

ADVENTIST REVIEW

WEEKLY NEWS AND INSPIRATION FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY 13, 1990

GC
BULLETIN

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Behold Him*

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Division reports, like this one from South America, fill evening sessions with color and enthusiasm.

The Day IN THE Dome



JULY 12, THURSDAY

*Delegates
voted to
continue the
Church
Ministries
Department
for another
five years.*

My day in the dome has brought me into contact with everything from a rented llama to painted wooden eggs.

The three previous General Conference sessions have found me working nights at the Review and Herald Publishing Association helping with the production of the General Conference *Bulletins*. A challenging job once every five years, the production of the *Bulletins* tests everyone involved and is an experience I have cherished. Still, I was glad to actually come to a session to experience one firsthand.

My major duty during the week has been staffing the Pacific Press booth in Exhibit Hall A. Spending the day at the booth is an experience vastly different from the experience of a delegate. I cannot begin to estimate the number of people who have visited the exhibits. A supply of 2,500 *Our Little Friend* centennial balloons was virtually used up the first day, although I kept a few in my pockets for children visiting the booth.

The media center booth, next to mine, has been mobbed, especially during the mini-concerts and interviews, or when important votes, such as the one on women's ordination, were shown on the booth's television screens.

I asked several booth staffers what they hoped to accomplish by their presence here at General Conference. Dan Matthews of *Christian Lifestyle Magazine* said, "This is our chance to show the world church that this church has come fully of age in communications. When people meet the directors of the media center ministries and see our booth, they can see what they are praying for and what their money supports."

Ray Tetz, vice president for communications at the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), told me, "This is a wonderful oppor-

tunity for the agencies like ours that depend upon people knowing about and understanding our work. We can share information, answer questions, and just say thank you. In our booth we give our field staff the opportunity to share their experiences with those who support our ministry. This is one of the greatest blessings."

Rachel Twing is Monument Valley Hospital president. In their booth is a list of positions they need to fill at that hospital. When I asked her if they are getting a response to those needs, she said that there is considerable interest.

My friend Ginger Church spent an afternoon at the Global Strategy booth just inside Exhibit Hall A. When I asked Ginger, who I happen to know believes smiling is an important talent, what she noticed about the people she met at her booth, she replied she was impressed by their happy look. That's exactly what I would expect Ginger to notice.

Several exhibits have souvenirs for sale from the countries they represent. I stopped at the U.S.S.R. exhibit to see what would happen to the money earned from the sales. Robert Paulson has been helping at this booth. He told me that each person who came to the General Conference from the U.S.S.R. was allowed to bring only \$125 with him. They brought items to sell to help pay expenses. That's where I got my wooden egg.

The Adventist Book Center is accessed through Exhibit Hall A. Just go all the way to the back of the exhibits and turn left. Operated jointly by the Review and Herald and Pacific Press, the ABC has been so busy that I haven't been able to steal anyone away from there to relieve me at the Pacific Press booth. Rick Robinson, assistant vice president for marketing at Pacific Press, is assistant ABC manager here at the session. Rick told me it has been a privilege to serve people from around the world at the ABC.

A calmer atmosphere prevails in the Hyatt Hotel, where there are still more booths. Stan and Angie Hardt, the international pastoral couple for Marriage Encounter, say that as they have talked with booth visitors they have been impressed by the common need felt among all cultures for strengthening marriages.



By Aileen Andres Sox
*Editor, Our Little Friend and
Primary Treasure*



Nearly 200 booths are grouped together in Exhibit Hall A, and the aisles are jammed with visitors gathering literature, buttons, books, and videos.

Down the hall from the exhibits in the Hoosier Dome is the session management office. I was curious what challenges faced them on Wednesday, so I was glad to catch Don Robinson in a calm moment. He told me that the people who came in to set up the lasers for the North American Division report arrived at 9:30 Tuesday night and worked until 5:30 Wednesday morning. His office had just arranged with the zoo to rent a llama and handler for \$125 for the Sabbath evening mission pageant. "We needed to find out first if the llama could walk on smooth concrete."

While I was in the session management office, a woman arrived from Holland. She is studying needs and accommodations at this session to make plans for the 1995 session in Holland. "I'll miss this as undertreasurer," Robinson told me. "Planning and running a General Conference session is a lot of fun." From the looks of things it is also a lot of work, but obviously a challenge that the session management team is meeting very well.

At the afternoon business meeting, delegates voted to continue the Church

Ministries Department for another five years, when its status again will be evaluated. A recommendation to take youth out of the Church Ministries Department failed. George Knowles, outgoing church ministries director, said he was happy for the mandate for the department to continue. "One person cannot know what is best in these situations," he said. "We are here to serve the church in the way it wants us to."

I found Leo and Bobbie Jane Van Dolson attending the afternoon's business meeting. They are retired, but spent many years working at church headquarters. I asked them what is impressing them about this session. Dr. Van Dolson told me it is evident to him that the Lord's hand has been in the decisions made. "Now that I'm retired, I can sit here and enjoy a session." Mrs. Van Dolson was thrilled to see some pygmies in attendance, and learned it is the first General Conference they have attended.

Bruce Johnston, president of the North Pacific Union, is a member of the Nominating Committee. He too commented on his strong sense of the working of the Spirit at these meetings. The Nominating

Committee's work goes slowly, he said, so as to allow the process to be completely democratic. Johnston has appreciated the willingness of the steering committee to streamline procedures so that things can move more quickly, but sees a need to further streamline conducting business for the 1995 session.

I met Hannah (11), Jeremy (10), and Joshua (5) Arnold from Bloomington, Indiana, back at the Pacific Press booth. They seem to be enjoying their visit to General Conference. Hannah said she especially liked hearing about people from different countries and about baptisms.

Andrew Young of Compton, California, came to Indianapolis to see his family in the video portion of the North American Division report. He told me that what he has seen at this session has strengthened his faith in the church, its leadership, and members.

Larry Becker, managing editor of the Pacific Union *Recorder*, said he went to the Association of Adventist Women's banquet on Wednesday morning, where 10 outstanding women from around the world were honored. "I didn't expect to enjoy it," he said, "but I liked seeing the

contributions of an international group of women recognized. Our church has a lot of talent that needs to be affirmed in ways like the banquet.”

This is Becker's first experience at a General Conference session. “It is overwhelming to be part of this church. I find myself in the middle of another nation every few feet I walk down the hall.”

On Thursday morning a proposed *Church Manual* change found delegates again lined up behind the microphones waiting for a chance to speak. I sat down for a minute beside Kenneth and Miriam Wood. I asked Elder Wood if he thought business was taking longer to conduct than at previous sessions. “It is slow,” he replied. “I think the forces of democracy sweeping through the world are reflected in the greater participation here. Participation slows business, but the net result is good.”

As I try to sum up my feelings about my day at the dome in the few minutes remaining to me before copy deadline, I remember last Sabbath evening when I attended a dinner given in honor of Don and Doris Roth, who are retiring at this session, by single women who have served in the Far Eastern Division. (I was there because I have so many friends who

have gone to the Far East, although I have not gone myself.)

One year ago Jocelyn Fay and Jane Allen decided to publish privately a collection of stories about their Far East mission experience and that of many other single women and dedicate it to the Roths as a surprise retirement present. While we were waiting for dinner to be served, Jane told the Roths about the book and read the dedication, written by Jocelyn. The dedication pays tribute to the Roths, who have opened their home to literally hundreds of people during their years of service, and who were a surrogate family for single women living in Singapore. It was obvious how many lives the Roths had touched and enriched in their service in the Far East and later at the General Conference.

And I thought of the friends who have enriched me, of mentors who have helped me grow in my profession, of the people who have helped me understand more about my church and love it, of coworkers who shaped my view of God through their dedication and Christian love. In spite of votes that have not gone as I might have chosen during this week, my church is about this—people helping people to grow and change and be nur-

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tured and do it happily because of their love for God. It is what I have seen during this week at the fifty-fifth General Conference session. It has indeed been good to be here.



Ten outstanding women received awards from the Association of Adventist Women for their work in the church, in their communities, and in their professional activities. Pictured in the front row (from left to right) are Virginia Fagal, Mercedes de Bernal, Nancy Bassham, Chessie Harris, and Arlene Taylor. In the back row (from left to right) are Iris Schantz, Twyla Gimbel, Ruthita Fike, and Virginia Clarke. Not pictured is Rowena Rick.



We Shall Behold Him

In the Holy Ten Commandments

Devotional
message

presented

Thursday

morning,

July 12, 1990.

Church life was simple, yet interesting, as I was growing up in Los Angeles, Chile. The wall separating two rooms of an old house had been torn down, and the resulting larger room had become our meeting place. A small platform and a pulpit were located on one end. On the wall behind the pulpit, above the preacher's seat, a copy of the Ten Commandments in large print occupied the place of honor. It made us feel a little self-righteous in the midst of a population that had images in their churches and kept Sunday instead of the true Sabbath. In fact, one of the favorite illustrations used in sermons on the law and salvation, preached mostly by our courageous laymen, was the boat with two oars: faith and works.

Years later, after graduating from the ministerial program at Chile junior college, I came across the book *Christ Our Righteousness*, written by former General Conference president Arthur G. Daniells. Among the many statements quoted from the pen of E. G. White, the following made a very strong impression on me: "As a people we have preached the law until we are as dry as the hills of Gilboa, that had neither dew nor rain. We must preach Christ in the law. . . . We must not trust in our own merits at all, but in the merits of Jesus of Nazareth."

"Many sermons preached upon the claims of the law have been without Christ, and this lack has made the truth inefficient in converting souls" (pp. 48, 118).

At that time it became clear to me that the stronger emphasis put on Christ and salvation in Minneapolis in 1888 had not yet trickled down to our grassroots.

Later on I was intrigued and surprised by developments in the 1970s in North America and elsewhere. Some outstanding preachers and professors made a big impression with their much-needed emphasis on righteousness by faith. Yet, in some cases, the newfound freedom in Christ was mistakenly understood by congregations as license to disregard generally accepted church standards, some dietary guidelines, and even Sabbath observance. In an attempt to escape what appeared to be legalism, some had swung to the other extreme.

Worse yet, a certain defensiveness overtook some of our best minds. The Ten Commandments that God Himself had written became something of an embarrassment. It was not fashionable anymore to dwell on the do's and don'ts of the Word of God.

The Fundamental Beliefs approved by the General Conference session of 1980 provided a balanced corrective to some of these developments. The one on the law of God reads in part:

"The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. . . . Salvation is all of grace and not of works, but its fruitage is obedience to the Commandments. . . . The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives."

We are not alone in our desire to have a balanced understanding of law, sin, and salvation. In 1972 M. Dean Stephens, vicar of St. Philip's American Episcopal Church in Wilmington, North Carolina, wrote:

"The gospel being preached in many churches today is a candy-coated gospel. 'Three easy steps to salvation' seems to be the order of the day. To hear many pastors and evangelists preach, you are not sure whether they are offering a crucified and risen Lord or a no-down-payment, 12-easy-installments way to heaven. . . . Let's quit trying to attract men to Christ by giving them a candy-coated gospel, and let us restore the law to its rightful place in the preaching of salvation by grace through faith" ("The Candy-Coated Gospel," *Christianity Today*, Aug. 11, 1972).

The Great Controversy

God's law is at the core of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, from beginning to end. Christ and the law are so closely linked that it is impossible to ignore one or the other in discussing the origin, development, and consummation of the controversy.

When Lucifer began his attacks, the "Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 36).



By Werner Vyhmeister
President
Adventist Institute of Advanced
Studies, Philippines



GC proceedings go from the floor to the *Adventist Review* in 24 hours. Top: Mary Haloviak oversees the recording of all floor speeches on cassette. Center: Among the 10 secretaries who transcribe from the tapes onto computer are, left to right: Elvira Segovia, Carolyn Saldona, and Virginia Pelton. Bottom: The editing crew, directed by Don Roth, associate GC secretary, left, includes Susan Comeau, his secretary; James Cavil, *Review* and *Herald* copy editor; and Charles D. Watson, associate GC secretary, foreground. The proceedings of an early session had to be condensed from 165 pages to 13 for the *GC Bulletin*.

At Creation Christ made known to Adam and Eve the precepts of God's law of love.

Christ was again at the very center of the action on Mount Sinai when the Ten Commandments were given. This is the only known instance in which God proclaimed audibly His will to a whole nation. And the tables with the Ten Commandments are the only known object on which God chose to permanently engrave His will with His own finger.

Christ's incarnation was an act of obedience to God's will. His life on earth and His teachings showed time after time how closely His salvific mission was connected with the holy Ten Commandments. To the rich young ruler He explained: "If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17). When He forgave adulterers and other sinners He implicitly reaffirmed the validity of the Ten Commandments (cf. Luke 5:18-26; 7:37-50).

