

# the Adventist Woman

THE ADVENTIST WOMAN  
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From Sadness to Hope

## Thirteenth Annual AAW Conference to Celebrate Diversity

Organized under the theme, "Celebration of Diversity," the 13th Annual AAW Conference will take place October 19-22, 1995. The Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church, on the campus of Southern College, will host the event.

The registration fee is \$85. Additional banquet tickets are available for \$30 each.

A special \$25 registration fee is available for full time students. The planning committee has decided to offer a discount in order to increase the number of young women who can attend. To receive the discount, add "student" on the registration form and write in the name of the school.

Conference coordinator, Sherri Craig, urges women to attend, "If you are feeling discouraged, you need to come to this conference. **You will not leave discouraged—we are focusing on practical strategies for coping and empowering each of us to support ourselves and each other in a very stressful but exciting time.**

"The goal of the planning committee is to present a very positive and powerful message of hope. We are not denying the sadness and disappointment that many of us are feeling. We want to use that sadness, disappointment, and anger to show those who would silence women that **this is our church, too**, and we will **never** accept being relegated to second class citizens!"

She points out that participants and presenters are asked to "use respectful language in speaking about any individuals or groups of people. Avoid stereotypes and derogatory or demeaning remarks. It is possible to be honest and clear about evil and wrong behavior and attitudes without denigrating the people who think and do these things."

### Can't Attend?

You can help another woman benefit from the conference by making a contribution to the scholarship fund. Send your donation to AAW, Collegedale Chapter, PO Box 1544, Collegedale, TN 37315



Carol Cannon, keynote speaker

The keynote address, "Forgive Us Our Trespasses—Boundaries as the Key to Celebrating Diversity within Christian Unity," will be presented on Thursday morning by Carol Cannon, M. A., co-founder and clinical director of The Bridge, a Christian treatment center for dependency disorders.

Highlights of the conference include:

- A total of twenty workshops will be presented on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday.
- A business session will be held Friday 3-5 PM.
- The Friday night agape feast will focus on "Women at the Cross." Dwan Frey-Schoonard, chaplain, Florida Hospital, coordinator.
- Sali Jo Hand, youth ministries director, Potomac Conference, will teach the Sabbath School lesson.
- Dr. Rosa Banks, associate secretary and director of the Office of Human Relations, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, will preach for Sabbath worship.



Dr. Rosa Banks, October 21 worship speaker

- Reports from women's groups will be presented Sabbath afternoon.
- Vespers will feature Julie Boyd-Penner, soprano, and Judy Glass, organist.
- Saturday night's program, "AAW Celebrates Leadership," will be an exciting multimedia presentation focusing on early contemporary women who have provided leadership to the church and the founding of AAW.
- The conference will conclude Sunday with a banquet honoring the "Adventist Women of the Year."
- The meeting is taking place in a region known for numerous sightseeing opportunities. Fall colors should be at their peak.

"We are very happy to host the annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women," says Pastor Lorabel Hersch, Community Chaplain at the host church. "The conference has never been held here, and I feel that [it] will bring an added dimension to our worship service and to the active pro-

gram of support and education that the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church maintains on an on-going basis."

The church has a number of elements that contribute to an aesthetically pleasing atmosphere. The stained glass windows are by Conley with the Anton Heiller Memorial organ and a variety of sculptures and paintings providing more arenas for contemplation.

To register or to receive more information, contact Sherri Craig at 615-396-3244 or write to the AAW Collegedale Chapter, PO BOX 1544, Collegedale, TN 37315.

### Workshop Topics

- Awareness and Sensitivity to Racism
- Motherhood: The Pleasures and Stresses
- Introduction to Women's Issues
- Doing Justice—Women in the Old Testament
- Dealing with Burnout in the Long Struggle
- Healing from Sexual Abuse
- The Gift of Listening
- Piano Express—Learn to Play the Piano (Almost) Instantly!
- Setting Boundaries and Resolving Conflicts
- Women and Self-Esteem—Building Our Confidence
- Supervising With Sensitivity Without Getting Sucked In
- The Stresses and Guilt of Caregiving
- Our Forgotten Heritage—Women in Ministry for 150 Years
- What is the Future for Women in Ministry?
- Devotional Life/Relationship to God
- Defusing Stress—Positive Places Where God Can Intervene
- Meet Me in the Middle—Developing Positive Relationships
- Personal and Life Transitions: Facing Your Fears
- Becoming a Visionary—Success Strategies
- Learning and Communication Styles

## NAD Motion Rejected at GC Session in Utrecht

In a vote of 1481 to 673 (69% to 31%), delegates at the General Conference in Utrecht rejected the North American Division motion that divisions be allowed to decide on the ordination of women.

