

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Bangalore, India, October 5-11, 1993

ANNUAL COUNCIL

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

October 5, 1993, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

E Aaron, Dittu Abraham, G Adai, Caleb O Adeogun, C Aitawna, Fortunato Aleman, Mrs C Alexander, Eliel Almonte, Verna Alva, Erich Amelung, P Anand Moses, J J Anbiah, W T Andrews, S Antonidass, Ronald E Appenzeller, M L Aptha Rao, V M Arockiaswamy, Glenn A Aufderhar,

V K Baby, Karl H Bahr, Amelindu Bairagee, P Balasundaram, Bryan W Ball, Harold W Baptiste, J Bara, S Bara, Graham M Barham, J S C Barla, D K Baroya, Naseeb Basnet, Maurice T Battle, A Bazroy, Bert B Beach, Matthew A Bediako, Jesudas Bhaggien, K Bhaskara Rao, K Bhatti, S R Bhatti, Bakul Bhosle, Bhaskar Bhosle, Bekele Biri, R P Blah, Arthur Blood, Violeto F Bocala, W D Borge, George W Brown, Shirley Burton,

G Tom Carter, Robert H Carter, Douglas W B Chalale, N Sharath Chandra, Ravi Chandran, Edwin Charles, Miss Chawngdinpuui, D Chelladurai, K Chellapandian, M E Cherian, V Christian, Gerald J Christo, Gordon Christo, John Christo, K Christopher, T Christopher, Pyung Duk Chun, Larry R Colburn, Sidney J Cole, L Colney, Lalnilawma Colney, Lowell C Cooper, Jose Orlando Correia, Donald E Crane, James A Cress, Sharon Cress, George H Crumley,

J Daniel, K Daniel, Suresh Daniel, Lall Dass, M Dass, C David, E M Davis, Gideon Dayak, Ketty Chacon de Martinez, Marenus V S DePaula, Gary DeBoer, David D Dennis, Mrs Desmier, Justus Devadas, Daniel Devadhas, N Devaraj, Arthur Devasingh, D Douglas Devnich, Joaquim Dias, C Dkhar, J M Dkhar, K Dkhar, Mrs M Dkhar, J Robert Donald, Charles Dorai, P Dorairaj, R R Drachenberg, Harry Dickson Dumba,

S J Edward, Laurie J Evans,

Charles Ferguson, Sergie B Ferrer, Robert S Folkenberg, Philip S Follett, John M Fowler, Ulrich Frikart,

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Romie I Gainer, Agustin Galicia, T Gangte, M K Gayen, P K Gayen, C A George, C K George, William George, Donald F Gilbert, M M Gill, R M Gill, S M Gill, S R Gill, T R Gill, R J Gombwa, Isaac Gomez, Aristides Gonzalez, Douglas P Goodin, Malcolm D Gordon, Paul A Gordon, P T Gregory, Ian E Grice, Charles J Griffin, Patrick Guenin, Joseph E Gurubatham, Ronnie Gyi,

C B Hammond, L K Hluna, Clarence E Hodges, J Howard, King-Yi Eugene Hsu,

G Isaiah, Paulraj Isaiah, R Isaiah, P R Israel,

Flavie T Jackson, Daniel Jacob, P T Jacob, Bob E Jacobs, Ramesh Y Jadhav, J G Jagdhane, Edward James, I James, R T Jeevanandam, W Gordon Jenson, M S Jeremiah, P V Jesudas, S Jesudas, K Jesurathnam, P Jesuratnam, V Jeyachandran, Svein B Johansen, Bhanu John, Ch John, Emile John, M C John, T I John, U John Samuel, William G Johnsson, Bruce J Johnston, K R Jones, R Jones, M D Joseph, Ruth Joseph, Caleb Joshua, Calvin Joshua, Babu Judson,

L Aisake Kabu, T B Kakade, Daniel Kamble, L T Kamlova, A K Kandane, S Kandulna, S S Kandulna, Gerald D Karst, J Khajekar, V J Khandagle, K B Kharbteng, A S Khavansing, J Khonghat, J I Khonghat, Herbert Kiesler, Kwang Doo Kim, Sung Won Kim, Robert J Kinney Jr, S Kishore, M G Kisku, S Kisku, Robert J Kloosterhuis, Johnson Koilpillai, G W Kore, V P Krushenitsky, E P Kujur, P D Kujur, I Kumar, P D Kunjachan, Bobby C Kurian, Joy Kurian, K N Kurian, T P Kurian, Robert E Kyte,

P Lakra, A Lalengliana, P H Lall, H Lalnilawma, C Lalthanzika, Marcelle Langerijs, Semion Latour, E Lazarus, T J Lazarus, Paulo Leitao, Israel Leito, Robert R Link, Richard Liu, Edwin Ludescher, Y D Luikham, M George Luke, Z Lukhu, L F Lyndoh,

S G Mahapure, R J Mahimadas, G Malangmei, B M Mall, Gerald W Mandemaker, Manual Mannasseh, Robert G Manners, W J R Marak, C S Marandi, Manohar Marjee, R Marjee, Samuel G Masih, B S Massey, Davis Massey, Hidayat Massey, Jacob Mathew, M A Mathew, E B Mathews, N O Matthews, Ramon H Maury, Carlos Mayer, Edwin Ivan Mayer, Seigfried G Mayr, Alfred C McClure, S N McKinney, Cyril H Miller, Kenneth J Mittleider, A Mohan Rao, C R Mohan Rao, E Monickam, Selvin P Moorthy, B S Moses, J D Moses, K J Moses, Manthiri Moses, R Moses, Thomas J Mostert, Jr, Peter Mandu, Mikhail Murga, I Murmu, S Muthiah, Johnson Muthuraj, Nuyembo Mwema,

I Nagabhushana Rao, Ruy H Nagel, C C Nathaniel, Mrs M Nathaniel, George S Nelson, K P Nelson, J David Newman, Leonard G Newton, Robert W Nixon, Mrs M Nongrum, Jacob J Nortey,

Mario H Ochoa, Antoine Oculi, V D Ohal, Robert E Osborn, Rose M Otis,

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D Padmaraj, A A Pankov, A Pannicker, K Pattachen, Bert H Parkerson, P Parmar, K K Paul, S Paul Raj, D Paulose, K A Paulose, P V Paulose, Jan Paulsen, Y Paulson, Gunnar Pedersen, Olga Pervanchuk, G S Peterson, C Pheirim, Mathew Philip, V Philip, Shakar Philips, Marykutty Pillai, Wilson Raju Pillai, Noble Pillai, D S Poddar, P Ponda, Stanley Ponniah, Johnendra Prasad, M Prasad, Michael Prasada Rao, Juan R Prestol, Donald R Pursley, Carlos Puyol,

L D Raelly, K Rajeshwar Rao, S B Raju, V Raju, Sunilda Ramos, C Ramrar, Leo Ranzolin, A P Rao, Arjun Rao, G Elisha Rao, N V Rao, Y Mohan Rao, Humberto M Rasi, Ramesh Rathod, M Ratnasingh, Joshi Victor Rayavarapu, Benjamin Reaves, George W Reid, Gordon L Retzer, Rowena R Rick, M M Rimsu, G S Robert Clive, Donald E Robinson, Calvin B Rock, Bernardo Rodriguez, Horst Rolly, Romawia, Michael L Ryan,

Monte Sahlin, Nunthari Sailo, E Samraj, Franklin Samraj, N D Samson, S Samudre, B Samuel, C Samuel, Edison Samuel, Shadrack Samuel, Chhunthang Sangchia, D Sangma, P Sangma, R L Sangvunga, Mrs T Sarojamma, M R Satyavadi, Walter R L Scragg, Ravi Shanker, K Shanmugunathan, J Shantaraj, G E Sharon, G Sharp, Tae Sup Shim, K A Shimray, C R Shinge, S R Shinge, J H Sibil, S Simon, Bharat Singh, J Singh, J K Singh, James N Singh, K P Singh, Lakhan Singh, V K Singh, V P Singh, W Singh, S K Sircar, Joseph Skariah, G Edward Solomon, N D Solomon, S Stanley, D Stephen, Manuel Sundaram, S Sundaram, K J Sunder Rao, C M J Suvarnaraj, Kenneth Swansi, Robert L Sweezey,

David L Taylor, C B Tete, Raymond D Tetz, K Thankam, V Thansiam, Deep Thapa, M Thavasmony, Ba Hla Thein, Boban Thomas, John P Thomas, K J Thomas, P I Thomas, G Ralph Thompson, D Thyagaraj, A J Tito, R Tlau, Athal H Tolhurst, Joel O Tompkins,

H J van der Ness, Karel C van Oossanen, K I Varghese, T I Varghese, Ilia I Velgosha, Mario Veloso, Ch Victor Sam, Leo Vigna,

Ralph S Watts, Jr, M Wesley, Albert S Whiting, John Willmott, Neal C Wilson, Ted N C Wilson, Y J Wilson, Colin M Winch, Edward E Wines, Ron M Wisbey, Joao Wolff,

K Yohannan, F Martin Ytreberg,

Y Zambre, Valdis A Zilgalvis

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OPENING

W Gordon Jenson, Field Secretary of the Southern Asia Division, led the song service, accompanied at the organ by Betty Jenson, and at the piano by Rae Lee Cooper.

Special Music, a solo, was presented by Avinash Holkar, and a trumpet solo, "The Holy City" by Meshac Samuel of the Southern Asia Division.

The Invocation was given by John M Fowler, Associate Secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bob E Jacobs, Administrative Assistant to the General Conference President, introduced the General Vice Presidents and Division Presidents.

WELCOME

The following individuals each extended a welcome to the 472 delegates and many visitors attending this 81st Session of the Annual Council:

Shri M Veerappa Moily, Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Shri Sudanva, Mayor of Bangalore.

Shri B Ramanath Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Shri L Reddy, Mayor of Bangalore.

John Willmott, President of the South India Union Section.

N Sharath Chandra, on behalf of the Karnataka Section of the South India Union Section.

Shri M Veerappa Moily expressed appreciation for the Church's Christian response to the tragedy which struck India. M E Cherian, President of the Southern Asia Division, called for those present to stand for one minute in silence and prayer in memory of those who perished in the earthquake.

SCRIPTURE

Donald G Pursley, Vice President for Financial Affairs at Loma Linda University, read the scripture, "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12).

OPENING HYMN

The opening hymn, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," was announced by W Gordon Jenson, Professor at Spicer Memorial College.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was given by Philip S Follett, Vice President of the General Conference.

CALL TO ORDER

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Vice President of the General Conference, called the meeting to order, and G Ralph Thompson, Secretary of the General Conference, read Article XIII, Section 2-a, of the General Conference Bylaws which states the constitutional provision for convening the Annual Council. All conditions had been met.

Following this procedure, Robert J Kloosterhuis declared the 1993 Annual Council open for the consideration of business.

PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION

The Program section of the delegate notebook was distributed, and it was announced that the notebooks and agenda information would be distributed at the Wednesday morning meeting.

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DAILY PROGRAM—ADOPTION OF

VOTED, To adopt the following daily program for the 1993 Annual Council:

(October 5-11 except Sabbath, Ashok Hotel—Banquet Hall)

AM	6:45 - 7:45	Steering Committee (Ashok Hotel—Suite 600)
	8:00 - 9:00	Devotional Meeting
	9:00 - 12:30	Council or Committees

LUNCH

PM	1:30 - 2:30	Special Committees
	2:30 - 5:30	Council or Committees

DINNER/SUPPER

	7:00 - 9:00	Evening Meeting (Chowdiah Memorial Hall)
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93AC to GDK

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

VOTED, To approve the following standing committees for the 1993 Annual Council:

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Matthew A Bediako, Chairperson
Gerald D Karst, Secretary

Members: Harold W Baptiste, Bob E Jacobs, Robert E Osborn.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS, USHERS, AND OFFERINGS

Humberto M Rasi, Chairperson
M C John, Vice-Chairperson

Members: S Muthiah, D Padmaraj, M Prasad, K Yohannan.

FINANCE

Donald F Gilbert, Chairperson
George H Crumley, Secretary
Fay Welter, Recording Secretary

All General Conference associate treasurers.
All division treasurers.
All attached union treasurers.
All General Conference institutions' financial officers.
All others not attending the Policy Discussion Group.

MUSIC

W Gordon Jenson, Chairperson

Members: K J Balaji, Mrs Rae Lee Cooper, Mrs R Gayen, E Mathew, C Pheirim.

NOMINATIONS

Robert S Folkenberg, Chairperson
G Ralph Thompson, Secretary

Members: Caleb O Adeogun, Fortunato Aleman, Eliel Almonte, Verna Alva, Ronald E Appenzeller, Glenn A Aufderhar, Karl H Bahr, Bryan W Ball, Harold W Baptiste, Graham M Barham, Maurice T Battle, A Bazroy, Bert B Beach, Matthew A Bediako, Bekele Biri, Violeto F Bocala, George W Brown, G Tom Carter, Robert H Carter, M E Cherian, Pyung Duk Chun, Larry R Colburn, Sidney J Cole,

Lowell C Cooper, Jose Orlando Correia, Donald E Crane, James A Cress, George H Crumley, Ketty Chacon de Martinez, Gary DeBoer, D Douglas Devnich,

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Joaquim Dias, Laurie J Evans, Philip S Follett, Ulrich Frikart, Agustin Galicia,
Donald F Gilbert, G S Gill, R J Gombwa, Isaac Gomez, Douglas P Goodin,
Malcolm D Gordon, Paul A Gordon, Ian E Grice, Joseph E Gurubatham,

Clarence E Hodges, Flavie T Jackson, Bob E Jacobs, Asser A Jean-Pierre, Svein B Johansen,
William G Johnsson, Bruce T Johnston, Gerald D Karst, Robert J Kinney,
Robert J Kloosterhuis, V P Krushenitsky, Robert E Kyte, Marcelle Langerijs, Israel Leito,
Edwin Ludescher, Gerald W Mandemaker, Gordon O Martinborough, Carlos Mayer,
Edwin Ivan Mayer, Alfred C McClure,

S N McKinney, Cyril H Miller, Kenneth J Mittleider, Thomas J Mostert Jr,
I Nagabhushana Rao, Leonard G Newton, Robert W Nixon, Jacob J Nortey, Ivan Omana,
Robert E Osborn, Rose Otis, Jan Paulsen, Olga Pervanchuk, L D Raelly, Donato Ramirez,
Sunilda Ramos, Leo Ranzolin, Humberto M Rasi, Benjamin Reaves, George W Reid,
Rowena R Rick, Donald E Robinson, Calvin B Rock, Bernardo Rodriguez, Michael L Ryan,

Tae Sup Shim, David L Taylor, Ba Hla Thein, Athal H Tolhurst, Joel O Tompkins,
Karel C van Oossanen, Mario Veloso, Ralph S Watts Jr, Albert S Whiting, John Willmott,
Neal C Wilson, Ted N C Wilson, Ron M Wisbey, Joao Wolff, F Martin Ytreberg.

PLATFORM

James A Cress, Chairperson
Leo Ranzolin, Vice-Chairperson

Members: Bob E Jacobs, K J Moses.

POLICY

Calvin B Rock, Chairperson
Athal H Tolhurst, Secretary
Donald E Robinson

All General Conference associate secretaries.
All division secretaries.
All attached union secretaries.
All others not attending the Finance Committee.

