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#### COVER

The Three Angels of the Apocalypse were sculptured by English artist Alan Collins of Andrews University. Photo by Dick Dower.

# Finishing God's Work



Frank L. Jones W. L. Murrill Lowell L. Bock

There is a growing uneasiness among us over the delay of our Lord's return. This anxiety is further intensified by the awareness that the delay is not on God's part; rather the delay is thwarting His plan for terminating sin with its train of misery. "All heaven is actively engaged in the work of preparing a people for the second coming of Christ to our world, and 'we are laborers together with God.' The end of all things is at hand. Now is our opportunity to work."—Review and Herald, January 24, 1893. Eighty-four years ago!

Thankfully the Laodicean church is stirring.

Contained in this issue of the Lake Union Herald is the full statement on "Finishing the Work" which was voted in October at the Annual Council. We believe this is the most important and dramatic action taken by our church in this century! It reflects the sober and prayerful concern of our world leadership. May I encourage you to study every word and let the Spirit of God lead you in your own personal conclusions and commitments.

What part will He have you play?

This action invisions a united laity and ministry working and witnessing together. This will not be accomplished until the members comprising our churches are committed, trained and active under the direction of the Holy Spirit. But one thing comes through too strongly to miss. Of all the levels of leadership and interpersonal functions of the church, the local pastor as preacher, teacher and leader is the key to the accomplishment of the task of finishing God's work.



Lauree Bock

PLEASE SAVE THIS SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE LAKE UNION HERALD AS IT WILL BE CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY STUDIED IN YOUR PRAYER MEETINGS, BOARD MEETING, ET CETERA AS YOUR PASTOR WORKS WITH YOU TO MAKE THIS ACTION A REALITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

OF

HEART

THE

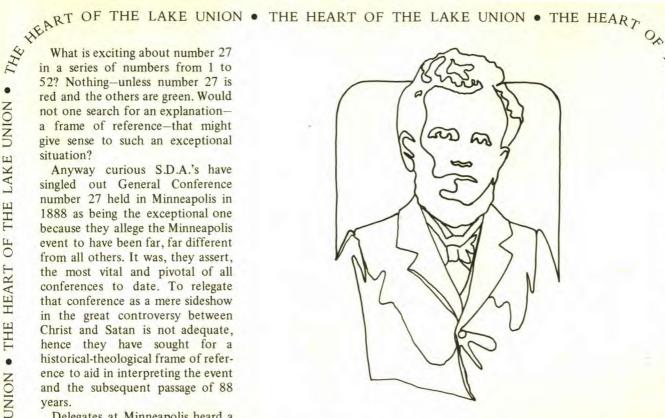
52? Nothing-unless number 27 is red and the others are green. Would not one search for an explanationa frame of reference-that might give sense to such an exceptional situation?

Anyway curious S.D.A.'s have singled out General Conference number 27 held in Minneapolis in 1888 as being the exceptional one because they allege the Minneapolis event to have been far, far different from all others. It was, they assert, the most vital and pivotal of all conferences to date. To relegate that conference as a mere sideshow in the great controversy between Christ and Satan is not adequate, hence they have sought for a historical-theological frame of reference to aid in interpreting the event and the subsequent passage of 88 years.

Delegates at Minneapolis heard a sequence of sermons on becoming righteous by faith in Christ, ministered by Ellet J. Waggoner and Ellen G. White. There Heaven favored them with Ellet's warm preaching and Ellen's inspired preaching. But some did not accept the message and laughed it away; others were arrested by it and decided to think it over; a few accepted it and went on to a deeper experience with the Lord.

Overall, • however, too many shrugged the message off as ordinary. Not so, Ellen White maintained, this message was the beginning of the longed-for "Loud Cry," and through stubbornness the leaders had led the church along a wilderness trail to wander in the "desert" until all had left their bones on parched sands.

Since a number of the obstinate ones during and following 1888 made Battle Creek their home, it was fitting that from the Battle Creek Tabernacle and from the research and eloquence of its pastor, Taylor G. Bunch, should come in 1937 an elaborate frame of reference titled The Exodus Movements in Type and Antitype. Bunch believed that as the Adventists ("Modern Israel") trudged along,



# The Work Shall Be Finished!

by Emmett K. Vande Vere Illustration by Nadine Dower

the Old Testament came alive for them, the Exodus Movement having been a vast charade of their present experiences! Why not? Had not Ellen White affirmed: "We are repeating the history of that people"?

In 1888 the S.D.A.'s had practically duplicated Israel's sad failure at Kadesh-barnea and must wander longer-until "she [Modern Israel] will eat of the fruit of her own doing, until she shall abhor herself."-Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 250. But God had desired to cut short Hebrew wandering (after 38 years) so He brought them to Kadesh again. However they had failed again and now had to make a long, detestable detour around Edom.

Finally at long last, the Hebrews turned northward toward Canaan. Now for the first time they saw and acknowledged their past mistakes and those of their fathers. Their past history took on new significance. They admitted that it was not God's will that they should have wandered so long.

Then suddenly "great" things occurred: great worldliness; great revival; great reformation; great attack on the Spirit of Prophecy; great shaking or winnowing of the chaff; exaltation of the great standard of righteousness (the law); emergence of the great, "fair," "clear," "terrible" remnant church. Ultimately Ancient Israel crossed the Jordan into Promised Land by faith in commands to go forward. Does Modern Israel have such faith? They must!

Just as surely as ancient Israel departed Egypt they entered Palestine. Will Modern Israel likewise enter in? They must! They will! The work shall be finished!

"'How remarkable! What an amazing thing the Lord has done'" (Matthew 21:42, The Living Bible).



"Every member of the church is to show his loyalty by inviting the thirsty to drink of the water of life. A chain of living witnesses is to carry the invitation to the world. Will you act your part in this great work?"-Colporteur Ministry, p. 18.





# Together for a Finished Work

1976 Annual Council Action

review of our history, our theology, and God's providential leadership can only deepen our conviction that the singular objective of this global organization, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is to proclaim to the whole world the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14, which, in addition to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian church, embody the distinctive truths of the sanctuary and righteousness by faith. The church exists for the purpose of touching lives with redemptive action, teaching young and old how to live in today's complex world as Jesus Christ lived nineteen centuries ago, and then developing this saving relationship by growing in grace and by witnessing to others and sharing the everlasting gospel with them.

As the final segment of our Lord's true sevenfold church that spans the centuries, we believe that our mission and message are to be the decisive factors in God's eternal judgment of earth's millions before the final disposal of Satan and sin. We also believe that God will yet use us to reach parliaments, palaces, legislatures, and the world's population with His last message and so shake the sinful order of the earth that individuals will either unite with God's loyal remnant and receive His seal or turn against them and receive the mark of the beast. We believe that we are the one remaining challenge to antichrist, and that in earth's last generation this church will be forced to stand against hell's legions, yet, in spite of all opposition, come through victoriously. When Jesus declared that "all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," He meant that no enemy could possibly stand in the way of God's conquering church. "Enfeebled and defective as it may be, [the church] is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard.... He commissions His angels to

render divine help to every soul that cometh to Him in repentance and contrition."-*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 15.