Five years ago in Indianapolis, only 25% of the delegates who voted were in favor of women's ordination.

A. C. McClure, President, N.A.D., pledged to present five recommendations in support of women in ministry for con-

sideration at the NAD Yearend Meeting October 11-14 in Battle Creek, Michigan. Via satellite to churches with downlinks, he reported on the failed motion and the proposals for continuing support. Within hours of the broadcast, copies of the video report were sent to every church in North America. A condensed version was printed in the August NAD "Adventist Review."

The proposed recommendations are:

- Establish a President's Commission on Women in Ministry. The mandate is to examine the role of women in ministry and (within a year) compile specific recommendations for significantly expanding their role.
- Correct at all decision-making levels the inadequate representation of women who make up 60% of the church membership.
- Assertively seek organizational and

professional levels of the church where women may exercise their God-given management and leadership roles.

- Find additional ways to affirm women in pastoral and other spiritual ministries within the church.

- Hold a special day of prayer later this year to affirm and encourage the call to ministry felt by young people of both genders.

### Southeastern California to Consider Ordination Request

According to Lynn Mallery, President, Southeastern California Conference, the Conference Committee on August 7, 1995, spent two hours reflecting on the implications of the Utrecht vote. At that time the committee reviewed a 60-page document prepared by the conference

president. This document contained original documents and a timeline of SECC involvement in this issue.

Several proposals were examined. Options ranged from ordain at once to do not ever ordain to other proposals of how to bring about equality without ordaining.

On September 21, the SECC Executive Committee plans to make a decision.

### Inside:

"Tokenism is alive and well."  
..... See page 3.

"Tragedies Take Two Women in Ministry."  
..... See page 4

### Words of Hope:

"The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

Psalms 147:2-3



by Nancy Marter

General Conference Session 1995 has come and gone. Everyone, it seems, has opinions about what happened there, and what it means for the future of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I was there. I participated. There was good news and bad news—plus some seemingly bad news that may well become good news.

Among the good news:

- The Office of Women's Ministries became a constitutionally recognized department.
- One of the six break-out sessions for delegates focused on what one brother in leadership described as "women's issues." (Although I personally believe that family violence and family relationships are men's issues as well.)
- Rose Otis, the director of the GC Depart-

**Presidential Communique**

# Good, Bad, and Better

ment of Women's Ministries, very capably orchestrated five days of beneficial meetings and seminars for women.

- There was an intentional and significant increase in women speakers and other women participants in the general meetings.

- For the first time AAW had an active presence in the exhibit area. Bible Story felt gift sets and a variety of printed information produced avid interest and animated discussion.

- AAW's supper provided an evening of rare fellowship and shared vision between sisters and brothers world-wide. That it occurred the day following the action on the NAD motion proved especially meaningful. It was organized by Helen Pearson of Wokingham, England, and largely underwritten by the Sister Share endeavor.

As for the presentations and process dealing with the NAD motion, I felt that they were handled procedurally in a sensitive and largely professional manner.

There was also an excellent press release on July 7, 1995 (the day following the "no" vote), entitled "ADVENTIST STATEMENT CALLS FOR EQUAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY." The bad news, in addition to the "no" vote itself, was that, to my knowledge, that wonderfully af-

firming statement went out to the **official press**, but **not** to the men and women attending the session. To present such a glowing picture to the outside world even as the church body voted against the full inclusion of church women seemed incongruous at best.

As it stands, **the thinking and traditions of the past were simply re-emphasized**, rubber stamped by church leadership for peoples throughout the world to take home and continue to practice.

I have difficulty understanding why many, even among church women, continue to think of themselves as **removed** from those women who feel called to the gospel ministry and desire recognition of their work by church leadership. The same prejudicial attitudes which bar female human beings from full participation in God's work also carry over into condescending behavior and marginal respect for the attitudes and contributions made by **any** church woman. From there it is an easy step to mental and physical abuse. It is easy and permissible to show impatience with and disrespect for persons deemed to be in a subordinate position. **Because it is easy and permissible does not, however, make it acceptable Christian behavior.**

As for what seemed bad but which may

yet prove good: the speech that ostensibly showed why women should not be ordained has provoked much discussion. Healthy discussion, I might add.

