

# JESUS IS COMING!

I Will Go Reach My World



Sponsored by the General Conference Ministerial  
Spouses Association and Women's Ministries

62ND GENERAL  
CONFERENCE SESSION  
WOMEN'S MEETINGS



SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI  
JULY 7-10, 2025

# THEME SONG

## JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

### **Verse 1**

Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring:  
Jesus is coming again!  
Cheer up, ye pilgrims, be joyful and sing:  
Jesus is coming again!

### **Chorus**

Coming again, coming again,  
Jesus is coming again!

### **Verse 2**

Echo it, hilltops; proclaim it, ye plains:  
Jesus is coming again!  
Coming in glory, the Lamb that was slain;  
Jesus is coming again!

### **Verse 3**

Heavings of earth, tell the vast, wondering throng:  
Jesus is coming again!  
Tempests and whirlwinds, the anthem prolong;  
Jesus is coming again!

### **Verse 4**

Nations are angry—by this we do know  
Jesus is coming again!  
Knowledge increases; men run to and fro;  
Jesus is coming again!

# WELCOME

## Dear Sisters and Ministerial Spouses,

Welcome to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church! We also welcome you to the Women's Meetings organized by the Women's Ministries Department and the Ministerial Spouses Association. The overall theme of our meetings reflects the theme of the Session: "Jesus Is Coming; I Will Go Reach My World!"

This theme serves as a beautiful reminder and a vital call to action! Each of us has our own circles of influence. There are people within these circles who may not be close to God, and it is our responsibility to reach out to them. However, to effectively share what we receive, we must first nurture our own relationship with Christ.

We are privileged to gather during this General Conference Session to worship the Lord together, grow in faith, fellowship, and enjoy the friendships and unity of our diverse, worldwide Church. This time has been planned especially for you. We invite you to participate in the morning devotionals, music, prayers, division reports, and afternoon seminars!

Our prayer is that you will be strengthened and renewed each day of these meetings. Let us be encouraged by the hope that Jesus is coming soon and, most importantly, by the fact that He already has come into our hearts!

May you experience God's grace, love, and peace. We send blessings to you and your families and wish you safe travels!



**Galina Steele**  
General Conference Women's  
Ministries Director



**Aurora Canals**  
General Conference Associate Ministerial Secretary  
Ministerial Spouses Association Coordinator

# DAILY PROGRAM

## Monday Morning, July 7 9:30 – 11:15 AM

Prayer and Song Service	NAD Praise Team
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Opening Prayer	Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Welcome	Audrey Andersson, GC General Vice President, Pierre Omeler, GC General Vice President
Introduction of Division Leaders: MSA Coordinators and WM Directors	Aurora Canals, MSA (GC) and Galina Steele, WM (GC)
Introduction of Division Reports and Speaker	Pamela Townend, MSA, HM (SPD)
Division Reports	NAD MSA/WM
Special Music	Desiree Bryant, MSA (NAD)
<b>Sermon: “Ready and Waiting”</b>	<b>Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)</b>
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Closing Prayer	Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)
Closing Announcements	On the Screen



## Monday Afternoon, July 7

### 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Prayer and Song Service	SID Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Svetlana Velgosha, MSA (ESD)
Welcome	Debbie Maloba, WM (ECD)
Introduction of Division and Union Reports and Speaker	Krupa Victor, MSA/WM (SUD)
Division Reports	ESD MSA/WM
Union Mission Report	MENAUM MSA
Greeting Card Ministry	Ruth Boyd (MENAUM)
Special Music	Sithokozile Moyo
<b>Seminar: “Surrender and Submission: Radical Spirituality in a Divisive Age”</b>	<b>Sikhu Daco, ARMies (GC)</b>
Exercise Break	Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Division Reports	SID MSA/WM
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Closing Prayer	Sikhu Daco, ARMies (GC)
In Appreciation	MSA/WM
Closing Announcements	On the Screen

# DAILY PROGRAM

## Tuesday Morning, July 8 9:30 – 11:15 AM

Prayer and Song Service	WAD Praise Team
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Opening Prayer	Omobonike Sessou, WM (WAD)
Welcome	Ardis Stenbakken, GC WM Emeritus
Introduction of Division Reports and Speaker	Varta Panayotova, MSA (EUD)
Division Reports	WAD MSA/WM
Exercise Break	Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Special Music	The Pearly Gates (WAD)
<b>Sermon: “At His Feet”</b>	<b>Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)</b>
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Closing Prayer	Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)
Closing Announcements	On the Screen



## Tuesday Afternoon, July 8

### 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Prayer and Song Service	WAD Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Akseniya Liberanskaya, WM (ESD)
Welcome	Danita Caderma, MSA (SSD)
Introduction of Division Reports and Speaker	Dagmar Dorn, WM (EUD)
Division Reports	EUD MSA/WM
Division Reports	SAD MSA/WM
Special Music	The Pearly Gates (WAD)
<b>Seminar:</b> <b>“Finding Your Unique Mission”</b>	<b>Karen Holford, WM (TED)</b>
Exercise Break	Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Division Reports	TED MSA/WM
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Closing Prayer	Patrick Johnson, MSA (TED)
In Appreciation	MSA/WM
Closing Announcements	On the Screen

