setting. If you are mailing a photo print or CD-ROM, send it with a return address to Carolyn Lacy, *The Adventist Woman*, 13406 S. Echo Lake Rd., Snohomish, WA 98296-5419.

The Adventist Woman

The Adventist Woman is the official newsletter of the Association of Adventist Women and is published four times a year. Members of the association receive the newsletter as a benefit of membership. To join the association, go to the Web site at www.aaw.cc. Or write to the AAW at PO Box 25025, Seattle, WA 98165-1925. If questions remain, e-mail Verla Michel Kwiram at vkwiram@aaw.cc.

AAW Staff

President

VERLA MICHEL KWIRAM

Immediate Past President

PATRICIA J. FOSTER

Editor

CAROLYN LACY

Web Site Technical Architect

WILLIAM NORDGREN

Webmistress

ELIZABETH MURRELL RICKABY

Graphic Designer

BRUCE FENNER

Membership and Circulation

CAROLYN SLEPNIKOFF LACY

Accountant

GAYLE TERAMOTO

Senior Advisor

HELEN THOMPSON ZOLBER

Resource Development Coordinator

AMY WORRELL KNELLER

Not-for-Profit Oversight

RHONA KWIRAM

Contributing Authors

VERLA MICHEL KWIRAM

ROY NADEN

Association of Adventist Women

PO Box 25025

Seattle, WA 98165-1925

Fax: 206-542-8886

Email: vkwiram@aaw.cc

Web Site: www.aaw.cc

Message from the President

Called to Serve— Adventist Women Moving Beyond Culture



Verla Michel Kwiram

The call to serve is issued to every person—women, men, and children. Heeding the call leads us to understand God’s purpose for our lives; it builds our capacities and confidence.

To serve has a broader meaning than being a servant—to serve is to provide services that benefit or help. A life of service offers satisfaction beyond material success.

However, before one can serve, one must prepare.

To be equipped to serve, our first duty is to *educate ourselves*. To use womanly gifts fully, we must stay in school, become professionally qualified, continually upgrade our knowledge and skills, enter into collaborative relationships, and become full partners. By educating ourselves throughout life, we educate our children, since well-informed mothers raise well-informed children.

When we take God’s call seriously, *we accept challenges* and stretch our capacities. It is through exercise that we build muscle to press ahead with new challenges. After organizing a modest task, we find that we have the skills to organize and implement something more difficult. As Cicely Tyson said, “Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew. They’re what make the instrument stretch—what makes you go beyond the norm.”

Many of us are fearful when facing unknown circumstances. But *advancing in the face of fear builds courage*. Erica Jong urges us “always to do the things you fear the most. Courage is an acquired taste...”

Those serious about developing new skills *accept the risk of making mistakes*. Fear of falling or making mistakes keeps many people off the playing field. “Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go,” according to T. S. Eliot. In life as

well as sports, “a real champion, is someone that can fall and dust herself off and get up.” Serena Williams, tennis champion, should know.

Don’t expect to take shortcuts. Beverly Sills assures us that “There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.” Pursue excellence without arrogance. Learn from another woman whose work you respect. Teach yourself the best techniques; build your skill set. It is always an inspiration to witness a woman in action who does a great many things well.

Mentor another woman. Find someone with whom you can develop a special relationship, who will benefit from your encouragement and wisdom. You are never too young or too old to mentor someone else. In our congregation, my friends Mildred Jensen and Katie Jo Johnson paired their older youngsters with younger children. The interest that Katie Jo’s older son and daughter showed in the progress of my younger ones was a great inspiration and challenge to them. They feel to this day that these mentors are their friends, just as some of us adopt surrogate mothers and grandmothers who have set examples we want to follow.

Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. “I always wondered why somebody doesn’t do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody,” quips Lily Tomlin.

Finish what you start. Every organization is looking for capable people who complete tasks. Accepting responsibility and staying until the work is complete makes you a valued team player. And if others fail to recognize your contributions, celebrate with your teammates, congratulating yourselves on a job well done, without forgetting to thank others.

Share what you have. Invest in the future of someone outside your family. Learn about the needs of our sisters in less affluent countries. And give something regularly to provide them hope. Giving brings inner joy.

Show appreciation. As Margaret Cousins puts it, “Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary.”

Adventist women, unleashing their powers in such ways, will make the church the kind of church to which we all want to belong. **AW**

Verla Michel Kwiram
President

Audray Johnson Ordained

On June 15, 2007, Audray Johnson was ordained/commissioned by her co-workers in the Southeastern California Conference (SECC), 27 years after she first became director of the Religious Liberty and Family Ministries departments of the conference. At 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening at Corona Adventist Church Youth Chapel, just as the sun was setting, Audray and Fred Self, pastor of the Lucerne Valley church and part-time chaplain at Loma Linda Veterans Hospital, were dedicated through prayer and laying on of hands to the ministry to which they had already demonstrated a calling.

Lynn Mallery's sermon told the history of ordination from apostolic times to the present, characterizing ordination as symbolizing the recognition by the church of gifts bestowed by God. Audray's son, David, who is Information Technology Director for the conference, gave the invocation and benediction. Women pastors of SECC gave Audray a gender-inclusive edition of the New International Version of the Bible.

Audray started her conference appointment as director of two departments—Religious Liberty and Health—and her work later extended to cover four departments, including Family Ministries and, 12 years ago, Women's Ministries. She is the first woman ever to serve as religious liberty director.

