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Special Issue: Report on Second National AAW Conference

By Judith Nembhard



(Left) The AAW WOMEN OF MISSION CONFERENCE which met for five days, between July 11-15, 1984, at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, was codirected by Kit Watts and Iris Yob. (Right) After more than seven years and at least two delays in publication, the papers prepared by Adventist scholars on the role of women in the church were presented in booklet form from the Biblical Research Institute by Elder Ed Zinke. New BRI director, George W. Reid anticipates that additional studies will take place in the future.

WOMEN OF THE YEAR - Read their stories on page 3



EVERYWOMAN HAS A STORY. During the Awards Dinner Viveca Black interviewed several of the nearly 150 who attended the event. Here she talks with Opal Hoover Young, former writer, editor and teacher at Andrews University, now retired in Niles, Michigan. Also pictured are Bernice Haffner and Karen Snyder Harrison.

From Fontana, California; New Brunswick, Canada, and points in between they came to the second annual conference of the Association of Adventist Women at Andrews University, July 11-15, 1984. Meeting in the Andrews Academy chapel and an open promenade called the Commons, 120 registered participants followed a tightly structured schedule from eight in the morning until nine-thirty at night at a pace that test the endurance of many who attended. The conference theme, "Women of Mission," permeated the sessions, unifying the diverse topics presented.

The dominant story of this conference was the impressive number of high-caliber women in the church and their superior organizational competence. These qualities were displayed every day at each session and generated many conversations throughout the conference. Women participants— homemakers and professional women alike—displayed a level of proficiency usually unmatched in groups of comparable size. The conference was planned and managed with the skill of corporation executives. Kit Watts, of the James White Library at Andrews University, and Iris Yob, on study leave from Avondale College in Australia, along with the women of the AAW Michiana Chapter, pooled their leadership talents to operate a highly efficient conference.

The conference was divided into two parts: the presession on Wednesday and Thursday, centering on a review of the events at Camp Mohaven in 1973; and the regular session, beginning with a gala banquet on Thursday evening and ending with an Awards luncheon at noon on Sunday.

The Wednesday morning agenda, "Camp Mohaven Revisited," offered quick reviews of many of the scholarly papers presented at the Camp Mohaven conference on the role of women in the church. This 1973 meeting was significant because it was the first official step taken by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to look at the role of women in the church today. In giving the historical perspective on Mohaven, Gordon Hyde, then director of the Biblical Research Institute, which sponsored the Mohaven conference, pointed out that there was a general climate in other denominations that made such a move on the part of the Adventist Church possible and necessary. The role of women was a dominant issue in religious circles, Hyde said, and people in our own church had begun asking questions. The response was an *ad hoc* committee, "The Council on the Role of Women," consisting of men and women scholars and administrators, chosen to achieve what Hyde referred to as "balance." During the five-day conference 27 scholarly papers on the subject of women in the church were presented and discussed. Consequently, resolutions were later presented to the General Conference leadership.

The question raised as the AAW conference participants "revisited" Camp Mohaven was, How far has the church come since Mohaven? Said Gordon Hyde, now on the religion faculty of Southern College, "My cynical reaction is not very far," and suggested that research be done to determine the extent of progress. However, from reports and discussions during the AAW conference, one can note that some changes have taken place since Mohaven. These include the election of women elders in the churches and the appointment of women to pastoral positions in conferences such as Potomac, Southern California, and Upper Columbia.

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CROSS-SECTION OF INTERACTION. Workshops on reaching our potential as women and gaining skills in appropriate Christian assertiveness engaged participants in dialogue. Pictured are Florence Asekemoh and Betty Hartlein; Jane Allen in the background center.

Presidential Communique



Betty Howard

The July, 1984, AAW Conference at Andrews University gave a strong message that we, the women of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, do have our callings. We saw and heard much about diversity. We realized, some perhaps for the first time, that our abilities, training, and preparation can lead to mission in a variety of ways; that God calls His people to serve Him and experience the abundant life despite restraints that may still be placed by tradition and culture, policy and practice. It became increasingly clear to many of us that we need not shun full participation in the work of God.

The Women of Mission Conference provided opportunity for presentations and discussions that helped us become clearer about who we are, how we view ourselves, what goals we are setting for ourselves and our church. This process of understanding

by Betty Howard
President, AAW

through goal setting and communication should continue, for it will serve us well as the world continues to change. We must continue to recognize, accept, and express our feelings. We must consider alternatives and consequences and make our choices. We must actualize our beliefs and goals with repeated and consistent action—then, our decisions will lead us toward a brighter future. Always, we must follow where the Lord leads. AAW supports and values the work of God's church on this earth. We believe that God is working through women—everywhere: in the home, in the Sabbath School, and professionals working outside the church, and through women in ministry. AAW is praying individually and in an organized fashion, that church leadership will allow the church to be blessed by the ministry of women. God is leading. May His name be glorified.

ference who were baptized in that meeting in Monroe, Louisiana 33 years ago. They now have a beautiful church home and 200 members.

In the days when we were entering the work, it seemed as though the brethren felt that the wife was hired along with her husband. I remember that after I had been married two years and no children had yet arrived, I took a job at Southern University. The next letter we received from the conference office read something like this, "Now that your wife is gainfully employed. . . ." How did they know I was working? We were some 400 miles from the conference office. A year or so later when we moved to Dallas, Texas, where the conference office was located, the officers wanted me to do some part-time work at the office. When I inquired what I would be paid, they took offense. I was told that I shouldn't question them; I should have confidence that they would pay me a fair wage. This is the way it was in those days.

In addition Mrs. White's counsel regarding ministers' wives was ever before us: "I saw that the wives of the ministers should help their husbands in their labors and be exact and careful what influence they exert, for they are watched, and more is expected of them than of others. . . . Their lives and conversation should be an example. . . ."¹⁴

"The wife of a minister of the gospel can be either a most successful helper and a great blessing to her husband or a hindrance to him in his work. It depends very much on the wife whether a minister will rise from day to day in his sphere of usefulness, or whether he will sink to the ordinary level."¹⁵

You can imagine the impact of that quotation on young pastor's wives and the strong impression that it conveyed regarding their role, their mission in life.

