

# 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



2023.08. April 4, 2023

## News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

### Women's Prayer Day in Villajoyosa, Spain



#### TRIBUTE TO OUR "VETERANS" ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

On Sabbath, March 11, the Women's Ministries service, "Transformed by Prayer", was held at the Villajoyosa Adventist Church. It was a very special service because in a way we celebrated Women's Day by honoring our women of "accumulated youth". They are women who worked, and still work, with fervor and enthusiasm for the church. Exemplary women, courageous in the Lord, who with their attitudes, words, and actions reflect the love of God, being a reference of

inspiration for the young women of our church.

#### **Worship Service and Tribute to our Veterans**

The service was presented by the director of Women's Ministries: Dominga Barbosa, with the theme "Transformed by prayer". There were presentations of praise and gratitude to God from our sisters. A highlight was one of our girls, who at only 6 years, recited some verses of Proverbs 31, which speaks of the "Exemplary Woman".

We then paid tribute to: Loli García and Maricarmen Alcalá (both foundering members of the Villajoyosa church); Miryam Morales; Adelina Persiva; our pastor, now retired, Beatriz Yannis; and María Santana. All of these Christian women have been, and are, an example for many of us, through their dedication and service in the church, in their families, and their friendships. Each of them was lovingly presented with a bouquet. The presentation was made by our church girls. In addition, our director presented them with the Women's Ministries pin and they were given a diploma in honor of their work and ministry inside and outside the church.

Through a short video of each of our veterans, we highlighted special moments of their time in the church. Our sisters were touched and grateful for the surprise and affectionate tribute.

#### **Fellowship Meal and Afternoon Workshop**

After the service, we had a fellowship meal with our brothers and sisters of the church. There we shared food, laughter, experiences, and gratitude to God for being part of His beautiful family.

In the afternoon, the church Marta Garcia developed a colloquium workshop where she deepened the theme of prayer. All the women of the church participated actively in the workshop.

It was a beautiful Sabbath, very blessed by our heavenly Father. We are grateful to be His instruments for His work. We want our spiritual influence to increase at home, in the church, and the world. May we be women with a deep understanding of God's sovereign grace, and may the fullness of God in us overflow in daily acts of love. In that way, people will be able to see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

*According to a news item in <https://revista.adventista.es/local/> by Dominga Barbosa, Women's Ministries director of the Villajoyosa Adventist Church*

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## International Women's Day Activities in Madrid-Alenza, Spain



### CREATIVE WAYS OF MINISTERING TO WOMEN

As part of the celebrations for International Women's Day on March 8, 2023, the women's ministries of the Adventist Church in Madrid-Alenza organized several activities. Among them, we highlight the gifts that were delivered to 21 women in the prison of Avila with a message of love and hope, and the program Breaking the rules on sexuality, developed in the church.

#### Materials for Women Prisoners in the Ávila Prison

In 2020, Lorena Hünicken, one of our church sisters, started visiting different women in the Avila prison. Last year, thanks to obtaining authorization to offer an Adventist religious service inside the prison, Brothers Miguel Ángel Santafé, and Pastor Gabriel Díaz joined forces to offer emotional and spiritual support to the women who have requested it. In support of this project, the women of the Madrid-Alenza church prepared 21 Steps to Christ coloring books, into which they wrote personalized dedications with messages of encouragement and strength. In addition, the gift included a card made by the children of the Explorers Club.

#### Breaking the rules, in the church of Alenza

The day also included a program for the whole church entitled Breaking the Rules, in which Dr. Inés García addressed the myths related to female sexuality from a Christian perspective. The program was attended by couples, mothers and daughters, and young people. The attendees expressed their appreciation that these topics were being discussed in the church.

#### Special program on Sabbath, March 11

Finally, on March 11, the Women's Ministries department led the entire Sabbath program for the Adventist Church's International Day of Prayer. Women of all ages, representing all generations of the church, led the divine worship and afternoon activity. The participation of the young women in the church stood out.

During the divine service, the statement of the General Conference Administrative Committee, published this year by the Spanish Adventist Review, was read, followed by a sermon on the importance of prayer in the Christian life.

In the afternoon, different creative and participative dynamics were carried out. The objective was to highlight the importance of prayer for good spiritual health, developing the different aspects of transforming prayer from a biblical point of view.

Music, reflection, and above all, moments of prayer were the keynote of a very emotional and spiritual afternoon.

*According to a news item in <https://revista.adventista.es/local/> by Wilma Mendoza and Elizabeth Sandoval, from the Madrid-Alenza Adventist Church.*

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## Women's Breakfast in Luebeck, Germany



### THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

On April 2, after a wonderful and beautifully decorated breakfast buffet, organized by the Women's Ministries team of the Luebeck Adventist church, the women's group concentrated on the topic of the day, "The healing power of music".