# DAILY PROGRAM

## Wednesday Morning, July 9 9:30 – 11:15 AM

Prayer and Song Service	WAD Praise Team
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Opening Prayer	Edith Ruiz, WM (IAD)
Welcome	Raquel Arrais, MSA/WM (NSD)
Introduction of Union Mission and Division Reports and Speaker	Virginia Baloyo, WM (SSD)
Union Mission Report	CHUM WM
Division Reports	NSD MSA/WM
Exercise Break	Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Special Music	SSD
<b>Sermon:</b> <b>“The Well”</b>	<b>Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)</b>
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Closing Prayer	Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)
Closing Announcements	On the Screen





## Wednesday Afternoon, July 9

### 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Prayer and Song Service

Opening Prayer

Welcome

Introduction of Division  
Reports and Speaker

Division Reports

Special Music  
“Wonderful, Merciful, Savior”

**Seminar:**  
**“Beauty From Ashes: How  
God Transforms Trauma Into  
Resilient Womanhood”**

Exercise Break

Division Reports

Division Reports

Theme Song

Closing Prayer

In Appreciation

Closing Announcements

NSD Praise Team

Cecilia Iglesias, MSA (IAD)

DeeAnn Bragaw, WM (NAD)

Desiree Bryant, MSA (NAD)

IAD MSA/WM

Olena Nosova, MSA (UUC)

**Elaine Oliver, FM (GC)**

Nancy Wilson, MSA  
Sponsor (GC)

SUD MSA/WM

ECD MSA/WM

“Jesus Is Coming Again”

Pastor Herbert Nziku, MSA  
(ECD)

MSA/WM

On the Screen

# DAILY PROGRAM

## Thursday Morning, July 10 9:30 – 11:15 AM

Prayer and Song Service	SSD Praise Team
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Opening Prayer	Olena Nosova, MSA (UUC)
Welcome	Nilde Itin, CHM (GC)
Introduction of Union and Division Reports and Speaker	Mimonte Odonkor, MSA (WAD)
Union Reports	UUC MSA/WM
Division Reports	SSD MSA/WM
Exercise Break	Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Special Music	
<b>Sermon:</b> <b>“Let’s Go!”</b>	<b>Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)</b>
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Closing Prayer	Nina Atcheson, SSPM (GC)
In Appreciation	MSA/WM
Closing Announcements	On the Screen



## Thursday Afternoon, July 10

### 2:00 – 4:15 PM

Prayer and Song Service	WAD Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Jeanete Pinto, MSA/WM (SAD)
Welcome	Slavi Stojanovic, MSA (IF) and Ross Ann Kirshner, WM (IF)
Special Music	
Introduction of Speaker	Margery Herinirina, WM (SID)
<b>Seminar: “Salt and Light”</b>	<b>Margret M. Mulambo, MSA (SID)</b>
Exercise Break	Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Remarks and Appreciation	Galina Stele, WM (GC)
Consecration Service	Galina Stele, WM (GC), Aurora Canals, MSA (GC), and Nancy Wilson, MSA Sponsor (GC)
Reading	Pierre Omeler, PRE (GC), Ramon Canals, MA (GC), Elaine Oliver, FM (GC), Katia Reinert, HM (GC)
Final Thoughts and Consecration Prayer	Ramon Canals, MA (GC)
Theme Song	“Jesus Is Coming Again”
Closing Prayer	Ramon Canals, MA (GC)
Closing Announcements	On the Screen

# PRESENTERS



## NINA ATCHESON

Nina Atcheson serves as the Curriculum Manager and Senior Editor for the new *Alive in Jesus* Sabbath School Curriculum at the General Conference. She is a curriculum specialist, teacher, speaker, editor, and author of the book *As Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God*. She lives to be faithful to God's call and mission and has a burden to inspire and equip others to know God deeply and personally through His living Word. Nina is married to Matt, a pastor, and together they have three wonderful teenage children.



## SIKHULULEKILE "SIKHU" DACO

Sikhululekile "Sikhu" Daco has served as an associate editor for Adventist Review Ministries (ARMies) since 2022. She previously served as senior editorial assistant at the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SSPM) Department. Daco has a bachelor's degree with a double major in French and biochemistry from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, United States, and a Master of Arts in Religion from Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Daco served in the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS) in Michigan, and at Andrews University's InMinistry Center. She also was assistant director of the Public Campus Ministry Department at the Michigan Conference. She is married with four children.



## KAREN HOLFORD

Karen Holford first worked as an occupational therapist specializing in brain injury rehabilitation. After marrying her husband, Pastor Bernie Holford, she gained a Master of Arts in Educational and Developmental Psychology from Andrews University. She also has a Master of Science in Systemic Psychotherapy (Family Therapy) and a Master of Arts in Leadership from Andrews University. Karen enjoys writing and she has written more than fifteen books, hundreds of articles, and Bible study materials. Karen's key accomplishment is creating the *Flourish!* materials for the GC Women's Ministries Department. Karen and Bernie have been married for 41 years and they have three adult children and five grandchildren who bring them deep joy.



### **ELAINE OLIVER**

Elaine Oliver is a licensed clinical professional counselor and a certified family life educator (CFLE). She holds a PhD in Educational Psychology, masters degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Counseling Psychology, and Higher and Adult Education, and a bachelor's in business administration and accounting. She is an adjunct professor of Marriage and Family at the Adventist University of Africa. She served as a university administrator and as a marriage and family consultant for several organizations. With her husband of 40 years, Willie, Elaine Oliver conducts marriage conferences, retreats, relationship seminars, and leadership training conferences internationally. They have founded marriage conferences and are the editors and authors of numerous books and other resources. The Olivers also produce and host a weekly program on the Hope Channel. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.