When comparing our beginning experience with the experience of young workers today, it is quite different in many ways. In the first place, wives today are not expected to play the piano, do Bible work, etc. They are pursuing their own careers. Times have changed so much that it almost takes two people working to provide for the family. Also the church is going through a period of materialistic secularism. Thus, what was a very helpful beginning for us may or may not be possible today.

Our daughter is married to a minister. This keeps us in touch with ministry as it is encountered today. She came to me one day and said, "Mother, you ought to do more counseling. Some of my friends who are pastors' wives would like to have you come and talk to them. They have many, many problems." I was pleased, of course, that she thought that I could help them. But this is true, all is not well in the parsonage.

In recent days, the General Conference has recognized this need for a more detailed personal look at the wife of the pastor and her well-being. It is felt that "In the milieu of church and the world the clergy wife finds herself under pressure to conform both to society's definition of her place and to an institutional one as well. This twofold impact upon her life calls for a careful balancing of obligation, privilege and role fulfillment. Although there is much common ground with women in general, wives of clergymen are a definable group without a developed and developing role."¹⁶

Therefore, in the spring of 1984, the leadership at the General Conference voted to fund a pilot program for the development

Portrait of a Minister's Wife

By Ethel L. Bradford

When I received the letter from Kit Watts inviting me to attend the Second Women of Mission Conference here at Andrews, my first reaction was, "Oh, I won't be able to go over there." But then some days later my attention was turned again to Kit's invitation. As I thought about it some more, I realized that I hadn't paid very much attention to the mission of women in the Adventist Church, nor my own sense of mission. I decided then that I would like to know more about AAW, its ministry. I was impressed to take advantage of this time and opportunity to share and learn.

Kit suggested that I share with you my own sense of mission—as secretary, wife, mother—all of which ultimately fall into one category characterized as a "minister's wife." It is from this experience, this perspective that I speak this morning. I must say that I was pleased when I heard Peggy Kroncke and Shirley Zork refer to their role as ministers' wives. I really wanted to see that group represented here.

Mission is sometimes defined as "a sending out or being sent out with authority to perform a special duty." It is also often thought of as "the special task or purpose for which a person is apparently destined in life; a calling."¹

The day our honeymoon began we drove to our post of duty.

In my thinking, mission is determined by its relation to the individual. The questions that generally arise are: What is my mission? Why? How shall I accomplish this mission? Gerald H. Anderson in his book, *The Theology of the Christian Mission*, states: "Mission has its source in the Triune God. Out of the depths of His love for us, the Father has sent forth His own beloved Son to reconcile all things to Himself, that we and all men might, through the spirit be made one in Him with the Father in that perfect love which is the very nature of God."² In essence, Christ is at the very center of mission. He was the first missionary.

G.H. Anderson puts it this way, "God's active Lordship, His claim to sovereignty over all men—this is the only setting in which the church's mission and the individual Christian's vocation in the world is meaningful."³

As I look back over my life, mission was not always clarified for me. I enrolled at Oakwood College as a student in the Business Department. That was to be my vocation. I never thought that I would marry a minister, which would change most of my plans. But when I left Oakwood College to work as secretary to the president of the South Atlantic Conference, I had already met the person with whom I would share my life. Two years later, I left South Atlantic to form this lifelong union.

For me, mission was determined on that day, when I repeated the marriage vows. All that my parents and teachers had taught me, all that my religious experience had brought me suddenly took form; a course of action was charted for me. My life would be intimately connected and clearly influenced by the commitment that I had just made.

On the "Day After," the day that our honeymoon was to begin, we drove from my home in Florida across the Gulf States to our post of duty in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There my new spouse had been assisting in an evangelistic meeting where a sizable congregation was formed. He was left to minister to them. The church was under construction; camp meeting was about to begin; and after camp meeting another evangelistic meeting was started. As I walked through the hot, sandy streets of a section of town known as "the Park," where the tent meeting was being held, I realized very shortly that I was not prepared to be a Bible worker.

Miriam Wood, in speaking about her early experiences as a minister's wife, tells about being expected to play the piano or sing, and perform other duties that would help her husband to be successful in his work. Well, I played the piano and could do the typing, and bookkeeping, but the role of Bible worker was devastating to me. I was totally un-

prepared to be a Bible worker. In the meantime someone had called the authorities and plans were made to commit him to a mental institution. His wife, however, was so afraid of him that she did not want to be the one to sign him in. Who signed him in? Yes, it was his pastor. He was released from the institution after a short period of time and wanted to know who signed him in. When he learned that it was his pastor, he was furious and reopened conflict all over again. The news of this confrontation spread as far as New Orleans!



Ethel L. Bradford

But the Lord is good. He was preparing us to minister to those He loved and died to save. Their problems would be our problems and their concerns our concerns. I'm happy to say that after a time this brother and his wife lived peacefully together again.

Mission sometimes is also thought to be defined any type of church work done outside of one's country. In our experience, there are many mission fields right here in the United States. In our first district many days and nights were spent evangelizing some of the small towns in Louisiana—Hammond, Convington, Scotlandville—and resulted in a

Times have changed so much that it almost takes two people working to provide for the family.

variety of experiences. Sometimes we had to meet in the open air, because a storm had badly damaged the tent. Then the opportunity came for us to go to what we considered a real mission field up in northern Louisiana and hold a meeting. There was no church in the city of Monroe, but there was one elderly lady in town who was a Seventh-day Adventist. We had to use non-Adventists as helpers in the meeting, and we stayed in a non-Adventist home. When we went there, our first child, Sharon, was just a month old. About three weeks ago this summer, to our great delight, we met some people at camp meeting in the Southwest Region Con-

ference who were baptized in that meeting in Monroe, Louisiana 33 years ago. They now have a beautiful church home and 200 members.

of materials and other aids that in essence will be a support system for workers' wives. Many years have come and gone since that first district in Louisiana. We (I say, we, because I feel I am a partner with my husband) have been privileged to serve in many places, in many capacities, and have been privileged to see personal growth in our religious experience and our work for the Lord. This has been very rewarding and fulfilling for me. The opportunity to share in servant leadership, in equipping and training the believers is challenging. I'm glad to have a part in this work.

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1985 ADVENTIST WOMEN OF THE YEAR

The Association of Adventist Women is seeking nominations internationally of women who will be recognized for their outstanding contribution to the Adventist church in the role (mother, teacher, church officer, etc.) they have been called to serve the Lord. Nominees must be utilizing their talents and spiritual gifts in one of the three areas to be honored: Home/Community Life, Work/Professional Life, Church Life. We are looking for exceptional women who have faithfully carried on and achieved in spite of difficulty and obstacles.

