



April 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating the Life of **Gwen Ashley**

(Silver Spring, Maryland) The staff of Adventist Risk Management (ARM) today mourns the loss of our fellow colleague and friend, Gwen Ashley, who passed away Sunday morning, April 13 after a brief illness. Ashley began work at ARM in 1999 as the administrative assistant to ARM's president, Robert L. Sweezey. "She was a very proficient person," says Sweezey, "She was well organized, and she also served as recording secretary to the ARM board. Her quality and professionalism will be greatly missed."

Ashley began her administrative career when she accepted a job as secretary to the Chief of Staff Third Naval District, regional headquarters of the military agency, which was responsible for 100,000 naval reservists. She earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. She also became a Certified Professional Secretary.

Ashley is no stranger in the work of the church. Her career included more than 32 years of dedicated service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Prior to joining Adventist Risk Management, she served as the assistant administrator to two presidents at Atlantic Union College. Other posi-

tions included, assistant to the president at Atlantic Union Conference, and secretary to the executive secretary at Northeastern Conference in Queens, New York.

Dr. Lawrence Geraty, former president of Atlantic Union College, recalls fond memories of Ashley. "Gwen has been a very special person in my professional life. When I was president at AUC, I invited her to become my assistant. She was loyal to a fault, productive beyond belief, and extremely efficient. She took pride in doing the best job possible, always working for the Lord and His cause. Being a very private person, she never mixed her work with her private issues and was usually unwilling to discuss the latter. In addition to her denominational employment, she was always active in both the community and the local church where she always held leadership positions. She took the greatest pride in her daughter and granddaughters. Being near them was what kept her from moving to California to work with me, and Adventist Risk Management got the benefit! Gwen was without doubt one of God's unique children and everyone who knew her will miss her terribly, including me."



Dorothy Redmon, Human Resources director for Adventist Risk Management considered Ashley more than just a coworker. "She enjoyed working, and she enjoyed people," says Redmon. "When I came to the Silver Spring office I met Gwen and we became not only coworkers but friends. We were members of the same church in Beltsville, Maryland. I will never forget her kindness. Her ministry to every new employee was to invite them to her home for dinner, giving them a warm welcome to ARM and the Washington, D.C. area."

"We definitely have a void," says Mike Jamieson, ARM vice president and CFO, "Gwen was a big help in the HR department. She learned her job well and knew how to do everything. During the times when Dorothy Redmon would travel on business, Gwen stepped in, set up interviews, handled employee issues, updated payroll information, and assisted in managing our office. She was a tremendous worker and we will miss her very much."

"She was a great help to me in learning the congregation and in developing plans to lead our church," says Kermit Netteburg, pastor of the Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Beltsville, Maryland, where Ashley served as first elder. "Gwen's strong unifying presence will be missed at Beltsville Church. Her leadership kept us focused on the large visions for ministry at Beltsville, and her attention to detail made sure that we were organized so that ministries ran smoothly. She will be missed a lot," says Netteburg.

Ashley leaves behind her daughter, Loryn Daena Logan, son-in-law, Larry Logan; and two granddaughters, Lorelle and Leigha Logan, who were the pride and joy of her life. We continue to keep the family in prayer during this time of sorrow and may we claim the promise of the blessed hope, "Even so, come Lord Jesus." A memorial service is planned for a later date.

Contact:

*Paula L. Webber, director
Corporate Communication
301-680-6930*