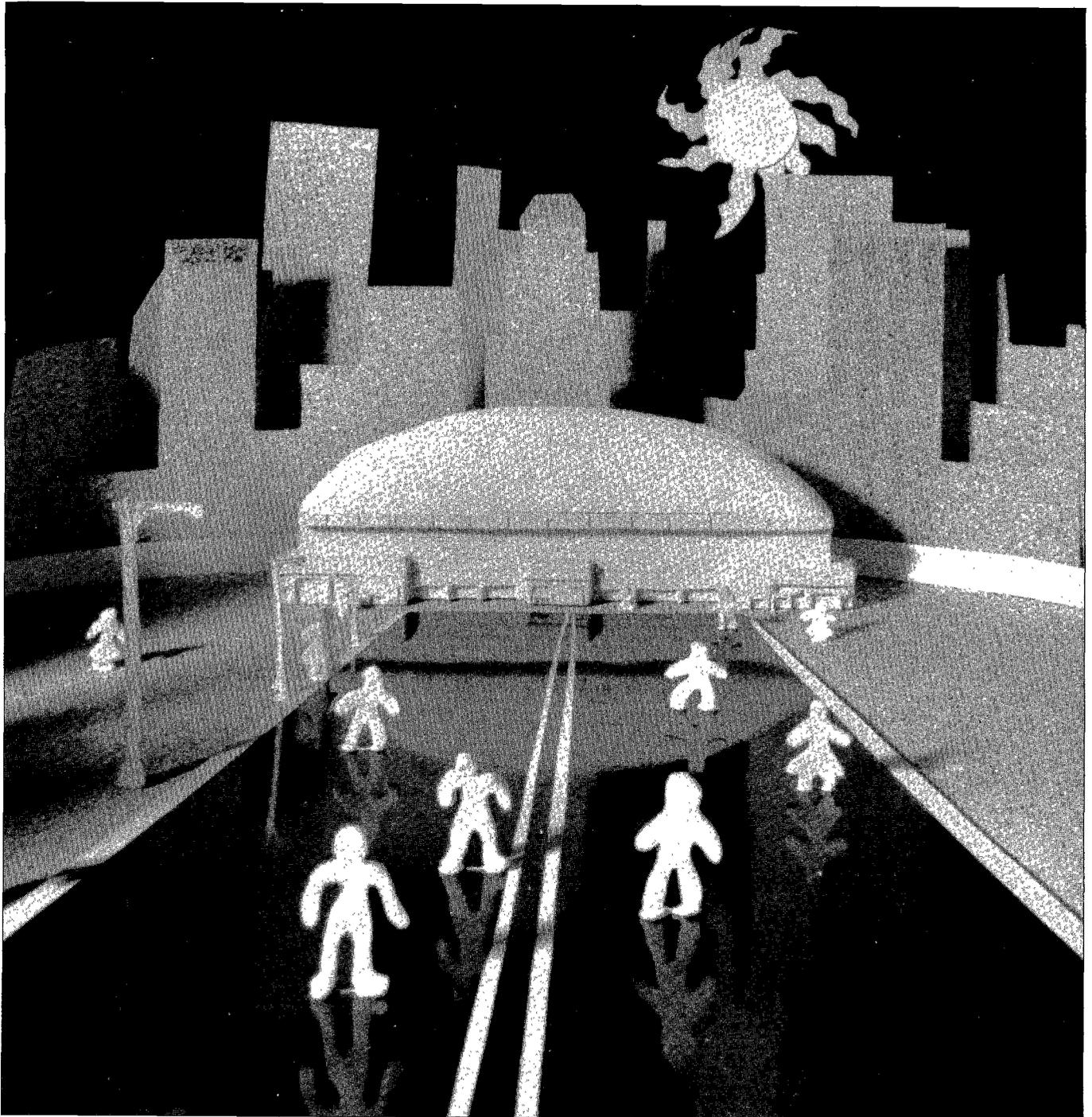


Ministry

International Journal for Clergy

February 1990

Preregistration
Materials Inside!



1990 World Ministers Council

Adventist Health Systems do contribute

I wish more church leaders could have been present with me at a recent AHS/Sunbelt presidents' council and heard our health-care leaders discuss for five hours the mission of the hospitals and the needs of Sunbelt's mission project, the Adventist hospital in Manaus, Brazil.

Our church's health-care leaders have been and will continue to be an integral part of the Global Strategy for the 1990s. We need to be supportive of and pray for them and the difficult role they play in fostering our health-care work in North America. —W. O. Coe, vice president for spiritual ministries, Adventist Health System/Sunbelt, Orlando, Florida.

Pro and con on standards issue

Re the October 1989 *Ministry*, I am dismayed that the consensus seems to be that we have no biblical basis for many standards—particularly the jewelry issue. I would much rather have you say that there is no biblical basis for not wearing jewelry and that we need to change our belief in that area than that there is no basis, but it is all right for us to have the rule anyhow. What has happened to the Bible and the Bible only as the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice?—David Glenn, pastor, Corrales Seventh-day Adventist Church, Corrales, New Mexico.

■ Toward the end of his article Gerald Wheeler says, "We must always learn, as Ellen White did, how to select from culture what is timeless and useful, and reject the transitory and the dangerous." However, the whole first part of the article seems to have gone to great pains to say that the things she picked out were not timeless, but cultural.

Who can pick and choose what is timeless better than the prophets? If everything a prophet writes is just cultural, then why read it, unless you like history? (Maybe this is why so many aren't reading the Bible or Ellen G. White's writings.)

The emphasis of much of this issue of *Ministry* seems to have been that we

need to change our standards to fit what we are doing. Is that a safe rationale for changing standards? Maybe it is what we are doing that needs changing. —Homer Trecartin, pastor, Boyne City, Central Lake, and Gaylord, Michigan, Seventh-day Adventist churches.

■ Since 1956, when I became an Adventist, I have seen a progressive decline in responsible Christian conduct within our church. How can we live in such a basely immoral society and be so vague? Are we naive? Have we not history to consult? What kind of accountability will be demanded of us if we do not proclaim the mind of God in the area of personal conduct? Is it not ironic that as society becomes increasingly permissive, we who "study the Word" are rendering increasingly permissive interpretations of those passages that deal specifically with lifestyle?

Unfortunately, I see a trend in the church to defame standards with the accusation of "legalism." Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Revelation states that the remnant will "keep the commandments of God." This obedience is not legalism. God Himself requires this obedience. There are scores of passages that express God's will for our everyday lives, and God help the person who reduces loving obedience to infamous legalism. Let's stop philosophizing ourselves away from the clear meaning of Scripture. —Gil Floyd, Adamsville, Tennessee.

Correction

Our December 1989 Shop Talk carried an item on *Preach It!*, a new preaching resource for the Seventh-day Adventist minister, but inadvertently omitted the price of the sampler offered. That sampler sells for US\$3.50. A year's subscription costs US\$13.95, and with two additional special issues, US\$18.95. Send check or money order to *Preach It!*, P.O. Box 382, Columbus, NC 28722. Phone (704) 894-3677 for further information.

■ I think the articles on the standards of the church are superb. The leaders of the denomination and of its congregations have greatly needed to consider with care what standards are all about. This topic has been one of the contestable areas of the church; the uncaring attitude some have expressed toward others because they didn't measure up to the "standards" has brought many wounds, scars, and even separations from the church. —Duane H. Anderson, trust services director, Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Clackamas, Oregon.

■ Presently I am in a whirl about standards. I know mine, and will not change till I study and read and base my convictions and actions on the Rock and His Word. But I fear so much for our ministers and people. With their closeness to, beholding of, and imitating the world, it seems that the cry is "If it's not specifically forbidden—do it."

I am aware that the worldwide nature of our work necessitates specifying the 27 points that define our church. But I worry that we limit our Christianity to them and forget the wider scope of discipleship. This should not be characterized by a narrow, niggardly desire to do for God the least that we can get by with. We should want to do all we can for Him. We love Him because He first loved us. —David Miller, pastor, St. Leonard, Maryland.

■ I venture to share a few observations even though I am a retiree and past the threescore and ten years. In many sermons and articles in our periodicals there seems to be a special stress that in the early years of our church we were legalists. However, according to my memory, that was never true. I do remember that "Christ's method" was the emphasis. Instead of being reared on *don'ts*, we were taught the importance of asking ourselves the question "What would Jesus do if He were in my shoes?" We were taught that Jesus loves us and that He would guide us. —C. M. Crawford, Ukiah, California.

Ministry is the international journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Ministerial Association.

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VOLUME 63 NUMBER 2

This issue is special in two ways. First, it contains complete information on all the seminars we are offering at the World Ministers Council in Indianapolis this summer. And second, we are including eight extra pages, on revival and reformation.

Our world president, N. C. Wilson, continues his series on the need for the Holy Spirit. In addition, we share with you what a union conference and a local conference are doing to lift up the work of the Holy Spirit. We have also included some of the choicest quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy on the conditions for receiving the latter rain.

It is not enough to simply call for revival and reformation. We must make changes in our devotional lives, in our study habits, in the priorities we set each day, and in the balance we keep between the sacred and the profane.

The tumultuous events in Eastern Europe give new meaning to the prophecy of Ellen White that "great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones" (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 11).

While we are eager to win as many people to Jesus as possible, we must never forget those who have been in our midst and then wandered away. Monte Sahlin's article and some of the advertisements speak to the issue of ministering to the needs of the missing.

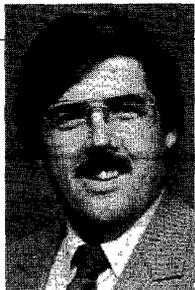
Jesus is coming soon. The time of the end is near. The world needs our witness now. "We are to cooperate with One who knows no failure" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 363).



Where have all the members gone?

Monte Sahlin

Why are only half the Adventists in North America in church Sabbath morning? How can we win the absentees back?



Monte Sahlin is an associate director of the North American Division Church Ministries Department.

Fewer than half the Seventh-day Adventists living in North America can be found in church on an average Sabbath. Most Adventist congregations in the United States and Canada have a serious church dropout problem. Many members do not attend; large numbers have been dropped from membership.

During the second quarter of 1986 each local church in the North American Division was asked to take a weekly head count during worship. The average reported in conference after conference was about 50 percent of the book membership, and these head counts included nonmembers such as visitors and children.

I have personally examined several score attendance surveys conducted by conferences and congregations during the 1980s, and the average attendance was usually near 50 percent. A number of these studies included an examination of the entire membership list, name by name. In almost every case, one third to one half the members had not attended in the past 12 months, and that was not counting shut-ins.

Most nonattending members are eventually dropped from membership. It is estimated that there are somewhere between 1 and 2 million former and inactive Adventists in North America. These are people who, having once accepted the truth of the Adventist message, have somehow slipped out the "back door."

An all too typical announcement I no-

ticed in a church newsletter (dated November 1985) reported on a congregation that "consists of 100 families that live locally. Sixty of these are active. Of these, 40 tithe, and 33 support the local church expenses and outreach." A phone call to the pastor added the fact that another 20-some families hold membership in the church but no longer live in the area.

The dropout rate raises questions about responsibility, fellowship, and the effectiveness of our nurture activities. At a more profound level it surfaces even deeper concerns about the life and structure of the Adventist Church. But we believe that something can be done about this disturbing problem.

Who are these dropouts? Why did they become inactive? What can be done about it? Six major studies have been completed by Seventh-day Adventist researchers since the mid-1970s, and a summary of these studies was recently published in the book *Finding Lost Sheep*.¹ Much has been learned that can provide some answers to these questions.

Our responsibility is clear. As Ellen White observes: "If the lost sheep is not brought back to the fold, it wanders until it perishes. And many souls go down to ruin for want of a hand stretched out to save."²

Who are they?

The traditional picture of a "backslider" that most of us carry around in our heads is that of a man, a factory worker, who was baptized at a recent evangelistic crusade but caved in to pressure to work on Sabbath; or of a poorly educated woman who after a few quick Bible stud-

ies had an emotional baptism but was never able to quit smoking permanently, and so decided to join another Protestant church, "because they teach grace instead of legalism."

But surveys portray the typical dropout as someone who grew up in the Adventist faith, a younger adult who has gone through a divorce or never married, has few friends in his or her local church, holds a professional position or white-collar job that is very demanding, and does not find that the program of the local church meets his or her needs.

One of the most widely held myths about dropouts is that they are the result of quick, high-pressure public evangelism. In fact, half grew up in Adventist homes, and only one in seven came into the church through public evangelism. Four out of five spent more than two months in preparation for baptism, and the majority attended regularly for six years or longer.

"The church is losing its younger members," says Jerry Lee, a social scientist at Loma Linda University who has researched the problem. Nearly half the dropouts are in the 20-to-35 age group, and another quarter are 36 to 50 years of age.

Lee also notes, "Individuals in the missing and apostate group are more likely to report having been divorced." Dropouts are three times as likely as active members to be divorced and remarried, and four times as likely to be divorced and single.

Half the former members that Lee surveyed were single at the time they dropped out. Ardyce Sweem, in a report published in the *Adventist Review*, April 28, 1983, said that about 40 percent of single members never attend church. In fact, "many Adventists attend singles' functions at churches of other denominations." "Singleness, perhaps especially in the Adventist Church, is not an easy thing."

Surveys have been taken at a number of Adventist Singles Ministries retreats. "Without exception, the surveys revealed that singles leave the church because of unfulfilled needs rather than differences over theological issues," reports Garland Day, former president of that organization.