These women will be honored during the General Conference Session in New Orleans June 27 to July 8, 1985.

The purpose of the Women of the Year Awards is to provide recognition and inspiration to all Adventist Women and encourage them to reach their highest potential while providing role models for all women.

Bradford from page 2

Even though we have been considering what might be called "A Portrait of a Minister's Wife—Her Mission in Life," we are all called to the same mission, that of spreading the gospel and winning souls for Christ. We have a message to give to the world and that message is Jesus. We must use every talent to accomplish this task. As women of mission, you have many gifts. These gifts are not for you yourself, they are for the upbuilding of the body of Christ.

Gottfried Oosterwal concludes in his book *Mission Possible*, "The Christian's first calling is to be a missionary—every disciple of Christ is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary—and only secondarily is he a physician, a plumber, or a teacher."

I like the way G.N. Anderson puts it: "The Christian is (ideally) created by God as a humble person who faces another human being as a brother in need like himself, not as a subject to be proselytized. He knows that he cannot make converts; only God himself can do that. He must share what has been given him, but it is God who validates it. He is a servant of God to the needy, not an imperialist or a righteous patriarch who with gracious condescension assists the unfortunate. He is one who has a keen eye to discern God's work by the Holy Spirit."

I am confident that God is leading His people. I feel I have been especially blessed, and my desire is to be all that I can be—all that He wants me to be. I want to encourage and assure you who are gathered here at this Second Conference on the Mission of Women that you can do anything through Christ your Lord, who gives you His strength, power, humility, patience and love.

—Ethel L. Bradford

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WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS A panel of judges of General Conference and AAW personnel selected three women to be honored from among 83 applicants. Pictured are Elder Warren Banfield, Lenora McDowall, Anita J. Mackey, Mary Walsh and Betty Howard. (Yes, there is writing on the placard.)

1984 Women of the Year

Mary E. Walsh

Glendale, CA

When Mary Walsh, a slim English teenager, sailed away from Ireland in hope of improving her health in America, she had no way of knowing that she was starting a new life, both physically and spiritually.

A devout Catholic, Mary was more than casually interested in a full-page ad in the *New York City Evening Star*. It read, "Will this generation pass away before we see the second coming of Christ?" Thinking it to be a Chautauqua lecture, she decided to attend.

Two months later she became a Seventh-day Adventist. "I decided I would face the last days knowing I had taken God's Holy Word and followed exactly what it said," she recalls. "I was the happiest woman in town."

A few weeks after her baptism, Mary was invited to become a Bible instructor, working with Evangelist Arthur Sanderson in Maine. She was very timid, but agreed to try for three months to see how it would go. That was more than fifty years ago. She helped establish the church in Lewiston before moving to Boston, where she assisted in meetings on the Boston Common. "We had a very respectable stand," she says. "There were the Catholics on one end of the Common and the Adventists on the other." The Socialists occupied the next stand over from the Adventists.

The shy young woman was hesitant about public speaking, but the evangelists with whom she worked pushed her into it. The training proved practical, for by the time Mary connected with the Lay Activities Department of the Columbia Union, she was a sought-after camp meeting speaker.

For four years during the great depression Mary pastored the church at Hartford, Connecticut. At this time she was granted the licensed minister credential, which she still holds.

Through the years Mary received invitations to serve in various parts of the United States, but her heart was burdened for the big cities of the East. In the 1950's, however, she moved west. During her fifteen years in the Columbia Union and twenty years in the Pacific Union, she was happiest when teaching the laity, watching them grow in ability and devotion. She paid a price, though. "I was in a different church every week," she remembers. "I didn't unpack my suitcase for more than thirty years."

Retirement has not dimmed Mary's fervency for the gospel. She still speaks at camp meetings. An eager group gathers at the Glendale church every Sabbath morning at 8:30 to hear her teach. Her book, *The Wine*

of *Roman Babylon*, is a valuable source book for Adventist workers. Her six-lecture series on the sanctuary is now available on cassette. Mary has no idea how many people she has influenced toward Christ and baptism. "I never kept record," she explains, "because I didn't want to lose the power of God's Spirit."

Mary Walsh was presented with a certificate of honor at the 1975 General Conference session. In spite of her accomplishments and this honor, she does not consider herself an example for other women. She has simply followed where the Lord led, and that has been her joy.

—Bobbie Jane Van Dolson

Lenora McDowall

Avon Park, FL

Can the Lord use a woman today as He used Mary, Hannah, Deborah, and other women in the past? The members of the Avon Park church feel that He can, and they cite Lenora McDowall as living proof.

When Lenora took over as Home and School leader for Walker Memorial Junior Academy, the school had an enrollment of eighty-five, including six non-Adventists. After a year of her direction enrollment had increased to 115, and the non-Adventist students had more than doubled.

The fact that she lives twenty miles from the school and has four children of her own, including a preschooler, did not prevent Lenora from putting her entire heart and soul into her work for Walker Memorial. She organized contests to select school colors, a school logo, and school song. She supervised the construction of a banner that is used as a class incentive to encourage adult attendance at Home and School meetings. She arranged for jackets, shirts, and shorts bearing the school colors and logo to be available for all students and parents.

Lenora produces a "tremendous" newsletter and a year-end report. These were first mailed to Home and School members only, but now go to all church members, thus binding the school and church together.

Her monthly programs are always current and informative. Some have featured films that deal directly with today's problems, including child abuse, drug awareness, and the importance of child identification and fingerprinting. Fund-raising activities ranged from Walkathons and Food Festivals to Christmas and rummage sales. All have been announced or reviewed in the local newspaper. The money raised by these various endeavors have purchased desks, a popcorn

machine, a laminating machine, gym and physical education equipment, library books, audio visual cart, and other library equipment. Classroom teachers have been the happy recipients of funds to use as needed. A larger, more efficient copier has been leased, and a Xerox Memory Writer is now in use as part of the school office equipment.

Lenora is continually fostering closer ties between the school and the church. A faculty dinner is a yearly event now. Her direct involvement with the students ranges from well-planned field trips and a coordinated hot lunch program (the first in Walker Memorial history), to popcorn-for-sale-once-a-week-with-lunch.

