

---

### The Association Of Adventist Women

**A** new organization of Adventist women has come into existence. The Association of Adventist Women officially organized on June 13, 1982 at the Sligo Church in Washington, D.C. The meeting was convened by Josephine Benton, chairman of the Forum Committee on Women, established in November, 1981, by the Association of Adventist Forums Board.

The purposes of the new association, which is seeking tax-exempt status, is to encourage communication and support among Adventist women, including acquainting the church community with the potential and achievements of Adventist women, assisting Adventist women in achieving their goals, and helping them to increase their professional options within the Adventist church.

The newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*, founded several years ago, is the official voice of the organization. This newsletter is currently undergoing editorial publication and format changes. A new editor will be installed January 18, 1983. The newsletter which so far has appeared only intermittently, will be published on a regular basis after January.

Women from as far away as Colorado, Michigan, and Massachusetts gathered in June to elect a Board of Directors for the new association. Named president was Betty Howard, dean of women at Columbia Union College. Other newly appointed members of the Board of Directors include: Secretary-Legal Counsel, Margaret Mc-

Farland, attorney with O'Melveny & Meyers law offices in Washington, D.C.; Pastor, Jan Daffern, associate pastor at Sligo Church; Liaison with General Conference, Dolores Maupin, member of the General Conference committee and professor of business management at the University of the District of Columbia; Coordinator of Special Events, Beverly Habada, city planner, Seat Pleasant, Maryland. Eight regional directors comprise the rest of the Board: Atlantic Region, Otilie Stafford, chairman of the Department of English, Atlantic Union College; Lake Region, Thesba Johnston, professor of education, Andrews University; Pacific Northwest Region, Helen Evans Thompson, executive director of Alumni Affairs, Walla Walla College; Pacific Region, Pat Horning, editor-writer at Concerned Communications, and Jan Hackleman, executive and clinical director of Inland County Family Learning Center; Southwestern Region, Judy Foll Miles, professor of office administration at Southwestern Adventist College; Columbia Region, Shirley Zork, professor of nursing at Columbia Union College; Mid-America Region, Vickie Danielson, private business in Colorado; Southern Region, Melinda Howes, vice-president of public relations, Florida Hospital.

### One Adventist Health Care System for USA?

**A**dventist Health Systems/United States is a corporation that will soon be incorporated to oversee and coordinate the existing four

Adventist health care corporations. The chairman of the corporation's board will be the General Conference vice-president for North America. The 23 of so members will include administrators from all four Adventist health systems, elected denominational officials, and lay persons from every union in North America.

The North American Division Committee on Administration (NADCA) voted an enabling action in July, allowing work to begin on drawing up the constitution and bylaws for the new corporation. It will replace the existing North American Health Services Board. The new corporation is not now replacing the existing four Adventist health care corporations, although there is conjecture that its formation provides the vehicle for eventually absorbing the four corporations into one. They will be selected by a constituency of some 100 people. Slightly more than one-half of both the constituency and the Board of Adventist Health Systems/United States will be health care corporation executives.

Action by NADCA followed its receiving a recommendation from the 65 persons attending the "North American Health Systems Consultation," meeting in Columbia, Maryland, June 21-23. Convened by the General Conference, and chaired by Charles Bradford, vice-president for North America, half of the 65 persons attending were General Conference officials. The other half were executives of Adventist health care corporations. In addition to the creation of Adventist Health Systems/United States, the consultation recommended that NADCA set up a committee for the purpose of "reviewing the wage and benefit structure for health care administrators."

## Where Are Evangelical Adventists Headed?

**E**vangelical Adventists, as some called themselves once found common cause in

trying to reform the theology of Seventh-day Adventists. No more; their splintering has become obvious. Since the spring of 1982, criticism has been directed at not only the official church, but at other evangelical Adventists as well. In fact, vigorous rejection of the term Evangelical Adventism is part of the debate about the viability of maintaining membership within the Seventh-day Adventist church.

On the one hand, Desmond Ford, Smuts van Rooyen, and their associates at the Good News Unlimited Foundation, continue to declare themselves Seventh-day Adventists and retain their membership. Indeed, during July, the General Conference invited Desmond Ford and his wife to Washington, D.C., for several days of discussions. Evidently, some had urged that the General Conference recommend that Ford's ordination be rescinded, and even that his membership be ended. But no such recommendation was adopted by the General Conference in July.

On the other hand, just two months earlier, both Robert Brinsmead and the editors of *Evangelica*, were urging Ford and others with similar views to take the initiative in abandoning membership in the Seventh-day Adventist church. In May, Brinsmead published a six-page broadside entitled, "To My Adventist Friends." It begins by reproducing a letter from Brinsmead to Ford written in August 19, 1980, just after denominational leaders had met with Ford at Glacier View. Even then, Brinsmead repudiated "synthesis theology," telling Ford that "I hope the church leadership has the intestinal fortitude to stand by its convictions to preserve the 1844 faith without compromise. I hope it has the nerve to pay no attention to the protesting multitudes who are motivated by sympathy for you."