Music is a gift, given by God. Tabea Nestler, the music coordinator of the Hanse conference, took us on a little musical journey. The journey started with song number 596 from the current German church hymnal with the content: "As long as we have breath, God's call awakens us to translate into song what He created us to do: assigned to one another as colors of one chord, we are the voice of deep thanksgiving in the choir of life."

When we sing, the I becomes we, all in the same measure. Music gives us courage in our desert times. It connects us and carries us during difficult times. With a little experiment, we learned that even the unmusical person responds to wrong tones.

A last sentence from Tabea: "Praise pulls up, thanking protects from wavering". It is an old German saying.

We can join David in singing with the words of Psalm 103: 1-2: "Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

According to a report by Nancy Duske, Women's Ministries Director, Hanse Conference

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## Special Program for Women in Seville, Spain



### PRAYER WARRIORS

On Sabbath, March 11, 2023, the International Day of Prayer was celebrated at the Seville Adventist Church. It was a very special program, which lasted all day, with our guest and psychologist Millys Sanchez from Malaga.

In the morning, the central theme was entitled "In your cave, God", a message that referred to the mercy and deep love of Jesus towards us. For this, our special guest took as an example the story of Elijah: After witnessing great miracles as an answer to his prayers, the moment of adversity arrived. Elijah felt fear, and loneliness, he even doubted God's power, he feared for his life and fled, and it is there that the Lord acted as a gentle voice and Elijah regained his strength.

It is the same with humankind today. During times of trials and difficulties, we forget the wonders done by our Lord. At such times we must cling more tightly to his mighty hand.

As Christians, we are not exempt from going through moments of anxiety and depression, but we have within our reach a powerful weapon: prayer. We only have to be at the disposition of His Holy Spirit, who helps us to be victorious.

As women, disciples of Jesus, we are called to work and pray, pray with faith, perseverance, and trust, giving thanks to God in everything and for the benefit of our neighbor.

You are invited to be a Warrior of Prayer! We are sure that we are not alone, the Lord is waiting for us with open arms.

### Unloading the Mental Burden

In the afternoon we held a workshop entitled "Unloading the Mental Burden". In this program, we included both men and women, because today this scourge affects us all. We were able to understand this issue and work as a team, leave perfectionism behind, understand that we are different, and do things in the best way.

We live in a world in which we must know how to manage our emotions, so as not to reach the point of suffering under "mental burdens". Something very important is the daily communion with God through his word, prayer, and praise. Before carrying out our activities, meditating on Jesus refreshes the soul, we recover strength and energy. As "prayer warriors", let us persevere to the end, and be a blessing to those who need Jesus in their lives.

It was a day of fellowship, both at lunchtime and at the end of the program. We rewarded our ladies with floral bouquets and as a reminder, a beautiful bookmark. The program culminated with a delicious snack.

These programs and many more topics of interest are available on the Seville Adventist Church's YouTube channel.

We thank God for allowing us to enjoy and celebrate with our ladies, by fulfilling the objective of reaching their minds and hearts through His Word. May the Lord allow us to be a great blessing in this ministry.

*According to a news item in <https://revista.adventista.es/local/> by Andrea Rengifo, director of Women's Ministries of the Adventist church in Seville.*

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## Women's Ministries in Ourense, Spain



### A CHURCH OF WOMEN

On March 11, 2023, a program conducted by the Women's Ministries team was held at the church in Ourense. Invitations to this program had been distributed several months in advance with. To the glory of God, that day we had a total of 84 people in our church, including 20 visiting brothers who. Our friends were presented with a book entitled "Hope for the Family" and a small personal gift was also given to all. Those present enjoyed the song service, led by Sister Hellen Piñeiro. Sisters Esther Rivero (director of Personal Ministries) and Sila Rodríguez Díaz (treasurer) were in charge of the sound system. Sister Neuzalina María de Miranda Pedrosa, director of Women's Ministries, was in charge of the welcome and part of the programming. The special music and praise was presented by Sister Maria Gonzalez. The Sabbath School lesson review, presented on projection slides, was conducted by Sister Luz Marina Fernandez (assistant director of Women's Ministries). The children were attended to in their children's time, and Sister Mireya Frei Serrano (wife of Pastor Loris Bizarro) had the responsibility of conducting the sermon. Finally, we concluded with a fellowship lunch.