Among Audray's outstanding contributions to the departments she leads are resource manuals for local church officers, giving them abundant material and ideas to make their work relevant to the congregation. Her family ministry manual is entitled, *Family Ministries Handbook: The Complete How-to Guide for Local Church Leaders* (Advent Source). She suggests seminars on many areas of parenting, marriage, divorce, and grief recovery, topics on which she has written. Audray's liturgies on mothers, fathers, family, children, youth, and baptism celebrate many of life's passages.

Other central events that families experience—marriage, birth of a baby, going off to school, graduations, becoming grandparents—are developed. One of her personal favorites is a liturgy she wrote for the milestone of young people receiving their first driver's license; they are brought to the front of the church where a prayer is offered for them, they renew their temperance pledge, and a prayer is said for their auto insurance provider.

Also included in her manual is information regarding abuse, violence, rape, and homosexuality. In addition, she has written a manual that educates pastors on issues of child protection in churches, child abuse, and family violence. She teaches pastors and educators how to handle perpetrators. Every pastor in the conference must go through this training and must sign a statement attesting to receiving this training so that such matters are not swept under the rug. Audray Johnson's book on child protection,



(L to R) Ernest Furness, Gerald Penick, Audray Johnson, Fred Self, Sandra Roberts, Tom Staples, and Lynn Mallery

Making Church Safer for Children: the Child Protection Resource Book, will be published shortly.

Audray is a member of the State of California board that educates ministers on domestic violence; she is certified to train trainers on dealing with domestic violence. She also established a center where all of the position papers that the church has written on such things as abortion, birth control, and end-of-life issues, together with pertinent bibliographies, are readily available.

Included in her Health Ministries curriculum are sections on gambling and alcoholism.

Her Women's Ministries manual includes names of prominent female leaders of the early church; Audray found as many as she could at the time and put them in a book she calls *Womanyear* (unpublished). For these pioneer women, she found birthdates, and she suggests how churches can use the information she has collected. For example, Kate Lindsay, first Adventist woman physician, is mentioned. In this context, Audray suggests that congregations celebrate their women physicians. When Audray offered to publish this book, another woman leader dismissed the suggestion by saying, "Oh, Women are not interested in history." This information makes good filler for bulletins and newsletters.

No materials of this kind were available when she took over these departments. SECC has a program for all of its salaried employees called the "Anonymous Counseling Program." Audray contracted with 25 counselors. Any pastor or employee can receive counseling, on an anonymous basis, for a \$10.00 co-payment; the conference pays the remainder. Pastors and teachers may go for counseling any time they need to and for any reason, such as divorce or pre-marital counseling. This was Audray's idea.

Although much of the religious liberty work is done through the Pacific Union, Audray is putting together a book on issues surrounding requirements to work on the Sabbath. Yet another manual she has written, *Good Sense*, provides financial guidance for families.

She is a member of the Divorce and Remarriage Commission of General Conference and serves on the Human Sexuality and Family Ministries committees for North American Division. **AW**

Tentative Conference Schedule

Adventist Women Moving Beyond Culture

Wednesday, October 24

3:00-5:00	Registration	
6:45-7:30	Registration	
7:30	<i>Moolaadé</i> , a film by Fatoumata Coulibaly, Maimouna Hélène Diarra, Salimata Traoré, and Dominique Zeïda, followed by discussion	

Thursday, October 25

7:45-8:30	Registration	
8:30	Welcome Devotional	Verla Michel Kwiram Heather-Dawn Small
8:55	Parade of Flags	
9:00	The Dream: Forming an Association for Adventist Women?	Viveca Black
9:20	Panel of early contributors: The Early Organization	Vera Griswold Capman Josephine Griffin Benton Margaret McFarland
9:40	Goals and Objectives as Viewed by Past AAW Presidents	Past AAW Presidents
10:30	Break	
10:40	Addressing the Obstacles: Adventist Women Respond	Thesba Yeaton Johnston
11:20	Recommendations and Commendations	Helen Thompson Zolber
	POSITIVE INITIATIVES	
	Adventist Women's Institute (AWI) (1988)	Patricia Breedlove Habada
	TEAM report. Assistance for women preparing for ministry (1988)	Penny Gustafson Miller
	Gender Inclusiveness Task Force (1989)	Rose Niesen Otis
	Women's Ministries (1990) NAD and GC	
	Ardis Dick Stenbakken	
	Women and Men Against Sexual Harassment	Peggy Curtice Harris
	Women's Resource Center (1996)	Kit Watts, Penny Shell
	Andrews' Center for Women Clergy (2004)	Dilys Dowdie Brooks
12:15	World Café Luncheon: Obstacles in the Critical Path	
2:00	CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN	
	Sex Trafficking and Exploitation of Girls	Joy Ford Butler
	Sex Slavery and Prostitution	Patricia Green
	Sexual Abuse and Its Consequences	Norma Koester Bork
	Peace and Safety in the Christian Home	Catherine Clark Kroeger
3:20	Secondary Education for Girls in Kenya	Jennifer Mabuka Maroa
3:40	Literacy for Adult Women	Dorothy Eaton Watts
4:00	Break	
4:10	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	1) Adventist Women and Abuse	Joy Ford Butler, Peggy Harris Norma Bork, Patricia Green Catherine Kroeger
	2) Enhancing the Status of Adventist Women through Education	Patricia Habada Jennifer Mabuka Maroa Nancy Vyhmeister Dorothy Watts
5:30	Break	
6:00	Dinner honoring Woman-of-the-Year Recipients 1984-2006 Honoring Past Conference Coordinators	DVD of WOYA Recipients
	Andrews University Women who Laid the Foundation Music coordinated by Virginia-Gene Shankel Rittenhouse (WOYA 1995)	Meredith Jones Gray

