

## YEAR-END MEETING

### NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION COMMITTEE

October 13, 1992, 8:00 a.m.

#### PRAYER

With a Call to Prayer being uppermost on the agenda of the North American Division Year-end Meeting, special prayers were offered for the conference presidents and the laypersons present.

#### DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Edwin I Hernandez of Andrews University spoke on "Recapturing the Prophetic Imagination."

Discipleship involves a total commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ which is learned and nurtured within a community of faith. As Seventh-day Adventists, our understanding of discipleship has been shaped by the statement: "The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—(Ed p 57) Ellen G White reminds us that this does not occur by accident but that a noble character is the result of self-discipline that involves surrender of self to the service of God and humanity.

As Seventh-day Adventists we have much to celebrate. We have one of the largest Christian educational systems, if not the largest, of any Protestant denomination in the world. The system has more than 800,000 students enrolled and over forty thousand dedicated teachers. Is there something about Seventh-day Adventist education that leads its recipients to become self-centered and fail to develop a love for humanity? In "Habits of the Heart" Bellah and his associates state that "We are concerned that this individualism may have grown cancerous—that it may be threatening the survival of freedom itself."—(Robert N Bellah, Richard Madsen, William Sullivan, Ann Swidler, Steven M Tipton, Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985, p. viii). Education for discipleship plays an important part in holding back the cancerous growth which individualism encourages.

Unless we are able to recapture the vision of a prophetic, communal education, all our efforts at Christian nurture and discipleship will be less than effective because we would have accommodated and sold our birthright to the dominant values and ideas of our secular



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culture. Those committed to this task will do well to remember that the entire thrust of the Church is that evil does not have the last word.

The prophet Isaiah invites us to recapture the prophetic imagination: "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."—(Isaiah 40:28-31)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Harold W Baptiste, Secretary, confirmed that a quorum was present and called the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting to order.

92YE to HWB

### **SEATING OF ADDITIONAL DELEGATES**

VOTED, To seat the following union directors of education who were invited to the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting:

Paul Kilgore, Atlantic Union Conference  
Richard C Osborn, Columbia Union Conference  
Frederick R Stephan, Lake Union Conference  
Gerry E Thompson, Pacific Union Conference

92YE to HWB

### **PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION**

Notebooks containing the program, agenda, and registration cards for the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting were distributed.

VOTED, To accept the assignment of agenda items for the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting as they appear in the notebook.



92YE to HWB

## DAILY PROGRAM

VOTED, To adopt the following daily program for the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting:

|    |               |  |
|----|---------------|--|
| AM | 7:00 - 7:45   | Steering Committee<br>Exec Dining Room |
|    | 8:00 - 9:00   | Devotional                             |
|    | 9:00 - 10:30  | Meetings or Committees                 |
|    | 10:30 - 10:45 | Recess                                 |
|    | 10:45 - 12:30 | Meetings or Committees                 |

### LUNCH

|    |             |                        |
|----|-------------|------------------------|
| PM | 2:30 - 3:45 | Meetings or Committees |
|    | 3:45 - 4:00 | Recess                 |
|    | 4:00 - 5:30 | Meetings or Committees |

### DINNER

|    |             |                        |
|----|-------------|------------------------|
| PM | 7:30 - 9:30 | Meetings or Committees |
|----|-------------|------------------------|

## MISSION, CHURCH GROWTH AND EVANGELISM REPORTS

W C Scales Jr, Secretary of the North American Division Ministerial Association, invited the following people to give experiences in evangelism:

Glenn Aufderhar, President, Adventist Media Center, stated that a new day is dawning! It happened in Chattanooga when Ron Halvorsen had to turn 500 people away from his meetings for lack of space. Over 100 individuals were baptized. Kenneth Cox had double sessions in Washington State with baptisms close to 100 and others are preparing for baptism.



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A young drug addict physician watching our telecast called the 800 number on the screen. The student at Andrews University prayed with the man and then called the pastor in the physician's home town. The pastor visited the physician within two hours and he is now attending church. The physician's Jewish counselor also attends church because of the change he saw in his client's life.

Daniel and Gloria Bentzinger finished their campaign in Greenwood, South Carolina. They had not been optimistic about their meetings because the church had a new pastor and a congregation of only 25 members who did not want an evangelistic campaign in their town, because they saw it as an exercise in futility. However, on several nights all 25 members were present with 60 non-Seventh-day Adventists attending. There were 17 baptisms, three rebaptisms, and six attending church and preparing for baptism. There is a new day dawning!