And busy, happy Lenora also finds time to act as an able assistant to her husband in his business.

Can the Lord use women today? The people of Avon Park reply, "Of course, if they are as willing as this one!"

—Bobbie Jane Van Dolson

Anita J. Mackey

Santa Barbara, CA

A unique honor was conferred on Anita in 1983 when the city of Santa Barbara chose her as one of seven persons to be presented to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of the Queen's visit. Quite typically thinking in spiritual terms, Anita sent a deluxe copy of *The Desire of Ages* to the monarch, and received a gracious thank-you note.

What is there about this woman that makes her worthy to walk and talk with royalty? Our space is much too limited to list all of Anita's accomplishments, but one who knows her sums it up in these words: "I can think of no other person in the community who has so influenced human services through her professional competence as a social worker, in her generous offer of time, serving on various advisory boards and commissions affecting people and their social needs."

Anita received her early education in California and earned her master's degree from the University of Chicago. She is a licensed clinical social worker and a registered social worker in California. In the early years of her professional life, she served at Provident Hospital in Chicago and as case supervisor for the Red Cross in that city.

In 1946 she began work with the Veterans Administration. She served for nearly thirty years, retiring in 1976 with a commendation.

Anita has been a member of dozens of committees and boards, including the Citizens Planning Association of Santa Barbara County, Inc., the Board of Trustees for Loma Linda University, the Advisory Council of the Pacific Union and Southern California Conferences, and the Advisory Board, Center for Black Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara.

Anita is truly a world traveler, having visited 106 of the world's countries and islands. She enjoys public speaking, and addresses groups of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. She has been married to Harvey A. Mackey for more than forty-five years. Their foster son, who holds a doctoral degree from the University of Oregon, came to them from Nigeria.

Anita's awards began early. She was the second-place winner in the Southern California Oratorical Contest for Junior Colleges in 1932. This was followed by nearly two dozen others, including the Woman of the Year Award from the city of Santa Barbara in 1976, the Distinguished Alumna Award from Riverside College, and the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree conferred by Andrews University in 1974. In that year she became the first woman commencement speaker at the university.

She is listed in five editions of *Who's Who of American Woman*, in *Personalities of West and Midwest* (1972), and in *Two Thousand Women of Achievement* (London, 1972).

She is obviously a woman of achievement, but with a very human touch. Her pastor, Gordon Paxton, writes, "Her Christian influence as a lady of outstanding ability and social graces who practices the virtues of her church, is widely felt. She is loved by us all!"

—Bobbie Jane Van Dolson

Conference Characterized by Range of

Ordination of women, the issue that brought the Mohaven participants together 11 years ago, is still controversial. According to Gordon Hyde, it is "the most emotionally laden cause in the church," but he can see "no justification for the attitude." The consensus of the scholars at Camp Mohaven as well as of church scholars today is that there is "no theological basis" for not ordaining women.

In a presentation on Wednesday, Leona Running, professor of Biblical languages at Andrews University, drew much approving laughter when she read from one of the papers, which quoted Ian Frazier's remark made at the World Council of Churches Consultation in 1970: "We can produce no positive theological case for ordaining Scotsmen. By a clear oversight on the part of God they were not represented among the apostolic band, but the extension of the Church to the Gentiles cleared the way for the ordaining of people of all nations. The same extension of the Church to total humanity is surely the basis for opening the possibility of ordination to total humanity."

In reviewing some of the Mohaven papers, Madelynn Haldeman, professor of theology at Loma Linda University, pointed to one historical view of women in the church: Paul's caution against their speaking in public. Haldeman noted that women were not free to speak publicly until the coming of Christianity, and they went overboard, "and I suppose we all need to learn," she said, "and we are learning, that sometimes cultural taboos make it necessary for Christianity to curb some of its freedoms. But this doesn't mean that the curbing of the freedom becomes the norm forever."

Thursday afternoon, on a panel surveying reactions to the events at and since Mohaven, Leona Running remarked: "I'm not sure I'll see an ordained woman in our church in my lifetime." Kit Watts, however, may have best summed the reactions of the women who had been at Camp Mohaven when she said, "I have had some pain, but I have seen some progress."

Gordon Hyde, who on Wednesday seemed supportive of the women in their goals and had suggested that they not set much store by "the screen of 'the world field is not ready for ordination,'" on Thursday retreated somewhat and urged caution. "Work within the structure and with the structure and with the way church policy works, whether we are happy with the way things work or not," he told the women. "Win your way by the weapons women, by their very nature, are best equipped to handle," he said, adding, "You were always able to manipulate us to achieve your ends."

A highlight of the conference was the official release of the Mohaven-BRI papers. Ed Zinke, associate secretary of the Biblical Research Institute, in introducing the papers, recounted the

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CAMP MOHAVEN REVISITED. Eight of the original 30 who attended the Camp Mohaven Council on the Role of Women in the Church in September 1973 participated in the Women of Mission Conference. Left to Right: Gordon Hyde, former BRI Director and chairman of the Religion Department at Southern College; Josephine Benton, associate professor of humanities, Montgomery College; Madelynn Haldeman, professor of religion at Loma Linda University, La Sierra Campus; Edward Zinke, assistant secretary of the Biblical Institute; Kit Watts, conference co-director and periodicals librarian at James White Library; Leona Running, professor of Biblical languages, emeritus, SDA Theological Seminary. Present but not pictured: Gerhard Hasel, Dean, SDA Theological Seminary; and Betty Ahnberg, "Aunt Sue" of Your Story Hour, of Medina, Ohio.



THE COURAGE OF OUR POTENTIAL. Dr. Pat Mutch, professor of home economics and Dr. Selma Chaij, associate professor of counseling psychology, led in the workshop "Being All God Meant Us to Be." In the background is a colorful 66-square quilt, one square for each book of the Bible, which decorated the meeting area for the conference. It was a two-year project which was presented to Sherman McCormick, one of the conference speakers.



WOMEN OF MISSION. Nadine Dower, who runs her own graphic arts design business at home, spoke of her mission as a mother during the concluding moments of the Sabbath afternoon program. Dr. Marie Robinson, member of the Andrews University board of trustees, spoke of her life in a dual-career marriage where she and her husband work to support each other in mission. Collette Crowell recalled the miracles in her life that had led her away from majoring in chemistry and going to medical school to instead become a pastor in the Pacific Northwest. She is completing her M.Div. degree at the SDA Theological Seminary.



