

I Will Go Reach My World



NURTURE



EMPOWER



OUTREACH

"We have different gifts according to the grace given us..." —ROMANS 12:6, NIV

A MINISTRY FOR EVERY WOMAN



2023.06. March 15, 2023

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

WOMEN PIONEERS MADE AN IMPACT IN SOUTH AMERICA: MARY THURSTON-WESTPHAL



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH #5 2023

*For the information about women in leadership in the South-American Division we are indebted to information in the book *Women in Leadership In the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South America* by Silvia C. Scholtus*

Mary Thurston was part of the generation of Adventist youth that decided to spread the beliefs of the Adventist church serving as missionaries away from their home countries, in this case, the United States. This in itself shows she was a woman willing to suffer hardships, privations, and to work intensively in spreading the gospel because of her love for God and her neighbors.

Mary Vesta Thurston was born October 23, 1860, in Plainfield, Wisconsin. She accepted the Adventist faith as a young girl and gave her heart to God for the great task life had in store for her. Her first work was as a teacher in public schools. Later on, she attended Battle Creek College. After graduating, she held different positions of responsibility.

Mary started her first experience working as a secretary for the Tract Society of the Conference where her father was the president. During those years Mary learned everything related to the distribution of materials and correspondence. This was a good preparation for the work she would be doing in South America.

Mary married Frank Westphal on May 11, 1887. Frank was a minister and Mary worked at his side in different places in the United States. Between 1888 and 1893 two of her children were born: Carl Edgar and Helen.

In 1894, Mary and her husband were invited as missionaries to South America to start their work in Argentina, where they arrived at La Plata, in July, 1894. They were received by a colporteur who was in charge of the distribution of Adventist books in that zone, who had arrived the year before. Mary accompanied her husband with effort and dedication in the tasks that had to be performed to accomplish the mission.

On arriving in Buenos Aires, Mary settled down with other missionary families, while her husband Frank went out on his first exploratory trip throughout the territory of the mission. During her husband's absence, Mary faced the sickness and death of her small daughter Helen, which took place two weeks before Frank returned from his trip to Brazil in 1895.^[1] Little Helen got measles, and then scarlet fever. A

missionary from another denomination, with his wife, accompanied Mary to the cemetery in Chacarita, where Helen was put to rest in the place designated for foreigners.^[ii]

In 1896, Mary devoted her time to writing from Buenos Aires to inform the world field about the activities developing in South America. Particularly, she recounted the occasion when her husband organized a Week of Prayer, to which the missionaries from the South American Mission gathered in Buenos Aires. All the missionaries came together and brought news about how God had blessed their work. Several people were baptized. The missionaries returned encouraged to their work. Almost all of them were self-supporting missionaries who sold books because there was not enough money for them to receive a regular salary.^[iii]

Frank Westphal commented about the work of his wife in those years:

“How much I owed to my faithful wife in those difficult days! While I acted as a field worker and superintendent of the work on the East Coast, she, in addition to her home duties and the care of the children, served as secretary of the Sabbath School department and of the Tract society and Treasurer of the whole field. My work caused me to be away from home frequently, sometimes for months together, and she remained alone in Buenos Aires, carrying single-handed all the home cares and burdens as well as her secretarial work, yet not once did she call me home from my work. Several times she also went with me on my trips.”^[iv]

In Crespo, there was a center of the work that had sprung up among the Russo-German settlers of Entre Ríos. Later the Westphal family settled there for a time. At first, they lived in a one-roomed adobe hut, with mother earth for a floor. Afterward, Brother Lust kindly built them a two-roomed house, the larger room serving for meetings. Meetings were also held in homes and Mary taught the children who had never been to a school.