- Examination and clarification of appropriate biblical interpretation has taken on a high priority among church theologians and leaders.

- The relationship of NAD and its needs to the General Conference and other divisions of the world church is coming under intense scrutiny. This may well have far-reaching effects. One union president told me that the current church situation seems an example of the "chaos" theory—a situation involving many potentially hazardous unknowns, but which if handled wisely and prayerfully can produce a new and vastly more productive entity.

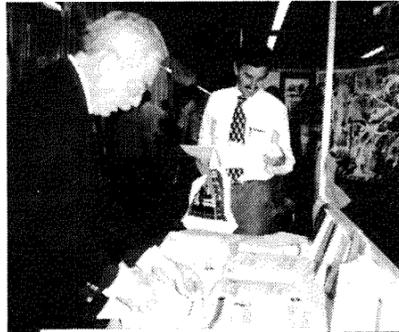
If we are to remain a **united** church in this time of transition and for the future, we must find ways to **work together** for the benefit of each entity. We must move beyond seeing what can be accomplished simply because there are enough votes.

For the present assurance of a positive future, re-read Joel 2:27-29, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon **all** flesh; and your sons and your **daughters** shall prophesy." When that happens, there won't need to be any vote.

## Views from Utrecht



Nancy Marter (left center) and Bernie Beck (right center) stand with two friends from Australia. The quilt on the right was created by women who are part of AAW in Australia.



Men such as Don Miller (front) spent hours helping with the AAW booth. (Photo by P. Habada)



The AAW booth drew a number of women and men. Staffing coordinator for the booth, Bernie Beck (left), and volunteer Pat Habada (center), visit with Ansku Jaakola (right), Finnish Union Youth Director.



Dr. Benjamin Reeves, President, Oakwood College, made the final favorable comment in the debate on ordination. (Photo by R. Duerksen/ANN)



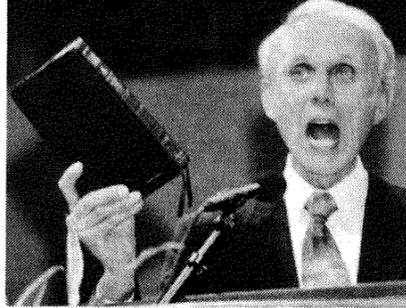
Reinhard Rupp, President, North German Conference, makes a point in favor of the NAD motion. (Photo by R. Duerksen/ANN)



Dr. Deborah Harris, NAD lay member, makes a point in favor of the motion as Samuel Pippim thoughtfully observes. (Photo by K. Fattic/ANN)



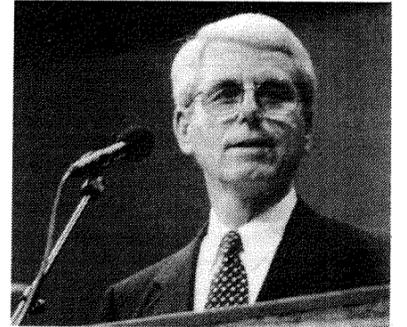
Delegate de Alomia from the South American Division said she would continue to do soul-winning without ordination. (Photo by K. Fattic/ANN)



Dr. P. Gerard Damsteeg, faculty member, SDA Seminary at Andrews University, presented the case against the motion. (Photo by K. Fattic/ANN)



Ted N. C. Wilson, President, Euro-Asia Division, spoke against the motion because it could bring on "galloping congregationalism." (Photo by R. Duerksen/ANN)



A. C. McClure, President, North American Division, made the motion that generated the most discussion during the session. (Photo by K. Fattic/ANN)



Some of the women in ministry who went to Utrecht to observe the discussion on ordination of women. Serving in Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Norway, they are (l. to r.) Ansku Jaakola, Kirsten R. Oster, Karin Lundberg, Marianne Dyrud, Lisbeth Krage, Anne-Marie Muller, and Drene Somasundram. (Photo by Ron Quick/ANN)

# What I Learned at Utrecht

## Observations by Patricia A. Habada Responses by Charles Bradford

HABADA: If one considers the number of people wanting to speak to an issue at a GC session, the women's ordination issue was the most significant item discussed during the Utrecht session. Witness the long lines at both microphones. Even though many knew they would have no chance to speak, their silent witness as they stood in line for nearly two hours delivered their message. (Time permitted only 28 people to speak. At least 100 people stood in line. No other discussion drew so many voices.)

