



A Newsletter for supporters of TEAM

Winter 2024

TEAMWORK

TEAM

Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM) is a private organization supporting the ordination of candidates to pastoral ministry regardless of gender, race, or social class.

BUGEMA UNIVERSITY 2024 GRADUATION

This year, TEAM was blessed to see 16 of our scholarship beneficiaries graduate from Bugema University in Kampala, Uganda. Among the recipients, we have some who are already working as chaplains and some as district pastors. TEAM continues to support the work of God around the world by providing much-needed financial support to women who have a strong passion to obey



Pictured: Nine of the 16 TEAM scholarship recipients who graduated from Bugema University in November 2024. From left to right: Ruth Nyaboke, Zipporah Nyanchama, Jackline Ogoti, Jackline Mong'are, Nancy Chumo, TEAM representative Jeanne Mogusu, Dorcas Akeyo, Obonyo Nyanchama, Hyline Orora, Alice Akumu.

God by serving His people. These women have surmounted many obstacles and challenges, but they have emerged victorious. Their conviction that God has called them, their resilience, and faithfulness are evident.

One of the Bugema scholarship recipients, Damackyline Momanyi, completed her studies with high distinction, receiving the Chancellor's award, which is given to the student with the best academic performance. She had a 4.94/5.0 GPA, making her the student with the highest GPA of the entire graduating class across all disciplines.

Another TEAM scholarship recipient, Nancy Chumo, received the distinction of graduating with a First Class Honors Degree. We are very proud of these graduates, and we wish them well as they go forth to work diligently in service for God and His people.

VERSACARE AND THE STORY OF TEAM

On September 23, 2024, TEAM received a proposal from the Versacare Foundation to help us tell the story of TEAM. We accepted the offer that included a grant to be managed by Versacare to retain a writer to begin a project to record the history of TEAM and its accomplishments. The purpose of this collabora-

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JANE MUKAMI NDUNG’U



Pastor Jane Mukami Ndung’u was a woman of exceptional presence. A pioneer and a trailblazer, she was obedient to the call of God at a time when there were very few, if any, women in ministry, and her example has been an inspiration to many. Her formidable presence and passion for the Lord helped to open opportunities for many women in ministry. After graduating from the University of East Africa, Baraton in 2008, Ndung’u, served the Lord with diligence as a literature evangelist and Director of Women’s Ministry, the first female elected to that office by the Central Kenya Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, assistant publishing director, district pastor, and chaplain. Throughout her service in ministry, she inspired many women to obey God and join the ministry. On October 14, 2024, Jane Mukami Ndung’u died following some health complications. We celebrate her life and her service in ministry, and pray for her husband and children.

God's Word to Women

“The Bible from its opening chapters, pictures woman as allied with God, in the eventual salvation of the world.”

KATHARINE BUSHNELL (1855 – 1946)



VERSACARE (CONTINUED)

tion with Versacare is to create a book that documents the history of TEAM’S efforts and advocacy work begun in 1988 to move the Seventh-day Adventist Church toward equality in ministry, including the ordination of women.

The writer retained by Versacare is someone with whom we will collaborate by providing records of historical information based on our documents as well as interviews to be included in helping us tell the story of TEAM. Board members and others – longtime TEAM supporters, donors, and scholarship recipients may wish to express interest in volunteering to be interviewed by the writer. Those who are interested in participating, please contact Beverly Habada by email at bhab8@aol.com or by phone at (301) 332-1844. Join us in this exciting venture!



Ladies studying Theology at the Adventist University in Argentina shown with their professor, Dr. Sylvia Sholtus, recipient of the Woman of the Year award. The two representatives of AAW Board are also in the photo: Ruth Peeters and AAW President Nerida Bates.

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Vision A church that recognizes that people are called by God to pastoral ministry, regardless of gender, race, or social class.

BETHEL JANE MY DREAMS AND MINISTRY GOALS - WHAT LEAD ME HERE - ?



My marriage led me to discern, find, and embrace my calling. My husband saw my passion for mission and my love and thirst for theology. My husband, seeing my calling, pushed me to try to study in the seminary. So, in 2018, I entered AIIAS (Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies) and took Masters of Divinity with only my faith in hand for receiving what God called me to do.

At AIIAS, my life was changed, Jesus found me in my seminary classes. Every lesson spoke to my heart. The Christ-centered approach to teaching, theology, learning, and mission in seminary life transformed me. Finally, I understood the Cross and the Gospel. I ate the living bread and drank the living water in my seminary experience. Indeed, I received my calling to be in the Theology field but before going into teaching, my husband and I decided to go to the mission field again to deepen our experience with God with our Christ-centered understanding of life.