In 1899 Mary gave birth to her son Earl in Argentina. During most of the time she lived in South America, she held the position of Sabbath School secretary of the Union. From 1901 to 1904 the family returned to the US and Ruth Evangeline was born in 1903. Then they were invited to continue their work in Chile, where their youngest daughter, Grace Hazel, was born in 1905.^[v]

Mary was appointed in charge of the Sabbath School department and of attending to the correspondence with isolated members in this new field.^[vi] In 1907 she appears with the elected officials for the Chile Mission. Her task was to continue as Sabbath School secretary, today's equivalent to someone in charge of a department of a Union or Conference of the SDA church.^[vii] With this responsibility, she periodically wrote articles in which she presented the reports from her field, showed the importance of the Sabbath School, promoted their functioning, the way to give offerings in Sabbath School, and why they were needed.^[viii]

In 1909, during the annual meetings of the Chile Conference, she was asked again to continue in charge of the Sabbath School department of that mission.^[ix] At that time she was preparing materials with practical examples on how to teach children the Sabbath School lessons. This she presented at the first Sabbath School convention in September 1909 at the school in Pua, in the South of Chile.^[x] Because of the good job she did, she was asked to continue leading the department during the following years.^[xi]

In 1913 Mary traveled with her husband to the General Conference Session in the US. With the outbreak of the war in 1914 the world was disrupted and Mary was appointed in charge of the Home Missionary department when it started its activities. One of her responsibilities was to receive letters with news about the progress of the Chile field and to publish reports.^[xii] In 1915 and 1916 she was again appointed in charge of the Sabbath School and Home Missionary departments and she received a missionary license.^[xiii]

Her interest in promoting education added to her responsibilities, and she worked closely with the founding of a church and church school in Pitruffquén. Mary worked as assistant to the school's principal. She had to take care of the students, be in charge of the accounting management of the institution, and do other tasks for the smooth running of the school. In 1918 Mary continued as church school principal.

The many tasks that Mary performed entailed heavy responsibilities in the church and caused her health problems.^[xiv] Because of her health, they returned to the US in 1921. She passed away on October 27, 1931 in Glendale, California.

Mary was a dedicated wife and mother, a capable administrator, an educator with initiative. She related with special warmth to those around her and won their affections for the mission. She developed different skills to help in the challenges of spreading the Adventist beliefs in various places. The gifts God gave her as an educator and administrator gave fruit in the growth of the Adventist church on South American soil. Among her contributions, stand out her ideas to improve the Sabbath School, her faithfulness in church administration, and her initiative during the beginning of the educational work in Argentina and Chile

Condensed from Chapter 4 of the book Women in Leadership In the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South America by Silvia C. Scholtus

[i] Helen Westphal, second daughter of Frank and Mary Westphal, was born in New London, Wisconsin, United States, on December 7, 1893 and died June 15, 1895, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Civil Registry of the Capital, Ninth Section, Argentine Republic. Number 953. Death occurred at 0:30 am June 15, 1895, at the home in Australia Street (without number). The witness was John Mc Carthy, of English nationality and 28 years of age.

[ii] Westphal, *Pioneering in the Neglected Continent*, 39-40.

[iii] *Ibid.* 42

[iv] *Ibid.*, 41-43.

[v] Carl Edgar Westphal is buried in Libertador San Martín, in the local cemetery, row 18, grave 17; Helen and Earl are in the British Cemetery of Chacarita, Buenos Aires City, Argentina, Lane 37, 2 C grave 12 A. Earl died the day he was born, 14/06/1899. Ruth and Grace graduated as nurses from Glendale Sanitarium. Some of the information was kindly supplied by professor Eugenio Di Dionisio and is part of the biography he wrote of Frank Westphal. This biography is available at EGW Research Center, Universidad Adventista del Plata, Argentina. See, also, "Obituaries", *Pacific Union Recorder* 31, No. 17 (November 26, 1931): 6-7; J. W. Rich, "Westphal", *Review and Herald* 108, No. 51 (December 17, 1931):22

[vi] E. W. Thomann, "Acuerdos y recomendaciones [Agreements and Recommendations]", *La Revista Adventista* 5, No. 2 (February 1905, supplement): 3

[vii] F. H. Westphal, "Chile", *La Revista Adventista* 7, No. 7 (July 1907): 4.

[viii] María T. Westphal, "Las escuelas sabáticas [Sabbath Schools]", *La Revista Adventista* 7, No. 8 (August 1907): 2-4; María T. Westphal, "¿Cuánto podemos hacer? [How much can we do?]", *La Revista Adventista* 7, No. 8 (August 1907): 4.

[ix] Carlos E. Krieghoff, "Chile: la conferencia anual chilena [Chile: the Annual Chilean Conference]", *La Revista Adventista* 9, No. 4 (April 1909): 13.