Surveys of inactive members indicate that they are more likely to report stressful life events and moves to new homes. In fact, from the research that he has supervised, Gottfried Oosterwal, direc-

tor of the Institute of World Mission at Andrews University, believes that the techniques used to transfer membership from one local church to another are partially responsible for the loss of members.

There is evidence that the dropouts are people who never bonded with the core group of their congregation, never felt a part of the "inner circle." Two out of three participated in church, while they were active members, only by attending, and did not hold office or have some volunteer task in the congregation. These dropouts report few visits by church members or pastors, even while they were still regular attenders.

At the same time, they continue to have a strong sense of connection with the Adventist Church. Only about one in six joins a church of another denomination when he or she drops out of the Adventist Church. Seventy-five percent still believe in the Sabbath, 69 percent still believe in the Second Coming, 53 percent still believe in the inspired role of Ellen White, and 84 percent still have Adventist friends.

Why did they leave?

In all the surveys and interviews with missing and former Adventists, three out of four indicate that they left for reasons having to do with their relationships with people and groups. Less than one in five left because they no longer believed in some teaching of the church.

"Generally speaking, poor interpersonal relationships in the church are the most frequently cited" reason that people quit attending, says Roger Dudley, director of the Institute of Church Ministry at Andrews University. He has conducted a number of studies of the problem.

"There was absolutely no proof that anybody left the church because he or she no longer believed in the doctrines," says Harold K. West of a study he conducted of 1,500 former members while ministerial director of the Florida Conference. "They left the church because of the way the church treated them. . . . People dropped out of the church because the church no longer met their needs or the church disappointed them."

Dropping out of the church is a long, slow process, not an abrupt change. John Savage, an interdenominational Protestant researcher who served as a consultant to a project of the Columbia Union Conference from 1981 to 1985, has identified a dropout track that unfolds over a period of 6 to 18 months. The key phases

of the dropout track have consistently surfaced in hundreds of interviews Adventist pastors have conducted with inactive Adventists.

The dropout track begins with a cluster of stressful life events, such as marital conflict, loss of a job, or the death of a loved one, together with subtle attempts to reach out for help. When the pastor and other members do not respond, the hurting members feel angry and quit attending, expecting to be contacted. Usually, though, no one comes to ask why they dropped out, so they try to forget the painful memories and reinvest their time and energy elsewhere.

A survey conducted by the Upper Columbia Conference Institute of Church Ministry also validates this picture of the dropout track. Former Adventists reported a variety of events that eventually led to their no longer attending. Those most often mentioned include an unpleasant experience with church members or the pastor, dissatisfaction with the church program, failure to keep church standards, and marital or family problems.

But it is wrong to get a picture of dropouts as all feeling that they have been wronged by the church, cautions social scientist Lee. About half the former members he studied blamed things that happened in their lives or their own attitudes instead of the church or other members.

What can be done?

Making personal contact in face-to-face visits has proved to be the most successful tool in reclaiming missing and former members. Literature or phone calls can supplement the personal interview, but letters, cards, and tracts have not been effective when used on their own.

"Former members felt their departure was uncontested," says Dudley. "Many cited the total absence of a visitation program," reports Oosterwal.

In 1981 the Columbia Union Conference initiated a project to assist local churches in reclaiming their inactive members. Two dozen pastors took 40 hours of training from Savage—the Lab I in Parish Visitation Skills—and began to visit missing members. A year later about 20 of them took Lab II and were trained as instructors who could recruit and train church members to visit the inactive.

In the Potomac Conference, evangelist Jac Colon conducted Lab I and initi-

ated lay visitation ministry in about a dozen churches as part of his preparation for crusades. The dropout rate among new converts from these crusades was significantly reduced.

In the Pennsylvania Conference, three churches implemented the program. Two of these three churches have consistently had the best growth and attendance rates in the conference over several years. In both churches groups of trained lay visitors continued the program even when pastoral leadership changed.

In the Ohio Conference, a careful evaluation of the 35 churches that participated in the pilot project was done. Three to five years after the program was initiated, half the churches still had a regular visitation program. The return rates of the inactive and former members who were visited ranged from 10 to 53 percent.

The Ohio Conference has kept attendance records for all of its churches since 1970. In the 15 years from 1970 to 1985, the total average Sabbath attendance in the conference dropped by 12 percent. But in the latest triennium (1984-1986), after the conference mounted a special effort to train members and support visitation ministries in the churches, average attendance increased by 2 percent.

The Carolina, Northeastern, and Michigan conferences have also had success with pilot projects in which church members made visits to missing and former members. "I am convinced it is a fruitful field for soul winning," says Don Gray, who was church ministries director in Michigan during the pilot project.

Ben Maxson, ministerial secretary and associate director of the Church Ministries Department in the Carolina Conference, has helped a number of the congregations in his field win back missing members. Based on those experiments, he believes that if even half or a quarter of the churches across North America would systematically contact the former members in their communities, it would turn the tide of church growth.

Strategy voted by NAD committee

At its 1988 year-end meeting in Minneapolis, the North American Division (NAD) committee voted to implement a plan called Homecoming Strategy during 1989 and 1990. This strategy calls on

active Adventists to reach out to and welcome back hundreds of thousands of inactive and former Adventists, and includes the goal that each local church in the division will visit all the missing and former members in its territory.

Homecoming Strategy calls for visits by church members who have been trained to listen rather than simply to make social calls or to preach at the dropouts. It recommends that churches consider clearing specific time in the church calendar for training and visiting.

The document also points out the need for church members to provide an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and forgiveness in which to receive the returning dropouts. In order to focus the attention of the entire congregation on being receptive toward returning members, it may be helpful to schedule Homecoming Sabbaths, days when a special program, advertised well in advance, provides additional incentive to attend. Local churches are urged to consider scheduling a Homecoming Sabbath at least three times during 1989 and 1990.

To communicate this goal to the local churches and solicit their participation, an informational packet has been mailed to each pastor and first elder. It includes a planning guide and full details concerning the resource materials that are available to support the strategy.

"The division leadership is serious about getting the attention of pastors and church members and helping them address this vital issue," says J. Lynn Martell, NAD church ministries director. In fact, many conferences have already begun to address the issue, ranking it number two among problems with which they want help in a survey conducted two years ago by NAD church ministries staff.

"Pastors have a critical role to play in this soul-winning opportunity," comments William C. Scales, Jr., secretary of the NAD Ministerial Association. "The time has come to equip and encourage our members to get out there and make contact with these precious people who have already accepted our message but have somehow been lost along the way." ■

¹ This book, by Fordyce Detamore (Hagerstown, Md: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1989), also has a complete bibliography of these studies.

² *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 191.

Resources for your church

Reclaiming Missing Members is a continuing education package designed for use by pastors. It provides a complete overview of the problem and a comprehensive review of the skills needed to do something about it. Continuing Education credits can be obtained through the Ministerial Association for completion of this independent study course. It can be purchased through the local, union, or NAD Ministerial Association.

Reaching and Reclaiming Missing Members is a three part resource package to introduce this ministry in the local church. It includes a Leader's Guide explaining how to use the materials to structure a training workshop and a visitation program; a training video with a 30 minute lecture presentation and a 20 minute demonstration interview; and a video entitled *Spiritual Journeys* that is designed to be viewed by inactive and former members. Cost: \$24.95. Available from the NAD Distribution Center, 5040 Prescott St., Lincoln, NE 68506.

Learning to Care is a 23 hour training seminar for lay visitors. It helps church leaders to understand and analyze the dropout problem in their congregation and equips a group of lay visitors to make effective house calls on the inactive and former members. A number of certified instructors are available across North America. For the name of the nearest instructor contact your local conference Church Ministries Department.

Lab School in Parish Visitation Skills is a 40 hour training process for pastors and key lay leaders. It can be taught only by qualified instructors. For the name of the Adventist instructor nearest your church, contact your local conference Church Ministries Department.

Dealing with the Dropout Problem, a five hour seminar, will be taught by Monte Sahlin at the World Ministers Council prior to the General Conference session in Indianapolis (see page 18).

Incorporating New Members, a five hour seminar, will be taught by Skip Bell at the World Ministers Council prior to the General Conference session in Indianapolis (see page 16).



Harvest 90— moving toward a great victory!

Carlos Aeschlimann

Harvest 90 has been a great blessing in focusing the priority of the Adventist Church where it should always be—on fulfilling the

Great Commission to evangelize the world. Thanks to God, the basic goal of 2 million baptisms was reached in November 1989. Now our goal is to reach 2,217,768—double the number of accessions obtained during the One Thousand Days of Reaping. The second quarter of 1989 was the best quarter ever for baptisms, with a record of 171,811 baptisms, an average of 1,888 per day! Approximately 40 unions and local fields have already reached their Harvest 90 goal. The South American Division reached its goal in September, the Inter-American Division in November, and the Eastern Africa Division in December. Of the 10 divisions, seven have good chances of reaching their Harvest 90 goal.

What is the next step? In a special message to the world leaders of the church, Elder Wilson wrote: "Only a little time remains to conclude Harvest 90. We invite the world church to unite in an unprecedented evangelistic outreach by dedicating the last six months of Harvest 90 for a gigantic program of soul winning. We would like to produce a global evangelistic explosion in which all administrators, departmental leaders, pastors, and church members actively participate in some soul-winning activity."

Carlos Aeschlimann is an associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association and coordinator of the Harvest 90 program.

As the Harvest 90 coordinator, I presented the following challenge to the 1989 Annual Council: "I believe that God in His love wants to give Harvest 90 an unprecedented and extraordinary harvest of souls. But let's not stop or rest. I challenge you to go forward with even more enthusiasm. Since we have reached our basic goal, why not try something really big? Let's try to reach 2.5 million baptisms by the end of Harvest 90."

In order to accomplish this challenge, Kenneth Mittleider, chairman of the Harvest 90 Advisory Committee, presented the following Harvest 90 victory statement document to the delegates at the 1989 Annual Council:

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest' (John 4:35).

"As we consider the abundant ingathering of men and women during Harvest 90, our hearts swell with gratitude to God the Father, the source of every good and perfect gift; to Jesus Christ the Son, the Lord of the harvest; and to the Holy Spirit, who alone changes hearts and lives. We thank also our people around the circle of the earth for their participation and support.

"Whereas only a few more months re-

**Since we have
reached our basic
goal, why not try
something really big?**

main for Harvest 90, *we appeal* to the world church to launch a total, unprecedented evangelistic outreach to give a victorious finale to Harvest 90:

"January-March 1990—a global evangelistic explosion in which administrators, departmental leaders, institutional directors, pastors, and at least 1.5 million laypersons will participate in some kind of evangelistic activity. Each church will implement an ongoing evangelistic program that includes public campaigns, Revelation seminars, baptismal classes, homes as evangelistic centers, and at least 20 percent of members active in soul winning.

"April-June 1990—90 days of reaping dedicated to doctrinal, decision-based sermons, calls to accept Christ and connect with His church, and frequent baptismal ceremonies. Set a faith goal of baptizing 2,000 souls per day, or 180,000 during the last 90 days of Harvest 90.

"Sabbath, May 26, 1990—a worldwide Harvest 90 victory baptism in which churches throughout the world will join in baptizing all possible candidates, with a faith goal of 100,000 baptisms in one day, the largest number in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Sabbath, June 30, 1990—Harvest 90 victory celebration, featuring a service of celebration, thanksgiving, and reconsecration. Each division will prepare its own celebration program.

"In view of the times and our Lord's call to reap the fields that already are white to harvest, *we appeal* to all church members to dedicate themselves to preaching the gospel, thus culminating Harvest 90 with a mighty offering of precious men and women to present to God at the General Conference session." ■



Pastoral continuing education: fast food or planned meal?

A four-day conference —“Fragile Earth, Island Home”—promises to help clergy understand “preaching connections for theology and science”; a university extension program announces its top billing, “From Civilization to Planetization: The Gospel of John”; a Resource Center for Christian Spiritual Disciplines offers a two-day seminar entitled “Sexual Spirituality: An Approach to Integration.” And the list goes on.

There is no lack of opportunity for continuing education for pastors today. Seminaries, colleges, retreat centers, institutes, conferences—all offer a great wealth of professional study that, strangely enough, has the potential of becoming a professional hazard.

Pastors who respond impulsively and without planning and forethought to the array of continuing education opportunities that cross their desks are like a family that eats too many meals at fast-food restaurants. They are not going to starve. Once in a while they will even receive a real burst of energy. After all, some fast food is good food.

The point is that, like fast food, many of these continuing education opportunities are good but could be better, especially if haphazard seminar-hopping has become the pattern for one’s engaging in continuing education.

Over the short term fast foods may keep one on the go, but over the long term they lack variety, sustenance, and even interest. The same is true of ill-chosen education events. Clergy may fall into the trap of selecting on the basis of impulse—as at the fast-food place where

the staff seems to expect you to order as you walk in the door, before you’ve even located the menu! Over the long period of ministry, the fast-food mind-set can deprive pastors of the broad, solid basis and depth of learning required to do effective ministry today. The randomly selected growth opportunity may delight and please one occasionally and for a brief time, but finally, real education is like good nutrition: there is no substitute for planning.

What is the best way to plan your meal from the menu being offered at the World Council as outlined in the following pages?

1. Separate interests from needs. Just as certain foods may appeal to your palate without contributing to your health, so the seminar that attracts your fancy may not enhance your ministry.