"Throughout His pilgrimage of love on earth [Christ] was a living representation of the character of the law of God. . . . By His own obedience to the law, Christ testified to its immutable character and proved that through His grace it could be perfectly obeyed by every son and daughter of Adam" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 49).

But the strongest evidence ever of Christ's total commitment to God and His law is seen at Calvary, in the central, decisive act of the great controversy drama. Could the claims of the law "have been set aside, then the Son of God need not have yielded up His life to atone for its transgression. The death of Christ proves it immutable" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 503).

As we come nearer to the end of the great controversy we find the dragon enraged with the woman, going "to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus" (Rev. 12:17).

Then, just before Christ's second coming, "there appears against the sky a hand holding two tables of stone folded together. . . . The hand opens the tables, and there are seen the precepts of the Decalogue, traced as with a pen of fire. The words are so plain that all can read them. . . . And God's ten words, brief,

comprehensive, and authoritative, are presented to the view of all the inhabitants of the earth" (*ibid.*, p. 639).

Finally, after the millennium, as the wicked surround the Holy City, they witness the coronation of the Son of God.

"They see in His hands the tables of the divine law, the statutes which they have despised and transgressed. They witness the outburst of wonder, rapture, and adoration from the saved; and as the wave of melody sweeps over the multitudes without the city, all with one voice exclaim, 'Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints' (Rev. 15:3); and, falling prostrate, they worship the Prince of life" (*ibid.*, pp. 668, 669).

"Never will evil again be manifest. . . . The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom" (*ibid.*, p. 504).

Yes, we clearly behold Christ inextricably connected with the holy Ten Commandments at every stage of the great controversy drama. Only a God of infinite holiness and perfection could have devised such a perfect and holy law. Only a God of infinite love could have shown such patience and longsuffering mercy to persistent sinners millennium after millennium. Only God, in His deepest expression of caring love, could in Christ have "humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8).

And Christ's unconditional acceptance of the demands of the Decalogue, His unflinching determination to live every day in perfect harmony with His Father, is for all of us both challenging and inspiring. Having Himself lived the life of faith, He could tell His followers: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love" (John 15:10).

Two Great Commandments

One day a lawyer asked Jesus: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (Matt. 22:36). In His

answer (Matt. 22:37-40) Christ takes us beyond the Ten Commandments to the very foundations of the law: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37). This is total commitment.

To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind means more than just keeping the first four commandments. It means placing our lives unconditionally in God's hands, for Him to use us as He sees fit, whether in the comfortable hustle and bustle of a great urban center or in some of the most primitive places on earth; whether as officers in God's mighty army or just as simple privates.

The unconditional, daily surrender of our lives and plans to our Lord will result in the most enriching spiritual experiences. True happiness is found only when we are doing God's will, at God's designated place, and in God's appointed time. In addition, we will not be called slaves anymore, but friends (John 15:14, 15). We will also be received as "children of God . . . heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:16, 17; cf. 1 John 3:1).

Love Your Neighbor

Paul appears even more radical than Christ in his summary of the commandments (Rom. 13:8-10): "He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law" (verse 8). John accuses the one who pretends to love God while he hates his brother of being a liar. For "the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20; cf. verse 21; 1 John 5:2).

Christ's actual works of love seem to have gone even beyond His words. He sought out the despised publicans and ate with them. He healed, even touched, the lepers (considered by some as equivalent to the AIDS patients of today). "He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38). Can I truly say today that I love my neighbor as myself when I leave these kinds of ministries almost entirely to Dorcas, ADRA, or other such agencies?

"You shall love your neighbor" also includes our enemies (Matt. 5:43-47).

We can love the unlovable only if we have first become children of our heavenly Father.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" takes a special meaning when we think of the billions "ready to perish, bound in chains of ignorance and sin" who "have never so much as heard of Christ's love for them. Were our condition and theirs to be reversed, what would we desire them to do for us?" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 640).

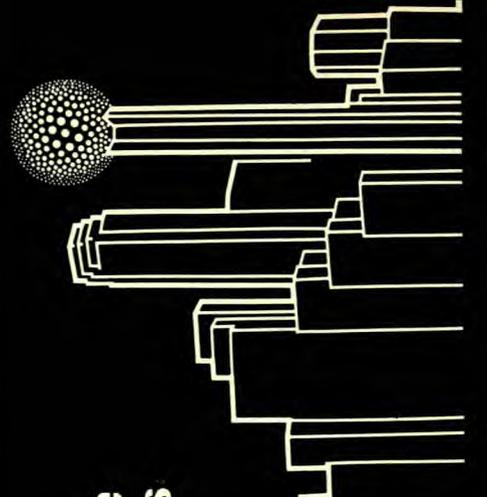
Should we take time to regularly share the joy of salvation with unbelieving neighbors? Should I be willing to leave the security and comfort of home to go to another region or country to work for others? Can I afford to spend most of my available financial resources to support my local church, while billions elsewhere have not yet heard even the name of the One who called me to love my neighbor as myself?

Rest for the Weary

I have thought many times that God established marriage and family to help us better understand how He wants us to relate to Him. Today, July 12, 1990, happens to be my wedding anniversary. Thirty-one years ago Nancy and I stood in front of the justice of the peace in Crespo, Entre Rios, Argentina. The civil ceremony included a series of instructions. One made a special impression on us: "You must live under the same roof." (It did not specify how long or wide the roof should be.) But you can readily guess that for a couple in love, this commandment was not burdensome. And as love matures and deepens, the rules tend to recede to the background. A relationship of trust and love fulfills with joy all the expectations of the law.

Christ said: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). And He also added: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and *you shall find rest for your souls*. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

* Bible texts in this article are from the *New American Standard Bible*.



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Southwestern Adventist College

Ninth business meeting

Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 10, 1990, 3:15 p.m.

M. GORDON: [Directed the song service.]

M. H. TARACENA-TORRES: [Offered opening prayer.]

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: Before we begin our afternoon business session I would like to invite B. B. Beach to come to the podium and introduce one of our special invitees.

B. B. BEACH: I am pleased to introduce to the assembly this afternoon T. J. Murphy, pastor of Saint Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis, as an observer and official guest representing

your, Jesus Christ. Amen."

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: We'd like to consider the item entitled "Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry."

Before we begin, I would like to make a statement. The General Conference leadership would like to make it very clear that whatever is the final vote, we shall abide by that vote. We recognize that in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the highest authority is the General Conference in session. We are in session. And

recommendation that we don't ordain women?

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: That is correct. Nothing else.

J. V. STEVENS: The Bible tells us very clearly that we should have a plain "Thus saith the Lord." We don't have that for the women-in-the-pulpit ministry, although there is a need for them to assist in the church. Culturally, there were priestesses in Egypt, but God went against culture in establishing a male priesthood. The same was true in Christ's time — when there were priestesses, God established a male ministry. So God was certainly not intimidated by culture. Sometimes we don't understand what God is trying to say, but God is certainly right.

L. TRUSTY: Are we suggesting discrimination in this regard? My understanding is that our colleges and universities are willing to accept tuition and moneys from women who choose to prepare themselves for the ministry.

ESTELLA GREIG: I would like to speak against the motion—that is, I would like to speak in favor of the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. I believe that at this time in our church's history, we need to liberate the Holy Spirit to work with whatever church member He sees fit to work with. And if we as an organized church limit His work, then I think it is going to prolong the time as we wait for the Second Coming. Let us not bind the wings or the work of the Holy Spirit.

L. GUDMUNDSSON: It seems to me that this question of ordaining women is really a problem that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has with the entire question of ordination.

It appears that we as a church carry a weight of conscience with the women that we presently have working in the ministry. These women are doing the work of the Holy Spirit. This is not the work of Satan that they are doing. They are baptizing souls, they are ministering in many ways that our men cannot, and God is using them mightily. It seems to me that we have a moral obligation to these women to move in favor of their ordinations. I am in favor of ordaining our women.

H. KIBBLE: I am definitely in favor of the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. On the staff of chaplains at the United States Naval Hospital in Oakland, where I am the senior and supervising chaplain, a female chaplain is serving efficiently and effectively so that I can attend this session. For more than 20 years I have served with ordained clergy of various denominations who are women.

The world watches what we do here, whether we realize it or not. We are accustomed to talking to ourselves and thinking only of ourselves. But we claim to have a mission and a message for the world. I would suggest to you that who knows but that we have been called to the kingdom for such a time as this.

We all want God's work to be finished. We implore Him with prayers for the finishing of His work. And God has committed Himself to working through broken vessels, human ves-

GC SNAPSHOT



Members of the Euro-African Division participate in the Monday night International Festival of Mission.

the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. He is here to give greetings on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church. [Applause.]

T. J. MURPHY: During this occasion, the fifty-fifth world session of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, I convey to you greetings and prayerful best wishes from the president, secretary, and members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. I bring you personal greetings from the archbishop of Indianapolis, promising and assuring you that prayers are being offered within our community for the blessed success of this General Conference. It is a deep honor to be present as an observer of these momentous and Spirit-filled proceedings and deliberations. For it is the desire of the Saviour Himself that His disciples might all be one so that the world may believe.

I conclude with a prayer from our liturgy, a prayer we can voice from all our hearts. "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In Your mercy, keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Sav-

once the vote is taken, we want to cooperate, to fulfill the wishes of this body in accordance with the action that has been taken.

I suggest that we set a time limit on the debate. I feel reasonably certain that very, very few opinions will be changed. This issue has been discussed around the world for a number of years. Much study has gone into this. The time has come for us to vote either up or down the recommendation that is before you. I am going to request the secretary to read that recommendation and to move it; then we may begin.

I am wondering if it is your desire to limit debate and begin voting at approximately 5:15 this afternoon.

J. D. NEWMAN: I move that we conclude discussion at 5:15 and then vote. [The motion was seconded, discussed at length, and eventually defeated.]

S. YOUNG: [Read "Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry."'] Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of this recommendation.

J. V. STEVENS: Before I speak to the motion, could you clarify that we are dealing only with the

sels, and unfortunately we are so human, so afraid that some woman is going to take credit and take leadership.

FAYEC. HAUPT: I want to speak against the motion. I am for the ordination of women. I want to speak briefly because I am a layperson and until a few months ago I didn't even realize that this was an issue. When I was asked to be a delegate to this General Conference session, I took it very seriously and decided to study the issue, and I have done a lot of reading. I would like to say that I am in favor of ordination and against this motion. I would like to see this whole issue sent to the divisions. I would like for it to be considered division by division.

S. A. LEMERT: I would like to speak in favor of women's ordination. I feel that it is a little unfortunate that we compare the Old Testament sanctuary service to the priestess system of the pagan religions. Those priestesses were prostitutes. We are not comparing prostitutes to pastors. We are comparing capabilities with capabilities. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church we do not, as we ordain someone, create the gift in that person; we recognize that gift. So I think that what we are really talking about here is the recognition of a gift that God has given. I am in favor of the suggestion made before—that we let each division choose which direction they wish to go. Brothers and sisters, let's not put a crown of thorns upon women's heads.

G. BOAKYE-DANQUAH: The issue that we are dealing with right now is whether the Seventh-day Adventist Church will allow itself to be governed and ruled and influenced by sociological factors or whether we will simply go by a "Thus saith the Lord." The challenge that faces us is this: Is it in the Bible that we should ordain women? The Bible is silent on women's ordination. The writings of Ellen G. White are silent on women's ordination. If it is not in the Bible, this church must reject it. I speak for the motion.

A. AESCHLIMANN: I support the recommendation on the floor.

D. BELVEDERE: I join those who support the motion as presented in the paper. I firmly believe that in Christ there is no difference between man and woman. As far as salvation is concerned, we are equal. When it comes to the reception of the gifts of the Spirit, we are equal. Just as God created man and woman equal (because both are human beings), so also He made them different (because they are man and woman).

B. OWUSU-ANTWI: I really believe that man and woman are equal, but I think here we are talking about the role of women and men. What I want to do in the little time you have given me is to clear a misconception that seems to be prevalent in many minds. Most people think we Africans think ordaining women is a cultural problem, that our culture subjugates women. That is not true. What we are worried about is that there is no biblical basis for ordaining women. Until we have a biblical basis, I intend to vote for the recommendation that is given.

R. RUPP: I'm deeply convinced that ordina-

tion of women is not the real issue we are talking about. The real issue is the question What is ordination all about according to the New Testament? The ordained ministry is not and never ought to be a continuation of the Old Testament priesthood.

J. A. ADENIJI: I'm speaking in favor of the motion. The Holy Spirit worked through the early church. The Holy Spirit worked through Ellen White. In the early church we have records of ordination. No woman was mentioned. Ellen White, highly respected as a

Nominating Committee Report—No. 6

Voted, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

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Associate Treasurers: Karl H. Bahr, Robert E. Osborn, Rowena Rick, F. Martin Ytreberg

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Communication Department Director: Shirley Burton

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leader and used by God, was not ordained.