[x] E. W. Thomann, "Convención de escuelas sabáticas [Sabbath School Convention]", *La Revista Adventista* 9, No. 11 (November 1909): 12.

[xi] Carlos E. Krieghoff, "Reunion annual de la Conferencia Chilena, 15 de marzo al 4 de abril, 1910: En Gorbea, sur de Chile", *La Revista Adventista* 10, No. 6 (June 1910)

[xii] F.H. Westphal, "La obra en Chile", *La Revista Adventista* 15, No. 1 (January 1915)

[xiii] Victor E. Thomann, "La novena reunion reneral de la Conferencia Chilena", *La Revista Adventista* 16, No. 5 (May 1916)

[xiv] F.H. Westphal, "Sustentation Fund Application," (Service record, Los Angeles, August 27, 1930).

Women's Breakfast in Albstadt, Germany



GOD'S PLAN FOR WOMEN

More than 30 women gathered in the SDA church in Albstadt in the Baden-Württemberg Conference of the South German Union for their traditional women's breakfast meeting on March 12, 2023. Lovingly prepared delicious food and beautiful decorations welcomed women of all ages to enjoy companionship and nourishment for body and soul. The topic presented by Hannele Ottschowski was especially appropriate to be addressed only a few days after International Women's Day and during Women's History Month. The speaker explained God's original plan of equity for men and women and how mankind has distorted it, leading to the patriarchal subjugation of women for hundreds and thousands of years. Jesus came to redeem humanity and restore the woman to the place God intended for her at the side of man. Unfortunately, all religions, including Christianity, have participated in the abuse of women by providing so-called scriptural grounds for their subjugation. After the presentation, the women engaged in a lively discussion on the topic. Meanwhile, some men took care of washing the dishes and cleaning up the kitchen, a great support for the women who organize these meetings.

Research discovers many women in leadership positions in the Inter-American Division - Part 2



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH #4 2023

Photo: Hanna Lutz, first woman to head a Mission Nicaragua in 1937

For the information about women in leadership in the Inter-American Division we are indebted to Daniel A. Mora who has done a lot of research in church archives, discovering the great impact women had in the early days of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Inter-America.

Women at the Head of Their Missions

In the 1900s, the General Conference placed three women to serve as the only officers in charge of their missions in Central America, until a president was appointed. They, possibly unknowingly or without realizing the situation, maintained the stability and operability of their local fields in critical moments.

Hanna John Lutz (1908-1999)

Hanna was born on June 12, 1908 in Hamburg, Germany.[i] Her parents, Eugen Gustav John and Eugenia von der Twer, came from respected families in Germany whose ancestors served as state officials, including in the kingdom of Prussia. Hanna's life and that of her family began to change when they converted to Adventism. Her father left his position as technical director in a glass factory (probably because of his Sabbath observance). While some of Hanna's uncles held high positions in the German government, her father began working as an accounting apprentice at the Adventist publishing house in Hamburg, then became director of the publishing house in Hamburg, Basel and Vienna, Austria.

Hanna studied secretarial studies at the Adventist Seminary in Marienhöhe and accounting at the German commercial school Handelsschule from 1925 to 1927. At the end of her studies, she worked at the Adventist publishing house in Hamburg until 1929, when she traveled to work as an au pair in the home of a German family in Guatemala. On October 29, 1930, Hanna sent a letter to her mother on Adventist Church letterhead. She was hired to work in the Mission office handling church finances and in the Bible and Home department. At that time, she met colporteur and elder Alfred Emil Lutz, and the two were married on July 29, 1931. Alfred and Hanna dedicated themselves to serve with sacrifice for the progress of the Adventist work in Central America, especially Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, they had 7 children.

Hanna was elected secretary-treasurer at the Guatemala Mission from 1932 to 1934.[ii] From 1935 to 1936, Hanna held the same position at the Nicaragua Mission. She remained the sole officer in charge of administration there until 1938, when A. H. Roth transferred from the Panama Conference to become the mission president.[iii] Hanna and her family moved from Nicaragua to settle permanently in Honduras, and she died in the capital city, Tegucigalpa, in 1999.