### **MARGRET MULAMBO**

Margaret M. Mulambo serves as the Associate Ministerial Secretary and Pastor Ministerial Spouses Coordinator for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Previously, she held the role of Shepherdess Sponsor for the then Central Zambia Conference. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Accounting and a Diploma in Education. Margaret is deeply passionate about mentoring pastoral spouses, encouraging them to be women of integrity and prayer as they support their husbands in ministry. She is married to Passmore Mulambo, and together they are blessed with five children. In her free time, she enjoys reading and gardening.

# MINISTERIAL SPOUSES ASSOCIATION



## MISSION STATEMENT

Shepherdess International exists to provide support and resources to the spouses and families of Seventh-day Adventist ministers, by creating a culture of personal and spiritual growth, providing an environment for positive relationships, and offering tools for training and education.



## Ministerial Spouses Association Sponsor: **NANCY WILSON**

Nancy Vollmer Wilson is a Christian who believes in the power of prayer, and she welcomes the opportunity to meet the members of our worldwide church. She states that she is blessed to be the wife of one husband, Ted, the mother of three wonderful daughters, and the grandmother of eight beautiful and entertaining grandchildren. Even during the most rigorous itineraries, the Lord has allowed her to be in attendance at the birth of each of her grandchildren! When available, Nancy encourages and supports the spouses of our pastors and hosts dinners for families that have transitioned to the General Conference since 2010. She enjoys spending time with family; and she now has a worldwide family. She also spends time hiking trails of all heights and lengths; gardening to have fresh flowers on her dinner table; reading to keep her mind inspired; making homemade crackers, dips, seasoned nuts, which are just a few of the delights she shares; and interacting with the people God places in her path. These activities are what gives her joy.



## General Conference Vice President: **PIERRE OMELER**

Dr. Pierre E. Omeler currently serves as General Vice President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, assisting the General Conference President with the worldwide administrative work of the Church. He has been happily married for 40 years to his college sweetheart, Myra Norman, and together they share a loving family, including three adult children and four grandchildren. With more than 39 years of dedicated pastoral and administrative leadership, he has passionately advanced the mission of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. Born into an Adventist family during a lay training convention in Haiti, Dr. Omeler was drawn to ministry at an early age. At just 11 years old, he delivered his first sermon. And he began working as an international literature evangelist at 19 years old. Dr. Omeler has served in leadership as a pastor, department director at the conference level, and as Vice-President and Secretary for the Atlantic Union Conference before becoming President. He has authored three books and numerous articles. A consensus builder and advocate for cross-cultural evangelism, Dr. Omeler has devoted his life to uniting diverse communities in faith and the hope of the soon return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



**General Conference Associate Ministerial Secretary:  
AURORA CANALS**

Aurora Canals serves as the General Conference Associate Ministerial Secretary for Pastoral Families. She is editor of *Stronger Together*. Previously, she was an Associate Treasurer for the Chesapeake Conference. Over the years, Aurora has served the church as a pastor's wife and Evangelist Assistant for the Oregon Conference. Aurora holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Washington State University. She is an accomplished professional with a comprehensive accounting and payroll management background. Aurora loves spending time with Jesus in nature. She is married to Ramon J. Canals, the Ministerial Secretary of the General Conference. They have two adult children, Jessica and Gabriel, and three grandchildren.



**Ministerial Spouses Association Editorial Assistant:  
SHELLY LOWE**

Shelly Lowe has worked with ministerial spouses for 27 years and enjoys supporting them in ministry. She also likes spending time at the ocean, listening to music, and playing the piano. It brings her joy to show God's love by doing things for others so that they know someone loves and cares for them.

# MINISTERIAL SPOUSES ASSOCIATION



## **East-Central Africa Division (ECD): Herbert Nziku**

Herbert Nziku is the Ministerial Spouse Leader for the East-Central Africa Division. He has held various responsibilities in the Church including pastor and conference and union president. He is married and has four children.



## **Euro-Asia Division (ESD): Svetlana Velgosha**

Svetlana Velgosha, the Ministerial Spouses Coordinator for the Euro-Asia Division, first worked for ESD as a lawyer and accountant. She has worked with ministerial spouses at the union and at ESD since 2022. She also is the Prayer Ministries Coordinator. She and her husband have two daughters. Svetlana enjoys reading books, growing flowers, socializing with people, Bible studies, and participating in church activities.



## **Inter-American Division (IAD): Cecilia Iglesias**

Cecilia Iglesias is the SIEMA Director for the Inter-American Division. She is Colombian by adoption, which is where she has done most of her ministry. Cecilia has been married to Pastor Pedro Iglesias for 41 years and is the mother of two children: Jessie Alejandra and Pedro Andrés; and she has three grandchildren. Cecilia holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences and a master's in Family Therapy. She has worked for 40 years in the Adventist Church as a teacher at different levels and director of Women's Ministries, Children's Ministries, Family Life, and SIEMA.