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STEERING

Robert S Folkenberg, Chairperson
Athal H Tolhurst, Secretary

Members: Ronald E Appenzeller, Karl H Bahr, Harold W Baptiste, Maurice T Battle, Matthew A Bediako, Shirley Burton, M E Cherian, Larry R Colburn, Lowell C Cooper, George H Crumley, Philip S Follett, Donald F Gilbert, Bob E Jacobs, William G Johnsson, Gerald D Karst, Robert J Kloosterhuis, Alfred C McClure, Kenneth J Mittleider, I Nagabhushana Rao, Robert E Osborn, Rose Otis,

Leo Ranzolin, George W Reid, Rowena R Rick, Donald E Robinson, Calvin B Rock, G Ralph Thompson, Mario Veloso, Ralph S Watts Jr, Albert S Whiting, F Martin Ytreberg.

Invitee: Melvin Seard

STRATEGIC PLANNING & BUDGETING

Robert S Folkenberg, Chairperson
Robert J Kloosterhuis, Vice-Chairperson
Donald E Robinson, Secretary

Members: Fortunato Aleman, Verna Alva, Ronald E Appenzeller, Bryan W Ball, Bert B Beach, Matthew A Bediako, George W Brown, Shirley Burton, G Tom Carter, M E Cherian, Pyung Duk Chun, James A Cress, Ketty Chacon de Martinez, Philip S Follett, Donald F Gilbert, R J Gombwa, Douglas P Goodin, Patrick Guenin, Flavie T Jackson, Bob E Jacobs, Svein B Johansen, Marcelle Langerijs, Israel Leito,

Edwin Ludescher, Alfred C McClure, Kenneth J Mittleider, Jacob J Nortey, Rose Otis, Jan Paulsen, Olga Pervanchuk, L D Raelly, Sunilda Ramos, Leo Ranzolin, Humberto M Rasi, Benjamin Reaves, Rowena R Rick, Calvin B Rock, Michael L Ryan, C Sangchia, Walter R L Scragg, G Ralph Thompson, Athal H Tolhurst, Ralph S Watts Jr, Albert S Whiting, Ted N C Wilson, Joao Wolff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

Larry R Colburn

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COMMUNICATIONS

Shirley Burton

TRANSPORTATION

F Martin Ytreberg

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ANNUAL COUNCIL PROCEDURES - 1993

VOTED, To adopt the following procedures for the discussion groups:

PROCEDURES

In the management of the Annual Council of 1993, a procedure will be followed by which two major sections of agenda items will be routed to Discussion Groups prior to their presentation to the Council. This procedure will have the effect of releasing more Council time for consideration of issues and initiatives directly related to the mission of the Church.

The two Discussion Groups will be the Finance Committee and the Policy Discussion Group. Inasmuch as these two groups will meet concurrently, it is expected that the time-consuming processes of debate and amendment will be cared for, in the greater part, in the Discussion Groups, thus freeing up more Council time for other major discussion items. Should consensus be reached in the Discussion Groups, and this will certainly be encouraged, it is hoped that, when the same agenda items are brought to the Council, they will be processed without undue deliberation.

It is recommended that these procedures be a part of the program voted at the commencement of Annual Council. These procedures, and the routing of agenda items, may subsequently be modified by action of the floor.

The following are the Discussion Groups, the chairman and secretary for each Group, and the meeting places.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Policy Items | Chairman: | Calvin B Rock |
| | | Secretary: | Harold W Baptiste |
| | | Meeting Place: | Ashok Banquet |

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2. Finance Committee Chairman: Donald F Gilbert
Secretary: George H Crumley
Meeting Place: Ashok Chanakya

The times for meeting will be shown on the daily committee schedule.

All Finance Committee members are expected to attend the Finance Committee meeting, and any other delegates are welcome to attend. Division Secretaries are urged to attend the Policy Discussion Group, along with the remaining delegates.

ROUTING OF AGENDA ITEMS TO DISCUSSION GROUPS

Discussion Group 1 POLICY ITEMS

(All policy items listed
on Policy Agenda sheet.)

Discussion Group 2 FINANCE COMMITTEE ITEMS

(All items listed on the Finance Committee
agenda sheet.)

VIDEO REPORT

A fifteen-minute video report on the State of the Church was presented.

ADVENTIST REVIEW SPECIAL PRESENTATION

William G Johnsson, Editor of the *Adventist Review*, made a special presentation of the September 30, 1993 issue of the *Adventist Review*, which featured 100 years of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in India, to Robert S Folkenberg, President of the General Conference, and M E Cherian, President of the Southern Asia Division.

WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Israel Leito, Director of the General Conference Department of Church Ministries, sang the beautiful song, "Available."

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Robert S Folkenberg, President of the General Conference, presented the Keynote Address entitled, "Christ The Servant Leader."

By what standard does a Seventh-day Adventist leader define success? What do you mean when you say:

"There is a successful pastor!"

"There is a successful administrator!"

The measure of success we generally use relates to the position that we have. Do we pastor a large church? Are we an administrator in a large conference? In short, are we moving up "the ladder" in the church? We live in a world that conditions us to think that to succeed in life, we need to be somebody. We need to accomplish something that is important in the eyes of others.

Often we find ourselves using worldly standards to measure success. Success is not a bad thing. Everyone wants to feel successful and valued. Turn with me in your Bibles to Matthew 20:20, 21 (NIV):

"Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 'What is it you want?' He asked. She said, 'Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.' "

James and John and their mother knew the desire for success—the desire to be recognized through position. Surely they had good reasons for their request. Have you ever rationalized a move to a high position by saying, "I am needed there because it will be a wider field of service."

The world generally measures success by position or wealth. In the church, money is not an acceptable way to demonstrate our success and so we are tempted to use position, just like James and John wanted to do.

Comparing ourselves and our success with others always results in losing. As the Apostle Paul says:

"We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."—2 Corinthians 10:12

Each person is God's special creation with unique gifts, and coveting the gifts or position of another disparages God's creation.

Jesus responded to the mother's request:

“ ‘You don't know what you are asking,’ Jesus said to them. ‘Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?’ ‘We can,’ they answered.”

Let me point out another danger. There is great bravado in ignorance. I can recall when I was younger—before July 6, 1990. I felt that the answers to the problems of the Church were easy to come by. It simply meant making the right decisions. I joined the multitudes flooding Elder Wilson's desk with all the answers, without knowing the questions, much less understanding them! Before I had the responsibility, my confidence level was high. But responsibility has given me a whole new perspective.

That was the picture of James and John. They rather rashly and quickly said that they could drink of the cup that Jesus was to drink. If they had known the cost of discipleship, they would have been more thoughtful.

Jesus responded to their bravado by saying: “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father” (Matthew 20:22, 23 NIV).

Jesus did not criticize the mother of James and John for making her request. He did not criticize James and John for desiring responsible positions. The fact is, a sense of self-worth is vital to life. Feeling successful is important to life.

When the mother of James and John made the request Jesus just said that it was not His responsibility to make the decision about positions one and two in His kingdom. Of course, the story did not end there: “When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers” (Matthew 20:24 NIV).

Why were they so indignant? There are none so indignant as those who catch someone else doing something that they wish they could have done—if they would only have thought of it first. Then it says: “Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them’” (Matthew 20:25 NIV).

Jesus said, “You know the old way. The way of the worldly kingdom.” Striving to beat out others for position. Talking about the faults of others to hide your own.

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The natural result of striving for success in selfish ways, using worldly standards of success, is self-destruction.

Jesus reminded the disciples of the ways of the worldly kingdom, and then Jesus contrasts the old worldly way with the way of the New Kingdom, by adding: “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave” (Matthew 20:26, 27 NIV).

Jesus did not condemn their desire to be great or successful. He told them how to achieve their goal. Their goal was good, their methodology was wrong.

Jesus said that successful leadership is to be a servant. Success in servanthood? How does being a servant make me great? How does being a slave make me first? The heritage of India is rich with examples.

Mahatma Ghandi forsook all for the nation. At his death he owned only a rice bowl, spectacles and sandals. One of history’s greatest leaders, he learned that true value comes through servanthood.

The former Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandi was inspired by the servant example of his grandfather, Jawarhalal Nehru, who became the first Prime Minister of India, and continuing through the tragic martyrdom of his mother, Indira Ghandi, ultimately sacrificing his own life, set his own example of service.

Mother Teresa who, driven by her love of God and the dying poor to which she ministers, is so humble that, in spite of accolades heaped on her by the world—including the Nobel prize—refuses to let visitors take her picture pointing them instead to those she serves.

Servant leadership is difficult to understand. It turns our worldly concepts of success exactly upside down! To illustrate His statement on how to be great, Jesus added: “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28 NIV).

Jesus illustrated leadership with His life. No one, religious or non-religious, could doubt that Jesus was a true servant leader. He so threatened the leaders of His day with his “servant leadership” that they crucified Him. Of the sources of power and leadership that the world follows, what did He use? Position? Riches? Power?

With the power of all of heaven at His disposal, Jesus nevertheless continued to walk the path to the cross.

Ellen G White pointed out one of the secrets of success when she penned: “Your success is in your simplicity” (5T 667). And she added another when, describing Joshua’s leadership, she wrote: “The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty Arm. . . The men of prayer are the men of power” (PP 509).

We are called, as leaders in the Church, to live as Jesus did, leading through servanthood. It is servant leadership that changes the world. We cannot transform the world if we use worldly leadership methods. It is not through position, wealth, or power that we will be the church of Jesus Christ.

Servant leadership is the giving of oneself for another.

- Rather than holding my opinions as supreme, I yield for the good of the body;
- Rather than having concern for my position, I will put first the good of the church;
- Rather than breaking others with my gossip, my heart will break over the pain of others;
- Rather than protecting my position, my department, my program, I will exalt the Gospel Mission of the Church.

The only success that we will find in life must be found in following Christ, the Servant Leader.

- He came not to show off His worth;
He came to give us worth.
- He came not to enrich Himself at our expense;
He came to impoverish Himself to make us rich.
- He came not to impress us with His glory;
He came to share His glory with us.
- He came to us not because we had value;
He came to us to give us value.

So by the grace of God we each have gifts to feed others so that they can reach their goals, rather than feeding on others so we can reach our goals.

In Christ I find healing for I am a child of God. In Christ I am not called to be somebody but to serve someone. I am called:

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Not to look like someone but to look after someone.
Not to be smarter than someone but to share wisdom.
Not to be richer but to share God's riches of grace.
Not to have a higher position than someone else, but to serve to the best of my
ability in whatever position the Lord places me.

So in Christ each of us is called to share any gift He has given us, as His servants.
The way I use my God-given gifts may not impress the world. But that is not what counts.
By heaven's standard, we only serve as we serve our Lord.

WORSHIP IN MUSIC

The Hosur Ladies Choir, directed by Rae Lee Cooper, presented a closing number
entitled, "Victory in Jesus."

BENEDICTION

The benediction was pronounced by Donald F Gilbert, Treasurer of the General
Conference.

Adjourned.

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairman
G Ralph Thompson, Secretary
Gerald D Karst, Editorial Secretary
Irene M Larkin, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

October 6, 1993, 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Violeto F Bocala, Secretary of the Far Eastern Division, presented the devotional message on the subject, "Christ the Triumphant Victor."

God has a church in this world to which He adds "daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). "And all who received the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellowmen. For this work the church was established. . ." (DA 822). To this church, "He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts" (AA 11-17). Christ is leading this church, ". . .not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people" (TM 61). The church ". . .is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms" (2SM 68, 69).

The church that keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus is the object of Satan's attacks. He uses four steps of attack, (1) to demoralize, (2) to create discontent, (3) to destroy confidence of the people of God in the leaders, and (4) to split the church and appoint new leadership. These will create a shaking. Satan is "preparing his last campaign against the church. . .They will not recognize him as their enemy. . .But they will consider him a friend, one who is doing a good work" (5T 294).

Satan will appear as an angel of light and his ministers as ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15).

"Men professing to have new light claiming to be reformers will have great influence over a certain class who are convinced of the heresies that exist in the present age, and who are not satisfied with the original condition of the churches. . .Someone making high profession as reformer comes to them as Satan came to Christ, disguised as an angel of light, and draws them still further from the right path."—5T 144

Those who are not of Christ will eventually step out of the church. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us" (1 John 2:19).

The true follower of Christ will remain in the church. The Spirit of Prophecy explicitly says, "We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot

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now enter into any new organization. For this would mean apostasy from the truth” (2SM 390).

Christ loves this Church. He is the Head of this Church. And any who claim to know great light, yet advocate the tearing down of what has been built “are not working along lines where Christ is working.” It is the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy that those who assert that the Seventh-day Adventist Church constitutes Babylon might better stay at home. Let them stop and consider what is the message to be proclaimed at this time (TM 36, 37).

Christ guides His church (Exodus 13:21). In times of crisis, He delivers His church (Exodus 14:5-15). He nurtures His church. He expressed His will orally to His people. He wrote them for permanent record, and illustrated His plan of salvation through the sanctuary services (Exodus 19, 30, 31). He leads this Church. He instructs this Church and keeps her as the apple of His eye (Deuteronomy 32:10). Any attack against this Church is an attack against Christ. And we are certain that the Seventh-day Adventist Church will accomplish her global mission because Christ is at the head; and in the final conflict, Christ will come out the Triumphant Victor.

Prayer was offered by J David Newman, Associate Secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association.

ONLINE EDITION VIDEO—UPDATE

Following the devotional message each morning, a different segment of the OnLine Edition will be shown. Today’s segment was “Update.”

Robert S Folkenberg opened the business session with prayer, and then called the 1993 Annual Council to order.

93AC to GRT

ASSIGNMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS

G Ralph Thompson gave an overview of the agenda items to be covered during the 1993 Annual Council, and it was

VOTED, To accept the agenda as outlined.

93AC to GRT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

G Ralph Thompson, Secretary of the General Conference, introduced the Undersecretary, Associate Secretaries, and Assistant Secretary. A synopsis of his report follows:

Mercies along the highways and skyways have been extended to all of us as attendees at the 1993 Annual Council. We thank our Heavenly Father for bringing us safely to this place. Many of us have traveled many time zones and thousands of miles to get here. We thank God for all of His blessings.

Here we are in beautiful Bangalore, south India, in the Southern Asia Division. Bangalore is one of the most fascinating cities of India. The Garden City it is called. It is the capital city of the State of Karnataka with a population of over three million. While here you will want to take advantage of visiting the rich bird sanctuaries, wildlife parks, and gardens, and you will also want to see the outstanding attractive architecture. All of this, of course, will be outside of the official time when all of us should be here doing the business of the Church.

Some people have asked us, and many more have wondered, why are we having an Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee in India? Indeed, this is the first time that an Annual Council will be held in the territory of the Southern Asia Division.

A number of years ago, the General Conference leadership devised the plan by which we have held at least two Annual Councils in divisions outside of North America during the quinquennium. The purpose for all of this is to emphasize the fact that we Seventh-day Adventists are a World Church. Even though the world headquarters is located in North America, eighty-nine percent of our world membership is outside the United States of America, hence, the rationale for holding General Conference Sessions and Annual Councils

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outside of the territory of the North American Division. This gives the members of other divisions an opportunity to see the General Conference Committee at work, for we know that a large number, the majority for that matter, of our members and workers will never have the opportunity of attending a General Conference Session or an Annual Council when it is held in North America.