Of 2600 plus delegates, less than 10% were women. Of 200 plus members of the nominating committee, only 8 were women. Yet, women comprise more than 60 percent of church membership worldwide. (When the delegation is downsized to 2000 members for the next session, how will the G.C. apply its published commitment—released to the public press at the session—to include more women in decision-making?)

Although I have always emphasized "working within the system" to bring about change, I have finally learned that the system does not work for women.

BRADFORD: Frederick Douglas, the great antislavery orator, was in the midst of a rather gloomy, pessimistic speech. It was during the lowest point in the abolition movement. Sojourner Truth was in the audience and when she couldn't take it any longer she shouted, "Frederick, is God dead?!" It is reported that the old lion took courage and once again fired his audience. We are all at this point. We need to hear Sojourner's words and take courage. The battle is not ours, it is the Lord's. This is more than a nice little pacifier, a preacher's nostrum. It is reality.

The church is a body, an organism rather than a corporate structure. It may be dysfunction-

al, but it is a body. He, Christ, is the head of the body. He loves it and will not abandon it. It will ultimately do His will and reflect His character. Hold onto that. It is supreme reality.

### Ethnicity and Perceptions

HABADA: East Africans are more sympathetic to women's issues than West Africans.

BRADFORD: That is your opinion, and it could have some foundation in fact. However, there are good Christians in all parts of the continent.

HABADA: Tokenism is alive and well. During the debate on the NAD motion, one African man said he spoke for "African young people, particularly young women." Have African women no voice?

People will cheat on issues that are important to them. (I saw a nondelegate accept blue voting cards on the ordination issue. When I questioned that person, others in the group became angry—at me.)

BRADFORD: We should have known that wheat and tares grow side by side. This too is reality.

HABADA: Northern Europeans are sympathetic to women's issues, especially to ordination. Many professors, young male pastors, union and conference officers who visited the AAW booth were warmly supportive.

BRADFORD: Build bridges and network. But understand that Europe has had a jumpstart in these matters.

HABADA: Of 26 women pastors in Northern Europe, most are about 30-35 years of age, and they exude energy and enthusiasm for the Lord. One is the senior pastor of the largest church in Sweden (Stockholm, with 530 members).

Two young women serve as Union youth directors in Northern Europe—one in Finland, the other in Denmark.

Of 25 pastors in Sweden, eight are women. That is a higher percentage than any place else in the world—including the NAD.

BRADFORD: Good statistics that need to be published.

HABADA: The debate on the NAD motion boiled down to hierarchy and headship (traditionally a male paradigm) vs. equality.

Hispanics speak with passion in expressing their beliefs about women's ordination—and I suspect many other things.

BRADFORD: You have to believe and love. All of these are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We cannot afford to cut off anyone.

HABADA: North American Blacks and Hispanics strongly support women's ordination. Witness the speeches at the "for" microphone.\*

BRADFORD: A caveat here. But to be optimistic is good in any case. Better to be a bit naive and sincere than sophisticated and cynical.

### Education and Preparation

HABADA: In 1985 and 1990 women were told to back off, allow time for healing, and "Let us work on this." (What DID they do?) My mother was right when she said, "Never trust a man who says 'Trust me.'"

BRADFORD: Read the Psalmist on this one. But he also said, "I said in my haste that all men are liars." Balance and optimism in healthy doses.

HABADA: Good preparation and visual aids are more effective than rebuttal speeches.

NAD and all the rest of us were too little, too late, with educational materials. It is unrealistic to think people can be educated to an issue during a GC session, particularly on "sticky" issues. The GC hierarchy's decision to limit dialogue on the ordination issue to the last six months before the session resulted in lost opportunities to network with

other parts of the world where women are serving in pastoral roles. It also gave an edge to those who did not abide by "the rule."

BRADFORD: We cannot afford to wait until "high noon" to activate ourselves. It is in season and out of season. Agrippa's reply to Paul is instructive, "With but little persuasion thou wouldst fain make me a Christian!" We underestimated both the duration and the strenuous nature of the journey.

### Support

HABADA: Many who say they support women's ordination give lip service only. A few brave ones are "doers" who will try to make it happen.

BRADFORD: Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord. . ."

HABADA: One-third of the members of the world church support women's ordination. That number will change little during my lifetime.

BRADFORD: True. But when the brethren stand up and say, "The Lord has spoken," the saints will come into line.

