its women in PAST and PRESENT
Women have always played an important part in the work of the Seventh-Day-Adventist Church, in the past as well as in the present. In the history of the church women have served in many areas and covered a broad spectrum of activities. It is important to value their work. They should be an encouragement for us to push forward and inspire future generations of women to take on responsibilities which our predecessors fulfilled.

Each of these women is important because of her individual gifts. But their pictures are here also as representatives of thousands of other women who have invested their talents and worked for the church in its various phases. Even today many excellent women are unknown and unnoticed. They serve God and our church with all their might.
ELLEN G. WHITE

Early leader and prophetess of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was a popular speaker, preacher, and counselor to individuals and institutions. Author of 126 books and compilations.

1827 - 1915
Bible instructor, colporteur, educator. First single woman missionary to Europe. Helped J. N. Andrews establish the publishing work in Europe and assisted J. N. Loughborough in pioneer tent evangelism in England. She married Charles L. Boyd; they were among the first missionaries in South Africa. Their daughter died and he became sick and died shortly after. Maud then went to Australia where she served as matron, preceptress, teacher, and Bible instructor. She continued her work in Loma Linda in retirement.
Physician graduating at the head of her class from the University of Michigan with the second class that accepted female students. Founder of first nurses' training school at Battle Creek Sanitarium in 1883. Served 20 years at Battle Creek and then served at Claremont Sanitarium in South Africa. She practiced at the Colorado Sanitarium in Boulder until retirement.
The daughter of ex-slave sharecroppers, she read herself into the Adventist faith through the Signs of the Times. Graduated in nursing from Battle Creek College in 1898. Built a self-supporting school for Blacks in Mississippi. She became the first African-American woman missionary, serving in India. Upon her return to the US, she served as educator, nurse, Bible worker, conference and union departmental secretary. In 1940 she was appointed to the General Conference North American Negro Department.
Early hymn writer and editor. While the James Whites traveled, she published the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald. Annie was the older sister of Uriah Smith and the same age as Ellen White. Converted to Adventism by Joseph Bates in 1851. She died of tuberculosis.

1828 - 1855
First African-American Seventh-day Adventist woman physician. Established the school of nursing at Oakwood College; directed the Rock City Sanitarium. Helped to treat Ellen White. With her physician husband, she became a missionary in Central America and the Caribbean.
Musician and educator for over 50 years. First Seventh-day Adventist woman to receive a Ph.D. in the United States, graduating from Radcliffe in 1921. Taught at Walden and Howard Universities and Oakwood College.

1893 - 1986
A Swedish nurse and educator, she became a pioneer missionary in South America and was instrumental in starting church schools for the Indian people. Worked there with her husband for 29 years.
MARINDA (MINNIE) DAY SYPE

Temperance activist, personal evangelist and writer. Mrs. S.M.I. Henry became ill and while recuperating at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, became an Adventist. She began to correspond with Ellen White, then in Australia. Mrs. White encouraged her to continue her public role with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and her interest in women. In 1898 Mrs. Henry established the first Women's Ministry at the General Conference. The General Conference voted her a ministerial license that year; she wrote a weekly column for the Review and Herald on women's ministry and duties. Unfortunately, she died two years later and her work was not continued for many years.
An English physician. Worked with J. Harvey Kellogg. Pioneered medical work in British Isles; with her husband, established sanitarium in Crieff, Scotland.

1866 - 1948
Teacher, author and missionary to South America. Chairperson of first General Conference Women's Ministries Advisory. Director of General Conference Home and Family Service and Assistant Director for Church Ministries.

1926 - 1996
Ana Rosa Alvarado
Cuban pastor, evangelist, educator and musician for 45 years. Is said to have preached in every church in Cuba and raised up many of them.

Dr. Nancy Bassham
A Thai converted from Buddhism, she returned as a missionary to her people. Educator and first Family Life and Women's Ministries Director in the Asia-Pacific Division.

Juanita Kretschmar
Humanitarian, prayer warrior and speaker. Started New York City Van Ministry and Good News Network.
Chessie Harris (1906 - 1997)
Educator and humanitarian. More than 1,200 children have received care at the Harris Home in Huntsville, Alabama. Recognized in 1987 as one of America's Unsung Heroines, she was also honored by President George Bush.

Elsa Luukkanen (1916 - 1996)
Very successful Finnish evangelist and pastor. She and other women carried especially heavy burdens during WWII when the male pastors were drafted. In 1968 the Finnish Union leaders inquired about the possibility of ordaining these women; this was one of the factors leading to the 1973 Mohaven meeting.
German pastor and evangelist. Because of her effective leadership, young ministers often interned under her. Her success as a pastor led conference leaders to ask about ordaining her, one of the factors that led to calling the Council on the Role of Women in the Church at Camp Mohaven in 1973.