So here we are in India, and the territory of the Southern Asia Division, which by the way, brings us to the end of the circle of divisions that have had an Annual Council in their territory. Since the planning, of course, we have added the Euro-Asia Division which is the newest of our divisions. As you will recall, we have had Annual Councils in Mexico in the Inter-American Division, in Manila in the Far Eastern Division, in Rio de Janeiro in the South American Division, in Nairobi, Kenya for the African Divisions, and two years ago we were in Perth, Western Australia for the South Pacific Division, and two years from now, the Lord willing, we shall be having the biggest event of all, the 1995 General Conference Session in Utrecht, The Netherlands for the European Divisions. Before the next quinquennium the brethren will get together and discuss this whole item and see where we will go for future Annual Councils. But, suffice it to say, it is a great privilege and pleasure to be in this great country of India.

Last night our General Conference President, Elder Robert Folkenberg, delivered the first message of the challenging theme that has been set for this Annual Council, "Victory Through Christ." I am sure that his message, "Christ the Servant-Leader," stirred our hearts as we recognize that Jesus Christ must be the leader in our own personal lives as well as acknowledging the fact that Christ is the leader of the great Advent Movement. We give glory to Him for all that He has done for us as a Church as well as individuals.

As Elder Folkenberg has said before, the real leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide is not just a man called Robert S Folkenberg, President of the General Conference, but really, the Man called Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Elder Folkenberg, for a challenging, inspiring message.

Since we are meeting in this Annual Council in the territory of the Southern Asia Division, I believe it is fitting to give a little historical background and a bird's-eye view of the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist work in this great country. India is the world's second most populated country with a present population estimated at about nine hundred and five million. India covers an area of 1,262,275 square miles. It is the seventh largest country in the world, and is about one-third of the area of the fifty states of the United States.

The history of India is a rich and fascinating one, with its extremely complex ethnic composition of peoples. India speaks over 845 different languages and major dialects. As far as religion goes, Hinduism is the leading religious philosophy in this country dating back to the 17th Century B.C. As a matter of fact, the sacred books of the Hindus called Vedas were produced more than a thousand years before Christ. Other religious groups represented here in India are Moslems, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, and Christians.

As far as Christianity is concerned, there is a tradition that the Apostle Thomas preached the gospel to the peoples of India and established the Nestorian Christian Church in the South. William Carey from England came to India in 1793, along with a physician named Thomas, and worked for the next 34 years translating and publishing the scriptures in 40 languages and dialects.

Although we do not know precisely when Seventh-day Adventist teachings were introduced into India, we traditionally look to the year 1893 when William Lanker and A T Stroup, two colporteurs from the United States, landed in Madras and began canvassing for Seventh-day Adventist subscription books among the English-speaking inhabitants of the major cities of India. That is why we look upon this year, 1993, as the Centennial Celebration of the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist work in India.

These are thrilling, challenging times to which we have come. God has blessed us mightily in our soul winning outreach for Him, but the multiplied millions, yea billions on earth, still need to hear the message of the Third Angel. Here in India we know that it will take a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon His people, because the work cannot be finished by ordinary means. These are tremendous times and we need extraordinary power from God to accompany us as we go out to witness for Him. We indeed must pray for God's spirit to be upon each one of us in our witness and in our outreach.

But we can be optimistic. God has a thousand ways in which to finish His work of which we know nothing. When we as human beings sit down to discuss the unfinished task, it baffles us as to how it will end, but we know that this is no challenge or unsolvable mystery for God, for Christ our Leader goes before us, and His message is still the same. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel, and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

You and I are called upon to cooperate with Him. The future for the Advent Message is as bright as the promises of God. So let us keep looking up, going forward in faith, for victory will be attained through Christ!

VOTED, To accept the Secretary's Report.

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93AC to DFG

TREASURER'S REPORT

Donald F Gilbert, Treasurer of the General Conference, introduced the Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers. He then presented his report using graphs and pie charts.

Donald E Robinson, Undertreasurer, presented the Financial Statement of the General Conference for the period ending August 31, 1993. It was

VOTED, To accept the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statement.

93AC to DFG

FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW

Donald F Gilbert presented a report from the Financial Audit Review Committee. It was

VOTED, To accept the Audit Review Committee Report for 1992.

StratPl&Bud/93AC to DER-94SM+95SM

252-93G OPERATING EXPENSE CAP

VOTED, To record the details regarding the General Conference Operating Expense Cap as follows:

1. Actual expenses for 1992 amounted to \$2,652,594 below the cap. Full details were recorded at the 1993 Spring Meeting.
2. It is anticipated that actual expenses for 1993 will be below the cap. A detailed report will be presented to the 1994 Spring Meeting.
3. Budgeted projections for 1994 indicate that the General Conference should operate below the cap by an amount of \$467,170. A report will be presented on actual expenditures in relation to the cap for 1994 at the 1995 Spring Meeting.

93AC to GRT

STATISTICAL REPORT

Harold W Baptiste, Secretary of the North American Division, presented a statistical report, on behalf of F Donald Yost, Director of the General Conference Office of Archives and Statistics, who was unable to be present.

In the past five years more than 2.8 million believers were added to the Church. Losses accounted for about 800,000, for a net growth of 2 million. During 1992 additions to the Church averaged about 11,720 each Sabbath. These numbers do not include China. In the twelve months ending June 30, 1993 membership in the Euro-Asia Division advanced 39.74 percent and in China 14.57 percent.

VOTED, To accept the Statistical Report.

AWR/PRE/ADCOM/93AC to KJM

132-93G ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO ANNUAL OFFERING

VOTED, To approve the proposal of the Adventist World Radio Board relating to the disposition of the Adventist World Radio Annual Offering as follows:

Adventist World Radio Annual Offering

1. To return 50 percent of the net amount of the Adventist World Radio Annual Offering to the divisions.
2. To remit any funds raised by the Adventist World Radio Offering to the General Conference before the reversion occurs, these funds to be used to support program production for Adventist World Radio broadcasts.
3. To exclude the North American Division or any other division not involved in program production specifically for Adventist World Radio from the reversion.
4. Commencing in 1992, the divisions requesting the return of 50 percent will devote those funds to support program production for Adventist World Radio pending future policy actions.

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5. To authorize the deduction of expenses for promoting this offering prior to reversion with the understanding that these expenses will be allocated against the offering on a pro rata basis related to the actual offering received from the divisions. Any expense incurred by the division in promoting the offering would be deducted from its share of the offering after reversion.

FURTHER, To agree that the two-year introduction period commenced on January 1, 1992.

WCommY/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to MAB

264-93G WORLD COMMISSION ON YOUTH REPORT

Israel Leito presented a report from the World Commission on Youth, which met at Newbold College in England from July 8 to 16, 1993. A copy of the report is included with the official copy of the minutes. It was

VOTED, 1. To accept the World Commission on Youth Report.

2. To request the divisions to implement the recommendations of the World Commission on Youth (to be supplied at a later date by Israel Leito).

SAU/SAAC/ADCOM/93AC to AHT

CAPRIVI FIELD, SOUTHERN AFRICA UNION CONFERENCE—
NAME CHANGE

VOTED, To change the name of the Caprivi Field in the Southern Africa Union Conference to the North East Namibia Field.

SEC/ADCOM/93AC to MV

BULLON, ALEJANDRO—SECRETARY, MINISTERIAL
ASSOCIATION, SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION -
ELECTION

VOTED, To elect Alejandro Bullon as Secretary of the Ministerial Association, South American Division.

AID/ADCOM/93AC to GRT

BAHIMBA, PHENIAS—RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

VOTED, To accept the resignation of Phenias Bahimba as Education Director, Africa-Indian Ocean Division, for personal reasons, effective July 12, 1993.

SEC/ADCOM/93AC to GRT

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—ELECTIVE
MEMBERS

VOTED, To elect the following individuals as members of the General Conference Executive Committee as provided for in the General Conference Constitution, Article V, Section 1-b.

George W Brown, subject to his retirement on December 31, 1993
Otis C Edwards
Mikhail P Kulakov

PRE/ADCOM/93AC to ACM

PECKHAM, LORI L—EDITOR, *INSIGHT*, REVIEW AND HERALD
PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION - APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint Lori L Peckham as Editor of *Insight*, Review and Herald Publishing Association.

PRE/ADCOM/93AC to RJK

TYSON-FLYN, BONNIE—ASSOCIATE BOOK EDITOR, PACIFIC
PRESS PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION - APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint Bonnie Tyson-Flyn as Associate Book Editor, Pacific Press Publishing Association.

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PRE/ADCOM/93AC to RJK

THOMAS, JERRY—ASSOCIATE BOOK EDITOR, PACIFIC PRESS
PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION - APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint Jerry Thomas as Associate Book Editor, Pacific Press
Publishing Association.

PARL_n/NADO/NADOUP/NADCOM/93AC to HWB

GOLDSTEIN, CLIFFORD—EDITOR, *LIBERTY* - APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint Clifford Goldstein as editor of *Liberty* magazine.

Adjourned.

Robert S Folkenberg, Chairman
Maurice T Battle, Secretary
Larry R Colburn, Editorial Secretary
Carol Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL
GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

October 6, 1993, 2:30 p.m.

Prayer was offered by Leonard G Newton, President of the Central African Union Mission.

Philip S Follett called the 1993 Annual Council to order.

ACPI/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to KHB(DIV)

263-93G ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1996 - VENUE

VOTED, To approve San Jose, Costa Rica as the venue for the 1996 Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee.

ESD/93AC to MV

261-93G RUSSIAN UNION SURVEY COMMISSION -
APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint a Russian Union Survey Commission (RUSComm) as follows:

MEMBERS:

FOLLETT, PHILIP S, Chairman
Veloso, Mario, Secretary

Krushenitsky, V P
Link, Robert R
Panchenko, P G
Predolyak, V V
Prestol, Juan R
Wilson, Ted N C
Ytreberg, F Martin

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SEC/GCDOUP92SM/92SM/GCDOUP92AC/116-92Gb/LLUBd/GCDOUP93SM/ADCOM/
StratPl&Bud/GC&DivSec93AC/GC&DivTre93AC/GC&DivSec&Tre93AC/GCDOUP93AC/
93AC to CBR&DFG(DIV)

121-93Gb DEFERRED APPOINTEE PROGRAM

(Deferred Mission Appointee Program)

(Foreign Students Financial Assistance—Loma Linda University)

VOTED, To approve the Deferred Appointee Program for medical and dental students as follows:

I. Non-NAD Deferred Appointee Program

Acceptance—1. Appointees endorsed by their home division must first be accepted to either a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Medical Doctor academic program at Loma Linda University.

2. After being accepted, appointees apply to and are selected by the General Conference Secretariat, in consultation with the appointees' home division. Applications are available at the General Conference Representative's Office on the Loma Linda University Campus.

Funding—1. The General Conference will provide a yearly grant of \$168,000* for each of four years to fund the Loma Linda University Non-NAD Deferred Appointee Fund pilot program.

2. Each approved participant will be awarded funds to assist with tuition, books, supplies, instruments, and required fees. In addition, a modest living allowance, equal to the standard Loma Linda University dormitory student budget which is determined each year will be provided. The living allowance will be available for the appointee to withdraw from the Student Finance Office at the beginning of each month.

3. The appointee will sign a contract with the General Conference committing himself/herself to return to the home division for professional service within the denomination upon completion of his/her academic program. If he/she does not return and take up denominational employment, the funds advanced plus 10 percent annual interest (calculated from the date of each advance) will be due and payable immediately.

4. When the deferred appointee begins the term of service the loan will be amortized over a six-year period.

*Based upon six appointees having an average \$20,000 tuition plus \$8,000 living allowance per year for each student.

II. NAD Deferred Mission Appointee Program

Acceptance—1. Appointees must first be accepted to either a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Medical Doctor academic program at Loma Linda University.

2. After appointees have been accepted by the University, applications for Deferred Mission Appointee status may be obtained and completed at the General Conference Representative's Office on the Loma Linda University campus.

Funding—1. Each appointee must file a Loma Linda University Financial Aid Application each year.

2. The approved appointee will be awarded grants and low-interest loans (that do not accrue interest during enrollment) through normal federal and Loma Linda University institutional sources. Additional funds will be lent from the Loma Linda University Deferred Medical Appointee endowment account. The amount shall not exceed tuition plus \$500 for books each year.

3. Living allowance, not to exceed the standard Loma Linda University dormitory student budget which is determined each year, will be provided from the annual \$100,000 grant from the General Conference.

4. The appointee will sign a contract committing himself/herself to mission service upon completion of his/her academic program. If he/she does not fulfill this obligation, the funds advanced (from General Conference sources) plus 10 percent annual interest (calculated from the date of each advance) will be due and payable immediately. Funds obtained from federal and Loma Linda University sources will be the responsibility of the appointee according to the terms of the individual promissory notes.

Implementation of the above program will be effective January 1, 1994.

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ADCOM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to AHT

166-93G ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (GCC-S)—TERMS OF
REFERENCE ADDITION

VOTED, To approve an addition to the General Conference Administrative
Committee (GCC-S) Terms of Reference, section B-5, as follows:

B. Financial Oversight

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 5. Approve building and
financial plans of building
projects, which when
completed involve
borrowing of more than
\$500,000 or funding from
General Conference
appropriations of more than
\$500,000. | 5. Power to act. |
|---|------------------|

SPD/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/SPD/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

139-93Ga TERM OF OFFICE - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Term of Office, at the bottom of page 56 of the
Church Manual, to read as follows:

Term of Office

Term of Office—The term of office for officers of the church and auxiliary
organizations shall be one year, except where the local church in a business meeting votes to
have elections every two years in order to facilitate continuity and development of spiritual
gifts and eliminate the work involved in having yearly elections. While it is not advisable for
one person to serve indefinitely in a particular position, officers may be reelected.

ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

139-93Gb TERM OF OFFICE - *CHURCH MANUAL* DIRECTIVE

RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual* in references to church and auxiliary officers serving one year (excluding Home and School Association) so as to allow the local church to elect officers for one- or two-year terms.

ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/ChMan/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

140-93G THE CHURCH ELDER, ELECTED FOR ONE YEAR -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* page 57, The Church Elder, Elected for One Year, to read as follows:

~~Elected for One Year—Term of Office—~~Like all other church officers, the elder is elected for one year or two years as determined by the local church. (See p 56.) It is not advisable for one person to serve indefinitely, but the elder may be ~~reelected to repeated terms of service-~~ reelected. The church is under no obligation, however, to reelect, but may choose another for eldership whenever a change seems advisable. Upon the election of a new elder, the former elder no longer functions as elder. ~~The former elder, however, elder, but may be elected as deacon, Sabbath School superintendent, or to any other church office.~~

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

161-93G THE CHURCH ELDER, ORDINATION OF LOCAL
ELDER - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* page 57, The Church Elder, Ordination of Local Elder, to read as follows:

Ordination of Local Elder—Election to the office of elder does not in itself qualify one as an elder. Ordination is required before an elder has authority to function in that office. During the interim between election and ordination, the elected elder may function as church leader but not administer the ordinances of the church.

The ordination service is only performed by an ordained minister with credentials from the local conference. It may be a courtesy to invite a visiting ordained minister to assist

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in the ~~ordination, but only~~ ordination. However, only on the specific request of the local conference officers would ~~the a~~ a visiting ordained minister or a retired ordained minister conduct the ordination.