SCHOLARLY CONFAB. Dr. Dorothy Irvin (right) made two outstanding presentations featuring archaeological evidence from the first century A.D. and onward that suggest women held major and significant leadership roles in the early Christian church. Julia Neuffer, formerly on the editorial staff of the SDA Bible Commentary, presented Dr. Irvin with a book which Dr. Leona Running wrote about the outstanding scholar William Albright, as a memento of the Women of Mission Conference.

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- North Pacific Union; Director, Bertha Dasher, 18404 NE 109th Avenue, Battle Ground, WA 98704.

Occupations, Age and Ethnicity

difficulties involved in getting them published. Details were hastily worked out to produce them in time for the AAW Conference. They are now available in mimeographed form under the title *Symposium on the Role of Women in the Church*.

Women of diverse talents and occupations participated in the program. Thursday's presentations touched on many vital and substantive issues with a cluster of three topics: "Adventist Women in Education," with Pat Habada; "Adventist Women in Health Careers," with Connie Tiffany; and "Adventist Women in Homemaking," with Jane Thayer.

Dr. Habada, of the General Conference Department of Education, presented the results of a research study that revealed, that, generally speaking, when filling educational administrative slots, conference presidents are looking for a white male between 35 and 45 years of age, with a degree in education, although the training is not crucial. Other desired qualifications include spirituality and well-developed financial management skills. Dr. Habada noted that under these circumstances women, minorities, and people over 50 would find it difficult to secure top administrative posts in Adventist education.

The research findings presented by Connie Tiffany, who recently became the first full professor of nursing at Andrews University, pointed to new opportunities for Adventist nurses in home health service. Jane Thayer's excellent talk, with its humor, visual aids, and imaginative treatment of the subject of homemaking, received prolonged applause from the audience.

"Women in the World Church Today," was scheduled for Thursday afternoon but was moved up to Wednesday as its presenter, Nancy Vyhmeister, was in the process of moving to the Far Eastern Division. Vyhmeister, until recently assistant professor of missions at Andrews Theological Seminary, painted a broad picture of the women who help to make the SDA Church. Some are highly educated; some barely able to read. From the division newsletters for the past five years and form questionnaires sent to division presidents, Vyhmeister put together a highly informative report on the involvement of women in the world of the world church. Editors present at the conference eagerly to urged her to prepare the material for publication.

Prominent among the participants was Dorothy Irvin, a Catholic theologian from Durham, North Carolina. Her two slide lectures blended archeological findings with Biblical scholarship to illuminate the role of women in the church. Her unpretentious, unassuming manner charmed her audience, but they were even more impressed by her intellect. She brought a Catholic perspective to the role of women in church life, and as one observer noted, her presentation showed that there is room for optimism among SDA women.

This conference, unlike the first AAW conference, included men speakers in representative numbers. Sherman McCormick, a doctoral student at Andrews University, shared his research on Flora Plummer, an impressive figure who served the church as secretary of the General conference Sabbath School Department from 1913 until her retirement in 1936. Plummer was only one of numerous women who held leadership positions in the church work during the early years of the denomination's history.

At the end of the pre-session and beginning of the main conference, a Thursday night banquet captured the atmosphere of a convention. Gary Ross, Elder Neal Wilson's representative to the conference, making his first appearance, told the large crowd of Elder Wilson's personal commitment to a "decisive and radical increase in the number of women in the decision-making process in the Seventh-day Adventist Church—local conference, union conference, and General Conference." To loud applause he announced that Elder Wilson, "prior to the General Conference session in New Orleans, is putting out a call to all divisions of the General Conference to supply him with a list of capable women who can fill elected and appointed office positions in the church."

The keynote speaker at the banquet was Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, a visiting professor at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. A specialist in cross-cultural psychology, a prolific writer, and a member of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, Van Leeuwen drew many parallels between her denomination and Seventh-day Adventism, noting that both have "agonized over what has been flippantly called 'the woman question.'" To the conference theme of "Women of Mission" she added her own subtitle, "Hazards and Possibilities," holding forth on the topic for about half an hour.

Much of Friday was taken up with two well-attended workshops: "Responsible Christian Assertion," taught by Thesba Johnston and Vivian Ahlers, and "Human Potential: Being What God Meant Us to Be," given by professors Pat Mutch and Selma Chaij of Andrews University.

Friday evening's varied program centered on the theme "I Am an Adventist Woman" highlighted the testimonials of women from a wide spectrum of Adventist experience. Among others a book editor, a doctor, and a homemaker spoke, but by far the most poignant talk was on the topic "I Am a Divorced Adventist Woman."

Conference organizers had an opportunity to show their ingenuity when illness prevented Maybelle Vandermark Goransson from attending to present the homily to close Friday night's program. She was nevertheless brought to the group via telephone hookup as she dialogued with Kit Watts and Madelyn Haldeman.

A full Sabbath schedule began with the Sabbath School program, the main feature of which was an interview with several "women of mission." One of the women interviewed was Otilie Stafford, of the Atlantic Union College English Department and a member of the Church Hymnal Committee, which recently completed work on the revised Seventh-day Adventist church hymnal. Stafford gave the audience something to look forward to in the singing of the revised hymn "Rise up, O Men of God." She told of the committee's struggle to eliminate the sexist language in the hymn. The problem was resolved with a triumphant revised version which Stafford recited to enthusiastic "Amen's!"

Worship service at the All Nations Church is a moving experience. This was made more so as the women's conference participants took over the worship hour. Speaking on the subject "Women, Gifts, and Accountability," Madelynn Haldeman gave a sermon that one minister later said publicly that he wished he could have delivered. That Sabbath in the Berrien Springs area three women spoke in churches at the worship hour: Haldemann at the All Nations Church, Patricia Morrison at the Berrien Springs Village Church, and Wanda Grimes at the Niles Philadelphia Church.

The Sabbath afternoon program of music, like all the music throughout the conference, featured pieces composed or arranged and performed by Adventist women. From Annie Smith, sister of early Adventist leader Uriah Smith, to Blythe Owen, Andrews University professor of music, who was on hand to play some of her compositions, the musical talents of the women of the Church were a source of ministry.