Friday, October 26

7:45-8:30	Registration	
8:30	Welcome and Devotional	Charles Scriven President, AAF
8:55	Parade of Flags	
9:00	Report from Trans-European Division	Helen Pearson Rigmor Nyberg
9:30	Positive New Testament Principles that Every Adventist Woman Needs to Know	Nancy Weber Vyhmeister
10:00	Bringing the Church to an Inclusive Vision of the Gospel: Challenges and Solutions	Ardis Dick Stenbakken

10:30	Break	
10:40	Reconnecting with our Heritage: Our Daughters Shall Prophesy: Part II	Beverly Beem Ginger Hanks Harwood
11:20	Breaking Through Barriers by Pulling Together	Lilya Vinglas Wagner
11:50	Connecting the Adventist Woman's World through Communication	Verla Michel Kwiram
12:00	Drawing including names of those who provided potential new member contacts	Carolyn Slepnikoff Lacy
12:15	World Café Luncheon: Proposals for Removing the Barriers	
2:00	Next Directions: What are the Obstacles – Keeping Our Best and Brightest	Mahalia Gayle, Kirsten Johnson, Sidney Kwiram, Cherilyn Lacy
2:40	The Adventist Woman and Philanthropy: Karen Hanson Kotoske: Finding Joy Through Giving: How One Woman Changes the World	Karen Hanson Kotoske DVD by Carmen & Loren Seibold
3:10	One Adventist Woman and Humanitarian Achievements	Rigmor Nyberg
3:40	Empowered by the Spirit: Chinese Woman Warrior	Qin Zheng Yi
4:10	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	1) Maintaining Health: The Adventist Woman, Vegetarian Diet, and Exercise	Georgia Willey Hodgkin Charlotte Hamlin Patterson Rebekah Wang Scriven
	2) Addressing the Challenge of Second Class Citizenship for Adventist Women	Eleanor Brady Hetke Jennifer Mabuka Maroa Nancy Vyhmeister, Dorothy Watts, Twyla Reimche Gimbel
5:40	Break	
6:30	Agape Feast and Liturgy "Better Than Our Fears: The Diaries of Catherine Byington"	Rebecca Frost Brillhart Sylvia Byington Nosworthy
Saturday, October 27		
9:00	Depart for Sabbath School at Sligo Church	
9:30	Sabbath School: Mission Spotlight	Dorothy Eaton Watts
11:00	Divine Worship	Pastor Chris Nelson Oberg
12:30 – 5:00	Boxed lunches on bus tour to see US national memorials	
6:30	Banquet Honoring 2007 Woman-of-the-Year Award Recipients Vocal Recital by Operatic Soprano Faith Esham Woman-of-the-Year Awards: Joy Ford Butler, introduced by Deanna Pitchford Karen Hanson Kotoske, introduced by Carmen Ajo Seibold Rigmor Nyberg, introduced by Charles Sandefur Qin Zheng Yi, introduced by Rebekah Liu Nancy Weber Vyhmeister, introduced by Donna Lugenbeal Habenicht Dorothy Eaton Watts, introduced by Patricia Breedlove Habada	
Sunday, October 28		
9:00	Continental Breakfast Business Meeting: Visioning the Future of AAW	
11:30	Conference Ends	

Win a Rebate on 2007 Conference Fee!

AAW wants to expand its contacts of Adventist women around the world. At the conference, every woman who provides a list of 10 or more Adventist women with complete information (listed here) will be eligible for a drawing. You may submit more than one list of 10 persons for an additional chance at winning. Be sure to include YOUR name and contact information as the person submitting the list.

Each contact should include the following basic information:

Full name

Mailing Address

Telephone number

Email Address

Comments from Readers

Letter to the President

Dear Verla:

Sabbath (a week ago) I read your article in *The Adventist Woman* [Spring 2007; Vol. 24, No. 1]. Although I agree with the first part, I found myself bristling at your last few paragraphs. I must respond. While much that you say in those paragraphs is true, the way it is said can do more damage than good. That, together with some inaccuracy, can alienate the people AAW is trying to woo. Sometimes I fear that women can be their worst enemies. I hate to see that happen.

That men occupy the majority of leadership positions is true. That leaders are chosen “based on sex alone” is debatable. The time frame for men’s “supremacy” in the church dates to 1920 or thereabouts—not 150 years ago. At the turn of the century there were more women in leadership positions than 50 years later. While admittedly small, since mid-twentieth century the number of women in leadership has grown.

Naturally, I agree that the “assumption that men should automatically and necessarily have higher status must change.” But the basis on which that should be achieved is a spirit of loving service, the education of women to do the work properly, and the gentle teaching of men regarding the biblical view of women. True Christianity encourages people—women included—to excel, but it does not demand “higher status” for anyone.

Yes, we are in the United States. Yes, the General Conference is in this country. However, members in this country are fewer than 10 percent of the total church membership. The men (mostly) who come to General Conference meetings from abroad represent the other 90 percent. They are the ones who need teaching and encouraging. Furthermore, if the women they represent (more than half the members) were active in church life, these men might have a different point of view.