### A Church of Women

Most of the members of our church are women. We highlight the work of our beloved sister Eudoxia Rodriguez Fernandez, founder of the group, now organized as a church, who is a super-active warrior. Eudoxia is church secretary, responsible for Dorcas, deaconess and director of the ADRA department. She is a very dedicated woman who attends to the needs of our brothers and sisters. Currently, Sister Yusmerly Gonzales is the elder of our church.

We thank our Father for allowing us to rejoice in his presence during this holy convocation.

*According to a news item in <https://revista.adventista.es/local/> by Luz Marina Fernandez, from the Ourense Adventist Church.*

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## Women's Sabbath in Rostock, Germany



### PRACTICAL FAITH IN DAY-TO-DAY LIFE

It was a joy and a great blessing to gather in Rostock for another Women's Sabbath after a long time.

More than thirty women from the whole region of Mecklenburg-West-Pomerania as well as some women from Hamburg and surroundings came together on Sabbath, March 25 in the Adventist church in the city of Rostock. The weather treated us well because when we were ready to go for a walk after lunch, it did not rain. According to our tradition, we were able to have good conversations while walking.

With our speaker Dörthe Meisel, we reflected on some Bible verses with which she encouraged us to trust God more. We should not ask too little because with God we can and should think big.

"Think Big" - the story of the widow and the jars of oil (2 Kings 4), shows us how great our God is. If we count on Him, we will not be disappointed. He will provide for us. Only when there were no vessels left did the oil stop flowing. We are to trust Him because with God what is left is so much that we will be provided for until the end of our lives.

We may think that our request is audacious and unimportant but, according to Dörthe, "that which I consider unimportant has a purpose with God." Romans 5:2NIRV "Through faith in Jesus we have received God's grace. In that grace we stand. We are full of joy because we expect to share in God's glory."

The day ended with time for sharing and delicious cakes. I thank the team around Thekla Boldt for a wonderful day. We all went home blessed and happy.

*According to a report by Nancy Duske, WM Director, Hanse Conference*

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## An Afternoon with the Women of the Bible



### WOMEN OF GOD, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

On March 11, 2023, the Ribelles Comín Seventh-day Adventist Church in Castellón celebrated a special Women's Ministry program. Through the program An Evening with the Women of the Bible, we were able to learn more about their lives. It was a stage production showing how the

experiences of these women can help and guide us through their dedication to their service of God's people, the Gospel, and Jesus. A special thanks to Ángela De la Rosa who wrote the script Women of God, yesterday and today.

Our desire was, and is, to present to the world the life and work of these Bible heroines so that we can all learn from their examples, their experiences, and their good deeds, and reflect in our lives the service, dedication, faith, and dedication with which we can serve our brothers and sisters and the Lord.

Far from the connotations that the world currently gives to the feminist struggle we desired to present impressions from the lives of those disciples, servants, teachers, and mothers who made a difference in biblical times and to learn from them. We wanted to present the importance of those women on a special day dedicated to women.

If we ask, "Do you know any woman in the Bible?" Certainly, everyone will answer with a Yes to Mary, the mother of Jesus! And that is correct and she is perhaps the best-known among the women of the Bible. But if we ask about Esther, Ruth, maybe Dorcas, or the midwives of ancient Egypt? Do we know their stories? Their faith, courage, dedication, and love for Christ? Or why and for what purpose their story appears in the Bible?

*Learning from the Lives of the Women of the Bible*

With the program An Afternoon with the Women of the Bible, which was organized on the afternoon of Sabbath, March 11, we intended to get to know better some of those women and to present their lives as a source of inspiration for us. We wanted to present and understand their love for the Lord. We wanted to point our attention to consider if we are like Martha, sometimes lost in the tasks and chores of life and at times losing sight of what is really important.

We are pleased to share with all of you, in these brief lines, our experience. We are also grateful to our Lord, for giving us the desire to learn and follow Him. God bless you.

*According to a news item in <https://revista.adventista.es/local/> by Marcela Agurto, Women's Ministries director of the Adventist Church in Castellón-Ribelles Comín.*

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## The Power of Prayer



### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN PALMA DE MALLORCA, SPAIN

On the weekend of March 10-12, 2023, we were able to enjoy the company of Mercedes Martinez, national director of Women's Ministries in Spain as our guest in the church of Palma, Mallorca.

Mercedes presented the program on Friday night and Sabbath morning as well as in the afternoon. In accordance with the International Women's Day of Prayer, the topics chosen were centered on the importance of prayer as an element of our relationship with God. In addition, she wanted to show us how the power of prayer can transform our lives and, through us, the lives of those around us. In the afternoon, we enjoyed a practical workshop that made us realize how many things we can still do.