Barbara Randall, a member of General Conference Executive Committee, stated that she is just learning to lift Jesus up so that He can draw people to Him. Her son, a procrastinator, has always been last to breakfast. He has been inspired by his teacher, Cindy Tutch, and is now getting up awhile before breakfast to pray. He and his friends have been praying throughout the school year for a classmate to quit smoking. A friend said that at her previous school it was not cool to be a Christian, but it is popular to be one at Great Lakes Academy.

A young lady who worked for the Randalls was impressed by Barbara's lifestyle and requested help that she might not be drawn into the drinking and partying crowd when she went to school. At Barbara's suggestion, she decided to enter Andrews University for the next school year. Barbara Randall started Bible studies with her and she started to keep the Sabbath. Barbara invited the young lady's Mother to ride along with her when she went to enroll at Andrews University. Now she and her mother are baptized. Barbara says she is really motivated to share her faith, especially since the North American Division is encouraging everyone to be on the team working together on evangelism.

Sarojini Chedalawada, administrative secretary, North American Division Ministerial Department, and her husband worked with W C Scales Jr in an evangelistic campaign in Queens, New York. Her husband was assigned to work at a summer day camp as a counselor to help the children get a positive image of themselves. Twenty-two children took their stand for Jesus. A total of 145 individuals were baptized during the evangelist series and a new church was organized.

The Chedalawadas did visitation on their own. They met and made friends with an Indian couple from Trinidad who were later baptized along with another 15 individuals. The wife said as she came up from the pool, "I am so happy. I feel like I just got



married!" These new members are already sharing their newfound faith with friends. The Chedalawadas have witnessed many wonderful miracles of the Spirit of God at work and this has given them the greatest thrill of their lives.

Willie J Lewis, President, Allegheny West Conference, rejoiced in the blessing of the Lord by quoting the words of the song, "It is no secret what God can do, what He has done for others, He will do for you!" If God can bless the other divisions, we are convinced that He will do the same for us. A lady named Lily in Greenwood, Florida, bought a church in her city, then called the president of South Central Conference and told him, "I have bought a church and have only one member—myself." Evangelist Tim Lewis, South Central Conference, was sent to Greenwood and 70 souls were baptized.

Lewis stated that he believed that all of our pastors are evangelists. One pastor baptized over 100 individuals per year. Another pastor baptized 170 this year. The statistics for South Central Conference show that 1,000 people have been baptized each year for 25 years. Another conference has recorded over 1,000 souls this year.

Alvin M Kibble, President, Allegheny East Conference, reported a tremendous summer program with 347 souls baptized this summer. There were inspiring stories of conversions all through the regional conferences. We recognize that it is no secret what God can do, what He has done for others, He will do for you.

George Atiga, Associate Director of Multilingual Ministries for Asian Affairs, reported that Asian evangelism is working beautifully with very limited resources. They use a poster with the main topics depicted and then invite people to come to a feast. Using this successful method, they train the lay people to work with the pastors.

Twenty were baptized in the Mega Los Angeles Campaign and about 50 others decided for Christ. There is a new day for Asians in the North American Division.

Tony Finch, Adventist Resource Management Services (ARMS) Director, sponsored by Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI), focused on lay evangelism. He wanted to incorporate the people of the Church in the work of the Church. He invited people from across the United States from various people groups to assist in the Baltimore for Jesus Project. Those who responded are now knocking on doors preparing the way for the campaign. These volunteers are meeting former Seventh-day Adventists, inviting and encouraging them to come to the meetings. Some have already responded and have begun to attend church again. Our people need to be mobilized for this kind of work. Church members in Baltimore are transporting these volunteers, and assisting them in many other ways.



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Another exciting part of this project is that many young people are carrying on a Sabbath School for children in a park. These young people can not wait for Sabbath afternoon to work with the children. Thirty-five children have come to the park to sing songs and to hear stories of Jesus. They will be the featured singers on the opening night of the evangelistic campaign. This will bring the parents and grandparents. It is time to mobilize the young people of the Church.

Eradio Alonso, Associate Secretary, North American Division Ministerial Association, said he sees a new day dawning in North America. While Alonso is interested in Hispanic evangelism, he has a great burden for the Anglo sector. Ellen G White says the power of the Spirit is not limited to any group. Alonso has the dream of seeing Anglo, Hispanic, and Black pastors working together to establish new churches. He said, "Maybe next year we can have 5,000 churches in the North American Division."

City-wide evangelism started in Mexico City resulting in 3,000 to 4,000 baptisms. This should spread so that there would be nation-wide evangelism. Every church could have two campaigns per year. There is a Mega Potomac evangelistic program running to the end of this year. One Spanish pastor reached his baptismal goal of 100 souls in 6 months and he has set a new goal of 200.