As I see it, the anti-ordination of women has flourished overseas because of cultural situations in the rest of the world. It has also been fostered by ample distribution of anti-ordination literature from the United States—for free. AAW could counteract this by financing and distributing short, clear, biblically-based materials written by people accepted in the different continents.

While I feel strongly that ordination of women pastors is theologically acceptable and desirable where it is not offensive, I am convinced that a much greater need of our church is to train and involve lay members, male and female, in the mission of the church. A great educational campaign is necessary for this.

In 2006 Werner and I spent five months in Africa where I taught research methods to 235 pastor/students of the new Adventist University of Africa, from the three African divisions. I learned much. Because of traditions, in the society and the church, women are often unable to reach their full potential. Women’s issues include female circumcision, polygamy, wife-beating, lack of education, HIV/AIDS, and poverty—among others. These are compounded by an erroneous understanding of ordination, which gives the pastor superiority and control over church members. Some of the students decided to write their research papers about the participation of women, showing an openness to learn. In this environment, the help African women need is much more basic than ordination or leadership positions. Women’s Ministries at the GC and the division level are trying to meet the challenge, but much more help is needed.

May God bless you and AAW to work for our Lord in constructive ways.

Nancy Vyhmeister



Send your comments concerning *The Adventist Woman* to PO Box 25025, Seattle, WA 98165-1925. Or e-mail our editor, Carolyn Lacy, at carolynlacy137@verizon.net.

Woman-of-the-



JOY FORD BUTLER
Outstanding Church Leadership

It would be hard to imagine a more perpetually positive, progressive person than Joy Ford Butler. She is grateful for the blessing of being born into a joy-filled Christian family. Both her grandmother, a leader in the Salvation Army, and her mother modelled these wonderful characteristics.

Joy has become a citizen of the world. But that was a far cry from her thoughts as a girl growing up in a typical, conservative New Zealand home. After attending Adventist colleges in both New Zealand and Australia, she accepted the call to be a young, single missionary in Papua New Guinea; in the process, she had her first glimpse of a wider world.

Following her marriage to Bob Butler, they accepted a call to minister in Samoa and then Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia). In the 12 years they served in Africa, Joy was Bible instructor, church elder, Meals-on-Wheels director, piano teacher, vegetarian-cooking instructor, and mother to three growing children. All three caught their parents' "world citizen" vision. Marlon, until recently a project manager for ADRA in three countries of Africa, is now studying international law; Emma is a gifted artist and writer in Sydney; and Ryan acts as a raft guide in Morocco and Switzerland.

When the family returned to their home base in Australia, Sydney Adventist Hospital called her to be a

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KAREN HANSON KOTOSKE
Philanthropic Excellence

Karen Hanson Kotoske was raised in a family of entrepreneurial women. By the age of nine, she found herself in the grip of an unusual obsession for one so young: she wanted to do important things for others! Her mother, Adora Hanson, insisted on practical training, so Karen became a dental hygienist. Adora enhanced her daughter's keen sense of compassion by having her read to blind children each week.

Today this risk-taking entrepreneur works tirelessly to sustain, not a business, but her charitable conglomerate. The answer to Karen's search for what she should choose as a ministry of compassion came after she visited her brother while he was a medical student in Mexico. After the Sabbath School program, medical students talked about participating in a flying clinic for the Huichol Indians. They invited her to join them that very afternoon. When the small plane landed, the Indians that surrounded them were not so much sick as starving. Karen caught a vision that day, shared it with her attorney husband, and in 1980 they formed the Amistad Foundation to do "a little bit of good."

Soon Karen had a pilot drop her off unannounced in La Colonia, a Huichol village, where she was generously hosted by Chief Francisco and his wives. With the tools she carried with her—a Polaroid camera, a ball, and toothbrushes—she quickly became acquainted with the

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RIGMOR MARI-ANNE NYBERG
Humanitarian Award

Rigmor Mari-Anne Nyberg first felt herself drawn to international service as a child. Although encouraged by her mother and grandmother to become a nurse, she instead took business courses, and in this decision set the course of her life. At 26, two years after completing her studies in Business Administration in Stockholm, she received a call to become business manager of the Ethiopian Adventist College. She accepted this most unusual invitation to one so young and inexperienced.

After three years, Rigmor returned to Sweden, married, and had a child, but then went back to Ethiopia as an administrator and auditor for the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), which was attempting to ameliorate famine conditions. Nine months later civil war broke out, and she was forced to evacuate. In 1980, Rigmor began a five-year term as Business Manager of Ekebyholmsskolan, the Adventist junior college in Sweden.

In 1985, the newly formed ADRA International chose Rigmor to open its first Swedish office. "Some assumed from my name that the new director must be a man and that I was his wife or secretary," she recalls with a laugh. Rigmor showed herself to be perfectly suited for the task. She had already established herself as a trusted business manager with government and international experience, with a

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e-Year Awardees



QIN ZHENG YI
Outstanding Achievement

It is difficult to summarize the many gifts of Qin Zheng Yi or, as she is better known, Zhang Zhu. In a different era, we would have called her simply a warrior, because she is so determined and resolute in the face of fearsome obstacles. She is also a publisher, trainer, financier, and administrator.