The World Council can be likened to a six-course menu consisting of 39 food varieties. The “courses” are Evangelism, Management and Administration, Theology, Pastoral, Personal, and Health. The “foods” represent the individual seminars.

To select from this vast menu the meal that will provide the nutrition you need, you must take a look at yourself. What are your strengths and weaknesses as an evangelist, preacher, counselor, visitor in the home, teacher of children and youth, administrator in the parish, leader in the home, and so forth?

2. Separate professional competencies from weaknesses. Select at least one strong area for further development and one problem area you want to strengthen. For the former choose a seminar that will challenge you to an even higher level of competency professionally or personally. For the latter select a

seminar that will help you remedy a weakness. Don’t choose all seminars from either category. Choose a balanced meal.

3. Separate immediate needs from long-range goals. Weight control may necessitate an immediate reduction of high calorie foods. The strategy is to set priorities. So also in planning a continuing education program. The needs that you have may be many and varied, but you cannot deal with all of them immediately. You should identify those areas of concern that need attention now. Keep the other concerns on the back burner for other opportunities.

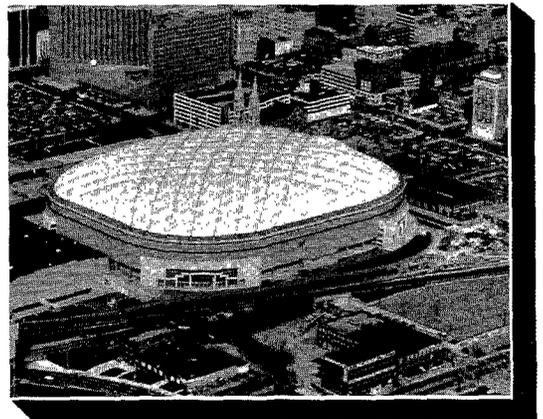
Speaking about the 1985 World Council, J. Robert Spangler reflected, “In 1985 we experimented with a multiple seminar program. We did not know what to expect. We advertised for pre-registration and were overwhelmed. More than 2,000 applications were received!”

We are expecting an even larger attendance in 1990. We are offering more seminars. The facilities are more commodious and attractive. Already many of the hotels in Indianapolis are fully booked. **So, as soon as you have chosen your four seminars, pre-register.** Doing so will save you money, will prevent your standing in long lines, and will guarantee you the seminars of your choice.

The 1990 World Ministers Council will provide an exceptional opportunity to sharpen your skills, network with others, and to be renewed in your faith and vocation. But, like exclusive restaurants, we urge you to make an advanced reservation by pre-registering so that your place at the table is guaranteed. —Rex D. Edwards.

1990 World Ministers Council

*General Conference
Pre-session
July 1-5, 1990
Indianapolis*



**This pre-session to the fifty-fifth General Conference session
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chaplains, ministers' wives, administrators, and other church leaders*

Program

Sunday July 1	Monday July 2	Tuesday July 3	Wednesday July 4	Thursday July 5
	The Minister: Messenger 7:45-9:00 A.M.			Seminars 7:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.
	WE SHALL BEHOLD HIM—			
	Through PETER	Through PAUL	Through JOHN	
	PASTORAL PANEL 9:00-10:15 A.M.			
	Motivating and Training Members	Church Discipline	Preaching and Worship	
	The Minister: Message 10:30-11:45 A.M.			
	Is the Bible Our Final Authority? <i>—Nature of Inspiration</i>	Is the Past Future? <i>—Historicism vs. Futurism</i>	Must the Whole World Hear? <i>—Global Mission</i>	
	LUNCH 12:00 Noon-1:30 P.M.			
REGISTRATION 2:00-6:00 P.M.	Seminars 1:30-6:00 P.M.	Seminars 1:30-6:00 P.M.	Seminars 1:30-6:00 P.M.	Opening Ceremonies 55th General Conference 3:00-9:15 P.M.
EVENING MEAL 6:00-7:15 P.M.				
Keynote Address 7:15-9:00 P.M.	The Minister: Mission 7:15-9:00 P.M.			
	The Minister's Family			
	Evangelizing the Secular City	Retaining the New Member	Making Every Church an Evangelistic Center	

Seminar Instructions

The following pages describe each of the thirty-nine seminars and introduce the seminar leaders. Each seminar is complete in four and one-half hours (i.e., one afternoon or

morning session) and most are offered more than once. You may select seminars to fill the time slots you have available (a maximum of four).

Please note that two seminars are being taught in Spanish and one in Portuguese, and that two others are available in simultaneous Spanish translation.

The biblical principles and psychological insights that make public and personal appeals effective.

Gaining More Decisions for Christ

Mark A. Finley

This how-to course presents both biblical principles and psychological insights that will increase your results in personal and public evangelism. Charts, overhead transparencies, and slides enhance the learning experience, and specially designed application sheets enable each participant to personalize the techniques learned.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Seven ways to make effective public appeals.
- How to tailor your appeals to include the entire audience.
- How to cooperate effectively with the Holy Spirit in making appeals.
- How the human mind functions when making decisions.
- Four reasons why people resist making decisions.
- Insights two newly released scientific studies suggest that can dramatically increase the number of decisions you obtain.



Mark A. Finley is the ministerial secretary of the Trans-European Division. His 20 years of ministry have included pastoring, conference and union departmental positions, teaching, and evangelism. In 1979 he founded the North American Division Evangelism Institute. He has written seminar and evangelistic materials and two books.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4
 July 4—Translated into Spanish
Seminar Number GCM7270

How to organize human resources and use health ministry to increase greatly your soul-winning results in urban evangelism.

Evangelizing Cities

W. C. Scales, Jr.

This comprehensive and practical seminar describes how to approach the challenge of city evangelism. Designed particularly with pastors, evangelists, departmental directors, and administrators in mind, the presentations outline and illustrate the principles of organizing human resources for urban evangelism, the role of health ministry, the cooperative involvement of various ethnic groups, and tested secrets that result in winning many souls.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to identify basic human needs, goals, and values.
- How to motivate, organize, and involve local church leaders and members.
- How to use health, the right arm of the message, as a pathway to decisions for Christ.
- Resources for multiethnic evangelism.
- Various methods and approaches to evangelizing the cities.
- Success secrets that will greatly increase your soul-winning results.



W. C. Scales, Jr., is the ministerial secretary of the North American Division. He will be assisted by Carlos Aeschlimann, associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association, Donald G. King, executive secretary and Health Temperance director of the Alberta Conference, and Harold L. Lee, associate director of the North American Division Church Ministries Department.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3
Seminar Number GCM7271

Making your church a dynamic center of nurture and outreach through small groups.

New Methods of Evangelism

Calvin Smith

Through lecture, video, and sharing by those who have used these methods successfully, this practical seminar demonstrates step-by-step how you can transform your church into a dynamic caring center of nurture and outreach. The methods it suggests involve using small groups, founded upon the Sabbath school class, as training schools and centers of operation.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to virtually eliminate apostasy.
- How to reclaim and retain missing and former members.
- How to involve the church in planning and continual outreach.
- How to make all sowing and reaping activities more effective.
- How to inspire, establish, and maintain united, coordinated activity.



Calvin L. Smith has spent 20 years in on-the-job lay training. Currently church ministries director of the Chesapeake Conference, he was formerly church ministries associate for Sabbath school in the Michigan Conference, lay activities director for the Southeast Asia and Tanzania union missions, and lay trainer for the Ontario Conference.

Tue, July 3, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GCM7272

The basic elements of effective biblical preaching: gaining the attention of people who belong to a secular society.

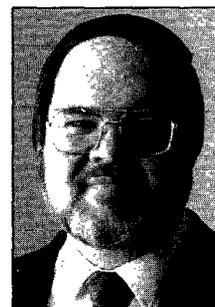
Evangelistic Preaching to the Secular

John Brunt

This seminar offers a practical examination of the basic elements of effective Biblical preaching as they relate specifically to evangelistic preaching. It gives special emphasis to structure, attention, and relevance, and includes hands-on exercises in sermon structure.

YOU WILL LEARN

- The basic elements of effective biblical preaching.
- The basic concerns and values of secular society and how these values and concerns interface with proclaiming the gospel.
- Factors in the communication process that contribute to gaining attention.
- Factors that contribute to helping listeners appropriate, retain, and act on the information you communicate.



John Brunt, Ph.D., is dean of the School of Theology at Walla Walla College, where he has taught since 1971. Prior to that he served as a pastor in San Diego. Although his specialty is in New Testament, he is particularly interested in the process of communicating the message of Scripture. He has taught preaching for a decade and periodically takes a brief leave from teaching to hold evangelistic meetings.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3
Seminar Number GCM7273

Leading your congregation into small group ministry—the means of maximizing the growth of your church.

Small Group Ministry for Growth

Garrie Williams

This seminar examines why small group Bible studies play a significant role in the ministry of Christianity's fastest-growing churches. It presents evidence from inspiration and from successful Seventh-day Adventist churches that shows how, by the power of the Holy Spirit, home Bible study groups can become a vital advantage in every Adventist church.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How Spirit-filled small group leaders can combine, in Christian nurture and outreach groups, the principles of relational, inductive Bible study with conversational prayer and caring and sharing.
- How a dynamic small group ministry can bring explosive growth when combined with evangelistic reaping meetings, baptismal classes, and Spirit-filled worship celebrations.
- How a pastor can lead a Trinity Power Circle congregation and train church members for gifted Mega-Ministry.



Garrie F. Williams is the ministerial secretary of the Oregon Conference. He is the founder of Homes of Hope, and author of Window to Revelation study guides and Trinity Power Circle Mega-Ministry. He has served as a pastor in the United States and the South Pacific, as division evangelist, and as lecturer in practical theology at Avondale College. Williams chaired the first national Adventist small group conference.

Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4

Seminar Number GCM7274

Hardware and software you can use in evangelism, covering both technologically advanced and developing areas.

Electronic Evangelism Resources

Jim Zachary

This seminar presents public and personal evangelism equipment and materials available in technologically advanced areas and those practical for pastors and evangelists in developing countries. Materials include videotapes, audiocassettes, slide programs, overhead transparencies, and 16-millimeter movie films. The seminar will provide professional counsel on individual problems in the effective use of electronics in evangelism.

YOU WILL LEARN

- What is the latest in electronic equipment useful for evangelism.
- What available evangelism equipment and materials are best for use in Third World countries.
- How to use state-of-the-art electronics—both hardware and software—in public and personal evangelism.
- How to equip and train a congregation for evangelism using electronic equipment and materials.



Jim Zachary served in the Far Eastern Division for 18 years, first as a professor and most recently as division ministerial secretary. Currently he serves as the coordinator for the global evangelism program of The Quiet Hour. During the past 10 years the crusades he has organized and/or conducted have produced more than 20,000 baptisms.

Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4

Seminar Number GCM7275

Innovations and techniques that will transform your Revelation seminar into an effective reaping tool for the 1990s.

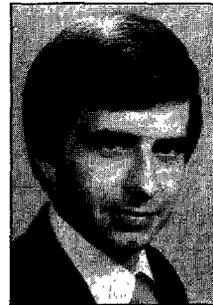
Revelation Seminars for the 1990s

Carl Johnston

This seminar is designed for the soul winner who is not satisfied with simply providing a community service, but wants results. In a practical, hands-on way, you will receive biblical tools and training to combine evangelistic crusade methodology with the popular seminar format—the seminar offers the best of both while avoiding pitfalls that have discouraged some in the past.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Simple, effective ways of gaining more decisions in your seminars.
- A special six-step decision process that leads to baptisms.
- How to make your seminar self-contained, without the need of further follow-up programs.
- Small group dynamics that increase both the quantity and quality of decisions.
- How to train laity and transform your church into a year-round "field school" of evangelism.
- How to cut costs—make seminars practically pay for themselves.



Carl S. Johnston is the director of Seminars Unlimited, the Texas-based Revelation Seminar resource center. Through the past decade he has been a pastor, conference evangelist, and associate ministerial secretary, directing the ministerial intern ninth-quarter evangelism program for the North Pacific Union. A convert to Adventism himself, Carl holds a zeal for evangelism.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3
Seminar Number GCM7276

The importance of, and the why, when, where, and how of successful church planting.

Church Planting Strategies

Ron Gladden

The United States is no longer a Christian nation; it is a mission field. The vast majority of Americans would not be reached for Christ by existing churches even if those churches should suddenly become vibrantly and evangelistically alive. This seminar addresses the why, where, when, and how of successful church planting.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Why new churches throb with life.
- How to cultivate a favorable attitude toward church planting.
- The 10 commandments of a growing and reproducing church.
- Creative ways to establish a nucleus.
- The profile of a successful church planter.
- Why some new churches fail.
- The urgency of church planting for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Ron Gladden, who has been active in church planting as a pastor and has served as associate ministerial secretary for church planting in the Wisconsin Conference, is currently the ministerial secretary of that conference. He has written a 128-page manual entitled Planting and Growing Adventist Churches.

Mon, July 2
Seminar Number GCM7277

Como inaugurar novas igrejas através de evangelismo simples e práctico.

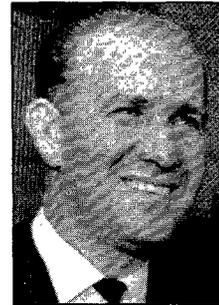
A Ordem É: Evangelizar! Mas Como?