Between the musical program and the dramatic presentation which closed out the day, three women spoke of their mission as mother, career person, and minister. The audience was visibly moved by Collette Crowell's explanation of "Why I Feel Called to Gospel Ministry."

When God Called, a reader's theater drama by Kermit Netteburg, performed by a group from Andrews University, received an enthusiastic response from the audience. The play combines historical portraits of the lives of early Adventist women church workers with modern insights into the problems women encounter when they aspire to work beyond the home. The satire and good humor contributed to producing a lively and enjoyable play.



IN CHRIST THERE IS NEITHER BOND NOR FREE, Jew nor Greek, male nor female. Personal testimonies abounded during the conference, with individuals telling their own sense of calling and mission. During the Friday evening program, "I Am an Adventist Woman," the following individuals spoke: (Left to Right): Jane Allen, former PR Director of the Far Eastern Division, teacher at PUC; Judy Ronk, mother of five teenagers and church school teacher in South Bend, Indiana; Jeanne Simmons, known for her enthusiastic outreach in social services for the All Nations Church in Berrien Springs; Julia Neuffer, retired book editor of the Review and Herald Publishing Association; Kit Watts, conference co-director; Jocey Fay, managing editor of the *Adventist Review*; Joan Banks, chemist for Whirlpool, single parent with a ministry to divorcees; Sten La Bianca, anthropologist and parent; and Dr. Nemi Inocencio (speaking), physician originally from the Philippines.

Rounding out the Saturday evening program, three conference observers who had attended all the sessions gave short responses to the conference. Jocey Fay spoke for the *Adventist Review*, Ed Zinke represented the Biblical Research Institute, and Warren Banfield the Office of Human Relations.

Fay commented on the "sense of togetherness" she felt at the conference and elaborated on Kit Watts' earlier statement of the purpose of the conference: to foster friendship, support and growth in Adventist women. Ms. Fay found this purpose strongly and consistently expressed throughout the conference.

"I have been ministered to during this conference," said Zinke. He commended the "balance" that he had observed in age range and other areas, but he noted there had been no balance in talent. On a scale of 1 to 10, he said, he would have to give the talent a 10.5 or 11.

On a more serious note, Zinke cautioned against collision between the church's theological stand that the Bible interprets itself and what he called the historical-critical approach he had observed in use at the conference. In the first method the Bible is normative for the interpretation of all Scripture, he said. The second method, he noted, applies secularism or humanism to the study of Scripture, with the historical background being normative. Women, he said, find it easier to make their case with the historical approach; however, the church was founded on the former method. Stating that a "considerable amount of openness already exists," he advised women to win their case "in ministry itself."

Banfield commented on the women's display of organizational skills and stated that the sessions had been informative and balanced. He then went on to address a variety of interests and concerns.

Many people picture the women of the AAW as the beast of Daniel 7:7, he observed. "I wish they could have come and seen that that's not the way you look and that's not the way you act," he said to loud laughter and applause.

Noting that women have to understand how the system operates, Banfield admonished the conference participants to use the local conference structure to reach their goals, challenging them to become involved and use the political structure "wisely to obtain your goals and objectives. That's what the system is for."

On Sunday, the final day of the conference, the devotional period dovetailed into the business session chaired by AAW president Betty Howard, dean of women and dean of students at Columbia Union College, who introduced the new officers to the group.

The business session gave way to the resolutions committee for the presentation and discussion of a substantial list of resolutions that had come in from those attending the conference as well as from the resolutions committee of 24 members, chaired by Pat Mutch and Jane Thayer. These two women deftly managed the discussion session, handling amendments and motions. The body of resolutions, ranging from changes in Adventist school curriculum to include units on home and family life to the establishment of a center for women's studies on a college or university campus, is now in the hands of the AAW leaders and is being studied.

Rounding out the conference was a Women of the Year Awards luncheon, under the general sponsorship of the national AAW but organized and executed by Peggy Harris, director for special events, and Viveca Black, director for development. From among 83 applicants,

Continued on page 8

ABOUT OUR WRITERS

Ethel Bradford is an administrative secretary for the North American Division at the General Conference

Betty Howard is Dean of Students at Columbia Union College.

Andrews University Public Relations Department supplied all of the photographs.

Kit Watts, Associate Librarian at Andrews University, wrote the story-captions under the pictures.

Judith Nembhard is Associate Professor of English at Howard University.

Bobbie Jane Van Dolson is supervisor for Junior High students at Home Study International.



Drs. Otilie Stafford (standing) and Natelka Burrell.

1984 Association of Adventist Women Conference Resolutions

Publishing Recommendations

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

WHEREAS some lay members 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 Office of Human Relations be asked to communicate with the editors of ADVENTIST REVIEW, MINISTRY, and the various union conference papers encouraging them to feature articles on the role of women in the Adventist Church.

Some of the issues to be suggested to the editors are the role of women in the Old and New Testaments; Biblical and theological studies as to the appropriateness of women serving in various ministries, being ordained to the gospel ministry, and being ordained as local church elders; the counsel of Ellen White on the ministry of women; the role of women in Adventist history; contributions being made to the church by contemporary Adventist women; and current opportunities for women to serve the mission of the church. We further suggest that these papers open up significant space in "letters to the editor" columns to allow a continuing discussion among the readers concerning these matters.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Office of Human Relations be asked to request the Biblical Research Institute to make available copies of The Mohaven Papers and the BRI papers on women to leaders of the church, such as pastors, administrators, and teachers.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Review and Herald Publishing Association be asked to consider reprinting the book, *Notable Women of Spirit*, by John Beach making it available for sale through the usual channels.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to request the AAW to: (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 of Mission conference to key male and female Seventh-day Adventist administrators as chosen by the AAW executive board.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to request that the North American Division officers present a workshop on the role of women in the church at their 1985 Complete Administrators Seminar. This workshop would be made available to conferences for use at workers' meetings and gatherings of lay members, such as camp meetings.

Publish Job Openings

WHEREAS General Conference President Neal Wilson has 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 positions except those in the ministry and that they welcome and solicit, consider, and evaluate résumés.

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 which do not require ministerial ordination now exist

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request Elder C. E. Bradford and the office of the North American Division to express appreciation to those organizations and institutions that have actively sought to increase the number of women on appointed committees and boards.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to request Elder C. E. Bradford and the office 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 within the next two years.

