

**YEAR-END MEETING**  
**NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION COMMITTEE**  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
October 8, 1997, 8:00 a.m.

**DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE**

Walter L Pearson Jr selected II Kings 6:15-17 for the devotional message. "And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

I rise this morning in defense of an intern. This young man has been berated from Dan to Bethesda, from one end of the universe to the other. We hold him in derision because he did not see what Elisha saw. We have used him as a paradigm, as a metaphor; we have castigated him. But he has never had the opportunity to stand and defend himself, and so I take it upon myself to speak for him. He cannot be as bad as we have described him to be. After all he had a job. He had been selected out of many who were available. I believe that there are reasons for us to think that he was in fact, not so different from what the ordinary servant of God might have been.

The power of God moves through Elisha and he tells the king "do not go to that place or this one, because if you do, we will fall into the hands of the enemy." The Syrian leader meets now with his cabinet having stopped the meetings that might have taken place in some palace or some house of business, he has moved now to the bed chamber. The historian suggests that when a meeting like this is held in the bed chamber it is unique; it is strange because it means that someone suspected a leak in the cabinet. So now the king says "We will no longer meet where we normally meet, but bring only those whom we can trust and come into my bedroom, and there we will discuss our strategy." But still, the news gets out, for there is one who sees and knows all, and that is the God whom we serve.

Sometimes I too feel the powerlessness of ministry. It is a job that cannot be finished. It encompasses work that is too grand for us. But the God whom we serve is still able, and even though it may seem that the world has plans that supercede ours, the fact is that God knows every feeble plan that Washington sets forth. Every other capital on the face of the earth is known and read by God and if we were simply to listen to Him, God could conquer every one of them by a whisper from His mouth. He knows the secrets of every organization. Perhaps, instead of trying to determine what they are doing and how they are doing it and trying to mimic what they do, we should allow the God, who already knows to counteract what they are doing, for God knows the secrets of their hearts.



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Now the conclusion is made that it is not a leak, but it is this strange young man—Elisha, who tells the king's secrets, even the ones that were discussed in this bed chamber. And so the order is given, "Go get him." Now they should have been reluctant to go get him. The one who had trained him in ministry was once in that situation. They sent 50 with a captain to get him and when they got there the man of God, Elijah, called down fire from heaven and destroyed them. But if Elisha has been granted his wish for a double portion of the spirit of Elijah, then any group going to seize him should be reluctant, for if Elijah could call down fire, what might a man with a double portion call down?

So now they are careful, but they send enough. It is the modern theory of military might, send overwhelming force, and so for one man's sake, you must understand that there is no reason for them to think that there are men, or that there is material at the disposal of this prophet. But because of that strange story that has spread around about Elisha, they send an army at night. But Lord Naaman would have given away in his very account the reason for their trepidation, for though he might not have an army, he has a God who is greater than every army that ever marched. Be careful of Him! So it is in the stealth of night that the army moved.

One of the problems with the organization that we call the Church is that she does not know when to wake up. What does it take to let us know that it is time now to be awake. If we were ever going to sleep in a tardy fashion, that time is not now. There is every evidence that something is about to happen. The infidel must know that there is a problem. Everyone must seem to feel there is a tension in the air. All of the systems that we know to control society have come apart. There is nothing in control now. We must understand that if there ever was a time for us to wake up, it is now.

This intern was sufficiently perceptive to know that there was danger. Perhaps he heard a horse too close to the house. The young man says, "What is that?" Now he begins to lift his senses to the surface, he peers out of some opening and there in the early morning mist he is the witness to soldiers standing at the ready. As soon as the light is sufficient they are prepared to attack, but someone catches them before they strike. You may think that it is an accident; I believe it is all in the order of God. God will not allow his children to be caught unawares if they are within His will. I cannot say that Elisha is still asleep. Perhaps he is so confident that he allows the experience to transpire with the young man alone. Perhaps in his bed before he went to sleep God had already told him that in the morning there will be a grand army surrounding them. Perhaps God had already told him the end of the story; "I will have more force than they can array." At least the young man was able to perceive that there was a problem.



The Church seems at times, unwilling or unable to recognize that we are in danger. We are not in a normal situation. Anyone can tell that a challenge is before us. As we watch all such grand movements, as the "Million Man March" and the Promise Keepers, I wondered why is it that they can do that and we cannot. Why are we always reacting instead of acting. I do not think the danger is so much in what others are doing as perhaps what we are not doing. I think perhaps we ought to see ourselves more in the assertive situation. We are the ones who have power. If we do, then why is it that we are so reluctant to use it?