Emma Rodríguez was appointed as secretary-treasurer of the Nicaragua Mission from 1938 until 1940 and then became its acting president when C. P. Crager transferred to the Colombian- Venezuelan Union.[iv] Emma served as the mission's top administrator from 1941 to 1942, until Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Jones arrived from the Santo Domingo Mission.[v]

Marie Fanselau (1899-1991)

Marie Joswig Fanselau traveled from Germany to Honduras as a young Adventist missionary in April 1928. E. Kotz published a report on missionaries sent to foreign fields in 1928, entitled, "How Shall They Hear Without a Preacher?" quoting Paul's famous statement in Romans 10:14.[vi] Kotz began by stating, "Mission means sharing with others the best that we have: Christ." An extensive list of these Adventist missionaries was then detailed, including "Miss Maria [sic] Joswig, from Germany, to Honduras, Central America." There Hanna met the young German colporteur, Gustav Adolf Fanselau, who arrived in 1927 (possibly they knew each other from Germany).[vii] On May 2, 1928, Marie and Adolf Fanselau were married in Balboa, Panama.[viii] Their first child was born in 1929 in Tela, Honduras, and in 1932 their twins were born in Managua, Nicaragua. Adolf became a successful colporteur and in 1928 the Honduras Mission extended to him a missionary license;[ix] where he was appointed to head two departments: Home Mission and Field Mission.[x] They both dedicated themselves to work in Central America and contributed to the formation of the magazine El Centinela, in addition to raising their three children. In 1931, Marie (listed in the Yearbook as Mrs. A. Fanselau) was appointed as secretary and treasurer in the Nicaragua Mission, until 1934.[xi] Having demonstrated her ability to lead and strengthen Adventist work, she held the same position in the Guatemala Mission from 1935 to 1939, even after Adolf died suddenly in 1938.[xii] In 1940, she is listed in the Yearbook as Marie Fanselau, executive secretary and treasurer of the Guatemala Mission. While World War II was raging in Europe, progress of the Adventist work in Guatemala was recognized in the report of "Mrs. Marie Fanselau." [xiii] During 1944, she became the mission's interim president after Werner A. Wild was called away to serve as editor for El Centinela, in Panama.[xiv] In 1945, Pastor C. E. Westphal affirmed Marie's extensive work: "Mrs. Fanselau, our Mission secretary-treasurer and [departmental] secretary for Publications and Home, devotes much of her time to attending to the needs of our twelve colporteurs." [xv] In 1946, the General Conference voted to send Marie to the United States with her children. She received credentials as a missionary until her death in 1999.

Conclusion

Women were a determining factor in the organization of the first missions and associations in the Inter-American Division. They maintained the stability and governance of the churches, together with the men. In addition, they safeguarded the financial

funds and reported the challenges and progress in their local fields. While they did not exercise the offices of an ordained pastor, these women served as duly elected and recognized top officers of the Adventist organization.

Daniel A. Mora, *2022 Summer edition of Adventist Today Magazine*

[i] All biographical information was prepared by Rudi Maier, PhD, son-in-law of Hanna Lutz, and sent to the author via e-mail. Rudi Maier to Daniel A. Mora, "LIFE SKETCH Hanna John LUTZ".

[ii] Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists – 1932, p. 179; Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists – 1935, p. 139.

[iii] Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists – 1937, p. 143; C. P. Crager, "Changes and Recruits," *InterAmerican Division Messenger*, vol. 15, no. 6 (March 15, 1938), p. 5.

[iv] Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists – 1940, pp. 151, 153.

[v] Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists – 1942, p. 115.

[vi] E. Kotz, "How Shall They Hear Without a Preacher?" *RH* 106, no. 4 (January 24, 1928), 3.

[vii] See C. B. Meyers, "To the Mission Fields in 1927," *RH* 105, no. 3 (January 19, 1928), 5.

[viii] "Marie Fanselau", Ancestry.com. Federal Naturalization Records, California, USA, 1843–1999 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014; "Sister Maria Joswig (Mrs. A. Fanselau), to Honduras," in "New Recruits," *IAM* 6, no. 4 (March, 1929): 7.

[ix] See Adolf Fanselau, "The Printed Page in Nicaragua," *IAM* 9, no. 10 (October, 1932): 7; W. E. Baxter, "The Sons of Strangers," *IAM* 7, no. 3 (March 1930):3; F. W. Steeves, "Colporteur News from Guatemala," *IAM* 14, no. 1 (January, 1937): 9.