Her grandfather, a prosperous Sichuan landowner, was highly regarded because he practiced the Confucian virtues of integrity and altruism and gave generously to his community. Her father grew up within the conflicting ideologies of Communism and Christianity. Long dominated by foreign powers, China had been exploited, but Communism promised egalitarianism and the elimination of poverty. Zhang Zhu's father and his brothers gladly gave up their privileged positions to join the Red Army in pursuit of these ideals. As a reward, Zhang Zhu's father became chief of the Court of Justice in his home town. He died in his late 40s, leaving Zhang Zhu, then only 10 years old, an orphan.

As the heir of a revolutionary martyr, Zhang Zhu received an excellent education at Chongqing Teacher's Training University. After graduation, she spent an obligatory year on a farm where those with university training were "re-educated." The experience led her to question the ability of Communism to fulfill its goals. The Cultural Revolution began the following year,

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NANCY WEBER VYHMEISTER
Professional Distinction

Nancy Weber Vyhmeister, born in Portland, Oregon, found herself immersed in another culture at age seven when her parents were invited to participate in the establishment of the new Uruguay Adventist Academy. Her father laid out the farm; planted orchards, vineyards, and gardens; and established a dairy, all of which would give students work to help pay tuition. Able to turn his hand in many directions, he expected his children to do the same. Nancy soon spoke Spanish so spontaneously her mother became concerned that her daughter would forget English. So she made a rule: If you speak to your mother in Spanish, there will be no answer!

A furlough back to the States allowed Nancy to finish high school at PUC Prep. During the next year in Uruguay, she schemed for more adventure. She wanted to attend the Adventist Seminary in France to learn French, and to study violin at the Geneva Conservatory of Music. When she shared her dream, her father promptly bought her a ticket, and she was soon on her way. While home in Uruguay for the summer, she planned her second year of college at Bogenhofen in Austria in order to learn German. However, her father was accidentally killed that summer, and Nancy returned to the States with her mother instead, graduating from PUC in 1958 with a major in French and minors in German and English, having made the decision to make teaching her life work.

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DOROTHY EATON WATTS
Entrepreneurial Church Leadership

Dorothy Eaton Watts enjoyed an ideal childhood in rural Ohio. While undeniably a mischievous girl, she excelled at school, especially in creative writing. She had the privilege of being raised by a mother who modeled a life of service giving Bible studies, visiting shut-ins, and preaching sermons. Dorothy worked in the family landscape and floral business, and later as a literature evangelist every summer in order to attend an Adventist academy and Columbia Union College.

She met Ron Watts on a blind date in 1959 and married him five months later. They are still together 48 years later. Five years after marriage, they went to India and spent 16 years there as missionaries. As a child, she had dreamed of being a mother, a missionary, a teacher, and an author. All her dreams came true, although not in the ways she had imagined. Dorothy and Ron have no children of their own, so they cared for others' children, adopting three of them. But so many needed care that she founded Sunshine Orphanage in 1979. It began in their home. Today the Orphanage cares for 100 children. Dorothy also founded the Adventist Child Care Agency (ACCA) which directed the education of 5,000 children through the sponsorship of agencies of REACH International.

In 2003 Dorothy helped establish the Southern Asia Division Child Care Office, which administers her newest program,

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chaplain, where she served for four years. Then the Greater Sydney Conference

invited her to serve as Director of Women's Ministries, where she also served for four years. Most recently, the South Pacific Division invited her to serve in the same position for its territory, as well as to be coordinator of Prayer Ministries, positions she currently holds.

Joy has a major concern for poor and disenfranchised women in the world, especially in developing and warring countries. A particular passion, which has grown over the years, is combating sexual exploitation in all its forms, including human trafficking, sex slavery, and domestic abuse. In Thailand, where this problem is most egregious, Joy, with her son Marlon, conceived of a house of refuge for exploited girls—usually rural girls who are recruited for “good jobs” that will allow them to send money home to their families. Instead, they are subjected to sexual slavery. The “Keep Girls Safe” project, operated under the auspices of ADRA, provides a secure home for girls; combats prostitution, sex slavery, and abuse; and rescues girls who have already become enslaved and often are victims of HIV/AIDS. Everywhere she goes, Joy raises consciousness about the plight of these girls together with funds for their care.

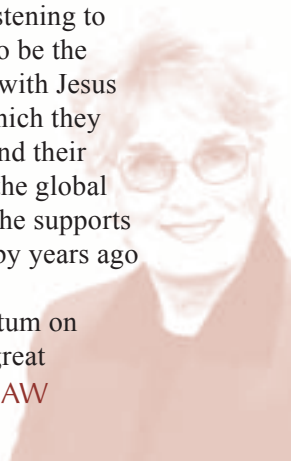
One of the most gratifying evidences of Joy's passion

for the poor and disenfranchised victims of unspeakable abuse is the way she has reached out and helped organize women in Papua New Guinea, where an extremely high incidence of abuse occurs. In addition, she has connected with women from among the Aborigines of Australia's outback. Members of these tribes rarely enter mainstream life in the Antipodes.

Joy bridges parochial barriers. Currently, she serves as the Christian Outreach Superintendent for the international Woman's Christian Temperance Union and is a field recruitment officer for Africa.

In her occasional moments of relaxation, Joy enjoys forest walking (her home is on the edge of a forest of Australian eucalyptus trees), canoeing, reading theology and history, ministering to the elderly in the retirement homes her husband manages, playing the piano, and listening to classical music. Her greatest desire continues to be the encouragement of women to have a close walk with Jesus and to spread His love in the communities in which they live. She endeavours to help women look beyond their immediate environment to the bigger issues of the global village in which we live. On a personal level, she supports an orphan boy, Taurai, whom she found as a baby years ago in Africa.