HABADA: Al McClure is a man of integrity. He keeps his word even in the face of great opposition.

BRADFORD: Good. Support him in every way possible.

HABADA: Bob Folkenberg has mastered the skill of sitting on the political fence. Witness his speech on the ordination issue.

(See UTRECHT, p.4)

## Prayers for the Wilderness

A litany written for the AAW supper at Utrecht.

Loving and Living God, we pray for your special people, the church. We ask that every member may be freed to serve you in truth and grace. We remember all women who have recognized that to be a person of faith is to respond in action. We give thanks:

For Miriam, poetess of the Exodus, leader through the wilderness;

For Deborah, a mother and judge in Israel;

For Esther, who knew when the time had come to serve you;

For Mary Magdalene, first apostle of the resurrection.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

Let us remember all those women who have faced the unknown in faith and met fear with courage. We give thanks for all those women who have dared to step forward and lead. For all those women who have risked standing alone against social pressures.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

Let us remember all those women who have struggled to better the human race, who have sought in their time to minister to the needs of the hurt, the disadvantaged, and the alienated in all the countries represented here.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

Let us remember all those women known and unknown who have worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church before us. We give thanks for Ellen White and her contemporary ministers, Sarepta Henry, Hetty Hurd Haskell, and Lulu Russell Wightman.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

O Holy and Sustaining God, make us worthy to inherit their courage and vision. Challenge us again lest we wither and perish by clinging onto the familiar for its own sake. As your daughters and sons, may we be brought nearer to a new vision of your love in and through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Sister Share Reaches Around World

Women in North America sent a tangible signal to women in other parts of the world through two different projects. Under the banner of "Sister Share," contributions of time and money enabled the purchase and preparation of ten Bible Story felt sets. The second project was the AAW Supper held during General Conference Session in Utrecht.

Speaking of the Bible Story felt sets, Nancy Marter, AAW President, said, "The goal was to give sets to women who wouldn't have received such a resource otherwise. Valued at several hundred dollars each, the sets will be used by women to educate others."

Church women in the Washington, D.C., area spent hours trimming the felts as "a gift from sisters in North America." The sets were purchased from "Faith Adventures," a ministry that makes Bible felts more affordable.

The felts were distributed in a daily drawing at the AAW booth in Utrecht. The following women now have felt sets:

- Barblilescu Mihaela, Romania
- Etta Lawrence, Jamaica



Etta Lawrence (left) of Jamaica receives a Bible Story felt set from Bernie Beck, volunteer coordinator, at the AAW booth.

- Shirley Raranta, Indonesia
  - Alina Kozar, Russia
  - Antoinette Engoulou, Cameroun
  - Cornelia W. Brown for Honduras
  - Crisan Mihaela, Romania
  - Lelia Mayer, Argentina
  - Mrs. L. P. Maseko, Natal, South Africa
  - Untesu Adrihna, Romania
- The AAW Supper at Utrecht provided a

time of fellowship and encouragement for women and men from around the world who are interested in the role of women in the church. This event, known as "Adventist Women's Voices," took place Thursday, July 6. The dinner was especially timely in that it was the day after the defeat of the NAD motion asking that divisions be allowed to decide on ordination of women.

In addition to a delicious buffet meal, participants heard from women from all corners of the globe. They shared their perspective and experiences as women ministering in various ways. Speakers included eight women in ministry in Northern Europe, Kinuko Kaibe of Japan, Carol Ferch Johnson of Australia, and Penny Shell of the United States.

A litany, "Prayers for the Wilderness" (reproduced this issue), and a song allowed the entire group to give expression to feelings about women's role in the Adventist Church.

Dinner coordinator, Helen Pearson of Wokingham, England, asked the group to observe a few moments of silence, "to think of all the Adventist women whose voices have been silenced, those who don't believe they have anything to say, those who have tried to speak but have been silenced by others, those who speak and find no one listening—their voices trailing into the air, those silenced by torture or physical cruelty. And let us remember those who are or have been silenced by death or misfortune."

She went on to recall the tragic death of Gayle Saxby, a religion teacher at Loma Linda University, "a woman of enthusiasm, spirituality, and impeccable personal integrity."

The program concluded with sharing a honey-soaked nut bread to remind that manna comes from the Lord who watches out for needs.