The sacred rite of ordination should be simply performed in the presence of the church; church and may include a brief outline of the office of elder, the qualities required, and the principal duties the elder will be authorized to perform for the church. After the exhortation, the minister, assisted by other ordained ministers and/or local ordained elders who are participating in the service, will ordain the elder by prayer and the laying on of hands. Having once been ordained as a church elder, ordination is not required again upon reelection to office as an elder, or upon election as elder of another church, provided that good and regular standing in the church has been maintained. One who has been ordained as elder is thereby qualified to serve subsequently in the deaconate office.

MIN/ChMan/ChMan/MIN/ChMan/211-92G/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

111-93G TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF LOCAL ELDERS -
CHURCH MANUAL ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Training and Equipping of Local Elders, to page 58 of the *Church Manual* following the section entitled, Ordination of Local Elder, to read as follows:

Training and Equipping of Local Elders—The Ministerial Association, in cooperation with the departments, promotes the training and equipping of local church elders. While the pastor has the primary responsibility for training local elders, conferences/missions/fields are encouraged to schedule periodic meetings designed for training them. In order to support a pastor-elder team relationship it is recommended that pastors also attend these meetings. Leaders of companies who function in the place of local elders should also be invited to attend.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

160-93G THE CHURCH ELDER, TO COOPERATE WITH THE
CONFERENCE - *CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT*

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 59 and 60, The Church Elder, To Cooperate With the Conference, to read as follows:

To Cooperate With the Conference—All church officers, including the pastor and elder, should cooperate fully with the conference officers and departmental directors in carrying out all local, union, division, and General Conference plans. They should inform the church of all regular and special offerings, and should promote all the programs and activities of the church.

The elder should work very closely with the church ~~treasurer~~; treasurer and see that all conference funds are remitted to the conference treasurer at the close of each month. Personal attention should be given to seeing that the church clerk's report is sent promptly to the conference secretary at the close of each quarter.

The elder should regard all correspondence from the conference office as important. Letters calling for announcements to the church should be presented at the proper time.

The elder ~~head elder, in the absence of and in cooperation with the pastor,~~ should see that delegates to conference sessions are ~~elected~~; elected and that the names of such delegates are sent to the conference office by the clerk.

~~As a wise counselor, help should be given~~ The elder should give counsel and help to officers in the church to measure up fully to their responsibilities in cooperating with the conference, in carrying out all plans and policies, and in seeing that all reports are accurately and promptly forwarded.

ChMan/ChMan/ChMan/209-92G/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

109-93G INDUCTION SERVICE FOR CHURCH OFFICERS -
CHURCH MANUAL ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Induction Service, at the end of Chapter 6 of the *Church Manual*, page 71, to read as follows:

Induction Service

All newly elected officers of the local church may be included in a service of induction conducted by a minister holding a current license or credential. If no minister is available, an ordained elder of the local church may conduct the induction service.

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SPD/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

122-93G BUSINESS MEETINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend page 90 of the *Church Manual*, Business Meetings, the first paragraph, to read as follows:

Business Meetings

Church business meetings duly called by the pastor or the church board in consultation with the pastor may be held monthly or quarterly, according to the needs of the church. Members in good and regular standing on the roll of the church conducting the business meeting may attend and vote. Votes by proxy or letter shall not be accepted. In order to maintain a spirit of close cooperation between the local church and the conference/mission, the church should shall secure counsel from the conference/mission officers on all major matters. The officers (president, secretary, treasurer) of the conference to which the church belongs may attend without vote (unless granted by the church) any church business meeting within the conference territory. A duly called business meeting of the church is a meeting that has been called at the regular Sabbath worship service, together with proper announcements as to the time and place of such meeting. At such meetings, at which the pastor will preside (or will arrange for the local elder to preside), full information should be given to the congregation regarding the work of the church; and at the close of the year, reports should be rendered covering the activities of the church for the entire year. When possible, reports should be presented in writing and should comprise the following activities:

ChMan/ChMan/210-92G/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

110-93G INDUCTION SERVICE FOR OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Induction Service, at the end of Chapter 8 of the *Church Manual*, page 116, to read as follows:

Induction Service

If an induction service (see p. 71) is being held for the newly elected officers of the local church, the officers of the auxiliary organizations should be included.

OWM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

162-93G NOMINATING COMMITTEE, WORK OF THE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 124 to 126, Nominating Committee, Work of the Nominating Committee, to read as follows:

Work of the Nominating Committee—As soon as possible after its election, the nominating committee should be called together by the one chosen to act as chairperson. With earnest prayer for guidance the committee should begin its work of preparing a list of names to submit to the church for officers and assistants comprising members in good and regular standing on the roll of the church making the appointments. These will be placed in nomination for office and presented to the church at a Sabbath service or at a specially called business meeting of the church. In making their selections, the committee may counsel with others who are well informed. This committee does not nominate either the pastor or the assistant pastor. These appointments are made by the executive committee of the conference.

The church nominating committee deals with the following:

Elder or elders
Deacon or deacons
Deaconess or deaconesses
Clerk
Treasurer
Assistant treasurer or treasurers
Church chorister or song leader
Church organist or pianist
Church Education Secretary
Family-Life Director
Lay activities leader
Lay activities secretary
Women's Ministries coordinator
Interest coordinator
Community Services director
Sabbath School superintendent
Assistant Sabbath School superintendents
Sabbath School secretary
Assistant Sabbath School secretary

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Sabbath School division leaders, including leaders for the adult and extension divisions

Sabbath School Investment secretary

Sabbath School Vacation Bible School director

Leader of Home and School Fellowship

Assistant leader of Home and School Fellowship

Secretary of Home and School Fellowship

Assistant secretary of Home and School Fellowship

Leader of Dorcas Welfare Society

Dorcas Welfare Society secretary-treasurer

Adventist Youth Society leader

Associate AYS leader

AYS sponsor

Adventist Junior Youth Society superintendent

Assistant AJY superintendent(s)

AYS secretary-treasurer

Assistant AYS secretary-treasurer

AYS music director

AYS pianist or organist

Pathfinder Club director

Pathfinder Club deputy director

Religious Liberty leader

Temperance leader

Communication secretary or Church Communication Committee

Health secretary

Stewardship secretary

Church board

Church school board

Such other officers as the church may deem advisable

The size of the church will naturally determine the number of church officers to be nominated. If the church is small, many of the assistant leaders may be omitted. In a large church all the officers and leaders named in the foregoing list will may be necessary.

ChMan/221-92G/ADCOM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

115-93G NOMINATING COMMITTEE, OBJECTING TO THE
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE - *CHURCH*
MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 126 and 127, Nominating Committee, Objecting to the Report of the Nominating Committee, to read as follows:

Objecting to the Report of the Nominating Committee—It is the right of any member to raise an objection to the nominating committee's report. Any such objection should be presented in person to the nominating committee for consideration before the second reading of the report by making an appointment through the chairman or church pastor. Or, at the time of the second reading of the report, it is in order for the objector to move that the whole report be ~~referred back~~ referred, without discussion, to the nominating committee for further consideration. If the motion carries, the chairperson of the committee should then announce when and where the committee will be in session to hear the objections to any name. At that time the member making the objection, or any other member who desires to do so, should appear before the committee. If the election is deferred on the objection of any member, it would be a serious matter for that member to fail to appear before the committee. Trivial or groundless objections to any name should never be made, but if there are serious reasons why any nomination should be changed, these reasons should be stated. The committee should give due consideration to the objections presented. If they are found to be justified, the committee will need to substitute another name for the one to which objection was made. The following week the report is again presented to the church, following which the church proceeds to vote on the report of the committee. Every church member should vote for the election of church officers. The election is by the majority vote of those present and voting.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

159-93G ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO LOCAL CONFERENCE
SESSION, CHOOSING DELEGATES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 127 and 128, Election of Delegates to Local Conference Session, Choosing Delegates, to read as follows:

Choosing Delegates—“He [God] has so arranged matters that chosen men shall go as delegates to our conferences. These men are to be tried and proved. They are to be trustworthy men. The choosing of delegates to attend our conferences is an important matter.

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These men are to lay the plans that shall be followed in the advancement of the work; and therefore they are to be men of understanding, able to reason from cause to effect.”—
Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 262.

The number of delegates from each church to a local conference session is determined by the provisions of the conference constitution. When the time comes to select delegates the ~~officers of the church~~ pastor, or the head elder in cooperation with the pastor, should bring the matter before the church. A committee may be appointed to nominate delegates or the church board may be asked to nominate them. Nothing of a political nature should be allowed to come into this work. Men and women of known piety and loyalty and who are able to attend the session should be nominated as delegates. (See also pp. 61, 66.)

When the committee or church board has completed its ~~work~~ work, it should report to the church, nominating as delegates the members it has agreed upon. The church then votes on these nominations. No church officer by virtue of office is a delegate ex officio. After the ~~election~~ election, the clerk of the church will fill out the delegates' credential blanks, furnished for the purpose, and return them to the secretary of the conference. The chosen delegates become the representatives of the church, to unite with the delegates of other churches in the conference in the election of officers for the conference and for the transaction of all other conference business. The delegates to a union conference session are chosen by the local conferences, not by the churches. The delegates to a General Conference session are chosen by the divisions and the union conferences. The respective terms of office for these organizations are determined by the terms of their respective constitutions.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

187-93G CENSURE DEFINED - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* page 159, Censure Defined, to read as follows:

Censure Defined

An erring member may be placed under censure by a vote of the church at any duly called meeting of the church, provided the member concerned has been notified. The individual may be present if he or she so desires. A vote of censure is for a stated period of time, ~~such as for one, three, six, or nine months;~~ from a minimum of one month, up to a maximum of twelve months; it terminates the erring one's election or appointment to any and all offices he or she may hold in the church, and removes the privilege of election to office while under censure. A member under censure has no right to participate by voice or by vote

in the affairs of the church and can have no public part in the exercises thereof, such as teaching a Sabbath School class, et cetera. Neither may the individual's membership be transferred to another church during the period of censure. He or she is not deprived, however, of the privilege of sharing the blessings of Sabbath School, church worship, or the ordinances of the Lord's house. A vote of censure must not carry any provision involving severance of church membership in case of failure to comply with any conditions imposed. Proper inquiry should be made at the expiration of the period of censure, to ascertain whether the member under discipline has changed course. If observed conduct is satisfactory, the individual may then be considered in good standing without further action; however, any return to church office must be by election. If not, the case should again be considered and such discipline administered as is required.

ChMan/ChMan/112-92Ga/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-95GCS

108-93Ga DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE, OUR POSITION -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT
(Divorce and Remarriage - *Church Manual* Amendment)

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 172-173, Divorce and Remarriage, Our Position, to read as follows:

1. "In the Sermon - No change
2. Unfaithfulness to the marriage vow has generally been seen to mean adultery and/or fornication. However, the New Testament word for fornication includes certain other sexual irregularities. (1 Cor 6:9; 1 Tim 1:9, 10; Rom 1:24-27.) Therefore, gross sexual perversions, including homosexual practices, are also recognized as a misuse of sexual powers and a violation of the divine intention in marriage. As such they are just cause for divorce.
2. Even though the Scriptures allow divorce for ~~"unfaithfulness to the marriage vow,"~~²² the reasons mentioned above, earnest endeavors should be made by those concerned to effect a reconciliation urging the innocent spouse to forgive the guilty one and the latter to amend his or her conduct, so that the marriage union may be maintained. The church is urged to relate lovingly and redemptively toward the guilty party.
3. In the event - No change
4. A spouse found guilty of ~~adultery~~ unfaithfulness to the marriage vow (see sections 1 and 2 above) by the church shall be subject to church discipline. Even though the

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~~transgressor he or she~~ may be genuinely repentant, ~~he or she~~ the transgressor shall be placed under censure by the church for a stated period of time, ~~in order to express time as an~~ expression of the church's abhorrence of such evil. The transgressor who gives no evidence of full and sincere repentance shall be disfellowshipped. In case the violation has been so flagrant as to bring public reproach on the cause of God, the church, in order to maintain its high standards and good name, shall disfellowship the individual even though there is evidence of repentance.

5. A guilty spouse - No change

6. When a divorce - No change

7. A guilty spouse who has violated his or her marriage vow and has been divorced and disfellowshipped and who has remarried, or a person who has been divorced on other than the grounds set forth in ~~section~~ sections 1 and 2 and has remarried, and who has been disfellowshipped from the church, shall be considered as standing under the disapproval of the church and thus ineligible for membership except as hereinafter provided.

8. The marriage contract - No change

9. Readmittance to membership - No change

10. When a person - No change

11. No Seventh-day Adventist minister - No change

TRE/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to DFG-Con&By+95GCS

259-93G TRUST SERVICES - DEPARTMENT OF THE CHURCH

RECOMMENDED, To approve Trust Services as a department of the Church, with a request to the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws Committee to prepare an amendment to the General Conference Constitution to address this matter.

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Revised

ChMan/GCDO89AC/89AC/286-89G/90GCS/133-90G/124-91G/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/
GCDO92AC/GCDOUP92AC/92AC/104-92G/ChMan/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/
GCDOUP93AC/93AC to CBR-ChMan93AC+93AC

107-93G COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To refer the recommendation of the Church Manual Committee regarding the wording of the *Church Manual* page 149, Courtship and Marriage, to the Church Manual Committee to function with the members of the committee present at this Annual Council, enriched by field pastors who are delegates, and a representative chosen by each division president. The Committee is asked to prepare a recommendation to be brought back to this Annual Council which hopefully will resolve the issue.

PRE/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to RSF

164-93G REDUCE GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO TWO PER YEAR

VOTED, To approve that General Conference Executive Committee meetings be reduced to two per year, Spring Meeting and Annual Council, instead of quarterly as voted at the 1991 Annual Council in Perth, Australia (see GCC 91-413 Commission on Governance Report), and additionally at the call of the Chair.

Adjourned.

Philip S Follett, Chairman
Gerald D Karst, Secretary
Harold W Baptiste, Editorial Secretary
Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

October 7, 1993, 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

L D Raelly, President of the Eastern Africa Division, presented the devotional message on the subject, "Christ the Unifier."

Micah 2:12, 13 (NIV) states, "I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel; I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like flock in its pasture, the place will throng with people. One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their King will pass through before them, the Lord at their head."

Micah's message centered on the moral and religious conditions existing among the people. Perhaps we are not realizing global mission as we should because the Church is not united as it should be.

It is God that brings together God's scattered flock. The message begins with a frank exposure of our attempts in dealing with disunity. The human strategies of political accommodation, ecclesiastical expediency, and theological reductionism have failed to bring unity among us. True unity can only be achieved by and in the person of Jesus Christ. The Church can only be united in brotherly love by first being united in Christ. Christ is the unifier of the fragmented families of the Church and the world. The Bible says, ". . . unto Him shall the gathering of the people be" (Genesis 49:10 NIV). Christ is the gatherer and unifier of Adam's scattered race. In Christ East and West lose boundaries while North and South embrace each other. At the cross all barriers are dissolved.

For this unity Christ prayed, "Father, keep through Your own name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are" (John 17:11 NKJ).

The challenge today is what we are leading our new believers into—disunity or unity? The Spirit of Prophecy enjoins us to press together in both theological and organizational unity. This can best be achieved when we are united in our operations—one in hope, one in doctrine, one in action.

"As workers together for God, brethren and sisters, lean heavily upon the arm of the Mighty One. Labor in unity, labor in love, and you will become a power in the world."—9T 183

A season of prayer by small groups followed.

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ONLINE EDITION VIDEO—KOBOKO

The OnLine Edition segment “Koboko” was shown.