While recognizing the ultimate victory of God's church, we firmly believe that preliminary victories must and can be ours now, if we fully obey the revealed will of God. Could it be that just as Israel of old needlessly expended precious time and energy in the wilderness when they could have enjoyed the blessings of Canaanland we today are following a course which is delaying our entrance into the promised heaven-land? Perhaps the greatest enemies of the church are the apathy and rebellion found within its walls. Once we recognize that no enemy can stand before the church of Christ (presupposing its purity and integrity), we must also recognize that Satan's attack within is a factor that the church has always had to deal with. The great reform churches are crumbling, not because of outside opposition, but from within. There has been a tragic loss of their reasons for existence and the will to pursue their original objectives.

Seventh-day Adventists still contend that their vision is unblurred and undimmed. We would, however, be less than honest with ourselves if we failed to acknowledge that the Adventist Church today is in a struggle not unlike the struggles of other great movements throughout history. It is incumbent upon us as leaders to examine carefully the central objective of this church, the progress we are making in finishing God's work, and the degree to which we are keeping the church on course.

Satan could easily triumph over this church if he either blurred this objective or caused a sleeping church to believe that she was reaching this objective while doing many lesser things of a laudable nature that fall short of this goal. Our danger could well be that of proliferating secondary activities. Yet, in spite of our human failure, let us encourage one another with the fact that we are in partnership with God

#### Decisive, Unparalleled Action Needed Now

Most members and ministers recognize that we are weakened by a Laodicean condition in the church. Recently one of our leaders addressed fifty ministers and in the course of his talk asked for response. His first question was "How many of you believe that the church in North America is finishing God's work on earth so that in a given length of time, whatever that time be, the work of God will actually be finished?" This created an uneasy atmosphere, but not a single hand was raised. He then asked the question "How many of you believe that the church is in a 'holding pattern' and is definitely not gaining on the actual finishing of God's work in North America?" Just about every hand was raised.

This presents problems of many dimensions, a few of which are listed below:

1. Meeting highest pastoral objectives.—As illustrated above, a significant number of our ministers are frustrated because they are not meeting their highest objectives. The things they believe about the finishing of God's work do not seem to materialize as a result of their ministry. Administration in the Adventist Church must study this problem with all diligence and find out how to "free" the pastoral-evangelistic worker in such a way as to let him feel the glory and the joy of meeting the prime objectives of the church. To focus our attention on this emphasis and to seek by the grace of God to implement His counsel is the purpose of this document.

2. Fully implementing God's plan.—Ellen White states that the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will never come while the largest portion of the church is not laboring together with God. We recognize that in the membership of our churches there is a vast potential that has not yet been fully realized. It should be our studied effort to involve all in harmony with God's plan.

3. Concern for souls.—The lack of concern over lost souls throughout our churches is a cause of great concern to all. The winning of souls by our members appears to some to be so awesome and difficult that it requires professional training. Pastoral sermons on evangelism have had a measure of success, but we long for a far greater response from our people. The term *evangelism* has come to have shades of meaning that are not scriptural, and therefore clear statements must be made to restore it to its scriptural definition.

4. Proper balance between field and office personnel.—While recognizing the fact that we must choose administrative and departmental leaders from among our strongest workers, we must admit that in doing this we may weaken instead of strengthen that area of work where soul winning mostly occurs. The church must diligently and faithfully seek to restore the basic evangelistic work force. In the process it must also seek to make all Adventist workers in all categories evangelistic and to lead the members of our churches to join in setting new priorities, norms, and objectives for accomplishing our task of a finished work.

5. Standards and family worship and personal Bible study.-The church has reason to be concerned about the slippage in standards of recreation, dress, and morality among us. Surveys conducted at selected academies, colleges, churches, and camp meetings would indicate that in North America, at least, there is a great need for special emphasis and continual endeavor to foster personal Bible study and family worship in our Adventist homes. We believe neglect in these areas has contributed to an inevitable decline in the spiritual strength of the church. Even more basic is the lack of evangelistic purpose and objectivity that has removed to a large degree the impetus for deep spirituality among us. In a tragic sense we are following the fearful trend of the early church in which, after the apostolic leaders were laid to rest, Christianity accommodated to paganism and little by little adopted it.

It is our conviction that if a sense of mission and commitment to evangelizing the world in an unprecedented manner is brought before the church through bold leadership we will witness a true revival and reformation.

After the restoration of the demoniacs, Christ commanded them to go and tell the story of their salvation to others. The comment of Ellen White on this experience is most significant. "It is in working to spread the good news of salvation that we are brought near to the Saviour."-The Desire of Ages, p. 340. Pentecost dramatically teaches us this same basic truth. We believe that the latter rain will be poured out and the upper-room experience of the disciples will be repeated when the leadership and laity of our movement, as the disciples of old, pray "with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men.... The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls."+The Acts of the Apostles, p. 37.

Surely, this sense of urgency and love for the souls of lost sinners must grip our hearts before we enjoy the mighty blessings of the latter rain. Furthermore, this concern for souls will give purpose to our study of the Word and to our personal and family devotions.

6. Why has our Lord's coming been delayed?—With deep heart-sorrow we acknowledge the delay of our Lord's return. Long ere this God's people should have been in the kingdom. Our insubordination, our spiritual apathy, our indifference to the urgency of soul winning in our personal lives as leaders and members, our failure to make first things first, delay our Lord's return. Today's Adventist generation can with God's blessing be the generation that will arise and finish God's work and put an end to the tragedy of our Lord's delay.

#### The Real Issue

The real issue before the leadership of God's church is whether or not we are serious enough to take decisive action now to overcome the church's inertia and thus arise with holy courage and faith to finish God's work in all the world. At stake is the mission of the church and whether or not the powerful calls given by our General Conference president for revival and reformation, in which we have all shared, will be realized in a context of the greatest redemptive thrust in our history!

Administrative action is urgently needed to help reclaim this glorious Christ-centered purpose. The essence of righteousness, demonstrated by a faith that works, is evangelism, revival, and salvation. This work is to penetrate all the ranks of the church. We are, in these last days, called upon to do the kind of work upon which God can signally pour out His full blessing. It is time for the showers of the latter rain and the finishing of the work. We, as leaders, have permitted the pressures of our church and the influence of people and programs to distract us from our central work. It could well be that we are standing under a certain indictment of Heaven for not courageously and faithfully pursuing the finishing of God's work through direct evangelism, and that because of a "business as usual" attitude the calls for revival have not been followed with desired results as God has promised.

"All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance....

"At this time, when the end of all things is at hand, should not the zeal of the church exceed even that of the early church? . . . Should not the power of God be even more mightily revealed today than in the time of the apostles?"—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 33.