## **Inter-European Division (EUD): Varta Panayotova**

Vartuhi Panayotova was born in Bulgaria and served the Bulgarian Union as a Ministerial Spouses director. Since 2021, she has been responsible for the ministerial spouses and PKs (pastor's kids) in the Inter-European Division. She is married to Ventsislav and they have two grown children, Christian and Vanessa.



## **North American Division (NAD): Desiree Bryant**

Desiree Bryant is the Associate Ministerial Director and Ministerial Spouses Association Leader for the North American Division. She is a second-generation teacher and has served the church in many roles as teacher; Women's Ministries and Family Life leader; Project Director at summer camp; and, most recently, Projects Coordinator



for NAD's Office of Education. Desiree enjoys spending time with family, traveling, music, community outreach, reading, interior decorating, and remodeling homes. She has been married to Dr. G. Alexander Bryant, President of the North American Division for 41 years. They have three adult sons (one deceased), one daughter-in-law, and three beautiful granddaughters. One of her favorite scriptures is found in Proverbs 3:5, 6: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (KJV).



#### **Northern Asia-Pacific (NSD): Raquel Arrais**

Raquel Arrais is the Women's Ministries Director as well as the Children's and Family Ministries Director for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. She formerly was the Women's Ministries Associate Director at the General Conference for about 17 years. She has two sons, Tiago and Andre, who are both pastors, and daughters-in-law, Paula and Nathalia and four grandchildren. Raquel grew up in a pastoral family and is a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist. Raquel is a teacher at heart and is currently writing her thesis in Islamic Studies for the Middle East University in Lebanon. She loves reading, walking, playing the piano, and collecting pictures of women's faces. She enjoys spending time with women, ministering to them, and learning from them. She desires to see more women accept God's call and become involved in the mission of the church. Her favorite word is *courage*, and her favorite Bible text is Joshua 1:9.



#### **South American Division (SAD): Jeanete Pinto**

Jeanete Lima de Souza Pinto was born in Juazeiro, Bahia, Brazil. She holds a degree in Pedagogy and a postgraduate degree in Family and Educational Counseling. She has worked as a teacher at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and served as a guidance counselor and pedagogical coordinator at various Adventist schools. She also contributed to the Church as a department secretary for the South American Division. She served as the Children and Adolescent Ministries Director, as well as the Director for Women's Ministries and as International Shepherdess Coordinator in several Brazilian fields. At the Bolivia Union Mission, Jeanete led the Health and Education Departments. Since July 2021, she has been leading the

# MINISTERIAL SPOUSES ASSOCIATION

Women's Ministries and International Shepherdess Departments of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brasilia, Brazil. Jeanete is married to Pastor Luís Mário de Souza Pinto, and together they have a son, Matheus de Souza Pinto.



## **South Pacific Division (SPD): Pamela Townend**

Pamela Townend is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Partners in Ministry team at the South Pacific Division. The division covers 17 countries or four unions (and plenty of water). SPD is very grateful for the Union/Conference and Mission Partners in Ministry leaders, that work locally to support their remote regions in their division.



## **Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID): Margaret Mulambo**

Margaret M. Mulambo serves as the Associate Ministerial Secretary and Pastor Ministerial Spouses Coordinator for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Previously, she held the role of Shepherdess Sponsor for the then Central Zambia Conference. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Accounting and a Diploma in Education. Margaret is deeply passionate about mentoring pastoral spouses, encouraging them to be women of integrity and prayer as they support their husbands in ministry. She is married to Passmore Mulambo, and together they are blessed with five children. In her free time, she enjoys reading and gardening.



## **Southern Asia Division (SUD): Krupa Victor**

Krupa Victor is the Shepherdess Coordinator and Women's Ministries Director for the Southern Asia Division. She and her husband, John, have three sons. Krupa is a registered nurse and has a Master of Arts in Sociology.



## **Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD): Danita Caderma**

Danita Caderma is the Ministerial Spouses Association Coordinator for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. She has had various responsibilities at union and mission levels in Shepherdess; Women's Ministries; and Children's Ministries, Family Ministries, and Stewardship and Education. She and her husband, Roger, have

two children and four grandchildren. Danita enjoys listening to contemporary classical and oldies music, following a health regimen, reading, journaling, lawn tennis, sewing, cross-stitching, and gardening among many other hobbies.



### **Trans-European Division (TED): Patrick Johnson**

Patrick Johnson was born in Jamaica but grew up in the UK. He gained a qualification in general nursing before taking up theological studies at Newbold College, where he graduated with a Master of Arts in Religion in 1990. He graduated in January 2019 with a DThMin (Doctorate in Theology and Ministry) from King's College London focusing on disability and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Patrick has been a pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 30 years. He currently is serving as the Ministerial Secretary and Discipleship Coordinator at the Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists. In 2022, Patrick published his first book titled *Love Fights Back*. To date, it has been translated into Norwegian and Swedish. Patrick is married to Kari, and they have three adult children.



### **West-Central Africa Division (WAD): Mimonte Odonkor**

Mimonte Odonkor is Ghanaian and married to Nathan. They have two children. She enjoys walking, swimming, singing, and counseling. Her future aspiration is to have training in the prevention and relief of chemical dependency, dealing with grief, and how to lead a meaningful life after any type of loss. She wants to found a center where people can walk in, be comfortable talking about their challenges, and find relief. She also wants to train others to help people with these challenges.