But this young man at least saw the problem. He was not so jaded by the plight of his predecessor that he could not function on that morning. You must remember that Gehazi was the one who had preceded him. Gehazi had leprosy and was banished. The young man is not made to feel that he cannot act because of what happened to his predecessor. I praise God for those who can shake off the past. I praise God for those who are not governed by what happened to those who preceded them. There is a time for direct action when we must extricate ourselves from the past activity and do something new in Jesus. So give Him the credit, the young man does not worry on this morning about leprosy. He moves—at least based on the instant situation.

Seizing the moment, he went to Elijah and said, "We've got a problem." The question was not what shall Elisha do. You must assume that the senior man knows what to do. But before you are too hard on him for his declaration, remember that he was not like the disciples on the Lake of Galilee. At least he did not cry out, "We are about to die, Elisha, don't you care that we are dying?" He did not say, "We cannot fight, there is no possibility for flight." He said, "What shall we do?"

The fact is that the scholars are convinced that Elisha was wanted dead or alive. The question is, if they take Elisha dead, what will happen to the young intern? The answer is fairly obvious. It was time for him to ask, "What shall we do?" Now Elisha says, "Lord, open his eyes." Perhaps he already knew that there was sufficient power to care for them, but he says, "Lord, open his eyes so that he can see." Young people beginning in the ministry, need to know early that when you think you are surrounded you are; but you are not only surrounded by enemies, you are also surrounded by chariots of fire. So it becomes a question, not of whether you are surrounded but by your perception of whom it is that surrounds you. I suggest to you that the problem of that young man, or at least what we think it was, is the problem of the Church today. We are certainly surrounded, but what do you see when you look? Do you see enemy soldiers, or do you see chariots of fire. The prayer of Elisha was not, "Lord, send angels," the prayer was, "Lord, let us see the angels that are already here." It was not God moving in a remedial fashion. God does not dispatch after the fact that you need; the power is there. In fact, before the enemy soldiers ever came, chariots of fire had already arrived. Maybe some enemy soldiers passed by an invisible chariot on the way down



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to Elisha's house and knew not that the problem was passing by the solution. I do not believe that there is a problem that comes to the Church that does not pass by a solution. God has more solutions than Satan has problems, and every time you perceive a problem, you must look again, rub your eyes, and turn your spiritual eyesight on the fact that there is always a solution that the problem came by to get to you, and God will arrange that a solution is always in the right place at the right time.

Some of us think that we will always have positions; we will always have superior vision. Some laypeople are already seeing the mountain and they know that there are chariots of fire. The question is, when will we see or when will we act like we can see it? When will we behave as though we know there is Superior Force.

Now, what do you do, is the question. The fact is that there is a question of enthusiasm. I am worried because all around us I see people with enthusiasm and yet in the midst of the Remnant Church there is *laissez-faire* attitude, as though Heaven would come down and create enthusiasm. But I believe enthusiasm must be born within each individual heart. I have learned that physical deprivation brings about a different level of commitment, at least from what appears to be. But there is growing in America a gnawing emptiness. We are beginning to feel the pangs of third-world existence in this first-world nation. The standard of living plummets while we look at the life styles of the rich and famous on our television screens. We feel richer than we are, and there are some coming awake to the fact that we have not so much as we thought we had. Perhaps it is a good thing that it brings us to the awareness that even though you may have the toys, even though you may be surrounded by the accouterments of power, even though you have all of the tokens for wealth, the fact is that there can be a heart that is so empty that it rivals anyone in any third-world country on this very earth.

So what Elisha does is important. He begins by going out and blinding the people. There is reason to believe that rather than a physical blindness, what God did to these soldiers was to subject mental capacity. So maybe they were not so blind with their eyes as unable to discern where they were, who they were, and what they were doing there. Remember that the soldiers do not know they are in Dothan or who Elisha is anymore. God has taken from the army the ability to know what is normal. God giveth and God taketh away. Now Elisha leads these men to their doom. In the final analysis the message is clear. Heaven awaits our demand upon its resources. Will we cast away our false props and false theories? Will we reject the words and sayings of men and look to God, the one Mediator for grace, for strength and power? Will we ever stretch the envelope? Will we ever risk to move out of the middle path? Will we ever take the chance to go for God and God alone? Will we call on the resources?