[x] General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, *Yearbook of the Seventh-day Adventists, 1928* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Publishing, 1928), 244.

[xi] Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists – 1934, p. 136.

[xii] Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists – 1939, p. 149.

[xiii] Wesley Amundsen, "Advance in Guatemala," *Review and Herald*, vol. 120, no. 42 (Oct. 21, 1943), p. 12.

[xiv] Three Hundred Fourth Meeting of General Conference Committee (July 22, 1943), p. 1020.

[xv] C. E. Westphal, "Notes of Progress from Field Reports," *Inter-American Division Messenger*, vol. 22, no. 1 (January 1945), p. 8

Children of the Heart



A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD'S FIRST BABY HATCH

Gabriele Stangl is a warm-hearted and energetic woman who has helped countless women and families in great need. As a chaplain at the Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin-Zehlendorf, she has accompanied pregnant women who had no support or care, and who were desperate and completely on their own. And whom she had previously had to turn away. Deeply shocking are reports of abandoned or killed babies. On the other hand, only a few people know what hardships

the mother and the unborn child experience beforehand. Against this background, Gabriele Stangl and a dedicated team of supporters launched the world's first baby hatch in a clinic in 2000. At last, mothers were able to place their children in safe hands when they knew no way out. Read about the fates of the children that Gabriele Stangl was able to place and accompany in good care, despite much resistance from the authorities and politics. How were the children able to find out about their origin, about their birth mother? And how did this influence their lives with their later family and their heart mothers?

Emotionally gripping, this book outlines energetic support for the weakest and neediest in our society.

Herzenskinder. The book will be available from 13.03.2023, published by adeo.

There will be an interview about the book on German TV: 3nach9 on March 24 and also available in the ARD Mediathek.

Ghana Church Women's Week of Prayer in Hamburg, Germany



TRANSFORMED BY PRAYER

From February 26 to March 4, 2023, the Women's Ministries group and the Young Ladies of Hamburg Ghana SDA Church came together for a Women's Week of Prayer. The theme for the week was "Transformed by Prayer" and we heard several speakers. Sister Naomi Presh started on Sunday with a sermon about the power of prayer. As women, we need to spend a lot of time

praying, because God is always listening to our prayers.

On Wednesday we had a testimony, prayer, singing, and thanksgiving session, led by Sister Diana Frimpong. It was a wonderful evening praising and worshiping God. Sister Christiana Addai gave us on Friday a message with the title: "Transformed by Prayer in Difficult Times". She let us know that we face hard times so that we can realize that God is our only source and all that we need. It was a very powerful sermon as well.

On Sabbath, the 04. March - our last Day of the Women's Week of Prayer we had an awesome day at church. The women did everything from teaching the Sabbath School in the morning up to preaching the sermon at Divine Service. Sister Petra Link gave us the final sermon called "Prayer Transforms/ Changes us".

It was a very emotional sermon and at the end of the sermon we all came together and prayed that God should renew and change us.

The Women's week of prayer was very great and we are already looking forward to next year's week of prayer.

As reported by Janet Boachie – WM leader, Hamburg Ghana SDA Church

Women's Sabbath in Hamburg Barmbek, Germany



GOD'S PEACE AND OUR FREEDOM

After three years, the women were finally able to celebrate a women's Sabbath in the Hamburg Barmbek congregation on March 4, 2023. The theme "God's Peace and our Freedom" was the common thread leading throughout the day.

After worship, Nancy Duske and Cornelia Warning presented the diversity of women's work in the church. In her sermon, Cornelia said that peace in the biblical sense means more than the absence of war. Peace means having a good relationship with others, with oneself, and with God.

A delicious lunch buffet had been prepared for the whole congregation. In the afternoon, Cornelia led the women's group in looking for peaceful moments in their lives, which led to sharing experiences and good conversations. The afternoon ended with refreshments.

