Women have always played an important part in the work of the church, even in biblical times. In the history of the Adventist church, women have served in almost all capacities, filling a wide variety of roles. It is important that we take note of their accomplishments, to encourage us to persevere and to inspire future generations to take up the tasks their forebears faithfully carried.

Each of these women is important in her own right. She is also a representative of the thousands who have labored and worked in each of the fifty-year periods of Adventist church history as indicated in this brochure. Still today, distinguished women are often unknown and unnoticed.

There are thousands of other women who could, and should, be mentioned, but we trust that the example of these women may be a blessing as you too use your gift for God.

**Agness Bakuluma Chirwa**
Evangelist, teacher, mentor, entrepreneur, counselor, first volunteer Women’s Ministries director in Zambia. Known as “Mother General” because of her leadership qualities.

**Carole Ferch-Johnson**
Bible worker, evangelist, counselor, writer, and Women’s Ministries pioneer in the South Pacific Division.

**Consolacion Tauro**
Women’s Ministries pioneer in Philippines. Leader, church elder, preacher, educator. Worked 47 years for the church.

**Hepzibah Kore**
Teacher, evangelist, leader, founder of adult literacy program in India, “Never Too Late to Learn,” helping more than 50,000 women.

**Birthe Kendel**
Missionary, teacher, physiotherapist, counselor for victims of sexual abuse, first Women’s Ministries director in Trans-European Division.

**Flora Nwamaka Abaribe**
Leader, mentor, educator, trainer; responsible for helping destitute widows in Nigeria to have hope and a future.

**Rosa Maria Taylor Banks**
B.S., M. ED., Ed. D., L.H.D. Administrator, professor, speaker, writer, and authority on diversity. First woman to serve as: VP at Oakwood College; General Field Secretary of the General Conference; Division Field Secretary and Officer of North American Division.

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*When a great and decisive work is to be done, God chooses men and women to do this work, and it will feel the loss of the talents if both are not combined.*

- Ellen G. White, Evangelism p. 469

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**ADVENTIST WOMEN OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

1844 - 1894 | 1895 - 1945 | 1946 - 1996 | 1997 - PRESENT

**WOMEN’S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT**
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA
Ph: 1-301-680-6636
WWW.ADVENTISTWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG

**GENERAL CONFERENCE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S MINISTRIES**
1844 - 1894

Martha D. Byington Amadon 1834 - 1937
First Dorcas Society president; taught in one of the first church schools.

Maud Sisley Boyd 1851 - 1937
Bible instructor, colporteur, educator. First single missionary to Europe. Served also in Africa and Australia.

Nellie H. Rankin Druillard 1844 - 1937
Financier, treasurer. Helped found Riverside Sanitarium, Madison College, and Emmanuel Missionary College. Missionary to South Africa.

Maria L. Huntley 1847 - 1890
President, Tract and Missionary Society which later became Church Ministries and Publishing departments. Addressed the 1888 General Conference Session.

Katherine (Kate) Lindsey 1842 - 1923
Physician founder of first nurses training school at Battle Creek Sanitarium Missionary in South Africa.

Annie Rebekah Smith 1828 - 1855
Early hymn writer and editor. While the James Whites traveled, she published the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald.

Gertrude Brown 1866 - 1948
Physician. Worked with J. Harvey Kellogg. Pioneered medical work in British Isles; established sanitarium, Crieff, Scotland.

Ellen G. White 1827 - 1915
Early leader and prophetess of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Author of 126 books and complications.

1895 - 1945

Ai Araki 1890 - 1982
Bible worker and church leader in Japan. Although blind, she led and preserved her church throughout World War II, the only congregation to remain in tact.

Georgia Burrus Burgess 1866 - 1948
Educator and frontier missionary in India for 40 years, ministering especially to women.

Lora E. Clement 1890 - 1958
Associate editor and editor of Youth's Instructor for 41 years.

Lottie Blake 1876 - 1976

Eva Dykes 1893 - 1986
Musician and educator. First Seventh-day Adventist woman to receive a Ph.D. in the United States.

Sarepta Myrenda Irish Henry 1839 - 1900
Temperance activist, personal evangelist and writer. Established first Women’s Ministry. The General Conference voted her a ministerial license.

Anna L. Ingels Hindson 1862 - 1933
Editor, union youth department secretary, secretary treasurer, and missionary in Australia.

1946 - 1996

Anna Stahl 1870 - 1968
Nurse and educator. Missionary in South America, instrumental in starting Indian church schools. Worked there with her husband for 29 years.

Marinda (Minnie) Day Sype 1869 - 1956
Pastor, evangelist, licensed minister for 54 years. Conference departmental director.

Ana Rosa Alvarado 1904 - 2002
Cuban pastor, evangelist, educator and musician for 45 years.

Nancy Bassham 1891 - 1979
Thai educator and first Family Life and Ministry and Good News Network. Under her evangelistic programs, more than 1200 children have received care at the Harris Home.

Jessie Halliwell 1855 - 1937
Missionary nurse who, with her husband, supplied the only medical care to thousands along the Amazon River for 38 years.

Betty Holbrook 1902 - PRESENT
Chairperson of first Women’s Ministries Advisory. Director of General Conference Home and Family Service.

Jerusha Muga 1906 - PRESENT
Evangelist, writer, union director for Women’s/Children’s Ministries, Sabbath School. Ministers to dignitaries in Kenya.

Chesie Harris 1906 - 1996
Nurse and humanitarian. More than 1200 children have received care at the Harris Home.

Marina (Minnie) Day Sype 1869 - 1956
Pastor, evangelist, licensed minister for 54 years. Conference departmental director.

Elsa Luukkanan 1900 - PRESENT
Finland evangelist and pastor.

1997 - PRESENT

Leona Running 1946 - PRESENT
Professor of ancient languages at the SDA Theological Seminary for more than 40 years.

Jerusha Muga 1946 - PRESENT
Evangelist, writer, union director for Women’s/Children’s Ministries, Sabbath School. Ministers to dignitaries in Kenya.

Olga Murga 1946 - PRESENT
Evangelist, preacher, church planting. Women’s Ministries pioneer in Russia. Under her evangelistic programs, 3038 people were baptized.

Ingrid Naumann 1946 - PRESENT
Evangelist, mentor, motivator. Pioneer in establishing Women’s Ministries in Europe, especially in German-speaking countries.

Esther Diaz Sablon 1946 - PRESENT
Cuban educator; first woman president of Cuba Adventist Theological Seminary.

Elizabeth Sterndale 1946 - PRESENT
Registered nurse, division field secretary, first Women’s Ministries director in North American Division. President of the Association of SDA Nurses. Served in many areas, especially to women.

Hong Xiao Mei 1946 - PRESENT
Pastor and evangelist. Raised up large church congregation with training facility for Adventist leaders in China.

Miriam de Azevedo Berg 1946 - PRESENT
Educator and frontier missionary in Mozambique under persecution; teacher, mentor. Children’s Ministries pioneer in South American Division. She dedicated her life to empowering women to serve.