J. B. KIMINOU: I would like to state that I support the proposition that has been made by the committee. The presidents of the divisions came to the conclusion that if we should ordain women there would be very serious consequences for the church. I share this opinion.

ELIZABETH ANDERSON: I pray that at this session you delegates are directed by the Holy Spirit and listen to the need of us women to be accepted into the ministry. I feel called and ordained by God to serve, and I will serve.

Y. LEON: I move that a vote be taken that each person be given 10 minutes to speak. [The motion was seconded and defeated.]

E. GRIFFIN: I'm here to speak expressly in support of the ordination of women. It is time that Seventh-day Adventists come out of the woodwork and show the world that we can take the initiative and give women their rightful places in bringing to perfection Global Strategy.

L. S. GIFFORD: I wish I could have been a Seventh-day Adventist way back in the 1860s. The embryonic Seventh-day Adventist Church waged a battle for equality. Many of its members fought for equality and justice. Today we face another injustice in the history of mankind. There are many here who have suffered from racial inequality and injustice. There are many here who have suffered and continue to suffer from political repression. There are many here who have suffered from religious persecution, and today I believe that we stand at another crossroads that again shows inequality. We say we must stay together. That is not the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I believe in unity in diversity. I realize that what is acceptable in one part of the world may be different in another. Today I speak in favor of equality for women in ministry.

R. E. OSBORN: Today we need to recognize that there is diversity in our church, and I cannot vote in favor of this motion unless we recognize cultural diversity by allowing divisions to deal with this matter on an individual basis. That way our Global Strategy, which calls for us to meet all people groups (including women) who have concerns about these issues, can be met and the church can move forward while recognizing diversity.

E. UGARTE: I think it has been demonstrated clearly that there is not a biblical basis for the ordination of women. Many take the ministry of Ellen White as a basis for the ordination of women. Let us not forget that Ellen White was never ordained, and the ministry that she exercised was given to her or delegated to her by the Lord Himself. It is for this reason that I am totally opposed to the ordination of women.

R. M. JOHNSTON: I agree with those who ask for a "Thus saith the Lord." What does it mean to be biblical? What does it mean to be unbiblical? Is something biblical only if it is commanded? If so, Pathfinders are unbiblical. Religious liberty departments are unbiblical. Quinquennial sessions are unbiblical. Breathe-Free programs are unbiblical. None of these are

commanded in Scripture. Perhaps, then, *biblical* means something that is not forbidden in Scripture. Now when I look through my Bible, and particularly the New Testament, to see if the ordination of women is forbidden, I don't find anything.

E. MOTSCHIEDLER: I would like to tell my brothers and sisters in South America that there are zero ordained women in North America. North America is not moving ahead of the world church. We are patiently waiting for some decision to be made here. According to the "Ordination of Women" statement, the commission that studied this over a period of years did not come to "a consensus as to whether or not the Scriptures and the writings of Ellen G. White explicitly advocate or deny the ordination of women to pastoral ministry." So after years of study we are still not decided theologically whether the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy advocate or deny the right to ordain women. It is not clear. The point I would like to make is that with no clear message from the Lord, the church should not legislate. I believe that divisions that would like to ordain women should have the right to be able to do that. We are not asking South America to ordain women. We are not asking our African brothers and sisters to ordain women, or any culture, division, conference, or union that feels uncomfortable doing it. Since our theologians and division presidents who worked on this document could come to no consensus, the church then should not legislate. Let's let the local church leadership, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, make that decision.

J. ZURCHER: I support very strongly the document that is in front of us. Many say that we restrain the Holy Spirit by not ordaining women. I believe in the whole inspiration of the Bible. The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, and I cannot find in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is in favor of ordaining women. I am very sorry if Andrews University has let women prepare for the ministry.

K. PIPIM: I'm speaking in favor of the motion. In many parts of the Third World, women are actively involved in ministry. But they are not crying for ordination. They recognize that in the last days individuals and even religious bodies are going to proclaim the working of the Holy Spirit as a basis for everything they do, whether it be for homosexuality, infant baptism, or miraculous manifestation. And they recognize that the Bible urges us to test everything by the Bible. And so they don't accept such arguments. The Holy Spirit Himself urges us to test everything by the Bible.

The Adventists in the Third World also recognize that this is a worldwide church and that if we allow one section to go ahead on an issue, we in the other parts of the world will be required to give biblical explanations for such actions. And we cannot do that.

R. W. MARTIN: It is my understanding from all surveys that have been taken that a preponderance of Seventh-day Adventist Bible schol-

ars support ordination of women. There are many who do not, and they are honest in their convictions. But the preponderance is still on the side of those who feel that it is biblical.

It is my responsibility to call pastors to ministry. I have called many hundreds over the past decade or two. In that time, there have been many churches who have wanted a variety of pastors. Not everyone has wanted a woman pastor. Not every part of the world now wants a woman pastor. But there are churches that do want woman pastors. They feel that woman pastors can make a contribution that is significant and unique. It is unfortunate when one part of the world would deny another part of the world the ministry of a person on whom the Holy Spirit has been poured out.

I would hope that our delegates would be tolerant of those areas that sincerely and prayerfully desire the ministry of an ordained-by-the-Holy Spirit woman.

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: It is time to dismiss this meeting. We will continue at 9:30 tomorrow morning.

G. A. EBORA: [Benediction in Filipino language.]

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS, *Chairman*
S. YOUNG, *Secretary*
D. A. ROTH and C. D. WATSON,
Proceedings Editors

Session actions

Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 10, 1990, 3:15 p.m.

Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry

The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. No action was taken.

Adjourned.

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS, *Chairman*
SAMUEL YOUNG, *Secretary*
FRED G. THOMAS, *Actions Editor*
FAY WELTER, *Recording Secretary*

Correction

In *Bulletin* No. 6, page 10, the group pictured was the SDASA choir from the Southern Union Mission in South Africa.

Tenth business meeting

Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 11, 1990, 9:30 a.m.

V. ERNTSON: [Announced the opening song.]

D. ROBLES: [Offered the opening prayer.]

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: We have a special feature before we continue with the item that was on our agenda yesterday afternoon. I'd like to ask D. A. Roth to introduce the gentleman here with us.

D. A. ROTH: It has been my pleasure for the past 15 years to represent the General Conference to the American Bible Society. We are very pleased this morning to welcome to our General Conference session J. D. Erickson, who was appointed a general secretary of the American Bible Society on July 1, 1978. He is also chairman of the United Bible Societies' Executive Committee. J. D. Erickson is well known in Bible circles around the world. For many years he has been dealing with the international aspects of the American Bible Society, an organization that the General Conference strongly supports. J. D. Erickson is really part of the Far Eastern Division, because he has served as a missionary in Japan. His youngest son, Ronald, was born at Tokyo Adventist Hospital. Please welcome to our General Conference session J. D. Erickson. [Applause.]

J. D. ERICKSON: I was last with you in New Orleans, and I feel very much at home because I think of the support that we have had in the Bible cause from Neal C. Wilson during his 12 years as president of the General Conference. Our goal is to establish an ever more effective partnership, working with you as well as all who are interested in the cause of getting the Bible into the hands of people around the world in the years to come.

There are many similarities between the American Bible Society and the United Bible Societies and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Your mission is global—person-to-person. The essence of Global Strategy isn't a program or a plan or a goal. Its heart is people, people one by one. We identify fully with that purpose. One of the glories of being with the Bible Societies is that no matter what country you come from, I can say that on behalf of this fellowship, we're there with you. If you're going into a new language, a new area, we're there with you and before you to prepare the way so that the Word is made available. As you make the Word available we're there to be your servant in producing the Scriptures. That is our purpose, that is your strategy, person-to-person.

One highlight for the Bible society is China. In September 1989 the one millionth Bible was produced by the Amity Printing Press; these Bibles are to be distributed throughout all of China. There is now a new challenge—the Soviet Union. Last night it was

thrilling to hear and experience the marvelous report of what is happening in the U.S.S.R. This is a new challenge to us. We not only rejoice but also must be mindful of the responsibility that we have to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe. There is an unprecedented hunger for the Word of God in Russia, and in all the republics of the U.S.S.R., as well as in the countries of Eastern Europe. There is an unprecedented challenge before us to go to every person with the Word of God.

I present before you a huge challenge. Is there any reason that every single Seventh-day Adventist member cannot provide at least one Bible for one person in that part of the world? Is there any reason that that can't be done? Is there any reason that we should sit back and let somebody else do it? You know that literature evangelism is one of the hearts of your ministry. The Word can speak to people even after you have had personal contact—they can read the Word of God after you have gone.

D. F. GILBERT: J. D. Erickson, you have given to us as a church a tremendous challenge. And we are pleased as a church to participate with you. I rather anticipate that we will have many contributions that will come to you through the Seventh-day Adventist Church members and through the General Conference offices. Today I have the annual gift that we make to the American Bible Society. This check is in the amount of \$75,000. I would like

to give this to you for this year. God bless you, and thank you.

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: Neal C. Wilson, our former General Conference president, has been requested to make a statement concerning the background of the item that is before us, the ordination of women.

NEAL C. WILSON: Last evening there were indications that a number of people knew neither the length of time that this particular matter has been before the church nor the process used in getting to this point. At the request of the world body, there have been three different commissions that have studied this subject. This matter was discussed in a tangential way at the 1975 General Conference session in Vienna, but it did not gain any momentum at that point. The next few years several Annual Councils discussed the matter of women serving as ordained local church elders. At that time in North America licensed ministers of the church were permitted to perform essentially the same functions as an ordained pastor. The word *essentially* is a qualifier. There were some things that a licensed minister could not do that only an ordained minister could do. That action has remained in effect up to the present time.

Later there were strong feelings, and some of us agreed that women ought to be able to perform the same pastoral functions as a man—that they should be on an equal basis in serving the church in a ministerial role. At the time, ordination as local church elders seemed to be the way to go.

But as we approached the 1985 General Conference session there was a renewed appeal that women be granted the privilege of being ordained to the gospel ministry. So we called a commission of about 80 individuals from every

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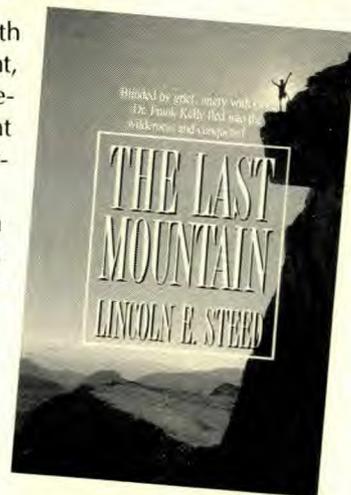
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Eastern Africa Division president Bekele Heye interviews the Bushman of the Kalahari during the International Festival of Mission.

division of the world church. There were persons selected to represent biblical exegesis, theology, church history, and other areas, such as knowledge in the writings of Ellen White. Leadership women were involved. Five years ago that report was presented, and was recorded in the General Conference minutes. It indicated that we were not prepared to move ahead with ordination, but the 1985 General Conference session requested that we continue to look at the matter of ordination of women to the gospel ministry, and that we report to the 1989 Annual Council in a clear and specific way.

It has been felt by the majority that this matter ought to be settled, and not kept open forever.

So in 1988 another commission met, composed of approximately 80 persons. We spent almost four days together. There was still a lack of specificity, and so another meeting convened in the middle of 1989. That commission was together for six days. Every moment was spent in trying to search for the best answers, with presentation of papers.

It is important for you to know that at the present time we have about 50 scholarly documents that have been prepared on this particular subject by scholars in various parts of the world. These are very revealing, very helpful, very well done, and I personally deeply appreciate the time and the effort that our scholars have made to present us with documentation of this kind.

What you have before you is the result of intense study by three different commissions. In the 1989 commission, 25 percent were

women, and about 25 percent were scholars, biblical exegetes, and church historians, and the spirit was excellent. I can tell you that as I listened carefully yesterday, there was not one thought or idea suggested that had not been carefully discussed and analyzed many times by these commissions. We don't believe that there is any new information available. So what you are hearing is a repetition of the items that the commissions have studied on a number of occasions.

There have also been several misleading statements that I think we ought to correct.

For instance, it was stated that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was founded by Ellen G. White. That is not a correct statement. It was also stated yesterday that the preponderance of Bible scholars favor ordination. Many biblical scholars have not been polled. And we do not believe that the scholars alone decide matters like this. They are a tremendous resource to this

church, and we ought to be thankful that the Lord has provided us with such individuals, but the church as a whole makes these kinds of decisions, not just one group.