Teach Family Management Skills

WHEREAS the church has repeatedly affirmed the primacy of the married woman's role in the home and family as emphasized in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy (1973 and 1974 Autumn Council, 1975 Spring Meeting), and

WHEREAS societal trends in North America have greatly increased the numbers of dual career families within the church, severely limiting available time in the home to teach youth basic family management skills*, and

WHEREAS these societal trends simultaneously increase the demand on both men and women for greater skill and efficiency in coping with family management tasks under time constraints, and

WHEREAS family integrity within the Seventh-day Adventist Church is coming under increasing attack with a rising incidence of marital break-ups, child and spouse abuse, and youth problems, and this trend should be arrested and reduced, and

WHEREAS, although knowledge of family management skills would have significant preventive value against family disintegration, such skills as taught in Home Economics classes are being deleted or diminished from the educational priorities of Seventh-day Adventist schools as being "too expensive" or "unnecessary," and

WHEREAS the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been counseled regarding the value of, and has a long tradition of the importance of a philosophy of education which strongly supports practical aspects of education,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to recommend that the North American Division Curriculum Committee of the General Conference Department of Education take steps to make family management skills part of the education experience of all youth educated in Seventh-day Adventist junior high and high school institutions by the following means:

- a. Establishing standards for Seventh-day accreditation which require the curriculum to include comprehensive course offerings in family management skills.
- b. Requiring that all students, male and female, take at least 0.5 credit of a family management course to meet requirements for graduation.
- c. Establishing qualifications for the teachers of such courses which will assure that a comprehensive, current, and balanced program will be offered.

*Family Management Skills include skills in family relationships, parenting, meal preparation, wardrobe management, housing, and financial management of a Christian home.

Reach More Adventist Women

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

WHEREAS the majority of Adventist women 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 Adventist women, including nonprofessionals, students, and cultural and racial minorities.

1985 Women of the Year

WHEREAS the 1985 General Conference Session would provide an excellent opportunity for the AAW to become better known throughout the church, and to publicize what it can do for Adventist women,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request of the General Conference Session Central Planning Committee an opportunity for the AAW to make an awards presentation for Women of the Year at the 1985 General Conference Session.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the AAW request a booth and display space at the 1985 General Conference Session.

Appreciation for Commission on Women

WHEREAS the North American Division Committee on Administration has established a Commission on Women under the auspices of the Office of Human Relations,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request that the national AAW express its appreciation in a letter to the North American Division.

Conference Resolutions

Develop a Networking 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 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 Commission on Women be asked to promote this network through the Adventist periodicals.

Center for Women's Studies

WHEREAS recent surveys indicate a low percentage of women employed in 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 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 the women so as to better accomplish the task of finishing the work assigned by our Lord," 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 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 steps to implement this request by July 1, 1986.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to recommend that the Board of Higher Education establish a Commission on Women 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.

Commend Conferences Employing Women Elders

WHEREAS the 1973 and 1974 Annual Councils and the 1975 Spring Meeting prepared the way for women to become local church elders, and to become Associates in Pastoral Care, and

WHEREAS various church bodies—local, conference, and union—and particularly the Southern California, Southeastern California, Upper Columbia, Potomac, and Oregon Conferences and the Lake Union have responded to these actions,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request the AAW to express appreciation to those conferences who have recommended the ordination of women as local church elders and those local churches who have elected them, and

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to request the AAW to express appreciation to these conferences and their respective unions, as well as other churches as they come to the attention of the AAW: (1) for their recognition of women as capable of serving the church in the pastoral ministry, (2) for encouraging and fostering the role of women in this capacity, and (3) for continuing to support these women who have responded to the call of God to serve the body of Christ.

Request Pilot Program for Licensing Women Ministers

WHEREAS the 1973 and 1974 Annual Councils and the 1975 Spring Meeting prepared the way for women to become local church elders and to become Associates in Pastoral Care, and

WHEREAS a period of ten years has passed with increased numbers of women filling these roles in a number of areas in the world field, and

WHEREAS there are areas of ministry in which a woman is uniquely qualified to serve, and

WHEREAS there continue to be women who recognize the call of God to the sacred work of the ministry,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request the General Conference officers to review the progress made in the past decade in the experience of women as local church elders and as Associates in Ministry, and

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to request the General Conference Officers to make provision for a pilot program(s) in parts of the world field where the local conference committee votes it, for granting ministerial licenses to qualified women candidates. We further request that this pilot program(s) be evaluated prior to the 1990 General Conference Session.

Ad Hoc Committee for Data Bank

WHEREAS the General Conference has determined to establish a data bank which will provide the denominational organization with information about qualified women 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 positions in those organizations, and

WHEREAS there appears to be a need for immediacy in acting upon this concern,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request the Executive Committee to AAW to establish immediately an ad hoc committee to determine methods and to implement the securing of data for such a data bank, and

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that this same ad hoc committee develop a roster of women currently serving on committees, educate them of the need to promote women in leadership positions and to be knowledgeable of whom to suggest for such positions as opportunities arise.

Promotion of AAW at GC Session

WHEREAS women from all over the world will be attending the General Conference Sessions, and

WHEREAS many of them know little or nothing about the AAW,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to request that the AAW plan for meetings of the Association in New Orleans during the 1985 General Conference Session.

...

WHEREAS the Commission on Women of the General Conference 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,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to express our support and encouragement to the members of this Commission.

Commendation for Shepherdess International

WHEREAS the General Conference has adopted a pilot program to give attention to the needs of ministers' and workers' wives 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 we wish to recognize the talents and contributions of all such women to the mission of the church, and

WHEREAS the President of the General Conference, Neal 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 the women so as to better accomplish the task of finishing the work assigned by our Lord," and

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

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that AAW write letters of commendation and appreciation to the General Conference officers, Marie Spangler, and Ellen Bresee for their work with Shepherdess International.

A Word of Special Thanks

The Conference expresses appreciation to:

Dr. Richard Orrison, principal of Andrews Academy, for permission to use the academy facilities;

Dr. Leshner for making a special trip from D.C. for the opening session;

Elder W. Banfield for cancelling other appointments in order to attend conference;

The cafeteria staff for the special banquet.