The titles of the themes were as follows: When a No becomes a YES. Transformation through prayer and a practical seminar on Transforming Prayer. It is always a blessing to be able to listen to someone who depends every day on her relationship with God; someone who manages to make us see that prayer is not a "shopping list", nor an obligation, nor a meaningless ritual. On the contrary, prayer has power. It has power if we put ourselves in God's hands. And for that reason, we must be prepared to receive what we ask for. We cannot ask for the sake of asking, because the Lord promised "ask, and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7: 7). If it seems as if we are not receiving anything, we can by faith trust in God's love and justice and wisdom. On Sunday morning we had the opportunity to meet the sisters of the church with Mercedes, to discuss various topics. We listened, talked, shared, and experienced very emotional and touching moments that made us reflect on our reality, what we take for granted, and how our relationship with each other, with the rest of the church, and with our Father should be. With God's help, Mercedes' words this weekend touched hearts that needed them and will help us grow in love, respect, and, especially, in God. Thank you so much, Mercedes!

According to a news item in <https://revista.adventista.es/local/> by Esther Fernández Ramos, from the Adventist Church in Palma de Mallorca.

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## International Day of Prayer



### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CHURCH SERVICE IN LAS ROSAS-MADRID

The program prepared by Women's Ministries for Sabbath, March 11, 2023, was dedicated to the International Day of Prayer. We had the honor of welcoming 15 visitors who had been given an invitation card beforehand, and all received a small gift.

We began by praising the Lord and the morning meditation entitled "It is difficult to find time for prayer" with Sister Linda Valenzuela. Then we read Bible verses depicting examples of the most relevant women in the Bible. This was done by sisters Lucia Ponce and Patricia Salguero.

After that, we projected on the screen the song "Princesses of Jehovah", since it is an ideal hymn for the occasion. Once finished, the whole church was divided into small groups with a prayer leader to pray. We proceeded to Sabbath School.

After moments of fellowship, praise, and prayer requests, came the children's corner where a group of girls read messages from the Bible and formed the word WOMAN.

Little Hanny Morales, 9 years old, also had a special moment when she sang the praise song "You are my all in all". Sister Diony Macias prayed for all the women of the world, girls, mothers, and leaders so that they might continue to have the strength and wisdom of the Lord.

#### Transformed by prayer

The title of the sermon was "Transformed by prayer" and was led by Sister Aurea Valencia, the Women's Ministries director of our church. She spoke of the power of prayer, both personal and intercessory, and the great need we have to daily enter into a relationship with God before the throne of grace. It was also explained that prayer is a beautiful gift of communication between God and humankind.

From the feedback we had, we believe that it was a theme that touched the hearts of all the people attending. With God's help, we will be able to put it into practice in our lives.

May God bless this ministry worldwide, since it was created to serve our neighbor.

According to a news item in <https://revista.adventista.es/local/> by Rosalía Castro, from IASD Las Rosas - Madrid.

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## Balm for Women's Souls



### 10 YEARS OF PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN THE OLTENIA CONFERENCE

In Râmnicu Vâlcea, spring began with Balm for Women's Souls! On Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 17.00, the local Anton Pann Theatre hosted the 10th edition of the program. With much joy in their hearts and a festive atmosphere, more than 200 people participated in this event. The special guests on this occasion were Dr. Ana Maria Zanfir, a head physician in vascular surgery. She gave a presentation entitled "Health is Beauty". Felix Musat, pastor and psychotherapist with postgraduate studies in communication gave a presentation entitled "Love is a verb!" "Aroma and Flavor" presented by Cristina Soare brought news in the field of nutrition with a presentation entitled "Culinary trends in the food of the future". The quality music gave joy and praise to God through the renowned soprano Camelia Clavac, accompanied at the piano by

Prof. Dorina Arsenescu and the UniSong Vocal Group.

"We are aware that the longevity of the program is due to God!" confessed Violeta Aldescu, host of this wonderful event. In the end, the women received roses and a keychain, woven out of cotton by Adelina Uță, a lover of beauty, who also decorated the stage. In the hallway of the theatre, the local Sola Scriptura bookshop had a book stand where people could buy books. The tastings and recipes on offer delighted the participants and amazed them with the great taste of the vegetarian dishes. We congratulate the wonderful team for a decade of activity that brings joy to people's souls, and wish you Happy Happy Birthday, Balm for Women's Souls!

As reported by Violeta Aldescu, program coordinator

If you would like to watch this program, please click on the link below.

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=193460253305989](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=193460253305989)

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## First Single Women's Weekend in Austria



### MORE THAN A STANDBY

Under the title "More than a standby", the first women's singles weekend of the Austrian Union took place in Mondsee in the Salzkammergut in mid-March 2023. The participants and speakers came from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland and were between 21 and 72 years old.