The third unfortunate statement was that women have already been ordained in North America. Now, it is true that there are about 1,100 women who have been ordained as *local church elders* throughout North America. But the inference was that they have been ordained to the gospel ministry. The leaders in North America have been careful to move in step with the entire church, and have not moved to the point of ordaining women to the gospel ministry.

Now, just a word on ordination. What is the significance of the laying on of hands? Where did that particular practice come from? Is it biblical? Is it something that was initiated by our Lord? Was it initiated by the early Christian church? Where did it really arise? There has been much discussion on the question of whether or not we attach too much importance to ordination. The word *ordination* doesn't even appear in the Bible. A more appropriate word is *appointed*, rather than *ordained*. We have adopted terms that may have a slightly different meaning or inflection in different languages.

It has been felt by the commissions that the burden of proof for change from what the church is doing (and what seems to have been the model throughout the Scriptures) must be on the part of those asking for change. This document has been before Annual Council, before various committees, and before the General

Conference session. The commissions have felt that the proof was not strong enough to make any change in the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. Does the issue of oneness and equality mean sameness? Does Galatians 3:28 have any bearing upon the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? While those mentioned in that text are all the same value, they certainly have different roles to play. Discrimination has been suggested. Was our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who was the most revolutionary person in changing from the past to the present, immoral or discriminatory because the 12 disciples were all male? If we say that women must be ordained to the gospel ministry or the church will be guilty of an immoral or discriminatory action, then the same charge must be leveled at our Lord and Saviour in His choice of the apostles.

The question of headship, the authority of the home—does that have anything to do with the authority in the church? The whole area of Bible authority is a major one. Another point in that particular area is the writings of Paul. Are these writings reflective of rabbinic logic? If so, how sound are they? Are the Scriptures ambiguous on a matter of this kind? These have all been channeled into our thinking. The whole argument of silence has been carefully looked at. Someone brings up the matter of slavery. The suggestion is that just as we have moved away from slavery, which has been endorsed by even a lot of Christian bodies in North America and other parts of the world, we ought also to be brave enough and big enough to move away from this matter of preventing women from being ordained to the gospel ministry. We asked an individual whom we felt understood this matter extremely well, E. E. Cleveland, to do a study on it. It was concluded that the Bible and Ellen White left no uncertainty on the subject of slavery—they were against that practice. But they say nothing about ordination.

One of the most difficult areas that we have struggled with regarding the matter of ordination is the role of the Holy Spirit—the call, the impact, of the Holy Spirit leading in a particular life. The concern has been that we should not quench the Holy Spirit.

An appeal has been made to authorize each division to decide on this matter. This area has also been carefully analyzed, and you see in the report that it is specifically mentioned. Up to this point this church has considered that ordination is something that should be universal in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We should not fragment the church. The unity of the church is extremely important. It has been felt by the commissions that to give way on this point and to say that every division may do what it chooses to do will lead to pluralism in this church. Anyone who initiates pluralism in this church is certainly going in the wrong direction. The commissions felt that one of the greatest sources we have of keeping this world church together is through our ordained ministers and pastors. That is one of their main functions.

We are also in great danger today of congregationalism. It is a real concern of some of us, Wilson included, that the danger of congregationalism is developing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

And so, because of the lack of clear biblical guidance and clear Spirit of Prophecy guidance, the commissions have brought to you the recommendation that you have before you today.

I trust that the Lord will continue to guide this morning.

R. PONCE: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we have all formed our decision; therefore, I would propose a vote. I call the previous question.

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: He is calling the previous question. All right, I would like to recognize that motion. Is there support? There is. Now in this case it requires a second, which we have. It cannot be debated. It cannot be amended. And it requires a two-thirds vote of the delegates present. Therefore, I would like to call for that vote.

I think it is important that we know exactly the vote in this case. Permit me to restate the motion that is before us. [The motion to accept the report and recommendations of the Role of Women Commission as recommended by the 1989 Annual Council (including the recommendation not to ordain women to the gospel ministry) was restated, and a vote on it was taken.]

The number who have voted in favor of the motion before us is 1,173. The total of those opposed is 377. The chair declares that the motion is carried.

We now turn to another item on the agenda. I'd like to invite K. J. Mittleider to come forward and make a statement concerning this item.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Five years ago we voted into existence a new department called Church Ministries. There was a long "Role and Function" document that had been prepared, detailing in many aspects the work of this new department. This department, which embraced the functions of five previous departments, was never intended to be simply a coordinating of these five; rather, it was designed to be a new department that would assist the church in its growth, family, stewardship, outreach, and worship services.

The "Role and Function" document was voted and accepted, and D. W. Holbrook was selected to become the head of this new department. He brought together the world division leaders, and they began to develop this new department.

At first there was a great deal of confusion as to just how this department could come together. But I want you to know that those who have served so well in this department continue to work many, many hours, and a number of people have been brought in to make this department cohesive and to be the benefit to the church that all of us want it to be.

Since the "Role and Function" document had several different parts in several different places, department members pulled all those

together and developed a new document with proposed modifications that seemed to be necessary to accomplish what was desired by the body in 1985. This document is prepared to go on to the 1991 Annual Council. I would like to move to continue the Church Ministries Department as initiated at the 1985 General Conference session, and seek cooperation from the leadership of the world field in further strengthening that department. [Motion was seconded.]

K. H. BENZ: The matter of applause is obviously causing some distress to the delegation. When a particular point is made, the only way that we can actually express agreement with it in a democratic way in good decorum is to clap.

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: Please remember that the purest democratic form of expression we have is not applause. It is the vote.

M. L. ANTHONY: I would like to know a little of these proposed modifications that are likely to be brought in before we take a vote on this matter. I think we need to know what modifications are being proposed.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: You ask about the modifications that may be made. We have simply pulled together the "Role and Function" document. In that document, it stated how church ministries would work in the local church. There are modifications that are going to be

suggested to the Annual Council. The department will not make these modifications without input from the world and from the department leadership as they come together. It is imperative that we have that input.

P. W. DUNHAM: The people who originated the church ministries concept are friends and fellow colleagues. But I have been deeply disappointed with the results in North America. During this time of trial and experimentation, Ingathering has gone down, personal evangelism activities have gone down, Bible studies have gone down, the responsibility of individual personal witness has softened and suffered, our Sabbath schools are emptier, the stewardship emphasis has been decimated, and just yesterday somebody said the youth ministries have suffered most of all.

Confusion, distress, hesitancy, discomfort, disarray, floundering, and aimlessness have resulted. This move was to revitalize our church; it has not done that. It was to reduce staff; it has not done that. It was to save money; it has not done that.

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: We have a report from the Nominating Committee.

D. B. HILLS: The secretary, B. Reaves, will bring to us a partial report of the Nominating Committee.



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As part of the nightly International Festival of Mission, church leaders from the Africa-Indian Ocean Division report on the rapid expansion of the church over the past five years. The pageantry and video reports add to the excitement of a General Conference session. Above, division president Jacob J. Nortey (far left) introduces leaders from his field. During the past five years this division has baptized nearly 400,000 persons.

B. REAVES: The Nominating Committee submits the following partial report: Recommended, an action taken by the Nominating Committee recommending the acceptance of the resignation of A. E. Birch, voted on July 9, 1990, to be president of the South Pacific Division. I move the recommendation of the acceptance of resignation. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

The following are recommended to fill the positions indicated: field secretaries, Eastern Africa Division, D.W.B. Chalale, H. D. Dumba, H. Luukko; auditor, Eastern Africa Division, H. Sakul; director, Church Ministries Department, Eastern Africa Division, S. Wolde-Andreas; director, Communication Department, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, Eastern Africa Division, Z. F. Ayonga; director, Education Department, Eastern Africa Division, T. H. Nkungula; director, Health and Temperance Department, Eastern Africa Division, S. Farag; secretary, Ministerial Association, Eastern Africa Division, B. Muganda; director, Publishing Department, Eastern Africa Division, L. Masuku; auditor, Euro-Africa Division, J. C. Halm; director, Communication Department, Euro-Africa Division, J. Graz; director, Education Department, Euro-Africa Division, R. Strasdowsky; director, Religious Liberty Department, Euro-Africa Division, G. Russi; field secretaries, Far Eastern Division, G. E. Bullock, P. D. Chun;

auditor, Far Eastern Division, B. Collins; director, Trust Services, Far Eastern Division, P. Foo; director, Church Ministries Department, Far Eastern Division, D. Wong; director, Communication Department, Far Eastern Division, G. R. James; secretary, Ministerial Association, Far Eastern Division, V. F. Bocala; director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, Far Eastern Division, M. Inada; director, Publishing Department, Far Eastern Division, R. C. Thomas; president, South Pacific Division, B. W. Ball; secretary, South Pacific Division, A. H. Tolhurst; treasurer, South Pacific Division, W. T. Andrews; secretary, U.S.S.R. Division, V. Krushenitsky; treasurer, U.S.S.R. Division, A. Pankov; undertreasurer, U.S.S.R. Division, B. Zavatsky; director, Church Ministries Department, U.S.S.R. Division, G. Kochmar; director, Education Department, U.S.S.R. Division, R. Volkoslavsky; secretary, Ministerial Association, U.S.S.R. Division, M. P. Kulakov. Mr. Chairman, I move the recommendation. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: We will now return to our agenda item.

E.H.J. STEED: What this church needs is coordination in departments, but not amalgamation. I believe that in today's world the facts have shown conclusively that specialization is much better.

G. J. CHRISTO: Over the years I have seen

the duplication and the multiplicity of plans and paper as they were sent down from the General Conference to the local church. I believe it has been a blessing to have all of these departments, which have to do with the local church, put under one department. I believe that we should as a body in session today vote to continue the Church Ministries Department so that we might be able to go ahead and make plans rather than go back to the old departments.

C. C. CASE: I would like to ask this question for a point of clarification: Why is it not possible to amend this motion?

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: It is possible to amend the motion.

C. C. CASE: Then I move that the Church Ministries Department, excluding the youth ministries, continue as initiated at the 1985 General Conference session, and seek cooperation from the leadership of the world field in further strengthening that department. [Motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.]

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: We are at a point where we must stop and adjourn for the noon hour.

M. C. VAN PUTTEN: In view of the fact that we have quite a bit of business to transact, I would like to move that we reassemble for the afternoon business session at 2:00 instead of 3:15. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

O. J. MCKINNEY: [Benediction.]

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS, *Chairman*
M. C. VAN PUTTEN, *Secretary*
J. W. BOTHE, C. D. WATSON, and
D. A. ROTH, *Proceedings Editors*

GC SNAPSHOT



A delegate from Southern Asia dresses in national costume for the evening report of his division.

Session actions

Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 11, 1990, 9:15 a.m.

Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry

Prior to a vote being taken, the chairman requested all delegates and visitors to pray individually or in small groups for the leading of the Holy Spirit. The delegates were then asked to vote by a show of hands, and a count was made with the following results:

In favor of the recommendation: 1,173

In opposition to the recommendation: 377

Voted, To accept the following report and recommendations of the Role of Women Commission as recommended by the 1989 Annual Council:

The presidents of the world divisions of the General Conference reported to the commission on the situation in their fields with respect to the ordaining of women to the gospel ministry. In several divisions there is little or no acceptance of women in the role of pastors, ordained or otherwise. In other divisions some unions would accept women as pastors, but indications are that the majority of unions do not find this acceptable. However, in the North American Division there seems to be wider support for the ordination of women.

The division presidents also reported that based upon extensive discussions, committees, commissions, surveys, etc., there exists the probability that approving the ordination of women would result in disunity, dissension, and perhaps even schism. Hence the presidents came to these two conclusions:

1. A decision to ordain women as pastors would not be welcomed or meet with approval in most of the world church.

2. The provisions of the *Church Manual* and the *General Conference Working Policy*, which allow only for ordination to the gospel ministry on a worldwide basis, have strong support by the divisions.

The General Conference and division officers present at the commission concur with the conclusions of the presidents.

The commission having listened to the arguments and presentations for and against the ordination of women; having sensed the needs and concerns of the world field; having carefully considered what is probably best and the least disruptive for the world church at this time; and recognizing the importance of our eschatological mission, the witness and image of our spiritual family, and the need for oneness of and unity in the church, reports to the 1990 General Conference session upon the recommendation of the 1989 Annual Council the following results of its deliberation:

1. While the commission does not have a consensus as to whether or not the Scriptures

and the writings of Ellen G. White explicitly advocate or deny the ordination of women to pastoral ministry, it concludes unanimously that these sources affirm a significant, wide-ranging, and continuing ministry for women, which is being expressed and will be evidenced in the varied and expanding gifts according to the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

2. Further, in view of the widespread lack of support for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry in the world church and in view of the possible risk of disunity, dissension, and diversion from the mission of the church, we do not approve ordination of women to the gospel ministry.