This hill, this mountain is not filled with enemy soldiers so much as it is filled with chariots of fire. The question is, what kind of eyes do you have, what kind of capacity do you possess? When God enhances the capacity, you could always see the resources instead of focusing on the problems. To be sure there are impediments, problems, and limitations, but the fact is that Heaven has already deployed its forces. There are angels on earth positioned, empowered, full of grace and truth. All they need is for somebody who can forget the sayings of man long enough, who can get out of the envelope of conventional wisdom far enough, who can take the risk personally to move out on power that is not apparent unless you have increased capacity. And when that happens, God will show that this mountain, this earth, is not full of problems, it is full of solutions.

## **OPENING**

Harold W Baptiste, Secretary, North American Division, declared the meeting officially open, with a quorum present.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Alfred C McClure, Chair, called the first session of the 1997 North American Division Committee Year-end Meeting to order.

97YE to HWB

## **YEAR-END MEETING AGENDA**

VOTED, To adopt the 1997 Year-end Meeting Agenda as presented.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Harold W Baptiste called the attention of the members to the announcement section in the Notebook. He highlighted parking, the hospitality booth in the lobby, the mail service, and the various committee locations in the complex.



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## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Helvius Thompson offered the morning prayer, with special note to remember Henry Wright's family whose second son, Michael, was killed early this morning in an automobile accident; and also the family of Carlyle C Simmons whose mother passed away.

97YE to HWB

## **590-97N SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Harold W Baptiste thanked the Lord for His blessings and for safe travel which brought the attendees safely to the Year-end Meeting of 1997. These are momentous days in which to be living. Never have the challenges to Christianity and Seventh-day Adventism been so complex, insidious, diverse, and pervasive. We have come to a time in history when the Church is not simply facing paganism and clearly identifiable falsehood, but it must struggle to win the hearts of men and women from all manner of evil which passes for spirituality and human advancement. Even in this climate, as disciples of Christ, we must seek to advance His kingdom and hasten His coming. As we review briefly what the Lord has done through us, may we be encouraged to confront the forces of evil and plant the seeds of truth in the hearts of thousands of men and women.

I am very pleased to report to you that 1996 was an outstanding year for the North American Division. We achieved the highest number of baptisms (accessions) in the history of the Division. Thirty-nine thousand and four individuals joined the Church in 1996! What is more encouraging is, that this was the third consecutive year that there was a significant increase in baptisms. Baptisms as of June 30, 1997 totaled 15,646. Last year at the same time there were 14,628 baptisms, so that puts us 1,018 ahead of last year's total. With the resurgence of evangelism: NET'97, Ebony Evangelism, La Red '97 and Seeds'97 Seminars, Bible Schools, and Church Planting, there is every likelihood that we will surpass the baptisms for 1996. The current membership as of June 30, 1997 is 865,187.

We still need to address the problem of apostasies. The Statistical Report will show that too many of our members are leaving the Church. Research has shown that very few of these leave because of doctrines. They leave because of neglect, lack of love and spiritual involvement. In 1994 we began to address this problem but we need to continue.

The North American Division continues to play an important role in the world-wide Church. The treasurer will tell you about the Division's financial contribution to the World Church. I would like to tell you briefly about another significant contribution of the Division.



According to the General Conference Secretary's report to the 1997 Annual Council, the North American Division continues to provide the largest number of interdivision workers. Of the 1,194 workers out on mission assignments to other divisions, 635 or 53.18% have come from the North American Division. In many ways, the Lord has blessed this Division and we in turn should "bless" other areas of the world.

Let us cast a vision for the future—a vision that the North American Division will pass the one million membership mark by the end of the year 2000. Here is how it can be done:

Present membership of the Division is 865,187 and the net growth needed to reach one million is 134,813. If we increase our baptismal rate from 36,390 per year to 40,000 per year and reduce the apostasies to 7,100 per year instead of 14,200 we could improve our net growth and achieve one million members by 2000.

We need always to be aware that the main task of the Church is the proclamation of the Gospel. Many of the services offered by the Church may be provided by other agencies in the community with comparable success. There is one task which cannot be left to another agency; one task that is highest on the Church's agenda; one task which is unique to the Church and to which it is obligated; and that is the task of proclaiming the Gospel and inviting men and women to become a part of Christ's glorious kingdom. The Church is the Church only when it fulfills this task, for this is the reason why it was brought into being.