The Hispanics have set a membership goal of 100,000 by the next General Conference Session, by baptizing 10,000 each year in 1994 and 1995. Alonso added that they are praying for the Anglo work, the Black work, and the Hispanic work that hundreds and thousands of souls will come into the Church.

Lorenzo Grant commented on the emphasis on prayer and reported that when he took a pastorate in Southern California, he found that his church did not want the evangelistic plans that he had to offer. He went to his knees, and then went ahead in faith with an evangelism program. He called his church to prayer and the church members came and the program blossomed. Three hundred people passed out literature, and his public meetings proved to be successful. Grant believes that the "Call to Prayer" brought the members out to support the program. He commended the 6:15 a.m. daily prayer time.

Peter Nieri, pastor in the Minnesota Conference, heard about the 6:15 prayer time. He dreamed of a chain of earnest believers encircling the world with their prayers. This has changed his life. Every day he prayed that somehow this prayer chain might be established around the world. Now that the chain is linked around the world, he wants to expand it by including the lay leaders.

Daniel F Houghton, Director, Hart Research Center, Fallbrook, California, testified that the "Call to Prayer" has been very dear to his heart and began in a meeting in 1987.



Houghton's dream is to include the lay people in the prayer chain. This will be encouraged by articles in the Adventist Review by Alfred C McClure and articles in the union papers by the union presidents.

Jerry N Page, President of the Pennsylvania Conference, recounted his spiritual journey and how prayer made all the difference in his life and leadership in the Church. Ted F Wick, North American Division Church Ministries Teen/Youth/Adult Coordinator, encouraged churches to emphasize group prayer to pray for each others' children and youth in general.

NADOUP/NADOUP/NADUn&GCO92YE/92YE to RLD

#### **549-92Na THINK TANK ON EVANGELISM/CHURCH GROWTH**

VOTED, To approve the Think Tank on Evangelism/Church Growth recommendations, which read as follows:

A Think Tank on Evangelism was convened by the North American Division President on May 21, June 15-16, and October 4-5 to evaluate the status of evangelism in the North American Division and to develop plans for its revitalization to be presented to the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting. It included seasoned evangelists, pastors, proven lay evangelists, conference presidents, key personnel from the ministries at the Adventist Media Center, Adventist Information Ministries (AIM), Union Conference presidents, and North American Division officers and staff.

Three priorities were identified:

1. The need for concerted emphasis on prayer, revival, and church renewal.
  2. Efforts to reclaim the large number of inactive and former members.
  3. Specific strategies to target population groups with comprehensive evangelism.
- Teams have been assigned to develop detailed working papers for each of these three priorities.

Particular concern was expressed that, although evangelism is strong in some sectors, there is little or no growth in other areas and public evangelism does not seem to have widespread support or success.



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Operational goals recommended by the Think Tank on Evangelism are as follows:

1. During 1993 the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will continue to affirm and support the strong evangelistic base that is presently in place, but recognizing that at the present rate we will not finish the work and see Jesus come. During 1994 a quantum leap in evangelistic activity and funding is envisioned; a major, new strategic plan for targeted and comprehensive evangelism will be implemented and funded. Detailed work plans and budgets will be finalized at the 1993 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting. It is recommended that the North American Division officers also invite to the 1993 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting the thought leaders and implementers related to this plan.

2. During 1993 the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will focus on prayer for revival, church renewal, and the evangelization of our cities and nations. It will begin to work to reclaim the hundreds of thousands of inactive and former Seventh-day Adventists, provide evangelism involvement and training for youth, and raise new funds for evangelism.

3. To mandate the implementation of these operational goals by the Evangelism Steering Committee and related project teams and allocate the funds necessary for the projects.

PREn/92YE to RLD

**549-92Nb THINK TANK RESOLUTION—  
“SEEKING HIS SPIRIT FOR SERVICE”**

**Because We wish** to respond to our wonderful Savior's invitation to seek His Spirit, and because unity and service are the results of that seeking, we support the desires of leaders and laity alike to cooperate in activities to seek a full empowering of God's Spirit;

**Because We accept** the admonition of our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, “that men ought always to pray” (Luke 18:1);

**Because We believe** His promise in Acts 1:8:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”—(KJV)



**Because We seek** the application of the biblical instruction by the servant of the Lord in words like the following:

“Let us seek the Lord that we may learn how to work His works in the world.”—This Day With God, p 75 (emphasis supplied); and

**Because We recognize** that in our seeking the steps articulated in ISM 121 are to be emphasized and we see these steps as often working together:

“But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.”