Nominating Committee Report No. 5

Voted, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference—Resignation

Vice President

Assigned to Divisions, Alfred E. Birch,

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director, Zablon F. Ayonga
Publishing Director, Leonard Masuku

Euro-Africa Division

Auditor, Jean-Claude Halm
Communication Director, John Graz
Education Director, Ronald Strasdowsky
Religious Liberty, Gianfranco Rossi

Far Eastern Division

Field Secretaries:

Gordon E. Bullock

Pyung Duk Chun

Auditor, Barrie N. Collins

Church Ministries Director, David Wong

Communication Director, G. Ray James

Ministerial Association Secretary, Violeto F.

Bocala

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Minoru

Inada

Publishing Director, Russell C. Thomas

Trust Services, Peter Foo

GC SNAPSHOT



Food service personnel prepare trays for the "speed line," which tries to expedite the feeding of thousands within a few minutes.

South Pacific

General Conference

Vice President

Assigned to Divisions, Bryan Ball, South Pacific

Eastern Africa Division

Field Secretaries:

D.W.B. Chalale

Harry D. Dumba

Heikki J. Luukko

Auditor, Hans Sakul

Church Ministries Director, Solomon Wolde-Endreas

Communication Director, Zablon F. Ayonga

Education Director, T. H. Nkungula

Health and Temperance Director, Saleem Farag

Ministerial Association Secretary, Baraka Muganda

South Pacific Division

Secretary, Athal H. Tolhurst

Treasurer, W. Thomas Andrews

United Soviet Socialist Republics Division

Secretary, V. P. Krushenitsky

Treasurer, Aleksander A. Pankov

Undertreasurer, Basilio Zavatsky

Church Ministries Director, Grigorii V. Kochmar

Education Director, Rostislov Volkoslavsky

Ministerial Association Secretary, Mikhail P. Kulakov

Adjourned.

ROBERT J. KLOOSTERHUIS, *Chairman*
MEADE VAN PUTTEN, *Secretary*
FRED G. THOMAS, *Actions Editor*
ROWENA J. MOORE,
Recording Secretary

Report presented at the
General Conference session.

Publishing Department

Even before our church had a name, church pioneers recognized the vital importance of the printed word and operated a publishing house. They recognized that publications greatly strengthened the preaching of the Advent message and multiplied the efforts of the few Advent preachers.

Indeed, the importance of the publishing ministry to the Adventist Church today can be seen in the fact that "70 percent of the countries where the church is established were opened by the publishing ministry," according to Gottfried Oosterwal, director of the Institute of World Mission at Andrews University.

"The press is a powerful instrumentality which God has ordained to be combined with the energies of the living preacher to bring the truth before all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples. Many minds can be reached in no other way" (*Life Sketches*, p. 217).

Has publishing continued to do the work for which God ordained it? As we study the figures for the past quinquennium, the answer is a resounding yes!

Publishing Houses

From James White's humble beginning in publishing in 1852, the church has developed 56 publishing houses around the world. Three new facilities are being developed in Zambia, Nigeria, and the Soviet Union. They will fill a great need in these countries.

Construction has begun in Zambia, where a tremendous shortage of literature exists. A publishing house there will ensure a supply of books and magazines for literature evangelists. The establishment of our printing facility in the Soviet Union is well underway. And the Nigerian Union has purchased land and is developing plans for a publishing house to reach its 100 million popula-



By **Ronald E. Appenzeller**
Director

capabilities of Adventist publishing houses today! In 1852 he produced up to 100 pages per hour on his Washington handpress. Today four of our publishing houses are equipped with the latest web presses. The largest, at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland, can produce 38,000 thirty-two-page magazines in full color, glued, trimmed, and stacked in just one hour—more than 1 million pages!

tion, 20 million of whom are Muslims. James White would be amazed at the

Christian Record Services

Christian Record Services aids sight-

GC SNAPSHOT



Jackie Ordelheide, editorial assistant, sells thousands of copies of the daily *GC Bulletin*, produced by the *Adventist Review*, to session visitors. Delegates receive a free copy each day, since the *Bulletins* contain the official record of all actions and proceedings. *Review* designer Bryan Gray, left, observes.

and hearing-impaired people, serving both the public and the church. Its services extend to Europe, Africa, India, and the Far East, as well as North America. Christian Record provides magazines and videotapes for hearing-impaired people, and braille literature and audiotapes for the blind. Other services are a Bible correspondence course and special books prepared for blind parents to use with their sighted children. These books have pictures for the sighted children and braille text for the parents.

During this quinquennium, Christian Record added floor space at the Lincoln, Nebraska, plant and increased its services by 30 percent.

Editorial

Editors have a tremendous influence on the church through our Adventist publications. In 1986 a World Council for Editors, held in Washington, D.C., attracted representatives from every division and provided an opportunity to share ideas and broaden the outlook of our thought leaders.

Editorial consultants now serve in two overseas areas, Africa and the Far East. They coordinate the development of new literature, which avoids duplication of resources, thus enabling these areas to have more literature and keep unit costs down. During the next quinquennium coordinators will help develop literature for Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus.

Literature Evangelism

George King, the first Adventist literature evangelist, who began in 1881, would be amazed to find 23,513 LEs around the world today. The South American Division leads the way, with 7,014. These church workers make more personal contacts annually than any other department of the church, organizing branch Sabbath schools, developing new church companies, and reaching unentered areas. Literature evangelism continues to be the least-expensive method of evangelism the church offers today.

Quinquennium sales by literature evangelists amounted to \$433,151,039. Unfortunately, dollars do not give a true measure of the amount of literature distributed. For example, *The Great Controversy* may sell for \$40 in one area and \$10 in another. In 1989 the Brazil Pub-

lishing House increased the number of books sold by 211 percent, while their dollar sales increased by only 25 percent.

Baptisms

The sole purpose of the publishing ministry is to bring men and women to Christ. Publishing has been successful in this area.

During this quinquennium 152,411 baptisms can be traced to the publishing ministry, an increase of 38 percent over the previous five-year period. We rejoice at the fulfillment of Ellen White's statement: "More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications" (*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 151).

Missionary Literature

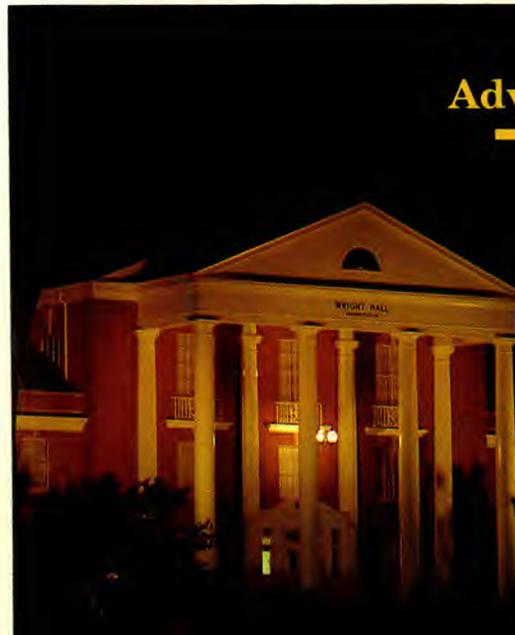
Literature evangelism and soul winning cannot be separated. It is missionary

work of the highest order. We make no apology for selling our literature, because many people will find the message in no other way.

In addition to publishing sales, literature evangelists distributed 21,748,627 pieces of free missionary literature during the quinquennium and gave 3,575,967 Bible studies. Many literature evangelists and publishing workers are elders, Sabbath school teachers, and missionary leaders in their local churches.

Student Literature Evangelists

The student scholarship program helps young people meet the increasing expenses of Christian education. Student literature evangelists received \$22,380,000 in commissions and bonuses during vacation periods. This gave them the opportunity not only to earn their school fees but also to gain excellent experience in personal evan-



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gelism. A number of baptisms have resulted from contacts by our students.

Literature Ministry Seminaries

One of the great needs of the publishing program has been met during this quinquennium by the development of literature ministry seminaries. It has been felt for some time that a more professional approach is needed by literature evangelists. A new concept in training has developed with the establishment of centers in which literature evangelists can take a three- to four-week intensive training course. Examinations are given and certificates issued to those who qualify. Results show that those who are trained in these seminaries are considerably more successful. Sales increase as much as 100 percent in some fields, and turnover has been drastically reduced. In areas such as the Philippines the dropout rate has decreased by 50 percent. We now operate 20 literature ministry seminaries in the world field, with five under construction or in the developmental stage.

The Africa-Indian Ocean Division leads the way, with nine. Not only are

beginning literature evangelists trained in these seminaries, but programs are also offered to upgrade literature evangelists and leaders.

Adventist Book Centers

A reading Adventist is usually a strong Adventist, and Adventist Book Centers play a leading role in nurturing church members. They distribute Sabbath school materials and other publications that build spiritually while serving as resource centers for materials to equip members for their personal ministries material.

Ellen G. White Books

The General Conference makes subsidies available for the translation of Ellen G. White books into various languages. One hundred fifty-one translations of 37 books were made possible by \$936,105 in subsidies from the General Conference. While Ellen White books strengthen and encourage church members, some books, such as *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ*, are also sold to the public. *Happiness Digest*, a special edition of *Steps to Christ*, is a

joint venture between the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries in North America and the Review and Herald Publishing Association. This cooperation has enabled the production of an attractive, low-cost book, with more than 15 million already distributed.

Literature Ministry Coordinating Boards

In 1985 the publishing program was reorganized under the World Literature Ministry Coordinating Board and five regional boards. World divisions with similar cultural and language ties were grouped together. This has strengthened the work enormously by making possible better cooperation between publishing houses and avoiding duplication of efforts. An example is the cooperation among Euro-Africa, South America, Inter-America, and North America in the production in Spanish of Ellen White books, *The SDA Bible Commentary*, and other books.

The World Literature Ministry Coordinating Board administers a development fund supported by Adventist publishing houses and the General Conference. During this past quinquennium \$499,013 was expended from the fund for new equipment and plant expansion.

Also, world rights were purchased for the Conflict of the Ages set, by Ellen White (called Alpha and Omega), and put into a new format by the Finland Publishing House. The formatting, pictures, and captions, now owned by the world board, are made available to all publishing houses at a very low cost.

Future Prospects

Gutenberg is not dead! People continue to read books and magazines in increasing numbers worldwide. The publishing ministry will continue to play an important role in the finishing of God's work. Ellen White says that "in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory" (*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 140).

Our style of writing may change to meet the needs of people, the format may keep pace with the times, but the printed page will play its appointed role in preaching the gospel.

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A quarter-million single adults belong to the Adventist Church. That's enough to fill the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome four times and still leave thousands in the street. So you're not alone.

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We're Beginning the End



By Ottis C. Edwards
President*

The vast multiracial world of the Far Eastern Division stretches 7,000 miles east to west from Micronesia to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. And it encompasses scores of cultural barriers as it reaches 4,000 miles north and south from Japan to Indonesia.

Among the 800 million people in these lands, 800,000 Seventh-day Adventist church members are sharing the Christ they love. That is one Adventist out of every 1,000 persons. Yet every minute of the day and night another child is born, leading us to ask "How long will it take to complete the gospel commission?"

The story is even more challenging than these statistics first indicate. Just over 100 years ago layman Abram La Rue arrived in Hong Kong to start Adventist mission work in the Orient. That was indeed a beginning.

During the past five years we've had several new beginnings—new births of different kinds. Always and without fail, birth is a miracle. It may be a physical beginning, or it may be a spiritual birth. But it always brings great joy and happiness whether in one of Taiwan's most modern facilities or on a jungle river in Sarawak.

AWR Is Born

Although it belongs to the General Conference, Adventist World Radio-Asia was born in the Far East in March 1987. The new station was carved out of 40 acres of red earth and wild grass overlooking the Pacific Ocean on the island of Guam. More than 150 people throughout the Far Eastern Division produce programs, helping the radio station serve up a linguistic menu of 20 languages. And AWR talks to the world. The entire division territory is in its coverage area. And it's been heard from Siberia to Sri Lanka, Algeria to Jamaica, Sydney to Zimbabwe.

Of the more than 22,000 letters the radio station has received, many come from places where Adventism has never been heard of before. One Burmese businessman, his wife, and nine children gather daily to listen to the broadcasts. Pastor Ba Khin, one of the division's departmental associate directors, has become the family's radio pastor. For the first time the Adventist Church is being heard on the airwaves in Burma.

No Directions Needed

A man in Japan recently surprised the receptionist at a local Adventist church by saying he knew exactly how to come to that church. No announcement had been made on local radio, but he was heard to have said, "I always listen to the Adventist World Radio-Asia Japanese program. And so I knew how to come here."