Richard Liu, Chairman of the Eastern Asia Committee, offered the opening prayer for the business session.

Robert S Folkenberg called the 1993 Annual Council to order.

STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION

Robert S Folkenberg, President of the General Conference, introduced the subject of stewardship. A synopsis of his remarks follows:

Most members believe in the biblical principles of stewardship. However, only one third of the members attending church on Sabbath morning support the church. In the late 60's and early 70's there was a peak in educating members about stewardship, but since then there has been a decline.

We must think globally. When we focus on our own needs, we forget that 80 percent of the population of the world has only 11 percent of the Seventh-day Adventist church membership. To the degree that an organization is dependent on the resources of somebody else, to that degree it is using resources that could be used to spread the gospel somewhere else. Organizational self-reliance is an issue of moral importance.

We are approaching the morning's topic with the assumption that those present already believe in biblical stewardship. There is a call for every union, conference, and division to reach the stage of self-reliance at a predictable time. When a mission or a field sets a specific date to become self-reliant, it begins to solve the problems that keep it from self-reliance.

Southern Asia Division decided in 1990 that the Mizoram Field was going to become a conference at a given date. When the date came last January it was ready to become self-reliant.

Self-reliance is only the first objective. Those who are self-reliant are in the greatest danger of becoming Laodicean. The next step is to have resources to share with the rest of the World Church.

You can pray for self reliance, preach it and teach it. Presidents should ask pastors, "Do you know what percentage of your members pay tithe?" If you are serious about stewardship, you must be serious about accountability. Stewardship Ministries is to help the pastors teach the members.

Members expect a very high level of pastoral care. They need to be reeducated. The faster growing areas of the world depend less on the local pastor for care. The General Conference has only a very few ways of affecting the mission focus of the Church. It affects missions through policy, appropriations, and global mission. The finances of the General Conference are so tightly restricted that it cannot take advantage of all the opportunities to spread the gospel.

STEWARDSHIP VIDEO

Donald E Crane and Charles J Griffin, associate directors in the General Conference Department of Church Ministries, gave a stewardship presentation using videos and the overhead projector.

CM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to MAB-94AC

239-93G STEWARDSHIP, SELF-RELIANCE, AND SACRIFICE - PROPOSAL

Preparing for the Future—The Seventh-day Adventist Church and its leadership are presently challenged with two realities. First, due to unprecedented sociopolitical changes sweeping the world, some countries that recently remained closed to the penetration of the gospel now stand completely open. Opportunity has never been greater for the possibility of proclaiming the three angels' messages in economically depressed countries where resources are limited, facilities sometimes nonexistent, and where thousands are accepting the invitation to faith in Jesus which results in keeping the commandments of God. The Church is confronted by a second reality: in some developed countries of the world where membership growth has been small, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the Church and its institutions because of redirected giving or diminishing financial support. Financial burdens, both personal and organizational, are restricting giving on the one hand and causing

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administrative burdens on the other. The tensions created by these realities are not superficial. They are real! They are felt! They are bewildering!

Increased marketing and organizational skills may be helpful to a certain extent but offer only temporary assistance in addressing new opportunities. Today, developed regions of the world are also struggling to support their existing infrastructure, to preserve previously established institutions, to provide spiritual nurture to members and, at the same time, to support a burgeoning world mission program.

Exploding church membership in some locations presents challenges and opportunities unprecedented in our history. At the same time, economic shifts—particularly in major provider territories—present new financial realities. On one hand, the Church seeks eagerly to reach out to new possibilities, but at the same time must maintain a solid foundation of support for established work.

There is no need to fear this delicate balance, however, for it is certain that when Christians cooperate with God, good things happen. It has been demonstrated that when leaders take the initiative in this commitment and lead their constituencies by the example of their own lifestyles and administrative decisions into a covenant relationship with God, members will respond in positive affirmation. Higher levels of church growth and self-reliance will be the result.

Personal Stewardship—From the biblical perspective, stewardship describes the primary relationship of the Creator and His created beings. In its broader context, stewardship recognizes the responsibility, authority, and accountability for resources belonging to a superior; and describes the careful management of the Lord's assets in such a trustworthy manner that blessings are received from God and confidence is generated in the members of the body of Christ.

Jesus speaks of the lofty concept of stewardship and of the important trust deposited in the hands of stewards in these words: "Who then is the faithful and wise manager ["steward" KJV], whom the master puts in charge . . . of all his possessions" (Luke 12:42-44, NIV). This reaffirms the Old Testament concept of the exalted relationship of the steward to the Master (Genesis 41-47). Other scriptural passages remind stewards that the Master is the owner of all entrusted gifts and that infidelity will result in removal of that sacred trust (Psalms 8; Psalms 50:10-12; Haggai 2:8; Isaiah 22:15-23; Luke 16:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 4:2).

Paul's writings broaden the dimension of stewardship. He uses *oikonomia* to mean

- the responsibility for preaching the gospel in a comprehensive manner (1 Corinthians 9:17, 18);
- the administration of God's divine plan and purpose (Ephesians 1:9-11; 3:2; Colossians 1:25, 26 NIV); and
- the participation as partners in the plan of salvation (1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 1:9-11).

Unfortunately, stewardship can become commercialized and lose its sacred meaning of cooperation with God in the fulfillment of His mission. Stewardship, in the highest sense, is partnership with God. From this noble perspective one does not regard stewardship as a promotional program or a mechanical method of fund raising to enrich the church.

Ellen G White identifies the work of stewards in the following words:

“A steward identifies himself with his master. He accepts the responsibilities of a steward, and he must act in his master's stead, doing as his master would do were he presiding. His master's interests become his. The position of a steward is one of dignity, because his master trusts him. If in any wise he acts selfishly and turns the advantage gained by trading with his lord's goods to his own advantage, he has perverted the trust reposed in him.”—9T 246

“If He sees you use your entrusted means as a faithful steward, He will register your name in the books of heaven as a laborer together with Him, a partner in His great firm.”—CS 300

In the parable of the talents there are profound implications of stewardship (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27). The master judges faithfulness, not by the number of talents bestowed on the steward, but rather by what the steward has done with what he or she has been given. In the Lord's plan there is always a diversity in the distribution of talents. At the conclusion of the parable we see Christ placing His blessing upon faithful stewards whose primary responsibility has been to multiply entrusted talents. He says, “Well done thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21).

“With the blessing of God, the one talent through diligent use will be doubled, and the two used in the service of Christ will be increased to four; and thus the humblest instrument may grow in power and usefulness.”—*Review and Herald*, October 26, 1911

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Corporate Stewardship—The officers of church organizations, chosen as they are to guide church affairs, are in a special and unique sense and most importantly the Lord's stewards. They are "entrusted by our absent Lord with the care of His household and His interests" (8T 37). While the individual church member has been powerfully blessed with "life-changing" stewardship principles, it is time now to apply these principles to those who administer the affairs of God's Church. For the global mission of the Church to succeed, Church leaders must demonstrate faithful stewardship at every church level.

The Church is responsible to and accountable before God to work together as a corporate body of stewards. In His Great Commission our Saviour commands: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19 NIV). As a body of stewards, the corporate Church must fulfill this divine command and proclaim the good news about Jesus to the unreached peoples of our world. The Church must move forward country by country, city by city, village by village, and person by person. His stewards must exhibit vision, courage, self-reliance, and selflessness.

It is important that procedures be recommended that will move the church from a state of financial dependence—mission status to financial interdependence—conference status, in a community of mutual sharing and sacrificing for the good of the body. Fields that have grown accustomed to receiving funds from higher organizations to meet basic operational expenses must develop the ability to provide for their own needs and increase their self-reliance to the place where they are able to share with others in the global mission of the Church. It is easy to remain in comfortable dependence. God has provided the resources with which the Church may accomplish its mission, and every field must seek ways to discover and multiply those resources.

For some fields the great challenge is to become self-reliant, while the rest of the Church faces mounting obstacles created through economic pressures, not always of their own making. Rising debt on institutions and church buildings, and increased costs incurred from routine operations are major concerns for administrators in parts of the world field. It is only by a miracle of God, the sustained faithfulness of donors, and greater levels of commitment that the needs of a growing church can be met.

Importance of Self-Reliance—Why self-reliance? First, the concept of self-reliance is biblical. Jesus urged that all of His servants make the best use of what is at hand. He says, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things" (Matthew 25:21 NIV).

SELF-RELIANCE IS . . .

For members - multiplying spiritual, physical, and material resources in creative ways to maximize participation in the divine commission of Jesus to carry the gospel to all the world; personal commitment that will lead members and churches to self-reliance objectives that will lead the church from a state of financial dependence to full participation and partnership within the World Church.

For leadership - enlisting and empowering of lay members in witnessing, income generation, multiplication of local resources, and involvement in strategic planning; the administration and reporting of church funds in ways that will build member confidence.

For church organizations - reaching higher levels of maturity in leadership, fiscal responsibility, and accountability; loyally supporting denominational policies; achieving the objective of generating 100 percent of operating expenses from local sources and maintaining the denominational standard in working capital; educating membership to share in the support of world missions.

Second, the principle of equality is involved here. For many years, faithful giving on the part of the World Church body has made it possible to establish the Church in new regions of the world. Now it is time for this same spirit of equality to rise out of those missions/fields/sections to assist other areas that have not yet been reached. "Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: 'He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little'" (2 Corinthians 8:13, 14 NIV).

Third, self-reliance is a valid concept for the Church, for it brings about greater "ownership" of the mission of the Church. As constituencies make the transition to greater self-reliance, there is a greater sense of satisfaction and of accomplishment, of believing that what is happening within that territory is determined by the collective commitment and involvement of the membership. And finally, self-reliance is crucially important, for it will liberate resources and enable the Church to redistribute funds for unentered areas of the world.

Self-reliance occurs when administrators develop and multiply existing spiritual gifts and inherent resources within their fields. Through planned stages of development, member confidence increases, a sense of well-being develops, and the Church becomes stronger. When constituencies are empowered by their leaders to engage in strategic planning, goal-setting, and funding, this latent force brings about powerful renewal and vigor in

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accomplishing the mission of the Church, globally. While the Church recognizes the urgent necessity of making this transition to self-reliance, it knows that it is a minimum objective in the growth process of the Church, and that in reality every member and each organizational unit should seek to reach higher levels of self-reliance in completing the work entrusted by God.

Sacrifice and the End-Time—God’s stewards will demonstrate to the world in the end-time, “the power that there is in the religion of Christ for the conquest of self” (9T 190). Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26 NIV).

SACRIFICE IS . . .

For members - demonstrating the power of Christ in the conquest of self, choosing to honor Christ above personal gain or self-interest, and choosing to live a simple lifestyle that deliberately decides to forego certain pleasures, conveniences, and comforts for a higher purpose.

For leaders - setting the example in selflessness, by honoring God in personal lifestyle and corporate decisions, and deliberately foregoing extravagance in decisions that affect the well-being of the Church.

For church organizations - setting aside regional self-interests and surrendering policy privileges for the global mission of the Church.

“Life is too valuable . . . to be wasted in pleasing self ” (MH 198). Instead, we will be willing to lose our identity in Jesus Christ, and subordinate our interests to God’s interests. The Lord makes it clear that selfish interests will not take priority in His people or His Church in the end-time. “Gather to me my consecrated ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice” (Psalm 50:5 NIV). Ellen G White says it quite pointedly, “They will act out all the faith that they really possess” (*Testimony for the Church at Olcott, N. Y.*, pp. 20, 21) and further offered this prayer of commitment:

“Our Heavenly Father, we come to Thee at this time just as we are, needy and dependent, but we know Lord, that Thou art a compassionate Saviour. Thou hast made an infinite sacrifice, that we might have eternal life, if we will only cooperate with Thee. We ask Thee to put it into our hearts today, to renew our covenant with Thee by sacrifice. Help us this day that we may lay hold upon Thee by living faith. Separate from us everything that would separate us from Thee.”— 7MR 413

Church members and church leaders living in the end-time will model selflessness, both personally and in the corporate Church, in order to complete Christ's mission for the Church.

SUMMARY

1. The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes its divine commission to share the gospel with all the world.
2. Members and leaders accept stewardship principles and reaffirm their partnership with God in the management and multiplication of His assets.
3. The unselfish sharing on the part of developed territories and progression toward maturity and self-reliance on the part of developing territories is basic to stewardship.
4. Systematic and regular returning of tithe and giving of offerings is the foundation for Church financial support and world mission outreach.
5. Designated giving (project giving) is also a blessing to both donors and the Church. It is vitally important to maintain a balance in emphasis and promotion between systematic and designated giving.
6. When the church becomes self-reliant in the established areas this in turn will provide means for continued growth in the unentered areas of the world.
7. Members and constituencies who are encouraged to participate in the decision-making and planning process and are extended greater responsibility/accountability develop greater ownership and partnership in supporting the Church's mission.
8. Higher levels of self-reliance among church members and constituencies are dependent on significant increases in the percentage of members (family units) faithfully returning God's tithe and giving voluntary offerings.
9. The reduction and elimination of debt, both personal and corporate, will free funds to provide added resources for God's Church.
10. Selflessness that leads to a covenant relationship is the basis for practice of personal and organizational stewardship.
11. Administrators need to set an example in efficiency and economy in administrative decisions.

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Revised

In harmony with the urgent needs for renewal of stewardship, increased self-reliance, commitment, and faithful support of God's work, it was

VOTED, To adopt the following Stewardship, Self-Reliance, and Sacrifice Proposal:

1. Fidelity and Sacrifice:**

a. To request church leadership to demonstrate by personal example a renewed covenant relationship in personal stewardship commensurate with the mission of the Church and in harmony with the prophetic message for the end-time.

*b. To request all churches, conferences, unions, and divisions to maintain current giving records which will indicate the percentage of family units who faithfully return God's tithe and give voluntary offerings (congregational fidelity).

*c. To encourage all local churches, conferences, unions, divisions, and institutions to set objectives for debt reduction and liquidation.

*d. To encourage all church-owned institutions to return a tithe to their local conference based on the operating gains, less appropriations (net profit).

e. To request all denominational workers to model, by personal example, faithful stewardship in the returning of tithe and giving of offerings (General Conference *Working Policy* V O5 15) and annually reaffirming their commitment.

f. To request local church officers in returning God's tithe to recognize the importance of a consistent example (cf. General Conference *Working Policy* V O5 15 and *Church Manual*, p. 133).

g. To request building project planners for churches, offices, and institutions to avoid extravagance, and to ". . . observe neatness, order, taste, and plain beauty" (2T 257).

h. To celebrate an annual Covenant of Sacrifice Sabbath in every local church in recognition of the fact that "The work of evangelizing the world has been greatly hindered by personal selfishness. . . . Perfection of character cannot possibly be attained without self-sacrifice" (9T 52, 53).

2. *Self-Reliance:

*a. To appoint a General Conference Stewardship Commission and request that similar commissions/finance committees be formed at the division and union levels.

b. To appoint the General Conference Stewardship Commission (GCStewComm), as follows:

MEMBERS:

FOLKENBERG, ROBERT S, Chairman
Bediako, Matthew A, Vice-Chairman
Griffin, Charles J, Secretary

Crane, Donald E
Patterson, Gary B
Rick, Rowena R (Treasury representative)
Tolhurst, Athal H (Secretariat representative)
Stewardship Director, Inter-American Division
Stewardship Director, North American Division

TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Provide structure for leadership development:

Approve curriculum and materials to be used for stewardship certification and for transitioning missions to conference status and union missions to union conference status.