We had the Youth Hostel in Mondsee practically to ourselves and enjoyed not only good food and the proximity to the lake, with walks in the great weather. Above all, we will remember the good fellowship. Although some of us knew only one or two people when we arrived, the ice broke quickly, e.g. when laughing about caricatures on the bulletin board, during a skit about being single, playing various games, singing together, praying, doing handicrafts or studying the Bible in groups.

In addition to profound spiritual and practical impulses, there was also enough time for personal conversations. After two speakers had given a moving personal testimony on Sabbath afternoon, some of the participants also contributed with their personal stories, and a mood of great solidarity and special, encouraging openness arose, which one rarely experiences. In the end, we were amazed at how much God had given us in these few hours and how such a diverse group could experience something like this together.

As reported by Luise Schneeweiß

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## Hidden Figures



### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*As news editor of the eudwomen.org website, I have been posting articles about Adventist women during Women's History Month. I hope that it has been an interesting journey of discovery to the beginnings of the Seventh-Day Adventist church in various parts of the world.*

Once more, together with a group of women, I watched "Hidden Figures," a movie that always impresses me. The three highly qualified, extremely talented black women faced so much discrimination despite the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughn managed to make a difference, patiently waiting for their chance to show the world that women, black women at that, must be taken seriously. It was a learning process for the scientists at NASA. These women mathematicians before the time of computers helped to make the US space program a success and get the first man on the moon. For about 50 years they were hidden in the annals. It is the true story of great talent and perseverance in the face of prejudice and discrimination.

Katherine Johnson's calculations were essential to the beginning of the Space Shuttle program, and she worked on plans for a mission to Mars. She was known as a "human computer" for her tremendous mathematical capability and ability to work with space trajectories with such little technology and recognition at the time. In 2015, President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2016, she was presented with the Silver Snoopy Award by NASA astronaut Leland D. Melvin and a NASA Group Achievement Award. In 2019, Johnson was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the United States Congress. In 2021, she was inducted posthumously into the National Women's Hall of Fame. In 2019, Mary Jackson, the first black woman engineer at NASA, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. In 2021, the Washington, D.C. headquarters of NASA was renamed the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters. In 2019, Dorothy Vaughan, who mastered the workings of the first IBM beast and became the first Computer Superintendent, was also honored with the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously.

The movie *Hidden Figures* is based on the nonfiction book *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race* written by Margot Lee Shetterly, written in 2016 after 6 years of research.

During Women's History Month, I have been impressed by the many women in the early days of the Seventh-Day Adventist church that I have found who made an impact as pioneer missionaries, Bible workers, evangelists, teachers, nurses, doctors, and even mission and conference administrators. They, too, have long been hidden figures in the Adventist archives and only diligent research by private individuals has discovered their valuable work. Attitudes changed at NASA and it is time for the SDA church to acknowledge and honor its pioneer women.

Indeed, distinguished leaders like Dr. Ella Simmons, the first woman Vice-President of the General Conference receive a plaque honoring their lifelong service to the church when they retire. The Women's Ministries Department bestows Woman of the Year Awards and the Association of Adventist Women (AAW) honors women from around the world as Women of the Year. However, the church as such has yet to recognize the ground-breaking work of its women pioneers except for Ellen G. White.

Looking back to the early times of the SDA church, despite the difficulties women faced in society, they were accepted in the church as valuable workers. They may have been paid less, but the church was glad to let women follow their calling in whatever field they felt called by God. Then, the men decided to take over and the church has not yet recovered from the coup. For too many years, women were pushed to the sidelines, and the examples of their good work were hidden. Just as the women of New Testament times and the early church were made practically nonexistent by the Catholic church, the SDA church has tried to give the impression that the work was done only by men.

Some of my male peers in Europe do not understand my passion for promoting justice and equity for women. They do not see the disparagement. They say, "In our churches, women can do whatever they want. No one stops them from using their talents." Yes. In my local church, if women did not take the initiative, not much would happen. We are allowed to do whatever needs to be done. Most of us don't even hear disparaging remarks. So why am I still honking the horn to point out discrimination?

Discrimination can be so subtle that we don't even notice it. If we do not look out, we might lose all the progress we have made with human rights. Some much-admired TV preachers call out human rights as the devil's work. Conservative SDAs are fighting to stop women from working as pastors. Maybe not where we can see it, but it is happening. Efforts abound to put women back on the sidelines. That is why I am sounding the warning siren.

Let us get the stories of our women out into the public eye, where they can no longer be overlooked. The church needs both men and women. Why should the women who held and hold up half the sky be overlooked?