There is a sense that a new wind is blowing across the North American Division. The noisy debates are quietly subsiding. The contentious issues are being laid aside. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."—Acts 2:2 (KJV) This was the first signal of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It was the start of a mighty work which transcended human ability and launched the Christian Church which the Lord Jesus had purchased with His own blood upon the cross of Calvary. The work which we do today must likewise be energized by the Spirit. It is not until like the disciples, we come together in unity and a true understanding of the character of the Kingdom that the divine power necessary to accomplish this mission will be available to us.

Harold W Baptiste then introduced R William Cash, Director of Archives and Statistics for the General Conference, and who also serves as statistician for NAD. Cash presented the following Statistical Report for 1996.



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## 591-97N STATISTICAL REPORT

R William Cash gave a graphic-slide presentation of the Statistical Report to the North American Division 1997 Year-End Meeting.

The North American Division groups statistics in six areas that measure Church Growth: Membership, Attendance, Baptisms (or Accessions), Tithe and Offerings, Church School Attendance, and Involvement in Mission. These statistics are gathered on a regular basis by various persons at the local churches, and are sent to the local conference secretary or treasurer. Here they are compiled monthly (in the case of tithes and offerings) or quarterly, and the conference summary is sent to the appropriate union office. The compilation and summary for each union is forwarded to the Division Treasurer, and Secretary's office, and then sent to the office of Archives and Statistics to join the reports of the rest of the world field. Cash expressed appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers and denominational employees who contributed to this report, including Monte Sahlin and his staff who helped gather the survey information.

Membership statistics were illustrated graphically showing how union growth compares—above or below the division average of 2.3 percent. Some trend evidence can be seen. None of the unions have a three-year declining trend, and several are showing positive growth, increasing for each of the past two years. The growth rate for the Division was then shown for the past five years and compared with the overall rate per decade in the 70s and 80s. It was good to see the upward curve for the past three years.

Cash then showed a slide that depicted the net migration by union for the past five years, based on the letters of transfer. The North Pacific and Southern Unions appear to be the only unions with five years of positive transfer.

The growth around the world has been phenomenal in the past three or four decades. The growth curve for the North American Division is very similar.

The pie chart showed the distribution of the membership by union with the North American Division. The Southern Union and the Pacific Union, with virtually any other union, make up half the division.

In terms of membership by country, the United States is no longer the leader. Sometime during the present quarter, probably in mid-August, the membership in Brazil



surpassed that of the United States. By the end of the century, we anticipate that the Philippines will move into second place. The membership in several African countries is also growing rapidly, and if time lasts, we anticipate their joining the countries with nearly a million members.

The second measure of church growth is attendance which equals 483,414, 56.3% of the members on the books. Nonmembers in attendance were 24,221. Leadership was urged to encourage a greater faithfulness in the reporting of the statistics that are being requested by the Division so that a fuller picture can be seen with stronger evidence on which to base decisions.

The third measure of church growth is baptisms or accessions, and also include the growth due to the addition of members by profession of faith. There were 39,000 members added in 1996, the largest one-year tally ever recorded for North America—a upward trend.

The fourth measure of church growth is tithe and offerings received. The per capita giving in tithe for the past five years has not quite kept up with the Disposable Personal Income (DPI) index. In the same five-year period, offerings tracked the DPI much better, although they dropped off in 1996.

The fifth measure of church growth is church school attendance, measuring grades kindergarten through 16 (college completion). Unfortunately, there was a slight decline in the 1996-1997 school year.

The final measure of church growth is Involvement in Mission. The indicators show involvement has dropped from 1980 to 1996, based on Division surveys.

VOTED, To accept the 1996 Statistical Report for the North American Division. (A copy of the NAD 1996 Statistical Report is filed with the official minutes.)

97YE to GHC

#### **592-97N TREASURER'S REPORT**

VOTED, To accept the Treasurer's Report for 1996 as presented by George H Crumley, Treasurer of the North American Division, which reads as follows:

The finances of the North American Division were presented with a computer graphics program illustrated by various graphics. Crumley explained "The Financial Birth of the North



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American Division.” Previous to 1991, the finances of North America were administered by the General Conference and allocated by the General Conference Annual Councils.