Dr. and Mrs. Larry Geraty of La Sierra University and Dr. and Mrs. Niels-Erik Andreasen of Andrews University share a table at the AAW Supper at Utrecht, July 6, 1995. (Photo by P. Habada)

## Women in Ministry

## Two Die in Summer Tragedies

by Kit Watts

Although Adventist women in ministry in North America number more than 115 individuals (some of whom are retired, part-time employees, and students), the community is none too large. News that two promising women were struck down in separate tragedies this summer is sending shock waves through the group.

On June 14, Gayle Lucille Saxby was killed in a moped accident on the Greek island of Samos where she was vacationing with friends. She was 31.

On August 2, Risë Carol (Wright) Colson was murdered not far from her home in Athens, Tennessee, in an incident involving a hitchhiker. Her body was found near her abandoned vehicle on August 4. She was the mother of five children, ages 17 to 27.



Gayle Saxby

Gayle Saxby had just completed her first year of Ph.D. studies in religion and literature at the University of Virginia. She was on study leave from Loma Linda University where she had become an assistant professor of religion in 1991.

After completing a B.A. in English at Walla Walla College in 1986, Saxby entered the M.Div. program at the SDA Theological Seminary and was graduated in 1989. She then taught English at Loma Linda Academy (1988-1991) and served as associate pastor of the North Hills SDA Church in Claremont, California (1989-1990).

Friends, family, former students, and colleagues participated in a huge funeral in College Place, Washington, on June 25. Viviane Haenni, who is completing her Th.D. from Andrews University and recently taught religion at Walla Walla College, spoke on behalf of Adventist women in ministry during the service.

As Haenni explained, "Those of us women who studied at the seminary when Gayle was there saw her become a confident, intellectually articulate, and caring woman. Her love for Christ gave life from above to her winning smile and her radical commitment to God and her church."

On June 27 a memorial service for Saxby was conducted in Loma Linda, California. Kendra Haloviak, a Ph.D. student at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, presented the homily. "A terrible thing has happened..." Haloviak said. "How can our hope be as real as the hurt we feel today?" To answer this question, Haloviak said, she would call the mourners to review words of Scripture, "words that Gayle loved and believed."

Gayle is survived by her parents, Doyle and Lorelei Saxby who currently reside in the Walla Walla area; by two brothers and sisters-in-law, Kent and Vicki Saxby, and Monte and June Saxby; three nephews, a niece, several aunts, uncles, and cousins.



Risë Colson

After having a family Risë Colson decided to return to school and earned an A.A.S. in nursing in 1983, and a BSN in 1991. From there she plunged into a theology degree at Southwestern Adventist College, completing her B.A. in 1993.

While looking for a pastoral position, Colson continued to work as a nurse. Meanwhile she did lay preaching, took on mission projects, and witnessed to any who came her way. Newspaper accounts from Chattanooga Free Press (August 12) suggest that while Colson was witnessing to a hitchhiker he took offense, beat and stabbed her to death. She was 45. Police have arrested a suspect in the case.

Funeral services were held on August 9 in the Collegedale, Tennessee, SDA Church. Lorabel Hersch, a member of the pastoral staff, was among those leading out.

In the homily, Pastor Ed Wright said. "I was not present at the Harrison church when Risë preached her last sermon. But she titled her remarks, 'Hold Fast.' And the scripture she chose was from Revelation 3:11: 'I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one will take your crown.' I think Risë would say the same thing to us today. Hold fast. Hold fast!"

Risë is survived by her mother, Dr. Theresa C. Kennedy; her father, Russell E. Wright; her five children Jason, Caleb, Jennifer, Carolyn, and Joshua; three sisters and one brother.

## What I Learned at Utrecht

(Continued from page 3)

BRADFORD: Keep working on him. None of us is a finished product.

HABADA: Jacob Nortey (AID president until the session) is a gentleman. He can disagree without being disagreeable.

BRADFORD: This makes me proud. Even a true generalization has some exceptions.

HABADA: The unity theme runs in the Wilson family. Witness Ted Wilson's speech during the ordination discussion.

Calvin Rock performs well in difficult situations. Witness his performance in the chair during the ordination discussion/vote.

## Issues

HABADA: In Adventism, power in decision-making lies in numbers (except for women who make up more than 60% of church membership). Africans and Hispanics will decide church policy from henceforth. For the next two or three generations women's voices will continue to be limited to tokenism.

BRADFORD: The Holy Spirit will run the church no matter who seems to be in charge. We need to talk about this openly, frankly, and from a biblical basis.