Certify stewardship educators.
2. Approve content of manuals and other core materials.

1. Power to act.
2. Recommend to the Department of Church Ministries for financing.

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3. Provide structure for resource development.

Serve as consultants for the Calendar of Special Days and Offerings.

Serve as consultants for General Conference Offerings and World Mission Offering.

4. Provide design for organizational development.

Provide models for monitoring congregational fidelity.

Receive plans and monitor the progress of division self-reliance (conference status) and financial accountability objectives.

Report to the General Conference Committee at the time of Spring Meeting and/or Annual Council on the status of self-reliance and financial accountability within the territories of each division.

3. Power to act.

4. Power to act.

5. Provide initiatives and models for member development.
5. Power to act.

Approve income-generation programs.

Recommend the Seventh-day Adventist Giving System.

For Divisions with Mission Territories

*c. To request each division, in cooperation with its unions that have not achieved full self-reliance status, to appoint a permanent Division Stewardship Commission/Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee (General Conference *Working Policy B 06 10, Sec. 3*) that will recommend strategic objectives and action plans for fiscal responsibility, determine present levels of self-reliance, receive progress reports from the fields and, in cooperation with the unions, make recommendations for conference-status candidacy.

*d. To regard as positive trends of growth and maturity corresponding reductions in appropriations made by higher organizations to the fields where proposed developmental stages of self-reliance are to occur.

*e. To reassure missions/fields/sections that accomplish their projected incremental steps toward growth and self-reliance (conference status) that they continue to be eligible to receive appropriations for nonoperational items such as evangelism, global mission, and special projects.

For Divisions with Conference Territories

*f. To request each division with established union conferences and local conferences to establish a Union/Conference Stewardship Commission/Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee that will recommend strategic objectives and action plans for fiscal responsibility and increased pastoral responsibility and accountability.

For Divisions with both Mission and Conference Territories

g. To request all divisions, unions, and conferences/missions to appoint full-time stewardship directors and to evaluate current giving records and make specific plans for stewardship training and education.

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*h. To request all division officers to present to the General Conference Stewardship Commission clearly defined steps including incremental objectives and action plans for fiscal accountability and self-reliance with time tables, by which their fields plan to accomplish their objectives for fiscal responsibility and self-reliance through faithful stewardship, at the 1994 Annual Council.

i. To recommend the following structure of the Division Stewardship Commission/Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee:

Division President, Chairman
Division President to designate, Vice-Chairman
Division Stewardship Director, Secretary
Treasurer
Two Members as designated
Member as designated (Union representative)

j. To perform annual audits as indicated in the General Conference *Working Policy*, S 85 25 and *Church Manual*, page 138, to increase member confidence at local church, mission/conference/field/section, and union levels, and to make regular reports to the respective constituencies on the use of church funds.

3. Stewardship Ministries:

To authorize the General Conference Department of Church Ministries (Stewardship Ministries) in conjunction with the previous administrative actions, to assist in the following:

- a. Preserve the emphasis on stewardship principles,
- b. Continue the stewardship certification process of equipping division and union stewardship directors, pastors, and church leaders,
- c. Consult with administrators in the formation of plans and increasing member faithfulness (congregational fidelity) in tithes and voluntary offerings,
- *d. Support administration(s) in strategic planning and performing self-reliance evaluations,
- *e. Participate in the education of constituencies in the meaning of self-reliance and conference status,

*f. Support divisions, unions, conferences, and missions/fields/sections, in developing and achieving self-reliance objectives, action plans, and time tables,

*g. Facilitate the development of an appropriate Seventh-day Adventist giving system, and other stewardship programs that enhance sacrificial giving and self-reliance.

4. General:

*a. To appoint a General Conference Stewardship Summit consisting of representation from the General Conference and divisions with the request to report to the 1994 Annual Council on the following assignments:

*1) Give direction to the restructuring of Stewardship Ministries and determine the resources, both personnel and materials, needed to assist divisions, unions, conferences, and missions/fields/sections, in performing the function of Stewardship.

*2) Inspire faithful giving and the achievement of self-reliance objectives.

*3) Evaluate and make recommendations regarding the Seventh-day Adventist giving system.

*b. To encourage divisions, where appropriate, to plan similar activities within their territories for union and conference/mission stewardship personnel.

c. To include in the curriculum for ministerial training at colleges, universities, and seminaries, instruction in stewardship principles, methodology, and practice, including personal finance and procedures for increasing self-reliance, thus assuring that entrants to ministry, whether by diploma or through certification, are qualified to educate members in total stewardship.

* New items being introduced for consideration.

** It is understood that most of the items in this are administrative in nature.

Adjourned.

Calvin B Rock, Chairman
Harold W Baptiste, Mario Veloso, Secretaries
Gerald D Karst, Editorial Secretary
Carol Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL
GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

October 8, 1993, 8:00 a.m.

Sharon M Cress, Coordinator of Shepardess International, presented the devotional message on the subject, "Christ Our Provider."

"I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the Lord at their head."—Micah 2:12, 13

Just as the Lord went before His people in the wilderness through the pillar of fire and the cloud, so His remnant people are promised both His leadership and His provision. In addition to providing our salvation, our daily sustenance, our fellowship in His Church, and our future—Jesus also provides an opportunity. The text says He breaks open the way and goes up before His people. Think of the wonderful opportunity—Jesus provides an opportunity for the whole world—His global mission. Jesus provides an opportunity for the World Church—Our global mission. Jesus provides an opportunity for individual members—My global mission.

We need not wonder about success if we are following Jesus' lead. He goes before us. He opens the way. He breaks down the barriers. He provides the opportunity. Soon the question is not whether God's plan will succeed, the question is whether we as His people and whether I as an individual will faithfully follow the plan. Christ's invitation becomes our global mission.

Many voices within and without the church compete for our attention. Some of these are worthy, most are merely distractions. The issue is priorities. How do we choose among competing "good things"? The issue is placing the most important above what may be the most convenient. Of utmost importance is to hear God's voice and to understand His priority!

Revival and reformation will come about as we follow our Leader's methodology for obtaining spiritual renewal. That methodology is global mission—for the Church as a whole and for me individually. "If you will go to work as Christ designs that His disciples shall and win souls for Him, you will feel the need of a deeper experience and a greater knowledge in divine things, and will hunger and thirst after righteousness" (SC 79).

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God's way to revival is to go to work to win someone else for the Lord.

The first step is repentance—when we come to Him in repentance, Jesus Our Provider will grant us grace.

God will provide the opportunity to serve Him and the opportunity for global mission. We must choose individually to respond.

Prayer was offered by Israel Leito, Director of the General Conference Department of Church Ministries, following a season of prayer by small groups.

ONLINE EDITION VIDEO—PERSON OF CHRIST

The OnLine Edition Video "Person of Christ" was shown.

Matthew A Bediako called the 1993 Annual Council to order.

INDIAN EARTHQUAKE VIDEO

Ralph S Watts, Jr, President of Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), presented a video report on the recent Indian earthquake disaster and plans for ADRA's involvement.

NomCom93AC/93AC to GRT

PANKOV, A A, TREASURER, EURO-ASIA DIVISION - RESIGNATION

VOTED, To accept the resignation of A A Pankov as Treasurer of the Euro-Asia Division.

ADCOM/NomCom93AC/93AC to GRT

JOINER, MURRAY E, JR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, GENERAL
CONFERENCE DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH MINISTRIES -
RESIGNATION

VOTED, To accept the resignation of Murray E Joiner, Jr as Associate Director of
the General Conference Department of Church Ministries.

NomCom93AC/93AC to GRT

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

VOTED, To adopt the report of the Nominating Committee consisting of the
following items:

Inter-American Division President	Israel Leito
Euro-Asia Division Treasurer	Juan R Prestol
General Conference Communication Director	Rajmund Dabrowski
General Conference Ministerial Association Associate Secretary	Frank Ottati
General Conference Department of Church Ministries Director	Ronald M Flowers
General Conference Department of Church Ministries Associate Director	Sergio Moctezuma
Euro-Asia Division Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director	Valery Ivanov
Euro-Asia Division Trust Services Director	Bogdan Kochmar
General Conference Auditing Service Associate Director	Ellen Nixon

SEC/BUSComm/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to MTB-95GCS

254-93G BALTIC UNION STUDY COMMISSION - REPORT

A report was presented from the Baltic Union Study Commission (a copy of the report
is filed with the official copy of the minutes). In order to serve the best interest of the
Seventh-day Adventist work in the Baltic States, it was

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RECOMMENDED, 1. To approve that the Trans-European Division will administer the Seventh-day Adventist work in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, comprising the Latvian Conference (which includes the Seventh-day Adventist work in Lithuania), and the Estonian Conference.

2. To approve that these entities forming the reconstituted Baltic Union come under the administration of the Trans-European Division, effective January 1, 1994. Belarus will continue to be administered as part of the Euro-Asia Division.

3. To record that the Euro-Asia Division administration expressed regret that prevailing circumstances have led to this recommendation affecting the separation of the Baltic Union from the Euro-Asia Division, and that the Seventh-day Adventist believers in the remainder of the division are very saddened and have the greatest love and admiration for all of the believers in the Baltic Union.

GCDOUP93AC/93AC to LR

266-93G WORLD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, 1995

In order to have the benefit of the World Ministerial Council shared with pastors worldwide, the 1995 World Ministerial Council, originally scheduled to be held in conjunction with the General Conference Session in Utrecht, The Netherlands, will now convene in each division of the world field. This will enable the General Conference Ministerial Association to provide this opportunity for spiritual fellowship and professional growth to a much wider group of pastors and their spouses.

StratPl&Bud/GCDOUP92AC/92AC/101-92Gb/StratPl&Bud/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to MAB(DIV)

101-93Ga CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS—
WORLD 1994 - REVISION

VOTED, To revise the Calendar of Special Days and Offerings for the World Church for 1994 as follows:

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JANUARY

Soul-Winning Commitment	January 1*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	January 1
Religious Liberty Emphasis Week Offering	January 8*-15
Health Ministries Day	January 22*
Conference Development/Advance Offering	January 22
(Division committee decides this offering)	January 29

FEBRUARY

Bible Evangelism	February 5
Outreach/Local Church Budget	February 5
(Division committee decides this offering)	February 12
Christian Home and Marriage Week	February 12*-19
Youth Temperance Emphasis	February 19
Health and Temperance Magazines Emphasis	February 19*
Conference Development/Advance Offering	February 26

MARCH

Tract Evangelism	March 5*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	March 5
Adventist World Radio Offering/World Budget Offering	March 12*+
Adventist Youth Day	March 19
Church Budget Offering	March 19
Adventist Youth Week of Prayer	March 19*-26
Sabbath School Community Relations Day	March 26
Conference Development/Advance Offering	March 26

APRIL

Missionary Magazine Emphasis	April 2*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	April 2
Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration	April 9
Andrews University/World Budget Offering	April 9
Literature Evangelism Rally Day/LE Free Lit Offering	April 16*
Christian Education Day	April 23*
Conference Development/ Advance Offering	April 23
Division Global Mission Offering	April 30

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MAY

Community Services Evangelism	May 7*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	May 7
Disaster and Famine Relief Offering/World Budget Offering	May 14*+
Church Budget Offering	May 21
Conference Development/Advance Offering	May 28
Annual Global Baptism Day	May 28

JUNE

Bible Correspondence School Emphasis	June 4
Outreach/Local Church Budget	June 4
(Division committee decides this offering)	June 11
Church Budget Offering	June 18
Conference Development/Advance Offering	June 25

JULY

Vacation Witnessing	July 2*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	July 2
(Division committee decides this offering)	July 9
Church Budget Offering	July 16
Home Study International Promotion Day	July 23
Conference Development/Advance Offering	July 23
(Division committee decides this offering)	July 30

AUGUST

Global Mission Evangelism	August 6*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	August 6
(Division committee decides this offering)	August 13
Church Budget Offering	August 20
Conference Development/Advance Offering	August 27

SEPTEMBER

Lay Evangelists Day	September 3*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	September 3
Missions Extension Offering/World Budget Offering	September 10+
<u>Adventist Review</u> Emphasis	September 10-17
Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration (So Hemisphere)	September 17
Church Budget Offering	September 17
Family Togetherness Week	September 17*-24
Pathfinder Day	September 24*
Conference Development/Advance Offering	September 24

OCTOBER

Outreach/Local Church Budget	October 1
Health Emphasis Week	October 1-8*
Health & Temperance Day Offering (10% to GC)	October 8
Sabbath School Community Guest Day	October 8*
Community Relations Day	October 8
Spirit of Prophecy Day	October 15*
Church Budget Offering	October 15
Conference Development/Advance Offering	October 22
(Division committee decides this offering)	October 29

NOVEMBER

Outreach/Local Church Budget	November 5
Week of Prayer	November 5*-12
Annual Sacrifice Offering/World Budget Offering	November 12*+
Ingathering Emphasis	November 19*
Church Budget Offering	November 19
Bible Emphasis Day	November 26
Conference Development/Advance Offering	November 26

DECEMBER

Outreach/Local Church Budget	December 3
Hands Across the World - GC Session Offering.	December 10*+**
World Stewardship Day	December 17*
Church Budget Offering	December 17
Conference Development/Advance Offering	December 24

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THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS—1994

South American Division	March 26
Eastern Africa Division	June 25
Trans-European Division	September 24
Euro-Africa Division	December 17

*Special Program Provided
+Worldwide Offering
**Divisions may select December 24

StratPl&Bud/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to MAB(DIV)

101-93Gb CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS—
WORLD 1995

VOTED, To adopt the Calendar of Special Days and Offerings for the World Church
for 1995 as follows:

JANUARY

Soul-Winning Commitment	January 7*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	January 7
Religious Liberty Emphasis Week Offering	January 14*-21
Outreach/Local Church Budget	January 21
Health Ministries Day	January 28*
Conference Development/Advance Offering	January 28

FEBRUARY

Bible Evangelism	February 4
Outreach/Local Church Budget	February 4
(Division committee decides this offering)	February 11
Christian Home and Marriage Week	February 11*-18
Outreach/Local Church Budget	February 18
Youth Temperance Emphasis	February 18
Health and Temperance Magazines Emphasis	February 18*
Conference Development/Advance Offering	February 25

MARCH

Tract Evangelism	March 4*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	March 4
Adventist World Radio Offering/World Budget Offering	March 11*+
Adventist Youth Day	March 18
Church Budget Offering	March 18
Adventist Youth Week of Prayer	March 18*-25
Sabbath School Community Relations Day	March 25
Conference Development/Advance Offering	March 25

APRIL

Missionary Magazine Emphasis	April 1*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	April 1
Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration	April 8
Loma Linda University/World Budget Offering	April 8
Literature Evangelism Rally Day/LE Free Lit Offering	April 15*
Christian Education Day	April 22*
Conference Development/Advance Offering	April 22
Hands Across the World - GC Session Offering	April 29*+

MAY

Community Services Evangelism	May 6*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	May 6
Disaster and Famine Relief Offering/World Budget Offering	May 13*+
Church Budget Offering	May 20
Conference Development/Advance Offering	May 27
Annual Global Baptism Day	May 27

JUNE

Bible Correspondence School Emphasis	June 3
Outreach/Local Church Budget	June 3
(Division committee decides this offering)	June 10
Women's Ministry Emphasis Day	June 10
Church Budget Offering	June 17
Conference Development/Advance Offering	June 24

