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SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF WOMEN

SUPPORT

A Newsletter for supporters of TEAM

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TEAM MEETS WITH NORTH COLOMBIA UNION PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS DURING ANNUAL COUNCIL, 2019, TEAM BOARD MEMBERS SELMA CHAIJ MASTRAPA AND HER HUSBAND ORLANDO AND MARTHA MONSALVE AND HER HUSBAND RUDY, WERE THE HOSTS FOR A DINNER WITH NORTH COLOMBIA UNION PRESIDENT ELDER REDONDO AND HIS WIFE AND OTHER UNION OFFICERS AND THEIR WIVES.

TEAM has provided scholarships over a ten year period for women theology majors at the Adventist University of Colombia (Inter-American Division) and asked to meet with the Union President to discuss placement of women theology graduates in pastoral positions in Colombia. To date, none of the women theology graduates are serving as pastors



Left to right: Orlando Mastrapa, Martha Monsalve then Zoraida and Pastor Dubiel Quintero, Selma Chaij Mastrapa, Pastor Gonzalo and Isabel Cardona, North Colombia Union President Pastor Edgar and Sara Redondo



Left to right: Zoraida Quintero, Isabel Cardona, Martha Monsalve, Sara Redondo

in Colombia. It became clear during this dinner discussion that the North Colombia Union does not have the budget to hire theology graduates when they finish their schooling at the Adventist University of Colombia.

They only have funding to hire up to 3 graduates a year. Therefore, the majority of male graduates have to leave the country to obtain pastoral positions.

At this dinner meeting, Union President Redondo committed to finding a city to place a woman pastor where she would be very visible, if TEAM would assist with the funding of this first placement. He also committed to preparing a proposal to send to TEAM for consideration. The estimated cost for one year of funding for placing a woman pastor in a pastoral position is \$24,000. We are awaiting a proposal from Elder Redondo before moving ahead with providing assistance on possible placement of the first woman pastor in Colombia.

ANNUAL COUNCIL continued

were recommended to receive reprimands for their practice of ordaining their female pastors. The final voted action was reduced to a “warning.” Elder Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union President spoke following the vote and said that he received the warning “as a badge of honor.”

It is our understanding that escalation of action against the offending unions beyond warnings (and reprimands) would next be to take away Union Presidents right to vote and have voice at any upcoming meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee (i.e., at Annual Council sessions).

Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry
P.O. Box 7816 • Langley Park, MD 20787
Phone (301) 332-1844

TEAMWORK

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

ANNUAL COUNCIL 2019



THE WARNINGS -“A BADGE OF HONOR”

You have probably heard by now that during Annual Council meetings held in Silver Spring, Maryland in October, 2019, two votes were taken regarding non-compliance of Union conferences with world church policy voted at the 2015 GC session on the ordination of women. Four Unions in Europe were given warnings for their non-compliance with the vote taken at the 2015 GC session regarding ordination. They were “warned” for their practice of equal recognition of their female and male pastors by giving them a common credential. They were “warned” for not ordaining their male pastors.

In addition, two unions in the North American Division, the Columbia Union and the Pacific Union,
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2019 YEAR END MEETING –

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

ONE OF THE MOST MOVING SPEECHES AT NAD YEAR END MEETINGS HELD IN NOVEMBER, 2019 WAS MADE BY A LAY MEMBER OF THE COLUMBIA UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MARCIA MOORE. SHE HAS GIVEN US PERMISSION TO REPRINT HER STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:



“I am grateful to be a part of the Columbia Union that has acted on conscience and principle. Based on the results of the votes that I have seen in these meetings, it seems that the list of those receiving a warning should have been longer.

Debra Brill [NAD Vice President] told a story at the beginning of the worship message this morning that reminded me of my family’s experience. My great-grandmother was a Seventh-day Adventist who moved her family from New York to Virginia. She and her children went to worship at the Seventh-day Adventist church nearest to their home, but
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they were turned away. They were told to go and worship at the church for colored people across town. My great-grandmother could not travel that distance with her children every week, so she decided to join the Baptist church that accepted her family. Many of my family members never came to accept the truth about the Sabbath after that experience.

We will never know the full impact of the decisions of our church to discriminate.

It is hard to comprehend that fact that many of those decisions at that time were accepted by the church, based on what they thought the scripture meant. It is widely accepted now that it was clearly a misinterpretation. It is even more difficult for me to understand why so many people who did not believe the same went along to get along.

Although I do not agree with the majority vote of the General Conference to discriminate on the basis of gender, my issue is not just with the global church. I can only pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work to reveal truth to all leaders and members of our church who consistently vote to discriminate on the basis of gender.

My issue is with the leaders in this room who believe that the General Conference vote to continue discriminatory practices is wrong, but they still do not recommend women for ordination in their conferences, or vote to ordain them in their unions.

To know the right thing to do and not do it is a sin.

Quite frankly, and I say this in love, I do not understand how some leaders can come here year after year and talk about the discrimination against their predecessors who were not allowed to eat in the General Conference cafeteria, or speak against the terrible acts of discrimination that they personally witnessed, but still go home and say that their hands are tied because they can't go against a General Conference vote against women's ordination.

The General Conference didn't take away our right to choose to do the right thing. God gave us that right, and He never took it away.