Hannele Ottschowski

Photo: 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment

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## Sarah Lindsey, Pioneer Adventist Woman Minister



### Women's History Month 2023 #9

*The photo of Sarah Lindsey (1832-1914), the first woman licensed as a Seventh-day Adventist minister, was recently discovered. This is a colorized and retouched version of the image found.*

#### So who was this pioneer Adventist woman?

Sarah was born on April 14, 1832, to Noah (1812-1894) and Hannah Hallock (1813-1895). Her paternal grandfather had fought in the War of 1812, and her parents had moved to Ulysses, Pennsylvania, where she was born. She came from a staunch Seventh Day Baptist family where she attended Alfred University (1851-52).[3]

In later years she traced the beginnings of Adventism to their area to a tour by J. N. Andrews and Hiram Edson around 1851.[4] By the summer of 1857 R. F. Cottrell would conduct evangelistic meetings in Ulysses where he baptized four people, possibly including Sarah, for their "deep conviction of the truth." By Dec. 11, 1857, Sarah sent her first note to the editor of the *Review and Herald* about her newfound faith: "I feel grateful ... that the light of his glorious gospel now illumines this once benighted heart of mine." [5]

By late 1859 she responded to a challenge to women "lacking in that heart consecration" and therefore reticent to preach. In early 1860 Sarah responded by asking the editor to resolve the biblical admonition whether it was right for women to keep silent in churches yet in other places the Bible encourages them to teach the Gospel.[6] Even before marriage, it seems clear that Sarah was eager to serve in terms of ministry.

On July 16, 1861, Sarah married John Lindsey (1821-1881), a widower, who had been a Millerite believer and in 1846 was baptized by Joseph Bates. He had previously married Esther (1818-1860) who tragically died from tuberculosis. They had an eleven-year-old child, Mary Ellen (1849-1880).[7] Together John and Esther had lived in Waukon, Iowa (1856), and then subsequently moved to Round Grove, Illinois, and by 1859 they had traveled into Wisconsin and Minnesota. After his wife's death, John moved to join the Sabbatarian Adventist congregation in Ulysses, Pennsylvania, where he supported himself as a watchmaker. He no doubt also met Sarah while here, who was about a decade his junior and must have been vivacious. While not much is documented about their early lives together, she was active in their local church with increasing influence in the region. They also had a daughter of their own, Katherine, born in 1862.

In 1867 Sarah contracted both diphtheria and typhoid and was "almost ready to drop into the grave." By 1868 there is some indication that she had begun a more active public ministry where she would spend the next 30 years establishing churches across New York and Pennsylvania. The stunning apostasy of Nathan Fuller in the summer of 1869 contributed to the need for individuals, such as John and Sarah, to work closely together in ministry and provide stability to the Advent cause. Also, Sarah, with her strong Seventh Day Baptist background went as a representative with her husband as Seventh-day Adventist representatives to the 1870 Seventh Day Baptist General Conference session showing the confidence the denomination had in their leadership and diplomacy.

The years 1871 and 1872 were especially noteworthy with a wide range of evangelistic meetings. The two frequently traveled together as a team, although Sarah appears to have been the more visible preacher of the two. As early as September 1869 she received a ministerial license from the New York and Pennsylvania Conference at a business session held during camp meeting (that was held Sept. 15-19, 1869).[8] She is recognized as the first woman to receive a ministerial license in Adventist history, although it is important to note that during this formative time such licenses were not always consistently issued.

On Oct. 5, 1871, during a series of evangelistic meetings at Beaver Dams, New York, she competed for the attention of locals against the Barnum and Bailey Circus that showed up at the county fair, some 10 miles away, in Corning. She was reported to have drawn larger crowds![9] In another instance, John and Sarah held evangelistic meetings at Woodhull, New York, where "several" carefully investigated Adventist beliefs. Despite several challenges, they believed that the Holy Spirit was "at work here." It is notable, that in their travels, that at times Sarah gave funeral discourses, a role that one might expect for her husband.[10]

Through the 1870s John and Sarah remained active in ministry. After 1872 the couple made Beaver Dams, New York, their primary base from which they ventured out on small preaching tours. From June 17-18, 1876, they held district meetings in Wellsville, New York. They alternatively received both colporteur and ministerial licenses at various conference sessions. By 1880 Sarah reported from the Wellsville church as part of the Pennsylvania Sabbath School Association.[11] Tragically, on Oct. 11, 1881, John died from "cancer of the liver." In his obituary, he was praised "as one of the pioneers of our cause" stretching back to the Millerite movement. Despite his death, Sarah remained active in ministry. One newspaper reports that in 1883 she shared a "Temperance lecture from charts" in North Bingham, New York, which was reported to be "very interesting and instructive." Also, after her husband's death, Sarah made Wellsville her primary residence and remained there the rest of her life.