**Because We appreciate** leaders like Alfred C McClure and Robert S Folkenberg, as well as pastors, teachers, and other members, that have been responding to the inspired counsel, and in view of our wonderful Lord's plans and our great need, it is

VOTED, To invite our membership, pastors, teachers, and various organizations to band together in a most earnest endeavor of “Seeking His Spirit for Service.”

As leaders assembled at the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting, we believe information should go out articulating the following:

1. All persons and organizational leaders are invited to focus on the truth that



“PrayerWorks!” is a testimony and an invitation to activity.

2. To determine to use our own example, influence, and this resolution to focus new priority on “Seeking His Spirit For Service” beginning here at the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting and continuing in the future.



3. To invite leaders to share and develop new tools to assist in this prayer service activity. (This will likely include many different types of approaches, e.g. 6:15 a.m. Holy Spirit Prayer Watch, Pentecost Again, Prayer Warriors, etc.)

4. To encourage wide participation by all members of the Church in North America so that the local church, church periodicals, as well as media programs, and all other channels of communication will be saturated with this call to prayer.

5. To implement the following activity time line:

a. Resolution of support at Year-end Meeting with some sample materials.

b. Fall 1992—Development of plans at division, union, conference, and local church levels with information distributed to appropriate leaders and laity.

c. Between now and January 1, 1993—Each entity should designate a person of responsibility to foster the seeking through prayer. (On conference level suggest ministerial/pastor and education director/teacher.)

d. Between now and January 1, 1993—Each local conference leadership also consider appointing a layperson willing to take leadership in sponsoring prayer groups throughout the conference.

e. Pastors should consider the advantages of appointing prayer leaders on the local church level to touch the various sectors of interest such as youth, women, and men.

f. Fall 1992—Continual Material Development. (Note materials under development in attached materials list.)

g. Late Fall or early Winter—Issue a call for uniting “Seeking His Spirit For Service” with testimony and activity that “PrayerWorks!” This should be a focus across our division on all levels of the Church.

h. Late Fall—The ministerial department give serious study to exploring the possibility of having some events for resource people who could be especially skilled in helping others in “Seeking His Spirit for Service.”

i. 1993—Responses generate more and more participation and new realization that “PrayerWorks!”



Therefore, let us rejoice at this stirring among God's people; let us accept the challenge to be a people

Seeking His Spirit  
for Service



who can proclaim that

6. To request the Think Tank to add to this document a statement that reflects the fact that only as we develop a relationship with Jesus Christ will we experience the outpouring of His Spirit.

#### **PRAYER**

Prayers were offered; the petitioners pleading for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, Chair  
H W Baptiste, Secretary  
Mario Veloso, Editorial Secretary  
Betty Pierson, Recording Secretary







## YEAR-END MEETING

### NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION COMMITTEE

October 13, 1992, 2:30 p.m.

Prayer was offered by Joan Tonge, a laymember from the Pacific Union.

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Alfred C McClure called the 1992 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting to order.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Harold W Baptiste, Secretary of the North American Division, gave thanks to God for His blessings to His Church and to His people during the past year. In spite of the obvious difficulties they have faced, and are still facing in the North American Division, the Church of God continues to move forward. Last year at this time there were fears and concerns in the hearts of many, but what was feared most did not come to pass. The Lord stepped in and the Church is still in business. He who gave the Great Commission and sent us into the world to make disciples of all nations also promised He would be with us always "even unto the end of the age"—and His word never fails. Truly, "we have nothing to fear for the future except we forget the way the Lord has led us . . . ."—LS 196

According to the report from the General Conference Secretariat, the North American Division still supplies the largest number of interdivision workers. Presently there are 720 such workers serving in positions around the world. At the end of their tour of duty, these missionaries return to this division and seek continued employment in the Church. Baptiste thanked the leaders for considering and employing these permanently returned missionaries.

As of June 30, 1992, there were 778,349 members in the North American Division. Despite distracting criticisms of a few, the overwhelming majority of these members are faithful, dedicated, supportive, and loyal members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During the past year, in spite of recession and declining income, these faithful members increased their giving in both tithes and offerings, as will be detailed in the treasurer's report. These members also gave directly to evangelistic projects and church building in the countries that comprised the former Soviet Union, the Eastern European countries recently freed from the shackles of communism, China, and Africa. Hundreds have also traveled to these places to render their services. Praise the Lord for the liberality of His people.



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This is the first time that the agendas of the North American Division Year-end Committee Meeting and the Annual Council have been handled separately. It is indicative of the continuing change in the relationship between this division and the General Conference. It is a change for the better. Now we can, and must, concentrate on the unique needs of the North American Division. We need to concentrate on retaining and reclaiming our members. We need to address the critical needs of our youth. We need to confront the problems of Christian education. We need to evangelize our cities—their commercial centers, their ghettos, and their suburbs. These issues are on the agenda of this meeting.