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JULY

Vacation Witnessing	July 1*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	July 1
Hands Across the World - GC Session Offering	July 8*+
Church Budget Offering	July 15
Home Study International Promotion Day	July 22
Conference Development/Advance Offering	July 22
(Division committee decides this offering)	July 29

AUGUST

Global Mission Evangelism	August 5*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	August 5
(Division committee decides this offering)	August 12
Church Budget Offering	August 19
Conference Development/Advance Offering	August 26

SEPTEMBER

Lay Evangelists Day	September 2*
Outreach/Local Church Budget	September 2
Missions Extension Offering/World Budget Offering	September 9+
<i>Adventist Review</i> Emphasis	September 9-16
Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration (So Hemisphere)	September 16
Church Budget Offering	September 16
Family Togetherness Week	September 16*-23
Pathfinder Day	September 23*
Conference Development/Advance Offering	September 23
(Division committee decides this offering)	September 30

OCTOBER

Outreach/Local Church Budget	October 7
Health Emphasis Week	October 7-14*
Health & Temperance Day Offering (10% to GC)	October 14
Sabbath School Community Guest Day	October 14*
Community Relations Day	October 14
Spirit of Prophecy Day	October 21*
Church Budget Offering	October 21
Conference Development/Advance Offering	October 28

NOVEMBER

Outreach/Local Church Budget	November 4
Week of Prayer	November 4*-11
Annual Sacrifice Offering/World Budget Offering	November 11*+
Ingathering Emphasis/Church Budget Offering	November 18*
Bible Emphasis Day	November 25
Conference Development/Advance Offering	November 25

DECEMBER

Outreach/Local Church Budget	December 2
(Division committee decides this offering)	December 9
World Stewardship Day	December 16*
Church Budget Offering	December 16
Conference Development/Advance Offering	December 23
(Division committee decides this offering)	December 30

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS—1995

Southern Asia Division	March 25
Inter-American Division	June 24
Euro-Asia Division	September 23
Attached Unions/Special Opportunities	December 23

*Special Program Provided
+Worldwide Offering

CommWCO/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to RSF(DIV)

267-93G COMMISSION ON WORLD CHURCH ORGANIZATION -
PARTIAL REPORT

A partial report of the Commission on World Church Organization regarding a new system of determining General Conference Session delegations and structure of the Nominating Committee was presented. Division officers will be given material during the 1993 Annual Council to share at their yearend and union meetings. Further study will then be given to the proposal at the March 1994 meeting of the Commission on World Church Organization.

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PRE/ADCOM/93SM/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to RJK(DIV)

157-93G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION OFFERING—1995

VOTED, To approve the 1995 General Conference Session Offering, *Hands Across The World*, as follows:

Objective

To establish 2,000 new churches in unentered areas by the year 2000.

Description

1. All entities of the World Church are urged to participate in achieving the objective of *Hands Across The World*. The church at every level will work to inspire members to become part of the hope and challenge of this opportunity.
2. Divisions and attached unions will be responsible to raise a portion of the offering goal of US\$10 million. Fifty percent of the goal raised will be retained and 50 percent will be passed on to the General Conference. One hundred percent of the funds raised in excess of the goal will be retained by the divisions and attached unions.
3. Four Sabbath offerings including the offering collected at the General Conference Session will fund *Hands Across The World*.
4. All General Conference funds will be distributed among the divisions and attached unions on the basis of existing challenges and opportunities.
5. The amount to which the divisions are entitled will be distributed as the funds are available.
6. The goal of 2,000 new churches will be apportioned among the divisions and attached unions.

Procedure

1. A one-page action plan should be submitted to the Global Mission office at the General Conference for each of the 2,000 churches.
2. Each plan must be approved by the organization in whose territory the plan will be implemented.

3. The action plan must provide for some personnel to reside in the target area, coordinate the program, and be responsible for establishing a viable congregation. Volunteers/stipend workers should be included among those implementing the action plan.

4. For a conference or union to receive funds from the division or the General Conference it shall have established a percentage of net retained funds for global mission that gradually increases over a five-year period.

5. Proposed offering dates for *Hands Across The World*:

- a. December 10, 1994
- b. April 29, 1995
- c. July 8, 1995
- d. April 28, 1996

Plan Summary Table

General Conference Session Offering 1995 HANDS ACROSS THE WORLD								
DIVISION	% Tithes \$ Goal	50% Div \$	GM Formula GC \$	Low-Cost GM \$	Total \$	Low Cost Churches	High-Cost Churches	Total Churches
AID	60,000	30,000	384,000	400,000	814,000	162		162
EAD	42,000	21,000	252,000	400,000	673,000	134		134
ESD	20,000	10,000	460,000	500,000	970,000	192		192
EUD	612,000	306,000	424,000	300,000	1,030,000	102	13	115
FED	516,000	258,000	308,000	400,000	966,000	177	2	179
IAD	612,000	306,000	200,000	400,000	906,000	186		186
NAD	7,000,000	3,500,000	200,000	0	3,700,000		92	92
SAD	405,000	202,500	200,000	400,000	802,500	160		160
SPD	336,000	168,000	200,000	300,000	668,000	109	3	112
SUD	20,000	10,000	520,000	500,000	1,030,000	204		204
TED	276,000	138,000	384,000	300,000	822,000	84	10	94
EAC	0	0	654,000	500,000	1,154,000	230		230
MEU	20,000	10,000	614,000	500,000	1,124,000	79	18	97
SAU	81,000	40,500	200,000	100,000	340,500	40	3	43
TOTAL	10,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	15,000,000	1,859	141	2,000

Low Cost Church = \$5,000

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GCDOUP93AC/GCSP1an93AC/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to KHB

258-93G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION, 1995 - VENUE

Karl H Bahr reported on the discussion at the General Conference and Division Officers and Union Presidents meeting in Bangalore, India, reaffirming Utrecht, The Netherlands, as the venue for the 1995 General Conference Session.

NADO/NADOUP/ChMan/218-92G/ADCOM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDOUP93AC/
93AC to CBR-95GCS

112-93G ORGANIZED COMPANIES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 49 and 50, Organized Companies, to read as follows:

Organized Companies

Where a number of isolated believers reside in close proximity to one another, they may be organized into a company of believers for fellowship and united ~~worship~~. worship with the purpose of growing into an organized church.

~~The organization of such a company~~ Such a group of believers may be organized as a company under approval of the conference or mission committee, and may subsequently be disbanded by action of the conference or mission committee. When a conference or mission committee approves the organization of a company, such organization may be effected by the district pastor or by some other minister appointed by the conference or mission committee, who, in counsel with the local members, shall appoint from the baptized membership of the company a leader and a treasurer.

All other appointments such as Sabbath School officers, lay activities officers, and Adventist Youth Society officers should be made by vote of the baptized members of the company at a meeting presided over by the district leader or by such person as may be authorized by the conference or mission committee.

The leader of such a company shall not be ordained to that office ~~or~~ and shall not have the authority to perform those functions that are vested in an elder of the church.

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The treasurer of the company shall keep careful record of all moneys received and disbursed. He He or she shall send promptly each month all tithes and offerings, other than funds collected for local purposes, to the conference or field treasurer, who is also the treasurer of the conference or field church.

Since all baptized members of an organized company are members of the conference or field church, the company does not possess the right to administer church discipline. All such matters must be referred to the conference or field committee, which constitutes the board of the conference, or field church, the president being the elder of that church.

Such a company of believers should grow and eventually develop to the point that would call for a regular church organization. The company leadership should therefore promote and foster all the church campaigns and activities that are usually carried forward by regular churches, thus preparing the members for the wider responsibilities that are associated with full church organization.

IHFABd/GC&DivPre93AC/GCDOUP93AC/93AC to KJM

255-93G INTERNATIONAL HEALTH FOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD - REQUEST

VOTED, To request that funds received by the higher organization from the health food companies be based on earnings rather than sales.

Adjourned.

Matthew A Bediako, Chairman
Harold W Baptiste, Secretary
Maurice T Battle, Gerald D Karst, Editorial Secretaries
Carol Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL
GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

October 10, 1993, 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Ray Tetz, Vice President for Communications and Corporate Development, ADRA International, presented the devotional message on the subject, "Christ the Shepherd King."

"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

"As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

"I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.

"I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

"I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD.

"I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice."—Ezekiel 34:11-16 NIV

God reveals Himself to us as a shepherd because He knows we are sheep. He comes to us as King because He knows we wander without a country, without leadership. He looks for us in dark and cloudy days because He knows those are exactly the kind of days we live. He seeks us scattered in other nations—under other rulers—because He knows that is where we have been lost, and that is where we may be found.

Our condition is that we are sheep and do not know our own needs. We wander without a country and without a shepherd or king. We live under the rule of others, scattered in dark lands. God does not wait for us to come to Him. He searches for us. He will find us where we have been lost and rescue us.

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His response is that He seeks us; He rescues us; He brings us out; He gives us our own land; He tends our needs; He brings back the lost and the strays; He binds up the injured; He strengthens the weak; He feeds us and lets us rest.

God seeks us like sheep on the scattered and darkened hillsides of other nations because He knows that is where He will find us.

Following prayer by small prayer groups, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah* was presented by the singing group from Mizoram.

ONLINE EDITION

The OnLine Edition which features segments of the Week of Prayer messages, as presented by Robert S Folkenberg, was shown.

Calvin B Rock called the 1993 Annual Council to order.

WSCComm/ADCOM/WSCComm/StratPl&Bud93AC/93AC to RSF

250-93G WORLD SURVEY COMMISSION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

VOTED, 1. To adopt the initial report from the World Survey Commission and the recommendations to the divisions, and directives to appropriate General Conference entities, in order to fulfill the Church's mission statement and to advance the Global Mission of the Church, as follows:

The report of the World Survey Commission is based upon responses to questionnaires completed during the first half of 1993 by 18,494 Seventh-day Adventist church members in all but one division and in the two attached unions of the World Church. The number of responses from each division was not proportionate to each division's percentage of the World Church membership. Each division conducted the data-gathering, utilizing a sampling method that was stratified to be representative of the unions within its territory. In some

unions, due to the difficulty of obtaining a postal address for the rural churches, the sampling method favored urban church membership.

Due to the methodology of gathering the data, the answers generally represent the active and involved Seventh-day Adventist church members. Questionnaires were distributed on Sabbath to persons who were present for church services, and in some cases, not every member present participated in the survey. An average of fifty-two percent of respondents in all world divisions hold an office or a position of leadership in their churches, reflecting that the persons surveyed represent the core of committed and involved members.

This study is pioneering in that it is the first time a global study has been conducted of the practices, beliefs, and opinions of Seventh-day Adventist church members. As such, it may be considered to represent a valuable first "snapshot" of Seventh-day Adventists.

In many instances there are significant differences in the results from different divisions. These should be given special attention and suggest the benefit of further study of relevant data by the divisions. Because the answers are subject to interpretations and some of the items are of particular significance, additional exploration of these issues is suggested.

Significant Findings

The following are significant findings of the survey, some of which are encouraging and some of which present major challenges to the Church:

51% to 78% (an average of 63%) indicate an intimate relationship with Christ
52% to 84% (an average of 73%) report they have assurance of eternal life

48% to 84% (an average of 63%) have personal, private prayer every day
24% to 42% (an average of 34%) study the Bible every day
22% to 53% (an average of 33%) have family worship every day

94% to 60% (an average of 73%) agree that the church standards about alcohol, tobacco, unclean meat, and sexuality are reasonable

88% to 52% (an average of 66%) agree that the church standards about jewelry, polygamy, and gambling are reasonable

82% to 25% (averages of 64% to 56%) agree that the church standards about dancing, music, attendance at movie theaters, bearing arms in military service, divorce and business practices are reasonable; significant numbers indicate that they do not know what the standard is on some of these topics

95% to 72% (averages of 83% to 89%) agree with key doctrinal statements

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19% to 58% (an average of 36%) report involvement during the last year in some outreach activity of the church

15% to 62% (an average of 33%) report that they receive regular copies of the *Adventist Review*, although not necessarily by personal subscription

20% to 57% (an average of 31%) report that they receive regular copies of their union or division paper

81% to 70% (an average of 75%) state that their commitment to the church has grown in the last two years

78% to 96% (an average of 87%) describe the sermons they hear in their church on Sabbaths as Bible-based; 67% to 91% (an average of 81%) as Christ-centered; 55% to 78% (an average of 69%) as practical

72% to 86% (an average of 78%) express confidence in the leadership of their pastor
62% to 80% (an average of 69%) express confidence in the leadership of their local conference, mission or field

60% to 79% (an average of 68%) express confidence in the leadership of their union conference or mission

28% to 47% (an average of 34%) have school-age children and at least 2% to 17% (an average of 10%) have children enrolled in Seventh-day Adventist schools

8% to 38% (an average of 21%) attend AYS or Pathfinder Club every week

14% to 46% (an average of 27%) participated in youth witnessing activities during the last year

43% to 73% (an average of 59%) indicated they gave 10% or more of their annual income as tithe during the last year

22% to 38% (an average of 29%) reported they gave 5% or more of their annual income to offerings last year

65% to 79% (an average of 70%) approve of the way their local church spends money
52% to 74% (an average of 61%) approve of the way their local conference, mission or field spends money

48% to 75% (an average of 59%) approve of the way their union conference or mission spends money

(All percentages are of the total samples except for tithe and offering percentages which are based on a percentage of those who report they practice giving in these ways.)