The President of the Southern Union Conference for extending **Norwida Marshall's** stay at Andrews University so she could attend the conference;

The ADVENTIST REVIEW for sponsoring **Jocely Fay** to attend the conference (See additional item below);

Potomac Conference for sponsoring **Jim Londis** and **Jan Daffern**;

Atlantic Union Conference for sponsoring **Gayla Cantrell**;

Neal Wilson and **C. E. Bradford** for sponsoring **Gary Ross** and for their increased interest in women's issues;

George Reid for sending **Ed Zinke** and releasing the Camp Mohaven Papers;

North American Youth Ministries — for sponsoring **Lillian Elliot**;

Caleb Rosado for use of All Nations Church on Sabbath;

Southern California Conference for sponsoring **Linda Gage**;

Glendale Church (Rudy Torres) for sponsoring **Mary Walsh**;

Andrews University Bookstore (**Faye Chamberlain**, manager) for the 20% discount and donation of packet items;

Loma Linda University, La Sierra Campus (**Dale McCune**) for sponsoring **Lourdes Silva**;

Southern College (**John Wagner**) for sponsoring **Gordon Hyde**;

The ADVENTIST REVIEW and *MINISTRY* for publishing the story of Woman of the Year;

Michiana Chapter of the AAW for sponsoring the conference;

Kit Watts and **Iris Yob** for doing a masterful job of organizing and directing the conference;

Rona Swaine for gift of flowers for Women of the Year awards.

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.

Appreciation to the General Conference

We wish to express appreciation to the General Conference for their support of the meetings at Andrews University. Elder Warren Banfield and Dr. Ed Zinke faithfully attended all of the sessions. Dr. Gary Ross was present for the opening banquet and was able to attend several sessions.



POSITIVELY POSITIVE. Warren Banfield, Office of Human Relations, attended the entire Women of Mission Conference and gave the final response. “God in His providence has brought about this conference at this time,” Banfield commented. “Women have much to offer and the church needs your talent and commitment.” Banfield is shown here with Kit Watts, co-director of the conference, and Andrea Steele, PR Director for Andrews University.

Conference Features Women's Potential and Achievements



WHEN GOD CALLED early Adventists answered, including women. Andrea Steele portrayed Georgia Burris, single woman who went to India alone. The cast of nine was directed by Luanne Bauer; the play written by Kermit Netteburg. Left to Right: Pat Mutch, Minerva Straman, Andrea Steele, Madeline Johnston as Ellen White, William Mutch, Mike Fox, and Ron Knott.



ADVENTIST ART. Rhonda Root, art teacher at Andrews Academy who designed banners and signs for the conference, discusses her paintings with Julia Neuffer and Billie Berdick during a Saturday night reception in the A.U. Art Gallery.



WOMEN, GIFTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY. Madelynn Haldeman spoke to conference attendees and the All Nations Church Congregation on Sabbath morning, calling for greater recognition of the spirit's outpouring of gifts upon women as well as men in our midst. Mrs. Haldeman is completing her studies for a Th.D. degree at the SDA Theological Seminary and is a member of the Daniel and Revelation Committee and the Biblical Research Committee.



MUSIC FOR MISSION. Throughout the conference music composed by Adventist women was performed. Blythe Owen, the composer of this work, is at the piano, and contributed several numbers for the Sabbath afternoon concert and other meetings. Those performing also include Rosemary Waterhouse, Barbara Gatewood, Imogene Akers, Rae Holman and Karlton Keller.

Conference from page 5

three women had been selected to be honored. A panel of judges of General Conference personnel and AAW officers made the selections.

In the Home and Community Life category, Lenora McDowell, of Avon Park, Florida, was cited for her involved, productive activity as home and school leader of Walker Memorial Junior Academy. Anita J. Mackey, cited in the category Work-Life, has had a distinguished career in social work. In the words of her minister, she is a woman “of outstanding ability and social graces who practices the virtues of her church.”

The name of Mary Walsh is legendary among Seventh-day Adventists. Miss Walsh was cited in the area of Church Life. As a Bible worker, church pastor, camp meeting speaker, and author, and she has spent a long, active life in service to the church.

An awards booklet, prepared by Viveca Black, is one of the treasured mementos of the conference. Besides giving the life sketches and accomplishments of the women who received the honors, it lists the names of all those who were entered into the contest along with a brief sketch of their accomplishments. It gives an impressive cross-section of Adventist women at work.

By two o'clock on Sunday afternoon conference participants were loading into cars and vans, ready to return to their homes, taking with them a sharper vision of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist woman and an enthusiasm for sharing in the progress of the church through participation in the Association of Adventist Women. As one woman who works at world headquarters said on this last day of the conference, “I came a skeptic. I am leaving a believer.”

The conference had brought together a diverse group of women. It had given church leaders a chance to voice their good will. Letters of greeting had come from J.R. Spangler, secretary of the Ministerial/Stewardship Association and editor of *Ministry* magazine; from William Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*; C.E. Bradford, vice president for North America; and Neal Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. In addition, through conference participants and Andrews University: students who attended the pre-session could earn college credit.

It is not only the AAW officers who are left with the task of assessing the value and impact of this coming together of church women for five days, but the church leadership as well must decide what will be its reaction to this growing group of women. For an organization that is only two years old, having been officially organized on June 13, 1982, this year's conference represents a significant achievement. The organization aims purposes to encourage communication and support among Adventist women, including acquainting the church community with the potential and achievements of women in the church. For a few days in July the potential of Adventist women was on display for the benefit of all who wished to observe and learn.

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION

The Association of Adventist Women is a national organization that sponsors local chapters. Its newsletter, *The Adventist Women*, is published six times per year. Membership in the A.A.W. helps to keep church leaders informed of the needs and accomplishments of women in the church, provides seed money for conferences for women, and includes a one-year subscription to the A.A.W. newsletter.

I am enclosing \$8.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

My tax-deductible contribution of _____ is enclosed.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE A.A.W.

My contribution of \$10-\$50. is enclosed

FRIENDS OF THE A.A.W.

My contribution of \$50-\$100. is enclosed.

SUPPORTERS OF THE A.A.W.

My contribution of \$110-\$300. is enclosed.

SPONSORS OF THE A.A.W.

My contribution of \$310-\$500. is enclosed.

BENEFACTORS OF THE A.A.W.

My contribution of over \$500. is enclosed.