

# Introduction to Women's Ministries

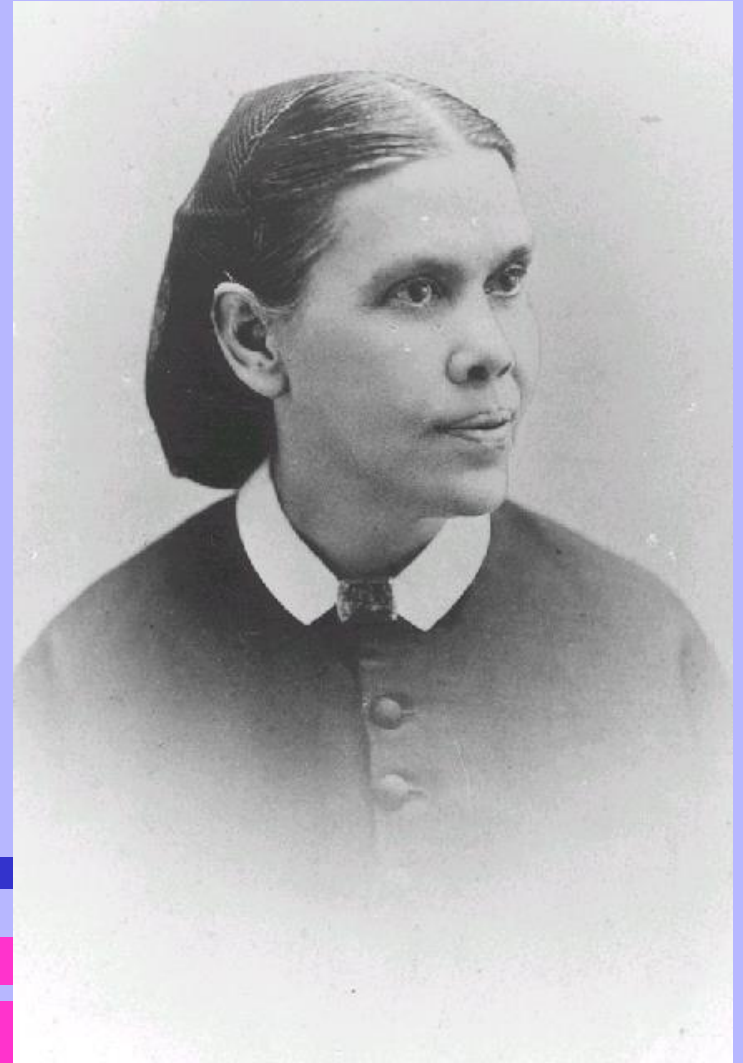
Dorothy Eaton Watts

Leader Certification Program

Level 1

# Women's Ministries Time Line

- 1844 Ellen Harmon receives her first vision.



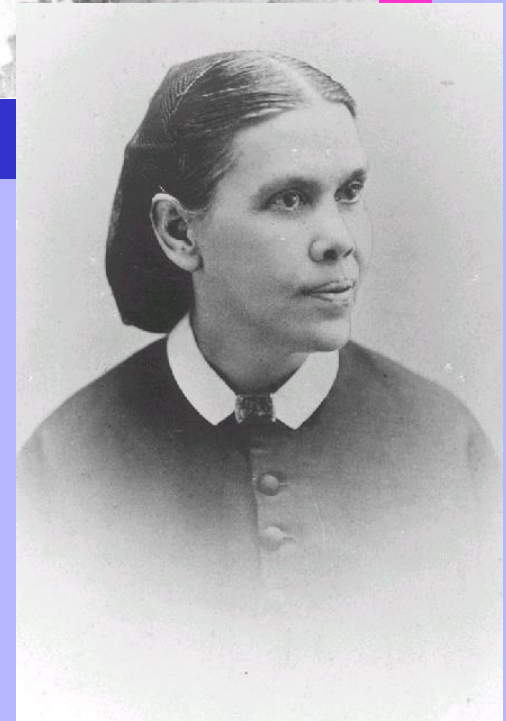
- 1874 First Dorcas Society formed in Battle Creek, Michigan, by Mrs. Henry Gardner.
- Mrs. S. M. I. Henry becomes a national evangelist for the Women's Christian Temperance Union.