Alcides Campolongo

Mostraremos várias maneiras de como cumprir este imperativo do Senhor Jesus, implantando novas congregações e igrejas, utilizando a força leiga, obreiros, programas de Saúde, rádio e televisão na difusão de mensagem. Falaremos sobre métodos simples e prácticos para derrubar preconceitos religiosos e conseguir decisoes a favor da verdade e levar centenas de pessoas ao santo batismo.

VOCE APRENDERÁ

- Como preparar uma Campanha Evangelística bem organizada.
- Como aproveitar a semana quando todos têm a mente voltada para o sacrificio, morte e ressurreição de Cristo, pregando Sua volta, na Semana Santa.
- Como ensinar os alunos das Unidades Evangelizadoras a usarem o "Projeto Pioneiro."
- Como tornar o estudo do livro de Apocalipse e as visoes do apóstolo Joao interessantes. (Conheça a ilha de Patmos através de um vídeo.)
- Como organizar e dirigir uma "Classe Batismal."



Alcides Campolongo formado em Teologia pelo Instituto Adventista de Ensino, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Pastor de igreja; director da Associação Ministerial da associação e da uniao. Lecionou "Evangelismo Público" para a Faculdade de Teologia. Orador para o rádio e televisao e director do programa "Fé para Hoje." Já realizou 51 séries de conferências públicas fundou mais de 30 igrejas novas e batizou 10,500 almas.

Segunda-feira, 2 de Julho
—em Português

Seminário Número GCM7278P

An evangelistic approach that combines a family life series with doctrinal presentations.

Family Life Evangelism

Gordon Martinborough

The new, effective approach to evangelism this seminar presents combines the key principles of successful family life with basic Adventist doctrines to produce a conceptual unity. This "felt need" approach simultaneously creates new interest, improves the quality of family life, and encourages more decisions for eternal life.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to create evangelistic sermons that integrate in each message a family concept and a doctrinal subject.
- How to plan and execute a complete evangelistic campaign—from field preparation through new member consolidation—using the family life philosophy.
- How to apply the same principle of integration in the field of health evangelism.
- How to use this attractive package to reach people in the "unreachable" strata of society.



Gordon Martinborough is an evangelist and an associate ministerial secretary of the Inter-American Division. Throughout his two decades of ministry as a pastor, departmental director, and administrator, he has maintained a commitment to improving the quality of evangelism.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3

Seminar Number GCM7279

Understanding and reaching Muslims—their interests, the trends in their world, and the common grounds we share.

Evangelizing the Islamic World

Borge Schantz

This seminar offers a brief survey of Islam—its history, theology, and expansion. It suggests evangelistic approaches to Islamic people in their varied cultural, political, and religious contexts, particularly focusing on the three angels' messages and Muslim beliefs.

YOU WILL LEARN

- About contemporary religious and political trends in the Islamic world.
- About strengths and weaknesses in Muslim beliefs and practices.
- About popular and official Muslim practice of religion.
- Whether confrontation, tolerance, dialogue, and persuasion are all valid approaches to Islamic people.
- About stumbling blocks and opening wedges in Adventist missionary methods.
- The relevance of the Advent message for the ordinary Muslim.
- Nontraditional forms of Christian witness.



Borge Schantz, Ph.D., is the founding director of the newly established Seventh-day Adventist Global Centre for Islamic Studies, and director of the European Institute of World Mission. He has served the church as pastor, evangelist, administrator, and lecturer on four continents, and has spent 14 years as a missionary in areas where Islam has a stronghold. In addition to this cross-cultural experience, he has taken advanced academic studies in missiology.

Mon, July 2, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GWM7308

Preparing a church to receive new members, the stages of incorporation, making a good first impression, and more.

Incorporating New Members

Skip Bell

This seminar will show you how to prepare a church to receive new members at any time and to nurture their development into responsible, reproducing members of God's family. It examines stages of incorporation into the church and other issues relevant to assimilating new members.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How new people test a church.
- How to make the best first impression on new people.
- How to identify barriers to decisions for membership.
- Practical ways to help new people become a part of your church fellowship.
- How to help new members meet personal spiritual challenges.
- The disciplines necessary to moving new members into ministry.



*Skip Bell, who received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, is vice president for administration of the Potomac Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. His 16 years of ministry include pastoral, departmental, and administrative responsibilities. He has written seminar syllabi on spiritual gifts and on small group leadership and a continuing education course entitled *New People: Incorporating New Members Into the Church*.*

Mon, July 2, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GCM7283

Organizing yourself, using your church officers effectively, evangelizing—how to pastor more than one church at a time.

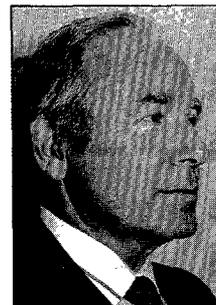
Multichurch Pastorates

David Currie

How do ministers lead more than one church? What if the number of churches they must direct grows from 2 to 22? This seminar presents creative, tested plans for nurturing new believers, strengthening present members, and continuing to multiply the church.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to keep yourself organized in a multichurch setting.
- What planning you must do to use your church officers effectively and what training models will make them successful.
- Creative models for harnessing the talents of the laity of the church.
- How to develop preaching and visitation plans.
- How to evangelize in a multichurch pastorate.



David Currie is the ministerial secretary of the South Pacific Division, where most ministers have more than one church. At one time he pastored four churches while also conducting evangelistic campaigns. The field schools for ministers that he directs have given him further insights and information that he will use in this seminar.

Mon, July 2, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GCM7284

How to diagnose the pathology of a congregation and then provide what is needed for its revitalization.

Church Alive!

Eoin Giller

This seminar introduces proven methods of church revitalization that dramatically change local Adventist congregations, enabling them to grow spiritually and numerically. Workbooks will be provided for every participant so that the ideas gleaned may be implemented in a revitalization process that takes into account the context of each pastor's responsibilities.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Diagnostic skills for identifying structural and spiritual pathology in a local congregation.
- Revitalization steps that heal sick and dying churches.
- How to triple your church attendance in three to four years.
- The spiritual dynamics that turn the members of a congregation into fully committed seven-day-a-week Adventists.



Eoin Giller has served the church in four countries as an evangelist, pastor, conference ministerial director, missionary, and lecturer in pastoral theology in B.A. and M.A. programs. He has had experience in church planting, and specializes in church revitalization that takes a stagnant church into dynamic spiritual and numerical growth patterns. His Adventist church growth workshops have inspired pastors in two world divisions to develop a more fruitful and rewarding ministry.

Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GCM7285

The information, skills, strategies, training systems, and resources necessary for establishing missing member ministries.

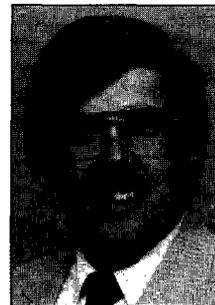
Handling the Dropout Problem

Monte Sahlin

Why do large numbers of converts and second-generation Adventists drop out of the church? Who are they? What can be done about it? This seminar will address these questions, offering spiritual answers, practical skills, and strategies that can make a difference in the local congregation and the denomination.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How some congregations are successfully reclaiming missing members and former Adventists; what works and what doesn't work.
- The skills necessary to bring an inactive member back to church attendance.
- How to maximize Sabbath school and worship attendance in the local congregation.
- About the training systems and resources available to encourage and support missing member ministries in local churches and at the local field level.



Monte Sahlin is the adult ministries coordinator for the North American Division Church Ministries Department. He has worked in urban missions, church planting, and local conference departmental assignments, as well as pastoring both small and large congregations. In the past decade he has interviewed more than 400 former Adventists and inactive members and reviewed the work of researchers on the dropout problem.

Wed, July 4, or Thur, July 5

Seminar Number GCM7286

Working with today's youth: how to minister to them whether they live in a secular society or in a developing nation.

Youth Issues

Israel Leito

In this seminar an international representation of youth professionals address the complexities of youth ministries worldwide, offering tested and proven solutions ministers can use.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to help youth who live in a secular society.
- How to have a viable, functioning youth ministry at the local church level.
- What challenges youth ministries face in the developing nations and how to work with youth who live in or come from those nations.



Israel Leito, an associate director of the General Conference Church Ministries Department, is responsible for the church's senior youth program. He has served the church on all organizational levels in youth ministry, and in many other departments. Malcolm Allen and Mike Stevenson, General Conference youth directors, and various division youth directors will assist in this seminar.

Wed, July 4, or Thur, July 5

Seminar Number GCM7287

Recruiting and training lay pastors and preparing congregations for their ministry.

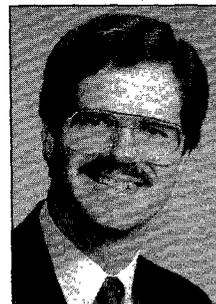
Using Lay Pastors Effectively

Jerry Page

This practical seminar presents methods and materials for maximizing the ministry of volunteer lay pastors in local church districts. In it resource individuals actively involved in successful lay pastor programs share their expertise.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How a lay pastor can complement and multiply the district pastor's ministry, freeing the pastor for a more effective and focused ministry.
- How to recruit lay pastors and how to motivate congregations to support their ministry.
- How to train, assign, and support lay pastors effectively.
- How to develop a conference-wide lay pastor program to meet the challenges church growth poses to providing pastors for congregations.



Jerry Page is president of the Pennsylvania Conference. He spent most of his pastoral and departmental ministry focusing on training lay members for evangelism and dynamic local church leadership. He served in the Illinois and Rocky Mountain Conferences prior to beginning his work in Pennsylvania in 1986.

Mon, July 2, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GCM7288

Surviving the "great Advent movement"—binding off your ministry in one church and beginning right at the next.

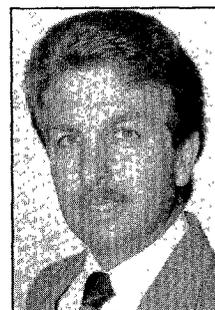
Starting in a New Parish

Dan W. Goddard

This seminar teaches pastors and their spouses how to deal with the adjustments and mixed emotions they experience when they finish their ministry in one church and begin it in another. Studies indicate that the pastor's first 18 months in a church generally sets the tone for his or her entire tenure there. This seminar offers a proven strategy for getting off to a good start.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to deal with the emotions that closing your ministry in a church raises in you, your family, and your congregation.
- How to cope with the stress of transition.
- How to make an effective entry.
- What are your strengths and your self-defeating behaviors.
- How to analyze the power structure of a congregation.
- How to make changes in your new church.
- How to develop a support system for yourself.



Dan W. Goddard is ministerial secretary of the Potomac Conference, where his primary responsibility is pastoral nurture. He has pastored for 16 years and has served in his current position for three and a half years.

Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GCM7289

Tips on conserving money, preparing and sticking to a budget, lowering your taxes, and more.

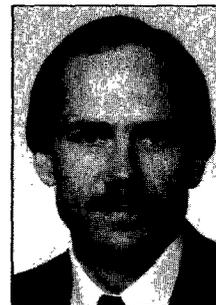
The Pastor's Family Finance

Myron Widmer

This practical seminar aims to explore the art of surviving (even comfortably!) on a pastor's salary. It moves from biblical understandings of stewardship to the practical—offering tips on how to conserve money in all areas, from insurance and house buying to food and car purchases. The presenters have each been rearing families on a single salary for years. Also, various specialists will serve as resource personnel for specific areas.

YOU WILL LEARN

- A Christian philosophy of spending and saving.
- How to challenge and change your own concepts of needs and wants.
- How to prepare and stick to a monthly and yearly budget.
- About wholesale and bulk buying methods and opportunities.
- Whether denominational retirement benefits will be enough to live on when you retire.
- About worthwhile investments and how to make your savings grow.
- How to lower your taxes.



Myron Widmer, who has pastored both small and large churches, has served for six years as associate editor of the Adventist Review. He will be assisted by Harold Lee, associate North American Division Church Ministries Department director for stewardship. He has served as the pastor of a large city church, as an evangelist, and as a stewardship director on both the local and the union conference levels.

Mon, July 2, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GGS7290

Making your counseling sessions both brief and effective; motivating counselees for growth and change.

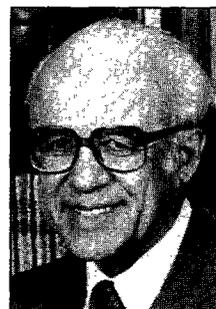
Sharpening Counseling Skills

Elden Chalmers

This seminar presents a blend of principles and techniques to make your counseling sessions brief, efficient, and effective. It offers the latest in brain research to help you and the counselee. It will inform you about popular philosophies and approaches that can erode the Christian's spiritual growth and will help you recognize your limitations so that you will know when, how, and to whom to refer.

YOU WILL LEARN

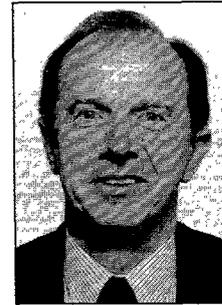
- Bible principles that undergird effective Christian counseling.
- To distinguish the gems of truth found in the major secular approaches from the errors of those approaches.
- How to help a counselee who is facing a problem to avoid the blind spots, to eliminate self-defeating approaches, and to discover new ways of looking at the situation.
- How to blend the data of science and Scripture to sharpen your skills in counseling.
- How to help your client infuse divine energy into the problem-handling process.



Elden Chalmers, Ph.D., is a licensed practicing psychologist. An ordained minister, for many years he served as a pastor and evangelist. As professor in the field of psychology, he taught at Columbia Union and Pacific Union colleges and Andrews University. He was invited to present the Helping People Change workshop at the International Convention on Personality and Motivation at the California Polytechnic Institute, and his book of that title is currently at the press.