The 3,821 ordained and licensed ministers must take the lead and join hands with the laity, first to become true disciples of Christ, and then to make disciples of all those around us.

Baptiste then reviewed some of the figures taken from the North American Division Statistical report which will be presented in more detail by F Donald Yost.

|                                     | <u>June 30, 1991</u> | <u>June 30, 1992</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Baptisms and Profession<br>of Faith | 34,325               | 35,762               |
| Apostasies and Missing              | 13,574               | 15,502               |
| Membership                          | 767,439              | 778,349              |
| Membership Gain (Loss)              | 17,201               | 10,910               |
| Churches                            | 4,555                | 4,578                |

The accessions are pleasing, but the figures on apostasies and missing give cause for concern. For the year ending June 30, 1990 the apostasies and missing totalled 12,431 which is equal to 36 percent of the accessions for the same period. For the year ending June 30, 1991, that figure was 13,574 or 39 percent of the accessions and in June 30, 1991 it increased to 15,502 or 43 percent of accessions. The issue of retaining members needs to be addressed so that this trend can be broken. It is one of the important items on the agenda of this meeting.

The Global Mission goal of the North American Division is 182,950. As of June 30, a total of 70,087 new members were added to the Church. This means the division has reached 38.30 percent of its Global Mission goal.



In chapter 38 of The Great Controversy, Ellen G White wrote about the final warning that will precede the time of trouble which she treated in chapter 39. Here are excerpts from the last two paragraphs of the chapter entitled, "The Final Warning." "Servants of God with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth the warning will be given . . . . Thus the inhabitants of earth will be brought to take their stand.

"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit."—GC 612

This is the time in which we are living. May the Spirit of God empower us that His work may be accomplished and His Kingdom hastened.

## STATISTICAL REPORT 1991

F Donald Yost, Director of the Office of Archives and Statistics of the General Conference, presented the Statistical Report for 1991 using six indicators to measure church growth:

1. Membership
2. Attendance
3. Baptisms
4. Tithe and Offerings
5. Church School Attendance
6. Involvement in Mission

The report presents pertinent data in tables and graphs portraying these church-growth indicators over the past five years and reporting changes in these indicators from year to year.

NADOUP/NADOUP/NADUn&GCO92YE/92YE to RLD

## 549-92Nc THINK TANK ON EVANGELISM/CHURCH GROWTH

VOTED, To approve the concept of the Evangelism Think Tank Action Plan—  
Project: Rejoice With Me—A Strategy for Reclaiming Former Seventh-day Adventists as funding becomes available, which reads as follows and to refer the financing to the North American Division Officers:



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**EVANGELISM THINK TANK ACTION PLAN—PROJECT:  
REJOICE WITH ME—A STRATEGY FOR  
RECLAIMING FORMER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

**Goal**—To personally and individually appeal to every former and inactive Seventh-day Adventist in North America to return to active participation in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The strategy includes gathering the names and addresses of all former members; mailing inspirational information to their homes; and training the 4,700 congregations across the North American Division in up-to-date methods on how to visit, welcome, accept, nurture, and integrate returning members into the community of Seventh-day Adventist believers.

**Observable Outcomes—Objectives**

1. To gather 500,000 names of inactive and former members by July 1993 for the master list in the computer at Adventist Information Ministry (AIM).
2. To welcome at least 10 percent (50,000 individuals) of former members on the master list at Seventh-day Adventist churches on Sabbath, November 20, 1993.
3. To reclaim 5 percent (25,000 individuals) of former members on the master list to active church participation by June 30, 1994.

**Tasks and Deadlines**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Oct-Dec 1992       | 1. Development of software to process names.                                 |
| Feb-Mar 1993       | 2. Gather names of inactive and former members.                              |
| Jan-Dec 1993       | 3. Prayer for inactive and former Seventh-day Adventists                     |
| Nov 1992-Jan 1993  | 4. Introduce strategy to conference presidents and pastors.                  |
| Feb-Nov 1993       | 5. Develop an appeal to young adults to return to church.                    |
| Feb-Nov 1993       | 6. Training for congregations to create an accepting climate.                |
| June 1993          | 7. Master list compiled.   |
| Sep 1993           | 8. Mailing to all inactive and former members.                               |
| Aug-Nov 1993       | 9. Train church members to visit former and inactive Seventh-day Adventists. |
| Oct-Nov 1993       | 10. International media campaign emphasizing "Rejoice With Me" Sabbath.      |
| Nov 20, 1993       | 11. "Rejoice With Me" Sabbath celebration.                                   |
| Nov 1993-June 1994 | 12. Follow-up for "Rejoice With Me" Sabbath.                                 |
| Jan-May 1994       | 13. Reaping the harvest.   |
| May-July 1994      | 14. Celebrating victory.   |