"If human agencies would but cooperate with divine agencies, many, many souls would be won to the truth. But the Lord's professing people have been sleeping over their allotted work."—*Ibld.*, vol. 9, p. 46.

#### Plan of Action

We have only words of appreciation for the leaders who have preceded us and who valiantly, under God's guidance, laid the foundations upon which we now seek to build. Ellen White expressed it beautifully when she wrote, "Having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us."-Testimonies to Ministers, p. 31.

It is for us now to determine the steps to take in order to give absolute priority to evangelism at all levels and on all fronts. To do this, we must let go certain areas of emphasis that now consume our time and attention and break loose for God in dynamic evangelism. To continue in the status quo will only find us becoming more and more the victims of the church's miscellany, reacting instead of acting. As one writer expressed it, "We are so busy doing the urgent that we have no time to do the important."

A diligent effort has been initiated to focus and coordinate the soul-winning talents and energies of the entire church. This conditioning progress brought us closer to our goal of "every-member involvement." Our Annual Councils, through repeated discussions, appeals, studies, and prayer sessions, have directed our minds toward an all-out revival, reformation, and evangelistic thrust. During this time we have witnessed a greater advance in evangelism than ever before. We acknowledge, however, that God calls for a finished work. Therefore, with our potential of human and financial resources and under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit, and because of the promises of our Lord, we are determined that the gospel will be carried to everyone everywhere.

The task of moving the world church in the direction of placing unquestioned priority on evangelism, with attendant revival and reformation, is an awesome one and is fraught with difficulties. Leadership has either gotten us where we are or remained neutral when wrong trends took over. Hence, decisive administrative conviction and action are essential now in programming the priorities necessary for finishing God's work.

What do we mean by the term "finishing the work"? It means both an inward and outward work—a people saved by grace, working to save others. It is the reaching of every person on earth with the claims and promises of God's message of love and salvation, so that this generation may have opportunity to be restored in His image, now and forever. Thus, the "finishing of the work" means one thing: Communicating God's message through the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit to all of earth's population so that God can proclaim His work finished. When this happens, Jesus will come. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

In the light of the foregoing, we accept the following plan of action:

1. That every effort be made to bring about a clear, unequivocal, churchwide understanding of the crucial nature and primacy of evangelism. All evangelism centers in Jesus Christ, who was and is the original evangelist. To be evangelistic, then, is to be like Christ, and the result of evangelism is Christ-likeness. The essence of redemptive concern was originally in the heart of God and Christ, and in the eternity of the past the plan of redemption was compacted between these Evangelists. The life of God's dear Son was given that mankind might be redeemed.

Perhaps one of the errors many Christians make is to believe that evangelism is optional, that it is one of many equal functions of the church of Jesus Christ. This is a fatal deception. The life-blood of the church is evangelism; without it the church cannot exist. The church was organized in order to evangelize, and its singular mission is to "carry the gospel to the world" (Acts of the Apostles, p. 9). The church that misuses, wrongly defines, buries, or strangulates the vast and wonderful force called evangelism puts the knife to its own jugular vein, for it fails in the only object of its existence. If we can permit the concept of the primacy and centrality of evangelism to penetrate every action made by the church, we will always keep priorities where God wants them to be. Any activity within the church that threatens or replaces evangelism is surely a tool of Satan and is illegitimate. The church's health and well-being are synchronous with that of its evangelistic fervor and success.

"Evangelistic work, opening the Scriptures to others, warning men and women of what is coming upon the world, is to occupy more and still more of the time of God's servants.... The Lord designs that the presentation of this message shall be the highest, greatest work carried on in the world at this time."—*Evangelism*, pp. 17, 18.

"Our greatest burden should be, not the raising of money, but the salvation of souls."-*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 85.

The primacy of evangelism makes it imperative to define it clearly and to keep this definition continually before the entire church body.

Evangelism is the communicating of the essential elements of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the setting of the three angels' messages in such a way as to make possible a response in the hearts of the hearers to accept God's provision of salvation from sin and His provision for victory over sin.

There are many excellent programs and projects that are most advantageous to use in the pre-evangelistic context, such as those concerned with diet, smoking, welfare, and other social benefits. But, worthy as they may be, if they do not lead to the new-birth experience in Christ and acceptance of the doctrinal tenets of God's remnant church, they consume the time, attention, and money of the church and its working force without achieving God's ultimate objective of saving a person for eternity. This salvation includes a much-needed emphasis on better living, which encompasses the restoration of the whole man.

"The principles of health reform are founded in the word of God. The gospel of health is to be *firmly linked* with the ministry of the word. It is the Lord's design that the restoring influence of health reform shall be a part of the last great effort to proclaim the gospel message."—*Medical Ministry*, p. 259. Emphasis supplied.

"The union of Christlike work for the body and Christlike work for the soul is the true interpretation of the gospel."-*Evangelism*, p. 514.

Therefore, through administrative action, it must be made clear by precept and example that programs of the church shall be given attention and funding only as they aid in accomplishing the church's basic mission. We must demonstrate our commitment to our evangelistic objective by giving it our highest priority in the use of our personal and corporate time, talent, and means.

"Now is the time for the last warning to be given.... Decided efforts should be made to bring the message for this time prominently before the people. The third angel is to go forth with great power."-*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 16.

2. That the role of the pastor be clarified. Ellen White made a significant comment on the episode in Christ's ministry when a certain man appealed to the Saviour to correct an injustice relative to his parents' inheritance.

"The Saviour's mission on earth was fast drawing to a close. Only a few months remained for Him to complete what He came to do in establishing the kingdom of His grace. Yet human greed would have turned Him from His work to take up the dispute over a piece of land. But Jesus was not to be diverted from His mission. His answer was: 'Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?' Luke 12:14. Christ gave the man plainly to understand that this was not His work. He was striving to save souls. He was not to be turned aside from this to take up the duties of a civil magistrate. How often today labor is forced upon the church that should never be allowed to enter the work of the gospel ministry!"-*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 217.

a. Church policy shall clearly state that the pastorevangelist's first work and that for which he be held accountable is the giving of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the setting of the three angels' messages. This shall be done through Biblical preaching, teaching, and dynamic witness in personal and public evangelism, according to the gifts God has given.

"The minister who is a co-worker with Christ will have



Joseph G. Smoot President Andrews University

Andrews University is deeply committed to the evangelistic thrust of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe fervently in the mission of God's people in these last days, and we believe also that we can make a direct contribution to the finishing of the Lord's work.

When the Annual Council adopted the program for "Evangelism and the Finishing of God's Work" this past October, the delegates from Andrews University began immediately to plan as to how we might have a part in this solemn and happy work. In a special faculty meeting to be held in a few days a presentation will be made on the program and ample opportunity will be provided for the faculty to make suggestions as to what we might be able to do. We also plan to invite suggestions from various student groups.