After our contract, we plan to move forward with our desire to upgrade before entering the classroom walls as theology teachers. We are currently witnessing the impact of our Christ-centered Bible studies, lectures, and preaching on lives that had long been empty, thirsty, and without meaning. We desire to pass on, teach and preach, the God of love in the Bible that changed our lives. We desire to disciple the future Christ-centered pastors and missionaries in the college of theology where we plan to teach.

Do Seventh-day Adventists have female pastors?

Currently, the largest church in the entire global Seventh-day Adventist Church is led by a female pastor. Additionally, one of the largest conferences in the North American Division in number of members and in tithe is led by a female pastor.

Spectrum Magazine, February 11, 2019

THANK YOU TO TEAM



Dear Mrs. Selma Chaij Mastrapa,

I want to take a moment to extend my most sincere gratefulness for all your support. Thanks to God, and through your efforts, the Inter-American Division Adventist Theological Seminary (SETAI) gave me a scholarship for my master's degree. The money arrived at the University of Montemorelos.

This week they confirmed that everything is in order. I am so full of joy! I'm deeply grateful to God for His goodness, and to TEAM for giving me this opportunity, even though we haven't met in person.

I am also sending you photos of the computer that TEAM provided. It has been of immeasurable benefit in my master's studies, and in my work for the church, where I am my husband's helper. Furthermore, thanks to God, I also have a job as Chaplain - not for the church, because there were no vacancies, but for a company owned by a brother in Christ. There I have the opportunity to evangelize and study the Bible with more than 20 non-Adventist workers each morning.

I also want to share the news that I am writing a book. The only thing that I ask of you is for your constant prayers. Thanks to God, I am working on my final requirements for a master's degree. We continue to move forward in the name of the Lord.

All this is possible because of the efforts and dedication of TEAM donors. I thank you from my heart, and pray that God continue blessing TEAM, to continue helping and impacting positively the lives of other women.

Cinthia Guzmán

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Gifts of Appreciation & Remembrance

In Honor of Jeanette Bryson

In Memory of Heather-Dawn Small

In Memory of Bill and Irene Farver

WHY EQUALITY

by GERI ANN FULLER

In the past, TEAM's newsletter has been just that, a newsletter. We have not written about our purpose, our why. We have informed readers about our activities, scholarships, and fundraising, perhaps assuming that our name, Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry, was self-explanatory.

More recently, we thought, what if someone were to pick up our newsletter from a tabletop and wonder, who or what is TEAM? Why are we raising money, giving scholarships, and attending conferences?

TEAM is a group of Seventh-day Adventists, mostly but not exclusively women, some of whom started a conversation swimming in a lake in Western Pennsylvania at the home of Pat Habada in the mid-1980s about how discordant it is that our church hires women to be pastors and allows them to perform all the functions of a pastor but denies them the full-throated endorsement we call ordination. To be sure, ordination is not a biblical term, but it is a public recognition and affirmation by the church that God has called an individual to serve and that the church confers its blessing of that calling. Our church, with a few exceptions, denies ordination to women. We think this is wrong, considering God called a woman, Ellen Gould Harmon White, to be an instrument in starting the church in the first place.

Although we were not successful in persuading the church to vote to ordain women, we decided to move forward to be a presence and a voice calling for equality in ministry. From TEAM's first days, our purpose has been to call for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to fully embrace and exemplify

the teaching of Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (NIV).

What if that was the plan from the beginning when God called Ellen White amid the ashes of the great disappointment in 1844? "To make known to others what I have revealed to you" (White, 1922, 1940, p. 67.2).*

In the Scriptures, God spoke the same truth to different people in different times in different ways. What if the intention behind the call to Ellen White was to tell the world at this moment in history, "Let's all be part of this. Let's all work together to spread the Gospel commission to a suffering world. I can call anyone I want, and I might call you next."

The church at the end is not going to be an administrative behemoth. It's going to be people working together and led by the Holy Spirit. What if Christ crucified and risen became what matters most to us, and we united behind those who lead us as pastors and affirmed them in their work? Maybe we were supposed to go in a different direction all along. If God called one woman, why would He not call others? It's time for us as a church to look more deeply at what it means to be called.