Oct-Dec 1992

## 1. DEVELOPMENT OF SOFTWARE TO GATHER NAMES

- a. Have computer software chosen and name-entry programs written by November 15, 1992.
- b. Assign an office secretary in each conference and union office by December 1, 1992 to place on computer names that will come from church members, clerks, and other sources.
- c. Field test computer software with assigned secretaries by January 15, 1993. Cost: \$300 per conference for software and support.

Feb-Mar 1993

## 2. GATHER NAMES OF INACTIVE AND FORMER MEMBERS

- a. Develop a One-page "Information Gathering Form" by October 15, 1992 for collecting names from church members.
- b. Provide each conference with master of the "Information Gathering Form" by November 1, 1992. Each conference is responsible to print and distribute copies of the "Information Gathering Forms" to all their congregations by January 15, 1993.
- c. Request each conference president to assign by December 1, 1992, a departmental staff resource person to help implement this project within the conference, including the printing and distribution of the "Information Gathering Form."
- d. A conference staff resource person should contact church clerks by February 1, 1993 to collect names of inactive and former members from the church records. These names should be sent to the conference office by April 1, 1993.
- e. The North American Division Adult Ministries Coordinator will produce ads and articles for the



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NAD edition of Adventist Review, union papers, Ministry magazine, Celebration magazine, and other periodicals. A key element will be a four-page insert in all of the periodicals.

Cost: \$30,000

- f. Union publishing directors will mail forms to all literature evangelists and request that they report former and inactive Seventh-day Adventists they contact in their work.
- g. Seventh-day Adventist hospitals will be requested to supply names of former members who register at the hospital. (If they can do so within their code of ethics.)

Jan-Dec 1993

3. PRAYER FOR INACTIVE AND FORMER ADVENTISTS

- a. Synchronize plans with the Prayer Task Force so that the outreach to inactive and former Seventh-day Adventists is a focus of prayer.
- b. Develop Concerts of prayer at 6:15 a.m. and throughout the day focusing on inactive and former Seventh-day Adventists.

Nov 1992-Jan 1993

4. INTRODUCE STRATEGY TO CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS AND PASTORS

- a. Contract with Galileo Associates for delivery by November 15, 1992 of a media kit with 15-20 color slides or transparencies explaining this reclaiming strategy to conference presidents and pastors. These kits would then be given to the 3,100 pastors in NAD to help them explain the program to their congregation(s). Cost: \$10,000
- b. Instructional and inspirational video will be produced by the Media Center for presidents to show at pastors' meeting and pastors to show to



congregations. Each pastor will receive a copy of the video. Cost: \$20,000

- c. North American Division Church Ministries will publish a small brochure explaining step by step the process of this reclaiming project.  
Cost: \$1,500
- d. Trainers will be selected from each union who will become thoroughly acquainted with strategy, and will then help union presidents instruct conference presidents, and conference presidents instruct pastors. Cost: \$5,000
- e. The North American Division president, will send a letter to head elders in all 4,600 congregations in NAD encouraging them to support the program. Cost: \$3,000

Feb-Nov 1993

5. DEVELOP AN APPEAL TO YOUNG ADULTS TO RETURN TO CHURCH

- a. Contract with the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center (BBMRC) to develop this element in the strategy.
- b. Field test the new approach in one selected church in each union conference. Cost: \$35,000
- c. Share the results of the field test through a one-day workshop at each of the pilot churches. Pastors and lay leaders from churches with significant numbers of young adults will be invited to these workshops.
- d. Implementation of a special appeal to young adults will begin in 500 to 1,000 local churches across NAD where there are significant numbers of young adults.



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Feb-Nov 1993

6. TRAINING FOR CONGREGATIONS ON HOW TO  
CREATE AN ACCEPTING CLIMATE AND  
WELCOME VISITORS
  - a. Conference Ministerial and Church Ministry directors will work with their presidents at pastors' meetings to introduce available training packages—"Guest Care and Hospitality" and "The Sabbath School Class as a Caring Unit." Cost: \$35 per unit per church.
  - b. Conference presidents will include "Train the Trainer" workshops for the two training packages during camp meetings. The goal is to have one person in each local church ready to lead out in these two training events.
  - c. Each local church will conduct two three-hour workshops, one on "Guest Care and Hospitality" and one on "The Sabbath School Class as a Caring Unit."
  - d. Adult Sabbath School program helps published by the North American Division will include instruction on the elements that foster a climate of love, acceptance, and forgiveness in the local church.
  - e. Sabbath School teacher helps published by the NAD will introduce specific opportunities for sharing, times of prayer, and other caring behaviors.
  - e. A system of congregational self-evaluation including a visiting team from a neighboring church will be developed to help members see themselves as guests coming to church would see them.