Beginning in October 1991, fund balances amounting to \$1,992,132 were transferred to the North American Division Treasury from the General Conference. The General Conference and the North American Division have enjoyed a unique partnership with a close working relationship, but North America now administers its own programs.

Our Mission—The tithe funds received by the local church and remitted through the regular channels of the Church respond to the mandate of Scripture to “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”—Mark 16:15

A series of graphs were presented indicating the apportionment of the tithe dollar in North America in the form of appropriations and reversions BEFORE as well as AFTER tithe funds are reverted to the local conferences, illustrated by two pie wedge charts.

Funding for the General Conference and the North American Division comes from two sources: the conferences - 20% of gross tithe; and unions - 10% of their tithe or 1% of gross tithe. Twenty-one percent was managed by the General Conference until the end of 1993. It was included in the GC Budget and appropriations were made to NAD. The accounting of the General Conference and North American Division was divided at the end of 1994. This division of finances was voted by the Annual Council and NAD Year-end Meeting. North American Division retains 10.28%, passing on the rest. For the 1998 Budget, the percentages to be applied for the distribution of the 21% funds remain the same as in 1997.

Tithe Increase—two graphs were presented showing the tithe income in North America between 1991 and 1996 which increased 18.54%.

Two further graphs were presented depicting Mission Giving which decreased 4.6% from 1991 to 1996. Fund Balances for 1991 to 1996 were shown graphically as well as Working Capital and Liquidity.

At the end of 1996, North American Division recorded in the accounting records the action of the General Conference Committee transferring to the North American Division \$7,662,331.80 for Working Capital. These funds have been booked, with the actual cash to be transferred by the end of 1999. Even with this transfer, the NAD must continue to build its Working Capital to the recommended level. The North American Division Officers wish to express appreciation to the General Conference Officers and the General Conference Committee for this action.



Operations for 1996 were highlighted with operating expense comparisons between 1995 and 1996. The Audited Financial Statement ending December 31, 1996 was distributed to the Year-end Meeting attendees and a copy is attached to these minutes.

## **ELECTRONIC FINANCIAL INFORMATION ACCESS**

Robert S Folkenberg stated that the picture of funds which is used in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is distorted in the minds of the many members. We are trying to remedy the situation by having a comprehensive annual cash flow of the global Church—of its tithe and other funds—made available in a user-friendly manner to anybody in the world who has access to the Internet. It will be automatically updated as each church entity keys data into the database.

For example if a member says, "I turn in \$100 tithe. How are the dollars used?" That member can access this information on the Internet. If the member would place the cursor on the name of any church entity, the use of the tithe dollars could be learned. All the services of the union would be listed, to see how the tithe dollar is spent. On a larger scale, up-to-date information can be fed from the audited statements and it would automatically become available to members on an up-to-date basis.

This information access would also help individuals to understand the cost of operating the General Conference Headquarters. This plan will be at its initial level in a few months. One will be able to highlight a conference and follow the flow of funds to the General Conference.

## **ADVENTIST GLOBAL COMMUNICATION NETWORK (AGCN)**

Alfred C McClure asked the question, "Should we not be using 24-hour television for people who cannot be reached in any other way?" He then asked Robert Folkenberg to inform the committee on what is being developed by the General Conference.

Folkenberg stated that the biggest obstacle to having a 24-hour television station for the World Church is the cost. It takes several satellites to cover the entire world. However, this is exactly what has been set as an objective to be accomplished, hopefully, within the next 18 months. We must find the way to pay the cost of the satellite lease which would equal about 4% of the General Conference annual budget. Funding has to be found and some changes will have to be made. Once the satellites are broadcasting Folkenberg is confident that entities around the world will be able to produce adequate quality programming.



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For example, one division may produce a program. Then another division may say, "It will be worth it to us to add our language to that program." The AGCN system will be able to carry up to 40 languages at a time. It is hoped to motivate entities to think what they can produce to help make a smorgasbord of programs so everyone can choose what will be best for their area.

### **KSBN REPORT**

Cyril Miller introduced Carlos Pardeiro, President of Safe Television for All Ages, KSBN TV 57 who has developed the first full-power Seventh-day Adventist-related station in North America. Carlos Pardeiro referred to an article about the project in the June issue of the *Adventist Review*, page 20.