While the university is primarily a training institution to prepare workers for the many needs of the Adventist Church in caring for its worldwide mission, we fully believe we ought to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ not only locally, but in all the world field since the university is a General Conference institution serving the world. A special committee has been appointed to study the various suggestions that have been made and to coordinate a program that will continue the many fine, ongoing activities at Andrews University in witnessing for the Lord and for the church, and launch out in other soul-winning programs. We want to help finish the work!



Vernon L. Small Administrator Battle Creek Sanitarium Hospital

Many months ago the staff of the Battle Creek Sanitarium Hospital committed itself to "finishing the work." Major plans are already underway to mobilize the hospitalchurch team in the Battle Creek area.

An organization called Friendship Volunteers has been trained by the hospital chaplain to visit former patients. They phone every patient seven days after discharge. The phone calls and the ministry of the chaplain result in a gratifying number of home visits. Volunteers are now being trained to assist the chaplain in hospital visitation.

Inservice training in spiritual ministry has been given to the entire nursing staff. "Every Employee a Spiritual Minister" is the goal. A Nazarene pastor shared proof that we are achieving this goal. When the pastor invited a parishioner-patient to accept Christ as his Saviour, the patient replied, "Oh, I did that last week. My nurse told me how to do it."

A spiritual environment is created by the usual literature-prayerworship-TV approach. We go one step farther. Nothing replaces the personal outliving of truth. A visitor recently commented, "I've been watching you people around here. You're different—and I've been to a lot of hospitals. I'm a born-again Christian—and I think that's what I'm seeing."

The department of preventive care is assisted by scores of church members in a comprehensive health education program for the community. Coronary risk evaluations, dietary control seminars, stopsmoking seminars, and lectures on hypertension are just a few of the public outreach features currently being conducted by the preventive care department to meet the needs of the whole person. Participants are taught how to apply spiritual concepts to the modification of behavior patterns.

Excitement about playing a part in "finishing the work" was only heightened by the Annual Council action. The Battle Creek Sanitarium Hospital staff is thankful to God for this renewed emphasis on the real business of the church.

a deep sense of the sacredness of his work.... He has but one object in view—the saving of the lost."—Gospel Workers, p. 16.

"If our ministers realized how soon the inhabitants of the world are to be arraigned before the judgment-seat of God, they would work more earnestly to lead men and women to Christ."-*Ibid.*, p. 34.

b. Pastors who lead churches shall accept the responsibility of training and organizing all laypersons in the church for involvement in effective pre-evangelistic and evangelistic action with conference assistance in harmony with the Spirit of Prophecy instruction.

"The church of Christ is organized for service. Its watchword is ministry.... Christian ministers, physicians, teachers, have a broader work than many have recognized. They are not only to minister to the people, but to teach them to minister.... The monotony of our service for God needs to be broken up. Every church member should be engaged in some line of service for the Master.... Every church should be a training school for Christian workers."—*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 148, 149.

"The work of God is retarded by the criminal unbelief in His power to use the common people to carry forward His work successfully."-Review and Herald, July 16, 1895.

c. Pastors, with the help of conference leadership, shall select and train strong, capable laypersons to carry the various necessary "overhead" programs of the church, including financial, plant construction, maintenance, janitorial, and budgeting responsibilities, church school administration and planning, and certain departmental programs that the conference may promote. This shall be done in order that the pastor can be more free to do the spiritual work he is uniquely qualified to do-that of being soul-winning leader of the people and shepherd of the flock in personal and corporate redemptive witness and ministry.

"I have been instructed in regard to the importance of our ministers' keeping free from responsibilities that should be largely borne by businessmen.... Those who are employed to write and to speak the word should attend fewer committee meetings."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 246, 247.

d. The pastor's relationship to conference departments shall be such that he, as the leader of the church, can expect the active, practical support of the departmental leaders. Rather than submerge the shepherd of the flock in promotional material, the departmental leader will ever strive to make the pastor's work more productive by keeping such material to an effective minimum. He shall make his skills available to the soul-winning program of the church. While the pastor will lend his influence and encouragement to departmental programs. the departmental leader shall keep in mind that the soul-winning leader, with his church, and in the climate of complete evangelistic priority, must be allowed to make decisions as to which departmental materials and programs, aside from the conference-recommended projects, will enable him to have maximum success in his and the church's endeavors. All programs must serve the evangelistic enterprise of the local church.

This freedom of choice given to the pastor and his church is not intended to eliminate or weaken denomination-wide programs, such as Sabbath school, Ingathering, et cetera. However, the success and responsibility of the various programs, campaigns, and goals must be placed largely on lay leadership, rather than on the pastor. The resultant benefit of this plan should open up new challenges and dimensions of service for departmental leaders in equipping and training their lay counterparts in the local church.

Thus the departmental system of the church will serve as a "resource bank." This concept will allow the local church leadership to select and use programs and materials to supplement their evangelistic thrust. The role of the departmental leader shall be to prepare for field consumption the finest materials and the most efficient training programs, and to provide the best expertise and service to assist the pastor and laity in having success in the grand work of preparing earth's final harvest. As the primacy of evangelism and the defining of the role of the pastor are made prominent, we believe there will be an urgency and desire on the part of pastors to call upon departmental leadership for assistance in executing the programs selected for the attainment of the twin goals—the winning of souls and the upbuilding of the spiritual life of each member.

3. That the role of the ordained or licensed "nonpastoral" ministers be clarified.

a. The large body of ministers in the General Conference and its divisions, the union and local fields, the institutions and other types of work shall be expected to give priority of their time, talent, energy, and planning to evangelistic work, according to their gifts, in preaching, personal witness, and teaching. As a means of making this priority possible, more attention shall be given to the voices of lay experts in the organizational



L. Earl Laurence Administrator Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital

We at Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital accept the challenge of a finished work. As a health care administrator, the theme and the challenge of the 1976 Annual Council becomes a daily reality only when we plan and lay our objectives in harmony with the work of Christ and the church.

Our objectives are the same objectives as Christ had when He worked here on this earth—meeting the immediate needs of those He came in contact with. He healed the sick, bound up broken hearts and preached the gospel.

To reveal this Christlike love in all of our programs is our goal today at Hinsdale Hospital.

First I think of our health education department which conducts a number of community-oriented programs presenting this philosophy of Christ.

Programs such as the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking, Full Life Seminars, classes in stress and weight management and "Heartbeat," a program of coronary risk evaluation, all use as a basis for personal happiness trust in divine power. During 1977 more than 20,000 people will attend these Christ-centered health education programs.

We are always alert to the spiritual needs of the people attending any of our programs. They give opportunity for people to indicate the desire for more.

Our nursing service department will present Christ in loving care to more than 17,000 patients during 1977. We recognize that the nurse working on a day-to-day basis with patients has a great impact.

For this reason, our personnel department strives to locate Christian Seventh-day Adventist nurses to minister to these patients.

The pastoral care department deals with not only the spiritual needs of every patient but the needs of every employee as well. To this end a week of spiritual emphasis is planned in the spring and fall of each year.