June 1993

## 7. MASTER LIST COMPILED

- a. Local conferences will turn in floppy disks with the names and addresses of former members to AIM by this date. At the same time each conference will submit information as to which Zip Codes/Postal Codes are clustered with which local churches.
- b. Adventist Information Ministries will collate the lists of names of inactive and former members and sort according to the Zip Code/Postal Code ministry areas defined by the local conferences. This will mean that each church will receive a list of the inactive and former members living in its defined ministry area whether or not they are current or former members of that church.  
Cost: \$10,000
- c. Adventist Information Ministries will ship to each local conference the print-outs for each of the local churches in that conference, as well as a master list for the conference office. Cost: 10 cents a name paid for by the local conferences.
- d. The local conferences will distribute to each local church the list for its defined ministry area.

Sep 1993

## 8. MAILING TO ALL INACTIVE AND FORMER MEMBERS

- a. Contract with Galileo Associates to develop a direct mail package including a personalized, computer-generated letter signed with a signature machine by George Vandeman or C D Brooks (depending on targeted Zip Code/Postal Code), two "lift" booklets of 4 or 8 pages, a response card, and business reply envelope (BRE). The "lift" pieces will be aimed at: 1) interest in last-day events and current events; 2) personal



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spiritual needs. Cost: \$250,000 for mailing and \$ 30,000 for development

- b. The response card in the letter will provide opportunity to ask for a book, video, or other information.
- c. The direct mail package will be tested with focus groups and then a sample list of 1,000 former Seventh-day Adventists. Galileo will make changes in the package based on this testing. Cost: \$20,000
- d. Response cards will be sent immediately to the local conference, and the local conferences will carry out the fulfillment. The fulfillment package will include a personalized cover letter with the signature of the nearest local pastor. Cost: Books paid for by the local church or conference.

Aug-Nov 1993

9. TRAIN CHURCH MEMBERS TO VISIT FORMER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

- a. Develop a new training package with modules that are video-driven by June 1, 1993. This video, with work sheets, will be designed to orient church members to make simple, introductory visits. The basic training package will include dropout problems, listening skills, how to conduct a visit, and making a gospel presentation. Cost: \$45,000
- b. Ministerial and Church Ministries directors support their presidents in introducing the new training package during pastors' meetings not later than September 1, 1993.
- c. A basic training series should be conducted in each local church across the North American Division during September and October 1993. (An average attendance of 15 with half of the



churches participating would result in nearly 35,000 trained visitors.) Church members completing the "Learning to Care" (LTC) curriculum will be used as a "second-tier" of visitors to make follow-up visits in the more difficult situations.

- d. Three training teams will be formed from among the certified "Learning to Care" instructors to conduct an LTC training event in each union for selected pastors and lay leaders in that territory. Goal: 1 person per church in each union territory. Cost: \$50 registration per person
- e. Remake "Spiritual Journeys" for use by visiting teams. Cost: \$30,000

Oct-Nov 1993

#### 10. INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR "REJOICE WITH ME" SABBATH

- a. Develop bulletin inserts, newspaper ads, bumper stickers, and direct mail materials that can be used by local churches to invite individuals to the "Rejoice With Me" Sabbath, November 20, 1993. Cost: \$10,000
- b. All international and local Seventh-day Adventist television and radio broadcasts will promote "Rejoice With Me" Sabbath. Where possible a local telephone number will be included with an toll free number for persons wanting more information.
- c. Design and test advertizing and publicity elements for international media campaign. Cost: \$45,000
- d. Full advertizing and publicity campaign will be implemented in late October and early November 1993. Cost: \$500,000



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Nov 20, 1993

11. "REJOICE WITH ME" SABBATH CELEBRATION

- a. The theme will be "Keeping Hope Alive" and everything will be planned from arriving at the parking lot to returning to the parking lot in each Adventist church across the North American Division.
- b. Special worship helps (including sermon manuscripts) and Sabbath School program helps will be published as a segment of Celebration magazine. Sabbath School classes and divisions should be especially prepared for guests. A special menu and recipes for the fellowship lunch will be included.
- c. Local churches will be assisted in developing a brochure of local activities, with emphasis on youth and children's activities. These will be handed to each guest. NAD Church Ministries will publish a clip-art kit for use by local churches. Cost: \$7,500