One of Joy's gifts is that she builds momentum on issues—she energizes others. She works with great enthusiasm and passion in her service for God. **AW**



NYBERG

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heart wide open to meet the needs of others. She soon built ADRA

Sweden's project portfolios and developed a network of relationships within government agencies. She submitted only the highest-quality proposals and revealed herself to be a reliable humanitarian partner.

A major challenge soon became evident: how to implement the numerous worthy ideas that came to her desk. That Rigmor found ways to embrace so many needs is clear evidence of her managerial genius. Recent catastrophes for which she has provided relief include the great earthquake in Pakistan, the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, HIV and AIDS in Africa, and desperately needed help in Bangladesh, Liberia, and war-torn Sudan. Through the years, Rigmor promoted projects that helped women and young girls obtain an education and become financially independent. “To see the difference in people—especially young women and young girls—when they have been involved in our projects was very satisfying,” she says.

During a period of rampant inflation in Vietnam, ADRA Sweden implemented its first Cow Project. ADRA donates a cow to a family, which uses the milk, dung, and calves to generate income. The simplicity of the project appealed to Rigmor. As she wryly remarked, “Regardless of inflation, the value of a cow has always been the value of a cow, and that impressed me.”

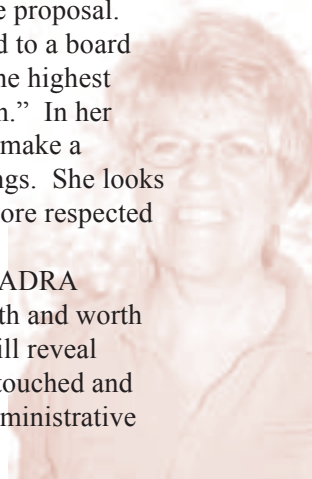
Over the years, Rigmor took the Sweden ADRA annual

budget from \$200,000 to \$2,000,000. She has raised \$50,000,000 for ADRA's humanitarian projects during her tenure.

As Rigmor reflects on the key qualities which have enabled her to succeed, she says, “I have always had a desire for justice and fairness. I have learned to listen closely to what people tell me they need; I know how to make a budget, how to read a budget, and how to read financial statements; and I have a bad memory when it has to do with bad things.” She gives enormous credit to loyal friends who gave consistent support, and especially to her daughter, Annilie, who unselfishly shared her mother with those she helped.

When Rigmor began her work 40 years ago, she usually found herself the only woman on boards that included Union and Conference presidents. These men often ignored what she suggested until a man made the same proposal. She observes that people are usually appointed to a board because of their position and that those with the highest rank, have “preferential rights of interpretation.” In her experience, it has been difficult for women to make a contribution to the pool of ideas in these settings. She looks forward to the day when women can have a more respected part in discussions.

Now that Rigmor has retired as Sweden's ADRA Director, there can be no doubt about the wealth and worth of her ideas and stewardship. Only eternity will reveal the countless numbers whose lives have been touched and enriched by her great heart, keen mind, and administrative skill. **AW**



KOTOSKE

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children, and, by briefly sharing the lives of local families, saw

the needs of the people.

Being a practical person, Karen's first priority was to help create solutions to some of their most urgent problems—dirty water and poor nutrition—partnering wherever possible with other interested parties, including the flying clinic and Missions Unlimited, but most importantly, with the people themselves. To this day 27 years later, Amistad continues to provide a flying medical/dental clinic, air ambulance services, and hot meals for 250 Indian students at three schools (that's 46,000 meals per year). The teachers train students in sustainable agriculture, which has enabled Huichol families to create small family enterprises.

Karen's new-found vision quickly expanded. Amistad Foundation became Amistad International, and through this entity, Karen raises half a million dollars annually for projects in ten countries. In Mexico, where she has sponsored work for several native Mexican tribes, in addition to her continuing work with the Huichols, she builds schools, libraries, churches, serves thousands of hot meals to children, and builds water supplies.

In India, she sponsors a free primary school, Buddha's Smile School, for Dalit or untouchable caste children as well as Soma Home, in Kolkata, for the daughters of sex workers who have no caste and are lower than even the untouchables. In Mongolia, she provides hot meals, literacy classes, health classes and small business start-up funds for poor families and abandoned mothers through the

Nairamdal (Friendship) Project. She also provides funds for the humanitarian aid that Dr. Vesna Wallace carries with her each year to the impoverished families of Mongolia. In China, she makes it possible to take children by train annually to visit their imprisoned mothers and provides money for physical therapy training for caregivers in families with disabled children. In Thailand, in response to the 2004 tsunami, she helped establish a training center and provided scholarships to young boys cleaning up the beaches to support Eco-Tourism.

In Kenya, she sponsors Amri School, a free elementary school for AIDS orphans, children of Rwandan genocide victims, and others who are destitute. In addition, she sponsors training programs for trainers who seek to prevent female genital mutilation. In a separate project in Kenya, she provides micro-enterprise loans of up to \$100 to nearly 500 persons to start small businesses.

In South Africa, she assists Lambano Sanctuary and Katlehong Project for AIDS infants and toddlers. In Zimbabwe, she offers primary support for Paula Leen's (WOYA 2006) feeding program for children and women, her home for children orphaned by AIDS, as well as for agriculture and water projects. In Tchad (Chad), she provides AIDS medications to the Bere Adventist Hospital.