HABADA: NAD Mission offerings will continue to decline, especially in larger congregations. More and more people will put their offerings into "local" projects or apply them to specific projects where they can see the results.

BRADFORD: Isolationism is still counterproductive. "America Only" is bad policy. It is a tough world we are living in. No easy solutions, no pat answers (no pun intended).

HABADA: The women's ordination issue has not divided the church. Hermeneutics has—we are divided in the way we interpret Scripture. (Does this church really believe in verbal inspiration?)

The SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University has problems it must face if support for its programs is to be maintained.

BRADFORD: First on the agenda and most pressing is "How Shall We Do Scrip-

ture?" This was my keynote talk for Adventist Theological Society convention in Collegedale, TN, a couple of years ago. We have to do this before we can get into the theology of ministry, including ordination, the so-called role of women (this is repugnant to me because no human being can really proscribe and delimit my ministry), headship, priesthood of the believers, and the true meaning and radical nature of the gospel. We must study at fountainheads—the great truths of scripture, and not just to find arguments pro and con on any subject. We need to drink from the fountain to nourish our own souls.

When dealing with "the brethren," it is sometimes more expedient to act and seek forgiveness than to ask permission.

We should have ordained women 20 years ago.

BRADFORD: You have heard of George Wallace. At the beginning of his political career he was a moderate. After losing his first campaign to an out and out racist who used the "N" word profusely, Wallace said, "They will never out 'N' me again." (He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear.)

In the world and in the church, progressives are painted as liberals. Code words and phrases and jingoism are used profusely and quite effectively. In some instances good people do not seem passionate about what they believe and are afraid to give the trumpet a certain affirmative ringing sound.

I refuse to let anyone preempt the great heritage of Adventism and make shibboleths out of the truths that have made us a people. We must contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. We must be positive about the message, bullish on Adventism. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, don't mess with Mr. In-between. This will take a whole new orientation for some.

\* Editor's Note: Refer to the session bulletins of the "Adventist Review." Transcripts of speeches were edited by members of G.C. Secretariat in order to meet space requirements.

## Letters

Dear Editor:

In the interest of accuracy, a misconception made prominent in your lead story of the June/July issue calls for correction. With reference to the Mohaven papers, your readers are told, "Once completed, however, the papers were kept under wraps. They have never before been released for general reading by Adventist church members." The implication is that these papers have been sequestered or suppressed, particularly by the Biblical Research Institute. It is simply untrue. At least since 1984, when I began work with BRI, no request for copies of the papers has been denied. Any contention to the contrary is without factual basis.

Neither were the papers denied to members of the women's commissions that met in the 1980s. It was the decision of the group that new, updated papers be requested for those sessions, which subsequently were produced by competent scholars, addressing a much broader range of issues than those of the Mohaven papers. Conspiratorial suggestions about suppressed information may serve certain causes well, but the pursuit of truth requires that we treat the facts accurately.

Sincerely your brother,  
George W. Reid  
Director, BRI

The Adventist Woman stands by its story in the June/July 1995 issue.

While it may be true that "no request for copies of the papers has been denied" by the Biblical Research Institute, as Dr. Reid states, neither BRI nor General Conference leadership offered the papers voluntarily.

Only people who knew that these scholarly papers existed (and this was not many) knew also to ASK for copies. Some of these individuals experienced reluctance by BRI in providing the papers, even when specifically requested.

More distressing, this landmark study was never voluntarily shared with the three large commissions studying women's ordination in 1985, 1988, and 1989. While the value of additional study papers is undeniable, as Dr. Reid points out, in the interest of true scholarship it seems strange that the original BRI papers resulting from Camp Mohaven were not referred to or studied as relevant background information.

—The Editors

## Clip &amp; Do

## How to Help Women Daily

- Read about what women are doing.
- Write a letter of appreciation to organizations that support women, especially conference presidents who hire women clergy.
- Affirm (verbally and in writing) women.
- Become more aware of issues affecting women, including domestic violence, literacy, and poverty.
- Encourage girls to take math and science courses. Help them succeed in these areas.

The wage gap between men and women is most narrow in jobs that involve training in math and science.

- Call on women and girls in classes that you teach. Women need to become more comfortable in vocalizing their opinions on issues.
- Become computer literate and share operating shortcuts with other women.

Please send your ideas for this feature to The Editor, The Adventist Woman, Box 7414, Langley Park, MD 20787.

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