The pastoral care department also holds seminars for clergy of all faiths on a yearly basis. They also operate a referral system to other Seventh-day Adventist pastors in the area when a spiritual interest is awakened in a patient. To further the influence of the pastoral care department of Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital, a program has begun whereby a chaplain will visit in the home of a discharged patient, continuing to meet the spiritual needs of that patient and that patient's family after they leave the hospital.

Our goals and objectives as a Seventh-day Adventist hospital include the mission of presenting to the communities we serve the love of Christ. For this reason Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital has engaged its resources and personnel in numerous evangelistic thrusts throughout the Lake Union. Our commitment to a finished work is revealed by the establishment of a Spiritual Emphasis Committee in our hospital.

The purpose of our medical institutions can best be described by the statement in Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 104, "I have been instructed that our medical institutions are to stand as witnesses for God. They are established to relieve the sick and the afflicted, to awaken a spirit of inquiry, to disseminate light, and to advance reform. These institutions, rightly conducted, will be the means of bringing a knowledge of the reforms essential to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord, before many that otherwise it would be impossible for us to reach."

With this instruction, our purposes are clear, our objectives defined and a finished work can soon be realized.



John Hayward President Illinois Conference

For years we have prayed that the "work might be finished and Jesus return for His people." For years we have known it cannot happen until the majority of our members join with the ministry and lay leaders in the accomplishment of this goal. The counsels of the divine blueprint have been largely set aside as we have busied ourselves with much that has not been directly related to the reaching of this objective.

The bold directive in the document on "Evangelism and Finishing God's Work," is as a breath of fresh air to our stagnant condition. For administrators, employees and laymembers to heed and implement the counsel given would lead the church in Illinois into victorious battle with the enemy. We have delayed too long to do it!

Here in the Illinois Conference the document has been studied by the executive committee, the advisory committee, by ministers and teachers and office personnel. The next few months must be a time of heart searching, spiritual revival and reformation in our homes and churches, a time of re-evaluating of priorities, of defining our mission, of training ministry and laymembers, of agonizing in prayer for the Holy Spirit's power-all for the one objective to bring heaven's last hour message to every living soul in our state.

The challenge of millions of judgment-bound souls scattered in thousands of rural areas and millions more huddled in the asphalt jungles of the nation's second largest city is yet before us. They must all hear; they must all know. Such a challenge demands a rich personal experience with Jesus Christ as Saviour, Lord and Master of all we have and are, a deep and loving concern for lost souls, and an unwavering faith in the Holy Spirit's power to transform our lives and those we seek to save, as we move forward in perfect unity for a finished work in this generation.

We appeal to all employees and church members here in the Illinois Conference to acknowledge the urgency of the time and the task and to dedicate themselves to the living and the giving of the message NOW!

structure, so that those called and ordained to the ministry may devote themselves to the ministry.

"The state conferences must have men at their head who love and fear God-capable men, who will learn in the school of Christ to be laborers with Him, to wear His yoke and lift His burdens. They are to be partners with Christ in the sacred service of soulsaving."-*Testimonies* to Ministers, p. 320.

"When we follow plans of the Lord's devising, we are 'laborers together with God.' Whatever our position whether presidents of conferences, ministers, teachers, students, or lay members—we are held accountable by the Lord for making the most of our opportunities to enlighten those in need of present truth."—Counsels to Parents and Teachers, p. 530.

b. In the General Conference and its divisions, unions, local fields, and institutions, the spiritual leaders shall direct all other persons within their jurisdictions who earn their livelihood from the church into soul-winning labors, in fulfillment of the inspired counsel that all Christians be instrumental in winning souls to Christ and leading them to spiritual maturity. (When the family of full-time employees of the church engage in redemptive effort for the lost, then we can expect to succeed with the remainder of the church.)

c. The conference president, prayerfully and earnestly, with the executive committee, the conference lay advisory council, through personal interviews with every worker, through workers' meetings, and by using the local Church Evangelism councils, shall make certain that every action and plan of the conference is directed toward the primacy of evangelism and finishing the work. He is to set as the supreme goal of all phases of the work the reaching of every person in the conference territory with the message. d. The conference administration shall lay the founda-

d. The conference administration shall lay the foundation and create the climate in all churches to assist the pastor in developing strong lay leadership to carry those church leadership functions that will serve to release the pastor from many miscellaneous duties, so that he can be the shepherd and soul-winning leader he is expected to be.

e. Conferences shall lay definite plans with every church, company, Sabbath school, and institution to reach every home within its territory with the three angels' messages between now and the time of the 1980 General Conference session in Dallas.

f. Conferences shall make specific plans for the follow-up of names of all persons who have been contacted through the various departmental activities of the church. One of the weakest links in our evangelistic chain is the follow-up of the multiplied thousands, if not millions, of names that have been gathered in during the past years. Immediate action must be taken to remedy this situation.

4. That the funding of evangelistic outreach be provided for.

a. In view of the primacy of evangelism, the local conference shall take from its share of retained tithe income at least 10 per cent annually and set it up for evangelistic funding. Unions shall set up at least 10 per cent of their share of retained tithe income to be added to evangelism funds received from the General Conference and shared with the conferences to be used for evangelism as the Union Committee may direct. The General Conference shall provide at least 10 per cent of

tithe received from North America as an Evangelism Fund for North America, this percentage to include such funds as Tithe Reversion for Evangelism, Large City Evangelism, and operating appropriations to the Radio, TV, and Film Center. (Overseas divisions shall designate for evangelism an amount equal to 5 per cent of each Division Base Appropriation for Evangelism.)

In applying the above plan, retained tithe is defined as the balance of tithe available to the field after deducting any percentages passed on to higher organizations by policy such as tithe of tithe, percentage to General Conference, sustentation percentage, and smallconference percentage, but not including tithe exchanged.

The above amounts are to be considered the minimum amount of tithe funds that each organization shall designate for evangelism. If it is able to make financial provision beyond this, it should be done. In addition to funding direct evangelism, these funds could:

1) Make it possible for young ministerial graduates not currently employed to be used in direct evangelism in unworked areas.

"The opening of new fields requires more ministerial efficiency than we now have, and there must be means in the treasury."-*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 250.

"There should today be in the field one hundred well qualified laborers where now there is but one."-Manuscript 82, 1904.

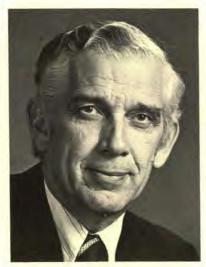
2) Assist in expanding our radio and television outreach (including cable stations, local broadcasting, and adequate advertising) so as to get the three angels' messages prominently before the peoples of the world.

3) Assist churches with the purchase and distribution of a full-message, inexpensive magazine that could be distributed by the millions. If we are serious about giving the three angels' messages to every person by the end of this quinquennium, we can do no less than this.

b. In North America, all divisionwide projects shall be funded by the General Conference and by such amounts as may be contributed by each union. Distribution of these funds shall be approved by Annual Council action. It is understood that funds received from higher organizations shall not be considered a part of the minimum percentages required by this plan.