In Korea Pastor K. Um prepares many radio sermons in a week. Like him, the other workers in his office begin their day with personal Bible study, following general staff worship. Young people respond to AWR programs, which have become a real spiritual refuge for many of them. A Korean boy writes: "I graduated from high school four years ago, but my life was difficult, and I've thought about suicide. But when I heard your program, it came to me as the bread of life."

AWR's first church planting was in Indonesia. Two young men from northern Sumatra turned up at our Voice of Prophecy Bible school in Jakarta. They announced that they were ready for baptism—as indeed they were. Zentua Simbolon and Marasati Siregar then returned home to urge everyone in town to listen to the AWR broadcasts—which came in loud and clear from Guam. The Simbolon family has become the nucleus of the

new church family in this Batak village.

The purpose of students enrolling in the English language schools in the Far Eastern Division is, of course, primarily to learn English. This is the same, whether it is in Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, or Korea. As each new class forms, no one can tell who among the thousands who come will step out and make the dramatic life change that Christianity calls for. And none can predict the social—and sometimes romantic—possibilities.

The 10 Sahn Yook language institutes in Korea employ 80 Korean staff, with 60 student missionaries as English teachers. Over the past 20 years the institutes have become popular nationwide. They even publish their own graded textbooks. Because only 60 to 70 percent of the young university students who apply can be accepted, the lines begin to form on Saturday night for registration on Sunday morning. One young man stood in line for 51 hours to be sure of a place for the next two-month session.

Who Wrote This Book?

One student commented, "They gave me a small book called *Steps to Christ* and told me that it would help me. Afterward, they said we could discuss it—in English. At first I began to read that book lying down; then I got up and sat in a chair to read. And then I had to kneel to read the book. I trembled and asked, 'Who wrote this book? It is so different from the philosophy and social science books I know.'"

Ko Young's decision to become a Seventh-day Adventist created turmoil in his family. He wept with his widowed mother over her disappointment. He'd planned to be a statesman—perhaps even an ambassador—but now he would serve a different kingdom. His elder brother was a charismatic Christian and at first rejoiced in his decision. Then day and night for a week he tried angrily to argue Ko Young out of his decision to be an Adventist. Fortunately, the younger brother didn't care one way or the other.

These language schools have surely contributed to the fact that Korea is now beginning to be considered a "Christian" country. Yearly 150 to 160 of the students join the Adventist Church.

Nationwide Crusades

The nationwide crusades in the Philippines have helped make international church history. Indeed, it is dramatic to have 27 pastors baptize more than 3,000 new Adventists in one day, as was done at the meetings held in the open plaza in General Santos City, Cotabato, on the island of Mindanao.

We rejoice for the 36 Protestant ministers who have become Seventh-day Adventists, bringing most of their congregations with them.

We try to comprehend what it means to have had 30,000 members join the church in the Philippines in a six-month period. These, to be sure, are Pentecost results! But behind all of this good news is a secret formula that makes such success possible. That is, the laymen must be trained and then motivated to work. Laymen's cottage meetings by the thousands go on for months before the public crusades are held.

The Glory of Rebirth

Only at this private level do we truly come face-to-face with the drama of making a personal decision for Christ and the glory of the rebirth. The nationwide crusades are actually made up of thousands of small pieces, just like a puzzle.

One of these is Mrs. Antonia Singson, a professor at the Divine Word Seminary in the Roman Catholic stronghold of Vigan. Always devout in religious practice, she decided to become an Adventist Christian.

Then there's Armando Perez, a security guard at the door of the North Philippine Union Mission office. In that job he had to stop smoking. That task became easier as he watched the cheerful ways of the employees and office visitors—all nonsmokers. Now he too, with them, belongs to the Pasay Central Adventist Church.

A Child Witness

At 6 years old, Jasen Hallasgo has taken part in six evangelistic meetings, giving 10-minute sermonettes. Born a cripple, Jasen has an appeal that is a little out of the ordinary. "Now you see me limp because my left leg is too short. I can't do what you other children do. But when we get to heaven, Jesus will give me a new foot. Then I will run and jump just like you."

Then he points to a child in the audience and says, "Will you be my playmate when we get to the new earth?" Old and young are moved, because it is a hard question to say no to during a Voice of Junior Youth meeting.

A Hospital's New Birth

Taiwan Adventist Hospital is more than one of the best hospitals in Taipei. In brand-new quarters, its Christian atmosphere attracts patients and doctors alike.

And out of its dental laboratories come wonderful creations. It was here that Dr. Christiana Wang, a young dentistry intern, came. Her background was strongly Buddhist. She went on to become a resident in general practice. "For the next two years," she says, "I had plenty of time to find out how Christians lived. Many of them wanted to study the Bible with me."

Dr. Wang became active in church life even before she was baptized. She served as a translator in the kindergarten division—where she thoroughly learned Bible stories.

When she left for postgraduate study in periodontics at Loma Linda University, she purposely left her baptismal certificate at home. "By now I think my mother must have found the certificate," she comments. "And perhaps by now she will not be afraid that I cannot find a husband because I became a Christian! I want my family to know my God too. I just live the life before them—that's all."

Food Industries

The Korean Sahn Yook food industries have been making a substantial contribution to the church in the past five years. Through physical means they've

built and expanded the opportunities for mental and spiritual development.

The original health food project began 10 years ago. The installation of a soy milk processing plant in 1984, however, has created a wonderful success story. The 130 plant employees generate more than US\$8 million of business annually. Thus Sahn Yook Foods is fulfilling its objective: to spread the gospel and health message through health foods.

An Institution Is Born

The need for expanded graduate programs that will more effectively prepare workers to give the gospel to the world

GC SNAPSHOT



The GC session at times serves as a marketplace. Along one of the hallways Hang Soon Song from Seoul, Korea, sells Korean apparel to interested passersby.

caused the birth of a new institution—Adventist International Institute of Advanced Study. Established in 1986 as a division institution, it provides graduate-level training in religion, health, education, nursing, and business. The new campus, located just outside of Manila, is in a beautiful setting.

Tied in closely with the outreach programs of the division, the institute carries its classrooms to all parts of the field through extension programs, allowing hundreds to enroll who would never have

had the opportunity otherwise. On-campus courses allow those who can study on a year-round basis to finish graduate work on a faster scale.

Growth Takes Place

One hundred years ago Abram La Rue was the only Adventist within the Far East. Today there are 800,000 members. Every day adds to that number as spiritual rebirth takes place in every corner of the territory. Just five years ago the membership stood at 560,000. It took 70 years to reach the first 100,000 members. Now that many have been added in the past two-year period. As growth continues, so do the challenges. Securing visas for missionaries is now impossible in some places. In these areas the burden rests solely on the local members. In most countries a complete staff of national workers is in place and doing an outstanding job of carrying on the work.

Birth Cycle Continues

Many of us have grown old expecting

the coming of the Lord. In the past 150 years of our church's history the cycle of birth, growth, and death has been repeated countless times.

How many times we have said, "This may be our last General Conference session." And to be sure, soon one of them is going to be the last one.

Meanwhile, the work goes on. For every ending there is—somewhere—a new beginning. Old experiences have given way to new ones; old ways have been replaced by new ways. Old buildings have disappeared to make room for new ones. Little ones have grown to maturity.

Between birth and the end, however, we're given the years for growing. For decades we've planted, prayed, and watched anxiously for the reaping. Too many times we've been disappointed in the harvest. It's been scanty. Too often our most bountiful results have come out of the "easy" ground only.

A New Kind of Planting

Global Strategy challenges us to a new kind of planting. To a planting that will

encompass every mile of our ground.

Knowing that we have nearly 100,000 Seventh-day Adventists in South Korea can never be fully satisfying when at the moment we know of only one member among the 22 million of North Korea. Having 500,000 church members in the three Philippine unions cannot compensate for the fact that in Muslim Bangladesh we have only one Adventist Christian out of every 20,000 people.

And what shall we say to the fact that in western Indonesia we have 27 million people living in areas where not one Seventh-day Adventist is known to live?

We have set our goals now in a new framework. First we shall seek to penetrate unentered territories, for "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed" (Joshua 13:1). Then we shall systematically establish an Adventist presence there. And God will assuredly bring us the harvest.

Every Beginning Has a Conclusion

The pioneers have long since gone to their rest. We accept the inevitable fact that everything we know on earth must have an ending. Every beginning has a conclusion.

And yet, accepting Jesus Christ is always a beginning, no matter at what time of life it comes.

Stepping into eternity will be the ultimate grand beginning for each of us. This is the supreme beginning that will never have an ending. This glorious possibility grows out of our making that single personal choice for Christ.

The kingdom of God is like the stream that pours itself into a beautiful waterfall. Like a flower that opens and blooms unseen in the jungle. Like the planting that leads to harvest. Like the man who is born again.

We live and we die. We begin and we make an end.

In the Far East the reaping now going on is the beginning of the end. We trust that the new births currently taking place across the division territory will result in the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, which will help us accomplish our mission and bring in the promised recreation of this old world and the ultimate new beginning.



* Dorothy Minchin-Comm assisted in the writing of this report.

GC SNAPSHOT



Above: The South American Division report featured such color and excitement that hundreds of photographers streamed to the front, blocking the view of delegates.



Left: The Kettering Choir (from Ohio) sang for the evening program on July 10.

Women's Meetings Draw 4,000



Nancy Canwell, associate pastor of the Walla Walla College church, was one of six female speakers for the series that attracted thousands of women and many men.

*The theme for
the series
emphasized
working
together in the
ministry of the
church.*

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the majority of the Adventist Church," said newly elected president Robert Folkenberg, addressing nearly 4,000 women (and yes, even a few men) Wednesday morning at the third and last of three meetings planned especially for them.

Folkenberg was referring to the fact that women outnumber men in the Adventist Church, and in his brief remarks he committed himself to encouraging women to use their talents and skills in God's service.

"There is no limit to what God can do through a consecrated woman, no matter what her calling," he said.

That statement was similar to one I had heard just a few minutes earlier from Barbara Mittelreider, a member of the Shepherdess International planning committee that was responsible for this series of meetings. When I asked her about the meetings' theme, "Renewal in Christ," she said the series emphasized that "we as women, no matter what our interests or professions are, can work together in the ministry of the church."

The programs were varied and lively. Each included music, 15-minute addresses by two women, an "oxygen cocktail" (exercise break) by Jeanne Jarnes, secretary to the North American Division president, and a health nugget by Dr. Aileen Ludington, a physician from Loma Linda, California.

"Meeting Christ" was the theme of Sunday morning's meeting. Nancy Nongnuch Bassham, associate church ministries director of the Far East-

ern Division, told of her conversion from Buddhism, and Jo Ann Davidson, a doctoral student at the SDA Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, spoke about leading children to Christ.

Monday's speakers were Nancy Canwell, associate pastor of the Walla Walla College church, and Gwendolyn Foster, health and temperance director of the Allegheny East Conference. They encouraged their listeners to *know* Christ. Canwell said that spending time with God, and trusting in Him, can be helpful to those who are hurting—and that includes almost everyone, in some way or another.

"Serve Him" was the topic assigned to Tuesday's speakers, Violeta Dela Cruz Palma, manager of the Philippine Publishing House, and Wilma Hepker, a teacher of social work at Walla Walla College.

"Some say, 'We are only women,' but Christ can do much through us," Palma said. Hepker encouraged her listeners to be more assertive in relating to social and family problems and to develop their own sense of self-worth.

One way of measuring the success of the women's meetings is attendance. Each meeting drew 3,500 or more, with the 4,200-seat Meeting Hall C in the Convention Center nearly filled by the final morning. Most of the women were spouses of delegates or staff members, or visitors to the session, whose attendance at women's meetings would not affect the business sessions being conducted in the dome.

Another way of measuring the meetings' success is the reaction of the women who attended. Every one of the 20 or so women I spoke with said she was glad she attended, although the reasons varied.

Mary Martinez, who ministers with her husband to Native Americans in the Southwestern United States, said, "I get spiritual help from these meetings, in addition to fellowship." Ivy Ng, a Singaporean now working at Andrews University while her husband, Gan Theow, completes his Th.D. degree, appreciated the importance of gatherings like this that recognize and affirm women's unique feelings and concerns. All mentioned how deeply spiritual the meetings were. And several were inspired by the enthusiasm of the speakers. 

By Jocelyn Fay

Communication Director
Southeastern California
Conference



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**God made a man
He has the power
to change a man.**

God made the difference

**"Go ye
into all the world ..."**

Mark 16:15

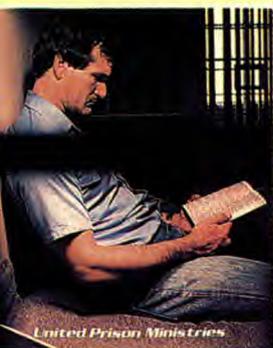
United Prison Ministries is currently involved in over 600 prisons in all 50 states and several foreign countries including Africa, Australia, Canada, England, France, Norway and now contacts have been made in Russia.

