



Verla Michel-Kwiram

Message from the President

Many thanks go to Stella Ramirez Greig for organizing the 22nd National AAW Conference at Andrews in October. Attendees found the sessions moving and edifying. It is reinforcing to share time with other women who see the needs of Adventist women and who respond to the challenge of change. Thank you, Stella, for the enormous amount of thought and

planning that went into each of the sessions.

Thanks also to each speaker who presented the inspiring talks and contributed to the stimulating environment we experienced. And, thanks to each musician who enriched the sessions. Our appreciation goes also to the 2004 Woman-of-the-Year Awardees for your inspiration. It was energizing, soul-satisfying, and fun to be at the Andrews Conference!

The Association of Adventist Women has accepted the challenge of empowering women in Adventism. The task is enormous—both in the first world and in the third world. It is more important now than ever, as women seek in the first world to work side by side as partners with men, enjoying unity in Christ. In the third world, subjugated and often abused women struggle for self-respect and freedom from disease, working selflessly and usually without recognition. Our task will not be complete until women collaborate in the work of the church as equal partners around the world.

As fresh volunteers in 2004, your new AAW officers had a choice of breaking barriers or maintaining the status quo. We chose to venture boldly by creating a web site and redesigning the newsletter, *The Adventist Woman*. We also produced our first DVD on the lives and witness of the 2004 Woman-of-the-Year Awardees, which we hope to distribute widely to women's dorms and Sabbath Schools.

Our mail indicates that our readers appreciate the new format of the newsletter as well as the easy-to-navigate web site. We thank you for every letter of encouragement. We also received very positive comments about the DVD, which was shown at the Andrews Conference. In addition, we are attempting to prepare our 23rd Annual Conference to be held just before General Conference in St. Louis, where we will have a booth and where we will provide materials for mass distribution.

These initiatives cannot be sustained without the continuing support of our members. The yearly dues do not cover the costs of producing our newsletter, let alone the other initiatives which we are pursuing.

We prayerfully solicit the monetary support of all friends of women in Adventism as we attempt to achieve partnership status for women in the church. Together we can do great things!

We invite you to renew your membership, give a gift subscription to *The Adventist Woman* to a friend, honor a friend's birthday with a donation, sponsor a young woman's attendance at the St. Louis conference, or write a BIG check to AAW so that we can make a difference at General Conference. Bequests are welcome.

If ever we needed your support before, we sure do need it now—now more than ever!

Best wishes in the new year!

Verla Michel-Kwiram
AAW President



Make Reservations Soon for the

The AAW 2005 National Conference will be held prior to General Conference Session, June 26-29, in St. Louis, at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Hotel reservations can be made online at or by telephone at 800-444-ADAM. (2326). Participants are urged to contact the hotel as soon as possible to ask for the special rate for AAW Conference participants.

AAW sessions will begin on Sunday evening, June 26, and continue all day June 27 and 28. The Keynote speaker will be Charles Bradford, former NAD president. The Woman-of-the-Year Awards Banquet will be held Tuesday evening, June 28. The theme for the 2005 AAW