2. To implement the following further studies:
 - a. Because of the value of understanding the state of the Church, and because the World Survey Commission studies have focused on many questions that need further study, world divisions are encouraged to conduct additional studies with attempts to make the sampling of church members more inclusive. As support for such studies, the General Conference will provide the divisions with computer software, training for conducting and analyzing the surveys, and consultation in interpreting the results.
 - b. The General Conference intends that the major issues identified in the present survey shall be addressed, and plans to initiate programs for this purpose through appropriate organizations. In order to measure the progress of these initiatives, the General Conference will conduct follow-up studies in the second full year of each quinquennium.
3. To consider the following specific items that need to be addressed as a World Church strategic plan is developed:
 - a. Understanding Salvation—It appears that a significant minority of active, involved church members indicate a lack of understanding about salvation, although they strongly support other doctrines. It is vital that every Seventh-day Adventist should have a clear understanding and assurance of salvation through faith in Christ.
 - b. Nature of the Church—The membership needs to understand the nature and mission of the Church, the meaning of “remnant church” in the context of today’s world, and the biblical and Spirit of Prophecy material relating to the nature and mission of the Church.
 - c. Personal and Family Devotions—In order to deepen and expand the spiritual lives of church members and their families, and to emphasize the critical role family worship plays in the Church, strategies need to be developed to support and increase the practice of personal and family devotional experiences.
 - d. Preaching—Programs need to be planned for strengthening the preaching and pastoral ministries within the Church focusing not only on sermon delivery but also on practical, Christ-centered, biblical sermon content (fundamental beliefs of the Church, Christian behavioral standards, practical godliness issues, etc.). Suggested methods (to accomplish the above) could include “Seminars for Master Preachers” and training in

pastoral skills and in building the Christian community for other pastors, lay preachers, and church leaders.

e. **Christian Standards**—In order to fortify the spiritual lives of members and enrich their experience of following Jesus, ways need to be prepared of articulating and teaching principles of Christian living, including Christian witnessing, as an expression of belief in the soon-coming of Christ; wholesome family and sexual relationships; health principles, including the nonuse of addictive substances such as alcohol and tobacco; responsible financial practices; and positive Christian relationships with society and government.

f. **Global Mission**—In order to strengthen Christian witness as a response to the assurance of salvation through Christ and the eager expectation of His return, materials need to be prepared, adapted, and distributed which will incorporate Global Mission into the lives and practices of all members.

g. **Immigrant Evangelism**—In order to respond to the massive people movements in our world today, and in recognition of the fact that people are more open to developing new faith and relationships when their historic ties are discontinued, surveys need to be conducted in each division territory to ascertain kinds and numbers of people who are immigrants; and strategies need to be developed to reach them with the gospel and to target them as part of Global Mission plans.

h. **Education**—In order to minister to our youth and to prepare them to serve the Church, strategies need to be created to establish new church-operated schools in some divisions, particularly on the primary and secondary levels, with the goal of making Seventh-day Adventist education available to every Seventh-day Adventist young person.

i. **Stewardship**—In order to enhance the experience of God's blessings to the faithful, and to increase the participation of members in supporting the Church's mission, stewardship initiatives need to be developed and promoted which will include training, preaching, preparation of stewardship materials, explanation of the purpose and use of various church funds, analyses of member participation, and the building of faithfulness on the part of donors and accountability on the part of managers of church funds.

j. **Member Communication**—In order to enhance the meaning and experience of being a Seventh-day Adventist, some form of communication needs to be produced and distributed regularly, without charge to individual members, which will include a balanced variety of local and World Church news, devotional and doctrinal material, and releases that will build confidence and participation in the Church's mission.

k. **Printed Materials**—In order to provide materials for church members to use in strengthening their spiritual lives, and in sharing their faith with others, strategies need to be developed for producing and distributing in some divisions and in appropriate languages inexpensive books and magazines, including Ellen G White's writings, and materials on devotional, doctrinal, health, and family topics.

l. **Confidence in Leaders**—There is room for an increase in the confidence of church members in church leaders and in the credibility of the various levels of church organization. The survey identifies the need for increased openness, disclosure, and accountability by church organizations and leaders.

4. To address the World Survey Commission report using six focus issues as a basis:

a. The six focus issues identified below are the major issues to be addressed by the Church.

b. The divisions, unions, and local conferences/missions to address the six focus issues by preparing their own strategies, objectives, and action plans.

c. The General Conference to refine and develop a strategic plan to give it direction in addressing the following six focus issues.

1) **Christian Life and Nurture**—An understanding of the plan of salvation, the quality of our relationship with Jesus Christ, and the way they are expressed in the life are the greatest needs of God's last day people. Recent surveys and evaluations indicate that we must take urgent action to encourage belief and practice that are in harmony with the commands of the Scripture, and the counsels and urging of the Spirit of Prophecy.

a) The Church membership needs:

(1) To sustain a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ and an entire dependence on the Holy Spirit for Christian living.

(2) To give to others a clear reason for faith and belief.

(3) To understand, believe, and live by the biblical doctrines as understood by the Church.

(4) To translate the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man into everyday life and relationships.

(5) To know the nature of the Church as a cohesive and unified community of believers.

(6) To understand, believe, and live by the standards of the Church.

(7) To participate faithfully and gladly, both as individuals and families, in daily Bible study and prayer, recognizing that these provide the basis for growing in grace and developing a Christlike character.

(8) To address the concern of many church members about issues of noncombatancy, conscientious objection, and the bearing of arms.

(9) To understand and preserve the biblical standard for appropriate sexual behavior.

(10) To practice total abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and substance abuse.

(11) To believe in the inspiration of the Spirit of Prophecy and apply it in the life.

b) Projected benefits:

(1) A significant¹ increase in the number of church members indicating they have assurance in Christ, spending some time each day in spiritual study and prayer, and involved each week with the nurture and outreach activities of the Church.

(2) A significant increase in the number of church members who embrace and practice the standards of the Church.

(3) A significant increase in the number of church members who understand, believe, and can communicate the doctrines of the Church; and also show increasing confidence in the role of the Spirit of the Prophecy.

¹“Significant” is used in a statistical sense throughout this document.

(4) A significant increase in the number of members demonstrating their understanding of the role of the local church as an integral part of the World Church, its mission and purpose.

2) Global Mission and Outreach—The divinely appointed work of the Church is to share with the world the last-day saving message of salvation and preparation for Christ's return. Inspired writings clearly reveal that the priority of God's last-day people will be to witness for Christ in preparation for His return. Every entity of the Church, and its structure are to serve in the giving of the Gospel and to support the members in their witness.

a) The Church needs:

(1) To ensure that all departments, services, and ministries cooperate and contribute efficiently and effectively to the outreach of the Church.

(2) To ensure the involvement of each institution in the mission of the Church.

(3) To analyze all territories, populations, and cultural trends in order to facilitate the establishment in each unentered area or population of a group of believers capable of effective witness.

(4) To qualify and involve pastors in the training of church members to use their spiritual gifts and specialized skills, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in outreach and ministry.

(5) To balance outreach and new growth with maintenance and nurture.

(6) To determine the doctrinal and cultural parameters of contextualizing its message.

b) Projected benefits:

(1) Departments, institutions, and other entities identifying and demonstrating their cooperation in the mission of the Church.

(2) A significant increase in the number of members who are exercising their spiritual gifts in outreach and service.

(3) A significant increase in the number of new groups of believers in unentered areas and populations.

(4) Guidelines identifying the way the message may be presented in various cultures for use by church leaders.

3) Communication—Mass media offer the Church platforms for rapid and wide communication within the Church and to the world. Information and news about the Church directly affect its ability to fulfil its mission, and the personal witness of church members. The Church needs to keep its integrity, and project a positive image in the context of last-day events.

a) The Church needs:

(1) To provide printed and other communication materials on a regular basis that will inform and nurture each church member.

(2) To project a positive image while maintaining the integrity of both message and mission.

(3) To draft and publicize official positions on social issues.

(4) To prepare a strategy giving direction to communication both within and without the Church.

(5) To create media ministries that better advance the Church's mission.

(6) To develop and maintain positive relationships with national, state, provincial, and local governments, and with other denominations.

b) Projected benefits:

(1) At least a monthly communication to every member that will provide nurture, connection with the mission of the Church, and information on progress and challenges.

(2) A significantly improved perception and understanding of the Church by its internal and external publics.

(3) A significant improvement by church members and nonmembers in the understanding and acceptance of the Church's position on social and moral issues.

(4) A significantly improved awareness of biblical truth, as a result of media ministries, that leads larger numbers of people to decision.

(5) Church organizations at all levels to identify and implement processes for relating to relevant levels of government resulting in a significantly greater awareness among government leaders of the qualities of the Church.

4) Leadership—Historically, the spiritual life of the Church has varied according to the consecration and competence of leadership. The responsibility assigned the last-day church demands pastoral, lay, and other leaders of high capability and integrity. The perception is that leadership must reestablish confidence. Unity will be strengthened as leaders learn how differences may be used as an asset.

a) The Church needs:

(1) More pastors to practice biblical preaching, relating the Bible to practical Christian living.

(2) Leadership, both pastoral and lay, for newly entered areas and newly established congregations.

(3) Only leaders whose consecration and integrity command confidence and earn respect.

(4) Leaders strengthened by professional leadership training.

(5) A structure that ensures fairness in representation and encourages unity of purpose and action.

(6) Ethics for leaders that are defined and then practiced.

(7) An ongoing evaluation of its ministries, programs, and services in the light of their contribution to mission.

b) Projected benefits:

(1) A significant increase in members who report that preaching nurtures them from the Bible.

(2) Assigned trained leaders to match the number of new congregations.

(3) A significant increase in members who report confidence in the consecration, skills, fairness, and integrity of leadership.

(4) Ministries, programs, and services that produce significant increases in response and decision among nonmembers.

5) Education and Youth—At least 50 percent of Seventh-day Adventists (including unbaptized children) is under thirty years old. Seventh-day Adventist parents and local churches frequently lack the understanding, skills, and resources to nurture and direct youth and children into commitment to Christ and the Church's mission and message. Many children and youth are not exposed to Seventh-day Adventist teachings and lifestyle, and have no opportunity to connect with the mission of the Church. The proportion of Seventh-day Adventist children and youth in Seventh-day Adventist schools is falling dramatically as the membership grows.

a) The Church needs:

(1) To have every Seventh-day Adventist child and youth commit themselves to Christ, understand and accept the last-day message, and connect with the life and mission of the Church.

(2) To present and foster lifestyles for youth that are in harmony with biblical principles and which prepare them for the establishment of a Christian home.

(3) To empower youth in the ownership of the mission of the Church.

(4) To train and assist parents and local churches in the spiritual nurture of children and youth.

(5) To emphasize the critical importance and effectiveness of Seventh-day Adventist children and youth attending Seventh-day Adventist schools.

(6) To marshal available means to make it possible for as many Seventh-day Adventist children and youth as possible to attend Seventh-day Adventist schools.

(7) To ensure that every Seventh-day Adventist child and youth has access to a Seventh-day Adventist religious education.

(8) To provide adequate spiritual nurture for Seventh-day Adventist students attending non-Seventh-day Adventist schools.

(9) To train and develop teachers who are committed to the mission of the Church, and who demonstrate their commitment in their lifestyle and in the classroom.

(10) School environments and youth programs that demonstrate and foster a commitment to the principles and mission of the Church.

b) Projected benefits:

(1) A significant increase in the proportion of children and youth from Seventh-day Adventist homes attending Seventh-day Adventist schools.

(2) A significant increase in Seventh-day Adventist children and youth who remain in the Church.

(3) A significant increase in youth appointments to positions of church leadership and responsibility.

(4) A significant increase in students who perceive teachers to be committed to the beliefs, standards, and mission of the Church.

(5) A significant increase in youth and young adults who support and become involved with the Church's outreach.

(6) A significant decrease in the divorce and separation rates for Seventh-day Adventists.

6) Finance and Stewardship—Large numbers of Seventh-day Adventists do not understand stewardship as a direct command from Christ and an essential part of their response to God's love. Entities of the Church remain too long dependent on funds generated by other Church organizations. In certain areas confidence in the financial

management of the Church is eroding. An era of unprecedented opportunity for the Church requires greater faithfulness in stewardship so that sufficient resources are available for both new outreach and existing operations.

a) The Church needs:

(1) Informed members whose faithful life in Christ is matched by faithful stewardship based on an understanding of its spiritual nature.

(2) Organizations and entities that are self-supporting which includes contributing to the world mission of the Church.

(3) A church building, home, or other structure for each congregation.

(4) Financial management that builds confidence and fosters faithful stewardship.

(5) The thorough application of its system of financial accountability to all entities at all levels of the Church.

(6) Ministers, church employees, and local church leaders who actively support and practice faithful stewardship.

(7) Families who accept stewardship as a spiritual principle and practice it faithfully in support of the mission of the Church and the needs of the community.

(8) Leaders and members who practice collective sacrifice rather than collective selfishness.

b) Projected benefits:

(1) A significant increase in members and families who understand stewardship as a spiritual truth permeating the whole life.

(2) A significant increase in members who return a faithful tithe to the storehouse.

(3) A significant increase in members who practice a stewardship which supports the ongoing activities of the Church as well as new projects and outreaches.

(4) A significant increase in members who practice stewardship in planning for distribution of their accumulated assets both in life and at death.

(5) A larger proportion of congregations that have a permanent structure in which to worship.

(6) A significant increase in entities that are self supporting.

(7) A significant increase in members who express confidence in the financial management of church resources at all levels.

(8) A significant increase in members and organizations that direct resources for the realization of the mission of the Church in unentered areas.

5. To activate as immediate action the following during 1994 as an initial response by the General Conference because of the urgency of these issues:

a. The Biblical Research Institute shall complete and publish its study, from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, on the nature and mission of the Church; the Department of Church Ministries shall give priority to the publication of its proposed set of Sabbath School Lessons on the nature and mission of the Church as soon as practicable using as a basis the Biblical Research Institute materials.

b. The *Adventist Review* staff shall submit a report to the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee concerning the circulation of the World Edition, or a Division Edition in each world division, highlighting the barriers to expanded circulation and listing alternatives for increasing circulation.

c. The 1995 Week of Prayer materials, developed around the theme of Bible study, prayer and devotional life, shall be prepared in both print and video format, and include specific modeling and training features concerning family worship and personal devotions. Special attention shall be given to creative ways to overcome the time pressures of modern life around the globe.

d. The Ministerial Association shall prepare a list of resources to be provided by the General Conference and work with the world divisions to enable the divisions to conduct Ministerial Councils to address the issues raised in the World Survey.

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e. The Department of Church Ministries shall provide each world division the materials and consultant services needed to help the division conduct an assessment of stewardship in its territory, starting with the World Survey data, gathering additional information from available sources, and conducting additional studies if necessary.

6. To encourage the divisions and unions to develop at the division and union levels further responses to the World Survey findings by undertaking in each division the following participatory process due to the fact that there is a wide range of different responses indicated in the World Survey data and that division staff indicate wide differences within divisions also and further that the divisions and unions have the capacity to undertake actions that will have the most effective impact on the opportunities and challenges identified in this data.

a. The division administration to appoint representatives to prepare and conduct a presentation of the World Survey data in the context of the Church's mission statement and its global mission to each of the union committees in its territory.

b. Each union committee presentation to include quality time for discussion and creative thinking on appropriate action based on the findings. The division representatives will facilitate this time.

c. Each union committee to list specific objectives that it will undertake in response to the World Survey and specific requests of the division and General Conference; resource assistance requests to be prioritized in dialogue with the next higher organization, in the awareness of limited resources at all levels.

d. Upon completion of the presentations and initial creative thinking sessions with the unions, the union will give further study and will present a report to the division concerning the responses from the union committees.

e. The report to the division committee to include quality time to review the requests from the unions and creatively discuss specific actions that the division will take to respond to these requests. The division committee will also create a list of additional items to be explored in future surveys conducted by the division staff.

f. Local conferences/missions to give quality time to discussion and creative thinking on the World Survey data, list specific objectives and strategies they will undertake in response to the data, and report to the union.

7. To request the division and union committees to consider the creation of a strategic planning and budgeting committee or other appropriate committee. Where such a

committee is formed, it would be appropriate for action plans resulting from the review of the World Survey data and findings to be placed before the committee for inclusion in future budgets and strategic plans.

8. To incorporate the world divisions and unions into the strategic plans developed by the General Conference.

9. To present to the 1994 Annual Council a General Conference strategic plan to begin in 1995 which incorporates the results of the studies reported in this document as well as additional concerns and priorities expressed by the divisions.

10. To adopt the following 1993-1994 Planning Cycle:

a. 1993 Division Yearend Meetings—Divisions to present the Annual Council action at their yearend meeting and request unions to prepare their recommendations and action plans.

b. March/April 1994—Unions report to divisions on their recommendations and action plans.

c. 1994 Division Midyear Meetings—Divisions to approve action plans and recommendations to the General Conference.

d. July 31, 1994—Divisions to report to the General Conference.

e. Annual Council 1994—Recommendations, objectives, and action plans based on division recommendations, to be presented to the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee at the time of the 1994 Annual Council.

f. Report and further action at Annual Council 1994.

Adjourned.

Calvin B Rock, Chairman
Gerald D Karst, Secretary
Mario Veloso, Editorial Secretary
Carol Rasmussen, Recording Secretary