Mon, July 2, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GCM7291

How to recognize when people are in crisis and help them work through it without exhausting your own energy.



Larry Yeagley, currently the pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Muskegon, Michigan, has spent 14 years ministering to people in crisis in the psychiatric and medical-surgical hospital setting. He developed a grief recovery program that is used by many hospices and churches of various denominations. He has authored two books on grief and is a popular convention and conference speaker in the United States and Canada.

Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4

Seminar Number GCM7292

Crisis and Grief Counseling

Larry Yeagley

This seminar presents ways of recognizing when people are in crisis and gives specific ideas as to how to motivate them to take action toward solution. Participants will be led through a careful study of grief and the common patterns of adjustment.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to assist people in choosing the most helpful solutions.
- Ways of supporting grieving people without exhausting your own energy.
- Guidelines for preventing unresolved grief.
- How to help people through a crisis in faith resulting from a major loss.

Team ministry for pastors' spouses who work at home and for those who work outside the home—how others make it work.



Jim and Sharon Cress are pastors of the Marietta, Georgia Seventh-day Adventist Church. From the beginning of their ministry, Jim and Sharon have modeled and fostered pastor-spouse team ministry. Together they conduct soul-winning workshops for pastoral couples, lead retreats in team ministry concepts, and serve as consultants on team ministry for conferences, congregations, and couples.

Wed, July 4, or Thur, July 5

Seminar Number GCM7293

Team Ministry—Working World

Jim and Sharon Cress

This seminar focuses on both the challenges and possibilities of team ministry in current society. The seminar features lecture and discussion, individual assessment instruments, film and panel discussion with pastoral couples who live their team ministry within this setting, and practical solutions to the challenges pastoral families face today.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Creative ways of balancing the demands of home, career, and congregation.
- How to find your own unique approach to dealing with conflicting expectations.
- How other families cope with similar challenges.
- Why congregations today expect more from pastoral families who have less time than do the congregational families.

The methods and materials you need to make your children's Sabbath schools interesting and effective.

Bringing Children to Christ

Vera Groomer

This practical seminar aims to teach participants how to conduct an interesting and spiritually stimulating Sabbath school for children. Ellen White reminds us that we are to strive to become more familiar with the best methods of imparting knowledge. The seminar instructor will also demonstrate visual aids appropriate to each topic.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to lead a child to Christ.
- What material fits each age (absolutely essential information!).
- How to get on the right track through discipline.
- How to make missions real.
- Memory fun and question time items you can use.
- How to use music, nature, and storytelling in the Sabbath school.
- Where to find helpful visual aids.



Vera MacKinnon Groomer led child evangelism in the Central California and Michigan conferences for more than 20 years. She wrote the Come Unto Me series of booklets and the books Illustrating Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots—Cradle Roll, Illustrating Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots—Kindergarten, and Teaching That Communicates. She has also written numerous program helps and teaching aids for Sabbath schools.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3
July 3—Translated into Spanish
Seminar Number GCM7294

Meeting your children's needs while meeting your own needs; learning to handle conflict.

Helping Clergy Children

Virginia Smith

This practical seminar centers on discussion of the problems facing clergy children (PKs). It offers recent psychological insights blended with scriptural principles that will encourage parents who are clergy that they can indeed help their children mature into the Christians that God desires them to be.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to meet PKs' needs: What PKs need most and where to find it. How to help PKs reach their potential. How to transmit values effectively.
- How to handle times of conflict: What to do when wishes clash with family expectations. How to work with PKs who have rejected family values. How to stay positive in the face of negatives.
- How parents of PKs can meet their own needs: characteristics of effective clergy parents. Ways to cope with difficult PKs.



A pastor's wife and mother of two college-age children, Virginia Smith spent 18 years as a missionary in East Africa and Southeast Asia. Currently an associate director of the General Conference Church Ministries Department, she is responsible for children's ministries. She is a doctoral candidate at Michigan State University.

Mon, July 2
Seminar Number GGS7295

Exploring the pathways others have found that lead to a deepening spirituality.

Enriching Your Walk With God

Ben Maxson

This practical seminar focuses on the dynamics of spirituality and the tools and skills that will help you grow spiritually. It is designed to give you a theological and experiential foundation for enriching your devotional life. It will explore the classic spiritual disciplines that will help you in your walk with God and open you more fully to His transforming power.

YOU WILL LEARN

- To understand the Christian disciplines that the great men and women of God have used throughout history.
- To read Scripture devotionally.
- Ways of expanding and enriching your prayer life.
- Three forms of Christian meditation and the biblical guidelines for them.
- Principles for practicing the presence of God.
- A way to facilitate Scripture memorization.
- How to maintain and enjoy a spiritual journal.



Ben Maxson, who holds a D.Min. from Andrews University, has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North and South America as pastor and departmental secretary. Currently the ministerial secretary for the Carolina Conference, he has spent the past eight years developing resources in the area of spirituality and the Christian life.

Tue, July 3

Seminar Number GCM7296

Jueves, 5 de julio—En español
Seminarario Número GCM7297S

How a woman can minister at home, in the church, and in society at large.

Woman to Woman

Laurel Damsteegt

Historically women have played a very important role in ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This symposium will address how today's woman can be a spiritual force not only in the home and the church but also in society at large. Observe an effective women's prayer group that has "moved" a church, and a larger Mothers 'n' Others that has been a blessing to many.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Why this undervalued ministry is vital to church growth.
- What special role the pastor's wife may fill in using her gifts to encourage ministry for women.
- What qualities and skills women need to minister as counselors.
- How to be a more productive soul winner.
- That the key to effectiveness is godliness. How to develop that dependence upon God that allows the Holy Spirit to use you fully. How to dig deep into the Word and grow in prayer.



Laurel Damsteegt, M.Div., M.S.P.H., has pastored with her husband and assisted with his evangelism, as well as worked as staff chaplain and health educator both in the United States and overseas. Four others will share in this vital symposium: Kathie Lichtenwalter, pastor's wife and mother of four; Betty Lou Hartlein, marriage and family therapist; Rosalie Lee, Bible instructor; and Hedwig Jemison, retired director of the White Estate office, Andrews University.

Tue, July 3

Seminar Number GGS7298

How pastors can counter the malaise that often threatens their ministry and their own relationship with God.

Revitalizing Pastoral Morale

Willmore Eva

This seminar looks at a challenge that is difficult to define and meet: the flagging enthusiasm for life and ministry that tends to set in over a period of time. The malady it deals with does not necessarily fall under the catchall description *burnout*. It tends to be more subtle and chronic, and therefore may pose even more dangers. The seminar offers a selection of source material and will involve the attendees in designing further ways of revitalizing ministerial morale.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Some of the multifaceted causes for the perceived decline in morale among many Seventh-day Adventist ministers and their spouses.
- How this malaise may threaten the minister's personal relationship with God, as well as his or her attitude toward the church and its administration.
- Some carefully conceived, implementable strategies ministers themselves and administrators and church support personnel can use to revitalize the morale of Seventh-day Adventist ministers.



Will Eva's interest and work in the field of pastoral morale and clergy marriage is based on more than 20 years of pastoral ministry in the North American field, including two and a half years as a "pastor's pastor" on the local conference level and four and a half years in his present capacity as ministerial secretary of the Columbia Union Conference.

Wed, July 4, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GGS7299

The skills you will need to meet the challenges the next decade will pose for administrators.

Administrative Issues: The 1990s

Donald G. Reynolds

This seminar in practice is designed for church, educational, and health-care leaders and those in related roles who want to keep up with current issues in leadership. If Christ does not return by the early or mid nineties, we can look for dramatic events and challenges worldwide. What impact will these changes have upon church leadership?

YOU WILL LEARN

- The observable skills that an effective administrator should demonstrate—technical, relational, and conceptual.
- The criterion of skillfulness.
- How to develop teamwork among colleagues in a time when people want to do their own thing.
- How to develop the conceptual skills that will allow you to see the big picture.
- How to become the person Scripture speaks of—"men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do."



Donald G. Reynolds, a special assistant to Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, directs leadership training for our church. He has served as an administrative leader and seminar director for 15 years. During the past five years he has worked full-time in leadership training, teaching seminars on six continents and preparing audio-cassettes and videocassettes and the monthly publication On-Line Memo. He is a member of the Christian Ministries Management Association.

Mon, July 2, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GCM7282

Evaluate your health, reduce your stress and your risk of heart disease and cancer, learn a total fitness program.

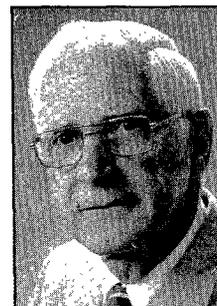
Reducing the Minister's Health Risks

John Scharffenberg

Participants in this seminar will go through a HeartBeat Coronary-Risk Evaluation, comprised of a questionnaire, blood test, and an individualized evaluation that includes HDL, LDL, total cholesterol, glucose, and uric acid measurements. The seminar provides updates on nutrition and presents food demonstrations that emphasize how to reduce heart disease and cancer risks. It identifies stressors unique to ministers, and gives guidelines for ministers' fitness.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Practical suggestions on how to reach and maintain your ideal weight.
- How to relate your blood test to your actual risk of heart disease.
- How the vegetarian diet lowers risk of cancer and heart disease.
- How to develop a 25 percent fat diet.
- How to justify and implement a total fitness program.
- How to use this same information to reach the secular mind.



John Scharffenberg, M.D., M.P.H., is medical director of the Pacific Health Education Center, and adjunct professor of nutrition, Loma Linda University.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3
Seminar Number GCM7280

An introduction to the nature of addiction, stressing the roles of the pastor and the church.

Helping the Chemically Dependent

Winton Beaven

A 1988 study of drug use among adult Adventists revealed that fewer than half of the respondents felt they could approach their pastor for assistance. Yet the trend among some younger members toward drinking and the high proportion of Adventist families suffering distress because of the use of alcohol and drugs by family members indicate the increasing need for such ministry.

YOU WILL LEARN

- To recognize the nature of chemical dependency.
- To identify the characteristics of the major classes of addictive drugs.
- To perceive the impact of codependency on the family.
- To recognize the steps of recovery and the appropriate pastoral roles and actions relating to these steps.
- How to establish congregational support groups.



Winton H. Beaven, Ph.D., assistant to the president of Kettering Medical Center, Kettering, Ohio, is president of the International Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism, of the National Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism, and of the Alcohol Research and Information Service. He also chairs the Canadian Institute for the Prevention of Addiction.

Wed, July 4, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GCM7281

Preparing yourself and your congregation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

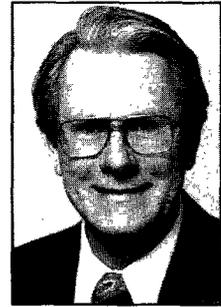
The Holy Spirit and the Latter Rain

Erwin Gane

This seminar focuses on the biblical teaching regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in the plan of redemption. It gives special emphasis to the prophetic role of the Spirit at the end of time. Participants will join an "upper room" experience featuring study, prayer, and fellowship in preparation for the great outpouring of the Spirit.

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to receive and retain the presence of the Spirit.
- How ministers can cooperate with the Holy Spirit in engendering revival and reformation.
- The conditions prerequisite to our receiving the latter rain.
- The soul-winning role of the Spirit—transforming, making holy, giving victory.
- Prophetic forecasts from both Old and New Testaments of the Spirit's empowering ministry for God's last-day people.



Erwin Gane, Ph.D., is senior editor of the General Conference Church Ministries Department and editor of the adult Sabbath school lessons. He has spent most of his ministry teaching Bible at Avondale, Union, and Pacific Union colleges. His publications include articles, Sabbath school lessons, and two books.

Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GTH7300

What comprises the biblical concept of the remnant and why it matters.

What About the Remnant?

Clifford R. Goldstein

This seminar offers a study of the biblical concept of the remnant, progressing into its existential meaning for believers today. Beginning with the concept and characteristics of the remnant in the Old and New Testaments, it shows that just as Israel's religion differed from the religions of the surrounding people, so in the last days the religion of the remnant differs from those of the rest of earth's people.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Why as Seventh-day Adventists we believe that our church is the remnant church.
- Why it is important that we believe that our church is the remnant spoken of in Scripture. What role this belief has in motivating people to stick with the church in spite of its problems and failings.
- What answer the concept of the remnant offers to the question Will the Seventh-day Adventist Church go through to the end?



Clifford R. Goldstein, editor of Shabbat Shalom and frequent contributor to Liberty, is taking graduate courses in ancient Near Eastern history and languages at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of the books 1844 Made Simple, The "Saving" of America, and Best Seller, and of the booklet Hands Across the Gulf.

Mon, July 2, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GTH7301

Answers to current questions about Ellen G. White, and the newest aids for doing research in her writings.

Ellen G. White—Current Issues

Robert Olson

This seminar is designed to answer the questions raised recently concerning Ellen White and the White Estate. For example, whether Ellen White was occasionally “off duty” as a prophet, how to clarify “problem statements,” what Ellen White’s view on the human nature of Christ was, what Ellen White said about the ordination of women—and more. It is presented by members of the Ellen G. White Estate staff.

YOU WILL LEARN

- What conclusions Fred Veltman’s research on *The Desire of Ages* produced.
- Whether a minister doing research can have access to *all* of Ellen White’s unpublished writings.
- What the CD-ROM is and how it functions. (A demonstration of this new technology will be given.)
- What the most convincing evidences of Ellen White’s inspiration are.
- What the Ellen G. White Estate can do for you.