All told, Amistad has built many churches, clinics, schools, libraries, and water systems; trained people in sustainable agriculture, hygiene, and financial planning; and provided countless hot meals to improve the nutrition of children. She has made Christianity magnetic.

Karen Kotoske's vision encompasses needs in countries around the world, and her energy is prodigious. But we honor her most for her great heart. She is a model of what Jesus commended, going about doing good. **AW**

WATTS

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Adventist Child India (ACI), with the goal of providing scholarships for 10,000 rural Adventist children to Adventist boarding schools.

Soon after the Watts family returned to the United States in 1981, Dorothy wrote some of the 26 books she has authored, several of them focused on the needs of women. She has been a frequent speaker at women's retreats and, in 1997, became the second Women's Ministries Director for the General Conference (GC). In this position, she outlined a four-year curriculum for Women's Ministries leaders still used around the world.

Being Women's Ministries Director for the GC is a responsibility she enjoyed more than anything else she has done. But she had to relinquish that love when Ron received the call to become the President of the Southern Asia Division in India. There she became an Associate Secretary of the Division, something she describes as the "most difficult job" she has undertaken. In the past decade, while parts of India have achieved considerable prosperity, the gap between rich and poor has widened.

The poor are desperately poor, barely able to sustain themselves. So Dorothy set up empowerment programs providing goats, sewing machines, tailoring classes, and wet grinders, all intended to enhance the lives and independence of women. She has also created programs for deaf women.

Dorothy became deeply involved after the major earthquake that displaced tens of thousands in 2003 and the horrors of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that disrupted countless lives. Aware that education is the path to a better life for women, Dorothy ran 135 literacy projects, plus health education and AIDS awareness. These literacy projects have now been duplicated in 250 locations.

Dorothy Watts has worked with such unfailing energy and vision that she has gained the respect of women and men everywhere. Her life of service has become an inspiration to women everywhere to contribute their gifts to spread the gospel of compassion and grace. Without question, one of the homes Jesus has prepared in heaven must have her name on it, and some day soon she will hear the Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." **AW**

VYHMEISTER

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As a graduation gift, Nancy's mother took her to the 1958 General Conference in Cleveland, where she met Werner Vyhmeister in an elevator. They were married in Argentina in 1959, where her mother was then working at River Plate Sanitarium and Hospital. They made their first home in Chile, where Werner taught at the Adventist College, and here their first child, Heidi, was born. But being a new mother did not slow Nancy down. She took Greek classes from Werner and taught Educational Psychology.

They returned to River Plate College in 1961, where Nancy taught Greek, English, Church Music, and Health Principles and where their son, Ronald, was born in 1962. In 1966, Werner went to Andrews to complete his M.Div., and Nancy completed a master's degree in Biblical Languages, adding Hebrew to the languages in which she was proficient. After returning to Argentina to resume teaching, she began writing books, publishing a Greek textbook in 1968, and a book on cooking and nutrition in 1970. In 1972, when Werner became Education Secretary for the South American Division, Nancy became co-translator (6 years) and later Copy Editor (11 more years) of the Spanish translation of the seven-volume *SDA Bible Commentary*. All told, she invested parts of 17 years in the Spanish SDA Commentary project, in addition to the years she spent as associate editor of volume 12 of the Commentary Reference Series, *Handbook of SDA Theology* (in English).

In 1975, Werner returned to Andrews, which gave Nancy

the opportunity to complete her doctorate in Religious Education. Then she became an Assistant Professor on the Seminary faculty. In 1984, the couple went to the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines, where Nancy designed the Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry programs. Turning her hand to numerous areas, as did her father before her, she helped prepare architectural plans for the new campus, including the library and a women's dormitory. Although their six-year stay in the Philippines included the turmoil of a revolution, Nancy remembers these creative years with pleasure. During this time she published her first articles.

Nancy and Werner returned to Andrews University in 1991, where Werner became Dean of the Theological Seminary and Nancy, Professor of World Mission, and co-editor and later editor of *Andrews University Seminary Studies*. Of special interest to women is her position as Chair of the ad-hoc Seminary Committee on Hermeneutics and Ordination, and editor of *Women in Ministry: Biblical and Historical Perspectives*. This was the seminary faculty's response to the Utrecht vote against allowing the North American Division to proceed independently of other divisions to ordain women to the gospel ministry. Altogether, Nancy has published eight books and 39 articles.

Retirement in 2000 allowed the Vyhmeisters opportunity to accept special assignments to the church's educational institutions in India and Mexico and to go to three African universities to help establish the new Adventist University of Africa.

When she sat beside her dying father, Nancy promised to meet him in heaven. She will keep that promise! But she also anticipates the joy of meeting her countless students from across her lifetime as well. **AW**



SABBATH SPEAKER

Chris Nelson Oberg



Speaker for the Sabbath morning worship service, **Chris Nelson Oberg** currently serves as the Senior Pastor at Calimesa SDA Church, a 1200-member family just south-east of Loma Linda, California. Chris describes her assignment at Calimesa as one of life's grandest blessings, "to be among colleagues for whom Church matters, and to be with a congregation seriously seeking to follow Jesus in a complex world—well, it doesn't get more rewarding."

Chris is a double-alumnus of La Sierra University, School of Religion, completing both a BA and an MA in Religion, with an emphasis in New Testament Studies.