- 1896 Mrs. S. M. I. Henry joins the SDA Church after attending Battle Creek Sanitarium for treatment.



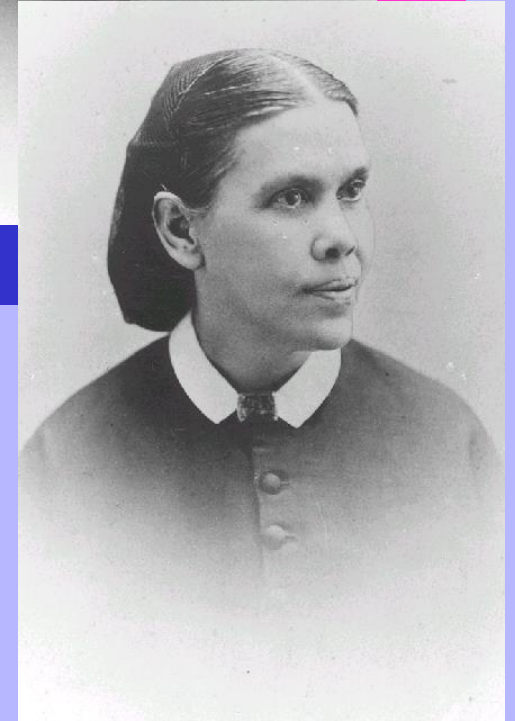
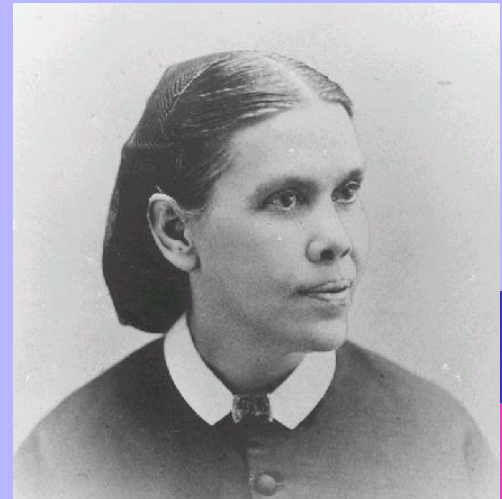
- 1898 March 30, Mrs. Henry given a ministerial license by the General Conference. She begins work of Women's Ministries encouraged by Ellen G. White.



- 1899 Mrs. Henry produced a weekly page in the *Review* called "Women's Gospel Work." She traveled extensively promoting Women's Ministries.
- 1900 Mrs. Henry dies. Nine member committee continues a short while, then disbands. Organized work of Women's Ministries stops.



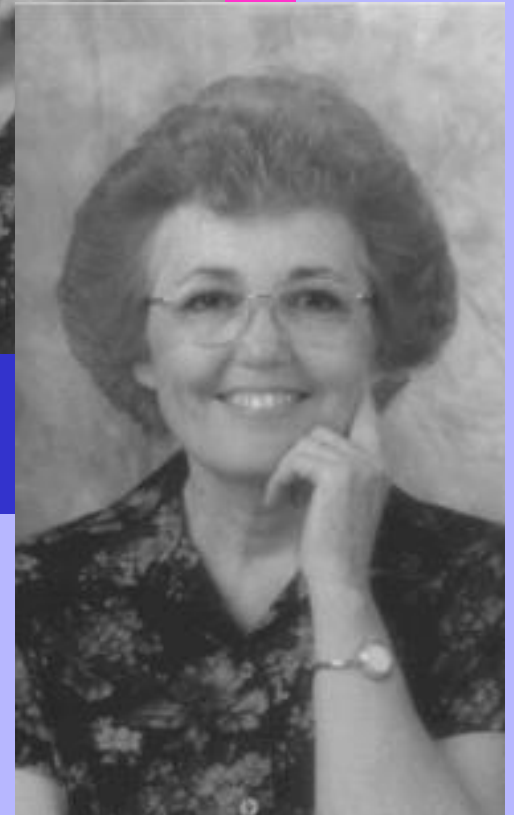
- 1913 Dorcas Society becomes part of the Home Missionary Department, later the Lay Activities and then the Personal Ministries Department. It focuses on helping the poor.
- 1915 Ellen White dies.