Robert Olson, Ph.D., has been secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate for the past 12 years. Earlier he was a pastor and college Bible teacher. Paul Gordon, the undersecretary of the White Estate, will assist him.

Tue, July 3

Seminar Number GGS7302

Respuestas a diversas inquietudes sobre la misión de la iglesia en el marco del Espíritu de Profecía.

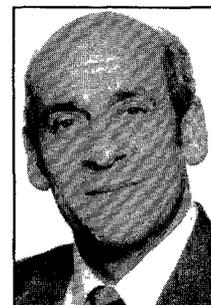
Elena White y la Misión de la Iglesia

Juan C. Viera

Un análisis y evaluación de la teología y estrategia de la misión de la Iglesia en los escritos de Elena de White.

UD. APRENDERÁ

- Las connotaciones teológicas de la misión de los Adventistas en el mundo.
- La misión a los pobres. La respuesta Adventista a la Teología de la Liberación en Latinoamérica.
- El papel y la función de los movimientos laicos en la finalización de la Misión de la Iglesia Adventista.
- Cómo lejos podemos ir en contextualizar (adaptar) el evangelio en las diferentes culturas y pueblos.



Juan C. Viera es secretario asociado del White Estate en la Asociación General. Graduado de Andrews University en religión (1976) y de Fuller Theological Seminary en misiología (1988). Ha servido por 30 años como administrador, pastor, y evangelista en Latinoamérica.

Miércoles, 4 de julio—En español

Seminario Número GGS7303S

Trends in the conflict between science and the Bible; materials you can use to communicate the case for creationism.

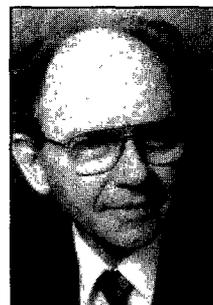
Science & the Bible: The Issues

Ariel A. Roth

Using simple illustrations, five scientists will explain the current trends in the conflict between science and the Bible within and outside the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the significance of these trends to the fundamental beliefs of Seventh-day Adventism. With slides and video they will present the scientific evidence that supports Scripture. Secondly, the seminar will focus on reference and communication materials the minister can use.

YOU WILL LEARN

- The evidence for biblical creation and for the Genesis flood.
- The validity of age-dating techniques.
- The significance of the conflict between the Bible and the theory of long geological ages.
- Scientific data that conflict with the standard geological time clocks.
- The challenges that science poses to the Bible, and suggested solutions.
- The validity of the current arguments for biological evolution.
- The validity of views intermediate between creation and evolution, and their relation to the Bible and to Adventism in particular.



Ariel A. Roth, Ph.D., director of the Geoscience Research Institute, has pursued research on coral reefs in many parts of the world. He has published some 20 articles in scientific journals and more than 60 general articles dealing with the evolution-creation controversy. He is the editor of Origins. He will be assisted by: Ben Clausen, Ph.D. (nuclear physics); Harold Coffin, Ph.D. (paleontology); Jim Gibson, Ph.D. (biogeography); and Clyde Webster, Ph.D. (geochemistry).

Wed, July 4, or Thur, July 5
Seminar Number GTH7304



Raoul Dederen, Dr. es Sc. Morales, is professor of theology and dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Andrews University.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3
Seminar Number GTH7305

Governance and authority in the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the 1990s—unity, diversity, or division?

Church Authority: The Issues

Raoul Dederen

This seminar offers a study from a biblical perspective of some of the most controversial issues in modern times as they relate to our understanding of the church—namely, governance, unity, and authority.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Whether the Scriptures condone church organization.
- Which organizational system Seventh-day Adventists chose, how, and why.
- The nature and locus of authority in the church.
- Implications of congregationalism on the local and global levels.
- What constitutes the major threats to the oneness of Seventh-day Adventism in the 1990s.
- To address the issues of unity, diversity, and division, today and tomorrow.

Adventist standards: biblical principles of Christian lifestyle for a diversifying church.

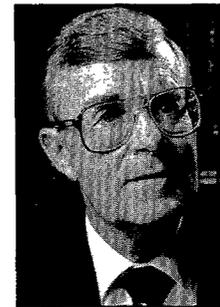
Living as Adventists

William Johnsson

With the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church among various cultures, questions of lifestyle are becoming more urgent. Especially in Western countries, younger members are challenging Adventist standards. This course sets forth the biblical basis for a Christian lifestyle and the principles that should characterize our life as Adventists. Time will be given to discussion of specific issues.

YOU WILL LEARN

- The theological foundation of a Christian lifestyle.
- The historical and cultural roots of Adventist standards.
- How biblical principles impact issues of lifestyle today.
- How to distinguish between universal principles and particulars of time and place.
- What the church's options are in view of the increasing diversity among us.



William Johnsson, Ph.D., editor of the Adventist Review, has lived on three continents: Australia, where he grew up; Asia, for 15 years; and North America. He has served as dean of boys, college Bible teacher, evangelist, and professor and associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Mon, July 2, or Tue, July 3
Seminar Number GCM7306

A contextual study of the biblical passages that relate to divorce and remarriage.

Divorce & Remarriage

Robert Johnston

This seminar offers a fresh and unbiased look at all biblical passages that are directly or indirectly related to the issue of divorce and remarriage, viewing these passages in the light of the social and cultural situations into which God, through His messengers, spoke. A survey of the Christian response to these messages will follow this biblical study.

YOU WILL LEARN

- What the law of Moses taught regarding divorce and remarriage.
- How Christians should relate to the Mosaic law.
- The significance of what Jesus said about the problem, and why He said it.
- How the Gospel writers each applied Jesus' teaching to the problems in their own churches.
- How Paul interpreted and applied Jesus' teaching to the problem.
- The trajectory of the question in Christian history (including Adventist history).
- How all this material relates to the modern issue.



Robert M. Johnston, chairman of the New Testament Department in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, holds a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Hartford Seminary. He was a missionary for 12 years in the Far Eastern Division, most of that time in Korea.

Tue, July 3, or Wed, July 4
Seminar Number GTH7307

Preregister Now!

Guarantee your seminar choices. Avoid waiting in registration lines.
Save one third or more off registration fee.

Seminar Schedule

Course Numbers and Titles

Monday, July 2, 1990

1:30 PM - 6:00 PM

- GCM7270 Gaining More Decisions for Christ
GCM7271 Evangelizing Cities
GCM7273 Evangelistic Preaching to the Secular
GCM7276 Revelation Seminars for the 1990s
GCM7277 Church Planting Strategies
GCM7278P A Ordem É: Evangelizar! Mas Como?
GCM7279 Family Life Evangelism
GCM7280 Reducing the Minister's Health Risks
GCM7282 Administrative Issues: The 1990s
GCM7283 Incorporating New Members
GCM7284 Multichurch Pastorates
GCM7288 Using Lay Pastors Effectively
GGS7290 The Pastor's Family Finance
GCM7291 Sharpening Counseling Skills
GCM7294 Bringing Children to Christ
GGS7295 Helping Clergy Children
GTH7301 What About the Remnant?
GTH7305 Church Authority: The Issues

- GCM7306 Living as Adventists
GWM7308 Evangelizing the Islamic World

Tuesday, July 3, 1990

1:30 PM - 6:00 PM

- GCM7270 Gaining More Decisions for Christ
(simultaneous Spanish translation)
GCM7271 Evangelizing Cities
GCM7272 New Methods of Evangelism
GCM7273 Evangelistic Preaching to the Secular
GCM7274 Small Group Ministry for Growth
GCM7275 Electronic Evangelism Resources
GCM7276 Revelation Seminars for the 1990s
GCM7279 Family Life Evangelism
GCM7280 Reducing the Minister's Health Risks
GCM7285 Church Alive!
GCM7289 Starting in a New Parish
GCM7292 Crisis and Grief Counseling
GCM7294 Bringing Children to Christ
(simultaneous Spanish translation)
GCM7296 Enriching Your Walk with God
GGS7298 Woman to Woman
GTH7300 The Holy Spirit and the Latter Rain

- GG57302 Ellen G. White—Current Issues
GTH7305 Church Authority: The Issues
GCM7306 Living as Adventists
GTH7307 Divorce and Remarriage

Wednesday, July 4, 1990

1:30 PM - 6:00 PM

- GCM7270 Gaining More Decisions for Christ
GCM7274 Small Group Ministry for Growth
GCM7275 Electronic Evangelism Resources
GCM7281 Helping the Chemically Dependent
GCM7282 Administrative Issues: The 1990s
GCM7283 Incorporating New Members
GCM7284 Multichurch Pastorates
GCM7285 Church Alive!
GCM7286 Handling the Dropout Problem
GCM7287 Youth Issues
GCM7288 Using Lay Pastors Effectively
GCM7289 Starting in a New Parish
GCM7292 Crisis and Grief Counseling
GCM7293 Team Ministry—Working World

- GG57299 Revitalizing Pastoral Morale
GTH7300 The Holy Spirit and the Latter Rain
GG57303S Elena White y la Misión de la Iglesia
GTH7304 Science and the Bible—The Issues
GTH7307 Divorce and Remarriage

Thursday, July 5, 1990

7:45 AM - 12:15 PM

- GCM7272 New Methods of Evangelism
GCM7281 Helping the Chemically Dependent
GCM7286 Handling the Dropout Problem
GCM7287 Youth Issues
GGS7290 The Pastor's Family Finance
GCM7291 Sharpening Counseling Skills
GCM7293 Team Ministry—Working World
GCM7297S Enriqueciendo Su Caminar con Dios
GG57299 Revitalizing Pastoral Morale
GTH7301 What About the Remnant?
GTH7304 Science and the Bible—The Issues
GWM7308 Evangelizing the Islamic World

All seminars are completed in one day in a 4 1/2-hour session. Continuing Education Credit: .5 CEU per seminar.

Mail your name and address, selection of seminars, and check to:

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 U.S.A.

1990 World Ministers Council Ministerial Continuing Education

Minister Registration

Name _____
Address _____
Town, State, Zip _____
Select up to four seminars
Monday, 1:30 pm _____
Tuesday, 1:30 pm _____
Wednesday, 1:30 pm _____
Thursday, 7:45 am _____

Preregistration for minister: \$10—includes up to four seminars (one third off \$15 registration fee).

Payment in U.S. funds only. Your canceled check is your receipt. Tickets to your seminars will be waiting in Indianapolis.

Spouse Registration

Name _____
Select up to four seminars
Monday, 1:30 pm _____
Tuesday, 1:30 pm _____
Wednesday, 1:30 pm _____
Thursday, 7:45 am _____

I am a Pastor Teacher Administrator Layperson
Denomination _____

Preregistration for minister and spouse: \$15—includes up to four seminars each (\$10 off the \$25 regular fee).

— Presession Lodging and Meals —

Neither *Ministry* nor the General Conference Ministerial Association are handling lodging or meals during the World Ministers Council (GC presession). For your convenience we list below the organizations you may contact to arrange for these necessities. Any inquiries you may wish to make should go directly to them.

Lodging

The Travel Lite travel agency has reserved a large number of hotel rooms in Indianapolis during the presession and the General Conference session. Hotel reservations may be arranged through them. Contact:

Travel Lite
7152 SW 47th Street
Miami, Florida 33155 U.S.A.
Phone: (800) 327-8338

Food Service at Presession and General Conference Session

Food Systems International will serve three meals per day in the Hoosier Dome Convention Center beginning with lunch on Monday, July 2, and continuing through Sabbath, July 14. For lunch and supper there will be eight speed lines where a meal ticket can be exchanged for a prepared meal. In addition there will be two cafeterias where items will be offered a la carte on a cash basis for lunch and supper. A new feature this year will be an international court where Mexican, Italian, Oriental, and American meals will be available in exchange for a meal ticket for lunch or supper. A buffet style breakfast will be served in the cafeteria only. There will also be a store where food items may be purchased throughout the day.

Meal tickets should be purchased in advance, but need not be ordered through the mail as in previous years. Purchasing tickets a day or two in advance will help food service personnel to assure that adequate food will be provided. Prices have not been finalized, but breakfast buffet tickets will cost approximately \$3.50 and lunch and supper tickets about \$5.00 each.

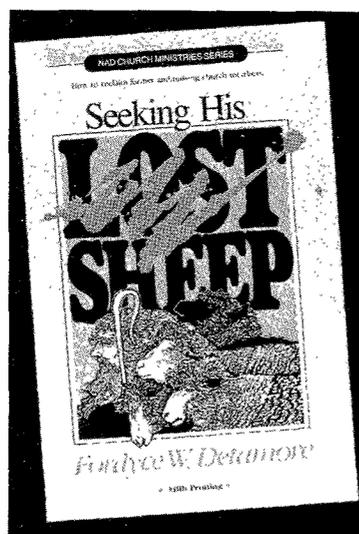
Official attendees, their spouses, and technical staff will be provided with one ticket for each day. This can be used for either lunch or supper.

Questions about the meal service may be addressed to Food Systems International at Adventist World Headquarters, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, telephone (301) 680-6012. Church papers will publish additional information as it becomes available.

How to Reclaim Missing Members

Seeking His Lost Sheep makes it easy for any compassionate person to start ministering to missing members. Fordyce Detamore tells where to find names, what to say, what *not* to say, and how to follow up contacts.

He shares his keen understanding of 26



“If you study [Detamore’s] methods as found within his book, and put them into diligent, prayerful practice, you are certain to see hearts that have been sidetracked refocused to our Saviour’s love.”