According to a report by Bärbel Heger, Women's Ministries leader of the Barmbek Church

Put a Full Stop to Period Poverty



Woman to Woman Project

Did you know that many girls and women struggle every month during their periods? All those who menstruate, wherever they live, experience challenges when managing their period. These might include a lack of products, toilets or disposal facilities, enduring pain, being bullied or being restricted from activities and locations. In high-income countries, these challenges are often referred to as "period poverty" and in low-middle-income countries as "poor menstrual hygiene management". But the result is the same: a large proportion of the global population is disadvantaged by having a period.

Period poverty is the lack of access to sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education, toilets, handwashing facilities, or waste management.

Around the world, women who menstruate may be ostracised from basic activities, like eating certain foods or socializing. The cultural shame attached to menstruation, and a shortage of resources, can stop women from going to school and working every day. The World Bank estimates that 500 million women[1] and girls globally lack access to adequate facilities for menstrual hygiene management.

[1] Source: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/03/international-womens-day-period-poverty-financial-burden-how-retailers-can-help/>

For more information go to:

https://adra.eu/get-involved/put-a-full-stop-to-period-poverty/?fbclid=IwAR0AlmYV6FdkwKF_GQWYt49vk7j4Dpx2aPIJRLs5IPJRFUcYVcZaF1-G7s

Research Discovers Many Women in Leadership Positions in the Inter-American Division – Part 1



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH #3 2023

For the information about women in leadership in the Inter-American Division we are indebted to Daniel A. Mora who has done a lot of research in church archives, discovering the great impact women had in the early days of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Inter-America.

From 1906 to the 1940s, women played a leading and decisive role in development of the Adventist organization in unknown and impressive dimensions. Women held the positions of treasurer and executive secretary at the mission and conference levels, on a par with men.

Lura Edna Collins Moore (1878-1938).

Shortly after completing the nursing course at Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan, Lura Collins married Isaiah Moore, and together the newlyweds agreed to become missionaries to open the work in Havana, Cuba.[i] On May 9, 1904, the Moores arrived in the municipality of Marianao.[ii] In 1905 they organized the first Adventist church in Havana, and in 1906 the denomination established the Cuba Mission. Pastor Elwin Snyder became its president, while Lura C Moore was appointed as executive secretary and treasurer. [iii] In July 1909, the Moores returned to Iowa, where they engaged in medical missionary

work. Lura's other contributions included working to expand the Adventist message through *The Life Boat* magazine, for which she worked as a stenographer, and helping to establish Antillian College, the first Adventist college in Cuba.

Ethel Threadgold Nowlen (1873- 1908).

We know from a letter by Elder Francisco Westphal that Ethel arrived in Buenos Aires around 1893. He wrote: "A young English girl, Ethel Threadgold, was with us. She had learned the truth taught to her by Mr. and Mrs. Craig on her departure from England." [iv] In 1896, Ethel married colporteur Clair A. Nowlen, who in 1891 was the first missionary to arrive in South America.[v] On April 5, 1907, the West Indian Union requested "the transfer of C. A. Nowlan [sic], to Central America, to engage in the work of colporteur." [vi] The action was approved on May 19, and the Nowlens joined in the work with Elmer L. Cardey when they arrived on May 21 in Belize, where the Adventist work was established and the Central American Mission was functioning.[vii] From March 5 to 15, 1908, administrative meetings were held in Ruatan, now part of Honduras. William A. Spicer, the GC secretary, attended these meetings, where the mission was reorganized into a Central American Association.[viii] Ethel Nowlen was elected by the delegates as executive secretary and treasurer, while Pastor Cardey was elected president.[ix] In April, Marjorie Ruth, the 8-year-old daughter of the Nowlens, died of a fever in Belize.[x] Ethel had to bury her daughter alone, since her husband was with Cardey, opening the Adventist work in Guatemala, and the two men did not know anything about the tragedy.[xi] In July 1908, Ethel wrote a report in *The Review and Herald* to report on the challenges they were facing in Guatemala. She said, "The one comforting thought in it all is that the battle is not ours, but the Lord's, and that though there are great walls to be encountered, his Word can cause them to fall, as did the walls of Jericho." [xii] Months later, Ethel's health deteriorated due to an intestinal problem. On December 10, the General Conference took an emergency vote to move her from Guatemala to Graysville Sanitarium in Tennessee.[xiii] Despite the efforts of medical staff, Ethel died on Dec. 29, 1908. Faced with the tragic news, GC leadership paid a tribute to her leadership as the executive secretary of the Central American Conference. Elder Cardey, president of that conference, expressed the impact of the news for Adventists in Central America.[xiv] Arthur Daniells named her in his May 3, 1909, address to the GC Session delegates. And William A. Spicer praised her work, recalling Ethel's character in these words: "Regardless of the gifts that made her a valued secretary in the conference work, our sister had that bright, cheery temperament that is a blessing in itself to any field." [xv]

Mary Anna Fitch (1884-1972).