I am not oversimplifying the matter. In fact, I believe that it is a tool of the enemy to get us to believe that it is more complicated than it seems. Please continue to teach your constituents what the Bible says about spiritual gifts, unity in Christ, and discrimination. Fix your bylaws to avoid legal ramifications, and hold a vote in your unions to give women ministers the same credentials that male ministers receive."

Marcia Moore is an educator, having worked as a teacher, instructional coach and education researcher. She has served on the Columbia Union Executive Committee for ten years and on the NAD Executive Committee as a layperson for three years. She has a passion for service God in any capacity He chooses.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS – 2019 - \$80,870

THE FOLLOWING WOMEN HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS BY TEAM SO FAR IN 2019:

Eunice Adwar	Undergraduate	University of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Zilpah Akenga	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Elizabeth Ante	Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia
Gladys Aragon	Master's	Inter-American Div. Seminary (SETAI)
Soledad Araujo	Undergraduate	River Plate University, Argentina
Rachel Arner	Undergraduate	Andrews University
Suzanne Ashley	M.Div.	Regent College, British Columbia
Joyce Bamai	Undergraduate	University of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Penny Brink	Master's	Fuller Theological Seminary
Leah Burgess	M.Div.	Howard University Divinity School
Donna Campbell	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Nashonie Chang	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Thairubys Contreras	Master's	SETAI – Inter-American Div., Venezuela
Elaine Cruz	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews - Brazil
Gil Maria Diaz	Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia
Thandazile Dube	Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Mabel Enriquez	Undergraduate	River Plate University, Argentina
Tina Ericho	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Mose Fornitor	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda

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Belinda Friko	M.A Chaplain	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Xue Mei Fu	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Yvonne Gameti	M.Div.	AIIAS, Philippines
Mercy Huiko	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Dorothy Jepkorir	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Catherine Jepngetich	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Juliah Kemunto	Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Milka Kamau	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Joan Machoka	M.A.	Luther Seminary, U.S.A.
Ana Maurin	Undergraduate	River Plate University, Argentina
Clarisse Meyungo	Doctorate	Adventist University of Africa, Kenya
Leidy Molina	Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia
D. Momanyi	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Rosaline Munene	Undergraduate	University of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Edissa Ndahayo	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Lydia Nyanga	Undergraduate	University of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Jane Odero	Master's	Adventist University of Africa
Priscah Ondwari	Undergraduate	University of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Isabella Onkoba	M.A Chaplain	Adventist University of Africa, Kenya
Veronica Otworri	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Mildred Owino	Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Tania Gizely Paes	Undergraduate	FAAMA, Brazil
Kerth Payne	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Simone Pieper	Doctorate	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Melisa Pleital	Undergraduate	River Plate University, Argentina
Mariam Samo	Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Omobonike Sessou	Doctorate	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Yannina Testa	Master's	SETAI, Inter-American Div.
Donna Torrence	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Annia Vives, MD	Ph.D.	SETAI, Montemorelos, Mexico
Xiaorui Wang	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Christina Wani	Undergraduate	University of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Rochelle Webster	Ph.D.	Duke Divinity School, Duke Univ.
Sonia Wellington	M.Div.	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Derlin Zuniga	Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia

Thank you for your support for TEAM in 2019!



XUE MEI FU
2019 Scholarship recipient
attending Andrews University

Xue Mei Fu was born with a handicapped foot and spina bifida. Because of these birth defects, when she was a newborn, her biological parents, who lived in the northern part of China, planned to bury her alive in the countryside. However, an elderly Buddhist couple took her to their home, where she became the youngest child in their family of five.

Partly because of her disability, it was hard for her to continue to attend school, as her mother and father thought it was a waste of money and did not provide any financial assistance. For several years, she sold roses in a park to earn the necessary tuition to attend school. Eventually, an interested person provided her with a generous scholarship to attend a Seventh-day Adventist academy in the Philippines, and it was here that she was baptized. Through the continuation of this scholarship and sponsorship by this same person, she was able to finish her four-year bachelor's degree in education, after which she served at Eden Adventist hospital in South Korea as a missionary for two-and-a-half years. During this time, she decided to continue her studies and obtain a Master's degree in Christian counseling in order to teach others about the Bible and about Jesus' love. She is currently pursuing an M.Div. at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. She is the only Seventh-day Adventist in her adopted family and is attending Andrews University without family support.



MABEL ENRIQUEZ
2020 Scholarship recipient
River Plate University – Argentina

Mabel Enriquez was 8 years old when she became acquainted with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was her brothers' perseverance and faith that led her to God. Her nine siblings are all Seventh-day Adventists, although her parents are not members of the church. When she was 15, she seriously began studying the Bible with greater interest.

After finishing high school, she became a literature evangelist. Shortly thereafter, she became the youth leader in her church.

Although she studied nursing for three years, she always cherished a deep desire to become a missionary and dreamed of someday studying theology at an Adventist university. However, because of family financial needs, she stayed home to work for two more years.

Eventually, she was able to enroll at River Plate University (UAP) in Argentina, although she had no money for tuition. However, one month later, she was asked to work as a nurse at the River Plate Sanitarium and Hospital and was excited to know that she would have the resources she needed to continue her studies.

It has not been easy, but she is finally studying theology and is excited to be serving in ministry. She believes there is much women can do to serve God and humanity in a variety of positions, including serving as pastors.

CONGRATULATIONS
May God bless your ministry!