—J. R. SPANGLER

types of missing members—difficult types like busy professionals, and those easy to reclaim, like victims of a habit.

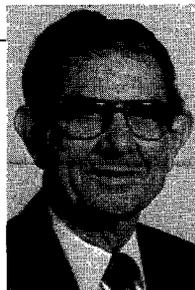
His advice springs from an abiding concern for the lost sheep. “I want to go home,” he said, “but I don’t want to go empty-handed.”

This 144-page book is now available in paperback for US\$5.95, Cdn\$7.45. Available at your Adventist Book Center.

Why wait?

Neal C. Wilson

The promise of the latter rain is not for the future. It is beginning to be fulfilled today. Are you ready?



Neal C. Wilson is the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Looking down through the ages with prophetic vision, Zechariah saw our times. He was concerned about the closing events of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Anxious lest the children of God become careless and forgetful in the last days, he counseled them to prepare for the climactic event of all history. His message was "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field" (Zech. 10:1).

It is expected that I, an elected leader of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, will help to guide our members into an ever closer relationship with our God. Because of the responsibility that you have given to me, I sense the need to set an example. The same responsibility rests upon every leader of our people, whether in a family, in a local church, or in a geographical division of the world church.

I have a growing burden for each of us to prepare to receive the outpouring of the latter rain. Is it an overstatement to say that the urgency of receiving this promised power surpasses all other matters facing the church? God is calling us into a closer relationship with Him so He can give the power of His Spirit and use us for the finishing of His work. I say this because I am convinced that the time has arrived for us to go home.

Have the Spirit now

In the past when we have talked about

the latter rain and the gift of the Holy Spirit, there has been a general consensus that we need this power and that some day God will give His church the latter rain. But as long as we maintain and foster a "someday" mentality, we postpone the work that we must do to prepare to receive the promised gift.

God has tried to help us realize that we must discard the someday mentality and take Him at His word. He wants to give us the power of the Holy Spirit *now!* "The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it" (*Evangelism*, p. 701). Not only does the Lord assure us that we can have the Spirit *now*, but He tells us, by the use of three imperatives, what we must do in order to receive it: seek, pray, and believe.

Believe for it

If God is eager to give us this gift, why are we so reluctant to ask for it and accept it—especially when we know that it will enable the church to finish its assigned mission and thus hasten the return of Jesus? God's messenger Ellen White pleads with us to seek this gift, to pray for it, and to believe that we can have it *now*. Fellow believers, we do not have to wait.

I dare say that many among us do not realize that Heaven waits to give us the Holy Spirit in the latter rain experience *now*. Perhaps Satan has caused you to forget or has hidden this promise from you. Or perhaps you have been waiting for an invitation to believe for it and

accept it. I have committed myself to reminding our leaders and people of this truth at every opportunity. I believe God means what He has told us.

I thank God that some of our conference and union administrators are taking God at His word, and that they have begun adjusting their approach to the work of God to allow them to act upon their faith. It should thrill the heart of every Seventh-day Adventist to realize that God wants to give us the latter rain *now*. It should motivate us toward a closer relationship with our Lord and Saviour and with one another. My fellow believers, let me challenge your faith. Accept the plain statement of God's prophet. We can have the Holy Spirit *now*. God has promised.

Pray for it

Ellen White has told us not only that we are to believe, but that we are to act upon our belief. I have been deeply impressed with how frequently she links the reception of this gift to prayer.

This is the second imperative for reception of the latter rain—we must pray specifically for it. Too often we add the request for the Holy Spirit to our prayers almost as an afterthought, or tuck it away somewhere in a long list of items we wish to bring to God's attention. To be honest, in the past I have not prayed for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church with the intensity and earnestness that I should have. But this is changing. Because I accept the promise that the church can have the Spirit *now*, I am spending a lot more time talking to God about it than I did in the past.

We should never think that the time will come when we have prayed enough for the gift of the latter rain. "We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Lord wants us to trouble Him in this matter. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne" (From Ellen G. White, *Loma Linda Messages*, p. 48).

Again: "The dispensation in which we are now living is to be, to those that ask, the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Ask for His blessing. . . . The outpouring of the Spirit is essential. We should pray for it. . . . Pray without ceasing, and watch by working in accordance with your prayers. As you pray, believe, trust in God. It is the time of the latter rain, when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit. Be fervent in prayer, and watch in the Spirit" (Ellen G. White, in *Review*

and *Herald*, Mar. 2, 1897).

When I read statements like these, I am impressed again and again with Ellen White's intensity about this matter and how urgent God must have been in communicating this instruction to His messenger. The urgency and intensity conveyed by Ellen White reflects the urgency that God feels and communicated to her. I pray that I, in turn, will be able to personally comprehend and relay to you this sense of urgency and intensity.

I am tremendously encouraged when I hear reports of church administrators who not only believe that it is possible to have the gift of the latter rain *now*, but are putting their belief into action. For example, the president of the Atlantic Union in the North American Division, believing that the Holy Spirit is available to him and all the church leaders and members in his union, has begun a prayer vigil for the latter rain at the union office. For more than a year now, our workers in that office have been praying three times a day for the outpouring of the latter rain upon their field and the world field.

The Greater New York Conference office staff has been following the same plan. In fact, the union modeled its plan on what was already happening at the Greater New York Conference. Not only do the workers in that conference office pray three times a day for the latter rain, but the New York van ministry workers spend three hours in prayer every Monday morning before the vans go out onto the streets of New York. This is not all. Every year the van ministry group enters into what they call 10 Days of Prayer, a prayer session that is open to all conference workers, according to Sister Juanita Kretschmar, wife of the conference president and director of the van ministry. In 1989 the 10 Days of Prayer resulted in the baptism of an Orthodox Catholic bishop.

Under the leadership of the union conference president, other conference presidents in the Atlantic Union are now leading their office staffs in a prayer vigil for the latter rain. At the offices of the Northern New England and New York conferences, prayer ascends three times a day for the power that we must have if the work is to be finished.

Seek for it

Up to this point we have been casual about praying for the latter rain, believ-

ing that we will receive this gift some time in the future. Very few of us have been actively seeking for it. We must change our prayers to reflect heaven's sense of urgency about this gift. Our belief that we can have the Spirit *now* must be based on a dynamic, living faith. We must exert a conscious effort to understand from God's Word and from the pen of Ellen White what God has instructed us to do to prepare ourselves for the latter rain.

God will not give His Spirit to a careless, indifferent church. Nor will He give the power contained in this gift while it remains a matter little thought of and unappreciated. Notice what God does require of us. "We need not worry about the latter rain. All we have to do is to keep the vessel clean and right side up and prepared for the reception of the heavenly rain, and keep praying, 'Let the latter rain come into my vessel. Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclamation; let me be a colaborer with Jesus Christ'" (Ellen G. White, *The Upward Look*, p. 283).

The one answer to all our needs

Repeatedly we have read the urgent calls by the messenger of the Lord to prepare ourselves for the infilling of the latter rain. She has said that the reception of this gift is essential to the church, that we must have it, that the church cannot prosper without it, and that all other blessings can be expected if we have this one gift. Yet the Holy Spirit is still little thought of, and His power and influence is not appreciated. As a church we carry on the work that God has given to us as though He were an absentee landlord.

We have lost the lesson taught by the Old Testament—God loves to act and intervene in human history. He wants to reveal Himself to the world through His people. He wants to act in history by aiding, blessing, and saving His people so the nations may behold His power and glory. Thus all the nations may see and know who He is, and some may be saved. But He cannot work through His people in this way until they are in the right relationship with Him. The gift of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain experience will bring the church up to the right position so God can act through them. "He will impart His Holy Spirit in the plentitude of His reviving, and there shall not

(Continued on page 39)

Whispers of the Spirit's voice

Philip Follett

Talk is often cheap. Find out what one administrator is doing to fulfill the conditions for the outpouring of the latter rain.



Philip Follett is the president of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The way the Holy Spirit works may be a mystery, but the effects of His work are manifest. Jesus said, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8, NIV).

The Greater New York Conference is one of the fastest-growing conferences in the North American Division. Whenever I ask its president, Merlin Kretschmar, how he accomplishes something, I get the same answer: "I just pray a lot." Now, I know that is an oversimplification, but I also know that it is true. So when I am asked the question "How can we lay hold upon the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit?" my answer is, "Start by praying a lot!"

Several years ago, in an attempt to refocus the energies of the leaders and members in our territory upon the Word of God, the Atlantic Union Conference office family decided to start the year by reading the entire Bible through. We invited people from the community to join us, beginning on New Year's Eve, as we took turns reading out loud every word of God's Holy Book. We also invited our churches and members to telephone us during those hours, sharing prayer requests and participating in reading the Scriptures. This experience set the tone for a year of emphasis upon personal and group devotional life.

We began the next year with a slightly different Scripture reading plan, and launched a year of praying for God's

power to "return to the East." We recalled Ellen White's statement that, although the focal point of the church's work had moved from New England to New York to Michigan and later to California, God plans for His work to return in power to the East.¹ Throughout the year we invited our people to pray earnestly for the fulfillment of this promise.

At the beginning of 1989, union leaders suggested that we encourage our office families to unite in prayer several times daily in behalf of God's work, appealing for the outpouring of His Spirit. The Greater New York Conference office family had been following the practice of gathering prayer requests, then holding a brief prayer session in behalf of those requests at noon and near the close of the day, in addition to their regular morning worship services. As a variation to this plan, the Northern New England Conference office invites each worker to pause for individual prayer at noon and evening.

We have sought to extend the experience of praying for the Holy Spirit by designating the first Sabbath of each quarter as a special day of prayer in our churches. We invite each congregation to plan its own way of expressing this day of prayer. Some use the Sabbath school classes as prayer bands; others take time during the worship service for prayer groups or follow some other plan. We want to allow flexibility for the Spirit to work in each situation, while still urging some united experience of prayer.

Some of our staff and members have been blessed by joining the New York van ministry staff's 10-day prayer time in January. They spend each morning of the first 10 days of the year in prayer, Bible

study, and seeking God's direction and blessing. And they have witnessed marvelous answers to prayer. In 1989 an Italian Catholic bishop joined the prayer group as a personal learning experience. Before the end of the 10 days he had decided to be baptized.

The wind in the trees

I am not suggesting that these experiences are unique in our field or that our people are more earnest in seeking God's blessings than are other believers. But I am gratified to witness the working of God in marvelous ways throughout our territory in some events that I believe give evidence that the Holy Spirit is working in special ways to prepare people for Christ's coming.

The pastor of a small church in central Maine reports that his congregation has been praying that if there are individuals in their area whom the Spirit is working to reach, God will send them to their church. In such a small town it is unusual to see a visitor in church who has not come with a church member. But each Sabbath for several months, guests have found their way into the church, often without having been invited. Some of these visitors are eagerly studying the Bible to learn what Seventh-day Adventists teach.

At the close of my sermon in a large Northeastern Conference church in New York City, I invited those who were interested in baptism to come forward. A young man responded.

As we visited, he told me that he hadn't been inside an Adventist church since he had attended church school for one year more than a decade ago. His grandmother, an Adventist living in another country, had paid his tuition.

"Not long ago I moved to a basement apartment in upper Manhattan," my youthful friend explained. "I noticed that an elderly couple left their upstairs apartment in the same building every Saturday morning, Bibles under their arms.

"I had this feeling that they were Adventists, and God began to speak to me. Every time I saw this couple, I felt convicted to go to church.

"At last, I worked up the courage to talk to them and invite myself to attend church with them. This is my first day here, and I know God has spoken to me."

A week later in a Haitian church in Boston, at the conclusion of my English sermon, translated into French, a lady who spoke only English responded to my invitation to prepare for baptism.

"Although I understand only English," she explained, "I know God led me to attend this French-speaking church." She too had known Adventists early in her life, but had never united with the church.

That past week she felt compelled to seek out an Adventist church. Unable to locate an English congregation, she came to the French-speaking church.

"I'm so glad there was an English sermon today so that I could understand and respond," she exclaimed.

A few weeks later I visited a church in upstate New York. There a lay couple from another state was conducting a Revelation Seminar and training other laypeople to witness.

One of the first interests the couple visited after arriving in the area was a man who had begun attending church only two weeks earlier. He told them that he had been studying the Bible, that he had concluded that God wanted him to keep the Sabbath, and that he had begun searching for a Sabbathkeeping congregation.

At his encouragement, they arranged to begin a Revelation Seminar, and more than 20 non-Adventists attended regu-

larly. At least a dozen have been baptized already.

Near Cape Cod, Massachusetts, a pastor and his entire congregation have voted to change from keeping Sunday to observing the Sabbath of the Lord. That pastor is now studying the Bible with our pastor.

A lay leader of a Maine Sundaykeeping congregation, now between pastoral assignments, has begun keeping the Sabbath and is seeking to persuade his fellow members to join him.

