



On July 6, 1996, at the Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church, another woman, Margot Pitrone, was ordained to gospel ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The total number of women ordained to gospel ministry has risen in less than 12 months to seven—three in the Potomac Conference and four in the Southeastern California Conference.

Pitrone's ordination was one of three major developments regarding women in ministry to take place during a three-week period this summer in the Southeastern California Conference. The week before, June 29, Hyveth Williams preached her first sermon as senior pastor of the 1,500-member Campus Hill Seventh-day Adventist church in Loma Linda, California. The Campus Hill church is the largest Adventist congregation to have chosen a woman as its senior pastor. Eight days earlier, June 17, the Loma Linda University church, in business session, adopted a policy that commits it to the principle of ordaining women to the gospel ministry. According to its newly adopted policy, one woman appears already qualified to be or-

Pam Dietrich teaches English and drama at Loma Linda Academy in California. She received her M.A. in English from Loma Linda University.

Southeastern California Churches Ordain, Advance Women Pastors

by Pam Dietrich

daigned to gospel ministry by the Loma Linda University church.

Garden Grove Ordains Margot Pitrone

The Garden Grove church is the largest Adventist congregation in Orange County, California. Earlier in the year, the senior pastor, Duff Gorle, conducted a survey of his congregation, and 80 percent supported the ordination to gospel ministry of their associate pastor, Margot Pitrone. During the July 6 ordination service, Jared Fulton, the youth pastor of the Garden Grove church, was also ordained to the gospel ministry.

Pitrone, who holds bachelor's degrees in social work and in religion and psychology, received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She has served on the pastoral staffs of several Adventist congregations in the Southeastern California Conference. At the service, the senior pastor extolled Pitrone's and Fulton's many gifts, including Pitrone's abilities for planning and administration of congregational funds. Many others from the congregation joined in testimonies to the pastoral ministry of both candidates. As is usual in Adventist ordination services, all ordained pastors in the congregation—some 20 male and three female—came to the front and joined in the prayer of ordination.

University Church Adopts Policy

The Loma Linda University church, in its June 17 business session, the highest authority in the congregation, approved, by a margin of 89 to 49, a policy document, "Ministry at Loma Linda University Church," which states that "Those who receive these gifts of the Spirit (male and female), and are called to full-time ministry by the church, are candidates for full credentials and ordaining. . . ." The statement outlines the education, experience, and supervision necessary for candidates to be ordained. The document, drafted by a committee of two pastors and two lay persons, was introduced by William Lovelless, the senior pastor, in a presentation of almost two hours.

Although the document does not explicitly state that even without the concurrence of the local conference and union, Loma Linda University church will proceed with ordination of women it deems qualified, debate at the church business session assumed that to be the case. In the University church newsletter (June 1996), Edmund Haddad, chairman of the church board, states that the Southeastern California Conference has declined to approve the document, adding rather enigmatically, "to help solve this problem, church practice will precede policy rather than policy pre-

ceding practice." The likeliest candidate for ordination is Margaret Hempe, a long-time associate pastor at the Loma Linda University church.

Campus Hill Picks Hyveth Williams as Senior Pastor

At a Sabbath morning service 15 years ago, a representative of the Campus Hill church board announced to the congregation that the board was not ready to ordain women as local elders. This year the search

committee reduced a list of 50 names to five who were interviewed. Hyveth Williams, pastor of the Boston Temple, and a frequent week-of-prayer speaker at Adventist schools, is an adult convert who received her B.A. from Columbia Union College, her M.Div. from the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University, and is completing her D.Min. at Boston University. Her autobiographical memoir, *Will I Ever Learn?* has been published this year by the Review & Herald Publishing Association. Williams began her tenure as senior pastor in September.

splinter group makes this offense particularly egregious," he said.

"This raises the ante and makes it all the more serious."

"It's typical anti-Catholic bigotry," said Sister Mary Ann Walsh, spokeswoman for the United States Catholic Conference.

Sibley Towner, professor of biblical interpretation at Union Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian institution in Richmond, said he was surprised the Adventists published the book.

"It's outrageous and inflammatory and untrue biblically in any sense."

George Reid, head of the Biblical Research Institute of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, said the book merely follows the lead of such Protestant reformers as Martin Luther and John Calvin.

"We still believe that it's the reasonable way to understand these prophesies, arising from the text itself and not political correctness," he said.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is based in Silver Spring, and traces its origins to William Miller of Hampton, N.Y., who predicted that the world would end in the 1840s.

The Church says it has 9 million members worldwide.

The book is published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, one of [the] denomination's . . . main publishing houses.

Richard Coffen, vice president for editorial services at the publishing house, said he did not know how many copies of the book had been distributed.

Coffen said the book was a critique, not bigotry, and that it attacks the papacy, not specific popes.

"Our position is that we are criticizing the system and not individual Catholic Christians."

Donohue said he has heard that

GC Confirms for U.S. Media: SDA Book Calls Pope the Devil's Ally

by Jan Cienski

The Associated Press news service in August distributed the following story to the media on its national wire. Fifteen newspapers across the United States, for certain, and an estimated total of 50 published the story, including the Bangor Daily News, the Los Angeles Times, the Orlando Sentinel, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and the San Diego Union.