Pardeiro then showed a video of the celebration of the first anniversary of Safe Television for All Ages. He then announced that his station has signed a contract to broadcast on direct-to-home television starting in early 1998. This 24-hour-a-day satellite broadcasting system will be in addition to the AGCN network mentioned by Folkenberg earlier.

Pardeiro said that he is asking that the Church provide 16 hours of programming each week for this satellite broadcasting system, and that he will give that time to the Church free of cost. In addition, the Church will be given an additional six hours each week on another satellite channel for special events.

Finally, Pardeiro said that when the satellite subscriber base reaches the target number, the Seventh-day Adventist Church will receive a full 24-hour-a-day satellite channel at no cost, and with approximately \$1 million a year in funding to produce programming.

97YE to CM

### **586-97N NET'97 REPORT**

Eradio Alonso reported that NET'97 (La Red 97) is a project that was conceived during the 1995 Spring Meetings of the General Conference when Robert S Folkenberg challenged leaders to launch this evangelistic program via satellite. Hispanic leaders have accepted the challenge, making this the most ambitious and exciting division-wide undertaking in the history of the Hispanic work in the North American Division.



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Hispanic leaders immediately appointed a La Red 97 Planning Committee with Eradio Alonso as the chair. A total of \$160,000 have been raised for the transmission of the program and the materials needed to make it a success. Four hundred and twenty North America Division Hispanic churches are participating in the effort. Our goal for the eight nights of the program, November 8-15, 1997, was set for 5,000 baptisms and 20,000 visitors. One of the overall objectives is nine new churches, one per union, some of which are already organized. We are thankful to have Alexander Bullion, Ministerial Director of the South American Division for the speaker. The program will be broadcast via satellite from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Of the 39,000 baptisms in the North American Division in 1996, 8,718, or 22% were Hispanics, even though the Division's Hispanic membership was only 10% of the total membership.

The technical aspect of this project has been in the hands of Louis Torres, with Kermit L Netteburg as advisor. We want to give special thanks to Robert S Folkenberg, who with the challenge, gave a check for \$10,000 dollars, and to Alfred C McClure for his total support of the project and a check for \$25,000. Thanks are also due to our union presidents for their enthusiastic, financial, and spiritual backing for this program. We really appreciate the encouragement given by conference presidents to their pastors to participate in the program and providing them with the financial help to do so.

We solicit your prayers for NET'97, and look forward to a great celebration in 1998.

97YE to CM

### **587-97N EBONY EVANGELISM REPORT**

Robert L Lister expressed appreciation to the Regional Presidents, for encouraging the Church in following the principle we teach, "The strong shall bear the infirmities of the weak." In this spirit the larger conferences refused the Ebony Evangelism program in favor of building up and strengthening the weaker conferences. This unselfish team spirit allowed the Southwest Region Conference to be the recipient of the Ebony Evangelism funds twice within the last three years.

Lister also expressed appreciation to Alfred C McClure, William C Scales, and Alvin Kibble. It was a miracle of grace to observe the benefit and blessings of God when the nine regional conferences of the North American Division united in service to reap a harvest of souls. We are grateful to the General Conference, the North American Division, the unions, and to individuals for their financial support.



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community, and in fact sold to us at a lower price so that they could maintain an Seventh-day Adventist presence in that city. A two-month door to door outreach home Bible study program is presently being conducted by ten laypersons and two of our pastors, Maceo Bailey and Leon Bryant. After the "One on One" program there will be a reaping meeting in the church.

Winnsboro, Louisiana—In addition to five new church groups in Arkansas, we have foot soldiers working with Leon Bolden and his wife. Based on the Bible studies in progress and the 17 whom they have already baptized, a new church will be established in Winnsboro by the end of 1997 or early 1998.

Texas City, Texas—An outreach ministry has been started in Texas City with a layperson leading out. Early in the year Notra Nolan began working with 15 people who make up the church group there. A team was hired in August to work through October in a door to door ministry. In November we will have a public meeting conducted by Willie S Lee, Jr and Albert Dyson. A rich return in souls is anticipated by the end of 1997.

In 1995 we planted nine new church groups. This year quality time was spent and resources were built up with some of those groups. A particular group in North Little Rock was pastored by John Anderson. He felt the need to conduct his own evangelistic meeting rather than hiring some outstanding evangelist. Anderson wanted to develop his talents for evangelism. Twenty-five precious souls joined the Church and were baptized through his ministry.