*White, E. G., 1922, 1940. *Experience and teaching of Ellen G. White*. Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD

by MILENA RAY ALBA

God calls each one with a divine purpose. Sometimes his calling does not offer a smooth road. As a woman, it has not been easy to initiate a ministry in Colombia. It has been a great challenge, but God has never left me alone. It was a miracle to be accepted as a woman in the Theology Department of the Adventist University of Colombia (UNAC). This step meant that I lost the support of my family, since I was abandoning another career to follow God's calling. However, when God calls, He provides what is necessary for His children. In His in-

finite mercy, He allowed me to open the path for women that want to serve Him unconditionally. In spite of multiple obstacles, God gave me the privilege to be the first School Chaplain in the history of the Adventist Church in Colombia. I was also the first woman Chaplain of the Adventist University. Now I am the first woman professor in the School of Theology, for the glory and honor of His name.

I am eternally grateful to TEAM for their very valuable help. Without TEAM it would have been very difficult to reach my goals. Thank you with all my heart.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

THE FOLLOWING WOMEN HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS BY TEAM IN 2024

Andrews University Michigan, U.S.A.

Andrea Anglin
Filicia Williams
Marie Ann Baptiste
Alina Martin
Trevelee Rowe
Sonia Wellington
Yasmina Herenirina Sonia

Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) Phillipines

Marie Therese Ngono
Mariju Pimentel
Bethel Jane Taglos

Adventist University of Africa Nairobi, Kenya

Immaculate Murage
Mary Nyambura Mburu
Zipporah Ongwesio

Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) Rwanda

Jimimah Wangui Wanjeri
Pharis Moraa David

Adventist Seminary in Venezuela Venezuela

Arianny Rivas
Feliannys Diaz
Michele Guzman
Pilar Rivas
Thairubys Contreras

Babcock University Nigeria

Charity Edeghonghon Ogudugu
Endurance Barikpagan Nukpughi
Innocentia Nkziruka Charles
Mary Idowu Agbetayo

Bugema University Uganda

Teresa Basweti
Akeyo Dorcas Odera
Alice Atieno Okumu
Damackylene Momanyi
Felistus Mutunga
Forniter Moraa Mose
Hyline Kemunto Orora
Ida Nyamongo Kemunto
Judith Kulecho
Jackline Moraa Mong'are
Jackline Nyaboke Ogoti
Joyvia Mweu Mumbua Mwanza
Lydia Kemunto Obiero
Malangwa Daniel Ndekeja
Mercy Kwamboka Omayo
Obonyo Nyanchama
Olivia Jepkosgei

Rodah Nyabonyi Nyakora
Ruth B Obwogi
Ruth Nyaboke
Sherebiah Zechariah
Zinzy Chris Oroko

Chreso University Zambia

Linah Blessing Chatambudza

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Rusangu University Zambia

Regina Brighton

SETAI Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary, (IAD) Miami, U.S.A.

Kezlyn Aphia Daisley-Harrow
Milena Rey

University of Arusha Tanzania

Neema Remius Katabi
Spelatha Simon Nyaminchu

University of East Africa Baraton (UEAB), Kenya

Anne Orieko
Beatrice K Kimori
Boldwine Achieng Ochieng
Dorcas Nyarangi Machuki
Edith Karimi
Eunice Adwar
Everline Auma Ager
Irene Gesarre Nyakina
Jackline Kemunto Misuko
Jacinta Nkirina Kaibi
Jackline Akinyi Ojwang
Janet Adeke
Janeffer Mwangangi Njambi
Janet Gworo
Josephine Rioba
Juliet Obama Bonareri
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EQUALITY



SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF WOMEN



SUPPORT

WOMEN LEADING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LATTER RAIN

Excerpt from the article by G. Alexander Bryant, president, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, published in the September/October 2024 North Pacific Union Gleaner: Northwest Adventists in Action. This article also appears in the October 2024 Adventist Journey.

God has promised a special gift to His church and His people living in the last days. This promise is illustrated in a very familiar passage found in Joel 2:28–29: And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and, also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days, will I pour out my spirit” (KJV).

This promise is for us today — for all people. In the Adventist Church, we believe in the priesthood of all believers — all have been called to proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. To be clear, women are a part of this calling. We need everyone to finish the work that God has entrusted to us.

The Adventist Church still believes God has called women to play a **significant** role in the advancement and the finishing of His work. The church calls women to serve in leadership roles in the local church as pastors, elders, and departmental leaders, as well as conference, union, division and General Conference leaders.

I want to take this moment to celebrate and thank all the women who have served this church so faithfully over the years. I also want to acknowledge that this church would not be where it is today without women leading in various capacities and the pivotal role they have played in the advancement of our mission.

God calls us to make disciples in Matt. 28:18–20 and promises in Acts 1:8 that He will grant the power of the Holy Spirit upon us to be His witnesses. When the Christian church began, we see in its infancy a marvelous display of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-POV-09

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Thank You for your continued support!

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