The book, a 112-page 1989 abridgement of Bible Readings for the Home Circle, was a project of the Association of Self-Supporting Institutions, providing student colporteurs with a volume to sell, particularly during summers. The Review and Herald Publishing Association published both the original, edited by its book committee in 1888, and the present abridged editions.

This summer, students sold the book, among other places, in the Richmond, Virginia, area, the home base of Jan Cienski, the reporter who wrote the story.

—The Editors

Roman Catholics and some Protestants are denouncing a book published by a major Protestant evangelical denomination that claims the pope is in league with the devil.

"God's Answer to Your Questions," likens the papacy to the beast in the book of Revelation, an ally of Satan in the world's final days.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church publishes the book and distributes it nationally door-to-door.

"That the seventh head (of the beast) represents Antichrist, or the papacy, there can be little doubt," the book asserts.

The book's conclusions have no biblical basis, said Catholic clergy and lay officials and a Protestant Bible scholar.

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights in New York, said he often sees anti-Catholic literature but was surprised to see it coming from a major denomination.

"For this to come from the Seventh-day Adventists and not from a

argument before.

"It's like saying to children, 'I hate your father and I hate your mother but I don't hate you.'"

The book says those who follow papal teachings are Satan's allies.

"Those who acknowledge the supremacy of the beast by yielding obedience to the law of God as changed and enforced by the papacy . . . worship the best. . . Such will take the side of Satan in his rebellion against God's authority," the book says.

Linking the pope to the Antichrist springs from the days of the Reformation 500 years ago when new Protestant churches were battling Roman Catholics, Towner said.

"In the Reformation, Protestants threw the word Antichrist around a lot," he said. "But that has not been done in mainline Protestant circles for centuries."

Anti-Catholic language these days usually comes from small sectarian groups affiliated with right-wing political causes such as the Ku Klux Klan, Towner said.

The book comes at a time when

relations between evangelical Christians and Catholics have been improving.

In 1994, Southern Baptists, the country's largest Protestant denomination, and the Catholic Church endorsed a dialogue between the two denominations.

The Christian Coalition also has been trying to build ties to socially conservative Catholics.

"There have been a number of attempts to build political coalitions between Catholics and conservative Protestants," said William Dinges, professor of religious studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington.

"Conservative Catholics who would move to the right on cultural issues might be offended by this."

Donohue said he doubts the book will influence anyone, but it concerns him nonetheless.

"This kind of anti-Catholicism cannot be discounted," he said. "It's affecting the Joe Sixpacks of this world, and these people are not unimportant and it has to be taken seriously."

FBI Arrests Adventist Indicted by Tribunal for Rwanda Genocide

by David McLemore

This story, by a staff writer of The Dallas Morning News, appeared September 28, 1996. Versions were circulated on the AP and Reuters news services. Readers will recognize Elzaphane (Elizaphan) Ntakirutimana as the former Rwandan conference president mentioned in "Sabbath Slaughter: SDAs and Rwanda" (Spectrum, Vol. 25, No. 4).

—The Editors

A former pastor charged with participating in the genocidal slaughter of thousands of men, women and children in Rwanda in 1994 remained in the Webb County

jail Friday.

Federal authorities are holding Elizaphan Ntakirutimana, 73, on a warrant from the U.N. International Crimes Tribunal, charging him with crimes against humanity resulting from the brutal Rwandan civil war, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Don DeGabrielle of Laredo.

Mr. Ntakirutimana was arrested about 2:25 p.m. Thursday by FBI agents and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers near Cotulla, about 70 miles north of Laredo. He was jailed without bond.

Friday, Mr. Ntakirutimana was formally charged before U.S. Mag-

istrate Marcel Notzon. He will appear in court next week for a bond hearing.

Authorities declined to comment on how Mr. Ntakirutimana had come to their attention. Manuel E. Mora, supervisory senior resident agent of the Laredo FBI office confirmed that Mr. Ntakirutimana had been under surveillance for about four months.

But the FBI did not receive authorization to arrest him until Thursday, Mr. Mora said.

Mr. Mora said Mr. Ntakirutimana had been living in Laredo with his son, Eliel Ntakirutimana, a Laredo anesthesiologist. The elder man worked part-time in a natural-food store in Laredo owned by his son.

Calls to Dr. Ntakirutimana's home and office Friday went unanswered.

Mr. Ntakirutimana, a former pastor of a Seventh-day Adventist Church in western Rwanda's Kibuye district, is charged in two separate indictments by the United Nations' war-crimes tribunal in connection with the 1994 state-sponsored massacre of more than 500,000 Rwandans, Mr. DeGabrielle said.

The tribunal says Mr. Ntakirutimana, a Hutu, had hundreds of members of the Tutsi tribe gather in a Kibuye hospital for safety when the massacres began in April 1994.

As the men, women and children crowded into the medical buildings and hospital chapel, according to the indictments, Mr. Ntakirutimana arrived with a truckload of armed men and told them to start killing. Those who tried to escape were slashed with machetes or beaten to death.

"This is a shocking crime," Mr. DeGabrielle said. "This is quite a different case than we normally get."

Mr. Ntakirutimana becomes the latest person to be arrested in connection with the 1994 massacre. So far, the tribunal has indicted 21 people, most of whom have not been captured.