In May 1982, Brinsmead expanded and sharpened his disagreement with Adventism and, by implication, Ford's continued identification with it. "If no event of redemptive significance occurred in heaven in 1844, there is nothing salvagable in the

Adventist system,” and “if the 1844 theology falls, Ellen White and the entire doctrine of the Spirit of Prophecy also falls.” Furthermore, “efforts to vindicate Adventist Sabbatarianism will fare no better than attempts to vindicate 1844 or Mrs. White. The Sanctuary, Spirit of Prophecy and Sabbath doctrines stand or fall together.” What Brinsmead lumped together, he then savaged. “Adventism is a totalitarian religious system which demands an allegiance that belongs only to God.” Brinsmead concluded his polemic by attacking evangelical Adventism directly. “Evangelical Adventism is traveling the road of an Adventist offshoot,” and “will end in swift and sudden disaster.” There must be no compromise. “If a person cannot be an authentic Adventist, he should not be a phony one. Evangelical Adventists must decide whether to submit to that system or obey the gospel, for the gospel has broken through the Adventist system and has left it shattered beyond repair.”

The editors of *Evangelica* appear to agree. The same month Brinsmead’s attack appeared, they published an issue entitled “After Adventism: Going Forth to Jesus.” The editors were students at the SDA Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, when they founded the journal that did much to popularize the term “Evangelical Adventism”; the editors now rejected it. To the question of his article “Whither Evangelical Adventism?” Editor Alan Crandall answered, “probably nowhere. It has almost run its course. The time has come for us to frankly admit that, notwithstanding the good Seventh-day Adventists have accomplished over the years, the entire Adventist system is bankrupt. As embarrassing as this may be, we must confess that even evangelical Adventism is only a partial solution. Instead of attempting to keep one foot in the gospel and one foot in Adventism, we may as well make a clean break with a system which we have come to see as inimical to the apostolic faith.” He ticks off five doctrines that “the gospel has exposed as faulty: Time proph-

ecies relating to the Advent movement; a final work of atonement and an investigative judgement beginning in 1844; Adventism as the ‘remnant’; Ellen White as a latter-day prophet; the Sabbath as a moral test.”

The rest of the issue includes a story detailing the experiences of several former Adventist ministers leaving the denomination. The editors also provide a handy guide for Adventist looking for another denomination. The first step suggested is to look in the Yellow Pages. Crandall’s own choices of denominations to which “you can safely narrow the field,” receive asterisks: Evangelical Covenant Church, Evangelical Free Church and Presbyterian and Reformed (various denominations).

Good News Unlimited Foundation, of which van Rooyen is a mainstay, took steps to clear up any confusion. In their next newsletter, van Rooyen responded to concern about his position on the Sabbath. “My family and I keep the seventh-day Sabbath. My statement in the interview was not that we should abandon the Sabbath. To the contrary, it was that we need to give it special attention, and that it needs to be studied and considered very carefully. No part of our belief system should be treated as non-negotiable. Non-Sabbatarians should continue to study their position, just as I feel I should study mine.” He took further pains to distinguish his position from others in the same issue. “From my point of view, it was intended to stand on its own and not to deny or endorse other statements with which it appeared at the time of publication.”

The newsletter also included Desmond Ford’s reply to the question “should we leave our local church?” Doctrinal error, he said, was not sufficient reason for leaving, unless that error repudiates Christ and His gospel, makes the performance of Christian duty impossible, or destroys true worship and fellowship with God and man. “If the gospel is freely preached in your present congregation and you are not hindered from following conscience, we would advise you to thank God and remain where you are.”

While Desmond Ford agreed at the founding of *Evangelica* to serve as one of its board members, it is clear that they now have different positions on membership in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Certainly, in the gospel congresses organized by Good News Unlimited in Santa Clara, California, July 23–25, and in Chattanooga, Tennessee, July 30–August 1, the speakers did not urge withdrawal from membership in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. According to Calvin Edwards, administrator of Good News Unlimited, the emphasis was on Bible study, particularly sound principles of interpreting the Gospels.

the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. The probable site is about 15 miles north of its present location.

Pressure to sell will no doubt increase when the Review and Herald Publishing Association leaves its large building vacant, as it is scheduled to do after January 1983. The new plant for the Review, now under construction, will have 220,000 square feet. In addition, an office building is being erected.

## General Conference Puts Headquarters Up For Sale

The General Conference continues to look for a buyer for its headquarters in Takoma Park, Maryland, having recently turned down an \$11.9 million offer from a Canadian-owned development corporation.

The present General Conference property, near a station of Washington's new mass-transit system, includes the North Building, a 10-story high-rise office building, and the older Central and South Buildings, each with four floors.

The total space now occupied by the General Conference is some 180,000 square feet. The offer from the Canadian company would have also included the buildings now housing the Review and Herald Publishing Association and the Home Study Institute.

A \$15 million sale would be needed to pay for the construction of a new building of approximately 200,000 square feet on property the General Conference owns in