A member of the 1989 Women's Commission.
LYN BEHRENS

Australian physician. First woman president of Loma Linda University.
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 she became the first director of the official department of Women’s Ministries.
1997 - Dorothy Eaton Watts chosen to replace Rose Otis who resigned to become a Vice-President for the North American Division. After only a year she resigned when her husband became President of SUD where she worked as an associate department director.
Women’s Ministries given full departmental status at the GC Session in Utrecht 1995. Ardis Stenbakken is elected as Associate Director. She was Director of WM 1998 – 2005.
Heather-Dawn Small presently holds the position of Director for Women’s Ministries at the General Conference of SDA. She holds a BA in English from Andrews University and is currently completing her MA in Leadership with a minor in Pastoral Care to Women from Western Seminary, Portland, USA. As she travels the world she has three passions

1. To see more women involved in evangelism,
2. To encourage women to be involved in ministry to others – especially young women, and
3. To share the joy that God has given her in spite of life’s many challenges.

Her favorite word is “JOY” and her favorite saying is “Don’t let anyone steal your joy.”
Raquel Queiroz da Costa Arrais presently holds the position of Associate Director for Women’s Ministries at the General Conference of SDA. Prior to coming to the General Conference she was Women’s Ministries and Shepherdess associate director for the South American Division (2000 – 2003) and Children’s Ministries director (2004 – 2005). For 20 years Raquel worked as an educator and administrator in Brazil. In 1997 she got her master’s Degree in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University.

Raquel enjoys spending time with women, ministering to them, and learning from them. She has a desire to see more women accepting God’s call and being involved with the mission of the church. Her favorite word is courage.
DENISE HOCHSTRASSER

2006 - 2010 Women’s Ministries director for the Swiss-German Conference.

2010 elected as Director of Women’s Ministries for the EUD.

Her emphasis is nurture-empower-outreach and she wants the women of the church to find their mission and place in the church.
Worked as a secretary in the EUD 1996-2005 elected as director of Women’s Ministries. Her emphasis was the prevention of abuse in Christian families.
2005 -2010 Director of Women’s Ministries in the EUD

Her emphasis was the buildup of structures and the recognition of the needs of women particularly in different cultures. She supported mission work for muslim women.
from left to right:

Maria José Brito (EUD) AbigaelTrofin (Italy) Emilia Stojkova (Bulgaria) Lorelei Aumis (France) Alicia Denteneer (Franco-Belgian Union) Sona and Pavla Sustkova (Czecho-Slovakian Union)

Ildiko Jenna (Swiss-Romand) Teodora Goran (Romania) Angelika Pfaller (Germany) Simona Adriana Anca (Spain) Denise Hochstraseer (EUD –WM Director)

Susanne Fesl (Austria) Rodica Sakaeva (Bulgaria-Enditnow) Heidi Albisser (Swiss German)

Franca Zucca (Italy) Gerd Laila Walter (Austria) Evelyne Reischach (Friedensau) Milú Cordeiro (Portugal)
Austrian Union
Gerd-Laila Walter 1997 – present
Women’s Ministries established as an independent department 1999

Bulgarian Union
Jordanka Dimitrova 2000 – 2001
Dobromira Vasileva 2001 - 2005
Emilia Stoykova 2005 – present
Women’s Ministries established as an independent department 2000

Czecho-Slovakian Union
Pavla Sustkova 1995 - 2014
Renata Chlebková 2014 - present
Franco –Belgian Union
Josiane Beauregard  2003 – 2013
Alicia Denteneer  2013 - present

Italian Union
Franca Zucca  1998 – 2000;
2005- present

South German Union
Ingrid Naumann  1993 – 2012
Angelika Pfaller  2012 – 2014
2014 – present both South and North German Unions

North German Union
Ruth Wittwer  1994 - 2004
Rita Pütz  2004 – 2009
Annekatrin Blum  2010 – 2013
Portuguese Union
Eunice Dias 1995-1997
Maria Rosa Nunes 1997-2002
Guida Esteves 2002-2007
Hortelinda Gal and Isabel Nogueira (associate director) 2007-2012
Milú Cordeiro and Raquel Almeida (associate director) 2012 – present

Romanian Union
Sylvia Dyma up to 2009
Teodora Goran 2009- present

Spanish Union
Maria-Angeles Gutierrez 1996-2012
Simona Adriana Anca 2012 - present
Swiss Union

Swiss German Conference:
Women’s Ministries established as an independent department 2009

Dorothea Starek 1995 - 1999
Christa Hang 1999 – 2001
Evelyne Bürgi 2001 - 2006
Denise Hochstrasser 2006 – 2010
Heidi Albisser 2011 – Present

French and Italian Swiss Conference:

Christiana Benoit 2011
Ildiko Jenna 2012 – Present
EUD Inter-European Division

Noelle Vitry 1996 - 2005
Christiane Vertallier 2005 – 2010
Denise Hochstrasser 2010 - present
General Conference

Women`s Ministries established as an independent department 1995

Rose Otis 1990 – 1996
Ardis Stenbakken 1997 – 2004
Heather-Dawn Small 2005 Present
Raquel Arrais (assosiate Direktor) 2005 Present