This new proposal is not intended to release for other purposes funds that would normally go for evangelism.

"Let the work no longer be hedged up because the tithe has been diverted into various channels other than the one to which the Lord has said it should go. Provision is to be made for these other lines of work.



G. W. Morgan President Indiana Conference

The document on "Evangelism and Finishing God's Work," issuing from the 1976 Annual Council, found a warm and eager response in my heart. Its impact on our field will take time to develop, but based on the responses already observed, I would briefly summarize its meaning and influence as follows:

1. It means that we are moving away from vague generalities about finishing the work toward focusing on specifics that are significant. We have long talked vaguely about the primacy of evangelism. Now we are putting our money, and thus our hearts, where our mouth has been. The inclusion of evangelism as a substantial item in every conference budget can do nothing but give a more important place to soulwinning throughout the whole fabric of our organization. For too long the evangelistic thrust, which God intended the tithe should provide, has been weakened by pious diversions, and the burden of evangelism has been shifted to annual conference appeals. Now we are putting first things first.

2. It means that the status of the pastor is going to be elevated in our organizational structure. Since he is where the action is in our church, this move can do nothing but strengthen the cause of God. Pastors were not meant to be "mere reflectors of other men's thought." God intends them to be "men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions."-Education, pp. 17, 18. We will be earnestly studying how the men in the conference office can better serve and strengthen the work of our pastors. We believe that our laymen are anxious to relieve the pastor of business and administrative functions so that his time can be devoted to soulwinning and spiritual leadership.

3. Finally it means to me that the voice of Caleb is being heard once more in the camp of Israel. Thank God for his courage and faith. In the face of unfaithful associates and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Caleb spoke in favor of God's plan to possess Canaan. "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Numbers 13:30.

"While the doubting ones talk of impossibilities, while they tremble at the thought of high walls and strong giants, let the faithful Calebs, who have 'another spirit,' come to the front....We want Calebs now who will press to the front—chieftains in Israel who with courageous words will make a strong report in favor of immediate action."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 380, 383.

May God help us all to prepare for the great outpouring of His Spirit which will lighten the whole earth with the glory of the message of the three angels.



J. R. Wagner President Lake Region Conference

The marching orders for the Christian were given by our Commander nearly 2,000 years ago. Those orders have not changed. Linked with these orders is the most precious promise that mankind could receive; it is a promise of hope—"our blessed hope." The orders are, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. The promise is: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

The constitution of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which outlines the purpose for which this organization was formed, states in article III: "The object of this Conference is to carry the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to all people within its territory and to assist in spreading the Bible truth to all nations of the world."

The magnificent obsession of every worker, officer and member of our conference should be to see the work of God finished so that we might go home and live with Him for eternity.

How are we to accomplish this task? "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."-Gospel Workers, p. 352. "If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world."-Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 221. The plan for the Lake Region Conference in finishing the work is twofold.

1. Revival and Reformation so that we can make use of the power that is available and necessary if we are to see the work of God finished first in our own lives and then in the lives of others.

2. Every member an evangelist. There is to be a new emphasis on job training for the members of our churches. What is learned in the training session must be put in practice in the field. Our goal is

a. Every pastor an evangelist.

b. Every officer an evangelist.

c. Every member an evangelist. It is homecoming time and we in Lake Region are determined to see the work of God finished.

They are to be sustained, but not from the tithe."-Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 250.

c. On the level of local and union conference organizations the percentage of funds designated for this purpose in 1977 shall be at least 4 per cent, with a plan to increase this by 2 per cent each year until the minimum goal of 10 per cent is attained. (Overseas divisions shall begin at 2 per cent for 1977, increasing by one per cent each year until the minimum of 5 per cent is reached.)

5. That limitations on building projects be established. A serious attempt shall be made to be conservative in our building expansion so that only absolutely essential buildings are constructed. Buildings and furnishings should be attractive, functional, of sturdy quality, and economical. Let us demonstrate to our people and to the world that we do not believe in building extravagantly as though we intend to make this world our home. We must remember that the only things that will survive the destruction of the last days are the souls who are prepared for the coming of the Lord. We must also remember that our great institutions can be, and are now being, nationalized in many places of the world. The one purpose of this economy would be to release more funds for the church to use in giving the last warning message to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.

"It is not a great number of institutions, large buildings, and outward display that God requires, but the harmonious action of a peculiar people, a people chosen by God and precious, united with one another, their life hid with Christ in God."-Ibid., vol. 8, p. 183.

"It is not large, expensive buildings; it is not rich furniture; it is not tables loaded with delicacies, that will give our work influence and success. It is the faith that works by love and purifies the soul; it is the atmosphere of grace that surrounds the believer, the Holy Spirit working upon mind and heart, that makes him a savor of life unto life, and enables God to bless his work."—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 93.

6. That the call to God's people be renewed.

a. An unprecedented call to univeral action is to be heralded by our leadership, coupled with a new emphasis upon the previous calls to revival and reformation, with the urgent summons to arise and finish God's work now!

"Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning them to universal action.... Those who place themselves under God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place. Inspired with the Spirit of Him who gave His life for the life of the world, they will no longer stand still in impotency, pointing to what they cannot do. Putting on the armor of Heaven, they will go forth to the warfare, willing to do and dare for God, knowing that His omnipotence will supply their need."—*Ibid.*, p. 14.

b. Positive leadership through departmental expertise is to provide the necessary diversity of redemptive programs and materials that can be used to organize, inspire, train, equip, and lead our vast army of church members into programs that are pre-evangelistic, evangelistic, and post-evangelistic in nature, and which will definitely reach souls for Christ and truth.

c. The Church Evangelism Council in each church is to fulfill its potential as the "command center" to organize every member and the whole church for one-to-one witnessing and all-out evangelism.

d. Methods shall be developed for training laypersons of talent in order that they may lead the local church in areas such as those listed below, which will have the effect of freeing the pastor for his unique role:

- 1) Financial management
- 2) Church school management
- 3) General church administration
- 4) Certain departmental programs

7. That unworked areas and special groups be reached. Each local field shall give study to the advisability of setting up a commission composed of ministers and laymen with the urgent assignment to study the entering of dark areas (counties, cities, sections within cities) in each conference, reaching the wealthy and foreignlanguage groups. Literature evangelists, lay members, sustentees, retirees, and youth volunteers should be actively recruited to form teams to begin work in unentered areas. A call should be made to all ministerial



Charles Keymer President Michigan Conference

Ever since returning from the General Conference Annual Council held in Washington, D. C., last October, there has been ringing in my ears these words, "Let's finish the work now!"

It started when our world leaders presented this great challenge to us. I can still hear our General Conference president, Elder Robert Pierson saying, "It's time for the reapers to move into the harvest work....Let's stop playing church...and get on to fulfilling sustentation workers to move into those areas where the church needs strengthening.