She is married to Kerby Oberg, a pediatric pathologist, who also teaches and does research in the areas of molecular biology and embryology at Loma Linda University. The Obergs have two teenage daughters; This month Amanda began her first year at La Sierra University, and Alisa entered grade 12 at Redlands Adventist Academy.

Reflecting on her vocation, Chris says, "Doing my job well is my response to the Gospel mandate, and I respond in confident hope, with one eye on the young women coming behind me into ministry and one eye on a Church that simply must do better at fully legitimizing women's leadership roles." **AW**

QIN

continued from page 9

and Confucian principles were ridiculed. The government soon had Zhang Zhu investigating peasants and working in a publishing house—unaware that this latter

training would prepare her for an important element in her life's work. Through this experience, she lost her belief that Communism was the ultimate solution. Early in the Cultural Revolution, she married and had two children.

In search of meaning, Zhang Zhu explored Buddhism and Taoism, but without success. She pursued wealth with her chemist husband and managed a paint-manufacturing business. They prospered, became affluent, and Zhang Zhu freely helped her many relatives. But the marriage deteriorated, and her husband left her in 1988. Her prosperity collapsed, and soon after a niece confided to her that happiness would only be found by believing in God. Through the influence of another Christian, Zhang Zhu learned to believe in God and joined a Sunday-keeping congregation.

As she studied the Bible, an elderly retired Adventist pastor loaned her *The Desire of Ages*. At that time there were no Chinese Adventists holding public worship on the seventh-day Sabbath. So when Zhang Zhu became convinced in reading *The Desire of Ages* that she should keep the Sabbath, she could not find anyone to join. But she would not be deterred. She shared her new-found convictions widely. In time, a congregation of 500 Christians in Jintang (some two hours from where she lived) accepted the biblical Sabbath, and they shared this knowledge with their families and friends at home and in other counties. Christian leaders in the area were shocked by this development, calling it American imperialism and anti-revolutionary behavior for which instigators could be imprisoned.

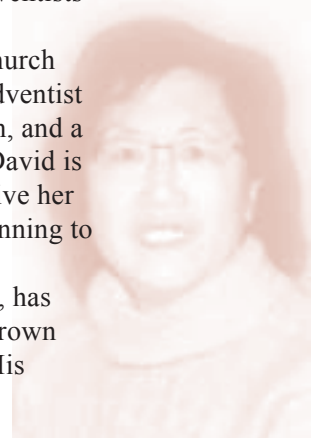
Zhang Zhu countered the threats with her knowledge of

the Chinese constitution, which states that the government has no power to enforce religious practices. She declared herself a defender of the law and the heir of a revolutionary martyr who died for a new China that pledged to give peace and freedom to its people. As a result of Zhang Zhu's preaching, many more people accepted the Bible Sabbath. Zhang Zhu developed training programs, organized house churches into districts, and published guidelines for these leaders-in-training, using the skills she had acquired while working for the government. She also created a baptismal tank in her dining room in which to baptize new believers. When not in use, she made it look like a bed to disguise its real purpose.

When no other place could be found for the growing number of Sabbath keepers to worship in Chengdu, Zhang Zhu's town, they met in her home on the fourth floor of an apartment building in a government compound on the opposite side of the street from the government Security Bureau. By 2003, the church started by Zhang Zhu had a membership of 4,000, scattered all over Sichuan Province. To validate her pastoral leadership, three pastors from East China came and ordained her, her son David, and three other women ministers. Today there are 6,000 Adventists worshipping throughout this province.

Zhang Zhu is more than an evangelist and a church planter; she functions ably as a matchmaker for Adventist couples, an advocate for justice in the court system, and a mediator of family disputes. Meanwhile her son David is a pastor, and her daughter Rebekah, who will receive her doctorate from Andrews University in 2008, is planning to open an Adventist seminary in China.

Zhang Zhu would not say it, but she, like Paul, has fought a good fight, and there is laid up for her a crown of righteousness, which the Lord will give her at His appearing. **AW**



Acclaimed Soprano to Sing at Banquet

Faith Esham

Faith Esham, a soprano and graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, will present a short recital at the banquet Saturday night for Woman-of-the-Year awardees. She is one of the leading singers in opera as the 21st century begins. Internationally famous, she has garnered critical acclaim for outstanding performances in most of the major opera houses of the U.S.A. and Europe.

As Micaela, Esham appeared in the highly acclaimed Gaumont film

version of *Carmen* opposite Placido Domingo and Julia Migenes, a film released worldwide. That endeavor earned her a Grammy Award as Principal Soloist, Best Opera Recording of 1984.

A gifted and frequent recitalist, recognized for her expressiveness, vocalism, and musicality, Esham is a recipient of the Walter W. Naumburg Award and the Concours International de Chant de Paris. She is an advocate for new works by contemporary

composers.

Esham's childhood was spent in Kentucky. She graduated from Mount Vernon Academy and attended Columbia Union College, where she studied psychology. She is a worship leader in the Metro New York Adventist Forum, a chapter of the Association of Adventist Forums. **AW**

<http://www.iamonline.com/Bio/Faith%20Esham.htm>



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For a map of Washington, D.C., MetroRail, go to <http://content.answers.com/main/content/wp/en/9/9c/Wash-dc-metro-map.png>.

For information about MetroRail fares, schedules, and travel times, www.wmata.com.

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