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Christian Record Services



By **Vernon L. Bretsch**
President

More than 450 million handicapped people are living on Planet Earth right now. Some 45 to 70 million cannot see, and 70 to 92 million cannot hear.

Christian Record Services sprang from a humble beginning in December 1899 when Austin and Johanna Wilson, a newly wedded blind couple, prepared a 10-page Braille magazine entitled *The Christian Record*. Eight years later it was serving 2,000 blind clients and reaching into England, China, Australia, Mexico, and Canada.

Today Christian Record is one of the most trusted and respected nonprofit agencies serving the blind and deaf. Among its many services are:

1. A lending library with more than 1,200 Braille, large-print, audio, and video selections;
2. National Camps for blind and deaf children;
3. College scholarships;
4. Personal visits in homes of the handicapped;
5. Awareness programs in schools, libraries, churches, service clubs, conventions, etc.;
6. Glaucoma screenings;
7. Assistance to governments, states, and local communities when called upon.

Because the name Christian Record Braille Foundation no longer accurately described the outreach of this ministry, the name was changed in January 1989 to Christian Record Services. CRS International was established to coordinate, advise, and supply support materials for field offices to be established in each of the overseas divisions. Branch offices are now opening in Singapore and in the Philippines. CRS employs 186 people in the United States and Canada, and provides free services to 86,000 blind and deaf individuals in approximately 70 countries. Ninety-six percent of these

persons are not Seventh-day Adventists.

During the past five years CRS has increased its services by nearly 30 percent. During this period more than 1 million free services have been shared with blind and deaf individuals. And more than \$5 million was raised each year to support these free services.

More than 124 field workers visit more than 40,000 blind individuals right in their homes each year. They also contact 500,000 businesspersons who provide a great share of the funding for CRS programs.

In 1988 Richard Klinedinst, a representative serving in Pennsylvania, raised more than \$100,000. He is also the first worker to secure \$1 million in donations during his 16 years of service.

An innovation that CRS took advantage of in 1986 was a Vortex coin-collecting device we call the "Well of Hope." Hundreds of these units have been placed in stores and business establishments. By the end of 1987 more than \$1 million had been raised through the Wells of Hope program, or about \$40,000 every month.

CRS also operates active trust services and direct-mail departments. Since 1985, \$15 million has been raised by field representatives, \$6.5 million through direct mail, and \$1 million from trust services.

The most popular books among our 40,000 library users are the full-vision books, which Christian Record initially began producing in the 1950s. A full-vision book combines Braille pages with colorful ink-print pages so that a blind parent can read to a sighted child.

Recently a set of full-color character-building stories produced by the Child's World, Inc., was acquired for conversion into full-vision books, with permission granted by the publisher. This new series

has been highly praised by numerous blind parents and sighted educators. Recently CRS was requested to produce thousands of full-vision books for use in India.

There is an ongoing demand for gift Bibles in large print, on cassette, and in Braille. The Braille Bible consists of 18 large volumes that together weigh 61 pounds. Many blind individuals are hungry for the Word of God. A total of 691 gift Bibles were shipped in 1989.

Every month 50,385 magazines are mailed from Christian Record. Ten different magazines are produced in Braille, large print, and on audio flexible disc. Subscription requests continue to increase, especially for large-print magazines. *Lifeglow* and *Young and Alive* have a combined circulation of 46,000.

National Camps for Blind Children remains one of the most popular of the Christian Record free services. Several blind and deaf camps are combined and serve the needs of both groups. Since 1967, 28,000 campers have attended 515 camps. The objective is for the blind or deaf camper to discover undeveloped potential, increase self-confidence, improve mental and physical vigor, and develop an appreciation for God's love and care.

For the Deaf

Tremendous growth has taken place in the Deaf Services Division since 1985. Instructional videotapes have been added to the lending library to help hearing people communicate with the deaf. A videotape studio has been built to produce more videotapes in-house. One of the most popular items produced is the *Sign Language Honor Book*. It is designed to help elementary school students who can hear gain a Pathfinder Honor badge in the language of signs. The newest product is a children's coloring book showing the signs.

Approximately 13,000 individuals receive the easy English Sabbath school quarterly. Many non-Adventist deaf persons are using it as a devotional book.

Other ongoing projects include deaf-awareness seminars, sign language classes, and a Bible correspondence school for the deaf.

Yet with all the growth and advances that have been made, CRS is touching the lives of only a fraction of the blind and deaf population. More needs to be done.

Home Study International



By Joseph E. Gurubatham
President

Since 1909 Home Study International (HSI) has been a "friend indeed" to more than 215,000 people. When students have been at an impasse, they've turned to HSI for fully accredited courses from preschool through college and adult education.

HSI materials are carefully designed for those who cannot take advantage of traditional forms of education. Whether a person is bedridden, handicapped, incarcerated, economically disadvantaged, or simply faced with a lack of other alternatives, HSI has always been there as a friend to those in need—a friend, indeed.

The study programs offered through HSI may be used by individuals, school systems, or churches to supplement or augment existing services. Gifted students as well as the disadvantaged may benefit from the guided, independent study format of the curriculum.

After 20 years of distinguished service at HSI, Dr. Delmer Holbrook accepted a position with the Church Ministries Department at the General Conference in 1985. During his tenure, HSI was first accredited and gained its reputation for excellence. Under the leadership of the new president, Dr. George P. Babcock, HSI emphasized its global mission through a strategic plan that outlined institutional and curricular goals.

Although Dr. Babcock left HSI in 1989, the plans and goals he established remain on target. With the mandate to provide quality education around the globe, HSI has established working relationships with a variety of church entities. A partial list follows.

Alternative Programs for Learning Enrichment (APLE) enables church schools to provide classes for small numbers of students without adding additional faculty. Using APLE, an eight-

grade school can offer ninth grade, a nine-grade school can add tenth grade, and ten-grade schools can offer eleventh and twelfth grades. Schools that use APLE have a curriculum consisting of courses taught by a resident teacher and HSI correspondence courses supervised by the school's staff. HSI works with local conference and union education personnel in deciding which schools can best benefit from APLE.

In cooperation with the North American Division Church Ministries Department, HSI produced *Welcome to the Family*, an orientation course for newly baptized members. This noncredit course helps the new member understand how to grow as a Seventh-day Adventist. Topics cover terminology, insights into Sabbathkeeping, how the church is organized, Adventist lifestyle, Christian education, Adventist history, and how to identify spiritual gifts. *Welcome to the Family* is the official curriculum for all newly baptized members in the North American Division. *Welcome to the Family* is available in Spanish and English. Several other divisions are exploring the possibility of adapting this program to suit their needs.

The Work of the Church Treasurer is the newest in a series of training courses for major local church offices. Development continues on courses for other church officers, including elders, health educators, and literature evangelists.

HSI and each division that operates an HSI branch are negotiating new affiliation agreements that define a close working relationship.

Global Strategy

HSI is fully committed to supporting the Global Strategy adopted by the General Conference. The changing face of

the world offers many challenges and opportunities for our Adventist school system. HSI stands ready to offer its complete, fully accredited services expeditiously and with less expense than most other educational entities. Correspondence courses will benefit areas such as the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the U.S.S.R., where it may be difficult to maintain a campus. HSI also provides an outreach to the Christian community by offering courses to non-Adventists.

Other Accomplishments Since 1985

In 1989, HSI was reaccredited without any stipulation for the maximum term of five years.

A new marketing program is in place to study current HSI students, aggressively seek similar students, and identify new markets.

HSI's development program reminds alumni that HSI helped them achieve specific educational goals. In 1989, HSI received its first challenge grant. Prior to that, several other grants provided funds for equipment and training student interns.

The newsletter, *HSI World*, creates a sense of community among the students and alumni.

Although it has no campus in the traditional sense, HSI is a full-size school. Its board of directors, faculty, and staff are committed to meeting the world field's educational needs.

GC SNAPSHOT



Guitarist Bill Young and his keyboard accompanist, Donna Cunningham, appear happy that their performances during the session have increased sales of their tape in one of the booths.

A New Breed of Conquistadores



By George W. Brown
President

Throughout the colorful lands of Inter-America you will find a fascinating new breed of conquistadores. Unlike the ancient Spanish conquerors, these twentieth-century Adventist conquistadores seek no glory but the glory of God. Their all-consuming passion is the conquest of the peoples of Inter-America for the Lord and the triumph of the Adventist message. Amid political turbulence, economic instability, and sociopolitical unrest, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America is engaged in a spectacular evangelistic conquest.

Harvest 90 Evangelism

In Inter-America, Harvest 90 was more than a slogan. It became a way of life, a soul-winning drive that motivated the whole church. The ambitious objective of 400,000 new accessions became the priority. No activity in the 68-year history of the Inter-American Division has so united and driven the church to perform daring evangelistic exploits.

Salim Japas, Ministerial Association secretary, with his three associates, led the way in a division-wide evangelistic movement. The ministerial forces were challenged, organized, encouraged, and mobilized for productive action. Administrators, departmental directors, pastors, evangelists, literature evangelists, health workers, teachers, institutional workers, office personnel, and tens of thousands of dedicated laypersons made Harvest 90 a resounding success.

Massive nationwide and citywide campaigns were conducted in almost every union with extraordinary results. The most spectacular of these crusades was Mega-Mexico, a citywide endeavor in Mexico City that yielded more than 3,200 new members, 15 new churches, and 7 new church buildings.

During Harvest 90, thousands of lay preachers, young and old, electrified the cities, towns, and villages of Inter-America with the Adventist message. The goal for winning new members was surpassed by the end of 1989, six months ahead of schedule. To God be the glory for these remarkable evangelistic exploits!

A Record-breaking Quinquennium

New records in baptisms were set every year of the quinquennium. On June 30, 1987, Inter-America became the first division of the world church to reach a membership of 1 million. In 1989 Inter-America became the first division to add 100,000 new members in a single year.

J. H. Figueroa, division secretary, reports that during the quinquennium more than 400,000 new believers joined the church, an increase of 28 percent over the previous five-year period. This unprecedented advance has brought membership to a total of 1,171,911, an increase of 40 percent over the preceding quinquennium. An average of 7,377 new members came into the church every month of the quinquennium. This is indeed "the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Ps. 118:23, RSV).

Exploding church membership led to the organization of 848 new churches and 900 new companies. An average of 14 new churches and 15 new companies came into being every month of the quinquennium. We now have 3,942 organized churches and an equal number of companies scattered like lighthouses all over Inter-America.

In order to give adequate pastoral, administrative, and departmental attention to the rapidly growing membership, the division embarked on a strategy of organizational restructuring and territorial adjustments, resulting in the organiza-

tion of 14 new local conferences and two new unions. We now have 58 local conferences and missions, and 11 unions. During the quinquennium 13 local missions attained conference status, leaving 37 local conferences and 21 missions.

Stewardship in Difficult Times

Though plagued by widespread economic instability, galloping inflation, unprecedented currency devaluation, persistent unemployment, and a host of other economic ills, the membership of Inter-America has remained faithful to its stewardship commitments and shown remarkable growth in tithes and offerings. R. H. Maury, division treasurer, believes that one of the most reliable indicators of authentic church growth is a consistent increase in tithe and offerings. In spite of the continued devaluation of the currencies in most countries, our faithful believers returned \$149,155,000 in tithe and \$14,233,000 in mission offerings.

Mobilized for Conquest

The Church Ministries Department, under the leadership of Sergio Moctezuma and his associates, has sustained a systematic program of training and mobilizing the laity that has produced 125,000 qualified lay preachers.

Festivals of the Laity have proved effective in training and mobilizing the whole church for evangelistic conquest. During the quinquennium, festivals conducted in four countries attracted 40,000 laymen and laywomen, galvanizing laity and ministry to intensify their soul-winning momentum. Empowered by the Spirit, these intrepid lay workers conducted 200,000 evangelistic crusades, gave 3 million Bible studies, and distributed 45 million pieces of truth-filled literature. Through these and many other soul-winning activities, 280,000 new believers were baptized through the direct participation of the laity. More than 60 percent of the accessions to the church during the quinquennium resulted from lay evangelism. The Sabbath school forms an integral part of the nurture and evangelistic outreach of the church in Inter-America. More than 10,000 Sabbath schools, with a membership of 1,416,735, provide nurture, stability, training, and evangelistic motivation to

the whole church. The 25,000 branch Sabbath schools speak eloquently of the evangelistic commitment of the Sabbath school.

The most dynamic segment of the church is undoubtedly its youth. An army of 400,000 young people in 7,659 Adventist Youth societies brings constant vitality and enthusiasm to the church in Inter-America. Approximately 65 percent of the church in this division consists of young people between the ages of 13 and 30. Alfredo Garcia Marenko, church ministries associate for youth activities, reports that through a fascinating variety of soul-winning activities the youth of Inter-America have brought 100,000 new converts to Christ.