In 1915, the General Conference voted to send Pastor D. D. and Mary Fitch as missionaries to the Puerto Rico Mission.[xvi] In 1916, Mary Fitch was appointed as secretary-treasurer of the mission, and William Steele became its president.[xvii] She held that position until 1919, when the GC called the Fitches to evangelize in Venezuela, where they worked until 1924.[xviii] In various publications and reports on the progress of the cause in Puerto Rico, Mary Fitch's activities are noted as the "secretary-treasurer." [xix] She also helped Adventist missionaries in Venezuela through the friendship she developed with Indalecia Gómez, the sister of dictator and caudillo Juan Vicente Gómez, who was president of Venezuela at the time. The government of Venezuela granted Adventists permission to perform their baptisms at the Chorro del Avila in Caracas, the country's capital.[xx]

Ethel Maud Edmed (1890-1988).

Ethel Edmed came from an English family. She was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and she lived several years in England with her family. In 1919, Ethel moved to England to work near her parents.[xxi] She worked as a preceptor and cook at Stanborough Missionary College.

In 1925, Ethel was appointed executive secretary and treasurer of the Leeward Islands Mission, headquartered in Antigua.[xxii] During the Annual Council of the Inter-American Division in July 1925, held in the Canal Zone in Panama, Ethel attended as an officer of the mission and a member of the council.[xxiii] In some publications of the *Inter-American Division Messenger*, you can read the financial reports and the progress of the Adventist work in her field. In 1926, when the East Caribbean Union Conference was established, items on the agenda included the election of a secretary and treasurer. Ethel Edmed accepted the call, becoming the first woman in Adventist history to hold this position in a union conference. She held this post until September 1927, when she had to return to England to care for her father's ailing wife.[xxiv] In 1934, after her father's death, Ethel received a call to work at Helderberg College in South Africa.

Daniel A. Mora, 2022 Summer edition of Adventist Today Magazine

[i] "News and Notes," *The Life Boat*, vol. 7, no. 2 (February 1904), p. 61

[ii] Isaiah E. Moore – 8155," U.S., Consular Registration Certificates, 1907-1918

[iii] *Year Book of the Seventh-day Adventists* – 1906, p. 87.

[iv] 11 Francisco H. Westphal, *Pionero en Sudamérica*, translated by Silvia Scholtus de Roscher (1997), pp. 31-32, 34.

[v] Eugenio Di Dionisio, "Nowlen, Clair A. (1865- 1961)," *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* (2020).

[vi] "Spanish Central America," *One Hundred and Sixty-Third Meeting of General Conference Committee* (April 5, 1907), p. 270.

[vii] *ibid.*, p. 299.

[viii] "Business Notices," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 85, no. 10 (March 15, 1908), p. 24.

[ix] "Year-Book Revision," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 85, no. 22 (May 28, 1908), p. 22.

[x] Ethel Nowlen, "Obituaries/Nowlen," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 85, no. 21 (May 21, 1908), p. 23.

[xi] "One of the Little Ones," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 85, no. 18 (Apr. 30, 1908), p. 24.

[xii] Ethel Nowlen, "Guatemala," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 85, no. 28 (July 9, 1908), p. 19.

[xiii] *Three Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Session, 7th Meeting of General Conference Committee* (Dec. 10, 1908), p. 575.

[xiv] E. L. Cardey, "Guatemala, Central America," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 86, no. 6 (Feb. 11, 1909), p. 15; "Items of Interest/Southern Illinois," *Lake Union Herald*, vol. 1, no. 12 (Jan. 20, 1909), p. 8.

[xv] William A. Spicer, "A Fallen Worker," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 86, no. 2 (Jan. 14, 1909), p. 6.

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