### **Chinese Union Mission (CHUM): Hope Zhang**

Hope Zhang is the Women's Ministries Director for the Chinese Union Mission. She is married and has two children. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economic Law, a Master of Divinity from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, and a Doctor of Ministry from the same institute. She has served as a missionary, Youth pastor, Bible teacher, associate pastor, and higher education president.

# MINISTERIAL SPOUSES ASSOCIATION



## **Israel Field (IF): Slavi Stojanovic**

Slavi Stojanovic was born in Serbia. She studied theology in Croatia and, consequently, worked as a pastor for two years in Serbia, from 1976 to 1978, before moving to Collonges, France. She spent 21 years in France, 3 years in Vienna, Austria; 5 years in Chicago, United States; and 4 years in Montreal and 9 years in the Greater Toronto Area, in Canada, before coming to live in Jerusalem, Israel, in 2019. Throughout those years, she spent time studying and practicing Early Childhood Education. Currently, she is the manager of the Advent House in Jerusalem, Israel, accompanying her husband, Daniel Stojanovic. They have been married for 46 years, and they have two children, Sonja and David, both living in the USA.



## **Middle East and North Africa (MENA): Ruth Boyd**

Ruth Boyd enjoys tea, scones, long walks and long talks, journals and journals filled with Bible notes, and talks with Jesus. Pastors' wives and family are all dear to Ruth's heart. Serving in the Middle East and North Africa, Lebanon is "home" to Ruth and her husband, Darron.



## **Ukraine Union Conference (UUC): Olena Nosova**

Olena Nosova works in Ukraine, where her husband, Stanislav Nosov, is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ukraine. They have two adult children: daughter Victoria, son-in-law Andrey, and grandchildren Karolina and Felix; younger daughter Angelina and son-in-law Roman. Olena has served the church in pastoral ministry, as leader of the Ministerial Spouses Association at one conference, and she served as the coordinator for music ministry. Currently, she is serving as the coordinator of the Ministerial Spouses Association and as the coordinator for music ministry in Ukraine. She is a psychologist by profession. Olena is working on her PhD in Kyiv, at the Department of Social Psychology at the Mykhailo Drahomanov Ukrainian State University.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Women's Ministries exists to uphold, encourage, and challenge Adventist women in their pilgrimage as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His world church.

Our mission is in the larger sense common to all Christians—that of uplifting Christ in the church and in the world. But more specifically, we are called to:



## NURTURE

- elevate women as persons of inestimable worth because they have been created and redeemed
- enable women to deepen their faith and experience spiritual growth and renewal
- build networks among women in the world church to encourage bonds of friendship and mutual support and the creative exchange of ideas and information
- mentor young Adventist women, encouraging their involvement, and creating paths for them as they reach for their potential in Christ



## EMPOWER

- challenge each Adventist woman with her potential to complement the gifts given to other women and men as they work side by side to further the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- bring women's unique perspectives to the issues facing the world church



## OUTREACH

- seek expanding avenues of dynamic Christian service for women, that out of the fullness we as women have personally found in Jesus Christ, we may be empowered to share the good news within our families, among our fellow believers, and in ever expanding circles in the unsaved world

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



## **General Conference Vice President:**

### **AUDREY ANDERSSON**

Audrey Andersson grew up in a pastor's family. She graduated from Newbold College with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology. Following graduation, some of her achievements include working as Legal Editor for the prestigious English real estate journal, *Estates Gazette*; helping develop an award-winning daily online news service from the High Court; and establishing a communication consultancy company in Sweden. Andersson also helped develop the Gracelink Sabbath School Curriculum. She served as the Executive Secretary for the Swedish Union of Churches Conference, she is a commissioned pastor, and she transitioned to Executive Secretary of the Trans-European Division (TED) in 2010 and earned her master's degree in Pastoral Ministry. In 2016, Andersson received the General Conference Woman of Excellence Award, followed in 2020 by the British Union Conference Women in Leadership Award. Audrey Andersson was elected as a General Vice President for the Seventh-day Adventist World Church at the 2022 General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri. She is the second woman to serve as a general vice president and the first European woman to do so.



## **General Conference Women's Ministries Director:**

### **GALINA STELE**

Galina Stele is the General Conference Women's Ministries Director. Prior to that, she worked as Associate Director in this department and as Research and Evaluation Manager in the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Andrews University and served the Adventist Church in the Euro-Asia Division in different capacities: as a professor at Zaoksky Theological Seminary, Shepherdess Coordinator, and Director of the Institute of Missiology. She is the wife of Artur Stele; they have a married son and one grandson. Galina was born in Kamchatka, but mostly grew up in Kazakhstan, in the former USSR. She loves reading, writing, gardening, cooking, completing puzzles, and spending time with her family.



### **GCWM Editorial Assistant Emeritus:** **REBECCA TURNER**

Rebecca “Becki” Timon Turner transferred to the General Conference Women’s Ministries Department in 2012 as the administrative assistant to the late Heather-Dawn Small. Before working for Women’s Ministries, Rebecca served in the Presidential office there from 1990 to 2012 as assistant to two vice presidents concurrently. In August 2016, Rebecca moved into the position of WM editorial assistant. Educated in English, journalism, and elementary education, Rebecca created the first Women’s Ministries newsletter in 1991. Her favorite Bible text is “The Lord’s mercies . . . [and] compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22, 23, KJV). Rebecca is married to Charles and has a son and four grandchildren. Rebecca retired this year and graciously joins WM’s staff once more at the 2025 General Conference Session.