The highlight of the quinquennium was the youth evangelistic spectacular known as Maranatha Ten Thousand. In this division-wide evangelistic advance, 20,000 new believers joined the church during June 1989. A vigorous Pathfinder movement adds further strength and vitality to the church, with 2,222 clubs and a skyrocketing membership of 90,677. This represents the largest Pathfinder membership in any division.

Vanguard in the Conquest

Ever since the first literature evangelists arrived on the shores of these lands of the conquistadores, the publishing work has been the vanguard of Adventism. Though troubled by currency devaluation, economic instability, and foreign exchange restrictions, the publishing ministry has continued to lead Adventism in its evangelistic conquest. R. A. Rodriguez, publishing director of the division, reports that 6,000 literature evangelists have worked in the front lines in evangelism and church growth. These messengers of the printed page delivered \$79 million worth of literature during the quinquennium, a phenomenal accomplishment given the unpredictable economic climate.

In this valiant army march 1,500 student colporteurs who not only delivered truth-filled literature and won souls to Christ, but earned millions of dollars in scholarships in their pursuit of Christian education in the colleges and universities of Inter-America. The slogan "Souls as Well as Sales" has produced handsome dividends, as 28,000 new converts came

GC SNAPSHOT



Kathryn Stiles, a Maranatha volunteer, encourages others to help in future building projects.

into the church by the direct involvement of literature evangelists.

Inseparably linked with the Publishing Department is the Inter-American Division Publishing Association (IADPA), organized in 1982 to satisfy the rising demand for Adventist literature at competitive prices. Under the leadership of Juan de Armas, general manager, the association has made remarkable progress. Not only does it provide an ever-increasing volume of truth-filled literature for the church and the public, but it does so at a competitive price. IADPA organized its editorial team in 1989, adding a new and important dimension for the work of the IAD Publishing Association.

Training for the Conquest

Adventist education in Inter-America continues to play a pivotal role in the church's evangelistic strategy. Nine tertiary institutions, 139 academies, and 492 primary schools nurture and train children and youth. More than centers of learning, they are training schools for service and evangelism. L. Herbert Fletcher, division director of education, believes that the integration of faith and learning results in soul-winning action.

During the quinquennium, as a result

of Weeks of Prayer and other campus soul-winning activities, 5,500 students accepted Christ and were baptized into the Adventist Church. Forty-nine tertiary and secondary schools have achieved accreditation from the General Conference Board of Regents as well as national and international accrediting bodies. Six of the nine tertiary institutions in Inter-America now enjoy national university accreditation.

Evangelistic Conquest Through the Mass Media

The mass media provides one of the most important means for the conquest of Inter-America. Through radio, television, and the press the church disseminates the Adventist message. L. V. McMillan, communication director of the division, reports that the three angels' messages now penetrate the homes of millions of people through 157 radio stations and four telecasts, broadcasting in the division's four major languages. Eight radio stations are owned and operated by the Adventist Church.

Adventist World Radio has a 40-kilowatt station in Alajuela, Costa Rica, and can be heard throughout most of the division. Radio Amanecer, a five-kilowatt station broadcasting from the

Dominican Republic, beams the Adventist message to that republic and deep into the heart of Cuba.

As a result of radio and television ministries, 19,000 converts came into the church during the quinquennium. The radio Bible school has an enrollment of 27,000 students who are prime candidates for baptism.

Health-Temperance Strategy for the Conquest

The Health and Temperance Department also plays a role in the evangelistic conquest of Inter-America. Dr. Naomi Modeste, health and temperance director of the division, reports that 2,000 health seminars dealt with alcohol and drug prevention, AIDS awareness, nutrition, stress, health education for teachers, smoking cessation, and other lifestyle topics. The Health Department, through a grant from the Swedish International Development Agency, is in the final stage of its Loma Linda University off-campus Master of Public Health program in Inter-America. Through SDA health professionals, health and temperance, primary health care, physical fitness, and the Adventist concept of healthful living receive attention in evangelism and in the nurture of church members.

Efforts are made to ensure that the 10 hospitals and 20 medical and dental clinics in Inter-America continue as the right arm of the Adventist message.

Health Food Company Pursues Strategy for Conquest

The Health Food Company also has a strategy for evangelistic conquest. One of the primary objectives of the company is to generate funding from its profits for church evangelism. Under the management of Dr. Sidney Cole, division world food director, the company has expanded, restructured, and consolidated its facilities for future growth. It currently operates on eight college campuses with 11 branches. The activities of the Health Food Company include food manufacture, wholesale distribution, retail sales, and restaurant operation, as well as farm management, broom manufacture, sheet metal work, and printing.

More than 330 students find employment in these facilities to finance their schooling. The company contributes sizable amounts of tithe and donations to evangelism and the church development.

Conquest Through Humanitarian Aid

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has become an indispensable arm of the church in its evangelistic conquest. During the quinquennium ADRA responded swiftly and effectively in times of earthquakes, hurricanes, and other disasters, providing large supplies of food, medicine, clothing, and emergency shelter. ADRA has also made an impact on local com-

munities and nations by its joint efforts with American, European, and Canadian agencies to provide permanent housing for thousands of victims rendered homeless by disasters. During the quinquennium 53 national and community projects were implemented.

Hundreds of homes have been constructed and repaired for victims of hurricane, earthquake, and flood in Mexico, Nicaragua, Colombia, and the Caribbean. An ongoing program of flood outreach, child survival, nutrition, sanitation, pure water projects, agriculture, etc., keeps ADRA at the forefront of humanitarian ministry.

A Favorable Climate for Conquest

The majority of governments in Inter-America guarantee full religious liberty. Even in areas of limited liberty, the church is highly regarded and well respected. Lamartine Honore, director of public affairs and religious liberty, points out that educating public officials and thought leaders on religious liberty enables the church to carry out its mission. Adventists are highly regarded for their support of government as well as for their spiritual, moral, and material contributions to their communities.

Pursuing the Unfinished Conquest

Extraordinary evangelistic exploits and unprecedented church growth in Inter-America provide abundant reasons for thanksgiving. However, there must be no self-congratulation or resting on our laurels. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the church must renew its commitment to increase its evangelistic momentum. Constrained by the Holy Spirit, Harvest 90 must give way to the more challenging task of Global Strategy.

Now is the time for bigger objectives, more concerted efforts, authentic renewal, and deeper commitment. Indeed, the conquest of Inter-America is not yet over; "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed" (Joshua 13:1). Millions have not yet heard the transforming message of the Adventist Church.

As we enter the final decade of the twentieth century, revival, reformation, and united evangelistic action must become the battle cry until Inter-America has been conquered for God.

A classic spiritual struggle!

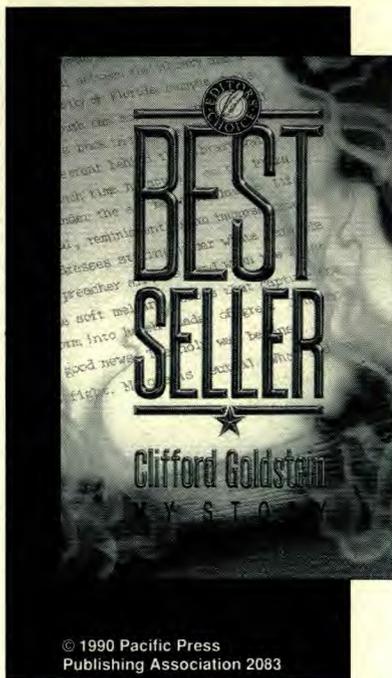
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Oakwood College



By Benjamin Reaves
President

Someone has said: "In human affairs, the logical future, determined by past and present conditions, is less important than the *willed future*, which is largely brought about by deliberate choices." We at Oakwood College have come to believe this.

The quinquennium began in a time of transition following the call of the former president, Dr. Calvin B. Rock, to the General Conference. The subsequent years have been challenging, exciting, difficult, and rewarding. After years of explosive growth and expansion, the grim tides of change that had washed over much of higher education in North America reached the campus of Oakwood in 1985 and 1986.

Enrollment decline and income shortfalls were strange terms to our ears then. But we took heart by considering Isaiah 43:19, "Behold I will do a new thing; . . . shall ye not know it?"

We have been blessed to see God's "new thing" give life to our college. Statistics reveal not just a turnaround but a growth trend in the enrollment that is sorely testing our housing capacity.

School year	Enrollment
-------------	------------

'85/'86	1,148
'86/'87	1,000
'87/'88	1,075
'88/'89	1,236
'89/'90	1,224

The impressive turnaround was the result of the unrelenting effort by the recruitment staff and our dedicated faculty and staff.

During these five years, more than 850 degrees have been awarded. Our faculty numbers 83, 44 percent of whom have terminal or Doctor's degrees. They have been pivotal in the thoughtful develop-

ment of some new baccalaureate degree programs, including music performance, physical education, psychology, and nursing. And, during this quinquennium, the Bachelor of Social Work program received accreditation from the Council on Social Work. In this same period Oakwood College has also benefited from more than \$4 million in program grants.

The influence of Oakwood will soon crisscross the globe. A formal relationship between Oakwood College and Bethel College in South Africa has been given initial support by our regional accrediting body.

Our strong enrollment has resulted in a much more positive financial picture. We also appreciate the generous support received from our parent body and the regional conferences.

Several actions have improved the quality of life for our students. These include: a contract with the Marriott Corporation for the food service program, telephone accessibility in student rooms, central housing coordination, and the new 348-bed women's dormitory.

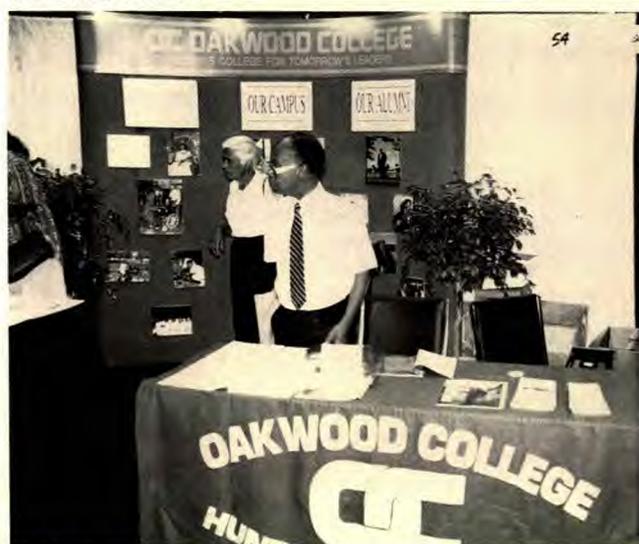
The missionary outreach of the college includes programs in a nearby jail, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. Oakwood Volunteers Action League (OVAL) combines ministry to people's physical needs and quality of life with the gospel in action. And Oakwood students also serve overseas in the student missionary program.

Oakwood is proud of its cosmopolitan campus family. Students come from 48 states and 39 countries. Here they find a nurturing environment that encourages appreciation of one's heritage and affirmation of cultural diversity.

The Office of College Relations has enhanced the image of the college with the publication of the well-received *Oakwood Magazine*. The office was also instrumental in conducting a highly successful chamber of commerce breakfast, during which 400 of the leading corporate figures in Huntsville heard the Oakwood story.

With thankfulness we have reviewed the past. Now the past and the present must give center stage to the future. A future in which new realities call for new responses and old techniques must yield to innovative practices. To meet that fu-

GC SNAPSHOT



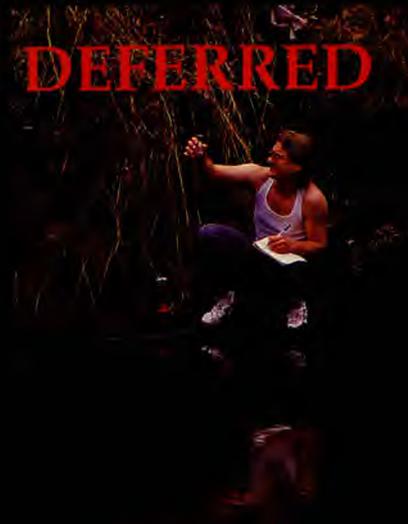
Visitors are welcome to take home free materials upon visiting the Oakwood College booth.

ture, we are engaged in strategic planning. A broad-based visioning process has involved the campus family in identifying and establishing linkages between our opportunities and our strengths, and in setting the direction of travel.

We begin the new quinquennium living expectantly in the promise of God's "new thing." We feel sure that "in human affairs, the logical future, determined by past and present conditions, is less important than the *willed future*, which is largely brought about by deliberate choices." We at Oakwood want a "willed future" centered in the divine will.



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