"Instead of keeping the ministers at work for the churches that already know the truth, let the members of the churches say to these laborers: 'Go work for souls that are perishing in darkness. We ourselves will carry forward the services of the church.' "-*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 30.

"Brethren who wish to change their location, who have the glory of God in view, and feel that individual responsibility rests upon them to do others good, to benefit and save souls for whom Christ withheld not His precious life, should move into towns and villages where there is but little or no light and where they can be of real service and bless others with their labor and experience. Missionaries are wanted to go into towns and villages and raise the standard of truth, that God may have His witnesses scattered all over the land, that the light of truth may penetrate where it has not yet reached, and the standard of truth be raised where it is not yet known. The brethren should not flock together because it is more agreeable to them, but should seek to fulfill their high calling to do others good, to be instrumental in the salvation of at least one soul. But

the divine commission.... Evangelism of every kind should be our most consuming desire.... This is harvest time!"

And our North American Division president, Elder Neal Wilson, saying, "The return of Christ will not be long delayed.... Let this be the keynote of every message.... This is a work of the highest magnitude and of the greatest importance.... Things must be different after this council.... Lay aside minor matters.... Let the Word go forth....1 challenge you....1 appeal to you.... Let's finish the work now!"

I believe that these words are the call of God to all of us and I urgently appeal to you to take time now to read the counsel that the Lord is giving to His church as recommended in this Annual Council action entitled "Evangelism and Finishing God's Work." You will find this inspiring challenge and appeal in this week's Lake Union Herald.

After reading this astounding document through for the fourth time I'm convinced that we in the Michigan Conference must give immediate attention to this plan. Therefore, we are making additional copies available to every conference worker and church board

member and are asking that it be carefully studied by the conference executive committee, every church board, the executive board of every academy and other institutions, and every member of the church. This document will be prayerfully reviewed at the Michigan Conference Ministerial Council which will be held in January, and study committees will be appointed to develop plans for its implementation. We believe that the church must move forward in 1977 to take decisive unparalled actions to fulfill the inspired counsel and be used by the Spirit of God to reach every person in the conference territory with the third angel's message.

"Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning them to universal action.... Those who place themselves under God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place. Inspired by the Spirit of Him who gave His life for the life of the world, they will no longer stand still in impotency, pointing to what they cannot do. Putting on the armor of heaven, they will go forth to the warfare, willing to do and dare for God, knowing that His omnipotence will supply their need."-Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 14.



Robert L. Dale President Wisconsin Conference

Nothing is more exciting, more challenging, than the words "Finishing God's Work" spoken by believing participants. This phrase has wrapped up in it the whole purpose for the existence of the Advent movement. It speaks a response to the great commission as given by Christ.

These words, "Finishing God's Work," tingled my imagination while at Annual Council, for here I felt the movings of the Spirit as dedicated leaders wrestled with this greatest question posed to God's people-HOW? Then the answer burned itself into my consciousness in these words, "Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning them to universal action.... Putting on the armor of heaven, they will go forth to the warfare, willing to do and dare for God, knowing that His omnipotence will supply their need."-Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 14. What a promise! We have nothing to fear for God will supply all of our lack. I, then, as an individual can trust that God will give me the power to do His bidding in the "Finishing of God's Work."

My mind also considered the meaning of this challenge to the Wisconsin Conference. It seemed to me that as a conference certain attitudes must be evinced, such as:

LOVE DEDICATION ACTION

How can this be accomplished so that the portion of the vineyard the Lord has given us will not languish? As a conference our motive-our understanding-our life must be based on LOVE.

As a conference our total response must be built on DEDICA-TION to the task.

As a conference ACTION must be the watchword. The Lay Advisory Committee has laid down broad principles of coordination to foster ACTION. The Conference Committee must refine these as they are related to each individual's responsibility. Every employee and each member must be certain that every action is channeled to the one objective of "FINISHING GOD'S WORK." Only by personal involvement-"witnessing a way of life"can God's work be finished. The philosophy of personal-contact evangelism must be basic within every church member's heart.

So I would lay the burden at the feet of each one of us in a paraphrase of the late President Kennedy, "Ask not what your church can do for you but what you can do for your church."

Therefore, God wants us as individuals to personally ACT for Him in witnessing concerning the love of Christ, for this will finish God's work within and without.

more may be saved than one."-Ibid., vol. 2, p. 115.

8. That ministers of other faiths be reached. It is time seriously to follow God's instruction that "teachers of the gospel whose minds have not been called to the special truths for this time . . . should be the first to hear the call."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 230.

"Mistakes have been made in not seeking to reach ministers... with the truth.... There are honest ones everywhere for whom we should labor cautiously, wisely, and intelligently, full of love for their souls."— *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 580.

"We have a work to do for the ministers of other churches. God wants them to be saved....We must labor for them earnestly that they may obtain [immortality]. God wants them to have a part in His special work for this time. He wants them to be among the number who are giving to His household meat in due season. Why should they not be engaged in this work?

"Our ministers should seek to come near to the ministers of other denominations. Pray for and with these men, for whom Christ is interceding. A solemn responsibility is theirs. As Christ's messengers we should manifest a deep, earnest interest in these shepherds of the flock."-*Ibid.*, vol. 6, pp. 77, 78.

"There are many ministers now preaching error, who will preach the truth for this time."-Evangelism, p. 562. 9. That evangelistic radio-TV ministry be utilized. The

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North American Division leadership should make use of the existing Radio, Television and Film Center in Thousand Oaks, California, to produce radio-television and audio-visual evangelistic programs or "spots" that will most effectively and quickly warn the population of the world that Christ will soon return, and that will urge the necessity of final preparation. We should not rest until we find successful follow-up methods that involve the members of our local churches. TV specials should be designed and produced to take advantage of special occasions, such as the beginning of an evangelistic campaign or a national holiday.

10. That a section on witnessing be included in the chapter "Statement of Fundamental Beliefs" in the Church Manual. Since witnessing is a doctrine of prime importance both for the personal spiritual growth of the witness and for the fulfilling of Christ's command to reach every person on a worldwide basis with the good news of salvation, a section dealing with this basic philosophy should be included and/or strengthened in our Statement of Fundamental Beliefs, Baptismal Instructions, and Baptismal Vows in the Church Manual. It was further

VOTED, To recommend that overseas divisions adopt the principles enunciated in the preceding document with the understanding that each division will prepare a similar document suitable to conditions in its field.

## Sunset Tables

	Dec. 17	Dec. 24
Berrien Springs, Mich.	E.S. 5:16	5:19
Chicago, III.	C.S. 4:21	4:25
Detroit, Mich.	E.S. 5:03	5:06
Indianapolis, Ind.	E.S. 5:22	5:25
La Crosse, Wis.	C.S. 4:29	4:32
Lansing, Mich.	E.S. 5:05	5:09
Madison, Wis.	C.S. 4:23	4:27
Springfield, III.	C.S. 4:35	4:39

COPY DEADLINES: Announcements for dates at left should be in local conference offices by dates at right.