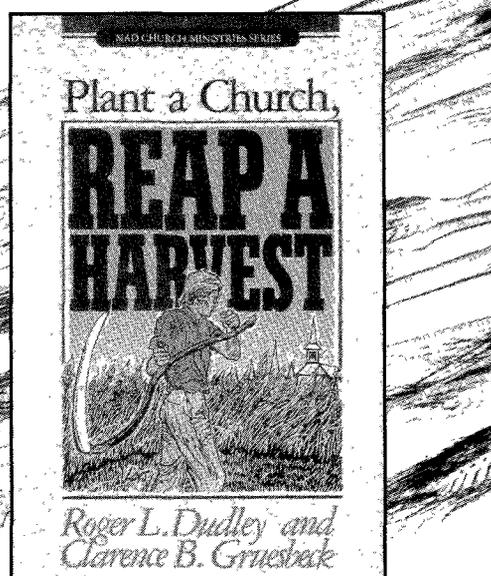
Are these experiences evidence that God is pouring out His Spirit upon His church, eager to complete His work here and send His Son back in power and glory? You be the judge! We know only that "the great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening."² And we are promised that "morning by morning, as the heralds of the gospel kneel before the Lord and renew their vows of consecration to Him, He will grant them the presence of His Spirit."³ ■

¹ Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 98.

² The Great Controversy, p. 611.

³ The Acts of the Apostles, p. 56.

Plant a Church, Reap a Harvest



by Roger L. Dudley and Clarence B. Gruesbeck

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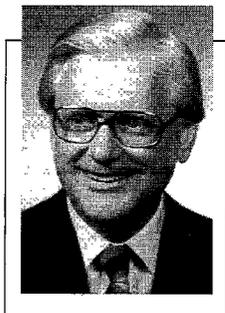


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Sprinkles of the latter rain

Robert Rider

What happens when a whole conference seeks revival and reformation?



Robert Rider is the president of the Oklahoma Conference.

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6).

In the fall of 1986 the Oklahoma Conference pastors' advisory council met. Our plan was to have the council consider conference programs for 1988. But God took charge of that meeting through one of the pastors. The pastor posed the question If we really want to see God's work finished in the Oklahoma Conference, what must we do as leaders to get ready for the outpouring of the latter rain? His question led us to table the 17 agenda items scheduled for that meeting and to devote the rest of the morning to studying what preparation is required for receiving the latter rain.

As a group we decided that we would meet monthly to study, pray, and discuss the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We did not allow any other conference matters to be mentioned at these monthly meetings—not even baptisms or conference programs such as Ingathering. Instead, we discussed a chapter from LeRoy Froom's *Coming of the Comforter* at each of these meetings through the next year.

During that year we saw changes and miracles take place in the lives of each council member. One sister who was unaware that her pastor belonged to this group stopped me on one occasion and asked, "What has happened to my pastor? He had always been highly opinionated and would not listen to anyone. Now he's patient and considerate of

other people's feelings. He's a changed man."

We were all changed men.

Spreading the flame

Wanting to share this beautiful experience with our fellow pastors, we organized them into six groups that now meet monthly for study, prayer, and fellowship. In the past in our ministerial fellowship meetings we spent 30 minutes on devotions and two hours discussing the conference program. But we have reversed this. Now we spend one and one-half hours in study, discussion, and prayer fellowship and 30 minutes on our conference program.

We had the Review and Herald print 3,000 copies of *The Coming of the Comforter*, and our ministerial secretary, Jerry Schnell, prepared study guides to go with the book. With this material, each pastor agreed to conduct a series on the Holy Spirit in his churches. The pastors in our conference and the members of all the congregations began to experience what those on the pastors' advisory council had experienced.

In 1986 David Wolkwitz, the pastor of the Oklahoma City Central SDA Church, was one of our camp meeting speakers. We felt God's Spirit on the campground, and people were powerfully affected. Before the 6:30 a.m. meetings, people assembled voluntarily to pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit. Sins were openly confessed, and many hearts were healed. At the close of the camp meeting more than 600 individuals covenanted to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit every day through the following year.

We had never before experienced such a camp meeting.

At our 1987 camp meeting George Rice of the Ellen G. White Estate spoke each day both at a general convocation and to our workers' families. At the latter meetings he spoke of the need for repentance, confession, and humiliation. He pointed out that we all share responsibility for the condition of God's church today. He gave many examples from the Bible that showed that true repentance on the part of the corporate leadership of God's people resulted in revival and reformation among the rest of the people.

On Tuesday morning of that camp meeting Dr. Rice portrayed a scenario in which a conference president committed himself to leading his conference into revival and reformation. Dr. Rice said that the pastors and congregations in the conference would follow such an example. At the end of his discourse I stood and publicly declared myself open to such a commitment, and I invited all the pastors and their wives to meet in my office after the evening meeting.

That evening practically every pastor and his wife met with Dr. Rice and me. I have never been in a meeting where the presence of God's Spirit was so evident. Prayers and tears mingled. What a fellowship! How intimate was our fellowship with Christ! God was speaking to us, tenderly seeking to lead us. In the past we had only imagined such an experience—but now it was happening!

Making a covenant

I asked Dr. Rice, "Where do we go from here?" After much discussion and prayer we concluded that, in accordance with Ellen White's instruction (*Southern Watchman*, June 7, 1904), we should draw up a covenant. In this covenant we committed ourselves to Bible study and prayer in preparation for the latter rain experience.

Our Faith Covenant says: "In response to the graciousness of God in that while I was yet a sinner He died for me, and sensing my inadequacy and the urgency of our day, I freely and gratefully enter into a covenant relationship with Him for the purpose of preparing myself to receive the latter rain experience. To fit myself for this event, I covenant with God to meet with Him every day, praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and studying the Bible. Thus strengthened by God's power, I determine to keep God's law, living in harmony with God's high standards, and

to support the fundamental beliefs of the remnant church. Believing that this experience of revival is mine, I purpose to lead those entrusted to my care into revival and reformation which prepares the way for the latter rain experience, and to bear witness as God presents the opportunity. I so covenant until He comes."

As a conference president, I tell my workers that this Faith Covenant is the most important commitment of their ministry. A devotional life and prayer for the latter rain experience are more important than Ingathering, baptisms, or any other conference program. If we fail here, the rest is irrelevant. At our workers' meetings, teachers' meetings, and literature evangelists' meetings, we renew our commitment to the Lord Jesus and to a continued life of Bible study and prayer for the latter rain experience.

What has been the result of our commit-

Power to meet our needs

As a pastor, a personal ministries director, a ministerial secretary, and a conference president, I have launched numerous programs. While good in themselves, most of these programs have been held up to our laymen as the means of finishing the work.

Our people are tired! They are looking for a better way, and that way is "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Ellen White noted:

Revival and reformation—the preparation for the latter rain—are our greatest need. We must have this experience now.

What would happen if such an experience were to obtain in the church today?

What about church growth? "He who is truly converted will be so filled with the love of God that he will long to impart to others the joy that he himself possesses" (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 30).

What about our financial needs? "Those who are truly converted will regard themselves as God's almoners and will dispense, for the advancement of the work, the means He has placed in their hands. If Christ's words were obeyed, there would be sufficient means in His treasury for the needs of His cause" (*ibid.*, p. 53).

What about unity? "Those who are truly converted will press together in Christian unity" (*ibid.*, p. 147).

ment? 1. Our camp meetings have become true spiritual feasts, and the attendance is mushrooming. 2. Both our workers and our membership exhibit a spirit of unity such as few conferences have seen. 3. Even though our state economy is badly depressed, the 2 percent suggested giving plan for Oklahoma conference projects has achieved one of the highest per capita in North America. 4. Our conference has continued to do well at Ingathering, achieving the Silver Vanguard goal for the twenty-sixth consecutive time. 5. We dedicated our hospital's new wing, which cost \$3.2 million, four months ahead of schedule. And miracle after miracle has happened to keep this hospital in operation. We give God credit for everything, for we could not have done it ourselves.

The commitment we have made in this conference has angered Satan. We are feeling his wrath as he tries to discredit our work, devastate our faith, and destroy our credibility. He has worked through various groups in an attempt to destroy what we are trying to do for God, but God has picked us up and given us great victories.

We are happy to see this experience spreading to other conferences. But we need our union, division, and General Conference leaders to set the example. God was anxiously waiting to do something for His church in 1888, but we failed Him. God was moving again in 1901, but the leadership was not ready. Ellen White was shown in vision "what might have been" (*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 104-106), but it never came to pass.

I believe that the recent developments in Eastern Europe indicate that another golden opportunity is being presented to the church. Will we again fail to act? Will we be more interested in policy, politics, or manipulation than the outpouring of God's Spirit? May we as local conference presidents, union conference presidents, division presidents, and General Conference president call our church to repentance, confession, and humiliation, and lead our church by example into revival and reformation at the General Conference session of 1990. ■

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Ellen White not only stresses the need for the Holy Spirit but also details the conditions for receiving the latter rain.

But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest "in the time of the latter rain." In response, "the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain." "He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain" (Zech. 10:1; Joel 2:23) (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 55).

It is the absence of the Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless. Learning, talent, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but, without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner won to Christ. On the other hand, if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts. God makes them channels for the outflowing of the highest influence in the universe (*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 21, 22).

Let Christians . . . ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the former rain, and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant (*Evangelism*, p. 701).

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their

children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121).

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 124).

A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 128).

We need not worry about the latter rain. All we have to do is to keep the vessel clean and right side up and prepared for the reception of the heavenly rain, and keep praying, "Let the latter rain come into my vessel. Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclama-

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tion; let me be a colaborer with Jesus Christ." Thus seeking God, let me tell you, He is fitting you up all the time, giving you His grace (*The Upward Look*, p. 283).

The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude.

Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50).

Having brought conviction of sin, and presented before the mind the standard of righteousness, the Holy Spirit withdraws the affections from the things of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness.

"He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13), the Saviour declared. If men are willing to be molded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul. By His power the way of life will be made so plain that none need err therein (*ibid.*, pp. 52, 53).

Every worker who follows the example of Christ will be prepared to receive and use the power that God has promised to His church for the ripening of earth's harvest. Morning by morning, as the heralds of the gospel kneel before the Lord and renew their vows of consecration to Him, He will grant them the presence of His Spirit, with its reviving, sanctifying power. As they go forth to the day's duties, they have the assurance that the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit enables

them to be "laborers together with God" (*ibid.*, p. 56).

When we will bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that descended on the day of Pentecost will fall on us (*Review and Herald*, May 15, 1888).

The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be proportioned to the measure of our desire and the faith exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us. We shall be entrusted with the Holy Spirit according to our capacity to receive and our ability to impart it to others (*ibid.*, May 5, 1896).

The dispensation in which we are now living is to be, to those that ask, the
(Continued on page 40)

Why wait?

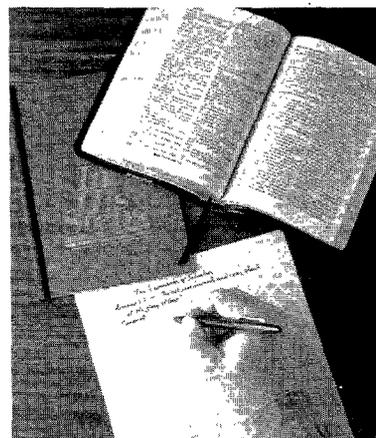
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be room enough to receive it. Nothing but the baptism of the Holy Spirit can bring up the church to its right position, and prepare the people of God for the fast-approaching conflict" (Ellen G. White letter 15, 1889).

Fellow believers, what can be clearer? All of the power of heaven is at our command. What more can we ask for? As the General Conference president, I will actively seek the latter rain by endeavoring to fulfill the conditions outlined by Ellen White.

I do believe that the church can have the Holy Spirit now. I will express this belief at every opportunity and in every way possible. The outpouring of the latter rain will be the most important matter that I will carry to God in prayer.

Having made this commitment, I call all church leaders, pastors, and members to make the same commitment. I call you to faith, prayer, and seeking. Fellow leaders, begin prayer vigils in your institutions, organizations, and offices. Fellow pastors and church members, begin prayer groups in your churches and homes. Either we move now to align ourselves with God's will and purposes, or we may be guilty of missing a golden opportunity in the history of nations to see the work completed. Let prayers for the outpouring of the latter rain ascend to Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary and to the throne of grace 24 hours a day. ■



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From page 39

dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Ask for His blessing. . . . The outpouring of the Spirit is essential. We should pray for it. . . . Pray without ceasing, and watch by working in accordance with your prayers. As you pray, believe, trust in God. It is the time of the latter rain, when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit. Be fervent in prayer, and watch in the Spirit (*ibid.*, March 2, 1897).

He will impart His Holy Spirit in the plenitude of His reviving, and there shall not be room enough to receive it. Nothing but the baptism of the Holy Spirit can bring up the church to its right position, and prepare the people of God for the fast-approaching conflict (*letter 15, 1889*).

The time is not far off now when men will want a much closer relation to Christ, a much closer union with His Holy Spirit, than ever they have had, or will have, unless they give up their will and their way, and submit to God's will and God's way. The great sin of those who profess to be Christians is that they do not open the heart to receive the Holy Spirit. When souls long after Christ and seek to become one with Him, then those who are content with the form of godliness exclaim, "Be careful, do not go to extremes." When the angels of heaven come among us, and work through human agents, there will be solid, substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of Pentecost (*letter 27, 1894*).

There is altogether too little made of the work of the Holy Spirit's influence upon the church. Altogether too much dependence is placed upon the individual human agencies to bring success into the church. Where there is genuine piety

in a church there will be a genuine faith in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit's efficiency. It is the depending so largely upon man and his supposed capabilities and his education and his knowledge that eclipses the Lord God, who is all power and can help and will help and longs to manifest Himself to every neglected, cast down soul who feels that he is weak in moral power. He must rely upon the Word of God with unwavering confidence, and not be continually making the arm of flesh his dependence and his trust (*manuscript 93, 1893*).

Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet (*The Desire of Ages, p. 330*).

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