On Dec. 29, 1914, Sarah passed to her rest and is buried in the Hallock Family Plot in an unmarked grave in Ulysses, Pennsylvania. This intrepid pioneer couple worked as a team, and both before and after her husband's death, showed a strong interest in evangelism. Sarah was a persuasive and successful advocate in sharing her Adventist faith with others, leading new believers to Christ, raising up churches, and even competing with the circus and conducting temperance lectures as the first licensed female minister in Seventh-day Adventist history.

The photograph of Sarah Lindsey was publicly shared for the first time by George R. Knight on June 19, 2022, during the opening meeting of the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. In a series of biographical sketches under the theme "We Stand on Their Shoulders," Knight shared how during a time of apostasy, ignominiously by Nathan Fuller, Sarah became the "foremost preacher" in New York and western Pennsylvania "that rescued that conference." "Her husband was a talented preacher," added Knight, "but she was more talented, and he had enough brains to know it. It takes a real man to let your wife outshine you in public."

"I am excited to see this photo of Sarah Lindsey finally emerge," stated Brian E. Strayer, "from the dusty pages of the Butler album! May her thrilling career as our first licensed female minister inspire other women to follow her example."

According to a report by Michael W. Campbell, published on June 22, 2022 on <https://www.nadadventist.org/news>

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[1]<https://cdm.illu.edu/digital/collection/sdahpa/id/325/rec/19> [accessed 6/5/22].

[2]According to Denis Fortin, who has done extensive research on the Butler family in preparation for a forthcoming biography about G. I. Butler, no relative exists by that name eliminating another possibility. E-mail from Denis Fortin to the author.

[3]These biographical details are accessible at: <http://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tools/tree/181911285/invitees/accept?inviteId=dc66c9ad-3830-4a10-9f4f-9381dc621c26> [accessed 4/4/22]

[4]John & S. A. H. Lindsey, "Pennsylvania," *Review and Herald*, May 9, 1871, p. 166.

[5]"From Sister Hallock," *Review and Herald*, Dec. 31, 1857, p. 63.

[6]Sarah A. Hallock, "A Query.—Bro. Smith," *Review and Herald* 15, no. 8 (January 12, 1860): p. 64.

[7]Milton Hook in his ESDA article incorrectly assumes that John and Esther had two children. This is based on incorrect genealogical information. For a comparison of sources, see:

<https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=590X&highlight=lindsey>[accessed 6/7/22]

[8]The exact date is unclear as four business sessions were held during that camp meeting. See: "Report of the N.Y. and Pa. Conference," *Review and Herald*, Oct. 12, 1869, p. 126; see also "Ninth Annual Report of the N.Y. and Pa. Conference," *Review*



and Herald, Aug. 23, 1870, p. 78; "Tenth Annual Report of the N.Y. and Pa. Conference," Review and Herald, Sept. 12, 1871, p. 102.

[9]<http://www.classic.circushistory.org/Routes/PTB1871.htm> [accessed 4/4/22]; John & S. A. H. Lindsey, "New York and Pennsylvania," Review and Herald, Nov. 7, 1871, pg. 166.

[https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH18711107-V38-21.pdf]

[10]Obituary. Review and Herald, Oct. 27, 1874, p. 143.

[11]See The Youth's Instructor, Dec. 8, 1880, p. 215.

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## Petra Tunheim: President of the West Java Mission (1913–1915)



### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH #8 2023

Petra Tunheim was born on February 18, 1871, in the town of Hatteland, Norway.[i] She was the youngest of 10 siblings in a family of farmers and spent most of her childhood "herding sheep and reading her Bible on the lonely hillsides" of her native country.[ii] In 1892, after the death of her father, she emigrated to the United States along with her mother and four brothers.

There she learned about the Adventist faith and enrolled at Union College, where she also worked as a teacher.[iii]

For a time, she devoted herself to canvassing, until she read in a magazine the need that the church had for missionaries abroad. In 1903 she traveled to Australia, where she worked as a literature evangelist with great success.[iv]

In 1906, during the annual meeting of the Australasian Union, Miss Tunheim offered herself as a volunteer to go to Java as a missionary.[v] Her work initially focused on the city of Surabaya. There a Protestant Dutch woman invited her to go to her mission station. Eventually, she handed over the command of the station to Ms. Petra who took it upon herself to lead and manage it.[vi]

During these years Petra Tunheim sold literature, gave Bible readings, led Sabbath School classes, provided basic medical care, and preached.[vii] In the city of Pangoengsen, she started and led a Sabbath school with about 150 new members.[viii]