### **GCWM Editorial Assistant:** **CELESTE DIAZ-VAZQUEZ**

Celeste Diaz-Vazquez holds a degree in Communication from Andrews University. She has served as a missionary in South Korea and Thailand. For seven years, she worked on numerous magazines, books, and other publications as a copyeditor and proofreader at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Idaho. For several years, she also served as a Youth Sabbath School teacher there. Now she is the editorial assistant for the GC Women’s Ministries Department. In her free time, she enjoys walks in nature and playing her instruments for church.



### **GCWM Administrative Assistant:** **PREMILA PEDAPUDI**

Premila Pedapudi is an associate pastor and ordained church elder and church planter. She holds a master’s degree in business administration, a bachelor’s in business administration, and a bachelor’s in education. She loves to sing, read, teach, and preach. Passionate about Women’s Ministries, her desire is to encourage and empower women to live a God-inspired life. She firmly believes

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

God's Word in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you" (NIV). She is married with three children who are a great support in her ministry. The excitement about the arrival of her first grandson, born in July 2019, is still fresh!



## **East-Central Africa Division (ECD): Debbie Maloba**

Debbie Maloba is a visionary leader with more than two decades of impactful service in religious, academic, and humanitarian spheres. She holds a PhD in Strategic Business Leadership from the Adventist University of Africa and a master's in public health from ISSS Kamina University. Her work has been published in professional journals in her fields. Dr. Maloba has served as a director for Women's and Children's Ministries at multiple levels. She currently is a division director. In the past, Dr. Maloba also worked as a coordinator for ADRA. She enjoys exploring new places and quality time with family as well as preaching, reading, singing, and traveling. She spends her time coaching leaders and promoting personal growth. She trains people to disciple children and runs spiritual education initiatives. And she seeks to mentor and empower women. She is married and blessed with five children.



## **Euro-Asia Division (ESD): Aksenya Libaranskaya**

Aksenya Libaranskaya was born into a family of simple people in Moldova, a sunny country, full of vineyards. She is the ninth child in her family, with six sisters and three brothers. Her parents instilled in them a love for the Bible and singing from childhood. In addition to completing high school, she graduated from music school with studies in violin. She and her husband, Pavel, have two daughters, Larisa and Maria, two grandsons, and two granddaughters. As a pastoral family, they worked for the Adventist Church in the different cities of Moldova and Russia. She also was the director of Children's Ministries in the West-Russian Union; Ministerial Spouses Coordinator in the Caucasus Mission; served in the division archives; and, since 2022, is the Director of the Euro-Asia Division Women's Ministries Department. Aksenya loves her family, her grandchildren, and her devotional time with God. She also enjoys reading, cooking, baking cakes, traveling, nature, and city evenings.





### **Inter-American Division (IAD): Edith Ruiz-Espinoza**

Edith Ruiz-Espinoza was born in Sonora, Mexico. She has been married to Pastor Isaías Espinoza for 38 years, they have two daughters: Sarai, who has a PhD in Clinical Psychology and Rachel, who has a Bachelor of Science in Education; two grandchildren: Rubén, age 9, and Laila, age 2; and two sons-in-law: Ricardo, an industrial engineer and Manuel, a cardiologist. Edith holds a bachelor's degree in Educational Psychology. She is a nursing technician and has a diploma in Innovative Learning Strategies. She has worked for the church for 35 years as a teacher in different areas, directing Women's Ministries, Children's Ministries, Family Life, and SIEMA. Currently, she is the Director of Women's Ministries and Children's Ministries for the Inter-American Division.



### **Inter-European Division (EUD): Dagmar Dorn**

Dagmar Dorn was born in Germany and has lived in Switzerland for many years. She is a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree in midwifery. Passionate about her profession, she still works part-time at the hospital. Dagmar also gained experience as a midwife in Papua New Guinea and Ethiopia. Before becoming the Women's Ministries director, she was actively involved in the WM team of the German Swiss conferences. In her role, she is dedicated to recognizing and addressing the needs of women, helping them uncover their talents and gifts through leadership trainings and empowering them to use these skills for the betterment of church and community. She is grateful for God's guidance and protection in her life. Her favourite bible text is Jeremiah 29:11.



### **North American Division (NAD): DeeAnn Bragaw**

DeeAnn Bragaw serves as Director of Women's Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and holds a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry. In addition to being a passionate advocate of prayer, DeeAnn is dedicated to connecting women with Jesus, each other, and their communities. She thrives on creating meaningful opportunities and resources to strengthen those connections. Currently, she is partnering with devoted women across the Division to develop individual and small-group Bible studies—designed by women, for women. She

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

also is collaborating with influential women in leadership to provide fresh, impactful training and mentoring for both current and future women leaders. A Colorado native, DeeAnn loves to be outside hiking, biking, paddle boarding, snowshoeing, and camping with her husband, Paul, and their family.