- 1980 Dallas GC Session, President Neil C. Wilson calls for church to find ways to organize and use vast potential represented by women's talents.
- 1985 Annual Council establishes Women's Ministries Advisory Committee. Betty Holbrook is appointed Chair Person.

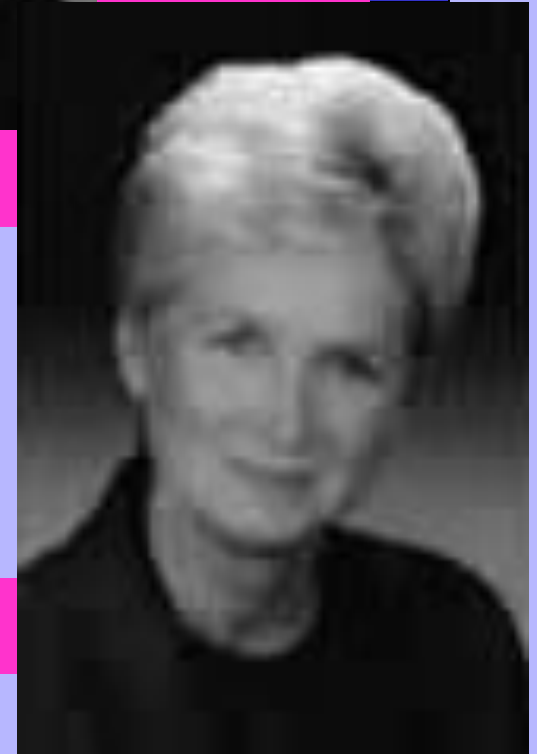


- **1988** Karen Flowers becomes head of the Women's Ministries Advisory Committee. They formulate a mission statement for Women's Ministries, the same one now in use by the WM Department.
- **1989** Karen Flowers presented a study on women in leadership in the world field to a Commission on the Role of Women at Cohutta Springs. The meeting recommended that the GC open an office of Women's Ministries with a full-time director for Women's Ministries.





- 1990 Annual Council, October 4, voted to open an office of Women's Ministries. Rose Otis, elected the director of Women's Ministries.



- **1995** Women's Ministries given full departmental status at the GC Session in Utrecht. Ardis Stenbakken is elected as Associate Director. By the end of 1995 the following divisions had established a Women's Ministries Department: AID, ESD, NAD, APD, SAD, SPD, SUD, TED, and SAUC.



- 1996 - EAD, EUD, and IAD establish a Women's Ministries Department. First Women's Ministries World Advisory held in March.



- Dorothy Eaton Watts chosen to replace Rose Otis who resigned to become a Vice-President for the North American Division.



- **1997** At Annual Council, Ardis Stenbakken was chosen to replace Dorothy Watts who resigned when her husband became President of SUD.



# Overview of Women's Ministries Programs and Resources

- Scholarship Program
- International Women's Day of Prayer in March
- Women's Ministries Emphasis Day in June
- Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day
- PALS Program
- Women's Ministries Handbook
- Leadership Certification



- Resource Materials
- Seminars
- Newsletter
- Devotional Book
- So You Want to Begin a Literacy Program
- Women's Ministering Evangelism Manual
- Women's Ministries web site:  
<http://wm.gc.adventist.org>
- Abuse Emphasis brochure