January 15	December 16
January 22	December 23
January 28	December 30
February 5	January 6

## Newsline MORMONS PLAN MAJOR REORGANIZATION

Mormon President Spencer Kimball has announced a major reorganization of church leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Kimball made the announcement at the opening of the church's semiannual General Conference. Twentyseven church General Authorities have been reassigned and four new ones have been appointed. The move marks renewed efforts to reactivate the First Quorum of the Seventy, the third major body of leadership in the Mormon Church. The action was approved by more than 8,000 of the church faithful filling the Mormon Tabernacle for the conference.

#### 1977 'YEAR OF THE BIBLE'

The Council of the European Baptist Federation has designated 1977 as the "Year of the Bible." Federation members were urged by the council to emphasize personal and church group Bible reading plans, Bible study, and evangelism efforts. Approval of the Bible-year emphasis follows statistics released earlier this year showing a drop in European Baptist membership.

#### EPISCOPALIANS APPROVE REVISION OF PRAYER BOOK

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has voted overwhelming approval of a new prayer book. It is the first major revision of the church's historic Book of Common Prayer in 427 years. It must still gain

#### LAKE UNION INGATHERING REPORT

CONFERENCE (Membership)	GOAL	TO DATE	PERCENT
Illinois (8,126)	\$203,150	\$113,555.93	55.9%
Indiana (5,814)	140,175	100,505.06	71.7%
Lake Region (12,595)	103,000	83,199.74	80.8%
Michigan (20,536)	395,000	208,457.99	52.8%
Wisconsin (5,535)	100,000	67,676.18	67.7%
TOTAL (52,606)	\$941,325	\$573,394.90	60.9%

approval of the next General Convention in 1979, however, before it becomes the official prayer book of the Episcopal Church. The new version will reflect the evolution of both theology and language that has taken place in the last four centuries.

#### VOTERS DECIDE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ISSUES

Voters in several areas of the country decided church-state separation issues at the polls November 2. Voters in Nebraska and Alaska voted down proposed state constitutional amendments to authorize tax aid for sectarian schools. In the state of Maryland, voters repealed Sunday closing blue laws in two major counties. Local units of Americans United for Separation of Church and State played major roles in the Nebraska and Alaska referendum elections. Seventh-day Adventist, Jewish and Americans United leaders worked for repeal of the Maryland county blue laws.

## Classified Ads

All advertisements must be approved by your local conference office. No phoned ads will be accepted. Final ad deadline is Thursday, 9 a.m., 12 days before the date of issue. 50 words maximum. Limit of four insertions.

Rates: \$7.00 per insertion for ads originating in the Lake Union, \$10.50 per insertion for out of union ads. All ads must be paid in advance of printing. Money orders and checks should be made payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations.

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REACH OUT, save a child: REACH International is a volunteer, tax-exempt organization for sponsoring starving children into SDA schools. More than 300 children in India are now awaiting sponsorship at a cost of \$12 per month. For information write Box 207, Andrews Station, Berrien Springs, MI 49104, or call (616) 471-7460. -27-48

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HAVEN'T TIME TO READ? Then LISTEN to cassettes of sermons by Leslie Hardinge, Morris Venden, Don Doleman, Mel Rees, Roy Naden, others. LISTEN as you work, drive, or just rest. Especially good for shut-ins, isolated members. Exciting new missionary tool. Write SERMONS-TO-LIVE-BY, Box 667, Glendale, CA 91209. -467-47

APPLICATIONS are currently being accepted for the following positions: R.N.'s, L.P.N.'s, medical technologist (ASCP), nursing supervisor, and secretary. Competitive salary and fringe benefit package available. Church school and academy within short driving distance. Contact Personnel Director, Riverside Adventist Hospital, 800 Young's Lane, Nashville, TN 37207. (615) 227-8500, Ext. 431. -494-47

FOR SALE: 14x68, 3-bedroom Hilton mobile home. In excellent condition. Includes appliances, draperies and skirting. Located in Bethel Mobile Park, Arpin, WI. ½ block to 10-grade Adventist school, ½ block to church. Price \$7,995, park rent \$25 a month. Call (715) 652-2558 or write, Donald Svoboda, Rt. 1, Arpin, WI 54410. -495-47

ONCE YOU MAKE THE DECISION to move to Berrien Springs, we can help you locate a home. A member of M.L.S., we can show you all the homes in the area. WANGARD REAL ESTATE, located next to the Adventist Book Center, 1401 St. Joseph Road (Hwy 31). (616) 473-3333. -496-47

LIVING REALTY ADDS QUALITY TO YOUR LIVING. We will help you with ALL your real estate needs in the Berrien Springs and Andrews area. Service is our business whether buying, selling or renting. Call Living Realty, 1314 St. Joseph Rd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103. (616) 473-1234.

-497-47

NEW LISTING-112 N. George, 3-bedroom home with apartment in basement for additional income, fireplace, central air, dishwasher, disposal, gas heat. Make an appointment today. \$44,900. Call Living Realty, 1314 St. Joseph Rd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103. (616) 473-1234. -498-47

HERE'S FOR EXTRA INCOME, duplex near Andrews, 800 N. Main. 2 separate 2-bedroom ranch-style houses connected with covered walkway. Main apartment has fireplace, utility room. Both units have separate utility meters, air conditioning, gas heat. A home plus an income for only \$43,900. Living Realty, 1314 St. Joseph Rd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103. (616) 473-1234. -499-47

# WHY TEXTURED VEGETABLE PROTEIN?

# Because how many ways can you cook a soybean?

For centuries, soybeans have been an important source of protein. But using them to prepare tasty, varied meals has presented a major challenge for just as long. Even among the most imaginative cooks. That's why Worthington has made the soybean into a variety of delicious textured vegetable protein foods.

## A single serving gives you an average of 16.5% of the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance for protein.

But that's not all. Worthington's vegetable protein foods also provide the essential amino acids at varying levels. Plus a good balance of fatty acids with polyunsaturates predominating. And, most Worthington foods are fortified with important vitamins and minerals (like Vitamin  $B_{12}$ ) sometimes lacking in vegetarian diets.

## A nutritious alternative to meat.

To help identify with traditional eating patterns, most vegetable protein foods are made to resemble meat, fish and poultry. But the comparison ends there. Worthington products are completely meatless. With no animal fats or other meat derivatives. And no preservatives. Fact is, the ingredients are predominantly from plant sources.

### Enjoy delicious variety in vegetarian cuisine.

Worthington offers more than 40 different textured vegetable protein foods for both total and lacto-ovo vegetarians. All pre-cooked for heat-and-serve convenience, whether you're preparing a quick main course, or creating a

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sumptuous casserole. To learn more about vegetable protein foods and how they contribute to balanced nutrition, ask for our free brochure and creative recipes at your favorite health store.

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