## **Northern Asia-Pacific (NSD): Raquel Arrais**

Raquel Arrais is the Women's Ministries Director as well as the Children's and Family Ministries Director for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. She formerly was the Women's Ministries Associate Director at the General Conference for about 17 years. She has two sons, Tiago and Andre, who are both pastors, and daughters-in-law, Paula and Nathalia and four grandchildren. Raquel grew up in a pastoral family and is a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist. Raquel is a teacher at heart and is currently writing her thesis in Islamic Studies for the Middle East University in Lebanon. She loves reading, walking, playing the piano, and collecting pictures of women's faces. She enjoys spending time with women, ministering to them, and learning from them. She desires to see more women accept God's call and become involved in the mission of the church. Her favorite word is *courage*, and her favorite Bible text is Joshua 1:9.



## **South American Division (SAD): Jeanete Pinto**

Jeanete Lima de Souza Pinto was born in Juazeiro, Bahia, Brazil. She holds a degree in Pedagogy and a postgraduate degree in Family and Educational Counseling. She has worked as a teacher at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and served as a guidance counselor and pedagogical coordinator at various Adventist schools. She also contributed to the Church as a department secretary for the South American Division. She served as the Children and Adolescent Ministries Director, as well as the Director for Women's Ministries and as International Shepherdess Coordinator in several Brazilian fields. At the Bolivia Union Mission, Jeanete led the Health and Education Departments. Since July 2021, she has been leading the Women's Ministries and International Shepherdess Departments of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brasilia, Brazil. Jeanete is married to Pastor Luís Mário de Souza Pinto, and together they have a son, Matheus de Souza Pinto.



### **South Pacific Division (SPD): Eva Ing**

Eva is an FCPA with a background in finance. She worked in Chief Financial Officer roles in both banking and higher education. She has served, since 2013, as a Conference CFO, spanning roles in education, aged care, and church administration followed by a role in Technology, where she was the Division Director of Technology Operations and Strategy. For the last two years before her retirement on March 28, 2025, Eva was an Associate Officer for the South Pacific Division, where she supported three executive offices and, in addition, served as the liaison for the Women's Ministries Department since the spring of 2024. Passionate about the church, she served as a senior elder at her local church and a Stewardship director. She is married to Victor, with two sons and two granddaughters, she counts herself as blessed. Women's Ministries wishes Eva a happy retirement.



### **Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID): Margery Herinirina**

Margery is originally from Mauritius and currently resides in South Africa. She began her ministry as the Women's Ministries (WM) Director at the Mauritius Conference (1998–2001). She later served at the North Malagasy Conference (2007–2010) as Director of Education and Principal of Antsiranana High School before moving to the Indian Ocean Union, where she led as the WM and Children's Ministries (CHM) Director, as well as Shepherdess Coordinator (2010–2021). Since 2021, she has served as the WM and CHM Director at the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Margery is deeply committed to evangelism and finds great joy in sharing the message of God's transformative love. She is passionate about empowering women in all aspects of life. She also loves traveling, exploring new cultures, and connecting with people from diverse backgrounds. She is the proud mother of two adult children, Uriel and Yasmina, who also are engaged in church ministry.



### **Southern Asia Division (SUD): Krupa Victor**

Krupa Victor is the Shepherdess Coordinator and Women's Ministries Director for the Southern Asia Division. She and her husband, John, have three sons. Krupa is a registered nurse and has a Master of Arts in Sociology.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



## **Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD): Virginia Boloyo**

Virgie Baloyo began serving as SSD WM director during the pandemic. Encouraging Adventist women to let the Light of Jesus shine, her SSD team of WM directors launched the Go Light Our World (GLOW) evangelism plan in 2021. From 3,006 in 2021, the number of evangelism events led by women tripled, in 2024, to 10,192. Together with Adventist Mission Interfaith Ministries, they organized certification trainings on WM ministry to Muslims, to those practicing Eastern religions, and to postmodern thinkers. As a former magazine editor and assistant professor in the Central Philippines, she believes in the power of printed resources. In 2024, Virgie organized the SSD-wide Women's Leadership Convention held in Bangkok, Thailand, with more than 100 participants from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Virgie is retiring this year. Women's Ministries thanks her for her faithful service.



## **Trans-European Division (TED): Karen Holford**

Karen Holford first worked as an occupational therapist specializing in brain injury rehabilitation. After marrying her husband, Pastor Bernie Holford, she gained a Master of Arts in Educational and Developmental Psychology from Andrews University. She also has a Master of Science in Systemic Psychotherapy (Family Therapy) and a Master of Arts in Leadership from Andrews University. Karen enjoys writing and she has written more than fifteen books, hundreds of articles, and Bible study materials. Karen's key accomplishment is creating the *Flourish!* materials for the GC Women's Ministries Department. Karen and Bernie have been married for 41 years and they have three adult children and five grandchildren who bring them deep joy.



## **West-Central Africa Division (WAD): Omobonike Sessou**

Omobonike Adeola Sessou has held the position of Director of Children's and Women's Ministries at the West-Central Africa Division since 2010. She is married to Pastor Sessou Kwasi Selom and their union is blessed with four children. Dr. Sessou has a Master of Arts in Leadership and a PhD in Organizational Leadership. She has authored a book titled *Lord Make Me a Virtuous Woman* and she co-authors the women's devotional

books for WAD and is a contributing author for the GC Women's Ministries devotional book. Her passion is to inspire women to attain leadership using their God-given capacities to support the Church and their community. She loves preaching, teaching, counseling, and mentoring young people. She enjoys ministering to women and engaging in prayer ministry. Her favorite Bible passage is Isaiah 41:10 and her favorite words are "fear not."