Petra Tunheim also used to travel to rural villages in the area, treating the sick with simple remedies and preaching easy-to-understand biblical themes.[ix] Her ministry was not only successful, but she also had the opportunity to witness miracles. For example, the daughter of one of the women who studied the Bible was healed of her illness after Petra Tunheim prayed for her.[x]

On every mission trip, Miss Tunheim carried a briefcase full of evangelistic literature to sell.[xi] The result was sometimes surprising. A Dutch official received an Adventist tract. He was so interested that he sent letters asking for more material and despite never having met an Adventist in person, he began holding religious meetings on Sabbath with his friends to whom he lent the books that had been sent to him.[xii]

On another occasion, a Muslim boy named Menan Diredga saw a torn letter written in Malay in the trash can at the home of his Adventist neighbors. Out of curiosity, he stole the remains of the letter and reassembled it to read its content. To his surprise, it turned out to be a letter from Petra Tunheim inviting his neighbors to re-consecrate their lives and prepare for the Second Coming and God's judgment. Menan could not sleep all night, feeling his complete lack of preparation for the soon arrival of Christ as Judge. The next day he returned to his neighbours' house, apologised for stealing the letter, and asked for more information about the Second Coming. Soon after, he was able to visit Miss Tunheim, who gave him a Bible in Malay. The young man decided to keep the Sabbath and began to attend Sabbath School.[xiii]

In 1913 the West Java Mission was organised, and Petra Tunheim was named its president and treasurer.[xiv] The center of its activity was in the city of Batavia. The Seventh-day Adventist Church differentiates a "mission" from a "conference" by its self-sustaining capacity and missionary needs, among other factors. However, the president of a mission and a conference essentially share the same responsibilities and have the same authority over their respective territory.

During these years of work, Miss Tunheim suffered several times from severe tropical diseases, such as malaria. However, she fulfilled her administrative and ecclesiastical duties even when she was ill.[xv] In 1915 her health deteriorated so much that she had to return to the United States to restore her physical condition.[xvi] A year later she returned to Java to resume her evangelistic work, but in 1919 she again had to leave after being attacked by the disease; this time she went to Shanghai.[xvii]

At the Sanitarium of Shanghai, she began to learn Mandarin Chinese. This was her seventh language. In addition to Norwegian, her mother tongue, she spoke English, Dutch, Malay, Javanese, and Cantonese Chinese. In a matter of a few months, she was giving Bible studies in Mandarin Chinese.[xviii]

In Shanghai, she was diagnosed with cancer. WH Miller, the director of the Sanitarium, offered to keep her as a patient for as long as she lived. She refused. Instead, she wanted to go back to Java and spend her last days preaching to her Malay friends. Unfortunately, her health was quite poor and she died en route on the ship taking her from Singapore to Batavia.[xix]

The Australasian Record published an obituary titled "A Modern Heroine": "This heroine, whose Christian life and works compare well with the most famous records of mission annals, visited four continents, made nine long sea voyages, learned seven languages! Her influence was always for the right, witnessing for the truth she believed; her prayers were unmistakably earnest; her testimonies were constantly ringing with the inspiration of soul-saving effort."[xx]

After her death, the new president of the West Java Mission decided to finish the construction of the Batavia temple as a memorial for Miss Tunheim, who had started it 10 years earlier. The inhabitants of the city of Batavia not only donated high-

quality materials but also sent workers to build the church, as a “token of their affection for her”. Once completed, the church could seat 500 people.[xxi]

Charles H Watson, president of the General Conference from 1930 to 1936, wrote: “I visited Singapore many times, and always I made a pilgrimage to Miss Tunheim’s grave. I used to feel I was looking at the resting place of a saint.”[xxii]

*Extract from the Article* by Eric E Richter in the Adventist Record of December 17, 2020 entitled Women conference presidents: a forgotten history [record.adventistchurch.com/2020/12/17/women-conference-presidents-a-forgotten-history/](http://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/12/17/women-conference-presidents-a-forgotten-history/)

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[iv] Petra T Skadsheim, “My experience in Periodical Work”, Union Conference Record, November 1, 1903, 6-7

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[xvii] Ibid.

[xviii] Lulu S VanBuskirk, “Her Life for Java”, Eastern Canadian Messenger, September 9, 1924, 5

[xix] CH Watson, “Memories I Cherish – The Lone Woman Missionary”, Australasian Record, August 27, 1962, 4.

[xx] Milton G. Conger, “A Modern Heroine”, Australasian Record, March 10, 1930, 3.

[xxi] Watson, “Memories I Cherish – The Lone Woman Missionary”, 4.

[xxii] Ibid

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