In 1994, our conference agreed to a seven-year evangelistic thrust called Evangelism Explosion 2000. This program was designed to swell the Southwest Region membership to at least 21,000 and to plant 56 new churches by the year 2000. By the end of 1997, we may have 24 new churches towards this goal. Twenty-one part-time pastors have been hired to assist with this explosive growth. Over the past six years our conference membership has grown from 13,000 to more than 17,000 members.

#### **SCALES, WILLIAM C, JR—TRIBUTE**

Alfred C McClure paid tribute to William C Scales, Jr who has worked for 19 years as Secretary of the Ministerial Association, first with the General Conference Ministerial Association and then with the North American Division. Scales exhibited outstanding leadership and has been an inspiration for evangelism in the North American Division and around the world. During his ministry he founded the Real Truth Crusades and over the



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have been over 10,000 souls baptized. Scales has been a tremendous drum major for Ebony Evangelism.

Scales was presented with a gift of appreciation from the North American Division. He responded that he would continue to serve in a mentoring position to young evangelists with all his strength.

GM/97YE to CM

### SATELLITE EVANGELISM

Cyril Miller reported that the evangelistic projects are being uplinked in 1997, as follows:

#### SATELLITE SEMINARS '97

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Evangelist</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Churches Registered</u>
Oct 3-Nov 1	Douglas Batchelor	Amazing Facts/3ABN	900 *
Nov 1-Dec 6	Kenneth Cox	VOP/North Pacific	250
Nov 8-Nov 15	Alejandro Buillon	La Red 97	<u>450</u>
		TOTAL	1,600

\*Both churches and homes

GMn/97YE to CM

### MAJOR METROPOLITAN EVANGELISM (TORONTO 2000)

North American Division has proposed that the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 1998 be used for the following evangelism targets: New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Toronto.

It is estimated that about \$500,000 will be available as the Division's share of the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering. Each target city would receive approximately \$50,000.

An additional proposal reads as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Fall '99	Los Angeles	Mark Finley



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Mark Finley will be joined by the four It Is Written Evangelistic Association evangelists and other ethnic/linguistic evangelists conducting concurrent meetings in the Greater Los Angeles and San Diego areas, supported by the Academy of Christian Discipleship, pastors and laypeople of Southern and Southeastern California Conference churches with major financial support from the North American Division, area churches, and the Pacific Union Conference.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Fall '99	New York City	Douglas Batchelor

Douglas Batchelor will be joined by the nine Amazing Facts evangelists and other ethnic/linguistic evangelists conducting concurrent meetings in the Greater New York City and New Jersey areas, supported by the pastors and lay people of Northeastern, Greater New York and New Jersey churches with major financial support from the North American Division, area churches, and the Atlantic and Columbia Union Conferences.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Fall '99	Chicago	Kenneth Cox

Kenneth Cox will be joined by other ethnic/linguistic evangelists conducting concurrent meetings in the Greater Chicago area, supported by the Voice of Prophecy Discovery Team, North American Division Evangelism Institute Directors and students, pastors and laypeople of the area churches in the Illinois and Lake Region Conferences, with major financial support from the Division, and the Lake Union Conference.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Spring 2000	Toronto	Walter L Pearson Jr

Walter L Pearson Jr will be joined by other ethnic/linguistic evangelists conducting concurrent meetings in the Greater Toronto area, supported by the NET 2000 Team, the pastors and laypeople of the churches in the Ontario Conference, with major financial support from the North American Division, the Ontario Conference, and Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Fall satellite TV coverage to all North American Division churches from each of the four major meetings could be planned, featuring the speakers identified above and scheduled separately for September, October, November of 1999, and spring of 2000, allowing congregations across the North American Division to make a choice for the fall of '99, with all North American Division churches unitedly participating in the spring for NET 2000. This



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approach will actually create greater evangelistic momentum and prepare more people for harvesting in NET 2000.

VOTED, To look with favor on the concept of planning and staging NET 2000 in Toronto, Canada.

Closing prayer was offered by Jerry Page.

Adjourned

Alfred C McClure, Chair  
Harold W Baptiste, Secretary  
Clarence E Hodges, Editorial Secretary  
Marialyce Gibson, Devotional Recording Secretary  
Betty Pierson, Recording Secretary