### **Chinese Union Mission (CHUM): Hope Zhang**

Hope Zhang is the Women's Ministries Director for the Chinese Union Mission. She is married and has two children. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economic Law, a Master of Divinity from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, and a Doctor of Ministry from the same institute. She has served as a missionary, Youth pastor, Bible teacher, associate pastor, and higher education president.



### **Israel Field (IF): Ross Ann Kirshner**

Ross Ann Kirshner holds a bachelor's of Secondary Education degree. Before moving to Israel, she served as a Women's Ministries leader at her local church for three years, where she had the privilege of guiding and supporting women in their spiritual journeys. In 2015, she relocated to Israel and took on a new role as a Children's Ministries leader, a position she has held for three years, joyfully serving and nurturing young minds and hearts. Throughout her journey, she has faced numerous challenges and struggles, but through it all, she has come to realize that God is the source of everything. He has been her rock, her refuge, and the One who gives her faith to continue serving Him. Despite life's ups and downs, she remains steadfast in her commitment to Him, grateful for the opportunity to serve and glorify Him in all that she does.



### **Middle East and North Africa (MENA): Amal Botrous**

Amal Botrous was born in Egypt. She and her husband, served together at Nile Union Academy in Egypt for several years. In September 2008, they moved to Lebanon to work in the Middle East Union, where she focused on being a stay-at-home mom while also volunteering in several church ministries, including Women's Ministries (WM). Since October 2012, Amal has worked

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

at the Middle East and North Africa Union as Executive Assistant to the Union President, handling logistics, and as assistant to the Adventist-Muslim Relations director. From 2016 to 2023, Amal was elected as the Liaison for CHM, WM, Family Ministries (FM), and Sabbath School. In 2024, Amal was appointed as the Departmental Director for Women's Ministries, Children's Ministries, and Family Ministries. Amal Botrous is married to Ashraf Fawzy, and they are blessed with two young-adult children. Remon and Yasmeen. Amal holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Assiut University in Egypt and is in the final stages of completing her master's in Islamic Studies at the Middle East University.



## **Ukraine Union Conference (UUC): Irina Begas**

Irina Begas was born in a wonderful part of Ukraine—the warm, sunny seaside Crimea. At the age of sixteen, she made the most important choice with her heart—she gave it to the Lord. The church became the place where she felt she had a real family. After school, she entered a music college. In 1999, the Lord fulfilled her dreams: she completed her studies and married a pastor. In 2015, they were invited to serve at the Ukrainian Union in Kyiv, where Irina was elected to lead Women's Ministries. To better understand the needs and depths of the human soul, Irina earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2025. Seminars, conversations, prayers, support—all of this has become a part of her heart. And the source of her joy, light, and gratitude will always be her family—time with her children and grandchildren, their shared moments of laughter, warmth, and God's love.



**VISIT OUR BOOTH  
#1201-27**

The Ministerial Spouses Association booth is located within the GC Ministerial Association at booth 1201-27. We look forward to seeing you!



**VISIT OUR BOOTH  
#1201-13**

The General Conference Women's Ministries booth is located at 1201-13. The booth is filled with information about what women in ministry are doing around the world. Come and visit and learn about new resources for women.

# A WORD OF THANKS

We would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to those who have made a significant impact on this program. Everyone has given their time and energy, as well as words of encouragement and prayers, which have helped us continue even when the challenges felt overwhelming. To all of you, we say: Thank you. We will always remember you in our prayers and wish for God to bless you abundantly.

First, we extend our appreciation to the administrative staff of the Ministerial Spouses Association and Women's Ministries at the General Conference: Shelly Lowe, Celeste Diaz-Vazquez, Premila Pedapudi, and Rebecca Turner.

We also thank the Women's Meetings Sub-Committee: Galina Stele, Aurora Canals, Shelly Lowe, Celeste Diaz-Vazquez, Premila Pedapudi, Rebecca Turner, Silvia Sicalo, George Egwakhe, Nancy Wilson, and Sonete Magalhães Costa.

Our gratitude goes out to our presenters, musicians, and program participants.

We are thankful to every volunteer who has assisted us in various ways.

Special thanks to Erika Miike for designing our virtual backdrop, backdrop banner, and this program booklet. Additional thanks is due to Scott Grady and his A/V team led by Debbie Thompson.

Above all, we thank our Heavenly Father for His guidance, wisdom, and strength throughout these months of preparation. We are grateful for the privilege of serving Him and each one of you.

## SPECIAL HONOREES

We would like to honor the following individuals for being vessels that God has used to support women and ministerial spouses around the world: Ardis Stenbakken, Sharon Cress, Janet Page, and Ella Simmons.



## **MINISTERIAL SPOUSES ASSOCIATION**

Aurora Canals, Associate Ministerial Secretary  
Pastoral Spouses, Families and Prayer Ministries

12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 USA  
Phone: 301.680.6517  
[ministerialassociation.org/spouses](http://ministerialassociation.org/spouses)



## **GENERAL CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

Galina Steele, Director

12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 USA  
Phone: 301.680.6636  
[women.adventist.org](http://women.adventist.org)