Nov 1993-June 1994

12. FOLLOW-UP FOR "REJOICE WITH ME" SABBATH

- a. Each church should develop methods to stay in contact with "Rejoice With Me" guests and help them with felt needs.
- b. Each pastor will be encouraged to form a partnership, where possible, with Seventh-day Adventist medical and mental health professionals for help with habits and other needs.
- c. Each church should seek to enroll guests in a small group, or Sabbath School class, etc., to integrate them into the congregation.
- d. Each church will send all guests who attend on November 20 a gift subscription to Signs of the



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Times, Message, La Sentinelle, or El Centinella  
and put them on the church mailing list.

- e. Conference ministerial and Church Ministries directors may need to help pastors and churches develop a record-keeping system to track the names of guests.

Jan-May 1994

13. REAPING THE HARVEST

- a. A strategy will be developed for every congregation in the North American Division to conduct some type of reaping meetings during the spring of 1994.
- b. Coordinate planning with the North American Division Task Force on Evangelism

May-July 1994

14. CELEBRATING VICTORY

- a. Create a 1994 camp meeting model for celebrating victory for this project, and concluding with high emotional intensity.
- b. Evaluate strategies and make suggestions for future or additional projects.

Financial Summary

|    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Development of Software to Gather Names   | 00      |
| 2. | Gather Names of Inactive and Former Members   | 30,000  |
| 3. | Prayer for Inactive and Former Seventh-day Adventists                                 | 00      |
| 4. | Introduce Strategy to Conference Presidents and Pastors                               | 39,500  |
| 5. | Develop an Appeal to Young Adults to Return to church                                 | 35,000  |
| 6. | Training for Congregations on How to Create an Accepting Climate and Welcome Visitors | 00      |
| 7. | Master List Compiled  | 10,000  |
| 8. | Mailing to all Inactive and Former Members  | 300,000 |



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|       |   |             |
|-------|---|-------------|
| 9.    | Train Church Members to Visit Former and Inactive<br>Seventh-day Adventists | 75,000      |
| 10.   | International Media Campaign for "Rejoice<br>With Me" Sabbath               | 555,000     |
| 11.   | "Rejoice With Me" Sabbath Celebration                                       | 7,500       |
| 12.   | Follow-up for "Rejoice With Me" Sabbath                                     | 00          |
| 13.   | Reaping the Harvest   | 00          |
| 14.   | Celebrating Victory   | 00          |
|       |   | =====       |
| TOTAL |   | \$1,052,000 |

#### Strategy for Raising Money for Project

1. Request that General Conference personnel and the North American Division union presidents place strong appeals in the Adventist Review for funding for this project. Also ask union and conference presidents to promote it in the union and conference papers.
2. Regularly publish a chart in the Adventist Review of a million dollar objective and show how much has been contributed toward reaching the goal.
3. Place a note at the bottom of the "Information Gathering Form" letting those who want family and friends visited know that their check or offering is needed.
4. Ask congregations to make this project a special prayer undertaking and set a goal for their church to reach.
5. Ask those who raise special funds for important projects to consider this a high priority for the next year or two.
6. Recognize that 25,000 new Seventh-day Adventists represents \$10,000,000 in new tithe dollars and that we are making a very small investment for the possibility of such a large return.

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#### 560-92N NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION EVANGELISM INSTITUTE PROPOSAL

VOTED, To accept the proposed plan of the North American Division Evangelism Institute, which reads as follows:



1. Move NADEI to the Theological Seminary campus at Berrien Springs, Michigan during early 1993.
2. Develop a plan whereby the NADEI staff and the Theological Seminary staff would work together more closely.
3. The Theological Seminary and NADEI staff will work together to create an integrated evangelistic program whereby the student will be involved in practicum for the entire two and one half years of seminary training. This integration should result in a better ministerial product and would alleviate much of the burn-out currently experienced by seminary students.
4. In the integrated program the student will work with the same church for the entire two and one half years of seminary. In the assigned church he/she will be involved in personal Bible studies, small groups, sequential evangelism, and public evangelism. There will be adequate time for the student to prepare the church for meetings, which he/she will conduct as well as participate in the post evangelism activities.
5. The ability to tailor the NADEI program more directly to the needs of the individual student will be of great benefit, since he/she will be involved with NADEI for a longer period of time.
6. NADEI will continue to be operated by the North American Division independent of the seminary. However, a close cooperation with the Seminary will be maintained.

Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, Chair  
Rosa T Banks, Secretary  
Harold W Baptiste, Editorial Secretary  
Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary



